



The Starting Place:

Washington State Law Library's quarterly e-newsletter

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Serving the legal information needs of the citizens of Washington State

Initiative or Referendum, What's the Difference?

This November, voters in Washington will be asked to decide one initiative ([I-1033](#)) and one referendum ([R-71](#)). What's the difference between an Initiative and a Referendum?

Initiatives

There are two types of initiatives, Initiatives to the People, and Initiatives to the Legislature. Both initiatives start with petitions signed by registered voters. If at least 241,153 valid signatures are submitted to the Secretary of State's Office, an Initiative to the People will be placed on the November ballot. I-1033 is an Initiative to the People.

The same number of signatures are required for an Initiative to the Legislature, which will be submitted to the Legislature at its regular session the following January (i.e. Jan. 2010).

Referenda

There are also two types of referenda, Referendum Measures and Referendum Bills. Both referenda start with bills in the Legislature. Once a bill is passed by the Legislature, and before it becomes law, if enough registered voters sign petitions, the Referendum Measure is placed on the ballot the following general election. I-71 is a Referendum Measure.

Referendum Bills differ in that the Legislature decides to put the bill before voters in the November general election.

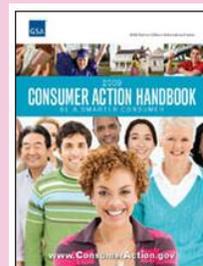
[Click here for more information on elections.](#)

R-71 in Court

The [Washington Secretary of State's Office](#) has conveniently gathered information on its website regarding R-71 litigation in [federal court](#) as well as [King County Superior Court](#) and [Thurston County Superior Court](#).

Vishing

We have all heard warnings about "phishing", but "vishing"? According to page 42 of the [Consumer Action Handbook](#), "Fraudulent telephone calls that use pirated recordings of telephone services from well-known financial institutions are known as 'vishing.' The object is to trick you into believing your bank is calling to confirm personal information such as account numbers, PINs and passwords. Your answers are recorded and the information is then used for identity theft."



Click on the image to view the entire handbook. Beware: this is a 14 MB document.

CTED is now the Department of Commerce:

In 2009, the Wash. State Legislature did away with the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED). In its place is the newly created Washington State Department of Commerce.

According to its website "The Washington State Department of Commerce is the lead agency charged with enhancing and promoting sustainable communities and economic vitality in our state."

More information about changes to the department can be found at <http://www.commerce.wa.gov/>.

Of Interest:

Can't figure out what that acronym stands for? Try using: <http://www.acronymfinder.com/>.

Microsoft Office's [Help & How-to Page](#) includes [The Accessibility Advocate](#), with articles on making Microsoft Office work with your disability, not against it. For example, "Corrective Lenses for the Colorblind" explains how applications in Word 2007 group complementary colors. This grouping differentiates colors to the colorblind, even though they look all the same to you.

[Forms.gov](#) provides a one stop shop for federal agency forms.

New Books:

[American Indian Law in a Nutshell](#), 5th ed., West, 2009
Call #: KF8205.Z9 C36 2009

[Black's Law Dictionary](#), 9th ed., West, 2009
Located at each reference desk.

[Real Estate Finance in a Nutshell](#), 6th ed., West, 2009
Call #: KF695.Z9 B78 2009

[A Revenue Guide for Washington Cities and Towns](#), Municipal Research Services Center
Call #: KF6750.R4 2009

Introduction to the Law Library:

Want more information about how our library may assist you? Schedule a tour! We will be happy to show off our beautiful library, introduce you to the collection, and give an explanation of our services.

Can't make it to us? We will come to you! Reference staff will visit you and your co-workers at your Olympia area office for a presentation tailored to your research needs.

Washington State Law Library

Temple of Justice
415 12th Ave. SW
Olympia, WA 98501

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Email us at: library.requests@courts.wa.gov
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Chat hours: 10 am -1 pm, M-F

Hours: 8 am-5 pm, M-F
Phone: (360) 357-2136
Fax: (360) 357-2153

Editor: Jennifer Laine, (360) 357-2136
Comments Welcome!