

# AGENDA REQUEST FORM

**Return completed form and complete agenda item to the Clerk of the Board  
Yakima County Commissioners' Office, Room 232**

Prepared by:  
Julie Lawrence  
\_\_\_\_\_

Department: Commissioner

Requested Agenda Date: 08/17/2021

Presenting: \_\_\_\_\_

Document Title:

*Board of County Commissioners Record Assigned*  
#  
**195-2021**

**APPROVED FOR AGENDA:**  
 Consent                       Regular  
*Board of County Commissioners Determined*

Prohibiting Local income tax on Wages, Salaries, Investments, The Sale of Goods or Services or any other Income Source

Action Requested: *Check Applicable Box*

PASS RESOLUTION       EXECUTE or AMEND **AGREEMENT** CONTRACT or GRANT  
 ISSUE PROCLAMATION    PASS ORDINANCE    OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

Describe Fiscal Impact:  
None \$0

Background Information:

Summary & Recommendation:

Motion:

Department Head/ Elected Official

**AGREEMENT** Attached Is Approved as to Form  
Corporate Counsel Initial

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*Late Agenda Requests Require BOCC Chairman Signature:*  
\_\_\_\_\_

**BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

IN THE MATTER OF PROHIBITING  
A LOCAL INCOME TAX ON WAGES,  
SALARIES, INVESTMENTS, THE SALE  
OF GOODS OR SERVICES OR ANY  
OTHER INCOME SOURCE

**195-2021**

**WHEREAS**, Article VII, § 1 of the Washington State Constitution establishes the basic framework for taxation in the state of Washington, including what shall be permitted as a tax;

**WHEREAS**, after the City of Seattle attempted to enact an income tax on certain individuals applicable within its municipal boundaries, the Washington State Court of Appeals, Division I ruled in *Kunath v. City of Seattle*, 10 Wash. App. 2d 205 (2019) that such a tax, when selectively applied, was unconstitutional and invalid, and also invalidated the statutory prohibitions on local governments from imposing a flat income tax; and

**WHEREAS**, the Washington State Supreme Court denied the appeal of the *Kunath* case such that the ruling stands at this time; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Yakima County Commissioners desires to declare its position regarding the potential for local governments to impose a local income tax on its residents and businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, businesses large and small provide the economic lifeblood in our County, the region, state and country; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Yakima County Commissioners knows that a strong and encouraging business climate is one of the best ways to attract and retain good businesses to employ people in family wage jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, imposing a local income tax may generate additional revenue in the short term, it would most likely result in less long-term revenue due to the dampening effect it would have on our businesses;

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Board of Yakima County Commissioners hereby declares and resolves as follows:

**Section 1.** Board of County Commissioners hereby declares that the imposition of a local income tax on the businesses and residents of unincorporated Yakima County is prohibited. Such a tax would be in direct conflict with the high value the County places on promoting economic development through the attraction and expansion of financially healthy, family wage paying employers. Small businesses are the backbone of our local, regional, state, and national economy and it is imperative that the County not put unnecessary hurdles in the way of their success. As such, the Board of Yakima County Commissioners prohibits the imposition of a local income tax

in the event a local income tax is determined legal and permissible by the Washington State Legislature or the Washington State Supreme Court.

**Section 2.** Effective Date: This Resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

DONE this ~~AUG 17 2021~~ day of August 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ron Anderson, Chairman

*Attest:*  
Julie Lawrence

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amanda McKinney, Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
LaDon Linde, Commissioner

*Constituting the Board of County Commissioners  
for Yakima County, Washington*