

LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE ON RED LIGHT CAMERAS IN WENATCHEE

- Repeals government-imposed automatic ticketing cameras
- Requires city government to get voter approval if they try again
- Removes profit-motive by limiting fines
- Protects democracy and due process



Proposed Ballot Summary: This measure would prohibit the City of Wenatchee or for-profit companies contracted by Wenatchee to use automatic ticketing cameras to impose fines from camera surveillance unless it's approved by a two-thirds vote of the City Council and a vote of the people at an election. This measure would also limit fines, repeal Ordinances 2009-10/2009-30/Chapter 8.06 allowing automatic ticketing cameras, and require an advisory vote of the people for machines authorized after January, 2009.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF WENATCHEE:

Section 1. New Chapter 8.06. A new chapter 8.06 is hereby added to the Wenatchee Municipal Code to read as follows:

8.06.110 Automatic Ticketing Cameras: The City of Wenatchee and for-profit companies contracted by the City of Wenatchee may not install or use automatic ticketing cameras to impose fines from camera surveillance unless such a system is approved by a two-thirds vote of the City Council and a majority vote of the people at an election.

1. For the purposes of this chapter, "automatic ticketing cameras" means a device that uses a vehicle sensor installed to work in conjunction with an intersection traffic control system, or a speed measuring device, and a camera synchronized to automatically record one or more sequenced photographs, microphotographs, or electronic images of the rear of a motor vehicle at the time the vehicle fails to stop when facing a steady red traffic control signal, or exceeds a speed limit as detected by a speed measuring device.

8.06.120 Fines: if two-thirds of the City Council and a majority of Wenatchee voters at an election approve a system of automatic ticketing cameras to impose fines from camera surveillance, the fine for infractions committed shall be a monetary penalty of no more than the least expensive parking ticket imposed by law enforcement in the city limits of Wenatchee.

Section 2. Chapter 8.06 (Ordinances 2009-10/2009-30 allowing automatic ticketing cameras) is hereby repealed.

Section 3. Advisory Vote: Any ordinance that authorizes the use of automatic ticketing cameras enacted after January 1, 2009, must be put on the ballot as an advisory vote of the people at the next general election.

Section 4. Severability: If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

Proposed Ballot Title: Wenatchee Initiative No. 1 concerns automatic ticketing cameras. This measure would prohibit Wenatchee from using camera surveillance to impose fines unless two-thirds of the Council and voters approve, limit fines, repeal Ordinances 2009-10/2009-30 allowing the machines, and mandate an advisory vote.

Should this measure be enacted into law? Yes [] No []

WARNING

Every person who signs this petition with any other than his or her true name, or who knowingly signs more than one of these petitions, or signs a petition seeking an election when he or she is not a legal voter, or signs a petition when he or she is otherwise not qualified to sign, or who makes herein any false statement, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Concise statement of the action or relief sought: We, the undersigned voters of Wenatchee, require that, unless passed by the City Council, this ordinance -- Wenatchee Initiative No. 1 -- be submitted to a vote of the registered voters of the city of Wenatchee, subject to the requirements of Wenatchee Municipal Code Chapter 1.03 and RCW 35A.11.080-.100.

Print Name (Wenatchee voters ONLY)	Signature	Address	City	Date
1. <input type="text"/>			Wenatchee	
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Automatic Ticketing Cameras

- **There is insufficient and even contrary evidence of the moral high ground of improving safety being on the side of the automatic ticketing red-light cameras.**
- **Numerous long-term studies show automatic ticketing red-light cameras ineffectual at improving safety, while perhaps even being actually contrary to safety.**
- **Wenatchee's own experience shows that automatic ticketing red-light cameras are proving ineffective at lowering incidence of a dangerous activity, the running of red lights.**
- **The city council gave us automatic ticketing cameras, cameras which are proving effective in adding revenue to the city's coffers.**
- **It is now time for Wenatchee voters to say whether We The People want automatic ticketing cameras.**

In a December 30, 2010 Wenatchee World editorial, Editorial Page Editor Tracy Warner detailed that red-light violations "have remained fairly steady" since the introduction of automatic ticketing cameras in Wenatchee last summer. Some seven hundred \$124 tickets a month are issued in Wenatchee; a number "the city does not expect...to decline further".

The obvious point should be that if red light violations do not decline further, but remain "steady", then the supposed purpose of the automated ticketing camera program—to deter dangerous violations—has failed.

Wenatchee World staff writer Dee Riggs reported red light violation numbers for individual intersections from August through November in her December 27, 2010 World story:

- 1,229 for the intersection of Kittitas and Mission streets
- 1,005 for Chelan and Orondo avenues
- 514 for Chelan Avenue and Fifth Street

That violation statistics vary over 2:1 at differing intersections in the same city within the same driver pool provides compelling evidence that factors outside of driver aptitude or attitude are involved; perhaps the real value of

the cameras is to document traffic engineering problems the city must resolve, at least if safety is truly their objective.

Sadly, council members actually now have the perverse incentive to ignore safety so they can continue "collecting money" to fill budget shortfalls.

This dichotomy is perhaps one reason numerous transportation studies of automatic ticketing red-light camera programs in jurisdictions with a long history of the cameras conclude, as did a 2008 University of South Florida study, that there is "a safety argument not to install them".

A 2004 North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University study for the U.S. Department of Transportation concluded that results data "do not support the view that red light cameras reduce crashes". Further, they found that red-light cameras have a "statistically significant" increase on accidents, especially rear-end crashes (as people brake hard to avoid tickets).

Other arguments to be discussed beyond challenging incorrect safety assumptions of automatic ticketing cameras include government invasion into citizen's privacy posed by the proliferation of cameras and the contracting of a police function to private industry, including the sharing of personal information.

Automatic ticketing cameras ignore possible mitigating factors which a uniformed officer witnessing the transaction would take into account, while denying one's right to face one's accuser.

If you are a registered voter living within Wenatchee's city limits, please sign our petition so We The People can speak & be counted, demanding an Initiative be placed on an upcoming city ballot.



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Petitions available online at:

www.WeThePeopleofWenatchee.org