

RESOLUTION 09-12

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COVINGTON, WASHINGTON STATING THE CITY COUNCIL'S OPPOSITION TO INITIATIVE 1033 ON THE NOVEMBER 3, 2009 GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT.

WHEREAS, Initiative 1033 will be presented to the voters of the State of Washington at the general election on November 3, 2009, with the following official Ballot Title: Initiative Measure No. 1033 concerns state, county and city revenue. This measure would limit growth of certain state, county and city revenue to annual inflation and population growth, not including voter-approved revenue increases. Revenue collected above the limit would reduce property tax levies. Should this measure be enacted into law? Yes [] No []; and

WHEREAS, under Initiative 1033, general fund revenue for any year would be limited to the amount of revenue received by the state, county or city, as applicable, in the previous year, plus a percentage increase reflecting inflation and population growth; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM) has estimated that Initiative 1033 will reduce state general fund revenues that support education; social, health, and environmental services; and general government activities by \$5.9 billion by 2015; and

WHEREAS, Initiative 1033 would remove money from the state general fund at a time when the state already faces a significant projected revenue shortfall for the 2009 – 2011 biennium; and

WHEREAS, OFM has further estimated that Initiative 1033 will reduce general fund revenues that support public safety, infrastructure and general governmental activities by \$694 million for counties and \$2.1 billion for cities by 2015; and

WHEREAS, if in the future voters approve a property tax levy lid lift, the only portion of that revenue that would be exempt from the revenue limit would be the additional increase in property tax revenue and not the base levy; and

WHEREAS, Initiative 1033 would remove money from the City of Covington general fund in the amount of \$1.6 million through 2015; and

WHEREAS, the effect of the Initiative 1033 revenue limitation is exacerbated during a recession as the Initiative does not provide for recovery in the event of an economic downturn; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has carefully considered the direct and indirect impacts of Initiative 1033 and concludes the initiative will undermine the ability for the state, counties, and cities to provide services to constituents; and

WHEREAS, as provided in RCW 42.17.130, the City Council of the City of Covington desires to show its opposition to Initiative 1033;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COVINGTON, WASHINGTON, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council, after receiving public comment at a regularly scheduled public meeting, hereby opposes Initiative 1033.

Section 2. The City Council hereby urges citizens to vote no on Initiative 1033 on November 3, 2009.

PASSED in open and regular session on this 13th day of October, 2009.


MAYOR MARGARET HARTO

Attested:


SHARON SCOTT, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


SARA SPRINGER, CITY ATTORNEY