

Progressive Voters Guide

Initiative 960

Tax and Fee Increases YES NO

Do we want more gridlock and fewer public services?

- Requires public advisory votes as well as two-thirds legislative approval or voter approval for any new revenue, including many routine fund transfers.
- Will result in endless special elections, political gridlock, and fewer public services.
- This is how Tim Eyman is making money this year.
- Opposed by the AARP, WA Assn of Churches, labor unions, conservation groups, Democratic organizations, Fuse, and any other progressive group you can think of.
- A similar measure in Colorado has been destructive for education, children's health, and other public services. Their Republican governor supported a suspension of the measure.

Referendum 67

Require Insurance Companies YES NO
to Pay Legitimate Claims

Should it be illegal for insurance companies to deny legitimate claims?

- Insurance companies earn billions of dollars by denying and delaying legitimate claims.
- This measure would make it illegal to deny legitimate claims, and permit triple damages plus attorney fees for violations.
- This has passed both the House and the Senate, but insurance companies are trying to repeal it.
- Supported by AARP, consumer groups, unions, police, firefighters, teachers, Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler and Fuse.
- Opposed by the insurance industry.

Constitutional Amendments

EHJR 4204 APPROVE REJECT
Majority Rules for Schools

Isn't it a little crazy that it's harder to fund schools than jails in a state that ranks 47th in the nation for class sizes?

- Voters could pass school levies would pass with 50% of the vote instead of 60%.
- Locally approved levies count for 17% of school funding.
- In 2006 alone, 31 levies failed with more than 50 percent approval, because they didn't achieve a supermajority.
- Supported by teachers, parents, businesses, anyone who supports public education.

ESSJR 8206 APPROVE REJECT
Budget Stabilization Account

Think it's more important to make sure the Legislature saves money, even if it limits their flexibility? Then vote YES.

Think the State needs a savings plan that doesn't tie the Legislature's hands when responding to difficult circumstances? Then vote NO.

- Directs 1% of state revenues to a "Rainy Day Fund" for emergencies.
- Progressives are split on this one. Everyone supports the goal, but some believe this approach is too inflexible.

SJR 8212 APPROVE REJECT
Inmate Work Programs

Are you willing to support obscure but sensible fixes to the State Constitution?

- Prison work programs reduce re-incarceration rates and teach job skills that prepare inmates to return to the community.
- Inmates can participate in these work programs by choice, and part of the money they earn goes toward crime victim compensation, legal fees, and the cost of their imprisonment.
- Supported by overwhelming bipartisan majorities in the Legislature.

SHJR 4215 APPROVE REJECT
Investing Higher Education Funds

Isn't raising more money for higher education without raising taxes a win win situation?

- Allows the state to invest higher education funds in the stock market, subject to high fiduciary standards, as is already authorized for K-12 education. That means better returns.
- Supported by overwhelming bipartisan majorities in the Legislature.