



March 24, 2021

WA State Budget is Front and Center in Olympia - That's YOUR money!

FACT: Washington State is expected to generate enough tax revenue to fund the largest budget in our state's history.

OVER 3 BILLION ADDITIONAL TAX DOLLARS WERE ADDED to the books earlier this month – and that's before billions more federal bailout dollars arrive!

Governor Inslee's budget proposes to spend \$57.6 billion in the next two-year budget cycle, - that's MORE THAN \$4 BILLION OVER CURRENT SPENDING LEVELS!

His proposal would impose NEW AND INCREASED TAXES to fund his spending.

Democrats who control Olympia are RELENTLESSLY AND AGGRESSIVELY **WORKING TO RAISE TAXES** - a capital gains/state income tax, carbon tax, gas tax...just to name a few.

But there is another plan being offered in Olympia

Republicans released a budget proposal of their own which FULLY FUNDS STATE SERVICES OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS **without raising taxes.**



Call the Legislative Hotline and let your elected leaders know – **including Governor Inslee** – NO NEW OR INCREASED TAXES!

PHONE: 1.800.562.6000

Washington Eagle Forum | P.O. Box 205 Lynden, WA 98264 | waeagles@waeagles.com

Despite Record-Breaking Tax Revenues, Democrats and Extreme Climate Activist Still Want More of Your Tax Dollars

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By Shift WA www.shiftwa.org

In what seems like a song stuck on repeat yet again in Olympia, the Democrats and their extreme “green” friends are trying to spin how to tax Washington residents to the tune of billions of dollars a year for the “sin” of driving their cars and heating their homes.

The question in the Democrats’ minds isn’t whether they should tax more, it’s how much more money they will take out of your pockets.

This is all despite record-setting tax revenues and federal bailout funds hitting the state (and local government) coffers. This week’s new revenue report of \$3.2 billion in new, additional revenue that the state did not expect.

This means the state will return this year to the financial health it enjoyed before COVID-19 hit and has no need for new taxes to fund a record-setting nearly \$60 billion budget which will pass next month.

On the bad energy policy front, in the name of curing climate change, two serious proposals (and there are too many unserious ones to count) are on the tax more/deliver less table.

One proposal, Democrat Senator Reuven Carlyle’s Washington Climate Commitment Act, is supported by Democrat Governor Jay Inslee and would create a faux “carbon cap and trade credit” scheme in which companies can pay for credits for the amount of carbon they produce over the amount of carbon which Jay Inslee wants them to produce.

Think of it as a permission slip to operate your business.

Things get expensive if a company produces too much carbon, over an arbitrary government limit, as the more carbon credits that are purchased, the higher the price of credits.

This a demand-and-supply scheme the Democrats can actually get behind!

The second proposal, SB 5373, was introduced by Democrat Senator Liz Lovelett and championed by a mis-named organization called Washington Strong, taxes companies on the carbon they produce directly.

The group opposes the Inslee cap-and-tax plan because the zealots believe that it breaks the golden Democrat commandment of equity. In some bizarre anti-logic argument, Washington

Strong thinks Inslee's bill is racist because the groups supporting it are predominantly white.

Throw in State Representative Joe Fitzgibbon's House Bill 1091, which requires the state to return to 1990 carbon intensity levels within 30 years, and we have a low-carbon believers' trifecta.

That kind of unprecedented reduction in fuel efficiency, according to the Environmental Protection Agency's website and based on today's energy consumption rates, means only 1 in 6 people in Washington could drive a car, or 576,000 houses could be heated with today's fuels.

Inslee, at least isn't claiming the carbon tax will save the crabs and oysters as he did last year.

Of course, all of these proposals will end up hitting the pocketbooks of Washington residents. Companies taxed by this kind of Democrat overreach would have to increase prices to consumers, so they can keep paying their workers and stay in business.

The Democrats are on the warpath against carbon emissions and their only solution is more taxes.

Neither proposal will do much to actually help the environment, but will increase prices, kill jobs, and create more government-study opportunities to figure out how to create more ways to tax Washingtonians.

Unfortunately for the Democrats' plans, the quarterly economic forecast was uncommonly good. The budget bureaucrats' projections indicate the state budget is looking pretty good and we don't need more taxes.

This isn't the right response for the Democrats, though. They believe businesses and the people of Washington want to be taxed more for the greater good of being climate heroes, so both proposals seem just fine as long as they get their share of the taxpayer's pie.

