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Washington Dems Oppose Voters in Effort to Eliminate Taxpayer Safeguard

Lawsuit filed this week in Wash. Supreme Court aims to overturn supermajority requirement for tax increases

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Senate Majority Leader Lisa Brown (D-Spokane) filed a lawsuit in the state Supreme Court this week, on behalf of her Senate Democrat colleagues, to overturn I-960. This requirement, overwhelmingly approved by Washington voters in last November's election, mandates that any bills that would raise taxes must garner a two-thirds vote in the legislature to become law.

The lawsuit comes on the heels of Brown's request last Friday to Lt. Governor Brad Owen that he overturn I-960. Owen denied Brown's request to do away with the taxpayer safeguard.

“This attempt to overturn I-960 actually underscores the need for such a measure. Tax and spenders in Olympia have an unquenchable thirst for taxpayer dollars and this attempt to overturn I-960 speaks to its effectiveness in preventing the government from looting the bank accounts of Washington families,” said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. “This shameless attempt by Majority Leader Brown to scrap this important taxpayer safeguard sends a clear message to Washington state citizens about just who wants their money.”

The Democrat-led lawsuit contends that I-960 is unconstitutional. The same court that will hear this case rejected a similar argument against the taxpayer protection measure last September. That effort, which sought to keep I-960 from being placed on the ballot in the first place, was backed by environmental groups and labor unions.

“Washington residents had to work 199 days in 2007 to pay for their share of the cost of government; meaning that Washingtonians don't see a penny from their hard work for well over half of the year. Apparently Senator Brown and her colleagues on the left believe that is still not enough,” continued Norquist. “I-960 is a helpful tool in resisting government encroachment on liberty in Washington and taxpayers should not stand for their legislators seeking to eliminate it.”

Americans for Tax Reform is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview please contact John Kartch at (202) 785-0266 or by email at jkartch@atr.org.

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