

Template 10 minute pitch on 1033

9.16.09

INTRO

1033 is Tim Eyman's latest initiative – and we already know it's a proven failure. Voters passed a very similar initiative in Colorado, called TABOR, and it devastated the state. Just like TABOR, I-1033 places rigid and arbitrary limits on revenue and spending, which will force cuts to health care and education and make it harder to dig out of the recession.

IMPACTS TO EDUCATION AND HEALTH CARE

The Eyman TABOR plan will take resources away from Washington's classrooms – and Washington's kids. Because of the national recession, we've already slashed school funding by \$1.5 billion, and as many as 3,000 teachers and education employees are facing layoffs.

And Initiative 1033 will also make our health care crisis more severe. Despite a growing senior population, funding for nursing homes, in-home care and adult day health services are being cut – and 35,000 Washington residents will lose Basic Health Plan coverage.

1033 would make these all of these cuts permanent – extending the recession even as the economy recovers – and would force further cuts in the future.

LOCAL CONTROL

Eyman's gimmick will also take away local control and hurt our communities. 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.

Eyman says our communities have nothing to worry about, but the independent Office of Financial Management says I-1033 will take away \$2.8 billion that cities and counties. Money used to keep us safe, repair local roads, maintain our parks and provide basic services. That's why local leaders throughout the state are warning that I-1033 will put their communities at risk.

HOW IT WORKS

I-1033 would cap state, county and city spending at today's recession-era levels and then limit any increase to a rigid formula based on population growth and inflation. Any revenue collected above the limit would be used to reduce property taxes.

What's that mean? All those cuts I mentioned before would be permanent because spending would be capped at today's recession-era levels. And more cuts would follow because the prices of health care, education, lots of things increase faster than inflation.

COLORADO

In Colorado a similar initiative was put in place, but voters suspended the law in 2005 because it did so much damage to the state's economy.

Under TABOR, Colorado dropped to 49th in K-12 education funding, they have among the highest rates of uninsured low-income children in the nation, and at one point, Colorado suspended the requirement that children be fully-immunized before enrolling in school - because there were not enough state funds to buy vaccines.

TIMES ARE TOUGH

Times are tough right now – but I-1033 will make them worse. The national recession has cost our state thousands of jobs and forced billions in cuts to important services. It's outrageous that Tim Eyman is pushing this failed idea now – just as things are starting to look better. Vote No.