

Vote to “Maintain” on Advisory Votes 8 and 9

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WHEREAS Attorney General Bob Ferguson's office has determined that two actions taken by the Legislature as part of the enactment of the 2014 Supplemental Budget must be placed on the ballot in the form of a nonbinding referendum as required by Tim Eyman's Initiative 960;

WHEREAS these measures will appear on the November 2014 ballot as “Advisory Vote 8” and “Advisory Vote 9”;

WHEREAS according to Secretary of State Kim Wyman's office, which is responsible for administering the state's elections, “Advisory Vote 8 is the result of Senate Bill 6505, which deals with the elimination of agricultural tax preferences for various aspects of the marijuana industry”;

WHEREAS according to Secretary of State Kim Wyman's office, “Advisory Vote 9 is a result of Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1287. That measure imposes the leasehold excise tax on certain leasehold interests in tribal property”;

WHEREAS voters are asked to either vote “Maintained” or “Repealed” on the aforementioned bills;

WHEREAS the provision of Tim Eyman's Initiative 960 that dictates how advisory votes are to appear on the ballot requires the use of weasel words and worthless ten-year cost projections in order to create leading questions which are intended to suggest their own answers;

WHEREAS these kinds of questions are found in what are commonly known as push polls, do not belong on our ballots, and are a complete waste of public money;

WHEREAS it is the Legislature's responsibility and duty to write and adopt budgets for the state;

WHEREAS Initiative 960 has already found to be partly unconstitutional by the Washington State Supreme Court in League of Education Voters v. State of Washington;

WHEREAS the Northwest Progressive Institute has concluded that the advisory vote provision of Tim Eyman's Initiative 960 is also unconstitutional because it creates a new type of nonbinding ballot measure which our state Constitution does not provide for;

41 **WHEREAS** voters are not told on their ballots that advisory votes are nonbinding, or
42 that advisory votes are required by Tim Eyman's Initiative 960, or that the actions which
43 are being subjected to advisory votes are part of a budget enacted by the Washington
44 State Legislature;

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46 **WHEREAS** the Secretary of State's office is forbidden by Initiative 960 from providing
47 additional and valuable context concerning the advisory votes to voters in the statewide
48 voter's pamphlet; and

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50 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats take a position
51 supporting a "Maintained" vote on Advisory Votes 8 and 9 on the November 2014
52 ballot; and

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54 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats urge
55 the Washington State Legislature to repeal Tim Eyman's unconstitutional advisory
56 votes scheme in the next legislative session, so that the people's money does not
57 continue to be annually wasted on what amounts to push poll questions triggered by
58 any action that raises or recovers revenue for the state treasury..

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61 Submitted by the 45th LD Democrats to the WSDCC. (Date Submitted 9/4/2014)

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63 Recommended Pass by the Resolutions Committee at their September 13, 2014 Meeting
64 in Ferndale.

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66 Passed by the WSDCC at their September 13, 2014 Meeting in Ferndale.