

2010 Initiatives

Below are brief descriptions and links from the Secretary of State's website to all but one of the initiatives and the referendum that will be on the ballot in November. WSPTA considered these because we felt they most closely related to the WSPTA mission in support of children. The WSPTA took positions on the first two initiatives listed. WSPTA is neutral on the other initiatives. Units and councils are encouraged to study and discuss them and may also want to take positions. Information about how to do an endorsement is available on the WSPTA website under "Basic Tools" at http://www.wastatepta.org/advocacy/leg_basics/index.html

Initiative 1098 – WSPTA endorsed this initiative. Current estimates are that this initiative would dedicate approximately \$2 billion per year in funding to education and healthcare, with 70% going to education. WSPTA has endorsed this initiative because of our long history of working on education reform and the additional funding needed to support it.

Ballot Title

Statement of Subject: Initiative Measure No. 1098 concerns establishing a state income tax and reducing other taxes.

Concise Description: This measure would tax "adjusted gross income" above \$200,000 (individuals) and \$400,000 (joint-filers), reduce state property tax levies, reduce certain business and occupation taxes, and direct any increased revenues to education and health.

Ballot Measure Summary

This measure would establish a tax on "adjusted gross income" (as determined under the federal internal revenue code) above \$200,000 for individuals and \$400,000 for married couples or domestic partners filing jointly; reduce the limit on statewide property taxes by 20%; and increase the business and occupation tax credit to \$4,800. The tax revenues would replace revenues lost from the reduced levy and increased credit; remaining revenues would be directed to education and health services.

[View Complete Text](#) 

Initiative 1107 – WSPTA voted to oppose this initiative. This initiative would repeal the temporary tax package, which generates approximate \$100 million per year that WSPTA supported during the 2010 legislative session as part of the solution to the state's revenue shortfall. WSPTA's concern is that passage of this initiative would add to the state's ongoing revenue struggles, leading to additional cuts to programs that benefit children.

Ballot Title

Statement of Subject: Initiative Measure No. 1107 concerns reversing certain 2010 amendments to state tax laws.

Concise Description: This measure would end sales tax on candy; end temporary sales tax on some bottled water; end temporary excise taxes on carbonated beverages; and reduce tax rates for certain food processors.

Ballot Measure Summary

This measure would reverse certain 2010 amendments to state tax laws, thereby: ending the sales tax on candy and the temporary sales tax on some bottled water; and ending temporary excise taxes on the activity of selling certain carbonated beverages, not including alcoholic beverages or carbonated bottled water. It would also reinstate a reduced business and occupation tax rate for processors of certain foods.

[View Complete Text](#) 

Initiate 1053 – No WSPTA position

Ballot Title

Statement of Subject: Initiative Measure No. 1053 concerns tax and fee increases imposed by state government.

Concise Description: This measure would restate existing statutory requirements that legislative actions raising taxes must be approved by two-thirds legislative majorities or receive voter approval, and that new or increased fees require majority legislative approval.

Should this measure be enacted into law? Yes [] No []

Ballot Measure Summary

This measure would restate the existing statutory requirement that any action or combination of actions by the legislature that raises taxes must be approved by a two-thirds vote in both houses of the legislature or approved in a referendum to the people, and it would restate the existing statutory definition of “raises taxes.” It would also restate that new or increased fees must be approved by a majority vote in both houses of the legislature.

[View Complete Text](#) 

Initiative 1100 – No WSPTA position

Ballot Title

Statement of Subject: Initiative Measure No. 1100 concerns liquor (beer, wine and spirits).

Concise Description: This measure would close state liquor stores; authorize sale, distribution, and importation of spirits by private parties; and repeal certain requirements that govern the business operations of beer and wine distributors and producers.

Should this measure be enacted into law? Yes [] No []

Ballot Measure Summary

This measure would direct the liquor control board to close all state liquor stores; terminate contracts with private stores selling liquor; and authorize the state to issue licenses that allow spirits (hard liquor) to be sold, distributed, and imported by private parties. It would repeal uniform pricing and certain

other requirements governing business operations for distributors and producers of beer and wine. Stores that held contracts to sell spirits could convert to liquor retailer licenses.

[View Complete Text](#) 

Initiative 1105 – No WSPTA position

Ballot Title

Statement of Subject: Initiative Measure No. 1105 concerns liquor (beer, wine and spirits).

Concise Description: This measure would close all state liquor stores and license private parties to sell or distribute spirits. It would revise laws concerning regulation, taxation and government revenues from distribution and sale of spirits.

Should this measure be enacted into law? Yes [] No []

Ballot Measure Summary

This measure would direct the liquor control board to close all state liquor stores and to license qualified private parties as spirits (hard liquor) retailers or distributors. It would require licensees to pay the state a percentage of their first five years of gross spirits sales; repeal certain taxes on retail spirits sales; direct the board to recommend to the legislature a tax to be paid by spirits distributors; and revise other laws concerning spirits.

[View Complete Text](#) 

Referendum 52 – No WSPTA position

Statement of Subject: The legislature has passed [Engrossed House Bill No. 2561](#), concerning authorizing and funding bonds for energy efficiency projects in school.

Concise Description: This bill would authorize bonds to finance construction and repair projects increasing energy efficiency in public schools and higher education buildings, and continue the sales tax on bottled water otherwise expiring in 2013.