

Governor Jay Inslee's broken promise on tax increases

An interview with Governor-elect Jay Inslee | Up Front | Nov. 18, 2012

<http://www.king5.com/news/up-front/An-interview-with-Jay-Inslee-179868221.html>

Robert Mak: Let me ask you, if the Governor [Gregoire] puts forward a tax proposal, and, if the Legislature in its wisdom decides that it wants to vote for it and pass it, are you telling the Legislature that you would veto a tax increase?

Inslee: What I'm saying is I hope to lead an effort to grow our economy so that that is not necessary.

Washington's next governor: One-on-One with Jay Inslee | Q-13 | Nov. 15, 2012

<http://q13fox.com/2012/11/15/washingtons-next-governor-one-on-one-with-jay-inslee/>

Matt Lorch: Do you rule out raising taxes?

Inslee: I don't believe that we should do other than what I am suggesting, which is job creation and revenue growth and getting people back to work.

Inslee unshaken on no-new-taxes promise | Crosscut | Nov. 14, 2012

<http://crosscut.com/2012/11/14/olympia-journal/111494/inslee-press-conference/>

At a Wednesday press conference in Seattle, three reporters challenged Inslee on that plank of his candidacy for governor. Each time, he cited his campaign promise that the Legislature can raise money to meet a Washington Supreme Court mandate to increase school funding by creating enough new jobs to generate more state revenue — and without raising taxes.

"I think economic growth is the best way forward," **Inslee** said.

Debate | KING-TV | Oct. 16, 2012

Inslee: "And I don't believe that tax increases are the right, uh, route forward for our state."

Debate | Yakima | Oct. 3, 2012

Inslee: "Under my plan, it should not be necessary to address that issue because on my plan we're not going to request additional taxes."

Debate | Spokane | June 12, 2012

Moderator: "If elected governor, are you prepared to ask voters to support a new tax for schools?"

Inslee: "Uh, no."

Inslee says he'd veto tax increases | Seattle Times | Oct. 11, 2012

<http://blogs.seattletimes.com/politicsnorthwest/2012/10/12/inslee-says-hed-veto-tax-increases/>

One of the most newsworthy moments of Thursday night's gubernatorial debate came after the debate was over.

In a post-debate news conference, Democrat Jay Inslee was pressed on whether he'd veto any tax increases sent to him by the Legislature. It was a logical follow-up for **Inslee**, who has repeatedly said he does not favor tax increases, but has been challenged on that by Republican Rob McKenna, who predicts Inslee would sign tax increases passed by his Democratic allies in Olympia.

But at the news conference, after dancing around the question for a while, Inslee made a pretty clear promise to veto tax increases.

"I would veto anything that heads the wrong direction and the wrong direction is new taxes in the state of Washington," Inslee said.

Inslee could be putting himself in a box with that statement, as some top Democrats and education groups have insisted that new taxes are the only realistic way to raise enough money to adequately fund public schools and universities. And Republicans will no doubt remind voters that Democratic candidates for governor have a history of opposing tax increases during their campaigns, only to have a change of heart once in office. (Of course, the last governor to raise the state's biggest tax source, the sales tax, was a Republican, John Spellman, in the 1980s.)

It's also worth remembering that Inslee has said he's against the voter-approved requirement that two-thirds of the Legislature approve any tax increases (that's up for a vote again this year in Initiative 1185.) He favors a simple majority requirement for taxes.

But after last night, **Inslee** is solidly on the record. If elected, he'll have to keep his tax-veto promise or take the heat if he busts it.