

RESOLUTION OPPOSING INITIATIVE MEASURE 1366

WHEREAS Tim Eyman, Mike Fagan, and Jack Fagan have sponsored and are circulating petitions for Initiative 1366, filed on January 5th, 2015 as an initiative to the people for 2015; and

WHEREAS I-1366 would reduce the sales tax, and therefore approximately \$1 billion in state revenue every year, thereby preventing the increased spending on K-12 education required by the *McCleary* decision, while jeopardizing higher education, transportation and the social safety net, *unless* the State Legislature follows the dictates of the initiative and sends to the voters a constitutional amendment undemocratically requiring a two-thirds vote in each House of the Legislature to raise revenue or repeal any tax loophole; and

WHEREAS the Washington State Supreme Court in February 2013, in *League of Education Voters v. State of Washington*, struck down as unconstitutional a requirement of a supermajority vote to raise revenue, and Eyman's I-1366 comprises a devious attempt to evade that ruling by coercing lawmakers into colluding in his underhanded scheme to overturn it by holding all state funding hostage; and

WHEREAS either the loss of a billion dollars per annum to our common wealth or the undemocratic modification of our Constitution to require two-thirds votes to raise and recover revenue would result in serious long-term damage to the communities of Washington State, including those in King County; and

WHEREAS our state's founders understood that democracy requires majority rules with minority rights, and, after much debate and deliberation, they wrote a Constitution for Washington specifying that bills in the Legislature are passed by a majority vote, defined as *greater than fifty percent* – no more, and no less; and

WHEREAS any higher threshold for the passage of legislation would result in power being concentrated in the hands of a few (rather than the many), such as one-third of one house of the Legislature – as when I-601 and its clones I-960, I-1053, and I-1185 were illegitimately in effect; 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WHEREAS allowing tax exemptions to be created by a majority vote, but repealed only with a vote of two-thirds or greater, represents an unfair double standard that would make it nearly impossible to reform our outdated and regressive tax system; and

WHEREAS I-1366 would inevitably contravene the State Supreme Court's 2012 decision in *McCleary v. State* by making it effectively impossible for the state to fulfill its paramount duty of making ample provision for the education of all children within its borders, as required by Article IX of the State Constitution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the King County Democrats urge all Washingtonians to refuse to sign Tim Eyman's Initiative 1366 and, if it is placed on the ballot, to oppose the measure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we ask the Washington State Democrats to take a similar position opposing I-1366 at the State Party's next meeting in Pasco; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we encourage every activist and citizen who supports the values that Washington was founded upon to join the coalition opposing I-1366.

Adopted February 24, 2015 by the King County Democratic Central Committee

Originated by Andrew Villeneuve
andrew@effectivedemocrats.org