

2012 Mock Election

Voters' Guide for the long ballot

Students will read the guide below then vote on the ballot measures and candidates. A **measure** is an idea for a new law. Voters gather signatures from people who agree that the idea for a new law should be voted on. This process is called an **initiative**. Voters can also gather signatures to put a decision made by the state legislature on the ballot so the people have a chance to vote to keep, reject or change the bill. This is called a **referendum**. If there are enough signatures, the measure appears on the **ballot** during the next **election**.

As voters, we should think carefully about how new laws will affect us. Choose wisely!

key terms

measure: an idea for a new law written by voters

initiative: how voters propose new laws by collecting signatures

referendum: voters collect signatures to put a bill passed by the legislature on the ballot

ballot: a piece of paper used to vote

election: how voters choose leaders and pass laws

Initiative Measure

1240

Should we give tax money to private groups to manage 40 public schools?

Vote "yes" if you agree...

Money collected from taxes should be given to private groups to run 40 "charter schools" because these schools will have more freedom to choose what to teach, which teachers to hire, and how best to help each student.

Vote "no" if you agree...

The tax money given to the 40 "charter schools" run by private groups will help very few students and drain millions of dollars from other schools still run by the government; that is not fair to all students.

Referendum

74

Should the bill passed by the Legislature allowing same-sex marriage be approved or rejected?

Vote "approve" if you agree...

Same-sex couples should be allowed to marry in Washington because everyone should have equal rights.

Vote "no" if you agree...

Same-sex couples already have full equality with domestic partnerships, so we do not need to change the current laws to redefine marriage.

Initiative Measure

502

Should marijuana be legal for people age 21 and over?

Vote "yes" if you agree...

Legalizing and taxing marijuana will let police deal with more serious crimes, take money away from dangerous drug dealers, and collect billions of tax dollars to use in schools and drug prevention programs for kids.

Vote "no" if you agree...

Legalizing marijuana will greatly increase its availability and lead to more use, abuse, and addiction among adults and kids.