

Voters created tax advisory votes in 2007 when they passed I-960

Voters reaffirmed their support for advisory votes in 2010 & 2012 (65% yes)

If Olympia raises taxes, w/out 2/3 vote or voter approval, we should at least have the chance to express our opinion on it.

Year	Advisory Vote Number	Did voters Reject or Maintain?	% in favor of Reject or Maintain?	How many voters voted	Who gets taxed	State budget office (OFM) cost to taxpayers in the first 10 years
2012	1	Reject	57%	2,727,997	Banks tax	\$ 170,000,000
2012	2	Reject	55%	2,684,303	Oil firms tax	\$ 24,000,000
2013	3	Maintain	53%	1,551,355	Property leases	\$ 2,000,000
2013	4	Maintain	54%	1,560,350	Aircraft tax	\$ 500,000
2013	5	Reject	61%	1,550,084	Insurance tax	\$ -
2013	6	Reject	52%	1,559,360	Telephone tax	\$ 397,000,000
2013	7	Maintain	49%	1,568,882	Death tax	\$ 478,000,000
2014	8	Maintain	54%	1,918,504	Marijuana tax	\$ 24,903,000
2014	9	Maintain	55%	1,863,071	Tribal property	\$ 1,298,000
2015	10	Maintain	53%	1,436,548	Oil spill tax	\$ 17,000,000
2015	11	Maintain	59%	1,452,059	Marijuana tax	\$ -
2015	12	Reject	64%	1,442,066	Gas/Fuel taxes	\$ 3,707,000,000
2015	13	Reject	63%	1,424,318	Software tax	\$ 1,449,000,000
2016	14	Reject	69%	2,038,321	Insurance tax	\$ -
2016	15	Reject	60%	2,928,834	Clean vehicles	\$ 2,000,000
2017	16	Reject	54%	1,471,991	Fish tax	\$ 1,000,000
2017	17	Reject	62%	1,469,475	Internet/fuel/water	\$ 4,600,000,000
2017	18	Reject	59%	1,480,118	Property tax	\$ 12,949,000,000
2018	19	Reject	54%	2,928,398	Oil spills tax	\$ 13,000,000
		12 reject		35,056,034		\$23.8 billion
		7 maintain		total votes cast		(OFM calculation)

CONCLUSIONS:

- 1) Those 35 million votes were made by active, engaged voters who wanted their voices heard
- 2) More voters voted on tax advisory votes than Insurance Commissioner / SPI / Supreme Court races
- 3) Voters were discerning -- out of 19 tax increases, they voted to reject 12 and maintain 7.
- 4) Voting and being ignored by our representatives is frustrating. Worse though is not being allowed to vote at all.
- 5) The Legislature's tax increases cost taxpayers \$24 billion. The cost to vote on them was a tiny fraction of that.

Seattle Times' columnist Bruce Ramsey:

"Legislators say the information is incomplete because it doesn't say why they voted as they did. Their solution is to have no information."

"In a budget of \$17 billion a year, \$130,000 is a mosquito's sneeze. It works out to 3 cents for each citizen who voted in the 2012 elections, and it reaches every voter in the state. To argue that eliminating this expenditure is protecting the taxpayers is baldly disingenuous."