

Washington Ballot Summary

State of Washington Advisory Measures

Advisory Vote 32 Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5323: The Legislature imposed, without a vote of the people, a retail sales tax on pass-through charges retail establishments collect for specified carryout bags, costing \$32,000,000 in its first 10 years, for government spending.

Advisory Vote 33 Substitute Senate Bill 5628: The Legislature imposed, without a vote of the people, a tax on heavy equipment rentals to consumers by heavy equipment rental property dealers, costing \$103,000,000 in its first 10 years, for government spending.

Advisory Vote 34 Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6492: The Legislature increased, without a vote of the people, the business and occupation tax rate for certain businesses, while reducing certain surcharges, costing \$843,000,000 in its first 10 years, for government spending.

Advisory Vote 35 Engrossed Senate Bill 6690: The Legislature increased, without a vote of the people, the business and occupation tax on manufacturers of commercial airplanes, including components or tooling, costing \$1,024,000,000 in its first 10 years, for government spending.

Summary:

The measures listed above will appear on your ballot. You are asked if each measure should be retained or appealed. Your vote is described as “advisory.” However, it will have no effect on the legislation as passed.

Background:

What is an advisory vote?

Advisory votes are the result of Initiative 960, approved by voters in 2007. The courts declared most of Initiative 960 unconstitutional, but its requirement to place certain items on the ballot as an “advisory” vote remains. While these measures are referred to as “advisory,” there is no requirement for any action to be taken as a result of the vote. All of the measures presented to voters in this way have already been enacted into law.

The introductory language you see in each measure is required by Initiative 960: “The Legislature imposed/extended, without a vote of the people, ... for government spending.” This may be confusing; except for referenda, every action the Legislature takes is done without a vote of the people, as is usual in a representative democracy.

Advisory votes are nonbinding. The results will not change any law or taxes.

Immediate effect if passed: None.

Fiscal effect if passed: None.