

WARNING

Every person who signs this petition with any other than his or her true name, knowingly signs more than one of these petitions, signs this petition when he or she is not a legal voter, or makes any false statement on this petition may be punished by fine or imprisonment.

INITIATIVE PETITION TO THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF SPOKANE

INITIATIVE NO. 2019 - 2

We, the undersigned citizens and legal voters of the City of Spokane, Washington, respectfully direct that this proposed City Charter amendment, known as Initiative No. 2019 - 2, a full, true and correct copy of which is printed herein, be submitted to the electors of the City of Spokane for their approval or rejection at the next available special or general municipal election. The proposed City Charter amendment shall appear as the following proposition:

BALLOT TITLE

CHARTER AMENDMENT PROHIBITING A CITY OF SPOKANE INCOME TAX

Shall the Spokane City Charter be amended to prohibit the City of Spokane from imposing an income tax on wages, salaries, investments, the sale of goods or services, or any other income source?

_____ YES

_____ NO

Each of us for himself or herself says: I have personally signed this petition; I am a legal voter of the City of Spokane; my residence address is correctly stated; and I have knowingly signed this petition only once.

(The full text of the proposed City Charter amendment is printed on the reverse side of this page and continuing on the pages following)

PETITIONER'S SIGNATURE (in dark ink and as shown on the signer's voter registration)	PRINTED NAME (legibly in dark ink)	ADDRESS WHERE REGISTERED TO VOTE (Street Address, City, State, Zip Code)
1.		

20.		

Michael Cathcart, Better Spokane, 510 W. Riverside, Suite 500, Spokane, WA 99201
(509)999-8315

SUMMARY OF MEASURE

THE LAW AS IT CURRENTLY EXISTS:

The City Charter and the Spokane Municipal Code do not address the imposition of a local income tax or the authority of the City Council to adopt legislation imposing a local income tax. The adoption of a local income tax by the City would be subject to the provisions of the Washington State Constitution and Washington State law.

THE EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL, IF APPROVED:

This measure will amend the City Charter to provide that 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.

DECLARATION OF SIGNATURE GATHERER

I, (print name legibly), swear or affirm under penalty of law that I circulated this sheet of the foregoing petition, and that, to the best of my knowledge, every person who signed this sheet of the foregoing petition knowingly and without any compensation or promise of compensation willingly signed his or her true name and that the information provided therewith is true and correct. I further acknowledge that under chapter 29A.84 RCW, forgery of signatures on this petition constitutes a class C felony, and that offering any consideration or gratuity to any person to induce them to sign a petition is a gross misdemeanor, such violations being punishable by fine or imprisonment or both.

_____ (Signature) _____ (Date)

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 221.6 Prohibition of City Income Tax

A. 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 ordinance 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. ~~to be held on November 5, 2019 as the following proposition:~~

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.