
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4234

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

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By Representatives G. Cole, Brough, Peery, Jacobsen, Brumsickle, Winsley, Dorn, Franklin, Orr, J. Kohl, Pruitt, Sheldon, Spanel, O'Brien, Brekke, Nelson and Anderson

Read first time 01/20/92. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2 STATE OF WASHINGTON, IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION ASSEMBLED:

3 THAT, At the next general election to be held in this state there
4 shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the state for their
5 approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to Article VII,
6 section 2 of the Constitution of the state of Washington to read as
7 follows:

8 Article VII, section 2. Except as hereinafter provided and
9 notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, the aggregate
10 of all tax levies upon real and personal property by the state and all
11 taxing districts now existing or hereafter created, shall not in any
12 year exceed one per centum of the true and fair value of such property
13 in money: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That nothing herein shall prevent levies
14 at the rates now provided by law by or for any port or public utility
15 district. The term "taxing district" for the purposes of this section

1 shall mean any political subdivision, municipal corporation, district,
2 or other governmental agency authorized by law to levy, or have levied
3 for it, ad valorem taxes on property, other than a port or public
4 utility district. Such aggregate limitation or any specific limitation
5 imposed by law in conformity therewith may be exceeded only

6 (a) By any taxing district when specifically authorized so to do
7 by a majority of at least three-fifths of the electors thereof voting
8 on the proposition to levy such additional tax submitted not more than
9 twelve months prior to the date on which the proposed levy is to be
10 made and not oftener than twice in such twelve month period, either at
11 a special election or at the regular election of such taxing district,
12 at which election the number of persons voting "yes" on the proposition
13 shall constitute three-fifths of a number equal to forty per centum of
14 the total votes cast in such taxing district at the last preceding
15 general election when the number of electors voting on the proposition
16 does not exceed forty per centum of the total votes cast in such taxing
17 district in the last preceding general election; or by a majority of at
18 least three-fifths of the electors thereof voting on the proposition to
19 levy when the number of electors voting on the proposition exceeds
20 forty per centum of the total votes cast in such taxing district in the
21 last preceding general election: PROVIDED, That the only requirement
22 under this subsection concerning the number of electors necessary to
23 approve a proposition to levy an additional tax for the public schools
24 is that three-fifths of the electors voting on the proposition vote
25 "yes": PROVIDED FURTHER, That notwithstanding any other provision of
26 this Constitution, any proposition pursuant to this subsection to levy
27 additional tax for the support of the common schools may provide such
28 support for a two year period and any proposition to levy an additional
29 tax to support the construction, modernization, or remodelling of

1 school facilities may provide such support for a period not exceeding
2 six years;

3 (b) By any taxing district otherwise authorized by law to issue
4 general obligation bonds for capital purposes, for the sole purpose of
5 making the required payments of principal and interest on general
6 obligation bonds issued solely for capital purposes, other than the
7 replacement of equipment, when authorized so to do by majority of at
8 least three-fifths of the electors thereof voting on the proposition to
9 issue such bonds and to pay the principal and interest thereon by an
10 annual tax levy in excess of the limitation herein provided during the
11 term of such bonds, submitted not oftener than twice in any calendar
12 year, at an election held in the manner provided by law for bond
13 elections in such taxing district, at which election the total number
14 of persons voting on the proposition shall constitute not less than
15 forty per centum of the total number of votes cast in such taxing
16 district at the last preceding general election: PROVIDED, That the
17 only requirement under this subsection concerning the number of
18 electors necessary to approve a proposition to levy an additional tax
19 for the public schools is that three-fifths of the electors voting on
20 the proposition vote "yes": PROVIDED FURTHER, That any such taxing
21 district shall have the right by vote of its governing body to refund
22 any general obligation bonds of said district issued for capital
23 purposes only, and to provide for the interest thereon and amortization
24 thereof by annual levies in excess of the tax limitation provided for
25 herein, AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That the provisions of this section shall
26 also be subject to the limitations contained in Article VIII, Section
27 6, of this Constitution;

28 (c) By the state or any taxing district for the purpose of paying
29 the principal or interest on general obligation bonds outstanding on
30 December 6, 1934; or for the purpose of preventing the impairment of

1 the obligation of a contract when ordered so to do by a court of last
2 resort.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause
4 notice of the foregoing constitutional amendment to be published at
5 least four times during the four weeks next preceding the election in
6 every legal newspaper in the state.