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The Washington State Constitution (Oxford Commentaries on the State Constitutions of the United States)

Robert F. Utter, Hugh D. Spitzer

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The Washington State Constitution provides an outstanding constitutional and historical account of the state's governing charter. In addition to an overview of Washington's constitutional history that focuses on the document's 19th century populist roots, it provides an in-depth, section-by-section analysis of the entire constitution, detailing the many significant changes made since its initial drafting. This treatment, along with a table of cases, index, and bibliography, provides an unsurpassed reference guide for lawyers, judges, scholars, and members of the general public.

The second edition of *The Washington State Constitution* has been significantly expanded to detail the impact of the late nineteenth century Populist movement on both the structure and content of Washington's 1889 constitution. The book includes current and important developments in the theory of state constitutional interpretation in Washington State, describes the significant expansion, over the past decade, in the Washington Supreme Court's independent reliance on the state's constitution rather than the federal constitution in many constitutional doctrines, particularly those related to individual rights. The title also includes up-to-date analysis of significant developments in a number of areas, including the rights of criminal defendants; personal freedoms of speech, religion and privacy; powers and constraints on the state legislature and the governor; the initiative, referendum and recall; and the application of Washington's unique public education clause.

The Washington State Constitution was cited in the following notable cases:
- League of Educ. Voters v. State, ____ Wn.2d ____, 295 P.3d 743, 758-59 (2013.) (both majority and dissent)
- In re Bond Issuance of Greater Wenatchee Regional Events Center Public Facilities, 175 Wash.2d 788,813, 816, 287 P.3d 567, 580 (2012) (dissent)
- Bellevue School Dist. v. E.S., 171 Wash.2d 695, 717, 257 P.3d 570, 581 (2011)

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