

Jack Venrick

From: <tim_eyman@comcast.net>
To: <tim_eyman@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 08, 2007 5:04 PM
Subject: Taxpayers now face the nightmare scenario

November 8, 2007

To: Our thousands of supporters throughout the state (cc'd to the media, house & senate members, and Governor)
From: Tim Eyman, Jack Fagan, Mike Fagan, co-sponsors of the Taxpayer Protection Initiative of 2007, ph: 425-493-9127, email: tim_eyman@comcast.net, <http://www.VotersWantMoreChoices.com> (go to our website to do a secure donation by VISA/Mastercard or print out the form below, fill it out, and return it with a check or money order or credit card information)

RE: Taxpayers now face the nightmare scenario - Supreme Court says voters "didn't understand" and were "misled" into approving property tax cap initiative

Because voters approved property tax limiting initiative I-747 in 2001, with a whopping 58% of the vote, taxpayers have saved over \$1.6 billion so far. But even with I-747 in effect, property taxes continue to be a huge problem for taxpayers in Washington state.

But today, because of a 5-4 ruling by the State Supreme Court saying voters "didn't understand" and were "misled" into approving I-747, taxpayers now face the nightmare scenario. We're in for absolute chaos. For six years, local governments (counties, cities, ports, library districts, fire districts, cemetery districts, parks districts, etc.) have been held to a 1% levy each year. Their ruling today says I-747 no longer exists, and so local governments now suddenly have the unused taxing authority that they've accumulated over the past six years (5% per year -- 6% instead of 1%). That means that each local government now has the power to jack up property taxes 30% this fall without a vote of the people (I-747 required voter approval -- now that I-747 is overturned, voter approval is no longer required). Every local government knows that if they don't take advantage of the situation and unilaterally increase taxes using this unused taxing authority, the Legislature in 2008 might take that authority away. They'll have to "use it or lose it." Don't believe a local government would ever raise property taxes in a single year? In 2002, the Port of Seattle jacked up their property tax levy an astonishing 37% using unused taxing authority - they got heat for it but they never

repealed it.

We're talking about pigs at the trough with voter-approved I-747 overturned -- it is the nightmare scenario.

The voters' overwhelming "we're tapped out" message from this election, especially the defeat of simple majority for property tax increases, clearly directs the Legislature to adopt the people's 1% limit without change. No one is complaining their property tax bill isn't increasing fast enough. Even with I-747's limits, taxpayers are struggling.

Washington state's crushing property tax problem is a powder keg and it will explode if Governor Gregoire and the Legislature ignore the voters' clear mandate.

The 4 justices who wrote the minority opinion said it well: "No reasonable argument can be sustained that voters were in any way misled or confused by the effect of I-747, which expressly and was specifically aimed at lowering the tax growth to one percent. The majority seems to suggest that the voters are unable to think or read for themselves, when in fact our democratic process is based on the assumption that voters do in fact read and understand the impact of their votes."

-- END --

I-960's vote total stands at 52% yes, 48% no which is really a landslide victory considering opponents spent over \$1.1 million, most of it from Washington DC labor unions. To beat them despite their massive opposition campaign made I-960's victory even more satisfying and significant.

Jack, Mike, and I are extremely grateful for the folks who have contributed to our compensation fund this year. We ask that you continue that support. If you like and appreciate our past, current, and future efforts on behalf of taxpayers, please send us a donation for \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500, \$1,000 or more (there are no limits on how much can be given). Please consider a monthly pledge from now through December for our fund. We ask you to please help us help taxpayers. You can go to our website -- <http://www.VotersWantMoreChoices.com> -- and make a secure VISA or MasterCard contribution -- OR, you can print out the form below, fill it out, and return it with a check or credit card information. Your voluntary contribution to our compensation fund will be divided between the three of us and compensate us for our political work.

We thank you all for taking I-960 over the finish line and chalking up a

significant victory for taxpayers. As for our compensation fund, we would be extremely grateful for any financial assistance you can offer. Thanks.

Regards, Tim Eyman, Jack Fagan, Mike Fagan, co-sponsors of the Taxpayer Protection Initiative of 2007, ph: 425-493-9127, email: tim_eyman@comcast.net, <http://www.VotersWantMoreChoices.com> (go to our website to do a secure donation by VISA/Mastercard or print out the form below, fill it out, and return it with a check or money order or credit card information)

P.S. There are thousands of politicians, bureaucrats, lobbyists, and special interest groups working each and every day to raise your taxes. Shouldn't there be at least one person, one team, one organization that fights to lower your taxes? Please help us so we can continue our successful efforts on behalf of taxpayers.

EACH YEAR, FROM JANUARY THROUGH JUNE, WE ASK THAT YOU FOCUS YOUR DONATIONS TOWARD THE SIGNATURE GATHERING CAMPAIGN - THIS YEAR, THANKS TO YOUR HELP, WE SUCCEEDED AT QUALIFYING I-960 FOR THE BALLOT

EACH YEAR, FROM JULY THROUGH DECEMBER, WE ASK THAT YOU FOCUS YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD HELP US HELP TAXPAYERS, THE COMPENSATION FUND FOR JACK, MIKE, AND TIM

NOW THAT I-960 HAS QUALIFIED, WE ASK THAT EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU SEND IN YOUR MOST GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION SO WE CAN CONTINUE OUR FIGHT ON BEHALF OF TAXPAYERS

WE'RE REALLY COUNTING ON YOU

HELP US HELP TAXPAYERS . "Compensation fund for Tim, Jack & Mike" . PO Box 18250 . Spokane . WA . 99228 . PH: 425-493-8707 . FAX: 425-493-1027 . <http://www.VotersWantMoreChoices.com> . jakatak@comcast.net

Guys, I really appreciate what you're doing - keep fighting for us. Please accept my contribution for \$ _____

Please supply the information below so we can send you a thank you letter (it's really important to fill this out).

Your Name

Address

City, State, Zip, Phone #

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ Made payable to "Help Us Help Taxpayers"

Occupation _____ Employer & Employer zip code

VISA or M/C number _____ Exp. date (MM/YY) _____/_____ Amt. \$ _____

CRITICAL: Email address (please print clearly)

Voluntary donations to "Help Us Help Taxpayers" are not tax-deductible. Voluntary donations to "Help Us Help Taxpayers" are political donations that will be used to compensate Tim Eyman, Jack Fagan, & Mike Fagan for their effective political work on behalf of taxpayers.

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