

I-257

Tim Eyman wants a Publicly Funded Government-Bashing Commission!

In his first effort at policymaking not directly related to taxes, initiative crusader Tim Eyman and the lieutenants at his for-profit corporation Permanent Offense have filed I-257, an Initiative to the Legislature, that would:

1. Require the State Auditor to conduct performance audits of every level of state government.
2. Create a citizen panel to oversee the entire audit process.

As usual with Eyman's initiatives, it sounds good at first. But the more you read, the worse it gets.

These "performance audits" aren't really audits at all. True audits of government programs and services identify successes and shortcomings in an effort to analyze what works, what doesn't and how to improve it. Such audits are currently conducted by independent consultants all the time -- audits of social services, the workers' compensation system, etc.

And guess what? Often they praise government services and efficiency, and their recommendations include hiring more staff to reduce caseloads.

But Tim Eyman's simplistic, ideological "audits" presume from the start that government is wasteful and the only way to improve public services is to **eliminate or privatize** them. I-257 says these audits must include:

1. Identification of programs and services to be *eliminated* or *transferred* to the private sector.
2. Recommendations for the *elimination or reduction* in funding.

“ Initiative 257 is not about good government, it's about contracting out.

At best, it's another layer of bureaucratic oversight of the workers providing public services and a waste of tax dollars to generate another report.

At worst, it's a massive effort to contract out services to the lowest bidder, and eliminate public services and decent family-wage jobs.”

— RICK BENDER,
President of the Washington
State Labor Council, AFL-CIO

If Tim Eyman was serious about improving state government he would support the findings of the real performance audits already being conducted, instead of creating yet another partisan commission (appointed by the State Legislature) with marching orders to eliminate programs or contract them out.

Paid signature gatherers will be asking you to sign I-257.

DO YOUR PART TO PREVENT GOVERNMENT WASTE
(of time and money)

DON'T SIGN IT!

A message from the working men and women of the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO