
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4208

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Wensman, B. Thomas, H. Sommers, Talcott, Cole, Regala, Constantine, Ballasiotes, Radcliff, D. Schmidt, Carlson, Clements, Dyer, Bush, Johnson, Cairnes, Quall, Morris, Keiser, Linville, Sterk, Dunn, Blalock, Hatfield, Dickerson, Conway, Thompson, Scott, Wood, O'Brien, Backlund, Cooke, Costa, Ogden, Cody, Kessler, Kenney, Cooper and Gardner

Read first time 01/31/97. 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 the
4 secretary of state shall submit to the qualified voters of the state
5 for their approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to
6 Article VII, section 2 of the Constitution of the state of Washington
7 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
20 any specific limitation imposed by law in conformity therewith may be
21 exceeded only as follows:

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

27 (b) By any taxing district otherwise authorized by law to issue
28 general obligation bonds for capital purposes, for the sole purpose of
29 making the required payments of principal and interest on general
30 obligation bonds issued solely for capital purposes, other than the
31 replacement of equipment, when authorized so to do by majority of at
32 least three-fifths of the (~~electors thereof~~) voters of the taxing
33 district voting on the proposition to issue such bonds and to pay the
34 principal and interest thereon by (~~an~~) annual tax (~~levy~~) levies in
35 excess of the limitation herein provided during the term of such bonds,
36 submitted not oftener than twice in any calendar year, at an election
37 held in the manner provided by law for bond elections in such taxing
38 district, at which election the total number of (~~persons~~) voters
39 voting on the proposition shall constitute not less than forty (~~per~~

1 centum)) percent of the total number of ((~~votes east~~)) voters voting in
2 such taxing district at the last preceding general election:
3 *Provided*, That any such taxing district shall have the right by vote of
4 its governing body to refund any general obligation bonds of said
5 district issued for capital purposes only, and to provide for the
6 interest thereon and amortization thereof by annual levies in excess of
7 the tax limitation provided for herein, *And provided further*, That the
8 provisions of this section shall also be subject to the limitations
9 contained in Article VIII, Section 6, of this Constitution;

10 (c) By the state or any taxing district ((~~for the purpose of paying~~
11 ~~the principal or interest on general obligation bonds outstanding on~~
12 ~~December 6, 1934; or~~)) for the purpose of preventing the impairment of
13 the obligation of a contract when ordered so to do by a court of last
14 resort.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause
16 notice of this constitutional amendment to be published at least four
17 times during the four weeks next preceding the election in every legal
18 newspaper in the state.

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