

## Focused Inquiry, cont'd

### Supporting question 2:

What power do voters have to change laws in Washington?

### Formative Performance Task

Complete [Appendix C \(pages 34–38\)](#)

#### **Notes to teacher:**

- Direct Students to use Appendix C for Supporting Question 2 to analyze sources 2A and 2B to understand how initiatives and referenda change laws and are impacted by voters in Washington.
- After getting a baseline understanding of ballot measures, students should use the "7 Types of Propaganda" (2C) that are used to convince people of things to analyze arguments for and against a recent initiative regarding limiting taxation of grocery products (2D). These notes are also completed on Appendix C.

#### Featured sources:

- 2A: [Washington Constitution, Art 2, Sec 1, Am 7](#), Public Domain.
- 2B: Ballot Measures Info Sheet, Office of the Secretary of State, Public Domain.
- 2C: [7 Types of Propaganda](#), Erin Wing. All rights reserved. Used pursuant to fair use.
- 2D: [Washington 2018 Voters' Pamphlet](#), Initiative 1634, Argument For and Argument Against, Office of the Secretary of State, p. 20, Public Domain.

### Argument

After students analyze various sources to answer the supporting questions and discuss their thinking with the class, they get to design an initiative and draft arguments for and arguments against for the voters' pamphlet. Responses should include a claim, evidence, and reasoning for each side as seen in the grocery tax example (students may use the template provided on [page 39](#)).

#### **Note to teacher:**

This could be extended into a full simulation in which students draft an initiative, collect signatures from peers who support it being on the ballot (how many needed could be based on the percentage of students in the school. Initiatives require 8% the number of votes cast in the last governor's election), create the arguments as assigned, and then carry out a vote.

### Taking Informed Action:

**Option 1:** Analyze current initiative proposals, have a conversation with parents or other voting adult about their opinions and reasons for them. Interview and report back to class.

**Option 2:** Participate in the Secretary of State's Student Mock Election. Content available at [sos.wa.gov/mockelection](https://sos.wa.gov/mockelection).

# What power do voters have to change laws in Washington?

## Sources 2A + B

Power	How it changes laws	How voters impact it
Initiative		
Referendum		

**Sources 2C + D:** As you read Argument For and Argument Against Initiative 1634, look for and note examples of each type of propaganda (you will not fill in every box, but try to find five examples).

Type of Propaganda	Argument For 1634	Argument Against 1634
Card Stacking		
Testimonial		
Glittering Generalities		
Transfer		
Plain Folks		
Band Wagon		
Name Calling		

## Source 2A: Washington Constitution

### “ Article II

#### Legislative Department

**Section 1 Legislative powers, where vested.** The legislative authority of the state of Washington shall be vested in the legislature, consisting of a senate and house of representatives, which shall be called the legislature of the state of Washington, but the people reserve to themselves the power to propose bills, laws, and to enact or reject the same at the polls, independent of the legislature, and also reserve power, at their own option, to approve or reject at the polls any act, item, section, or part of any bill, act, or law passed by the legislature.

”

## Source 2B: Ballot Measures Info Sheet

### What are ballot measures?

#### Initiatives and referenda are used by the people to create state laws

##### Initiative

Any registered voter may propose an initiative to create a new state law or change an existing law.

**Initiatives to the People** are proposed laws submitted directly to voters.

**Initiatives to the Legislature** are proposed laws submitted to the Legislature.

Before an **Initiative to the People** or an **Initiative to the Legislature** can appear on the ballot, the sponsor must collect...



**324,516**

**registered voters' signatures**

8% of all votes in the last Governor's race

##### Referendum

**Referendum Bills** are proposed laws the Legislature has referred to voters.

**Referendum Measures** are laws recently passed by the Legislature that voters have demanded be referred to the ballot.

Any registered voter may demand that a law proposed by the Legislature be referred to voters before taking effect.

Before a **Referendum Measure** can appear on the ballot, the sponsor must collect...



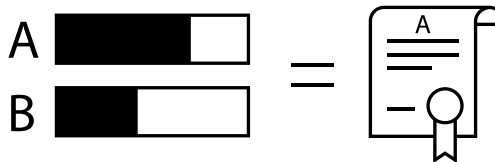
**162,258**

**registered voters' signatures**

4% of all votes in the last Governor's race

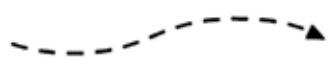
#### Initiatives and referenda become law

with a simple  
majority vote



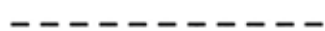
# Watch for... **7** TYPES OF PROPAGANDA

## 1. CARD STACKING:



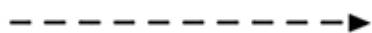
FOCUSES ON THE BEST FEATURES AND LEAVES OUT OR LIES ABOUT PROBLEMS.

## 2. TESTIMONIAL:



A WELL-KNOWN PERSON ENDORSES THE PRODUCT OR SERVICE.

## 3. GLITTERING GENERALITIES:



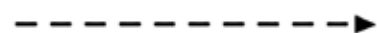
USES WORDS OR IDEAS THAT EVOKE AN EMOTIONAL RESPONSE.

## 4. TRANSFER:



RELATES A PRODUCT TO SOMEONE OR SOMETHING WE LIKE.

## 5. PLAIN FOLKS:



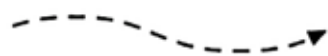
USES REGULAR PEOPLE TO SELL A PRODUCT OR A SERVICE.

## 6. BANDWAGON:



ASKS PEOPLE TO "JOIN THE CROWD" AND TAKE ACTION BECAUSE "EVERYONE" IS DOING IT.

## 7. NAME-CALLING:



CONNECTS A PERSON, PRODUCT OR IDEA TO SOMETHING NEGATIVE.

# Source 2D: Initiative 1634

Initiative Measure No.

# 1634

Initiative Measure No. 1634 concerns taxation of certain items intended for human consumption.

This measure would prohibit new or increased local taxes, fees, or assessments on raw or processed foods or beverages (with exceptions), or ingredients thereof, unless effective by January 15, 2018, or generally applicable.

Should this measure be enacted into law?

Yes

No

**Explanatory Statement . . . . . 19**

**Fiscal Impact Statement . . . . . 19**

**Arguments For and Against . . . . . 20**

## Argument for

### Yes on I-1634 protects working families, farmers, and local businesses.

I-1634 would ensure that our groceries – foods and beverages that we consume every day – are protected from any new or increased local tax, fee, or assessment.

#### Help keep groceries affordable.

The rising cost of living makes it harder for families to afford the basics. Special interest groups across the country, and here in Washington, are proposing taxes on groceries like meats, dairy and juices – basic necessities for all families. I-1634 would prevent local governments from enacting new taxes on groceries. Higher grocery prices don't hurt the wealthy elites but crush the middle class and those on fixed incomes, including the elderly.

#### Take a stand for fairness.

Washington has the most regressive tax system in the country and places a larger tax burden on the backs of middle and fixed-income families than the wealthy. Taxes on groceries make our current tax structure even more unfair for those struggling to make ends meet.

#### Bipartisan and diverse support for I-1634 from citizens, farmers, local businesses, and community organizations.

Organizations that represent Washington farmers (Washington Farm Bureau, Tree Fruit Association, State Dairy Federation), labor (Joint Council of Teamsters, International Association of Machinists, Seattle Building Trades), and business (Washington Beverage Association, Washington Food Industry Association, Washington Retail Association, Korean American Grocers Association) are united in supporting I-1634 to keep our groceries affordable.

By voting yes on I-1634, you can take a stand for affordability and fairness for Washington's working families.

#### Rebuttal of argument against

I-1634 prohibits new, local taxes on groceries, period. It does not prevent voters from raising taxes on anything else to meet local needs. *This is necessary to close a loophole allowing municipalities to tax groceries, even though the state does not.* That's why thousands of Washington workers, farmers, small businesses, and consumers support I-1634. It protects us from taxation of everyday foods and beverages which raises prices, costs jobs and hurts working families.

#### Written by

**Jeff Philipps**, Spokane civic leader, President of Rosauer Supermarkets; **April Clayton**, Farmer, Chelan/Douglas County Farm Bureau Vice President; **Haddia Abbas Nazer**, Yakima small businesswoman, Central Washington Hispanic Chamber President; **Carl Livingston**, Seattle community activist, lawyer, professor, and Pastor; **Heidi Piper Schultz**, Vancouver small businesswoman, Corwin Beverage Company Board President; **Larry Brown**, Auburn City Councilman, Aerospace Machinists 751 Legislative Director

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## Argument against

### Initiative 1634 takes away local control and gives it to the state

This confusing measure imposes a one-size-fits-all state law that takes power away from voters and hands it to the state, silencing our voice in local decision-making. Different communities have unique needs and local voters deserve a say in how revenue decisions are made. This initiative is a slippery slope toward greater state control at the expense of our cities, towns, and local communities.

#### Corporate special interests are spending millions to strip away voter choices and protect profits

I-1634 has nothing to do with keeping our food affordable. In fact, tax prohibitions on everyday food items – from fruits and vegetables to milk and bread—are already reflected in voter approved state law. Instead, this measure is funded almost exclusively by the multi-billion-dollar soda industry. They are only concerned with their profits and are spending millions on this initiative—and misleading advertisements—that would undermine local control.

#### Reject Initiative 1634 to prevent future erosion of local powers by special interests

I-1634 sets a dangerous precedent -- any special interest could spend millions on a misleading initiative to limit our rights as voters and our local autonomy. Voting *no* sends a clear message that we value local control and will not be fooled by the political agenda of wealthy industries or outside groups.

#### Rebuttal of argument for

State law already precludes taxes on groceries. Initiative 1634 is funded by the soda industry to take away local choices from our cities and towns. This confusing measure reduces local options while increasing state control at a time when we are struggling to fund important community programs. Stand with doctors, teachers and community advocates in saying no to this blatant corporate power grab.

#### Written by

**Mary Ann Bauman**, MD, American Heart Association; **Kate Burke**, Spokane City Council; **Jill Mangaliman**, Got Green; **Jim Krieger**, MD, MPH Healthy Food America; **Val Thomas-Matson**, Healthy King County Coalition; **Carolyn Conner**, Nutrition First

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Source 2D: Washington 2018 Voters' Pamphlet, Initiative 1634, Argument For and Argument Against, [https://www.sos.wa.gov/assets/elections/research/2018/-ed10-all\\_low\\_res\\_9.9\\_rev.pdf](https://www.sos.wa.gov/assets/elections/research/2018/-ed10-all_low_res_9.9_rev.pdf), Office of the Secretary of State, p. 20, Public Domain.

