

NO on I-747

A Threat to Public Safety Services



Now is not the time to threaten our local communities' essential services. Initiative 747 would prevent local government public safety services from maintaining their current level of funding unless special elections were held. That means firefighters, public health nurses, emergency medical technicians and many other public safety workers would have to cut services or beg for votes.

“I don't want my firefighter to be a campaigner or a politician begging for support. I want him to be a full-time firefighter,” says former Secretary of State Ralph Munro, Republican, who opposes I-747. *The (Vancouver) Columbian*, 9/23/01.

Local government services that rely on property taxes will be the most vulnerable to cuts under Initiative 747. Those are some of the most basic services we count on to protect our neighborhoods and families' safety. In a year that has included a major earthquake, devastating forest fires and horrific terrorist acts, the need for secure public safety services has never been greater.

What will Initiative 747 do?

- **Prevent local governments**, including fire districts and public hospital districts, from increasing property taxes by more than 1% without a public vote.
- **Encourage deterioration of local services**—like fire and police protection, county roads, ports and emergency medical services—by taking away our elected officials' ability to maintain current levels of funding without special elections.
- **Increase election costs** by forcing dozens of ballot measures for a special vote just to keep pace with inflation.

I-747 supporters are selling the idea that you can cut taxes without affecting public services. **Don't buy it.** Elections are not free. Public safety isn't free either.

That's why Your Union urges you to OPPOSE Initiative 747.