

Resolution urging Whatcom County voters to vote NO on six Republican-sponsored statewide initiatives

WHEREAS Washington State Republican Party Chair [Jim Walsh is sponsoring six initiatives](#) to the 2024 Washington State Legislature that primarily seek to repeal vital laws adopted by the Washington State Legislature over the past three years;

WHEREAS a [single individual almost exclusively funds the campaign for these six initiatives](#). Right-wing multi-millionaire Brian Heywood, who by his own admission wants Washington to be a tax haven for the wealthy and has donated over 87% of the funding for signature gathering and other operations in support of the six initiatives as of December 2023;

WHEREAS the first of these initiatives, [I-2117](#), would eliminate billions of dollars in Climate Commitment Act revenue, jeopardizing good-paying, local jobs in our communities, such as making homes energy-efficient or installing heat pumps and solar panels;

WHEREAS the second of these initiatives, [I-2081](#), would undermine the ability of youth to access gender-affirming and reproductive care services through their schools;

WHEREAS the third of these initiatives, [I-2113](#), would undermine public safety by allowing the resumption of dangerous high-speed police chases for petty offenses like expired tabs, putting the lives of police officers, drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians at risk;

WHEREAS the fourth of these initiatives, [I-2109](#), would give millionaires and billionaires a tax break by repealing the capital gains tax on the wealthy (applying only to those with annual capital gains above (\$250,000) and eliminate \$900+ million every year for early learning, K-12 education, and school construction;

WHEREAS the fifth of these initiatives, [I-2111](#), would prohibit the state or any of its localities from levying taxes on income, using a very broad definition of income that could jeopardize existing progressive revenue sources which aren't actually taxes on Washingtonians' income;

WHEREAS the sixth of these initiatives, [I-2124](#), would sabotage the Washington Cares long-term care system, leaving every Washingtonian at the mercy of expensive big long-term care insurance companies that only the wealthiest and most affluent can afford;

WHEREAS [many were not fully informed about what they were signing](#), instead being advised to sign to "lower the cost of living."

WHEREAS Walsh, Heywood, and their supporters claim to have collected sufficient signatures to qualify these six initiatives, all of which have already been certified;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT on the November 2024 general election ballot Whatcom Democrats:

- urges a NO vote on Initiative 2117, which would repeal the Climate Commitment Act.

- urges a NO vote on Initiative 2081, which targets any inclusive curriculum that contains discussions of race, discrimination, and LGBTQ identities.
- urges a NO vote on Initiative 2113, which would repeal reasonable restrictions on police pursuits that are making our communities safer.
- urges a NO vote on Initiative 2109, which would repeal billions in education funding by eliminating the capital gains tax on the wealthy.
- urges a NO vote on Initiative 2111, which would bar the state and local governments from levying taxes based on ability to pay.
- urges a NO vote on Initiative 2124, which would sabotage the WA Cares plan enacted to help Washingtonians afford long-term care.

Adopted by a vote of 68 to 1 at the 24 February 2024 General Membership Meeting of Whatcom County Democrats.