



## CHARTER AMENDMENT PROHIBITING A CITY OF SPOKANE INCOME TAX

WHEREAS, the citizens of the City of Spokane recognize the need for a strong, competitive economy with reliable revenues for vital city government services; and

WHEREAS, cities across the state of Washington, including Seattle and Olympia, have attempted to adopt a city-imposed income tax; and

WHEREAS, in court proceedings, municipal attorneys have argued that cities in Washington state have the authority to implement a city income tax; and

WHEREAS, city councilors who serve on the Association of Washington Cities have argued that every city in the state has the authority to adopt a city income tax; and

WHEREAS, the state of Washington prohibits cities, counties, and city-counties from adopting a tax on net-income (RCW 36.65.030); and

WHEREAS, Washington state voters have rejected the opportunity to adopt an income tax 10 times; and

WHEREAS, voters in the City of Spokane rejected the opportunity to impose a state income tax in 2010; and

WHEREAS, credit agencies consider income taxes unwise and volatile.

### **NOW, THEREFORE, THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF SPOKANE HEREBY ORDAIN:**

Section 1. That Article III of the City Charter of the City of Spokane shall be amended by adding a new section to read as follows:

#### **Section 21.6 Prohibition of City Income Tax**

The City of Spokane may not impose an income tax on wages, salaries, investments, the sale of goods or services, or any other source of income.

Section 2. Severability. If any provision of this charter amendment or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the amendment or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

Section 3. Submission to the Voters. This City Charter amendment shall be submitted to the voters of the City of Spokane for their approval or rejection at the next applicable election under Section 82 of the Spokane City Charter.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Charter amendment, if approved by the voters, shall take effect and be in full force upon the issuance of the certificate of election by the Spokane County Auditor's Office.