

Superintendent Dave Bond's comment (Feb. 26, 2010 letter)	Reply by Monte Benham, sponsor I-1058 (March 11, 2010)
I believe that the Kennewick School District (KSD) already teaches the Declaration of Independence, the US Constitution, and Washington state constitution and their contents.	The superintendent "believes" (he is not sure) the KSD already teaches this information. The KSD is not teaching the foundation and purpose of government. Section 2. of I-1058 states: "Our schools are teaching the mechanics of government more adequately than they are teaching the foundation and purpose of government. If the KSD had been teaching the founding purpose of government students would be able to answer these questions: Where do your rights come from? And, What is the purpose of government? How can the KSD teach the WA state constitution, if the students don't have an opportunity to see the document? Most citizens have never seen a state Constitution.
It takes away from the local School Board the power to choose the curriculum materials for the students.	I-1058 amends an existing law and requires schools to teach the relationship of the Declaration of Independence to the United States Constitution and the Washington state constitution. It does not dictate a text-book. The US Department of Education is dictating a Federal Curriculum called "National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). The "work book" for the Federal Curriculum is " <i>We the People...The Citizen and the Constitution</i> . This book is written to prepare our students for "World Citizenship. It asks the question. " <i>Do you think that world citizenship will be possible in your lifetime?</i> " (p 203)
It requires that we teach specific documents other than the Declaration of Independence and Constitution at the exclusion of other historical documents.	Not true! I-1058 does not exclude any historical documents. The superintendent's statement noticeably omits the Washington State Constitution. This is a document all elected officials must swear an oath to uphold. However most citizens have never seen a copy of any state constitution.
It is another unfunded mandate. All these additional materials documents will need to be purchased	The materials mentioned in I-1058 are available free on the internet.
It adds more testing.	Its about time that schools place emphasis on civics and history! There are no questions on the state standardized tests (the former WASL) on civics and history.
It adds to the expense of testing...	Testing is part of teaching. The OSPI can implement any method they choose to administer the test and to keep the costs down.
It seems to imply that passing the test is a graduation requirement. There is no information on whether or not all the safeguards related to the former WASL test would be in place. If passing the test is not a graduation requirement, then I doubt that any serious effort will be put toward it by seniors ...	Yes, passing a test would be a graduation requirement. The superintendent of public instruction shall provide by rule of the implementation of I-1058. So all safeguards will be in place for special needs students. I-1058 will provide motivation to learn the basic elements of freedom and government. Motivated students will be prepared to "secure the blessings of liberty" mentioned in the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and the Washington State Constitution.
It prescribes the content of the test.	I-1058 outlines the area of testing. Curriculum specialists are at liberty to work up the test but they are limited to the writings and speeches given by the founding fathers. Educators must insure that students understand the words used in the documents. To find the meaning of the term "Laws of Nature and of Nature's God" Webster's 1828 dictionary must be used. That term is not found in newer dictionaries
It requires teachers to do things that aren't clearly defined or understood. For example "Illustrating, with teacher instruction, the relationship of the "Pledge of Allegiance to the Declaration of Independence, the US constitution and the Washington state Constitution.	This comment demonstrates that the Kennewick schools are not teaching the relationship of the Declaration of Independence to the US Constitution and the Washington State Constitution. These documents make it clear that our rights come from God (one nation under God). That the purpose of government is to protect individual rights and that the government is a Republic (not a democracy) that guarantees "liberty and justice for all." The Kennewick schools need to refocus their efforts to include teaching the "foundation and purpose of government – and not just the mechanics of government.