“Money doesn’t grow on trees” is what parents tell their teenagers when they beg for cars, clothes or funding for a hot date, but money would have to start growing from trees if King County passed Tim Eyman’s Initiative 1033.

In theory, his proposal sounds promising for the city’s struggling families. A tax break and extra money during the recession? Yes, please!

However, with huge cuts already, I-1033 would cut even deeper into the county’s budget.
The state Office of Financial Management predicts a $5.9 billion budget loss the next six years if the initiative passes.

What would happen to the county’s education system? Or healthcare? Criminal justice?

A similar promise of tax relief appeared on the ballot for Colorado voters in 1992. After the bill passed, Colorado dropped to the 49th state for funding of K-12 education. Higher education funding was cut 39 percent. Teacher salaries and high-school graduation rates plummeted.

Colorado became an undesirable place to live.

Finally, the bill was suspended in 2005.

While some might think that the government has been irresponsible with its spending, is it worth the risk of damaging our public-education system?

In addition to that, is wasteful spending even possible during a nation-wide financial crisis?

I-1033 couldn’t have come at a worse time.
Governments are still in the processing of recovering from the recession. Even more budget cuts could potentially cripple public services.

Current King County Executive Kurt Triplett describes the initiative as a “black-hole.”

“The gravity of this is going to slowly start to move us, and then it’s going to pull us in and destroy us,” he said.

Seattle is a progressive city, and it is expected to continue growing and becoming better even throughout the recession.

However, in order to keep up with demands to improve education, to make transportation more efficient and to increase sustainability, money would have to start falling from the trees faster than the fall leaves.