

VOTERS WANT MORE CHOICES

Monday, November 14th, 2016

To: Dow Constantine, King County Executive

From: Tim Eyman, Jack Fagan, & Mike Fagan, Fighting for Taxpayers for 17 years,
425-493-9127, tim_eyman@comcast.net, www.VotersWantMoreChoices.com

BCC: Our thousands of supporters throughout the state (cc'd to the media, house & senate members, and Governor, and other candidates for office)

RE: At 11 am today, Eyman delivered the following statement to the King County Council before they voted on their annual budget

Dow, for months you've been whining about the 1% property tax cap. On King County's government website, you have listed as your top legislative priority the Legislature's repeal of the 1% cap.

Be careful what you wish for, Dow. Because if you do convince the Legislature to repeal the 1% cap, then there'd be a Prop-13-type initiative that'd dramatically reduce property taxes and limit property tax increases even more. And voters would happily pass it.

Dow, for every action, there is a reaction. You should have learned that already. Because for decades, state and local governments jacked up property taxes 6% per year, causing property taxes to skyrocket. In 2000, 55% of voters passed our initiative to impose a 2% cap and repeal some recent tax increases. Rather than accepting this voter mandate, King County filed a lawsuit to get that initiative overturned based on the single subject rule. In response, 58% of voters passed our initiative imposing the 1% cap.

It was a clear lesson: disrespecting the voters backfired. If politicians had accepted the will of the people in 2000, they'd have a 2% cap, but because you sued the voters, voters restricted property taxes even more with a 1% cap.

Then in 2007, Governor Gregoire called a special session of the Legislature to keep the 1% cap. With the Democrats controlling the house 62-36 and the senate 32-17, the vote to keep the 1% cap ended up being 86-6 in the House (93%), and 39-9 in the Senate (81%).

Dow, listen to what Governor Gregoire said before signing it: *"I think the voters said very clearly what they wanted. ... my motivation is what the voters had to say. And the voters said they're fearful about whether they're going to be able to keep their homes. It's been implemented now for five years or more. It is, in fact, the way we've been doing business."*

[Gregoire says session had nothing to do with Eyman](#)

Dow, even Frank Chopp voted for it!

For 15 years, the 1% property tax cap has been the law. And it has become the new normal. State and local governments have adapted to it. And any year that any government wants to raise it higher, they can go to the voters and ask for more. And 70% of the time, voters OK these "levy lid lifts." That is the safety valve built into this well-established, popular law.

Stop whining, Dow. Initiative 747's 1% cap has worked for 15 years and voters will never accept going back to the bad old days when state and local governments unilaterally imposed skyrocketing property tax increases without voter approval.

And you taking away the 1% cap will only spur a backlash resulting in even tighter restrictions on property taxes.

Dow, your top legislative priority is the repeal of the 1% property tax cap, but it's certainly not the voters' priority.



You can count on us to fight against state and local government's insatiable tax appetite. The voters' passage of our Initiative 1366 last year certainly shows that the people are in no mood for any tax hikes, let alone increases next year totaling \$3.5 billion.

Petitions for "We Love Our Cars" I-869 have been sent out (if you need more, just email or call). Our polling shows it's another big winner. Please help us make it a reality.

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, \$1000, \$2500, \$5000 or more (there are no limits on how much can be given). You can go to our website right now - www.VotersWantMoreChoices.com and make a secure on-line contribution by PayPal or VISA or M/C. OR, you can print [this form](#), fill it out, and return it with a check or credit card information.

We've done so many amazing things over the past 17 years, but that's only been possible thanks to successful benefactors like you. We ask you to please help us help taxpayers.

Please donate TODAY.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tim Eyman, Jack Fagan, & Mike Fagan, Fighting for Taxpayers for 17 years, 425-493-9127, tim_eyman@comcast.net, www.VotersWantMoreChoices.com

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.

"Nothing ventured, nothing gained." Benjamin Franklin