



LEGISLATOR QUOTES

- **“An income tax on anyone in Washington will become an income tax on everyone.”**
[-Rep. Drew Stokesbary, 31st LD \(Jan. 8, 2026\)](#)
- **“Why should the public assume that it’s not going to be an income tax on them by 2031...you shouldn’t...If history is prologue, yeah, you probably shouldn’t necessarily believe that.”**
[-Rep. Larry Springer, 45th LD \(Jan. 9, 2026\)](#)
- **“Nowhere in the income tax bill is any funding dedicated specifically to education or health care – instead the revenues would go into the state general fund.”**
[-Sen. Mark Schoesler, 9th LD \(Feb. 16, 2026\)](#)
- **“The people of our state are savvy enough not to be fooled by this ruse...They know that an income tax on anyone is eventually going to be an income tax on everyone in our state.”**
[-Sen. Chris Gildon, 25th LD \(Feb. 9, 2026\)](#)
- **“Do the Democrats in Olympia think Washingtonians are fools?”**
[-Sen. John Braun, 20th LD \(Jan. 16, 2026\)](#)
- **“This bill is a gateway drug to taxing everyone in Washington. It may start with so-called millionaires, but it won’t end there — and when businesses leave, families and kids pay the price.”**
[-Sen. Matt Boehnke, 8th LD \(Feb. 16, 2026\)](#)
- **“This is being marketed as a ‘millionaire tax.’ It’s really an ‘everybody tax’ that just temporarily exempts people earning less than \$1 million.”**
[-Sen. Chris Gildon, 25th LD \(Feb. 9, 2026\)](#)
- **“Our state doesn’t need an income tax. Especially when this bill would put nearly all the money into the state’s pocket instead of giving tax relief to the people.”**
[-Sen. Perry Dozier, 16th LD \(Feb. 16, 2026\)](#)
- **“The brunt of the revenue would go straight to the General Fund to be spent or squandered (pick your term) by the majority party in whatever way they deem fit.”**
[-Sen. Keith Wagoner, 39th LD \(Feb. 16, 2026\)](#)





- **“This is the law of diminishing returns. The more you try to get, the less you’re going to get.”**
[-Sen. Keith Wagoner, 39th LD \(Feb. 16, 2026\)](#)
- **“It ignores the will of the people. It ignores the economic impact it’s going to have on our state and absolutely picks winners and losers.”**
[-Sen. John Braun, 20th LD \(Feb. 16, 2026\)](#)
- **“Even though the income tax wouldn’t be collected until 2029, Democrats worded their bill in a way that prevents the people from using their constitutional power of referendum to approve or reject it. That’s shameful.”**
[-Sen. John Braun, 20th LD \(Feb. 16, 2026\)](#)
- **“There is nothing in [the income tax] bill right now that is making Washington state affordable.”**
[-Sen. Perry Dozier, 16th LD \(Feb. 16, 2026\)](#)
- **“...This is more of a money grab by the state than a sincere effort to make Washington's tax code fairer.”**
[-Sen. Keith Goehner, 12th LD \(Feb. 18\)](#)

REGARDING THE 1933 COURT DECISION

INCOME IS PROPERTY

“The majority decision, written by Justice Oscar Holcomb, said income is a form of property under the state constitution, which defines property broadly as “anything, whether tangible or intangible, subject to ownership.”

“It would certainly defy the ingenuity of the most profound lexicographer to formulate a more comprehensive definition of property,” Holcomb wrote.

“The state constitution requires property to be taxed at a ‘uniform’ rate. So a flat income tax would be fine, the majority opinion said. But the graduated-rate tax that voters had just approved was unconstitutional.

“Income is either property under our fourteenth amendment, or no one owns it. If that is true, anyone can use our incomes who has the power to seize or obtain them by foul means,” Holcomb wrote.”

[-From the 1933 Culliton Income Tax Case \(Seattle Times, March 8\)](#)





QUOTES FROM OTHERS

- **“The poll did make clear though that people do not want to pay any income tax themselves. DHM asked whether you’d be open to an income tax if it had a lower rate than 9.9%, but applied to incomes of \$100,000 or above, rather than starting at \$1 million. The bottom dropped out. [to 36%]”**
[-Danny Westneat, \(Feb. 23, 2026\)](#)
- **“Anyone who calls it a ‘millionaire tax’ wants it. Anyone who calls it an ‘income tax’ understands it.”**
[-Ari Hoffman, radio host, on Facebook \(Feb. 3, 2026\)](#)
- **“Even if it clears the legal, implementation & other challenges, it's unlikely to raise much money given every wealthy person I’ve spoken to in the last few days has said they will leave the state. I believe them. Thoughtful taxes don't actually drive people away, boneheaded taxes do.”**
[-Nick Hanauer, progressive venture capitalist, talking about Gov. Jay Inslee’s wealth tax \(Dec. 20, 2024\)](#)
- **“There is absolutely, without question, serious implications and reality to the fact that capital is mobile.”**
[-Reuven Carlyle, former Democratic Senator \(Feb. 16, 2026\)](#)
- **“Politically, it is very popular to say, ‘Tax the rich.’ ... But the hard part that we’re going to put ourselves in is: If you want to tax the rich, you got to have rich people to tax.”**
[-Joe Nguyen, former Democratic Senator \(Feb. 28, 2026\)](#)
- **“Saddling high earners with new taxes simply to cover a perpetual budget deficit is both politically disingenuous and economically dangerous.”**
[-The Seattle Times Editorial Board, \(Feb. 8, 2026\)](#)
- **“Legislative leaders must demonstrate a willingness to cut spending, must engage with the opposing party and must be fiscally responsible rather than reaching deeper into the pockets of Washington residents.”**
[-The Columbian Editorial Board \(Feb. 7, 2026\)](#)





- **“But so far the [income tax]...is mostly a vehicle for brazen revenue expansion. That’s unacceptable.”**
[-The Seattle Times Editorial Board \(Feb. 22, 2026\)](#)
- **“Most importantly, the proposal demonstrates Democrats’ reflexive reaction to any budget shortfall – raise taxes while leaving Republicans out of the discussion.”**
[-The Columbian Editorial Board \(Feb. 7, 2026\)](#)
- **“Income tax proponents in Olympia are still operating myopically, merely planning to cover a perpetual budget gap while failing to contain years of runaway spending by the majority party. Households live within their means; why can’t lawmakers?”**
[-The Seattle Times Editorial Board \(Feb. 22, 2026\)](#)
- **“In these oligarchical times, maybe sticking it to the rich is enough of a message to win. But probably not. Voters are going to want to know: What is it good for?”**
[-Danny Westneat, The Seattle Times \(Feb. 19, 2026\)](#)
- **“They promise it will be OK. That it won’t hurt most people... Don’t believe them.”**
[-Bill Bryant \(Feb. 26, 2026\)](#)
- **“A tax exemption on hygiene products like soap and mouthwash? That amounts to crumbs from the table.”**
[-The Seattle Times Editorial Board \(Feb. 8, 2026\)](#)
- **“With a short legislative year, lawmakers should focus on immediate solutions to current problems. An income tax on millionaires would not achieve those goals.”**
[-The Columbian Editorial Board \(Feb. 7, 2026\)](#)
- **“Proponents last week said they would not include any provision that would bind future legislatures from lowering the threshold. In other words, there’s no protection [against expansion of the tax].”**
[-The Seattle Times Editorial Board \(Feb. 8, 2026\)](#)
- **“Though state revenues have continued to grow, lawmakers still want to spend at rates that eclipse what’s coming in.”**
[-The Seattle Times Editorial Board \(Feb. 8, 2026\)](#)





- **“In just the past two weeks, I’ve heard directly from or heard about 50 couples who are already in the process of, or soon to be changing their domicile, out of this state, including one that you’ve heard of – one of the loudest Democrats in Washington state – Nick Hanauer. He’s changing his domicile.”**
[-Brian Heywood, conservative activist and hedge fund manager \(Feb. 7, 2026\)](#)
- **“The most-obscure thing about this bill is that it takes money away from people who earned it and gives it to people who didn’t earn it.”**
[-Tim Eyman, anti-tax activist, Senate hearing on SB 6346 \(Feb. 6, 2026\)](#)
- **“Shameless describes many corners of the political universe, but special notice this week to Washington state Democrats for pushing an income tax forbidden by their own state constitution.”**
[-Wall Street Journal Editorial Board \(Feb. 19, 2026\)](#)
- **“In 2023 that court ruled a 7% tax on capital gains was an excise tax, not a tax on property barred by the state constitution. If the justices can pretend that capital-gains income isn’t property, Democrats figure maybe they’ll do the same for wage and other income.”**
[-Wall Street Journal Editorial Board \(Feb. 19, 2026\)](#)
- **“Washington state Democrats have plunged ahead with plans for a new income tax despite public opposition and their own state constitution. A new letter from tech leaders lays out the damage the tax would do to the state’s economy.”**
[-Wall Street Journal Editorial Board \(March 1, 2026\)](#)
- **“Tax hikes “would materially undermine Washington’s ability to keep growing the tech sector, which is a core driver of our economy, and would slow the AI innovation and investment momentum,” the letter says. That’s an understatement. A recent survey by the Association of Washington Businesses found that more than twice as many businesses report they may leave the state since the tax increase plan was announced. Forty-four percent of business owners also reported they are considering moving their personal residence out of Washington.”**
[-Wall Street Journal Editorial Board \(March 1, 2026\)](#)





- **“If this Legislature wants a progressive income tax, it should send a constitutional amendment to the voters and not pretend the Constitution isn't clear unless every Legislator who votes for this bill is prepared to explain why taxpayers don't have a property right to their own income.**
[-Rob McKenna, former WA Attorney General, Senate hearing on SB 6346 \(Feb. 6, 2026\)](#)
- **“As you all know, it isn't the Legislature's role or the State Supreme Court's job to rewrite our Constitution to override a decision the voters made and have repeatedly reaffirmed.”**
[-Rob McKenna, former WA Attorney General, Senate hearing on SB 6346 \(Feb. 6, 2026\)](#)
- **“The argument is again pressed upon us that these cases were wrongly decided. The court is unwilling, however, to recede from the position announced in its repeated decisions. Among other things, the attorney general urges that the result should now be different because the state is confronted with a financial crisis. If so, the constitution may be amended by vote of the people. Such a constitutional amendment was rejected by popular vote in 1934.”**
[-Washington State Supreme Court, 1960, ruling that an income tax must be decided with a constitutional amendment](#)
- **“Income tax proponents in Olympia are still operating myopically, merely planning to cover a perpetual budget gap while failing to contain years of runaway spending by the majority party. Households live within their means; why can't lawmakers?”**
[-The Seattle Times \(Feb. 22, 2026\)](#)
- **“Most construction firms in Washington are not large, publicly traded corporations. They are locally owned LLCs, partnerships, and S corporations – pass through entities where business income flows to the owner's individual tax return. On paper, that income may appear to be personal wealth. In practice, it is often the company's operating capital.” (Referring to LLCs, S**
[-Jeff Tiegs, president of Associated General Contractors of Washington and Lincoln Construction \(March 2, 2026\)](#)





- **“Income is frequently recognized at the completion of a major project, which can create a temporary spike in reported income after years of reinvestment, borrowing and risk. That spike may push an owner’s reported income above \$1 million in a single year. But that does not mean there is \$1 million in idle cash sitting in a bank account. It often means the company finally closed out a large project and now must fund the next one.”**
[-Jeff Tiegs, president of Associated General Contractors of Washington and Lincoln Construction \(March 2, 2026\)](#)
- **“Under this proposal, pass-through construction firms would be forced to either pay a 9.9% tax at the entity level or pass the liability through to the owner’s personal return (which also includes a spouse’s income). Either option removes cash from the business.”**
[-Jeff Tiegs, president of Associated General Contractors of Washington and Lincoln Construction \(March 2, 2026\)](#)
- **“Because once the door to an income tax is open, it will not stay narrowly framed for long. And when the definition of millionaire begins to shrink, remember who refused to lock it in when they had the chance.”**
[-Chad Taylor, publisher and co-owner of The Chronicle \(March 2, 2026\)](#)
- **“I’ve spoken with multiple high-net-worth individuals from the Bay Area and the Seattle market who are approaching retirement and planning a move to Southern Nevada. The primary drivers are the significantly lower cost of living and, in particular, Nevada’s lack of a state income tax.”**
[-Robert Little, Re/Max Agent in Henderson, NV \(Feb. 10, 2026\)](#)
- **“We’re seeing a noticeable influx of high-net-worth buyers from Washington and California coming to Las Vegas, and a big driver is tax policy.”**
[-Ivan Sher, luxury real estate broker in Las Vegas \(Feb. 10, 2026\)](#)
- **“Starting in about September, we all of a sudden started seeing all these people from Seattle and it’s just grown since then.”**
[-Darin Marques, CEO of Virtue Real Estate, Henderson, NV \(Feb. 10, 2026\)](#)





- **“Pedersen and Jinkins appear more interested in banking new dollars to feed a never-ending appetite for spending.”**
[-The Seattle Times \(March 6, 2026\)](#)
- **“This tax risks driving our local businesses to more competitive states, exacerbating talent shortages and stagnating economic growth in our region.”**
[-Letter to the Legislature from Whatcom County small businesses \(March 9\)](#)
- **“In Clark County, where industries like manufacturing, retail, and services rely on slim margins, this additional 9.9% burden – among the highest tax rates in the nation – could force us to cut jobs, reduce hours, or delay expansions. S-corps and LLCs, which represent 85% of small businesses in our state, would be hit hardest, as the \$1 million threshold fails to account for the realities of business cash flow and reinvestment needs.”**
[-Letter to the Legislature from Clark County small businesses \(March 9\)](#)
- **“As you consider the bill to create a state income tax/SB 6346, we felt it was important that we communicate our deep concerns regarding the proposed income tax. While presented as a ‘millionaire’s’ tax, this measure would disproportionately harm small businesses, S-corps, and LLCs. It also threatens the vitality of Washington’s economy.”**
[-Letter to the Legislature from Snohomish County small businesses \(March 9\)](#)
- **“As experts and innovators in the field of artificial intelligence, we write to strongly encourage you to pause the state’s efforts to create a state income tax and increase the capital gains tax. These policies would materially undermine Washington’s ability to keep growing the tech sector, which is a core driver of our economy, and would slow the AI innovation and investment momentum that we should be accelerating, not discouraging.”**
[-Letter to Gov. Bob Ferguson from technology leaders in Washington \(March 2\)](#)
- **“Democrats are putting their economy and jobs at risk if they follow the California ratchet of tax, spend, and tax some more.”**
[-Wall Street Journal \(March 2\)](#)
- **“But despite efforts by Republicans and a handful of pragmatic Democrats, the income tax didn’t realize enough tax relief to help offset the state’s sky-high cost of living.”**
[-Josh Farley, The Seattle Times \(March 15\)](#)





- **“To make matters worse, legislators denied voters a direct say on the income tax. Rather than allowing a straightforward up-or-down vote, they declared the tax a ‘necessity,’ forcing opponents to mount a costly repeal initiative instead [of a referendum].”**
[-Josh Farley, The Seattle Times \(March 15\)](#)
- **“Ruling Democrats in the legislature must realize the income tax is not a panacea for what ails the state budget. They will have to reduce their habitual spending increases. Either they commit to zero-based budgeting that reins in state government expenditures, or the next tax increase will around the bend – another ‘crisis’ of their own making.”**
[-Josh Farley, The Seattle Times \(March 15\)](#)
- **“While the cost of living is soaring in the Evergreen State, passing a foundation-quaking tax policy that doesn’t tether it to robust tax relief is an abject failure to meet this moment.”**
[-The Seattle Times \(Feb. 22\)](#)
- **“No matter how many times the governor and the Democrats spin this as a ‘millionaire’s tax,’ the bill language is clear. This is a tax on Washingtonians, with a standard deduction of \$1 million. That deduction could be reduced by future Legislatures, and the ruling party has shown nothing but a continuously widening appetite for more taxes and eschewed any effort to enact guarantees that it will not expand.”**
[-The Seattle Times \(Feb. 22\)](#)
- **“All the pro teams here in town, [the income tax] has always been a huge attraction, especially competing with the California teams. It’s been a big deal for us. So yeah, it’s going to sting from a recruiting standpoint.”**
[-John Schneider, Seattle Seahawks general manager, The Spokesman-Review \(March 13\)](#)
- **“It’s gonna sting; there’s no question about it.”**
[-John Schneider, Seattle Seahawks general manager, The Spokesman-Review \(March 13\)](#)

