



WASHINGTON  
COUNCIL  
OF  
POLICE &  
SHERIFFS

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Contact: WACOPS President Craig Bulkley  
360.352.8224  
[cbulkley@wacops.org](mailto:cbulkley@wacops.org)

On June 27, 2014, the WACOPS membership voted to take a position on Initiatives 591 and 594. The votes were taken following presentations from both sides of the issues and debate amongst the membership about the ramifications and consequences of the initiatives.

### **Initiative 591**

WACOPS **Supports** this initiative which says that it is unlawful for any government agency to require background checks on the recipient of a firearm unless a uniform national standard is required. And that it is unlawful for any government agency to confiscate guns or other firearms from citizens without due process.

- This measure protects background check uniformity, allows the debate to continue on the federal level, and will allow WA state standards to change if, or when, federal standards change.

### **Initiative 594**

WACOPS **Opposes** this 18-page initiative that would require background checks for most sales, transfers, and loans of all firearms.

- This measure is being billed as a public safety measure but we, as law enforcement officers, do not believe that this will keep guns out of the hands of criminals or the mentally ill. They will continue to ignore the law and engage in black market transactions.
- The responsibility for enforcing this law - conducting background checks, investigating, and arresting citizens who do not comply - will fall on law enforcement diverting already scarce resources.
- The restrictive compliance measures for transfers and loans of guns will cause law abiding citizens to unintentionally commit crimes and possibly be convicted of gross misdemeanors or Class C felonies.
- There is debate as to whether this measure creates a gun registry. If it does not, the background checks are useless for enforcement. If it does, it is an infringement on the privacy rights of gun owners.