



**Times are tough enough.  
Let's not make them worse.**

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### **What is Initiative 1033?**

1033 is Tim Eyman's latest initiative and would have disastrous consequences in Washington State. It uses the same rigid and arbitrary formula as the "TABOR" law passed in Colorado, which led to deep cuts to public schools, roads and highways, and children's health care.

I-1033 would lock in this year's recession-level state, county and city budgets as baselines and apply a rigid and arbitrary formula based on population growth and inflation to decide how much could be spent in the future.

### **What's wrong with that?**

The national recession forced \$1.5 billion in cuts to education, caused 35,000 people to lose health insurance and cost thousands of jobs. By limiting state, counties and city budgets to recession-era levels, those cuts would become permanent.

I-1033 would also force even deeper cuts in the future, because the state's ability to provide services wouldn't go up with costs and demand. In short, times are tough enough right now – and Eyman's I-1033 will make them worse.

### **But doesn't I-1033 allow for increases based on inflation and population growth?**

I-1033's formula is rigid and arbitrary and would only cause more cutbacks in services.

First, the costs of many services go up faster than the rate of inflation – in particular education and health care. The independent Washington Budget & Policy Center estimates that I-1033's formula would provide just 38 percent of the revenue necessary to continue to fund public education at current levels.

Second, I-1033's formula for population growth doesn't take into account that certain areas of our population will cost the state more than others. For example, we have a growing senior population that will need more medical care and services, but I-1033's formula doesn't take that into account.

### **Will I-1033 result in cuts to service?**

Yes. The non-partisan Washington State Office of Financial Management found that "...the initiative reduces state general fund revenues that support education; social, health and environmental services; and general government activities by an estimated \$5.9 billion by 2010."

There's no way \$5.9 billion in cuts won't impact our families and communities.

### **I've heard I-1033 called a "proven failure." Why?**

Because of what happened in Colorado. In 1992, Colorado voters passed a law called TABOR, which was very similar to I-1033, and it had many unintended consequences for the state.

The share of low-income kids without health insurance doubled. Colorado's per capita funding for education plummeted to 49th in nation. The state couldn't even afford to vaccinate children entering school to help protect against diseases like whooping cough. Things got so bad that voters suspended the law in 2005.



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So we know what's going to happen to Washington if I-1033 passes: health care and education will suffer and it'll make it harder to dig out of the recession – just as things are starting to get better.

**Will I-1033 affect cities and counties?**

Yes! That's why local leaders throughout the state are warning that I-1033 will put their communities at risk.

I-1033 replaces Washington's tradition of local control with a rigid, one-size-fits-all formula that imposes the same exact limits on every city and county in the state, regardless of their different needs and priorities.

The Washington Research Council says that "I-1033 may provide special challenges for smaller cities and counties."

**Will I-1033 affect public safety too?**

Yes, especially at the city and county level. According to the Association of Washington Cities, "Nearly 50 percent of the average city budget is directed to public safety." And we know from the non-partisan Office of Financial Management that I-1033 would take away \$2.8 billion from cities and counties.

That's \$2.8 billion fewer dollars to keep us safe, repair local roads and maintain local parks.

The *Yakima Herald-Republic* reported that "Commissioners are warning residents they will see cuts in services. Those cuts may center on law enforcement, the courts and other programs that make up law and justice and public safety. Those programs account for 80 percent of the county's general fund."

**Will I-1033 affect the "rainy day fund"?**

Yes. According to the Washington Budget and Policy Center, "I-1033 would not only diminish the day-to-day spending capacity of state and local governments, it would also inhibit their freedom to save for a rainy day."

**How will I-1033 harm education and health care?**

First, it would lock in the cuts that have been made because of the recession. This year, \$1.5 billion was cut from education and 35,000 people are losing their health insurance. I-1033 would make these cuts permanent just as things are starting to get better.

I-1033 would also prevent state and local governments from keeping up with the rising costs of providing healthcare or educating an increasing number of children in school.

**Who's supporting I-1033?**

Tim Eyman is the primary supporter of I-1033.

**Who's against I-1033?**

More than 150 organizations from all across Washington State. Some groups include, AARP Washington, the American Federation of Teachers, Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce, Microsoft, Planned Parenthood Votes! Washington, Sierra Club, Washington Environmental Council, Washington State Labor Council and many more. You can see the entire list here ([LINK](#)).