INITIATIVE 269

I, Sam Reed, Secretary of State of the State of Washington and custodian of its seal, hereby certify that, according to the records on file in my office, the attached copy of Initiative Measure No. 269 to the Legislature is a true and correct copy as it was received by this office.

1   AN ACT Relating to limiting the growth of general fund revenues for
2   local governments to reduce property tax levies; adding a new section
3   to chapter 82.02 RCW; and creating new sections.

4   BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5   **POLICIES AND PURPOSES**

6   NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** This measure would limit the growth of
7   general fund revenues for local governments, not including new voter-
8   approved revenues, to 1% per year. Excess revenues above this limit,
9   not including new voter-approved revenues, would reduce property tax
10   levies. Washington voters overwhelmingly approved Initiative 747 which
11   limited the growth of tax revenues to taxing districts unless voters
12   approved higher increases at an election. But local governments
13   throughout Washington are radically raising property taxes, ignoring
14   voter-approved Initiative 747's mandate. Local governments are also
15   imposing increases on other taxes and fees without receiving voter
16   approval. Local governments are also pursuing additional taxing
17   authority from the legislature rather than complying with the voter
18   approval provision in Initiative 747. Taxpayers will not tolerate

1 blatant noncompliance with voter-approved Initiative 747. Taxpayers
2 will not allow local governments to shred voter-approved Initiative 747
3 the way state government has shredded the state spending limits of
4 voter-approved Initiative 601. Taxpayers assumed politicians would act
5 in good faith after the overwhelming passage of Initiative 747.
6 Politicians instead stuck their finger in the eye of the taxpayers -
7 this measure is necessary to again send the message: 1% means 1%
8 unless voters OK more.

9 **REQUIRING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO LIMIT THE GROWTH OF**
10 **GENERAL FUND REVENUES, NOT INCLUDING NEW VOTER-APPROVED REVENUES,**
11 **TO 1% PER YEAR**

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 82.02 RCW
13 to read as follows:
14 (1) Starting with fiscal year 2002 general fund budgets, local
15 governments shall limit the growth of general fund revenues, not
16 including new voter-approved revenues, to 1% per year. Excess revenues
17 above this limit, not including new voter-approved revenues, shall be
18 used to reduce the property tax levy for that jurisdiction.
19 (2) For purposes of this section, "general fund revenues" means the
20 aggregate of revenue generated from taxes, fees, and other governmental
21 charges for use in the local government's general fund, sometimes
22 referred to as the operating fund. "General fund revenues" includes,
23 but is not limited to, revenues generated from sales and use taxes,
24 property taxes, business and occupation taxes, utility taxes, impact
25 fees, and business license fees.
26 (3) For purposes of this section, "new voter-approved revenues"
27 means revenues generated from revenue measures approved by the voters
28 at an election after January 1, 2002. Revenue measures approved by the
29 voters at an election before January 1, 2002, would need to be
30 reauthorized by the voters at a new election to be considered "new
31 voter-approved revenues" under this section.
32 (4) Excess revenues above the limit set forth in this section, not
33 including new voter-approved revenues, shall be used to reduce the
34 property tax levy for that jurisdiction.
35 (5) For purposes of this section, "local governments" includes
36 counties, cities, towns, port districts, and other taxing districts
37 whose property tax levies are limited by voter-approved Initiative 747

1 and subject to chapter 84.55 RCW, but does not include state government
2 and state agencies.
3 (5) This section does not apply to any specific emergency measure
4 authorized by vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the local
5 governmental legislative body and expiring not later than six months
6 from the effective date of the emergency act. In the event of an
7 emergency, the general fund revenue limit for the subsequent year shall
8 be the same as if there had been no emergency.
9 (6) Each local government shall adopt implementing legislation,
10 ordinances, and policies necessary to ensure the purposes and intent of
11 this measure are strictly fulfilled.

12   **CONSTRUCTION CLAUSE**

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The provisions of this act are to be
14 liberally construed to effectuate the intent, policies, and purposes of
15 this act.

16   **SEVERABILITY CLAUSE**

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If any provision of this act or its
18 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
19 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
20 persons or circumstances is not affected.

21   **LEGISLATIVE INTENT**

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The people have clearly expressed their
23 desire to limit taxes through the overwhelming passage of numerous
24 initiatives and referenda. However, politicians throughout the state
25 of Washington continue to ignore the mandate of these measures.
26 Politicians are reminded:
27 (1) All political power is vested in the people, as stated in
28 Article I, section 1 of the Washington state Constitution.
29 (2) The first power reserved by the people is the initiative, as
30 stated in Article II, section 1 of the Washington state Constitution.
31 (3) When voters approve initiatives, politicians have a moral,
32 ethical, and constitutional obligation to fully implement them. When

1 politicians ignore this obligation, they corrupt the term "public
2 servant."
3   (4) Any attempt to violate the clear intent and spirit of this
4 measure undermines the trust of the people in their government and will
5 increase the likelihood of future tax limitation measures.

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