

2018 Ballot Initiatives

Brought to ASBOD on October 19th, 2018 by Natasha Hessami

Representatives from Proposition 5 and Initiative 1631 have asked me to endorse their measures. I am presenting each initiative to the board, so we can make an informed decision on an endorsement. There will also be a survey going out to all students on campus gauging their interest. I have asked Becca Kenna-Schenk, and she said, "I don't see any issues with supporting those efforts, but you might want to run it by Western's AAG to make sure it wouldn't be a violation of any state laws." I have reached out to the AAG without a response and will reach out again.

Bellingham — Proposition 5 (source: 2018 Bellingham Voters Guide)

The City of Bellingham Council adopted Resolution No. 2018- 09 concerning property taxes for low-income housing and related services.

This measure would fund production and preservation of homes, rental assistance, support services, and down payment assistance for low-income households. Two-thirds of the funding would assist very low-income households, and the remaining third would assist low-income households. A family of two earning less than \$30,450 annually is very low-income, and a family of two earning less than \$48,750 is low-income. Funding priorities would be set forth in an Administrative and Financing Plan adopted by the City Council following recommendations by a citizen advisory committee to the Mayor and Council. The plan will be coordinated with existing City housing programs.

This proposition would replace and enhance existing levies to fund housing and housing services for people with low or very low incomes by authorizing a (1) property tax increase of \$0.12/\$1,000 in assessed valuation (to \$2.25/\$1,000) for collection in 2019-2028 (the 2019 amount would be used to compute the limitations for subsequent levies for collection in 2020-2028); and (2) regular property tax levy of up to \$0.24/\$1,000 under RCW 84.52.105; each for ten years, together generating \$4,000,000 annually.

Argument for: *Vote Yes to Renew the Bellingham Home Fund!!* Everyone should have a home they can afford.

Thanks to Bellingham voters, our community has built and preserved hundreds of affordable homes for veterans, seniors, working families, and people with disabilities. Since 2012, every dollar of Bellingham Home Fund investment has been matched by eight dollars of private, state, and federal funds. We now have the opportunity to keep delivering on that record of success.

City residents agree that housing and homelessness are top priorities. Rents have gone way up, but wages have not. Long housing waiting lists include too many veterans, seniors, children, and people with disabilities. Hundreds of these households are homeless. Affordable homes to rent are in short supply.

Renewing the Bellingham Home Fund will continue to help. The Bellingham Home Fund is building and preserving almost 700 affordable homes for Bellingham families. With your vote, we can expand that to 1,200 homes that will benefit families for decades to come. Now, more than ever, we need to provide a stable future for Bellingham's seniors, veterans, people with disabilities, and working families. Check out the Bellingham Home Fund's many endorsements and details at www.BellinghamHomeFund.org.

No Argument against

Washington - Initiative 1631

Overview

The initiative would enact a carbon emissions fee on large emitters of carbon based on the carbon content of fossil fuels sold or used in the state and electricity generated in or imported for use in the state. The fee would be \$15 per metric ton of carbon beginning on January 1, 2020, and would increase by \$2 per metric ton each year until the state's greenhouse gas reduction goals of 2035 are met and the 2050 goals are on track to be met. Revenue from the fee would go into three funds: (1) a fund for air quality and energy programs and projects, (2) a fund for water quality and forest health projects, and (3) a fund for investments related to communities. LUTI Under Washington law, this measure is a fee and not a tax because the revenue cannot be spent on government expenses or public program; rather, it is dedicated to specific accounts related to investing in climate and environmental projects.

Supporters

Elected officials

- Washington Governor Jay Inslee
- Pramila Jayapal^[21]

Individuals

- Bill and Melinda Gates^{[22][23]}

Businesses

- A&R Solar
- AIA Washington Council
- Alice T. Hellyar Design LLC
- Ameresco Inc.

- American Alpine Institute
- American Sustainable Business Council (ASBC)
- Architecture
- Arlington Electric & solar
- Artisan Electric Inc.
- Balderston Associates
- Batt + Lear
- Ben and Jerry's
- Big Chickie
- BrightWork Builders LLC
- BYD Company
- C+C
- Camp Creative
- Carbon River Doors

- Cascadia Solar
- Cascadia Solar
- Chapter 3 Copy editing LLC
- Cheryl Heinrichs
- Chuckanut Builders
- Clean Technology Partners
- Collaborative Efficiency
- Columbia City Bakery
- Cypress Creek
- Derby Canyon Natives
- Digs Showroom
- Ducoterra
- Eco Consulting
- EcoPower Development
- Ecotech Solar
- Energy Efficiency Finance
- EVgo
- Fire Mountain Solar LLC
- Fremont Brewing
- Full Circle Environmental Inc
- Green Canopy
- Green Dog Enterprises Inc.
- Grounds for Change
- Groundwork Strategies
- Integrity Energy Services
- Jourdan HVACR Consulting
- LD Arch Design
- LMN Architects
- macdonald-miller facility solutions
- Mahlum Architects, Inc
- Main Street Alliance
- McKinistry
- Meadow Creature LLC
- Merrill Images LLC
- Microsoft^[23]
- Mighty House Construction
- Miller Hull Partnership
- NEOEN U.S. Inc.
- Nicholson Kovalchick (NK) Architects
- Northwest EcoBuilding Guild
- Northwest Energy Efficiency Council
- Northwest Renewables
- Pepper Sisters Restaurant
- Power Trip Energy
- Proterra Inc
- PSR Mechanical

- Puget Sound Cooperative Credit Union
- Puget Sound Solar
- Pyramid Communications
- REI
- Renewable Energy Group
 - RG Seattle
 - Scope 5
- Seventh Generation
- Shift Zero
- Solar Installers of WA
 - Solar Washington
 - SolTerra Solar
- STEINBRUECK Urban Strategies, LLC
- Sun Path Electric
- Sunbridge Solar
- Sunergy Systems Inc
- Sunshine Construction LLC
- Ten Directions Design, Architects.
- the American Institute of Architects
 - Seattle
- Tutta Bella
- Washington Businesses for Climate
 - Action
- Western Solar Inc
- Whitney architecture

Organizations

- (APIC)
- 350.org
- Asian Counseling and Referral Service (ACRS)
- Asian Pacific Islander Coalition
 - Statewide Organization
- Audubon WA
- Carbon Innovations
- CarbonWA
- Casa Latina
- Centro Latina
 - CERES/BICEP
- Clark County Democrats Central
 - Committee
- Climate Solutions
- Coltura
- Community Alliance for Global Justice
- Community to Community (C2C)

- Conservation NW
- Defenders of Wildlife
- Earthjustice
- Ecotrust
- Edmonds Bicycle Advocacy Group
- Edmonds Mayors' Climate Protection Committee
- El Centro de la Raza
- Fidalgo Democrats
- Forterra
- Friends of the Columbia Gorge
- Friends of the San Juans
- Friends of Toppenish Creek
- Front & Centered
- Fuse Washington
- Future wise
- Green For All
- Green Party of Washington State
- Green Snohomish
- Indivisible Olympia
- Indivisible Project
- Irthlingz Arts-Based Environmental Education
- Last Real Indians
- Latino Community Fund of Washington
- League of Women Voters
- Mazaska Talks
- Methow Valley Citizens Council
- Moms Rising
- Mothers Out Front Puget Sound
- NAACP Spokane Chapter
- National Wildlife Federation
- Northwest Energy Coalition
- Northwest progressive institute
- Olympic Climate Action
- One America
- Orca Conservancy
- Our Climate
- Our Revolution San Juan County
- Our Revolution Thurston
- Our Revolution ¹²⁴¹
- Pacific Forest Trust
- People For Mia
- Progreso: Latino Progress
- Protect Our Winters
- Protect Skagit
- PSARA
- Puget Sound Sage
- Puget Soundkeeper
- RE Sources for Sustainable Communities
- Refugee & Immigrant Services Northwest
- Renewable NW
- Sammamish Women's March Huddle
- Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition
- Seattle Indivisible
- Sierra Club, WA Chapter
- Skagit County Democrats
- Snohomish Rising
- Spark Northwest
- Spokane County Democrats
- Stand.Earth
- Students for the Salish Sea
- Sustainable Connections
- Tenants Union of Washington State
- The Climate Reality Project
- The Climate Reality Project - Thurston County, WA
- The Lands Council
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Seattle Raging Grannies
- The Surfrider Foundation
- The Trust for Public Land
- The Washington Bus
- The Whidbey Environmental Action Network
- The Wilderness Society
- Thurston County Democrats
- Transit Riders Union
- Transportation Choices Coalition
- Union of Concerned Scientists
- Washington Association of Land Trusts
- Washington CAN!
- Washington Conservation Voters
- Washington Environmental Council
- Washington State Budget and Policy Center
- Washington State Democrats
- Washington State League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
- Washington Women CAN

- West Seattle Democratic Women
- Young Democrats of Clark County
- Zero Waste Washington

Faith groups

- Bishop Kirby Unti, Bishop of the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
- Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power & Light
- Edmonds Unitarian Universalist Congregation
- Faith Action Network
- Northwest Unitarian Universalist Justice Network
- Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ
- Quaker Voice on Washington Public Policy
- Rev. Dr. Tim Phillips, pastor at Seattle First Baptist
- Rev. Mike Denton, Conference Minister of the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ
- Rev. Rich Lang, District Superintendent, SeaTac missional district of the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Methodist Church
- Rev. Steve Davis, pastor at Plymouth Congregational Church
- Seattle First Baptist Church
- St. Augustine's-in-the-Woods Episcopal Church
- St. Leo Parish - Tacoma
- St. Leo's Parish
- The Rt. Rev. Greg Rieker, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia
- Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane
- Unitarian Universalist Voices for Justice
- University Christian Church

- University Unitarian Church, Seattle

Healthcare organizations

- American Lung Association
- Institute of Neurotoxicology & Neurological Disorders
- King County Academy of Family Physicians board
- NARAL
- Physicians for Social Responsibility
- The Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii
- Toxic-Free Future
- Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility

Labor organizations

- American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Seattle Local 1789
- American Federation of Teachers Washington
- Labor Network for Sustainability
- OPEIU Local 8
- SEIU Healthcare 1199NW
- Teamsters 117
- The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME Council 28)
- UAW4121
- UFCW21

Native American tribes and nations

- Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians
- Colville Tribe
- Hoh Tribe
- Makah Tribe
- Quinault Indian Nation
- Samish Indian Nation
- Suquamish Tribe
- Tulalip Tribes

Arguments

- **Yes On 1631** featured the following argument on its website:[^]

“ Initiative 1631 will:

- Protect our communities’ health and leave a better future for our kids;
- Invest in clean energy, like wind and solar, as well as healthy forests, and clean air and water;
- Create thousands of local jobs in our communities across the state while cutting pollution; and
- Establish a fee on the largest corporate polluters, to make sure we are all doing our fair share to protect our state. [\[14\]](#)

Opponents

- Western States Petroleum Association
- Association of Washington Business (AWB)

Arguments

Vote no on 1631 featured the following argument on its website:^{·1^}

“ The risks posed by climate change are real, but I-1631’s new, unfair energy tax is a deeply flawed approach to climate policy for our state. It would force Washington families, farmers, small businesses and consumers to pay billions in higher energy costs - while exempting many of our state’s largest polluters, and providing no specific plan or accountability for spending billions in taxpayer dollars.^{^1}