

Tuesday, August 23, 2011

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, I-1125 co-sponsors, ph: 425-493-9127, email: [tim\\_eyman@comcast.net](mailto:tim_eyman@comcast.net), <http://www.VotersWantMoreChoices.com> -- *sometimes this web link doesn't work so please cut and paste it if you have to, sorry for the extra step* (go to our website to do a secure donation by VISA/Mastercard/PayPal or print out the form below, fill it out, and return it with a check or money order or credit card information)

RE: Tim's hobby: city initiatives letting voters decide on red-light cameras

Last year in my hometown of Mukilteo (just named the 9th best place to live in the U.S. -- [http://www.mukilteobeacon.com/city-government/article.exm/2011-08-17\\_mukilteo\\_9th\\_best\\_place\\_to\\_live](http://www.mukilteobeacon.com/city-government/article.exm/2011-08-17_mukilteo_9th_best_place_to_live)), the city tried to bring red-light cameras and speed cameras to our community. We were knee-deep in collecting signatures for tougher-to-raise-taxes I-1053 (2/3 for tax increases, legislative approval for fee increases), but I made time to team up with a bunch of great people to sponsor the initiative. Long story short, we got the initiative on last November's ballot and voters here rejected the cameras with 71% of the vote. Wowza.

I was subsequently contacted by activists in other cities in Washington wanting to get public votes on ticketing cameras in their communities too. So last year, there was one initiative in Mukilteo -- this year there are five -- Bellingham, Longview, Monroe, Redmond, and Wenatchee. Every single one of them have been enormously fun, interesting, and important. Each one has its own soap opera associated with it. I could write a novel about each one, including glowing accounts of the local citizens who have done all the hard work to make them a success.

These campaigns haven't distracted me/us from our statewide initiatives. Last year's I-1053 and this year's "Son of 1053" I-1125 remain our primary focus.

Nonetheless, it's been an incredibly gratifying experience working on these local city initiatives with these local citizens. It turns out local initiatives are not utilized very often -- it was only the second initiative in Mukilteo city history to get enough signatures and the first to make it through the gauntlet for a public vote. It is Wenatchee Initiative #1, Redmond Initiative #1, and Longview Initiative #1 -- it is the second initiative in Monroe city history and the first initiative in 6 years in Bellingham.

To be clear, these initiatives don't prohibit automatic ticketing cameras, they simply let the voters decide. But after the 71% vote against the cameras in my hometown of Mukilteo, the efforts by cities and the red-light camera companies have been focused on blocking the people from voting. Their adage is "since we won't win the vote, prevent the vote." It's really an obscene abuse of power. Fortunately, we're having great success bulldozing through their anti-vote obstruction. Last week, a Bellingham judge not only dismissed the red-light camera company's motion to block the vote on the initiative, but the judge slapped the company with a huge a \$10,000 fine for even bringing the lawsuit and forced them to pay the attorneys fees for the initiative campaign.

For cities, ticketing cameras are like crack cocaine, once they get hooked on them, they can't get off (newspapers are starting to illustrate this: ***Lynnwood chief: Police jobs depend on enforcement cameras -- Chief concedes his department relies on millions in ticket revenue, EVERETT HERALD, Thursday, August 18th, 2011, <http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20110818/NEWS01/708199929>***).

But again, our initiatives aren't about whether cameras are good or bad, but they're about who should decide: the people or the politicians? We think politicians have a built-in conflict-of-interest: they're getting the money so they can't be objective. The people have no such conflict: they can weigh the sacrifice of their civil liberties and violation of their constitutional rights against the supposed safety benefits of cameras.

As long as our supporters continue to contribute to our statewide efforts, your support will allow Jack, Mike, and I to continue being activists for many different causes. There's nothing more gratifying to us than fighting for causes we believe in and letting the voters decide.

If you appreciate our efforts and want us to continue, please send us a donation for \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500, \$1,000, \$2500, \$5000 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> ... *sometimes this web link doesn't work so please cut and paste it if you have to, sorry for the extra step* -- and make a secure PayPal or 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.

Congratulations again on I-1125. As for our compensation fund, we would be extremely grateful for any financial assistance you can offer. Thanks.

Best Regards, Tim Eyman, Jack Fagan, & Mike Fagan, Fighting for Taxpayers for 15 Years, 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/PayPal or print out the form below, fill it out, and return it with a check or money order or credit card information) -- *sometimes this web link doesn't work so please cut and paste it if you have to, sorry for the extra step*

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-1125 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-1125 IS ON THE BALLOT IN NOVEMBER, 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

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

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

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

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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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