

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – JULY 17, 2024

Andrew Estep, Executive Director
Washington State PTA
(253) 214-7410
www.wastatepta.org



Washington State PTA opposes Initiatives 2109 and 2117

TACOMA, WA - Washington State PTA announces its opposition to two initiatives on the November ballot.

Founded in 1905, Washington State PTA (WSPTA) is the oldest and largest volunteer child advocacy association in the state. The association has long supported ample funding for schools, promoted safe and healthy environments for living and learning, and advocated for mitigating the adverse impacts of climate change, which pose a direct threat to the health and well-being of our children and youth.

The WSPTA Board of Directors voted at its June meeting to oppose Initiatives 2109 and 2117, based on positions previously adopted by its members.

Initiative 2109, Repeal Capital Gains Tax: Approved by the legislature in 2021 and upheld by the Supreme Court of Washington, the capital gains tax generated nearly \$1B in 2023 for public schools, while only affecting 0.2% of households. WSPTA, through its member-adopted legislative platform, has consistently advocated for predictable, progressive, and sustainable revenue sources for funding public education and opposed policies and other proposals that negatively impact funding for child-related programs. Because Initiative 2109 (I-2109) would repeal a significant source of funding for early learning, K-12 education, and access to higher education, WSPTA opposes I-2109.

Initiative 2117, Repeal the Climate Commitment Act: The 2021 Climate Commitment Act (CCA) is Washington state’s most significant policy to address climate change. If passed, Initiative 2117 (I-2117) would repeal the CCA and irreparably compromise efforts to address escalating climate effects, which would be detrimental to all children and youth in our state. Repealing the CCA would also create significant gaps in state operating, capital, and transportation budgets, further limiting the already insufficient funding available for school districts. WSPTA supports retaining the CCA and opposes I-2117.

WSPTA encourages all local PTAs and councils to oppose both initiatives, and for our more than 84,000 members to vote NO on I-2109 and I-2117.

Further information can be found on the WSPTA blog:

- [Washington State PTA Opposes Initiative 2109](#)
- [Washington State PTA Opposes Initiative 2117](#)
- [FAQs on Opposing Initiatives 2109 and 2117](#)

About Washington State PTA: Washington State PTA is the state’s oldest and largest child advocacy organization founded in 1905 by Abby Williams Hill of Tacoma, an artist who saw the need for an organization to support Washington’s children. Thanks to her leadership and vision—and current members who continue to carry her vision forward—Washington State PTA has been a leading voice for children in Washington for more than 110 years. To learn more about the Washington State PTA, please visit www.wastatepta.org.

15 Oregon Avenue, Suite 202, Tacoma, WA 98409-7463 (253) 214-7410

###