

a think tank

THAT GETS RESULTS



Washington Policy Center is an independent research organization that promotes commonsense policies to improve the lives of people in Washington state. These are recent examples of our recommendations that voters and elected leaders have adopted.

- ☑ Initiative 1240 makes Washington the 42nd state to welcome charter schools
- ☑ Spokane Proposition 2 requires a supermajority of the city council or voter approval to raise taxes
- ☑ Yakima Proposition 1 requires a supermajority of the city council or voter approval to raise taxes
- ☑ The Department of Licensing closed 12 offices and now allows private driving schools to administer tests
- ☑ Voters passed Initiative 1185 requiring, for the fifth time, a two-thirds vote of the legislature to raise taxes
- ☑ Senate Joint Resolution 8221 lowers the states debt limit by an estimated \$1 billion over a 30-year period
- ☑ Voters in Clark County rejected a sales tax increase to fund light rail across the Columbia River
- ☑ House Bill 1150 provided regulatory relief for small business owners
- ☑ House Bill 1382 ensured highway tolls are used for highway purposes
- ☑ House Bill 1175 expanded the use of public-private partnerships in road projects
- ☑ Senate Bill 5773 gave state employees access to Health Savings Accounts
- ☑ Senate Bill 5742 ended the wasteful Marine Employees Commission
- ☑ SJR 8206 made it harder for lawmakers to spend surplus tax revenue
- ☑ Senate Bill 5931 restructured state government and allowed competitive contracting
- ☑ House Bill 2123 lowered the cost of the Workers' Compensation program
- ☑ House Bill 1091 reduced the burden of payroll taxes on Washington businesses
- ☑ House Bill 2023 allowed small business startups to attain securities through crowdfunding
- ☑ Voters rejected Initiative 1098, which would have created a state income tax
- ☑ Initiative 1183 privatized the retail sale of liquor
- ☑ Spokane voters twice rejected a "community bill of rights" proposal
- ☑ Initiative 1107 repealed a new tax on food and beverages
- ☑ Voters rejected Referendum 52, which would have created \$500 million in new state debt for 'green' building retrofits
- ☑ King County voters rejected a sales tax increase proposal and Spokane voters rejected a property tax increase proposal
- ☑ WPC's Center for Education saved \$1.3 million for charter school bus services in the 2013-2015 Supplemental Budget
- ☑ King County voters rejected Proposition 1, a sales tax and car tab fee increase proposal, saving taxpayers \$1.5 billion over ten years
- ☑ The legislature will put forth a proposal allowing remote testimony during the 2015 legislative session; a long-standing WPC recommendation
- ☑ Benton County Commissioners expressed appreciation to the research done by WPC's Center for Government Reform on an upcoming ballot initiative regarding a sales tax increase

ABOUT WASHINGTON POLICY CENTER

Washington Policy Center (WPC) is a non-profit, independent think tank that works to improve the lives of Washington state's citizens by providing accurate, high quality and innovative solutions for policymakers, the media and the general public. We have an impressive track record and brings a credible, free-market perspective to the public debate in Washington state.

We have offices in Seattle, Olympia, Spokane and the Tri-Cities. Our research program is based on six areas of public policy. Each issue area is a designated research center run by an expert research director. Our areas of focus are: government reform/budget and taxes, the environment, health care, education, small business and transportation. We also provide a free, nonpartisan legislative website, www.WashingtonVotes.org.

We continue to grow in size and impact. In 2013, our coverage by national and major state media grew significantly, with our research appearing in the media an average of five times per day. Media outlets that have featured our work include: CNN, CNN Money, FOX News, KING-TV (NBC affiliate), KXLY-TV (ABC, Spokane), *The Wall Street Journal*, *Bloomberg News*, *The Spokesman-Review*, *USA Today*, *The Seattle Times*, *The News Tribune*, *The Tri-Cities Area Journal of Business* and many more. WPC also reaches the public through Facebook, Twitter, mobile phone apps, national blogs as well as our website and blog (www.washingtonpolicy.org).

We have notably increased our event attendance and public outreach. Our more than 35 events were attended by 4,300 people from across Washington state in 2013. Our Annual Dinner has become one of the largest gala events in the country, bringing together over 2,000 people in both Eastern and Western Washington.

Today, our research and community outreach are broader and more respected than ever. We are making real strides in promoting sound fiscal policy at the state level and in communities across our state. In advancing good public policy ideas, 2013 was our most successful year to date! A few examples include: eleven bills based on our research and analysis were signed into law by the Governor during the 2013 and 2014 Legislative Sessions; and our position prevailed on five out of six ballot measures during the last general election.

We know that real advances for Washington state are often achieved directly by voters, not elected officials. That is why investing in a policy organization such as WPC has never been more important! The continued public enthusiasm for our work reflects the need for independent research and sound policy solutions in Washington state.