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Two Panel Discussions on Marijuana Initiative 502 to Inform Voters on “Issues That Matter”

Marysville, Wash. — Before voters mark their ballots in November, they have the opportunity to be informed on issues that matter through Sno-Isle Libraries. Voters can hear the pros and cons on the hot topic of marijuana reform Initiative 502 at two panel discussions in May:

- Tuesday, May 8
7:00 – 8:30 pm
Monroe Galaxy Theatres
One Galaxy Way, Monroe
- Tuesday, May 15
7:00 – 8:30 pm
Whidbey Island Center for the Arts
565 Camano Ave., Langley

Panelists will include representatives from:

- New Approach Washington
- Washington Association for Substance Abuse and Violence Prevention
- No on I-502

Audience members will have the opportunity to submit questions through a moderator. Both events are free and open to the public; first come, first seated.

Why would a public library create a forum to discuss whether pot is legal or not?
“Public libraries have long used their unique community status to fuel authentic dialogue and

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discourse,” said Sno-Isle Libraries Board Chair Jackie DeFazio. “We serve a vital public interest in ensuring the free flow of information, knowledge and full social equity for all residents of Snohomish and Island counties.”

According to results from library district-wide surveys in late 2011, more than 54% of non-library users and 65% of library customers felt library-sponsored meetings to discuss issues of critical importance were of high value.

These panel discussions are part of Sno-Isle Libraries’ “Issues That Matter: Be an Informed Voter” series of programs that encourage important community conversations on high-profile, current event topics. “Issues That Matter” programs are supported by the Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation.

Controversial Initiative 502 would "license and regulate marijuana production, distribution, and possession for persons over twenty-one; remove state-law criminal and civil penalties for activities that it authorizes; tax marijuana sales; and earmark marijuana-related revenues."

There are many sides to this complex issue. Learn more about the legalization of marijuana through library resources such as books, credible research databases, and third party websites hand-selected by librarians: <http://www.sno-isle.org/explore/issuesthatmatter/>.

About Sno-Isle Libraries

Sno-Isle Libraries serves 671,000 residents in Snohomish and Island counties. Sno-Isle has community libraries in Arlington, Brier, Camano Island, Clinton, Coupeville, Darrington, Edmonds, Freeland, Granite Falls, Lake Stevens, Langley, Lynnwood, Marysville, Mill Creek, Monroe, Mountlake Terrace, Mukilteo, Oak Harbor, Snohomish, Stanwood, and Sultan, as well as bookmobile stops in communities and at senior centers. Services and materials include more than 1.2 million items, reference services, electronic databases and computer equipment, Internet access, outreach programs for the homebound and local daycares, and story times for children. For more information on library services in your area, please call the Sno-Isle Libraries

Service Center at 360-651-7000 or 1-877-SNO-ISLE (1-877-766-4753), or visit the website at www.sno-isle.org.

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