

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-30

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON TAKING A POSITION OF OPPOSITION TO INITIATIVE 1033 LIMITING THE GROWTH OF STATE, COUNTY, AND CITY "GENERAL FUND" REVENUES RECEIVED FROM TAXES, FEES AND OTHER CHARGES NOT EXPRESSLY APPROVED BY VOTERS

WHEREAS, the Washington Secretary of State certified Initiative 1033 for the November 3, 2009 ballot; and

WHEREAS, Initiative 1033 would limit the growth of state, county, and city general fund revenues received from taxes, fees, and other charges not approved by voters; and

WHEREAS, the office of Financial Management's preliminary estimates of the fiscal impact to the state, counties, and cities are to be an \$8.7 billion decrease in revenues through 2015, including a revenue decrease of \$2.1 billion for Washington's cities; and

WHEREAS, the effect of the limitation is exacerbated during a recession, as the Initiative does not address the impacts of a recovery following an economic downturn; and

WHEREAS, Initiative 1033 only excludes voter approved revenue after the date of the initiative and does not exclude revenues previously approved by voters; and

WHEREAS, federal funds deposited to the City of Bellingham's general fund revenue would be included under this Initiative on "general fund revenue" compromising the positive impacts of obtaining federal grants and awards to the City of Bellingham; and

WHEREAS, it is unclear how the Initiative's limitations coincide with current state law regarding limitations on the growth in property taxes; and

WHEREAS, an effect of the Initiative is the transfer of taxes paid by all residents of Bellingham, including our poorest citizens, to those who own real property; 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 for constituents.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM:

To take an official position in opposition to Initiative 1033.

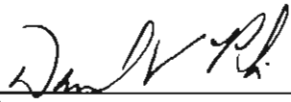
City of Bellingham
City Attorney
210 Lottie Street
Bellingham, Washington 98225
360-778-8270

PASSED by the Council this 12th day of October, 2009.



Council President

APPROVED by me this 20th day of October, 2009.



Mayor

ATTEST: 

Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Office of the City Attorney

City of Bellingham
City Attorney
210 Lottie Street
Bellingham, Washington 98225
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