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WHAT NEXT FOR FIRE STATION?



Community activist Omari Tahir Garrett and other community members listen to a discussion of what should be done with Fire Station 6 after it closes in November. The city held a public meeting Oct. 17 at Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center to discuss the future of the building which is a historical landmark. Several groups made proposals including turning the building into a low to no cost Holistic Community Healthcare Clinic, the Umoja Fest Peace Center, a cultural facility or a black fire fighter's museum.

Big Fight for Gov's Race

Campaign is one of the most competitive races in the nation

By Rachel La Corte The Associated Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) — A new poll released Thursday shows an exceptionally close race between Democrat Jay Inslee and Republican Rob McKenna in the final stretch of a campaign that's considered to be one of the most competitive gubernatorial contests in the nation.

The KCTS 9 Washington poll showed Inslee with a 47.9 percent to 44.7 percent lead over McKenna among registered voters, with 7.5 percent undecided. Among likely voters, Inslee and McKenna are nearly even, with Inslee holding just a 47.1 percent to 46.3 percent advantage over McKenna, with 6.6 percent undecided. In both camps, the numbers are within the margin of error, showing that the race continues to be very close.

"The governor's race is just an absolute tossup right now," said Matt Barreto, director of the poll. "This makes it really interesting."

The telephone survey was conducted Oct. 1-16, sampling a total of 782 registered voters across the state, 644 of whom were considered likely voters. The margin of error for all voters is 3.5 percent; for likely voters, 3.9 percent.

The poll, conducted by the University of Washington, also found voters supporting four ballot measures dealing with gay marriage, legalizing marijuana, approving charter schools and limiting taxes.

Referendum 74 asks voters to either approve or reject a gay marriage law that was passed by the Legislature earlier this year. That law is on hold pending next month's vote. The poll showed that 56.3 percent of registered voters back gay marriage in the state, compared to 35.6 percent who oppose it, with 6.1 percent undecided. Among likely voters, support decreased to 54.1 percent, with 38.4 percent saying they would vote against the measure, and 5.7

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Eyman Seeks Taxing Restrictions

Perennial anti-tax crusader tries again with legislative majority rule

By Manuel Valdes The Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Anti-tax crusader Tim Eyman's initiative to renew the two-thirds legislative majority requirement to create new taxes is on the ballot again this November.

This time, however, Initiative 1185 is seeing little resistance.

Opponents say they don't have as much money to combat it as they did in the past, partly because there is a stiff competition for donor dollars at a time

when there are numerous other initiatives on the ballot — such as legalizing pot and gay marriage.

"There aren't new donors. There are more issues to cover," said No On 1185 campaign manager Brianna Thomas.

The two-thirds restriction has become the bane of Democrats and their allies, but so far opponents have only raised about \$80,000. They raised \$1.6 million in 2010, but their effort didn't persuade voters to vote down the measure.

This year, Eyman and his partners in the beer, oil and restaurant industries raised nearly \$1.3 million and gathered the signatures to put it on the ballot.

Even as the ballot measure is facing little resistance, the main fight over the two-thirds restriction is happening in the state Supreme Court.

Justices are mulling a decision against the rule based on the state's constitutional duty to fund education. Arguments from both sides were presented in September. A ruling is not

expected for months.

In the last two tries, voters have sided with Eyman, approving his initiative in 2010 with 64 percent of the vote. So far, Initiative 1185 has been polling well.

Since the 1990s, the two-thirds restriction has been approved four times.

Since Eyman took over sponsoring it in 2007, he has taken to filing the initiative every other year to deter lawmakers from suspending the two-thirds

Some Mail-In Ballots Need 2 Stamps

But Postal Service says all will be delivered no matter what

By Doug Esser The Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — As more than 3 million Washington voters finish filling out their ballots in the state's first presidential all-mail election, some should put two stamps on envelopes in counties where the ballot weighs more than an ounce.

But don't worry if the postage is short; the

Postal Service always delivers.

Kitsap County ballots, for example, need two stamps. Its counting equipment requires heavier paper stock, said Auditor Walter Washington.

If two stamps are a problem for voters, they can leave ballots in drop boxes, he said.

All 39 counties have a least two drop boxes, said Sheryl Moss, certification and training program manager in the Elections

Division of the secretary of state's office.

Ballots vary by county and the state leaves it up to counties to deal with the post office, she said.

"We will deliver to every election office whether they have sufficient postage or not," said Postal Service spokesman Ernie Swanson. "They will make up the differ-

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