
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8209

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Senators Goings, McAuliffe, Winsley, Kohl, Hochstatter, Spanel, Wood, Bauer, Newhouse, Patterson, Finkbeiner, Hale, Deccio, McCaslin, Sheldon, Loveland, McDonald, Strannigan, Rasmussen, Jacobsen, Fairley, Snyder, Franklin, Kline and Brown

Read first time 01/27/97. 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 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
16 shall mean any political subdivision, municipal corporation, district,
17 or other governmental agency authorized by law to levy, or have levied
18 for it, ad valorem taxes on property, other than a port or public
19 utility district. Such aggregate limitation or any specific limitation
20 imposed by law in conformity therewith may be exceeded only

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

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

1 preceding general election: PROVIDED, That any such taxing district
2 shall have the right by vote of its governing body to refund any
3 general obligation bonds of said district issued for capital purposes
4 only, and to provide for the interest thereon and amortization thereof
5 by annual levies in excess of the tax limitation provided for
6 herein((7)): AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That the provisions of this section
7 shall also be subject to the limitations contained in Article VIII,
8 Section 6, of this Constitution;

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

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

--- END ---