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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8209**

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**State of Washington**

**53rd Legislature**

**1993 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Senators Gaspard, Bauer, Haugen, A. Smith, Quigley, Spanel and Pelz; by request of Washington State School Directors Association, Board of Education and Superintendent of Public Instruction)

Read first time 02/17/93.

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 and Article VIII, section 6 of the Constitution of the state  
7 of Washington to read as 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~~) percent of the true and fair value of  
13 such property in money: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That nothing herein shall  
14 prevent levies at the rates now provided by law by or for any port or  
15 public utility district. The term "taxing district" for the purposes  
16 of this section shall mean any political subdivision, municipal  
17 corporation, district, or other governmental agency authorized by law  
18 to levy, or have levied for it, ad valorem taxes on property, other  
19 than a port or public utility district. Such aggregate limitation or

1 any specific limitation imposed by law in conformity therewith may be  
2 exceeded only

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

31 (b) By any taxing district otherwise authorized by law to issue  
32 general obligation bonds for capital purposes, for the sole purpose of  
33 making the required payments of principal and interest on general  
34 obligation bonds issued solely for capital purposes, other than the  
35 replacement of equipment, when authorized so to do by majority of at  
36 least three-fifths of the (~~electors~~) voters thereof voting on the  
37 proposition to issue such bonds and to pay the principal and interest  
38 thereon by an annual tax levy in excess of the limitation herein  
39 provided during the term of such bonds, submitted not oftener than

1 twice in any calendar year, at an election held in the manner provided  
2 by law for bond elections in such taxing district, at which election  
3 the total number of (~~persons~~) voters voting on the proposition shall  
4 constitute not less than forty (~~per centum~~) percent of the total  
5 number of (~~votes cast~~) voters voting in such taxing district at the  
6 last preceding general election: PROVIDED, That any such taxing  
7 district shall have the right by vote of its governing body to refund  
8 any general obligation bonds of said district issued for capital  
9 purposes only, and to provide for the interest thereon and amortization  
10 thereof by annual levies in excess of the tax limitation provided for  
11 herein(~~7~~): PROVIDED FURTHER, That a proposition under this  
12 subsection to levy an additional tax for a school district or library  
13 district is authorized if approved by a majority of the voters voting  
14 on the proposition: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That the provisions of this  
15 section shall also be subject to the limitations contained in Article  
16 VIII, Section 6, of this Constitution;

17 (c) By the state or any taxing district for the purpose of paying  
18 the principal or interest on general obligation bonds outstanding on  
19 December 6, 1934; or for the purpose of preventing the impairment of  
20 the obligation of a contract when ordered so to do by a court of last  
21 resort.

22 Article VIII, section 6. No county, city, town, (~~school~~  
23 ~~district,~~) or other municipal corporation shall for any purpose become  
24 indebted in any manner to an amount exceeding one and one-half (~~per~~  
25 ~~centum~~) percent of the taxable property in such county, city, town,  
26 school district, or other municipal corporation, without the assent of  
27 three-fifths of the voters therein voting at an election to be held for  
28 that purpose, nor in cases requiring such assent shall the total  
29 indebtedness at any time exceed five (~~per centum~~) percent on the  
30 value of the taxable property therein, to be ascertained by the last  
31 assessment for state and county purposes previous to the incurring of  
32 such indebtedness, except that in incorporated cities the assessment  
33 shall be taken from the last assessment for city purposes: PROVIDED,  
34 That no part of the indebtedness allowed in this section shall be  
35 incurred for any purpose other than strictly county, city, town, school  
36 district, or other municipal purposes: PROVIDED FURTHER, That (a) any  
37 city or town, with such assent, may be allowed to become indebted to a  
38 larger amount, but not exceeding five (~~per centum~~) percent additional

1 for supplying such city or town with water, artificial light, and  
2 sewers, when the works for supplying such water, light, and sewers  
3 shall be owned and controlled by the municipality and (b) any school  
4 district (~~(with such assent,)~~) or library district may become indebted  
5 in excess of one and one-half percent of the taxable property in such  
6 district with the assent of a majority of the voters therein voting at  
7 an election to be held for that purpose and school districts may be  
8 allowed to become indebted to a larger amount but not exceeding five  
9 (~~per centum~~) percent additional for capital outlays.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the foregoing amendment shall be  
11 construed as a single amendment within the meaning of Article XXIII,  
12 section 1 of the state Constitution.

13 The legislature finds that the changes contained in the foregoing  
14 amendment constitute a single integrated plan providing for a simple  
15 majority of electors voting to authorize school district and library  
16 district levies and bonds. If the foregoing amendment is held to be  
17 separate amendments, this joint resolution shall be void in its  
18 entirety and shall be of no further force and effect.

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