

INITIATIVE MEASURE 229

Official ballot title:*

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.

* Ballot Title as issued by the Attorney General.

Statement **FOR**

Initiative 229 represents a bi-partisan effort to repeal the outdated 1909 Sabbath Breaking Law "Blue Law" explained above. The legislature has failed to revise or abolish the Blue Law despite numerous efforts to do so.

The Blue Law is unrepresentative of life and living in the 1960's

Labeled as an "anachronism" by Governor Evans, it was based to fit the mood of the state during "livery stables" atmosphere early in the century.

The Blue Law encourages disrespect and blatant contempt for the law

It is violated every Sunday by otherwise law-abiding citizens whose honest endeavors are frustrated by its existence. It fosters the belief, especially among our youth, that a law may be disobeyed if the individual chooses.

Every Sunday that YOU buy or sell uncooked meat, groceries, a car or coffee pot; every time that YOU attend a baseball game or hydroplane race; every Sunday that YOU buy a book (even the Bible); or do countless other proscribed things, YOU are committing a crime or aiding in the commission of a crime.

Enforcement of the Blue Law is occasional and discriminatory

Certain merchants have been singled out and convicted while neighboring competitors have done "business as usual" on Sunday.

The Blue Law violates cherished principles of religious liberty

In selecting Sunday as a day for closing, with attendant criminal sanction for those who remain open, the law penalizes citizens who worship on other days.

Initiative 229 does not change Washington's prohibition of Sunday liquor sales. That ban is in the Steele Act (Chapter 62, Laws of 1933), and Liquor Control Board Regulation 20.

If our State Supreme Court agrees with a pending appeal aimed at requiring prosecutors to enforce the Blue Law, most Sunday activities could be shut down.

Some organizations endorsing Initiative 229: Young Democrats of Washington, Young Republicans of Washington, Washington Prosecuting Attorneys' Association, Olympia Ministerial Association, Christian Social Action Committee, United Church of Christ for Washington and Northern Idaho, Seventh Day Adventist Church, various Chambers of Commerce, Washington State Labor Council.

Abolish the "Blue Law"—Vote For 229.

Committee appointed to compose statement **FOR** Initiative No. 229:

LEM HOWELL, Coordinator, Committee for Repeal of the Blue Law; CAMDEN M. HALL, Coordinator, Committee for Repeal of the Blue Law; PETER LESOURD, Treasurer, Committee for Repeal of the Blue Law.

Advisory Committee: BENJAMIN KIZER, Chairman, Committee for Repeal of the Blue Law; JOHN FLUKE, former President, Seattle Chamber of Commerce; JOE DRUMHELLER, Spokane industrialist; DR. WM. SHEPHARD, President, Walla Walla College; JOE GANDY, former President, Seattle World Fair.

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

The Law as it now exists:

Under an existing statute it is a crime (misdemeanor) for any person, on the first day of the week (Sunday) to:

Promote any noisy or boisterous sport or amusement, disturbing the peace of the day;

Conduct, perform or employ any labor incident to any trade or manufacture, except livery stables, garages and works of necessity or charity conducted in an orderly manner;

Open any drinking saloon (tavern or cocktail lounge), or sell, offer or expose for sale any personal property, except meals without intoxicating liquors, prepared tobacco, milk, fruit, confectionery, newspapers, magazines and medical and surgical appliances, sold in a quiet and orderly manner;

Open a barber shop, or permit the sale of uncooked meats, groceries, clothing, boots or shoes.

Effect of Initiative No. 229

if approved into Law:

This initiative would repeal the above-described existing statutory restrictions on activities performed on the first day of the week (Sunday).

Note: Complete text of Initiative Measure No. 229 appears on Page 34.

Statement **AGAINST**

Effect of this Initiative to repeal

Repeal of this law would remove all legal protection of Sunday as our traditional day for rest and renewal. Repeal would also remove the one law which prevents the Liquor Control Board from changing its policy, and allowing taverns, cocktail lounges, and other licensed establishments to open Sunday.

Why vote against repeal

1. We need the weekend. Most employers and employees favor one day a week, established by law, when the pace of work slows or stops.
2. This is not a religious issue. The Washington-North Dakota Council of Churches, characteristic of most religious groups, requests "one common day a week set apart, protected from unnecessary labor and business" but not necessarily Sunday.
3. The United States Supreme Court approved of such a law. In a decision May 29, 1961, Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote: "We cannot find a state without the power . . . to set one day of the week apart from the others as a day of rest, repose, recreation and tranquility. . . . This is particularly true in

this day and age of state concern with public welfare legislation."

4. Most people oppose wide open liquor sales. Many who enjoy alcoholic beverages do not want every tavern, cocktail lounge and liquor store open on Sunday.
5. Highway safety experts and weekend travelers dread liquor sales during the Sunday rush homeward.
6. Working couples need the same day off—not separate days.

Let the Legislators correct this law

The law uses old-fashioned language. It should be revised or replaced by the legislators, but if this initiative passes—all its provisions will be wiped off the books in 30 days, leaving the people without adequate protection. Legislators would then be reluctant to propose any substitute. Therefore, the legislators should write a new law protecting a day a week before we discard this one.

Vote Against Initiative 229.

Committee appointed to compose statement AGAINST Initiative 229:

REV. PAUL J. BEEMAN, Bellevue, Chairman, Church Committee Against 229; WILFRED WOODS, Wenatchee, editor and publisher, Wenatchee Daily World; HARRY SPRINKER, County Commissioner, Pierce County.

Advisory Committee: ERNEST W. LENNART, Everson, State Senator; WILLARD ZELLMER, Prosecuting Attorney, Lincoln County; HAROLD PATCHETT, Everett, owner, Industrial Electric Company; PROF. ARTHUR L. FREDERICK, Tacoma, sociologist, University of Puget Sound.

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.*

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INITIATIVE MEASURE 229

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*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.*