

## INITIATIVE 309

I, Sam Reed, Secretary of State of the State of Washington and custodian of its seal, hereby certify that, according to the records on file in my office, the attached copy of Initiative Measure No. 309 to the Legislature is a true and correct copy as it was received by this office.

AN ACT Relating to property tax levies; adding a new section to chapter 84.55 RCW; and creating new sections.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

### LEGISLATIVE INTENT

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The 25% Property Tax Initiative is intended to decrease the property tax burden in Washington by changing laws relating to property tax levies. It is long overdue. This measure would reduce regular property tax levies for counties, cities, and other local taxing districts by 25% beginning in 2005. Property taxes for education, including local school levies, would be unaffected. For decades, property taxes have skyrocketed in Washington. Rising property taxes have placed an incredible financial burden on taxpayers, especially working class families and senior citizens. Sky-high property taxes prevent many of our citizens from attaining the American dream of home ownership. Meaningful property tax relief is long overdue and desperately needed. During these tough economic times, struggling families and senior citizens desperately need and deserve meaningful property tax relief. The crushing property tax burden must

be lessened and the 25% Property Tax Initiative accomplishes that worthy goal.

**DECREASING THE PROPERTY TAX BURDEN BY REDUCING  
REGULAR PROPERTY TAX LEVIES FOR LOCAL TAXING DISTRICTS BY 25%**

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 84.55 RCW to read as follows:

(1) The regular property tax levy for each local taxing district shall be reduced by 25.0 percent of the levy amount that would otherwise be allowed under this chapter without regard to this section beginning with taxes levied for collection in 2005 and every year thereafter.

(2) Before applying the reduction in the property tax levy required by this section, levies shall be set every year at the amount that would otherwise be allowed under this chapter without regard to the prior years' reductions provided for in this section.

(3) For purposes of this section, "local taxing district" means any taxing district other than the state and subject to RCW 84.55.050 which does not include any voter-approved special levies, such as local school levies.

**CONSTRUCTION CLAUSE**

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The provisions of this act are to be liberally construed to effectuate the policies, purposes, and intent of this act.

**SEVERABILITY CLAUSE**

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

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