Resolution Opposing Initiative No. IP26-645

Whereas Washington State is currently experiencing significant fiscal challenges that have resulted in reductions to public services and investments in higher education;

Whereas Western Washington University and institutions of higher education across the state have faced budget reductions that impact programs, staffing, and educational access;

Whereas Washington's tax structure has long been recognized as among the most regressive in the nation, placing a proportionally greater tax burden on low- and middle-income residents than on the wealthiest households[1];

Whereas the Washington State Legislature adopted Senate Bill 6346 in 2026, establishing a 9.9 percent tax on household income exceeding $1 million annually, and Governor Bob Ferguson signed the legislation into law on March 30, 2026[2];

Whereas the millionaires tax represents a significant step toward creating a more equitable and sustainable revenue system in the future, capable of supporting public services, including higher education;

Whereas students have a vested interest in a robust state general fund that enables continued investment in public colleges and universities, financial aid, student support services, and educational opportunity;

Whereas Initiative Measure No. IP26-645 would repeal the 9.9 percent tax on annual income exceeding $1 million and prohibit state and local governments from ever imposing taxes on individual income or taxes measured by individual income[3];

Whereas repealing the millionaires tax would undermine efforts to establish a more progressive tax structure and limits future options for raising revenue to support higher education and other public services;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved **that the Associated Students of Western Washington University:**

1. Adopts this resolution to express its official opposition to Initiative NO. IP26-645.
2. Urge students to vote NO on Initiative No. IP26-645 in the November 3rd, 2026 General Election.

Dylan Grundman O'Neill, "Washington No Longer Has the Most Regressive Tax Structure," Opportunity Institute, June 26, 2025, https://opportunityinstitute.org/blog/post/itep-report-washington-regressive-tax/.

[2] Washington State Legislature, *Senate Bill 6346-S, Session Laws of Washington, 2026, chapter 238*, enacted March 30, 2026, https://lawfilesext.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2025-26/Pdf/Bills/Session%20Laws/Senate/6346-S.SL.pdf

Washington Secretary of State, *Initiative Measure No. IP26-645* (Olympia, WA: Washington Secretary of State, filed April 21, 2026), [p. 2-4] https://www.sos.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2026-07/Finaltext_IP26-645_fulltext.pdf.

Approved:
ASWWU Senate: Motion #SEN-26-F-15, 10/28/26
ASWWU Executive Board: Motion#ASB-26-F-14, 10/29/26