Get Out the Vote!

Our founding fathers believed that the success of American democracy depended upon the development of an educated citizenry that would vote wisely to protect its rights and freedoms. Ideally, we would all have the ability to thoroughly research each candidate and ballot measure, but we sometimes have time constraints that prevent us from doing that. For just such situations, I’ve created the following endorsement summary:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ballot Measure | Description | Seattle Times Issaquah Press | KCGOP | PCO |
| Initiative 1033 | Limit revenue growth to inflation and population growth, refunding surplus through reduced property tax levies | NO | YES | NO |
| Referendum 71 | Expand rights of same-sex and domestic partners to be equivalent to those of married spouses | APPROVE | REJECT | APPROVE |
| KC Charter Amendment 1 | Repeal of obsolete transitory provisions |  | YES | YES |
| KC Charter Amendment 2 | Repeal of obsolete provisions for work programs and allotments |  | YES | YES |
| KC Charter Amendment 3 | Clarify Charter Review Commission appointment and public review process |  | YES | YES |
| KC Charter Amendment 4 | Stronger protection for high conservation value properties | YES | YES | YES |
| KC FPD #10 Proposition 1 | Reauthorizing Fire Benefit Charge (replacing property tax) for next 6 years | YES\* |  | YES |

\* Based on original endorsement of Fire Benefit Charge measure

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Position | Seattle Times Issaquah Press | KCGOP | PCO |
| County Executive | Susan Hutchinson | Susan Hutchinson | Susan Hutchinson |
| Assessor | Graham Albertini | Graham Albertini | Graham Albertini |
| King County Council District 9 | Reagan Dunn | Reagan Dunn | Reagan Dunn |
| Port Commissioner Position #3 | Rob Holland | David Doud | David Doud |
| Port Commissioner Position #4 | Tom Albro | Tom Albro | Tom Albro |
| Issaquah School Board District #2 | Marnie Maraldo |  | Marnie Maraldo |

While Initiative 1033 is noble in its stated purpose – to control the growth of government – its execution is even more flawed than Colorado’s TABOR which was suspended by voters in 2005. The I-1033 formula allows for no flexibility in economic upturns to set aside excess revenues in the rainy-day fund, forcing natural market cycles to ratchet down inflation-adjusted per capita tax revenues over time. Instead, surplus is refunded through property tax rebates, which only account for 10% of state tax revenues. It’s yet another case of government getting involved in redistribution of wealth, since everyone’s business, sales and use taxes are returned only to land owners. Again, a laudable goal, but flawed execution. Check my blog on <http://www.magendanz.com> for more details.

I believe that your vote for Referendum 71 must be according to conscience, and no endorsement can substitute for that. Know that approving this measure will secure registered domestic partner rights for hospital visitation, authorization of autopsies and organ donations, will probate, trusts, community property, homestead exemptions, adoption, guardianship, child custody, child support, powers of attorney, use of sick leave, eligibility for employment benefits, and insurance coverage.

We’ve got two excellent candidates for Connie Fletcher’s open seat on the Issaquah School Board, but if forced to choose I would give the nod to Marnie Maraldo based on her long-term involvement advocating for state-wide education reform. Like me, she’s a past PTSA Legislative Chair and Stand for Children South-End Team Leader, and she’s currently Newport Elementary PTSA co-President. I see her as a level-headed fiscal conservative who will ensure our limited resources are put where they do the most good for kids.

If you haven’t voted yet, I would encourage you to make use of all available resources to complete your ballot and drop it at the Post Office by 6pm on Tuesday, November 3rd. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

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