



# 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.

- 52 House Democrats and 25 Senate Democrats voted for SB 5096 in 2021. This bill launches a “starter income tax” on capital gains. It also triggered a lawsuit that could open the door to a big, broad income tax with no voter approval required.
- Gov. Jay Inslee signed the bill into law, despite campaign promises to oppose an income tax.
- From 1985 to 2020, 103 income-tax bills were introduced in the Washington Legislature, 90 by Democrats. (Most Republican bills were filed for procedural reasons.)
- Five of the last five Democratic governors either declared support for an income tax or have co-sponsored legislation to create one.
- Prior to passage of the 2021 income tax bill, 75 percent of the members of the Senate Democratic Caucus 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.
- 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)

From 2013 to 2020, Gov. Jay Inslee proposed **\$24 billion** in new taxes, and signed every new tax passed by the Legislature. Inslee was a leading advocate for the income tax legislation.