

King County Democratic Central Committee 2010 Endorsements

Initiatives to the People for November 2, 2010 – General Election

NO on Initiative 1053. - This measure would restate the existing statutory requirement that any action or combination of actions by the legislature that raises taxes must be approved by a two-thirds vote in both houses of the legislature or approved in a referendum to the people, and it would restate the existing statutory definition of “raises taxes.” It would also restate that new or increased fees must be approved by a majority vote in both houses of the legislature.

NO on Initiative 1082. - This measure would permit certification of private insurers as industrial insurance insurers, and authorize employers to purchase state-mandated industrial insurance coverage through an “industrial insurance insurer” beginning July 1, 2012. It would establish a joint legislative task force to propose legislation conforming current statutes to this measure’s provisions, and would direct the legislature to enact such supplemental conforming legislation as necessary by March 1, 2012. It would also eliminate the worker-paid share of medical-benefit premiums.

YES on Initiative 1098. - This measure would establish a tax on “adjusted gross income” (as determined under the federal internal revenue code) above \$200,000 for individuals and \$400,000 for married couples or domestic partners filing jointly; reduce the limit on statewide property taxes by 20%; and increase the business and occupation tax credit to \$4,800. The tax revenues would replace revenues lost from the reduced levy and increased credit; remaining revenues would be directed to education and health services.

NO on Initiative 1100. - This measure would direct the liquor control board to close all state liquor stores; terminate contracts with private stores selling liquor; and authorize the state to issue licenses that allow spirits (hard liquor) to be sold, distributed, and imported by private parties. It would repeal uniform pricing and certain other requirements governing business operations for distributors and producers of beer and wine. Stores that held contracts to sell spirits could convert to liquor retailer licenses.

NO on Initiative 1105. - This measure would direct the liquor control board to close all state liquor stores and to license qualified private parties as spirits (hard liquor) retailers or distributors. It would require licensees to pay the state a percentage of their first five years of gross spirits sales; repeal certain taxes on retail spirits sales; direct the board to recommend to the legislature a tax to be paid by spirits distributors; and revise other laws concerning spirits.

NO on Initiative 1107. - This measure would reverse certain 2010 amendments to state tax laws, thereby: ending the sales tax on candy and the temporary sales tax on some bottled water; and ending temporary excise taxes on the activity of selling certain carbonated beverages, not including alcoholic beverages or carbonated bottled water. It would also reinstate a reduced business and occupation tax rate for processors of certain foods.

Legislative Proposals to the People for November 2, 2010 – General Election:

YES on Referendum 52. – Known as the “Jobs Act of 2010.” This bill would strengthen our commonwealth by authorizing the issuance of bonds to pay for the weatherization of public buildings (including schools, colleges, and universities). The resulting energy savings would thus pay for themselves.

YES on HJR 4220. – A constitutional amendment which would give judges greater leeway to deny bail to individuals who prosecutors can demonstrate have a propensity for violence. The amendment was crafted as a response to the heinous crimes committed by Maurice Clemmons; it is known as the “Lakewood Police Officers Memorial Act.”

YES on SJR 8225. – A constitutional amendment adjusting the state’s debt limits. This amendment is a very technical change to Article VIII, Section 1. It simply modernizes the way the amount required for payment of interest is calculated. The amendment is only six lines long.