

Easy Citizen Involvement

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It's Official!

King County Initiative 24 Qualifies for November Ballot

Seattle – Dick Spady, co-founder of *Dick's Drive-In Restaurants* and campaign chairman for Initiative 24, announced today that King County Elections has confirmed that enough valid voter signatures were filed in support of I-24 to qualify the measure for the November 6 general election ballot. Initiative 24, commonly known as *Easy Citizen Involvement*, is the first county initiative to qualify for the 2007 ballot.

Spady, who is I-24's author and sponsor, said, "Our goal is to make the public hearing process more convenient and comfortable for ordinary people. Now is the time for the Democrats and Republicans on the King County Council to come together in a bipartisan way and make it easier for interested citizens to meet, discuss, and provide the Council with useful feedback on important local issues."

Now that I-24 has officially qualified for the ballot, the King County Council has three options: enact the proposal directly into law; refer the proposal to the voters as part of the November 6 general election; or refer the proposal to the voters on November 6 along with a Council-drafted alternative.

The Council is expected to take up the issue in the next few weeks. If the Council fails to take any action by September 21, I-24 will automatically go before voters with the following ballot title: "Shall a Citizen Councilor Network be established in King County for citizens to meet, discuss public issues, and provide opinions."

Endorsements of I-24 include two top-level state leaders, State Auditor Brian Sonntag and Speaker of the House Frank Chopp. Both officials have supported similar state-level legislation in the past. The endorsements are posted on the campaign web page: www.EasyCitizenInvolvement.com

"The goal of I-24 is simple," said Spady, "make the public hearing process as easy as having friends and neighbors over for coffee." Spady also added that I-24 is funded with donations, not taxes, and is operated and administered by citizen volunteers, not paid county employees.

"The Citizen Councilor Network created by I-24 will not replace traditional public hearings," said Spady, "but will instead provide broader public input on the most important issues facing our local communities. More input, not less, will make our county government more responsive to the needs of citizens."

For more information, call campaign manager Jim Spady at 206-949-8484 or visit www.EasyCitizenInvolvement.com

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