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BALLOT INITIATIVES - WASHINGTON

Protect Public Health v. Freed

Supreme Court of Washington - December 6, 2018 - P.3d - 2018 WL 6380671

Nonprofit organization consisting of public health professionals and community members sought declaratory and injunctive relief, seeking to preclude county from placing on the ballot proposed initiative that would have banned public funding for community health engagement location sites.

The Superior Court enjoined initiative from ballot. Sponsor of initiative appealed.

The Supreme Court of Washington held that proposed initiative fell outside scope of local initiative power.

Proposed initiative that would have banned public funding for community health engagement location sites, also known as "safe injection sites," fell outside scope of local initiative power; restrictions improperly interfered with legislative authority of county council to set budgets and appropriate money for public health work.

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