



January 12, 2016

Clark County Board of Councilors  
P.O. Box 5000  
Vancouver, Washington 98666

Dear Councilors,

It would be unlawful for the councilors to simply review the 2% tax cut at a hearing today, and then remove it at a Board time meeting, by consensus, tomorrow. The 2% levy tax cut policy was adopted on December 1, 2015 at a properly noticed public hearing, along with other budget items, and needs to go through the same public process to remove it. Clark County Citizens United, Inc. believes it would be malfeasance for this council to do otherwise. Please reconsider your action plan and follow the law.

The public is seeing a trend of this board to elevate it's importance of that of the previous board with the advent of the Home Rule form of government. The notion that Home Rule is superior to the Commission form of government is false. Only six counties out of thirty-nine believed that Home Rule was the choice for their community and even those counties are having problems with the processes. They have chosen a different way of administration and Council. What this Council appears to be saying is that duly processed decisions of the previous Board, by a two to one vote, is not credible and therefore must be rescinded. These decision were made by this council before the new members were placed in office. This sets a very dangerous precedent for the future of the citizens of Clark County. The result of these actions is now the council remains as a three man board, with the majority simply being three instead of two. Since county government has existed, the commissioner form of government has been in place and has served our county well. Routinely, a two person vote has created public policy, and particularly when the Democrat party was in the majority. Collaboration and process is the right and legal way to proceed, vetting the merits of each and every policy before decisions are made. We ask the council to honor the decisions of the previous board, just as you would want the public to honor your decisions, as you go forward with Home Rule government.

Sincerely,

Carol Levanen, Ex. Secretary,  
Clark County Citizens United, Inc.  
P.O. box 2188  
Battle Ground, Washington 98604

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