

RESOLUTION 2019-18

Statement of position on Initiative 1639

WHEREAS, the Right of the People to Keep and Bear Arms is guaranteed as an Individual Right under the Second Amendment to the US Constitution, and, under Article 1, Section 2 and 24, of the Constitution of the State of Washington and shall not be impaired, and;

WHEREAS, there is a strong culture of gun rights, self-protection and the need to use various guns and weapons as tools in everyday life in rural communities, along with the strong feelings regarding the use of guns in a recreational manner that exists amongst the citizens of Skamania County that may not be of similar concern in the urban populations and;

WHEREAS, Initiative 1639 was passed by the voters of the State of Washington in November of 2018 and it imposes a number of required conditions on law abiding citizens who wish to possess, transfer and purchase a firearm and;

WHEREAS, there remain many questions as to how implementation of the law can be fully carried out due to ambiguous language found in the initiative passed, hindering an effective enforcement effort and;

WHEREAS, there are a number of legal challenges currently filed in state and federal court that call into question the constitutional legality of various components of I-1639 and it is unlikely that the Washington State Courts and Federal Courts will address these legal challenges prior to the effective date of this law on July 1, 2019 and;

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners recognizes the requirements of I-1639 present numerous financial impacts on the limited financial resources of Skamania County, its elected officials and their government responsibilities. Along with the questions concerning implementation of I-1639 enumerated below:

1-TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

2-ENHANCED BACKGROUND CHECKS

3- SECURE GUN STORAGE

4-WAIVER OF CONFIDENTIALITY

5-ANNUAL VERIFICATION, and;

WHEREAS, the Washington State Attorney General acknowledges "*law enforcement officials have broad discretion to set their own priorities and target their staff and resources where investigation and enforcement is most needed*", and;

WHEREAS, the background checks required by Initiative 1639 are not discretionary and the Skamania County Sheriff's Office will continue to perform these checks as the law requires and;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SKAMANIA COUNTY, to be in concurrent agreement with the Skamania County Sheriff in recognition of the need to have clarity on the elements contained within I-1639, one cannot in good faith assert enforcement authority pursuant to I-1639 over the law-abiding firearms owners of Skamania County until such time as the above-mentioned questions have been resolved and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, at such time the Judicial and Legislative branches of our State Government have rendered decisions and clarifications on I-1639, the Board of County Commissioners will commit to further discussion on the impacts of full implementation of I-1639 within Skamania County and;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED; we commit to the citizens of Skamania County that the defense of your constitutionally protected, God given rights, shall continue to guide our decisions as they relate to the application of this Initiative.

Dated this 21st day of May, 2019.

ATTEST:



Debbie Slade
Clerk of the Board

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAMANIA COUNTY, WASHINGTON

[Signature]
Chairman

[Signature]
Commissioner

[Signature]
Commissioner

Approved as to form only:

[Signature]
Skamania County Prosecuting Attorney

Aye 5
Nay 0
Abstain 0
Absent 0