



Legislation Text

File #: Res 31623, Version: 1

CITY OF SEATTLE
RESOLUTION _____

A RESOLUTION opposing Washington Initiative Measure 1366 and urging Seattle voters to vote “no” on Initiative 1366 on the November 3, 2015 general election ballot.

WHEREAS, I-1366 would eliminate eight billion dollars from the State of Washington Operating Budget over the next six years which would cause drastic cuts to vital public services, including schools, colleges, and other programs families in Seattle depend on by decreasing the state sales tax, unless, by April 2016, the Washington State Legislature approves a constitutional amendment requiring a two-thirds vote to raise revenue or recover revenue for the state treasury; and

WHEREAS, I-1366 is being falsely promoted by Tim Eyman as a constitutional amendment to reinstate the unconstitutional supermajority requirement that was struck down by the Washington Supreme Court in 2013 in *League of Education Voters v. State of Washington*, when in fact it is an initiative to the people attempting to coerce state lawmakers into agreeing to submit an amendment to the people that would overturn the Court’s decision by holding school funding hostage; and

WHEREAS, the undemocratic modification of the Washington Constitution to require two-thirds votes to raise and recover revenue would result in serious long-term damage to Washington’s communities; and

WHEREAS, Washington’s founders understood that democracy requires majority rules with minority rights and, after much debate and deliberation, wrote a Constitution requiring that bills pass by a majority vote, understood to mean greater than 50 percent - no more and no less; and

WHEREAS, allowing tax exemptions to be created by a majority vote, but repealed only with a vote of two-thirds or greater, represents an unfair double standard that would make it nearly impossible to reform

Washington's outdated and regressive tax system; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Supreme Court's 2012 decision in *McCleary v. State* found that Washington abrogates Article IX of the Washington Constitution when it fails to provide for the ample education of all children residing within Washington's borders; and

WHEREAS, whichever decision the state legislature makes in response to I-1366 would make it extremely difficult to comply with *McCleary* and fulfill the paramount duty to educate Washington's youth; and

WHEREAS, after notice in accordance with RCW 42.17A.555 and Seattle Municipal Code Section 2.04.300, persons in favor of I 1-1366 and those opposed to it have been given an equal opportunity to share their views in an open public meeting, NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE THAT, THE MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:

Section 1. The City Council declares its opposition to Initiative 1366 and urges Seattle voters to oppose Initiative 1366 in the November 3, 2015 general election.

Section 2. The City Council encourages citizens who support Washington's founding values to join the coalition of elected officials, labor organizations, and social justice groups across Washington State opposing I-1366.

Adopted by the City Council the ____ day of _____, 2015, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this _____ day of _____, 2015.

President _____ of the City Council

The Mayor concurred the ____ day of _____, 2015.

Edward B. Murray, Mayor

Filed by me this ____ day of _____, 2015.

Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

(Seal)