

INITIATIVE MEASURE 226

*Official ballot title:**

CITIES SHARING SALES, USE TAXES

AN ACT relating to revenue and taxation and providing for the allocation and distribution of one-tenth of the state collected retail sales tax and use tax revenues to cities and towns to provide for public safety, law enforcement, fire protection, public health, and for park and recreation services.

*Ballot Title as issued by the Attorney General.

Statement **FOR**

Cities and towns face an emergency

Washington cities and towns are face-to-face with a stark emergency. It could become a civic disaster unless prompt action is taken.

Tax revenues for vital services have not kept up with exploding populations and greater demands. It costs more—as everything does—to provide even present curtailed services. Cities lack funds to pay for these basic needs or to project future improvements—there is no help in sight except 226!

More police and fire protection needed— vote “for” Initiative 226!

Police protection is dangerously thin. Tacoma needs 36 more policemen; Seattle has had many police resignations and difficulty replacing officers at wages the city can afford. Everett needs six policemen, Yakima 14; Richland's police shortage is evident in crime rates. Inadequate fire protection brings threat of higher rates.

Spokane has so many vacant jobs as to jeopardize efficient operations. Longview, Edmonds, Wenatchee, Bremerton, Kennewick, Hoquiam, Walla Walla—the report is the same almost everywhere. Public health is under pressure of too little funds. Parks and recreation are suffering. City employees' salaries are below standard; men are quitting for better jobs.

The need is now—vote “for” Initiative 226!

Initiative 226 provides the only relief which can be obtained quickly enough to meet the emergency. The crisis is now! A few solutions have been suggested. Almost without exception they will come too late—four years hence, six years, a decade. But 226 will help now!

One solution offered is to increase the property tax. If 226 fails there may be no alternative.

The total needs of children

Much has been said about the needs of children—the increased funds required for education. We are completely in accord—but children need other things too. They need proper police and fire protection, parks, playfields, public health, sanitation. We are interested in the total needs of children!

We urge everyone to vote for Initiative 226. Keep your home town a decent place to live. Vote For Initiative 226!

Committee appointed to compose statement FOR Initiative 226:

WAYNE C. BOOTH, SR., Chairman, Statewide Committee for Community Betterment, Seattle; JOSEPH M. TEWINKEL, Principal (ret'd) North Central High School, Spokane; JOHN H. ANDERSON, Member, Tacoma School Board; former Mayor of Tacoma.

Advisory Committee: MAYOR NEAL R. FOSSEEN, Spokane; MAYOR J. D. BRAMAN, Seattle; MAYOR JOHN M. LARSON, Yakima; SENATOR H. B. “JERRY” HANNA, 12th District, Wenatchee; DON V. ELLIS, President, Joint Council of Teamsters No. 28, Seattle.

*Explanatory comment issued by the
Attorney General as required by law*

The Law as it now exists:

Present state law provides for the exclusive levy and collection by the state of an excise tax, commonly known as the sales tax, on each retail sale in this state in an amount equal to four and two-tenths percent of the selling price of the goods, materials, or services sold—with certain expressly stated exceptions.

Another existing law provides likewise for the exclusive levy and collection by the state of a use tax imposed for the privilege of using within this state tangible personal property purchased at retail or acquired by other specified means. This tax is levied at a rate equivalent to the sales tax rate. However, among several exemptions from the use tax is an exemption covering those articles in regard to which a sales tax has been paid.

Presently, all proceeds derived from both the sales tax and the use tax may be expended for such purposes as the state legislature may constitutionally direct.

Effect of Initiative No. 226 if approved into Law:

This initiative would not change the exclusive character of the state's retail sales tax or use tax, but would require that one-tenth of the revenue derived from the sales and use taxes be allocated and distributed to the cities and towns of this state on a per capita basis to be used by each city and town for public safety, law enforcement, fire protection, public health, and park and recreation purposes.

Note: Complete text of Initiative Measure No. 226 appears on Page 34.

Statement **AGAINST**

Initiative 226 is special interest earmarking of the state sales and use tax receipts which will:

1. Siphon off \$65 million from the State's General Fund

(1967-69 biennium) and distribute it to all cities regardless of individual need.

The State's General Fund is now being distributed as follows:

62% to public education; 23% for assistance to the blind, the aged, dependent children, etc.; 11% to Health, Hospitals and Institutions (Mental Health, Mentally Retarded Children, Juvenile Rehabilitation, Adult Corrections, and also 100% financing of County Hospital operations); and 4% to General Government. Your elected Legislators now make these determinations.

2. Cause an increase in the State Sales Tax

The \$65 million will have to be replaced. The built in costs and the inflationary costs which the 1967 Legislature must meet just to continue present services is almost twice the amount of the present temporary surplus in the State's General Fund. The state faces serious financial problems for the 1967-69 biennium, the temporary surplus notwithstanding. The financial needs of the cities along with all other units of state and local govern-

ment should be carefully scrutinized as part of the total needs of all the people and when the Legislature is also examining all sources of revenue.

To replace the \$65 million in Sales Tax Receipts will require an increase in the Sales Tax from 4.2% to 4.7%. Such an increase, of course, means an additional \$7 million to the cities.

3. Double the amount of state funds distributed to the cities

During the 1965-67 biennium the cities already are receiving more than \$65 million from the state, e.g., 40% of liquor profits, 17% net proceeds of Motor Vehicle Excise Tax, etc. In addition, cities on their own, can raise about \$50 million more over a two year period by fully utilizing existing local revenue sources.

4. Place a greater financial burden on local school districts

by siphoning off \$65 million of previously available state funds.

Vote Against Initiative Measure 226.

Committee appointed to compose statement AGAINST Initiative Measure No. 226:

MRS. ROBERTA MORICAL, President, Washington Congress of Parents and Teachers; NORM SCHUT, Executive Director, Washington Federation of State Employees, AFL-CIO.

COMPLETE TEXT OF

INITIATIVE MEASURE 226

Ballot Title as issued by the Attorney General:

CITIES SHARING SALES, USE TAXES

AN ACT relating to revenue and taxation and providing for the allocation and distribution of one-tenth of the state collected retail sales tax and use tax revenues to cities and towns to provide for public safety, law enforcement, fire protection, public health, and for park and recreation services.

*Be it enacted by the people
of the State of Washington:*

SECTION 1. Washington's cities and towns contain a majority of our people, and continue to grow explosively. Essential police, fire, and health protection, parks and recreation facilities are being strained to the danger point. Ugliness, congestion and crime threaten to destroy safe and decent living.

Municipal tax revenues lag far behind needs. The property tax cannot be stretched to cover these mounting costs. Cities should receive a fairer portion of the overall tax revenues like other functions.

The solution to many of the problems requires that one-tenth of the sales and use tax revenues be distributed to cities and towns to help meet the financial crisis now being faced. It is intended that funds thus derived shall supplement and be in addition to any revenue source now available to cities and towns.

SECTION 2. From and after the first day of July, 1967, notwithstanding any provisions of the law to the contrary, one-tenth of the revenue derived from the retail sales tax and one-tenth of the revenue derived from the use tax imposed under the provisions of RCW 82.08.010 through 82.08.140 and Chapter 82.12 RCW, respectively, as now or hereafter amended, shall be credited by the State Treasurer to an account hereby established, to be known as the Cities and Towns Excise Tax Account. On the first day of the months of January, April, July, and October of each year, the State Treasurer shall apportion all moneys in the Cities and Towns Excise Tax Account among the cities and towns in the state ratably on the basis of population as determined by the State Census Board under RCW 43.62.020. The amount apportioned shall be distributed to the cities and towns, and shall be used by each city and town for the purposes of public safety, law enforcement, fire protection, public health, and for park and recreation purposes.

Initiative Measure No. 226 filed in the office of the Secretary of State as of January 10, 1966.

Sponsors filed 180,896 supporting signatures as of July 8, 1966.

Canvass of signatures completed as of September 19, 1966 and petitions found sufficient. Measure then certified to the November 8, 1966 state general election ballot for approval or rejection by the voters.

A. LUDLOW KRAMER, *Secretary of State.*

COMPLETE TEXT OF

INITIATIVE MEASURE 229

Ballot Title as issued by the Attorney General:

REPEALING SUNDAY ACTIVITIES BLUE LAW

AN ACT repealing an existing statute* which declares it to be a crime (misdemeanor) for any person, on the first day of the week (Sunday) to promote any noisy or boisterous sport or amusement; conduct or carry on all but certain designated trades or manufacturing activities; or open any drinking saloon; or sell or offer for sale any except certain designated items of personal property.

*Section 242, chapter 249, Laws of 1909, codified as RCW 9.76.010.

*Be it enacted by the people
of the State of Washington:*

SECTION 1. That RCW 9.76.010 (Session Laws 1909, Ch. 249 Sec. 242 p. 963) which provides that "Every person who, on the first day of the week, shall promote any noisy or boisterous sport or amusement, disturbing the peace of the day; or who shall conduct or carry on, or perform or employ any labor about any trade or manufacture, except livery stables, garages and works of necessity or charity conducted in an orderly manner so as not to interfere with the repose and religious liberty of the community; or who shall open any drinking saloon, or sell, offer or expose for sale, any personal property, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor: *Provided*, That meals, without intoxicating liquors, may be served on the premises or elsewhere by caterers, and prepared tobacco, milk, fruit, confectionery, newspapers, magazines, medical and surgical appliances may be sold in a quiet and orderly manner. In works of necessity or charity is included whatever is needful during the day for the good order or health or comfort of a community; but keeping open a barber shop, shaving or cutting hair shall not be deemed a work of necessity or charity, and nothing in this section shall be construed to permit the sale of uncooked meats, groceries, clothing, boots or shoes." be repealed.

SECTION 2. The effective date of this Act shall be December 9, 1966.

Initiative Measure No. 229 filed in the office of the Secretary of State as of February 17, 1966.

Sponsors filed 187,882 supporting signatures as of July 8, 1966.

Canvass of signatures completed as of September 1, 1966 and petitions found sufficient. Measure then certified to the November 8, 1966 state general election ballot for approval or rejection by the voters.

A. LUDLOW KRAMER, *Secretary of State.*