



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 7, 2015

Contact: Bill Keim, Executive Director

Washington Association of School Administrators

800-859-9272

bkeim@wasa-oly.org

www.wasa-oly.org

Washington School Administrators Vote to Oppose I-1366

Constitutional two-thirds requirement for taxes would only add to state's K-12 funding woes

OLYMPIA—The Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) has voted to oppose Initiative 1366, amending the constitution to authorize a supermajority rule and require a two-thirds vote of the Legislature to raise taxes. The association's Executive Committee voted unanimously to oppose the measure.

“If Initiative 1366 were to pass, a minority of 17 legislators — from either party — could block reforms to Washington's regressive tax system,” said Dr. Frank Hewins, WASA president and superintendent of the Franklin Pierce School District. “From the perspective of public schools, and where we are in terms of K-12 funding in this state, Initiative 1366 would further muddy the funding waters and complicate what is already a very complex and as yet unresolvable challenge,” he added.

Dr. Bill Keim, WASA executive director, said the ballot measure would do little to resolve the already complex landscape lawmakers face in addressing K-12 funding in our state.

“Lawmakers face a growing array of funding challenges. Initiative 1366 does not give them any tools to solve them, and, in fact, it may cause further delays and challenges,” he said. “From our members' perspective, lawmakers are already scrambling to meet the Supreme Court's decision under McCleary. This would only exacerbate an already tenuous situation, one that demands bipartisan leadership and thinking to solve one of the most vital issue for our state.”

About the Washington Association of School Administrators

The Washington Association of School Administrators (<http://www.wasa-oly.org>) is committed to the development of quality education through professional leadership. Members benefit from a supportive community of professional leaders working to provide insightful and valuable training, support, and resources to education leaders, and to sustain a positive impact on legislative and community leaders. With more than 1,575 members, membership is open to all education administrators in central office, building management, and educational agency positions. A not-for-profit organization, WASA is funded by membership dues and association events.

###