

TOGETHER!

Winter 2011-12

TOGETHER!'s vision is that all young people in Thurston County communities are supported, healthy, safe and valued.

TOGETHER!'s mission is to engage and mobilize families, schools and the community to advance the health, safety and success of our youth.


Let us know what you're thinking!

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TOGETHER! is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

'How will the new liquor rules affect me?'

This fall, voters passed Initiative 1183. Among other things, it privatizes Washington's liquor distribution and shutsters the state system. But the details and outcomes aren't clear to everyone. Here's a quick FAQ about what the future holds.

Will liquor prices go up or down?

Prices are expected to go up. The markup could be up to 28 percentage points higher. New fees also may pass on to customers in the retail price.

Drinks with dinner also could suffer. Restaurants lost their 15% quantity discount.

Military and tribal liquor stores may see their prices stay steady.

Where will I be able to buy it?

Liquor will be sold at any retail store that is granted the new permit. Any store over 10,000 square feet (about the size of a Trader Joe's) can apply. They don't have to also sell beer and wine. Licenses go on sale Feb. 8. State stores will all close by June 1.

Will I see the same brand selection that I used to?

Probably not. Stores can only fit a limited number of labels because of limited shelf space. And they might reduce other alcohol selections to accommodate the liquor, so you may lose a favorite beer or wine, too.

Are there safety risks or concerns?

Definitely. Research has linked privatization to major increases in liquor availability and alcohol-related harm, like high-risk drinking, excessive consumption, and related health and social problems. Also, youth access will increase. In state liquor stores, no-sale-to-minors compliance rates are 94%, among



Suits Call Legality into Question

There are currently 3 lawsuits pending, claiming I-1183 is unconstitutional.

If any of these cases wins, the initiative will be repealed. The first one goes to hearing March 5 in Cowlitz County.

the highest in the nation. But the private sector's compliance rate is less than 77%. So now liquor could be available to 1 in 4 minors. I-1183 doesn't include training for employees to prevent youth access, or money for more enforcement agents.

Will cities and the state have more money now?

It's a mixed bag. Revenue will increase, but costs will increase, too.

Cities should get more money. Some of the revenue from I-1183 is designated to go to local services.

The state budget did stand to gain from the initiative, too. Unfortunately, other factors may wipe that out: other initiatives that must be paid for, and a worse-than-expected revenue forecast.

Also, harms from increased consumption could cost society millions of dollars a year in medical costs, lost work, criminal justice system funding and more.

Information from the state Office of Financial Management, Washington State Liquor Control Board, Secretary of State's Office, The Olympian, and Washington Association for Substance Abuse and Violence Prevention.

Cheer on the Champions in Our Community

Annual Event is Heartwarming and Fun

The Champions for Kids Celebration is an annual event in which TOGETHER! and its community partners recognize those individuals in our community who go above and beyond in their dedication to youth and children. We've been celebrating our community's Champions for Kids each winter since 2002!

What is a Champion for Kids? Champions are individuals who help us make our community one in which children and youth are supported, healthy, safe and valued. They provide a direct service to youth,

are a positive role model, volunteer or exhibit a dedication beyond their employment.

This year's Celebration is in Saint Martin's Pavilion. Individual seats for \$50 and tables of 8 for \$400 are available. Register at www.ThurstonTOGETHER.org. Event includes dinner, entertainment and recognition of the Champions.

To sponsor a Champion, contact Diane at 360-493-2230 x15, or dpieroni@ThurstonTOGETHER.org.



A few of of 2011's Champions for Kids

Kickoff Time: Get Ready for the Big Game ... and Have Your Say about the Ads

We know that the more that youth are exposed to alcohol advertising, the more likely they are to drink while still underage.



In a survey, 75% of those ages 18 to 34 said they plan to watch the Super Bowl (about 18% of a Super Bowl viewing audience is under 21). Nearly 2/3 of this group have smartphones and plan to use them during the game,

Survey: www.drugfreeactionalliance.org/bigbowlvote
Twitter: Tweet about ads, or follow live @DrugFreeAction

often to rewatch the commercials.

Knowing those facts, it's scary to think how many commercials during the Big Game are for alcohol, and how popular those ads are. The most anticipated ads by those planning to watch the game: those for Budweiser and Bud Light.

Big Bowl Vote: Talk about Ads

Get in the game! Tweens and teens can participate in the Big Bowl Vote, a 2-question survey they take after the game. The Drug Free Action Alliance compiles the results and uses them to educate about the effects of alcohol ads on youth.

More ways to get news

TOGETHER! sends out eShare, a shorter, news-focused email newsletter, once a month. If you wish to join that mailing list, go to www.ThurstonTogether.org and click on "Newsletters."

This printed newsletter is produced twice yearly, for summer and winter. If you no longer wish to receive it, send an email to dkoenig@ThurstonTogether.org or call 360-493-2230, ext. 20.



Did you know...?

- **Kids who learn** a lot about the risks of drugs and alcohol from their parents are up to 50% less likely to use than those who do not.
- **Percentage of Americans** who regularly use marijuana: 6.9% (17.4 million)
- **Almost 1.6 million kids** live in Washington. Thurston County has 58,122 of them.
- **After you quit smoking cigarettes**, it takes 12 hours for carbon monoxide levels in your blood to drop to normal, but it takes 15 years for your risk of coronary heart disease to get back to that of a nonsmoker.
- **Need to explain** to your teen why you don't want him/her drinking or using drugs? Find suggested language at drugfree.org/prevent. Back up your talk using teenbrain.drugfree.org.
- **DUI arrests in Thurston County** were at more than 1,400 in 2011, almost 200 more than the previous year.
- **The risk of heart attack** is 5 times higher than usual in the hour after smoking marijuana, according to Harvard University researchers.
- **The smoking cessation medication** Chantix is being tested as a possible treatment for addiction to alcohol, cocaine and meth. Final results are expected in 2017.

I-502: Marijuana Legalization Would Affect Teens

In the 2012 session, the Washington State Legislature will look at Initiative 502, which would decriminalize to a certain extent the possession and growing/distribution of marijuana. They can pass it, or send it to voters.

TOGETHER! opposes legalization of any Schedule I narcotics (this includes marijuana).

Here are some reasons why this measure would be dangerous to pass into law:

- **Legalization increases youth use.** Marijuana use rates among youth ages 12 to 17 are higher in states with medical marijuana laws (8.6%) than in states without such laws (6.9%). The highest percentage of underage past-month marijuana users occurs in states with medical marijuana laws.
- **Usage increases lung danger.** A joint has four times as much tar as a tobacco cigarette. There's more Benzo[a]pyrene (a major cancer-causing chemical) in marijuana than in cigarettes. Increased use means increased health problems, and a bigger medical bill for the state.
- **Marijuana is a major cause of highway accidents.** It's the second most common drug factor in crashes, according to the National Highway Traffic

Safety Administration. Drivers who test positive for marijuana, or report that they've used, are more than twice as likely as other drivers to be involved in car wrecks.

What will happen with increased youth use?

- **Grades will suffer.** Washington students who use marijuana are more than twice as likely to get mostly C's, D's and F's on report cards (51% of those who use; 23% of those who don't).
- **Youth addiction rates will rise.** Marijuana dependence accounted for 62% of youth admissions to Washington state treatment programs. This will probably go up. Also, early use is a contributor to addiction later in life.
- **More depression, other mental health troubles.** Marijuana use is linked with depression, suicidal thoughts and even schizophrenia; weekly use doubles the risk of developing depression and triples the incidence of suicidal thoughts among youth. 26% of Washington state students who don't use marijuana report symptoms of depression, compared with 43% of those who do use it.

Some data from Northwest HIDTA.

Parent Benefits

This fall, we had a barbecue at our Community Center in the Evergreen Villages apartment complex. Several parents got up to speak about how important the Center is to their families.



One single father of three works and goes to school. His kids go straight to the Center

for a couple of hours after school, so he's able to clean the house, make dinner and do his own homework, while the kids get help with theirs at the Center.

All of the stories made us so glad we can make things a little easier for caregivers!

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Find pictures and biographies at www.ThurstonTogether.org.

Make a Difference in Your Community!

Give a tax-deductible contribution to TOGETHER!

Online: www.ThurstonTogether.org

Mail: 418 Carpenter Rd SE, Ste 203

Lacey, WA 98503

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Other ways to help

- Give through your workplace
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- Volunteer your time



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Winter 2011-12 Newsletter

Inside:

- Liquor initiative questions & answers
- Come Celebrate Champions for Kids
- Be a part of a Super Bowl ad report
- Effects of marijuana legalization on youth
- Community Center helps parents, too
- More!

Coming Up

Register for these events at
www.thurstontogether.org/events

Prevention Policy Day:
Feb. 20, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.,
Capitol Campus and Governor
Hotel, Olympia. Rally at the
Capitol with other youth and
professionals. Talk to policy
makers about work that groups
like yours are doing in the
community. Register yourself or
your youth group.

Meth and More:
Drug Abuse in Our Area:
Apr. 17, 8:30 a.m.
- 4 p.m., Great
Wolf Lodge, Grand
Mound. This training covers the
state of substance abuse in our
area. Professionals share trends,
information, success stories and
more. Lunch included. \$25 until
Feb. 29; after that, entry is \$40.



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