



# You can't trust what tax advocates say

Many lawmakers claim they don't support an income tax, even as they push an income tax on capital gains. Mighty curious, don't you think? The record shows a big, broad income tax is a longtime goal for many Washington elected officials, and that promises can't be trusted.

- Since 1985, 103 income-tax bills have been introduced in the Washington Legislature, 90 of them by Democrats. (Most Republican bills have been filed for procedural reasons.)
- Five of the last five Democratic governors have either declared support for an income tax or have co-sponsored legislation to create one.
- 75 percent of the members of the Senate Democratic Caucus have sponsored or co-sponsored legislation to create an income tax.
- State Democratic Party platforms have endorsed an income tax since 1930.
- During the 1960s and early 1970s, an income tax enjoyed support from some Washington Republicans. But times have changed. Our state has prospered because we don't have one. Our politics have become increasingly unbalanced and vulnerable to pressure from special-interest groups eager for more taxpayer money.
- Over the last 40 years, a pattern has emerged in states with a strong urban/liberal faction. A gusher of income-tax money has allowed their legislatures to spend irresponsibly in good times. When tax collections have fallen during recessions, they have increased income-tax rates and extended taxes to the middle class. Just ask California, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and many others.
- Old income-tax proposals contained constitutional limits on taxation, which the Legislature cannot override. Today's income-tax advocates refuse to consider constitutional limits to protect the middle class. What do you think they have in mind?

**Here's the only thing you can trust:**

**A capital gains income tax is just the start.**



## What's a promise worth?

Candidate Jay Inslee: **"I would veto anything that heads in the wrong direction, and the wrong direction is new taxes in the state of Washington."** (News conference, Oct. 11, 2012)

Since taking office, Gov. Jay Inslee has proposed **\$24 billion** in new taxes, and he has signed every new tax passed by the Legislature. Inslee is a leading advocate for a new income tax.