

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-27

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF OHELLO, WASHINGTON, OPPOSING INITIATIVE I-1183 IN THE GENERAL ELECTION CONCERNING THE PRIVATIZATION OF LIQUOR

RECITALS:

1. I-1183 will be presented to the voters of the state of Washington and Adams County at the general election on November 8, 2011, with the following official Ballot Title:

AN ACT Relating to liquor; amending RCW 66.24.360, 82.08.150, 66.08.050, 66.08.060, 66.20.010, 66.20.160, 66.24.310, 66.24.380, 66.28.030, 66.24.540, 66.24.590, 66.28.060, 66.28.070, 66.28.170, 66.28.180, 66.28.190, 66.28.280, 66.04.010, 43.19.19054, 66.08.020, 66.08.026, 66.08.030, 66.24.145, 66.24.160, 66.32.010, 66.44.120, 66.44.150, 66.44.340, 19.126.010, and 19.126.040; reenacting and amending RCW 66.28.040 and 19.126.020; adding new sections to chapter 66.24 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 66.28 RCW; creating new sections; repealing RCW 66.08.070, 66.08.075, 66.08.160, 66.08.165, 66.08.166, 66.08.167, 66.08.220, 66.08.235, 66.16.010, 66.16.040, 66.16.041, 66.16.050, 66.16.060, 66.16.070, 66.16.100, 66.16.110, 66.16.120, and 66.28.045; contingently repealing ESSB 5942, 2011 1st sp.s. c ... ss 1 through 10; and providing an effective date.

2. I-1183 will create four times as many outlets selling liquor. The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention contends that privatizing liquor sales will lead to a 48% increase in consumption. A 2009 Washington Justice Department study found that underage drinking cost the state more than \$500 million annually in youth violence and traffic accidents. The medical and legal costs (social costs) of privatizing liquor sales outweighs any financial benefit to the City.
3. If I-1183 passes, the number of liquor stores in Washington could increase fourfold, and could further allow convenience stores and gas station to carry liquor. This would increase the opportunity for sales to minors and would further burden the City's law enforcement personnel.
4. The privatization of liquor sales and distribution will lead to increased youth drinking, problem drinking, automobile related accidents and injuries, and a strain on public safety and first responders. Studies have shown that under aged youth are successful buying alcohol in grocery and convenience stores 1 out of 4 times, while the state liquor stores have a 95% enforcement rate—one of the best in the nation.
5. The City's police and firefighters do not have the resources to monitor multiple liquor distribution sources within the City, nor do they have adequate resources to respond to an increase in youth violence and/or traffic accidents as a result of increased alcohol consumption and sales.
6. The best interests of the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Othello are better served if I-1183 fails.

7. Prior to adoption of this resolution, the City of Othello has given notice of the meeting at which it was considered containing the official title of I-1183, and has afforded equal opportunity at the meeting for any person to express an opposing view, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED:

1. The City of Council of the City of Othello, Washington, opposes the approval of I-1183 and urges its rejection by the voters.

ADOPTED by the City Council of Othello, Washington this 10th day of October 2011.

By: Tim Wilson
Tim Wilson, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: Debbie L. Kudrna
Debbie L. Kudrna, City Clerk