

Disability Communities Defending Democracy

Your Ballot in Plain Language:
An Easy Read Guide to
Initiatives I-001 and I-638



This is the Plain Language version of an Easy Read resource. **Plain Language** is a way of writing that is easier to read. **Easy Read** is like Plain Language, but it includes pictures to help people understand. If you want the version with pictures, click [here](#) to download it.

What is an Initiative?

An **initiative** asks voters if they want to make a new law. If you want the new law, you vote yes. If you don't want the new law, you vote no.

What Initiatives Are On My Ballot?

There are three initiatives in Washington State. This resource only talks about 2 initiatives. They are I-001 and I-638.

What is Initiative I-001?

I-001 changes your rights in school. In this resource, **school** just means elementary, middle, and high school (K-12). School does not mean college in this resource. I-001 makes a lot of changes. The changes affect a lot of kinds of people's rights. The changes

affect student rights. The changes affect parent rights. The changes affect teacher rights. The changes affect school counselor rights. This resource focuses on students and their parents.

How Does I-001 Affect Students?

I-001 makes changes to important privacy laws. When a student tells a counselor something, that is usually private. The law says no one can make a counselor say what the student said. I-001 changes that. It says parents can ask for what the student talked about. This means the conversation is not private anymore.

Another change is about youth shelters and host homes. A **shelter** is one kind of place where homeless people can live. A **youth shelter** is a kind of shelter that homeless people under 18 can live. A **host home** is like a group home. It is another kind of place a homeless youth can live. State law protects students who go to host homes and youth shelters. Most students who go to host homes or youth shelters can't go back home. Their parents might have kicked them out. Their home might be unsafe. Students who

go to host homes and youth shelters can get "protected health care services."

Protected health care services can mean:

- **Reproductive health care.** For example, birth control pills and abortion.
- Gender affirming care.

Gender affirming care for people under 18 can be:

- **Gender counseling.** This is talking to a therapist about gender dysphoria.
- **Puberty blockers.** These are pills that stop puberty.
- **Hormone replacement therapy (HRT).** HRT is a kind of medicine.

Hormones in this resource means estrogen and testosterone.

Everyone has hormones. Almost all people have at least some estrogen and some testosterone. **Testosterone** is a "male"

hormone. Men usually have a lot more testosterone than estrogen.

Estrogen is a "female" hormone. Women usually have a lot more

estrogen than testosterone. Hormones are why men and women can look different from each other. Hormones tell the body what body parts to grow. It also tells the body how body parts should look. HRT changes what hormones the body has. This changes the body.

Some gender affirming care is surgery. Usually adults get gender affirming surgeries. Very few people under 18 get any kind of gender affirming surgery. Most gender affirming surgeries are *not* done on any people under 18.

I-001 does not change the law about protected health care services. I-001 makes schools tell parents when their child goes to a youth shelter or host home. This is different from the law now. Some people worry changing the law will hurt some kids. Some people abuse kids.

Abuse can mean things like:

- hitting
- bullying
- not giving a child food
- not giving a child medicine

I-001 changes laws about school counseling. I-001 says counselors have to give parents records. The records are about what their child said to the counselor. This means the conversation is not private anymore. Some students tell counselors about things they don't want their parents to know. I-001 makes counselors give parents notes about what their child said. Some parents might be angry about what they find. And they could hurt their child.

I-001 says schools have to tell parents if their child went to a youth shelter or host home. The reason schools are not allowed to do this now is because some parents abuse children. The law right now protects children who go to host homes or youth shelters. I-001 changes laws that protect some students. That could affect students. I-001 does talk about parents who abuse children. It says schools don't have to tell some things to some parents who abuse their kids. It says schools don't have to share counseling notes with parents under investigation for abuse. But not all parents who hurt their kids are under investigation for abuse. That means some parents who hurt their kids get new rights. They get new rights to learn about private conversations between their child and a counselor.

How Does I-001 Affect Parents?

This resource talked a little bit about some new rights parents get. This section talks about more ways I-001 changes laws for parents. I-001 changes laws about what schools have to tell parents. I-001 also changes laws about how quickly schools have to tell parents about some things. This section talks about special education and crime.

Right now, the law says if a child is the victim of a serious crime at school, the school needs to tell parents. The school needs to tell parents the parents within 48 hours. This is important for families. I-001 changes the law. I-001 takes away the 48 hour rule. It says that the school should tell the parents after the school decides a crime happened. This means that the school could wait to decide that the crime happened until after they look into it. The school could wait a long time to tell parents. This means parents might not know if their child was a victim for a long time.

I-001 changes what some of the law says about special education. I-001 says schools need to give parents special education records. Parents already have the right to get special education records. I-

I-001 says schools have to give parents special education records in 10 business days. It is not clear if this will change anything about special education. What is clear is that schools still have to tell parents a lot of things about special education. This is true if voters say yes to I-001. And it is true if voters say no to I-001.

What is Initiative 638?

I-638 is about who gets to play school sports. I-638 makes a lot of changes. I-638 only affects girls. It does not affect boys. Some school sports teams include boys and girls. Some school sports teams are only for girls or boys. All girls can play on a team for only girls right now.

Sometimes schools discriminate. **Discrimination** means treating someone unfairly or badly because of who they are. Discrimination happens a lot to students with disabilities. They think students with disabilities should not play sports even when they can play sports. Schools should not be able to say this just because a student has a disability. This is disability discrimination. It is against the law. One law that protects students with disabilities is the Washington Law Against Discrimination. The **Washington Law Against**

Discrimination (WLAD) protects a lot of kinds of people from discrimination. WLAD protects transgender students from discrimination. WLAD is 20 years old. The state made WLAD in 2006. WLAD says transgender kids have rights. One of those rights is to play school sports.

Transgender people have a different gender than the one people thought they would be at birth. **Transgender girls** are girls who a doctor thought was a boy when she was born. **Transgender boys** are boys who a doctor thought was a girl when he was born. Some transgender kids play school sports. Right now only about 5-10 transgender kids play school sports in Washington state. That is both transgender boys and transgender girls.

People who support I-638 think transgender girls should not play on girls teams. For the last 20 years, the law says that is discrimination. People who don't want I-638 also think it is discrimination. And many people talk about transgender girls badly. Many people call transgender girls bad names. Many people bully transgender girls and their families. Many people say transgender girls should not exist. This also happens to kids with disabilities. This also happens to families with disabilities. It's okay

to disagree. But people should not bully or hurt someone just because of who they are.

What Does I-638 Do?

I-638 says transgender girls can't play on girls school sports teams. I-638 also says transgender girls are "biological males." I-638 says all girls who want to play on girl school sports teams have to prove they are not "biological males." The proof needs to come from a doctor. A girl's doctor has to use one of three things to prove a girl is a girl.

1. **"Reproductive anatomy."** This means looking at what genitals a girl has. **Genitals** are things like a penis or a vagina.

2. **"Genetic Makeup."** This means things like chromosomes.

Chromosomes have DNA in them. Most girls have two "X" chromosomes. Most boys have one "X" chromosome and one "Y" chromosome. This is not true for everyone. Most people don't know what chromosomes they have. This is because it costs a lot of money to find out what chromosomes you have. And there's usually no reason to find out.

3. **“Normal endogenously produced testosterone levels”** means how much testosterone someone’s body makes. Most people do not know their testosterone levels. This is because it costs a lot of money to find out what amount of testosterone your body makes. And there’s usually no reason to find out.

Some girls who are not transgender have differences with genitals, chromosomes, and testosterone levels. Those girls are intersex.

Intersex means having a genital, chromosome, or hormone difference. If I-638 passes, intersex girls with chromosome and hormone difference might not be able to prove they’re girls with those tests. They will probably need to have their genitals looked at by a doctor to prove they are a girl.

Families who can’t afford testing might also be affected. Genital inspections don’t cost a lot of money. Girls whose families can’t afford chromosome or testosterone tests will probably need to have their genitals looked at by a doctor to prove they’re a girl.