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YWCA Olympia endorses De-Escalate Washington (I-940)

The tragic deaths of individuals at the hands of police here in Washington as well as across the nation, demand that we call for change, accountability, and ongoing training for law enforcement. For these reasons and in alignment with YWCA Olympia's advocacy agenda focused on racial justice, health and safety, and economic advancement, we endorse I-940, De-Escalate Washington.

Ballot Measure Summary

This measure would require all law enforcement officers in Washington State to receive violence de-escalation and mental health training, as developed by the Criminal Justice Training Commission. It would require law enforcement personnel to provide first-aid to save lives and require law enforcement agencies to adopt guidelines for implementing this duty. It would amend the standard for justifiable use of deadly force by law enforcement, including adding a “good faith” standard and requiring independent investigation.

The initiative needs to submit 260,000 signatures by Dec. 29, 2017 to go to state lawmakers for the 2018 legislative session. Lawmakers could then approve I-940, deny it (in which case it would go on the 2018 ballot), or amend the proposal (in which case both the original and amended version would go to voters). You can sign the initiative petition at the YWCA Olympia and learn more about I-940 here: <http://www.deescalatewa.org/>