

A Resolution Concerning "Advisory Votes" 16 and 17

1
2
3 **WHEREAS** Attorney General Bob Ferguson's office has determined that three bills
4 passed by the Washington State Legislature as part of the 2017 operating budget must
5 each be placed on the ballot in the form of a nonbinding plebiscite as required by Tim
6 Eyman's Initiative 960;

7
8 **WHEREAS** these measures will appear on the ballot as "Advisory Votes" 16, 17, and 18;

9
10 **WHEREAS** according to Attorney General Bob Ferguson, Advisory Vote 16 was
11 triggered by Engrossed House Bill 1597 (increased the business and occupation tax and
12 narrowed certain retail sales and use tax exemptions), Advisory Vote 17 was triggered
13 by Engrossed House Bill 2163 (increased the business and occupation tax and narrowed
14 certain retail sales and use tax exemptions), and Advisory Vote 18 was triggered by
15 Engrossed House Bill 2242 (levied an additional state property tax for common schools);

16
17 **WHEREAS** voters are asked to either vote "Maintained" or "Repealed" on the
18 aforementioned bills;

19
20 **WHEREAS** the provision of Tim Eyman's Initiative 960 that dictates how advisory
21 votes are to appear on the ballot requires the use of weasel words and worthless ten-
22 year cost projections in order to create leading questions which are intended to suggest
23 their own answers;

24
25 **WHEREAS** these kinds of questions are found in what are commonly known as push
26 polls, do not belong on our ballots, and are a complete waste of public money;

27
28 **WHEREAS** it is the Legislature's responsibility and duty to write and adopt budgets for
29 the state;

30
31 **WHEREAS** voters are not told on their ballots that advisory votes are nonbinding, or
32 that advisory votes are required by Tim Eyman's Initiative 960, or that the actions which
33 are being subjected to advisory votes are part of a budget enacted by the Washington
34 State Legislature;

35
36 **WHEREAS** the Secretary of State's office is forbidden by Initiative 960 from providing
37 additional and valuable context concerning the advisory votes to voters in the statewide
38 voter's pamphlet; and

39
40 **WHEREAS** voting "Maintained" on these advisory votes is the best way to both protest
41 their existence and deny Tim Eyman ammunition for further attacks on the plan of
42 government that our founders gave us, which provides for a representative democracy
43 with executive, legislative, and judicial branches;

44

45 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Central
46 Committee take a position supporting a “Maintained” vote on Advisory Votes 16 and
47 17 on the November 2017 general election ballot, and urge all Washingtonians to vote
48 accordingly when they cast their ballots.

49

50

51 Submitted by Andrew Villeneuve via 50 signatures on 9/9/2017.

52

53 The Resolutions Committee recommended that the resolution be sent to the floor.

54

55 The Washington State Democratic Central Committee amended and approved this
56 resolution on 9/10/17.