

ORDINANCE NO. _____

SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF WHATCOM COUNTY A PROPOSAL TO REPEAL PROPOSITION 5

WHEREAS, on June 7, 2022, the Whatcom County Council adopted Ordinance 2022-045, providing for the submission of a proposition to the qualified electors of Whatcom County authorizing the County to lift the limit on regular property taxes under Chapter 84.55 RCW for the purpose of funding for childcare, early learning programs, and increased support for vulnerable children; and

WHEREAS, on August 1, 2022, Council Office staff delivered Ordinance 2022-045 to the Whatcom County Auditor’s Office, along with all other required documents to officially file the initiative; and

WHEREAS, the County Auditor included the proposed initiative on the 2022 general election ballot as Proposition 5; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 5 was approved by the voters at the 2022 general election; and

WHEREAS, a citizen group, Washingtonians for a Sound Economy, recently filed a petition with the County Auditor to repeal Proposition 5; and

WHEREAS, on June 5, 2024, the Auditor’s Office delivered a certificate of sufficiency to the County Council Office verifying that the petition submitted by Washingtonians for a Sound Economy contains a sufficient number of signatures to be included on the 2024 general election ballot.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that:

1. The County Auditor shall cause notice of the proposed proposition to be published in accordance with the state constitution and general law and shall submit to the qualified electors of the County the proposition hereinafter set forth on the ballot of the county-wide general election to be held on November 5, 2024, and the Clerk of the Council shall certify that proposition to the County Auditor in substantially the following form:

WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON
PROPOSITION NUMBER 2024-____

This measure would repeal the Children’s Initiative Levy Lid Lift, eliminating the 10-year increase of Proposition 2022-5 and all related legislation and implementation, including Ordinance 2022-045 and Ordinance 2022-059. Should this measure be approved?

Yes ()

No ()

2. CORRECTIONS AND EXPLANATORY STATEMENT: The Prosecuting Attorney is authorized to make such minor adjustments to the wording of this proposition as may be required that do not change its substantive meaning and are consistent with the intent of this ordinance, and the Prosecuting Attorney shall prepare an explanatory statement based on this Ordinance for use in the Voters Pamphlet.

1 3. EFFECTIVE DATE AND SEVERABILITY: If the ballot measure proposed herein passes by a
2 majority vote, the levy lid lift previously approved by voters pursuant to Ordinance 2022-
3 045, and levied pursuant to Ordinance 2022-092, and Ordinance 2023-067 will be repealed.
4 Provided that it is consistent with state law, the Council may, through its inherent authority,
5 otherwise amend this ordinance if it determines that circumstances warrant such
6 amendment. If any provision of this ordinance or its application to any person or
7 circumstance is determined to be invalid, the remainder of the ordinance or its application
8 to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected.

9
10 **ADOPTED** this _____ day of _____, 2024.

11
12
13
14 ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

15
16 _____
17 Dana Brown-Davis
18 Clerk of the Council

Barry Buchanan
Council Chair

19
20 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

() Approved () Denied

21
22 George Roche (via email)/DBD
23 George Roche
24 Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Satpal Sidhu
County Executive

25
26
27
28
29
30