

WASHINGTON VOTING JUSTICE COALITION LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

2023

SB 5082/HB 1158 REMOVING ADVISORY VOTES FROM OUR BALLOTS



In Washington, we believe that voting should be a simple, accessible way for all of us to make a real difference in our communities. However, the advisory votes that clutter up our ballots every year have no power to change our laws, and they continue to create confusion and apathy amongst Washington voters.

WHAT WOULD IMPROVE?

SB 5082/HB 1158 replaces advisory votes with something that is actually useful: information in the voter's pamphlet that summarizes budgeting work in the Legislature and gives voters context about the decisions that we made together.

If we remove advisory votes from our ballots...

- It would be easier for all voters to understand and fill out our ballots, which is especially important for voters already facing barriers.
 - Our members that help immigrant voters and new voters find explaining advisory votes especially frustrating.
- All voters would save time wasted researching votes that have no impact on our laws.
 - Advisory votes are non-binding, so create no real change in our communities.
- Taxpayers and elections offices would save time, money, and administrative resources.
 - Walla Walla County billed the state of Washington \$11,438.52 for costs associated with the advisory votes.
- Our ballots would be free of propaganda.
 - Advisory votes were conceived by anti-tax zealots to undermine public confidence in the work of the Legislature. They are filled with biased language designed to influence public opinion rather than measure it.

Our state has done great work for voters in the past. This year, let's build on all of that excellent work by removing wasteful advisory votes from our ballots.

WHO WE ARE

The Washington Voting Justice Coalition is committed to protecting and expanding voting rights across the state. We're a coalition of community-based organizations and individuals who believe that justice, participation, and the freedom to vote are the foundation of a real democracy. We believe that our vote is our instrument of change, and our tool to have a voice in our government.



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