



## 2024 Initiatives on the Ballot

For the November 2024 election in Washington State, voters will decide on four significant initiatives:

1. Initiative 2109: This initiative seeks to repeal the 7% capital gains tax imposed on long-term capital assets by individuals with gains over \$250,000. This tax, which affects sales including stocks, bonds, and other investments, has been used to fund childcare subsidies, bonuses for childcare centers, and school construction. The initiative follows the state Supreme Court's 2023 decision upholding the tax's constitutionality.
2. Initiative 2117: This initiative aims to repeal the Washington State Climate Commitment Act of 2021. The Act established a "cap and invest" program designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 95% by 2050. If repealed, the initiative would prohibit state agencies from implementing any cap-and-trade or cap-and-tax programs.
3. Initiative 2066: This measure would prohibit state and local governments from restricting access to natural gas. It would also prevent the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission from approving any plans that would require or incentivize natural gas utilities to phase out gas services. This initiative is a response to growing efforts to transition away from fossil fuels.
4. Initiative 2124: This initiative focuses on the state's long-term care insurance program, WA Cares. It would allow employees and self-employed workers to opt out of the mandatory payroll tax that funds the program. Supporters argue for the freedom to choose private long-term care insurance, while opponents warn that repealing the program could leave many without needed coverage in the future.

These initiatives address a wide range of issues, from taxation and environmental policy to energy choices and long-term care. They reflect the ongoing debates in Washington State over the balance between individual freedoms and collective responsibilities. Source [KREM](#).

## Billionaire's Attempt to Invalidate the Initiatives Fails

Over 1.2 million signatures were collected from citizens across the state to bring these initiatives to the ballot. Despite the obvious will of the people, Defend Washington, a coalition of progressive groups and statewide unions of teachers, health care workers and government employees, is behind an anti-initiative ad campaign. The political committee was launched by [Civic Ventures](#), <https://civic-ventures.com/> a self-described “small group of political troublemakers” founded by multi-millionaire venture capitalist Nick Hanauer. Source Billionaires [Bill Gates](#), [https://www.pdc.wa.gov/political-disclosure-reporting-data/browse-search-data/committees/co-2024-35713/contributions?contributor\\_name=gates](https://www.pdc.wa.gov/political-disclosure-reporting-data/browse-search-data/committees/co-2024-35713/contributions?contributor_name=gates) who founded Microsoft, and [Steve Ballmer](#), [https://www.pdc.wa.gov/political-disclosure-reporting-data/browse-search-data/committees/co-2024-35713/contributions?contributor\\_name=ballmer](https://www.pdc.wa.gov/political-disclosure-reporting-data/browse-search-data/committees/co-2024-35713/contributions?contributor_name=ballmer) the company's former chief executive officer, are among those who've given or pledged money to fight the measures, according to filings with the Public Disclosure Commission, as of the date of this article, those two had donated 3.5 million to defeat the citizen lead initiatives.

**It is hard to believe that billionaires want to tip the scale in their favor, over the will of the citizens.** Most recently, these same billionaires, filed a lawsuit to nullify the citizen signatures.

In August 2024, the Washington State Supreme Court unanimously rejected efforts to invalidate several voter-backed initiatives for the November ballot, including measures to repeal the capital gains tax and provisions of the Climate Commitment Act. These challenges, led by groups like Defend Washington, argued that the signature-gathering process was flawed. However, the court ruled against these claims, allowing the initiatives to proceed. [Read more here.](#) <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/3117506/secret-effort-to-invalidate-initiatives-on-the-fall-ballot-fails/>

What is most concerning, was the tactic they used with an assist from AG Bob Ferguson (candidate for governor). They filed this suit without notification to the main stakeholder, Go Washington. Attorney General, Bob Ferguson who opposes the initiatives was in the position to defend the ballot initiatives legality. In his role, normal process should have included notification of the stakeholders that this lawsuit even existed. Some argue that since Bob Ferguson had previously publicly come out against the initiatives during his primary campaign for governor, that there was an obvious conflict of interest. <https://lynnwoodtimes.com/2024/08/10/initiatives-240810/>

The court also dismissed a case by the Washington Conservation Action Education Fund, which sought to prevent certification of an initiative related to natural gas policies. Both challenges were seen as last-minute attempts to block the initiatives from reaching voters, but the court found the signature verification processes complied with state law, ensuring the initiatives would remain on the ballot. Do voters even realize that they came one State Supreme Court Judge ruling away from having 3 million signatures invalidated? Do voters realize that if this initiative fails, they will not be able to have natural gas service to their homes? That will have to buy new furnaces, fireplaces and stoves? This will happen between now and 2040! Start saving now!

## The Choice is Clear a Yes vote on all Four Initiatives

A vote of yes on all four of these issues will send a clear message to legislators, that the people of Washington are unhappy with the poorly thought-out laws, which have many unintended consequences that harm the citizens of the state. Twenty-to forty-year-olds, along with any middle-class homeowner or business owner should be especially concerned about how much these laws affect their pocketbook. Don't take my word for it. Don't allow billionaires to place hardship onto young working class families. Let's show them that we don't allow individuals to buy elections in Washington!

We will dig deeper into each initiative. Explain what the intended outcome and the unintended consequences are, so that you will be informed when filling out your ballot. Please do your own research and don't allow yourself to become victim to the billionaire funded commercials targeted toward confusing and misleading voters.