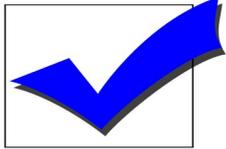


VOTE



2010

vote / vōt / n. 1. **FORMAL CHOICE FOR OR AGAINST SOMETHING** a formal indication of somebody's choice or opinion, especially in an election or referendum 2. **ACT OF CHOOSING** the act of making a choice or stating a preference to determine the outcome of something

October, 2010

Election Edition

Chelan - Douglas Counties
Republican Women's Club

Club Chatter

By now we all know which candidates we are voting for on November 2nd. When it comes to ballot measures, some of us are diligent at reading and dissecting the voter's pamphlets and some of our eyes glaze over with confusion. Does yes mean no, or does no mean yes? So, I thought I would gather the particulars and present a "quoted" argument for and against each of the initiatives along with the WA State Republican Party Platform. (Excuse the grammatical errors and fuzzy math within quoted text—it is what it is.) Please consider this a Readers Digest version.

Dee Drewry, Newsletter Editor



INITIATIVE MEASURE 1053

Initiative Measure No. 1053 concerns tax and fee increases imposed by state government.

This measure would restate existing statutory requirements that legislative actions raising taxes must be approved by two-thirds legislative majorities or receive voter approval, and that new or increased fees require majority legislative approval.

Should this measure be enacted into law?

Yes

No

Washington statues currently provide that a state fee may not be imposed or increased in any fiscal year without prior legislative approval. This requirement does not apply to assessments made by agricultural commodity commissions or to the forest products commission.

Statement For:

"Three times the voters have approved initiatives requiring either two-thirds vote of the legislature or majority vote of the people to raise taxes. Three times. Yet Olympia took it away this year, despite overwhelming citizen opposition. KING 5's poll: 68% thought it was the wrong thing to do. When asked whether tax increases should require two-thirds or a majority, a whopping 74% said two thirds. Voters want tax increases to be an absolute last resort."

Statement Against:

"The two-thirds requirement may sound good, but 1053 is a prescription for partisan gridlock that will make things worse. California is a mess because of the two-thirds requirement—let's not go down that road. 1053 would mean just 17 legislators (out of 147) on the far left or right could block a balanced proposal to close Washington's budget deficit."



Washington State Republican Party supports voting yes and reinstating the requirement of a two-thirds majority vote of the Legislature to raise our taxes.

INITIATIVE MEASURE 1082

Initiative Measure No. 1082 concerns industrial insurance.

This measure would authorize employers to purchase private industrial insurance beginning July 1, 2012; direct the legislature to enact conforming legislation by March 1, 2012; and eliminate the worker-paid share of medical-benefit premiums.

Should this measure be enacted into law?

Yes

No

Under current law, every employer covered by the industrial insurance laws must either (1) participate in the state program administered by the Department of Labor & Industries or (2) qualify as a self-insured employer. Self-insured employers qualify by satisfying the Department that they have sufficient financial ability to make prompt and certain payment of compensation and premium assessments charged against those employers. Whether the employer participates in the state program or is self-insured, the Department reviews and decides all employee claims, subject to appeal to the board of industrial insurance appeals, and thereafter to superior court.

Statement For:

"L&I's workers compensation monopoly is hurting our economy by killing jobs and failing workers. L&I taxes are going up every year with no end in sight. Injured workers stay off work longer here than anywhere else. L&I is inefficient and unaccountable because it is a government monopoly. It doesn't have to compete for your tax dollars."

Statement Against:

"I-1082 was written by the private insurance industry, which will spend millions trying to pass this initiative so they can unfairly profit from Washington's workers' compensation."



Washington State Republican Party does not state a position on this initiative. Association of Washington Business supports voting yes to privatize workers' compensation.

INITIATIVE MEASURE 1098

Initiative Measure No. 1098 concerns establishing a state income tax and reducing other taxes.

This measure would tax "adjusted gross income" above \$200,000 (individuals) and \$400,000 (joint filers), reduce state property tax levies, reduce certain business and occupation taxes, and direct any increased revenues to education and health.

Should this measure be enacted into law?

Yes

No

The state of Washington does not currently impose an income tax or an excise tax on the receipt of income. The state does impose a business and occupation (B&O) tax on the privilege of engaging in various business activities in the state such as manufacturing, selling, or providing services.

Statement For:

"1098 will cut taxes for the middle class and help our economy: cut the state property tax on homeowners and business by \$357 million; eliminates B&O tax for small businesses; smallest 81 percent of businesses in Washington will no longer pay any B&O; income tax limited to the richest 3 percent—by law, there will not be one penny of income tax on income under \$400,000 a year for couples (\$200,000 for individuals). Implements regular audits, requires a public vote for any change to the income tax."

Statement Against:

"Don't trust Olympia with a state income tax. Vote no on 1098 or a simple majority of the legislature will extend this income tax to everyone in just two years. Once in place, income tax rates will go up just like the sales tax."



Washington State Republican Party supports voting no for a new state income tax because we can't afford another job-killing tax increase.

INITIATIVE MEASURE 1100

Initiative Measure No. 1100 concerns liquor (beer, wine and spirits).

This measure would close state liquor stores; authorize sale, distribution, and import by private parties; and repeal certain requirements that govern the business operation of wine distributors and producers.

Should this measure be enacted into law?

Yes

No

Currently, the state controls the sale and distribution of spirits in Washington. The Liquor Control Board is responsible for the general control, management, and supervision of state liquor stores and contract stores, as well as the state's spirits distribution operation. The Board regulates the kind, character, and location of liquor advertising. The Board is not to advertise its sales of spirits..

Statement For:

"Washington has the highest liquor taxes in the nation. In addition to high taxes, the state also charges a profit margin of 51.9 percent on each liter of alcohol it sells. I-1100 will end the monopoly profits that make ours the most expensive liquor in the country. I-1100 would allow retailers to purchase directly from manufacturers rather than accepting additional costs of a middleman."

Statement Against:

"I-1100 threatens public safety, wiping out alcohol regulation, including enforcement, making Washington the most deregulated state in the country. Washington currently ranks #1 in keeping hard liquor out of the hands of minors, but private outlets like mini-marts are 400% more likely to sell liquor to minors, according to Liquor Control Board data."



Washington State Republican Party does not state a position on this initiative. Association of Washington Business supports voting yes to modernize Washington liquor sales.

INITIATIVE MEASURE 1105

Initiative Measure No. 1100 concerns liquor (beer, wine and spirits).

This measure would close state liquor stores; authorize sale, distribution, and import by private parties; and repeal certain requirements that govern the business operation of wine distributors and producers.

Should this measure be enacted into law?

Yes

No

Currently, the state controls the sale and distribution of spirits in Washington. The Liquor Control Board is responsible for the general control, management, and supervision of state liquor stores and contract stores, as well as the state's spirits distribution operation. The Board regulates the kind, character, and location of liquor advertising. The Board is not to advertise its sales of spirits.

Statement For:

"Washington has the highest liquor taxes in the nation. In addition to high taxes, the state also charges a profit margin of 51.9 percent on each liter of alcohol it sells. I-1100 will end the monopoly profits that make ours the most expensive liquor in the country. I-1100 would allow retailers to purchase directly from manufacturers rather than accepting additional costs of a middleman."

INITIATIVE MEASURE 1105 (cont'd)

Statement Against:

"Washington currently ranks #1 nationally in keeping hard liquor away from minors, but private outlets like mini-marts are 400% more likely to sell alcohol to minors according to Liquor Control Board data. Let's not make it easier for kids and drunk drivers to get liquor."

Confused? So am I—1100 versus I-1105! In summary, both initiatives close state liquor stores and authorize distribution and importation of spirits by private parties. The primary differences are 1100 reduces the Liquor Control Board's authority and allows market pricing, while 1105 gives that same board more authority, control over pricing and increases cost by additional taxes.



Washington State Republican Party does not state a position on this initiative. Association of Washington Business supports voting no on this initiative.

INITIATIVE MEASURE 1107

Initiative Measure No. 1107 concerns reversing certain 2010 amendments to state tax laws.

This measure would end sales tax on candy; end temporary sales tax on some bottled water; end temporary excise taxes on carbonated beverages; and reduce tax rates for certain food processors.

Should this measure be enacted into law?

Yes

No

Taxes imposed by the state of Washington include a retail sales tax, a temporary excise tax on the sale of some carbonated beverages, and a business and occupation (B&O) tax on the privilege of engaging in various business activities in the state. Each of these taxes produces revenue that is deposited into the state general fund for the general support of programs of state government. The sales tax is imposed on retail sales in the state. Sales of some products are exempt from the sales tax, including the sale of food and food ingredients. In 2010, the legislature amended the law to remove candy and bottled water from the sales tax exemption.

Statement For:

"The Legislature imposed taxes on hundreds of candy products, and even some health food products like energy bars, but exempted hundreds of other candy products. Moreover, the politicians increased taxes on processed food products made by local Washington food companies, but not on similar products made by their competitors in other states or countries. That puts locally-made food products at a competitive disadvantage."

Statement Against:

"The taxes on candy and soda were a part of a balanced solution to the economic crisis, which included \$4 in cuts for every \$1 in new revenue. Repealing them now will mean even deeper cuts. Across the country, states are taking the same, balanced approach as we did because it is the responsible thing to do."



Washington State Republican Party supports voting yes to rescind tax increases on soda, fruit juice and bottled water.

REFERENDUM BILL 52

The legislature has passed Engrossed House Bill No. 2561, concerning authorizing and funding bonds for energy efficiency projects in schools.

This bill would authorize bonds to finance construction and repair projects increasing energy efficiency in public schools and higher education buildings, and continue the sales tax on bottled water otherwise expiring in 2013.

Should this bill be:

Approved

Rejected

Statement For:

"Referendum 52 will protect our kids by helping to remove asbestos, mold and other toxic substances from contaminated public school buildings. It will repair heating and air conditioning systems and replace deteriorating windows so our schools provide a healthy environment where kids can focus on learning. Our kids should not be put at risk by going to school—Referendum 52 will make our schools safer."

Statement Against:

"R-52 sidesteps the constitutional debt limit that protects taxpayers. R-52 authorizes debt outside the Article 8, Section 1 constitutional limit. This is unwise and unnecessary. Lottery proceeds should go to school construction, but they and other funds (nearly \$1 billion total) are being diverted. Trading huge long-term debt and a permanent bottled-water tax for short-term jobs doesn't add up."



Washington State Republican Party supports voting no to make bottled water tax permanent and sell government bonds with proceeds. Yes—I said water. Buried in this bond referendum is a section that makes the bottled water tax permanent.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8225

The legislature has proposed a constitutional amendment concerning the limitation on state debt.

This amendment would require the state to reduce the interest accounted for in calculating the constitutional debt limit, by the amount of federal payments scheduled to be received to offset that interest.

Should this constitutional amendment be:

Approved

Rejected

Statement For:

"The federal government has changed the way it subsidizes interest rates for bonds issued by state and local governments. This amendment changes the definition of "interest" in our State Constitution to make state general obligation bonds eligible for this new federal subsidy, called "Build American Bonds." With this amendment, the state's constitutional debt limit would be calculated by using the "net" interest paid (after federal reimbursement) rather than the current "full" interest amount paid."

Statement Against:

"During the 2010 session the Legislature struggled to adopt an operating and capital budget because spending was outpacing revenues by billions of dollars. In the end, taxes were raised and a second measure was adopted that asks voters to approve additional borrowing beyond the state debt limit."



Washington State Republican Party does not state a position on this resolution.

ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4220

The legislature has proposed a constitutional amendment on denying bail for persons charged with certain criminal offenses.

This amendment would authorize courts to deny bail for offenses punishable by the possibility of life in prison, on clear and convincing evidence of a propensity for violence that would likely endanger persons.

Should this constitutional amendment be:

Approved

Rejected

With the exception of one class of cases, the constitution currently provides that all persons charged with crimes are entitled to be released pending trial upon posting bail by sufficient sureties. A "surety" is an individual or institution that agrees to guarantee that bail will be paid on behalf of a charged person if bail is forfeited. "Bail" is money or property pledged by a person charged with a criminal offense. When the charged person posts sufficient bail, he or she is released from custody pending a trial.

Statement For:

"Currently our constitution permits a judge to deny bail only if a suspect is charged with aggravated murder. This proposal broadens the criteria for denying bail to persons charged with crimes potentially punishable by life in prison, when the suspect is truly dangerous. The amendment does not take away civil liberties, such as the right to bail, speedy trial or the presumption of innocence. Voting yes gives judges the flexibility to keep the most dangerous offenders behind bars while awaiting trial."

Statement Against:

"Individuals charged with but not convicted of crimes usually have a chance to post bail before trial. This is an important protection—mistakes happen in our system, and those charged with crimes are often found innocent or convicted of much lesser crimes. Our current system already requires judges to consider public safety, criminal activity, and flight risk in setting conditions, and we should improve our system to ensure judges receive the most complete information to prevent future tragedies. But this amendment goes too far, giving judges the power to detain more innocent people without bail—and costing precious dollars we desperately need to target real public safety threats."



Washington State Republican Party does not state a position on this resolution.

REMEMBER

