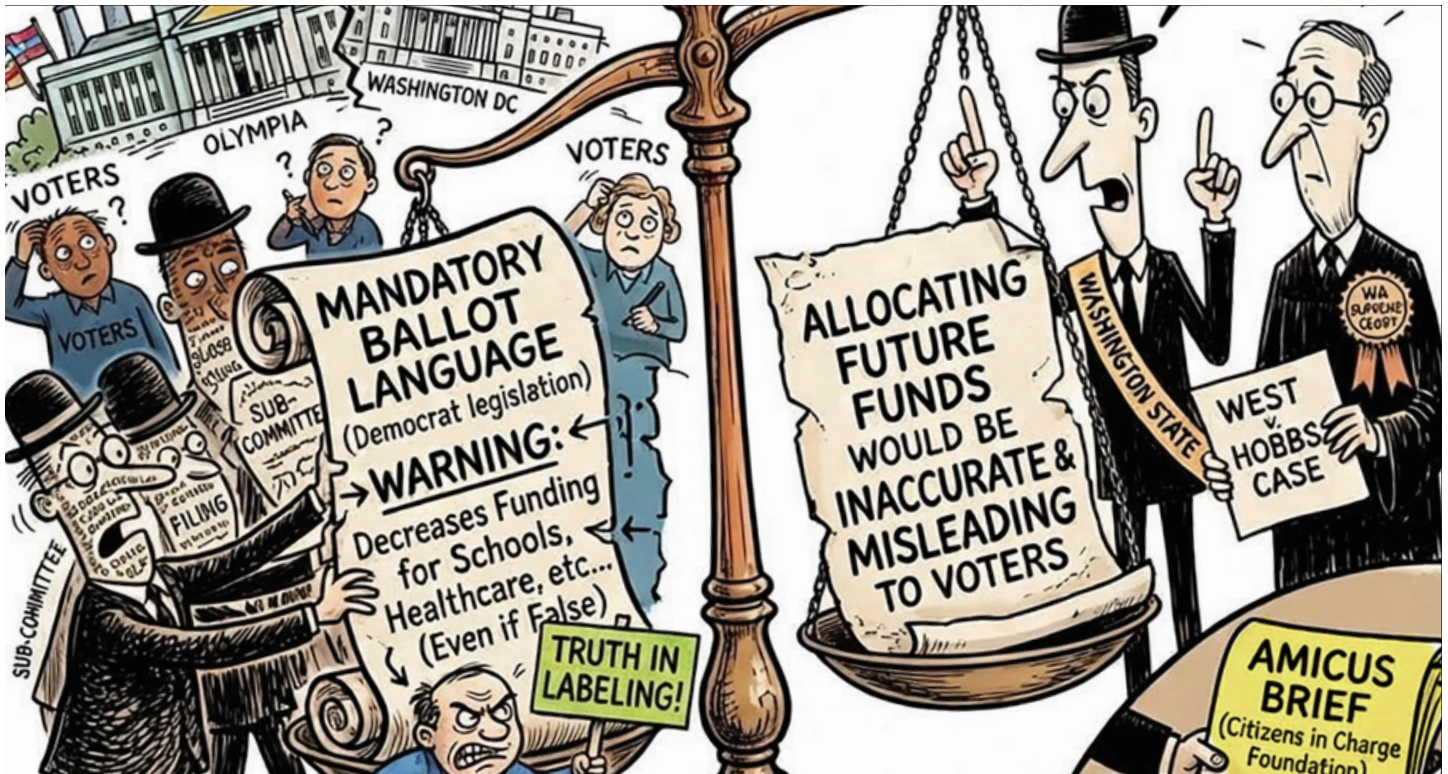




Tellingly Two-Faced

August 20, 2026

The Attorney General's office in Washington wants it both ways.

That's Washington *the state*, and I'm referring to [an important case](#) about the language state officials must use on the ballot to explain initiative measures to voters. The case (*Arthur West, a citizen, v. Steve Hobbs, the Secretary of State*) is now before the state's highest court.

Democrats legislated that any initiative *decreasing* taxes must contain this wording on the ballot: "This measure would decrease funding for public K-12 education, higher education (including universities and community colleges), and human services (primarily healthcare)."

In fact, that assertion, by law, must be placed right before voters are asked to vote: Yes or No?

Even though it isn't, well, *true*.

Consider Proposition 645, the initiative to repeal an income tax hike on "evil" millionaires: it doesn't specifically cut *any* of these government service categories that voters are being told it does. That's not even in dispute.

What spending legislators cut to compensate for decreased tax revenues is at the discretion of, obviously, those legislators.

Last week, the AG's office argued in a different case heard in the same courthouse on the same day: "Indicating how funds in the general fund will be allocated in the future would be both inaccurate and misleading to the voters."

Wait . . . that concedes Mr. West's whole point in seeking an injunction against the now admittedly "inaccurate and misleading" anti-tax cut language.

On Monday, Citizens in Charge Foundation filed an [amicus brief](#) in the Washington Supreme Court explaining that the Evergreen State's constitution permits only legislative acts "facilitating" the process.

"Misleading the public about the consequence of a ballot measure does not 'facilitate' its consideration," we argue, "it undermines it."

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.

* As president of Citizens in Charge Foundation, I made a legal [declaration](#) in this case, previously, surveying ballot language policies across the ballot initiative states and pointing out that this law makes Washington state an outlier.