



Washington State

**Please complete and fax this Special Ballot to (360) 943-2456
by NOON, Friday, October 9, 2015.**

Your input determines what position, if any, NFIB takes on this issue and how much effort we will devote to its success or defeat.

I-1366 – Amend the state constitution or cut the state sales tax.

SUMMARY On five occasions, Washington voters have approved initiatives requiring a two-thirds vote of both chambers of the legislature to raise taxes. In 2013, the state supreme court ruled it was unconstitutional to impose this supermajority requirement on the legislature through the initiative process. The court declared the state constitution would have to be amended for this requirement to become law. To amend the state constitution, the legislature must first propose a constitutional amendment. Voters must then approve or reject the proposed amendment at the ballot box. The legislature has so far failed to refer a constitutional amendment to the ballot. I-1366 seeks to force the legislature to refer a supermajority constitutional amendment to the ballot or the state sales tax would be cut by one percent.

SUPPORTERS say a two-thirds supermajority vote of the legislature is necessary to prevent massive tax increases and runaway state spending. They note that when the legislature has suspended or repealed previous two-thirds requirements, or the court has invalidated them, taxes have skyrocketed—by \$9 billion in 2005, \$6.7 billion in 2010, and \$17.5 billion this year. They argue that I-1366, the Taxpayer Protection Act, will force the legislature to reform government, prioritize spending and re-evaluate existing programs. Raising taxes would be the last resort. I-1366 should be approved.

OPPONENTS point out that just 17 senators could block any tax increase, even one eliminating an outdated or unfair tax break. If the legislature fails to place a constitutional amendment on the 2016 ballot, I-1366's sales tax reduction would strip roughly \$1.5 billion per year from the state General Fund, forcing deep cuts to K-12 schools, higher education, public safety, and healthcare. The state is already under court order to increase funding for basic education and mental health services cut during the recession. The legislature should decide by majority vote, as the constitution now requires, how to raise and spend money on essential government services. I-1366 should be rejected.

Initiative 1366 – Concerning state taxes and fees

Should I-1366 be passed into law?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

Should NFIB/Washington become involved in this issue based on the results of this ballot?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

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