

Washington Ballot Summary:
State of Washington Advisory Measures

Election Date: November 5, 2019 There are 12 Advisory Votes on your Nov. 5, 2019 ballot:

Advisory Vote No. 20: Second Substitute House Bill 1087:

LONG-TERM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS TRUST PROGRAM

Advisory Vote No. 21: Engrossed Third Substitute House Bill 1324:

RURAL DEVELOPMENT—VARIOUS PROVISIONS

Advisory Vote No. 22: Substitute House Bill 1652:

ARCHITECTURAL PAINT WASTE—STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Advisory Vote No. 23: Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1873:

VAPOR PRODUCT TAXATION

Advisory Vote No. 24: Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 2158:

WORKFORCE EDUCATION INVESTMENT

Advisory Vote No. 25: Substitute House Bill 2167:

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TAX

Advisory Vote No. 26: Substitute Senate Bill 5581:

STATE TAX LAWS—NEXU

Advisory Vote No. 27: Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5993:

MODEL TOXICS CONTROL PROGRAM—FINANCIAL STRUCTURE

Advisory Vote No. 28: Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5997:

TAX REVENUE—NONRESIDENT SALES AND USE TAX EXEMPTION AND FAILURE TO REGISTER VEHICLES, AIRCRAFT, AND VESSELS

Advisory Vote No. 29: Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5998:

GRADUATED REAL ESTATE EXCISE TAX

Advisory Vote No. 30: Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6004:

TRAVEL AGENTS AND TOUR OPERATORS—BUSINESS AND OCCUPATION TAX

Advisory Vote No. 31: Engrossed Senate Bill 6016:

INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT COMPANIES—TAXATION

What's an Advisory Vote?

Advisory votes are the result of Initiative 960, approved by voters in 2007. Most of Initiative 960 was declared unconstitutional by the courts, but this small piece of Initiative 960 remains. The language of the measures is strictly directed by the requirements of Initiative 960, particularly the structure, "The legislature imposed/extended, without a vote of the people, ..." which begins every advisory measure ballot title placed on the ballot under this initiative.

This language is deceiving. Every action the Legislature takes is done without a vote of the people, not just these advisory measures, with the exception of when the Legislature sends a referendum to the people. This is the correct way representative democracy is supposed to function. Decision-makers in the form of state representatives and state senators are elected to study each issue and vote in the best interests of citizens. Different decision-makers can be elected in subsequent elections if citizens disagree with decisions.

Advisory votes are non-binding. The results will not change the law or taxes in any way, shape or form, even though the measures are phrased as if we, the public, are advising the Legislature to repeal or maintain a tax increase. We are not. The action taken has already long since been implemented. At best, these are simply very expensive opinion polls taken long after the information would have been useful for the legislature's consideration.

These advisory measures often concern very small taxes, or closing tax loopholes and ensuring that everyone pays their fair share. In many cases, the cost of adding these advisory measures to the ballot and conducting the election for the advisory measures, is a greater cost of tax dollars to the state than the amount of money that the measure itself concerns.

Immediate Effects, if passed: None.

Fiscal Effects, if passed: None.

Arguments for the measure:

The outcome of the vote is immaterial to the current functioning of Washington state government.

Arguments against the measure:

The outcome of the vote is immaterial to the current functioning of Washington state government.

Published by the LWVWA on 9.24.2019