

Resolution Opposing Initiative Measure 1366

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

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

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

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20 **WHEREAS** either the loss of a billion dollars per annum to our common wealth or the
21 undemocratic modification of our Constitution to require two-thirds votes to raise and
22 recover revenue would result in serious long-term damage to the communities of
23 Washington State;

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

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30 **WHEREAS** any higher threshold for the passage of legislation would result in power
31 being concentrated in the hands of a few (rather than the many), such as one-third of
32 one house of the Legislature - as when I-601 and its clones I-960, I-1053, and I-1185 were
33 illegitimately in effect;

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35 **WHEREAS** allowing tax exemptions to be created by a majority vote, but repealed only
36 with a vote of two-thirds or greater, represents an unfair double standard that would
37 make it nearly impossible to reform our outdated and regressive tax system; and

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39 **WHEREAS** I-1366 would further violate Article IX of the Washington State Constitution
40 by making it impossible for the state to fulfill its paramount duty of educating
41 Washington's youth;

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43 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats urge all
44 Washingtonians to refuse to sign Tim Eyman's Initiative 1366 and, if it is placed on the
45 ballot, to oppose the measure;

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47 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we encourage every activist and
48 citizen who supports the values that Washington was founded upon to join the
49 coalition opposing I-1366.

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52 Submitted by the King County Democrats to the WSDCC. (Date Submitted 3/4/2015)

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54 Submitted by the 30th LD Democrats to the WSDCC. (Date Submitted 4/10/2015)

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56 The Resolutions Committee amended this resolution and recommended that it be
57 "PASSED" at its April 18, 2015 meeting in Pasco.

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59 The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution at its April 18, 2015 meeting in Pasco.