



Seattle City Attorney

Peter S. Holmes

Jeff Slayton
Assistant City Attorney
(206) 233-2154

August 6, 2015

Wayne Barnett, Executive Director
Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission

Re: Transmittal of Explanatory statement for ballot measures on the
November 3, 2015 election

Dear Mr. Barnett:

Attached please find the City Attorney's explanatory statements for the two City
measures on the November 3, 2015 election. These explanatory statements are for your
use in the local voters' pamphlet in connection with that election.

If you have questions, please contact me.

Very truly yours,

PETER S. HOLMES
City Attorney

By: Jeff Slayton
Assistant City Attorney

cc: Mayor Edward B. Murray
Councilmembers
Pete Holmes, City Attorney
Monica Martinez Simmons, Council Clerk

Enclosures: Explanatory Statements

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Peter S. Holmes

August 6, 2015

CITY OF SEATTLE INITIATIVE MEASURE NUMBER 122

Filed Ballot Title

The City of Seattle Initiative Measure Number 122 concerns public participation in government, including publicly-financed election campaigns, and lobbying.

If enacted, the measure would limit election campaign contributions from entities receiving City contracts totaling \$250,000 or more, or from persons spending \$5,000 or more for lobbying; require 24-hour reporting of electronic contributions; require paid signature gatherer identification; limit lobbying by former City officials; create a voluntary program for public campaign financing through \$100 vouchers issued to registered voters funded by ten years of additional property taxes, with \$3,000,000 (approximately \$0.0194/\$1000 assessed value) collected in 2016.

Should this measure be enacted into law?

Yes

No

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City Attorney's Explanatory Statement

Seattle Initiative Measure Number 122 (I-122) creates Democracy Vouchers, four \$25 vouchers given to each Seattle voter per city election, assignable to and redeemable by candidates who agree to particular campaign spending and contribution limits. The vouchers are funded in part by a property levy raising a maximum of \$30,000,000 over its ten-year duration. The 2016 levy is estimated to be 1.94 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Civil penalties for election law violations are increased from \$10/day to \$75/day and a \$250-1000/day penalty is created for violations within 30 days before an election.

Currently, when reporting personal finances of candidates and their families, candidates need only state the income bracket. The current top income bracket is "above \$25,000." I-122 adds more brackets, making "above \$5,000,000" the top income bracket. I-122 also requires reporting market value of stock and candidates' estimated net worth.

Maximum campaign contributions are reduced from \$700 to \$500, adjusted periodically for inflation. Elected officials and candidates are prohibited from accepting or soliciting campaign contributions from anyone having at least \$250,000 in contracts with the City in the last two years or who has paid at least \$5,000 in the last 12 months to lobby the City. If technologically feasible, candidates are required to disclose electronic transfers into their accounts.

Compensated signature gatherers must display "PAID SIGNATURE GATHERER" on a sign, placard, or badge.

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Elected officials and their top-paid aides/employees are prohibited from lobbying the City for pay for three years after leaving the office/position.

The full text of the initiative is found elsewhere in this pamphlet.