

INITIATIVE MEASURE 251

Official ballot title:*

STATE TAXATION— TO REGULATE IMPOSITION

An initiative declaring that existing taxes imposed by the state of Washington shall not be increased and that no new or additional taxes shall be imposed by the state of Washington.

*Ballot Title as issued by the Attorney General.

Statement **FOR**

Highest taxes in history are coming!

Experts say state taxes could go up 400% by 1975. #251 can stop that NOW. The alternative is unlimited taxes for unlimited spending by unlimited government paid for by YOU—the unlimited taxpayer.

UNEMPLOYMENT AND WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ARE NOT AFFECTED. #251 limits state revenue producing tax rates and prohibits imposing new taxes.

Government must learn to live on its income, just as you and I!

The present percentage rates for state taxes are enough! State revenue grows with prosperity and population. #251 will not reduce state revenue, nor reduce existing state services. The legislature can determine priorities for needed tax spending.

Stop waste of tax dollars!

Limiting state taxes will force efficiency and economy and bring any new taxes (including real estate) back to the local level, where you can vote and directly control how your tax dollars are spent.

Limit Taxes—Vote for #251

42¢ of every dollar YOU earn goes for taxes! Everything YOU earn from January 1 to June 3 goes for taxes. YOU pay 151 hidden taxes on a loaf of bread. Only people pay

taxes! Every tax increase causes more inflation.

Limit Taxes—Vote for #251

"The power to tax is the power to destroy." History proves excessive taxation will destroy private ownership of property and YOUR right to own or keep anything.

Do not be confused!

#251 is constitutional! No taxes are "suspended." The constitution provides the real estate 40 mill tax limit, which began as an initiative. The legislature limited real estate taxes at 22 mills—1970, 21 mills—1971.

Art. II, Sec. I, Washington State Constitution says the people reserve the full right and power to propose and enact laws at the polls "independent of the legislature." "(a) the first power reserved by the people is the initiative."

USE YOUR RIGHT TO LEGISLATE!
LIMIT TAXES! VOTE FOR #251. Detailed information: P.O. Box 1576, Bellevue, Wash. 98009. Tel. (206) 454-3262.

Committee appointed to compose statement **FOR** Initiative Measure No. 251:

VICK GOULD, Sponsor and Committee Chairman, Bellevue; SAM GUESS, State Senator, Spokane; JOHN M. FLUKE, President, John Fluke Manufacturing Co., Inc., Seattle.

Advisory Committee: CARLTON GLADDER, State Representative, Spokane; PALMER G. LEWIS, Board Chairman, Palmer G. Lewis Co., Inc., Seattle; S. J. AGNEW, Owner, Agnew Lumber Co., Centralia; LAURENCE MELLERGAARD, Cattleman, Ellensburg; MRS. VESTA CUTTING, Employment Consultant, Seattle.

The Law as it now exists:

The state's power of taxation, as provided for in the state constitution, is limited only by provisions contained in the state and federal constitutions; for example, the 40 mill limit and the requirement of uniformity for property taxes, as set forth in the state constitution, and the equal protection clause of the federal constitution. Furthermore, Article VII, § 1 of the state constitution provides: "The power of taxation shall never be suspended, surrendered, or contracted away."

This initiative, without an amendment to the constitution, proposes to establish additional limitations on the state's taxing power. If approved by the voters, and upheld as constitutional by the court, it would prohibit the legislature from enacting any increases in the rates of present state taxes or from enacting any new state taxes. However, the legislature would remain free to authorize new local taxes and increases in existing local taxes, including the property and sales tax.

Note: Complete text of Initiative Measure No. 251 appears on page 22.

Statement **AGAINST**

Local Property Taxes Could Be Increased

The principal argument against Initiative 251 can be summarized in one sentence. *With a freeze on all forms of taxes levied by the state, the burden for any additional support of government programs would be shifted to the local property tax SINCE THE PROPERTY TAX IS A LOCAL TAX AND WOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO THE RESTRICTIONS PROPOSED IN INITIATIVE 251.*

Impairs State Programs

Initiative 251 would seriously impair a large number of desirable and essential state programs. *For example:* any future Veteran's Bonus (because, in all likelihood, cigarette tax revenues which presently support this program would be diverted to the State's general fund); any additional support of mental health and mental retardation programs, including community programs presently supported by state funds; any additional support for state universities, colleges and community colleges; and any additional assistance to local governments. All of these vital functions of state government would be greatly restricted.

Non-Constructive Legislation

Initiative 251 is not a constructive approach to the limitation of state spending, nor does it prevent overall government spending—

simply because it does not place any limitation at all on local property taxes. And it means that, no matter how desperately they are needed, no new state programs of any kind can be initiated in the State of Washington. Initiative 251, unlike HJR 42—the tax reform issue—does not offer an alternative solution and does not offer constitutional limitation on local property taxes.

*Committee appointed to compose statement **AGAINST** Initiative Measure No. 251:*

FRANCIS E. HOLMAN, State Senator, 1st Leg. Dist., Seattle; ROBERT L. CHARETTE, State Representative, 19th Leg. Dist., Aberdeen; A. J. "BUD" PARDINI, State Representative, 6th Leg. Dist., Spokane.

Advisory Committee: LOUIS BRUNO, Supt. of Public Instruction, Olympia; MRS. RICHARD MARCHISIO, President, League of Women Voters, Seattle; GEORGE MASTEN, Vice-President, 3rd Cong. Dist., Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, Olympia; ALFRED O. ADAMS, M.D., former State Representative, 6th Leg. Dist., Spokane; HARRY J. PRIOR, Management Consultant, Seattle.

COMPLETE TEXT OF

INITIATIVE MEASURE

251

Ballot Title as issued by the Attorney General:

STATE TAXATION— TO REGULATE IMPOSITION

An initiative declaring that existing taxes imposed by the state of Washington shall not be increased and that no new or additional taxes shall be imposed by the state of Washington.

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

Section 1. From and after the effective date of this Act, notwithstanding any provisions of the law to the contrary, the rate or rates of any and all taxes presently imposed by the State of Washington shall not be increased; none of the taxes presently imposed by the State of Washington shall be extended to new and/or additional classifications of persons, objects or transactions; no new and/or additional taxes of any kind shall be imposed by the State of Washington.

The prohibition against tax rate and/or base increases contained in this Act shall apply to taxes levied by the State of Washington under the provisions of RCW 28.47.440, Chapter 48.14 RCW, Chapter 54.28 RCW, RCW 66.24.210, RCW 66.24.290, Chapter 67.08 RCW, Chapter 67.16 RCW, Chapter 73.32 RCW, Chapter 73.33 RCW, RCW 74.04.150, Title 82 RCW, Title 83 RCW, Chapter 84.52 RCW.

Initiative Measure No. 251 filed in the office of the Secretary of State as of March 12, 1970.

Sponsors filed 135,648 supporting signatures as of July 3, 1970.

Signatures found sufficient. Measure then certified to the November 3, 1970 state general election ballot for approval or rejection by the voters.

COMPLETE TEXT OF

INITIATIVE MEASURE

256

Ballot Title as issued by the Attorney General:

PROHIBITING CERTAIN NONREFUNDABLE BEVERAGE RECEPTACLES

An act prohibiting the sale or distribution of beer or any other malt beverage, or of any

nonalcoholic mineral water, soda water, or other carbonated or uncarbonated beverage (commonly known as soft drinks) for consumption in this state in cans, bottles, jugs, tubs, vessels or other receptacles not having a refund value of at least five cents for each such container.

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

Section 1. The accumulation of broken bottles and discarded cans poses a threat to our health and to our State's scenic landscape and beaches. Such litter is a symptom of a much larger problem: that of the shortsighted allocation of limited natural resources.

This measure is enacted in the exercise of the police power of this State for the purpose of protecting and preserving the health, safety and future of its citizens through the intelligent use of resources.

Section 2. For the purposes of this act "container" shall mean any can, bottle, jug, tub, vessel, or other receptacle, however denominated, of alcoholic or nonalcoholic beverages.

Section 3. No person shall distribute, sell, or offer for sale, beer or any other malt beverage for consumption in this state in a container which does not have a refund value of at least five cents for each such container.

Section 4. (1) No person shall distribute, sell, or offer for sale any nonalcoholic beverage for consumption in this state in a container which does not have a refund value of at least five cents for each such container.

(2) As used in this section "nonalcoholic beverage" means any mineral waters, soda waters, or any other carbonated or uncarbonated beverage not containing alcohol that is commonly known as a soft drink.

Section 5. After the effective date of this Act, every beverage container described in Sections 3 and 4 of this Act shall bear a stamp or label clearly indicating the refund value of the container.

Section 6. (1) The local or State Boards of Health under the powers of RCW 43.20.050, RCW 43.20.190, RCW 43.20.010, and RCW 70.05.060, may revoke or suspend the appropriate licenses of any person who violates the provisions of this Act.

(2) In addition to revocation of licenses, any violation of this Act shall be a misdemeanor.

(3) Use of containers in violation of this Act is a public nuisance and may be abated as such.

Section 7. This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Keep America Beautiful Act."

Section 8. If any provision of this Act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the Act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

Section 9. (1) Nothing in this Act applies to containers distributed, sold, or offered for sale before the effective date.

(2) This Act applies only to beer or any other malt beverage and to nonalcoholic beverages sold for off premise consumption.

(3) This Act shall take effect April 1, 1971.

Initiative Measure No. 256 filed in the office of the Secretary of State as of April 23, 1970.

Sponsors filed 188,102 supporting signatures as of July 2, 1970.

Signatures found sufficient. Measure then certified to the November 3, 1970 state general election ballot for approval or rejection by the voters.