



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

October 30, 2001

Motion 11325

Proposed No. 2001-0500.1

Sponsors Sullivan and Phillips

1 A MOTION stating King County's opposition to State of
2 Washington Initiative 747, an act related to limiting
3 property tax increases; amending RCW 84.55.005 and
4 84.55.0101; and creating new sections, which would limit
5 property tax increases to a maximum of one percent a year
6 without voter approval, and urging voters to vote "no" on
7 this initiative on November 6, 2001.

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10 WHEREAS, State of Washington Initiative 747 (I-747) has been certified for the
11 November 6, 2001, ballot; and

12 WHEREAS, I-747 would reduce the limit factor for property tax levy increases to
13 one percent per year, unless a greater amount is approved by the voters at an election
14 through the existing process for levy lid lifts; and

15 WHEREAS, King County ("the county") estimates that, based on 2001 property
16 tax data, it would lose about two million one hundred thousand dollars in property tax
17 revenue in 2002 compared to the Adopted 2002 Budget Ordinance, and that cumulative

18 reductions in allowable property tax revenues would total over seventy million dollars for
19 2002 through 2007; and

20 WHEREAS, I-747 would also affect other jurisdictions that rely on property tax
21 revenue, many of which provide services to the county and its residents, including cities,
22 fire districts, library districts, hospital districts, emergency services districts and port
23 districts; and

24 WHEREAS, I-747 would also affect the state government, by reducing the
25 property tax revenue that is allocated to support of public schools throughout the state;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, State of Washington Referendum 47, approved by voters in 1997,
28 already includes a mechanism to control total property tax increases; and

29 WHEREAS, I-747 would reduce local control over county finances and would
30 hamper the county's flexibility to respond to emerging and ongoing service needs; and

31 WHEREAS, the County relies on the property tax for about forty-three percent of
32 its current expense fund revenues, and the property tax is used to pay for critical county
33 services, including but not limited to police protection, courts and prosecutors, jails,
34 parks, recreation programs and human services; and


35 WHEREAS, passage of I-747 would likely result in immediate cuts in the
36 services provided by county departments, and these cuts would grow in severity as the
37 revenue loss compounds over time; and

38 WHEREAS, Section 240 of the King County Charter and RCW 42.17.130
39 authorize the Metropolitan King County Council to express a collective decision and vote
40 to oppose or support a ballot proposition;

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:
42 King County hereby declares its opposition to State of Washington Initiative 747,
43 which would limit property tax increases to a maximum of one percent a year without
44 voter approval, and urges voters to vote "no" on the initiative at the November 6, 2001,
45 general election.
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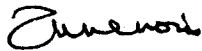
Motion 11325 was introduced on 10/15/01 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 10/29/01, by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Ms. Miller, Ms. Fimia, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Pelz, Ms. Sullivan, Mr. Gossett and Ms. Hague
No: 5 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Pullen, Mr. Thomas and Mr. Irons
Excused: 1 - Mr. Nickels

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Pete von Reichbauer, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments None