

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON, RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR INVESTIGATION, STUDY, DELIBERATION, REFLECTION, PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND DIALOGUE INTO ISSUES RELATING TO (1) THE ROLE AND AUTHORITY OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT IN PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING; (2) THE EFFECTS OF WASHINGTON'S REGRESSIVE STATE TAX SYSTEM ON OUR COMMUNITY; AND (3) COUNCIL'S CONCERNS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED "OPPORTUNITY FOR OLYMPIA" INITIATIVE PETITION.

WHEREAS, the Olympia City Council recognizes and respects the high value Olympia's citizens place on collaborative engagement with their elected officials and local government to solve problems and to build confidence in public decision-making through active dialogue, investigation, study and reflection, which results in sustainable policies; and

WHEREAS, through RCW 35A.11.100 and Olympia Municipal Code Chapter 1.16, the City of Olympia provides authority to Olympia voters to directly initiate and enact legislation through the initiative process, and upon meeting the minimum standards, the issue must either be adopted by the Olympia City Council or submitted to the entire electorate of the City for adoption or rejection at a duly held election; and

WHEREAS, the local organization known as Opportunity for Olympia has embarked upon an initiative petition to increase local investment in higher education and respond to regressive inequities in our state and local public revenue system; and

WHEREAS, the specific mechanisms and content of Opportunity for Olympia's initiative petition and proposed ordinance present administrative flaws and questionable legal assertions which have not been resolved; and

WHEREAS, the Olympia City Council, recognizing the flaws in Opportunity for Olympia's initiative petition, attempted in good faith to find workable solutions to solve the administrative problems posed in the initiative petition; and

WHEREAS, the City Council was unable to fully and fairly investigate, study, reflect, deliberate and secure public engagement and dialogue into the complex issues and administrative flaws presented by Opportunity for Olympia's initiative petition; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that any attempt to address the cost of higher education and public revenue options will require long-term, systemic change based upon adequate study, public engagement, dialogue and deliberation; and

WHEREAS, the Olympia City Council recognizes the far reaching and significant beneficial impact of improved access to post-secondary education and vocational training and supports efforts to reduce student loan debt and address a regressive state and local tax system which places a larger burden upon those least able to pay; and

WHEREAS, collaboration between the government of the City of Olympia, its elected officials, and the Olympia community regarding the local impacts of the current public education finance structure and the current state and local tax system depends upon reliable and relevant information;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL DOES HEREBY RESOLVE as follows:

1. The Opportunity for Olympia initiative petition, while raising legitimate issues regarding access to higher education and equitable taxation, has not adequately provided sufficient administrative procedures to impart confidence of success in implementation of its initiative petition and ordinance.
2. The Olympia City Council, through its committee structure, shall research, investigate, and study local residents' access to higher, post-secondary and vocational education, and the local impact of the state's regressive tax policies, while actively engaging Olympia's citizens in meaningful and constructive dialogue regarding the consequences of existing and proposed policies.
3. Upon receipt of findings from the responsible Council committee, the City Council shall use its authority to actively engage and respond, in collaboration with the community, and with Olympia's elected representatives in state and federal offices.

PASSED BY THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL this _____ day of July, 2016.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



CITY ATTORNEY