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LOCAL INITIATIVES - WASHINGTON

Jewels Helping Hands v. Hansen

Supreme Court of Washington, En Banc - April 17, 2025 - P.3d - 2025 WL 1132148

Advocates for persons experiencing homelessness brought action against local voter, city, and county, seeking declaratory and injunctive relief against local initiative that sought to expand locations in city where camping was banned regardless of whether shelter space was available, on grounds that initiative exceeded scope of local initiative power.

The Superior Court dismissed the complaint. Advocates appealed, and the Court of Appeals affirmed. The Supreme Court granted review.

The Supreme Court held that:

- Trial court ruling was appealable, and
- Initiative was impermissibly administrative, and thus fell outside the scope of local initiative power.

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