



On the November ballot there will be several state and local ballot measures along with twelve state advisory measures. When ballots drop our Spokane County GOP website, www.spokanegop.com,

will have information on all of these. One of the most important measures and one that seems most confusing is R-88 which is associated with Initiative 1000 (I-1000).

The Spokane County GOP recommends that citizens vote **Rejected** on R-88 which also means you are voting to reject I-1000.

Why REJECT R-88/I-1000?

In spite of what proponents say, I-1000 will legalize discrimination and repeal the current existing law (I-200) that treats all people equally. I-1000 is discriminatory as it will provide preference to certain groups, but not others, because of characteristics such as race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin in public education, public employment and public contracting as long as this one discriminating characteristic is not the **sole** reason for affirmative action/preferential treatment. No longer will the state have to adhere to the principle of equality for everyone approved by voters in 1998 as I-200. Under I-1000 the State will be empowered to discriminate against any group it decides is underrepresented and allow lesser qualified candidates to fill positions being considered.

In addition, I-1000 would not expand opportunities for veterans as supporters claim. Even more troubling is the strong possibility that it would actually **abolish Washington's preference program in employment for veterans**; a program going back more than a century and developed in recognition of their sacrifice in serving our country. I-1000 seems to redefine a veteran's status with the status of other protected groups so that a preference that was earned for serving your country becomes legally equated with a preference for such characteristics as one's race, nationality, or gender.

Some of those organizations opposed to I-1000 and encouraging citizens to **vote REJECTED on R-88** include **Washington Asians for Equality, Washington State Veterans Bar Association, and Washington State Republican Party** as well as individuals **John Carlson**, well known Seattle radio political commentator, who served briefly in the Reagan administration, and **Ward Connerly**, founder and chairman of the American Civil Rights Institute, a national non-profit organization in opposition to racial and gender preferences. Connerly has stated he is one-fourth black, with the rest a mix of Irish, French and Choctaw.

Referendum Measure No.

88

The legislature passed Initiative Measure No. 1000 concerning affirmative action and remedying discrimination, and voters have filed a sufficient referendum petition on this act.

Initiative 1000 would allow the state to remedy discrimination for certain groups and to implement affirmative action, without the use of quotas or preferential treatment (as defined), in public education, employment, and contracting.

Should Initiative 1000 be

[] Approved

[] **Rejected**

Additional information for those interested:

Background:

R-88 is the result of an initiative to the state legislature, I-1000, proposed in 2018. After the required number of signatures were obtained, the state legislature voted on the initiative and enacted I-1000 into law as the Washington State Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Act. It was passed primarily along party lines: 56-42 in the House and 26-22 in the Senate. All votes in favor came from Democratic legislators although 3 Democrats voted against it along with all Republicans as biased legislation that would foster preferential treatment to selected individuals. The legislature took the vote on the last day of its regular session, April 28, 2019. Were they trying to avoid public input?

Next, a citizens' group, Let People Vote, proposed Referendum Measure 88 (R-88) to allow citizens to vote to decide whether or not we wanted I-1000. Enough signatures were obtained so R-88 is now on the November 5 ballot. When you vote to REJECT R-88, you are also voting to reject and overturn I-1000.

Previous legislation:

In 1998 by a direct public vote, citizens passed Initiative 200 (I-200), the Washington State Civil Rights Act. Of the approximately 1.9 million voters, 58.2 percent, or a grand total of 1,099,410 voters supported the measure. Statewide, all counties except King County (because of Seattle) passed the statute. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Initiative_200)

I-200 prohibited state and local governments from discriminating against or granting “preferential treatment” to applicants, employees, or contractors based on the protected categories of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin. A new 2019 Pew Research Center survey finds that 73% of Americans and majorities across all racial groups agree that race should not be a factor in college admissions.

Impact of I-1000

I-1000 amends I-200 in two distinct ways. **First, it redefines “preferential treatment.”** In addition to race, sex, color, ethnicity, national origin, and age, “preferential treatment” is expanded to include sexual orientation, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability and honorable discharged veteran or military status. **While I-200 banned preferential treatment, under I-1000, preferential treatment may be permissible** as long as it is not the “sole qualifying factor to select a lesser qualified candidate over a more qualified candidate for a public education, public employment, or public contracting opportunity.”

Second, I-1000 expressly authorizes “affirmative action.” *Affirmative action* is specifically defined as a policy in which an individual’s race, sex, ethnicity, national origin, age, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, and honorably discharged veteran or military status are factors considered in selecting candidates for opportunities in public education, public employment, and public contracting. However, sexual orientation is not included as a permitted basis for affirmative action in I-1000.

In short, with I-1000’s passage, public entities may now consider a person’s whole background, including protected status, and may implement affirmative action rules and policies, such as recruitment or participation goals. Public entities supposedly may not, however, favor a less-qualified employee, applicant, or contractor over a more qualified candidate based on protected status **alone** and may not use quotas.

The Initiative further directs the creation of another government agency, Commission on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, headed by an unelected board with authority to make decisions on preferences in academic admissions and government hiring. The board would be composed of gubernatorial appointees and four legislators. The Commission would be responsible for planning, directing, monitoring, and enforcing each state agency's compliance with I-1000, and publishing an annual report on agency progress towards that goal.

Keep I-200

If R-88 is **Rejected** the Washington State Civil Rights Act, I-200, of 1998 will remain in effect. I-200 banned the practice of treating people differently based on their race, sex, national origin, and age. It provides for outreach programs. It allows affirmative action to help the economically disadvantaged. In other words, dire predictions predicted by opponents of I-200 in 1998 did not happen. Twenty years of experience shows that the Washington State Civil Rights Act has not resulted in the harmful outcomes that opponents expected. Reject R-88 to keep I-200 as Washington's law.

Information for this document came from the following:

Grassroots Against I-1000: <https://www.rejectr88.org>;
<https://www.rejectr88.org/tag/rejecti1000/>

WA Asians for Equality: <https://waasians4equality.org/i-1000/>

John Carlson: <https://crosscut.com/2019/04/i-helped-get-affirmative-action-banned-wa-heres-what-i-think-plan-bring-it-back>

Ward Connerly: <https://www.thenewamerican.com/usnews/politics/item/31614-ward-connerly-warns-against-washington-state-s-racial-preferences-initiative>

Washington Policy Center (WPC):

<https://www.washingtonpolicy.org/library/doclib/Guppy-Citizens-Guide-to-Referendum-88-a-measure-to-approve-or-reject-the-use-of-race-based-affirmative-action-by-public-officials-in-Washington-state.pdf>

Little Mendelson P.C. <https://www.littler.com/publication-press/publication/washington-legislature-passes-washington-state-diversity-equity-and>

Association of Washington Cities (AWC): <https://wacities.org/news/2019/06/16/i-1000-to-take-effect-july-28-no-mandates-for-local-government>

23rd Legislative District Republicans:

<https://wa23rdrepublicans.com/2019/09/reject-r-88/>

Crosscut: <https://crosscut.com/2019/09/opponents-say-i-1000s-affirmative-action-policy-would-hurt-veterans-uw-law-expert-disagrees>

Complete text of R-88:

https://www.sos.wa.gov/_assets/elections/initiatives/r-88-full-text.pdf