

Tuesday, November 15, 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, 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* -- again, that website address is VotersWantMoreChoices dot com (all one word)

RE: When it comes to red-light camera companies, democracy is bad for business

Outspent 2 1/2 million dollars to none, we continue to be amazed at how close it was with our statewide initiative I-1125. Thanks to the campaign and I-1125's near passage, tolls are even more radioactive and politicians are on notice that the people are watching. Jack, Mike, and I are very proud of Initiative 1125 and pleased with the support it received.

As you can imagine, I-1125 rightly got the biggest spotlight, but it wasn't the only issue we had on the ballot. We had public votes on automatic ticketing cameras in 3 cities and voters overwhelmingly rejected cameras in all three. 65% against cameras in Bellingham, 65% against cameras in Monroe, and 60% against cameras in Longview. Those overwhelming votes follow last year's 71% anti-camera vote in my hometown of Mukilteo.

So we're now in our 2nd year of battling against sleazy red-light camera companies. What makes them especially sleazy is that they use high-priced lawyers and liberal judges to do everything possible to block the people from voting. For them, democracy is bad for business.

Here's a great story about our successful efforts on this issue:

Washington: More Anti-Camera Initiatives to Come

After winning four of four anti-camera initiative votes, photo enforcement opponents vow to stop the cameras.

THE NEWSPAPER, November 9, 2011, (<http://www.thenewspaper.com/news/36/3635.asp>)

Washington State ballot initiative guru Tim Eyman vowed Wednesday to put even more pressure on municipalities he sees as dependent on automated ticketing revenue. Eyman is feeling good after voters on Tuesday rejected cameras by comfortable margins in three of three contests on Tuesday. Larger jurisdictions are now in his sights.

"For us, it's full steam ahead," Eyman told TheNewspaper. "I'm gung-ho to do a couple more cities and keep the ball rolling. I've never found a more effective way to lobby the legislature than to say, 'You either do it, or we're just going to pick you off one city at a time.'"

Last year, 71 percent of voters in Mukilteo approved a measure outlawing cameras. On Tuesday, 65 percent of the voters in Bellingham, 65 percent in Monroe and 59 percent in Longview felt the same way. Local politicians in some jurisdictions are starting to realize the public is not on their side. Last week, Redmond's city council voted 7-0 to allow its red light camera contract with American Traffic Solutions (ATS) to expire on January 31, 2012.

"Collision data indicate that the impact of traffic safety cameras on collisions in Redmond is inconclusive," Police Chief Ron Gibson wrote in a memo to the city council.

Voters in Redmond had submitted a valid petition to order the issue placed on the ballot earlier this year, but the city convinced a judge to block citizens from petitioning their government, even in an advisory-only vote. Lawsuits on the issue remain pending from the county court level all the way up to the state supreme court. The ongoing litigation is racking up substantial legal bills for the municipalities and traffic camera companies that decided to fight the citizens' initiatives in court. In Longview, legal costs have nearly exhausted the city's share of the profit generated by cameras.

"If I don't get a Christmas card from Stoel Rives law firm, which is representing several of the cities, I'm going to be hurt," Eyman said.

In most cases, efforts to block initiatives have backfired showing an unseemly coordination between the private vendors and municipalities. Groups like Campaign for Liberty, which co-sponsored the anti-camera initiatives, are using the votes to convince lawmakers in Olympia to repeal the authorization they gave to photo enforcement.

"There's just no other way to uncover how sleazy the companies are and how unpopular the cameras are than doing these citizens' initiatives," Eyman said.

An ATS executive lost his job after he was caught acting as a "sock puppet" posting pro-camera comments on online forums as if he were a local resident. In Lynnwood, emails were released showing police officials sought to do favors for ATS in hopes of landing a lucrative job with the firm. City councilmen like Ted Heikel, the primary defender of cameras in Lynnwood, lost his seat Tuesday.

"If you're a politician in bed with the red light camera companies, it's bad for your political career," Eyman said. "It's making all the pro-camera politicians look bad."

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We will continue fighting for the taxpayers with our statewide initiatives, but we take great pride in helping local citizens with these local initiatives. As I said on election night: *"Local activists in cities throughout the state began asking us (me, Nick and Tiffany Sherwood of BanCams.com, and Alex Rion of Washington State Campaign for Liberty) to help them rid their communities of camera surveillance from those obnoxious ticketing cameras. Across the political spectrum, the citizens are rebelling against the unholy alliance of government and corporations profiting off the citizens with their taxation-through-citation scheme. The legislature made a huge mistake when they allowed cities to get hooked on camera profits and to get in bed with sleazy red-light camera companies. Olympia better start cleaning up the mess or else the people are going to do it for them."*

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, \$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 -- 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.

Thank you again for your continued support for our efforts on behalf of taxpayers.

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, 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 -- again, that website address is VotersWantMoreChoices dot com (all one word)

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