

## The Legislature That Couldn't Tax Straight

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"If you lost count of how many new and higher taxes state lawmakers passed this year," begins Jerry Cornfield's recent column in the *Everett Herald*, "it was 12."

Cornfield doesn't appear too distressed about the tax hikes, however, worrying instead that Evergreen State voters will be "awash in tax advisory measures this fall."

That's because for every tax increase the Washington State Legislature enacts ***without putting it to a vote of the people of***

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**Washington**, an advisory vote is mandated by Initiative 960, passed by voters back in 2007.

So 12 tax increases = 12 tax advisory votes.

"We wouldn't be talking about advisory votes and providing Eyman a platform for political [sic] ministering," Mr. Cornfield complains,



**Tim Eyman**

"had Democratic lawmakers gotten rid of them by passing Senate Bill 5224."

Seems odd somehow that a newspaper columnist would be berating politicians for not passing a law to silence voters regarding tax hikes. Democrats could have done so without a single Republican vote. SB-5224 did pass the Senate, but it was blocked in the House by the Democratic Speaker — "democratic," thankfully, in more ways than one.

*Eyman* is Tim Eyman, the state's anti-tax initiative leader. His group, Voters Want More Choices, spearheaded Initiative 960, which from 2008 to 2018 required 19 tax advisory votes. Voters have expressed opposition to 12 of the 19 tax increases passed by the legislature — 63 percent — and support for seven.

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A grade that was certainly earned.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.