
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4216

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2004 Regular Session

By Representatives Jarrett, Conway, Skinner, Kirby, Hankins, Hunt, Mastin, Morris, Santos, Delvin, Kessler, Armstrong, Lantz, Kenney, Chase and Kagi

Read first time 01/26/2004. Referred to Committee on Local Government.

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 percent of the true and fair value of such property in
13 money: *Provided, however,* That nothing herein shall prevent levies at
14 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

1 utility district. Such aggregate limitation or any specific limitation
2 imposed by law in conformity therewith may be exceeded only as follows:

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

30 (b) By any taxing district otherwise authorized by law to issue
31 general obligation bonds for capital purposes, for the sole purpose of
32 making the required payments of principal and interest on general
33 obligation bonds issued solely for capital purposes, other than the
34 replacement of equipment, when authorized so to do by majority of at
35 least three-fifths of the voters of the taxing district voting on the
36 proposition to issue such bonds and to pay the principal and interest
37 thereon by annual tax levies in excess of the limitation herein
38 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 voters voting on the proposition shall constitute
4 not less than forty percent of the total number of voters voting in
5 such taxing district at the last preceding general election: *Provided,*
6 That any such taxing district shall have the right by vote of its
7 governing body to refund any general obligation bonds of said district
8 issued for capital purposes only, and to provide for the interest
9 thereon and amortization thereof by annual levies in excess of the tax
10 limitation provided for herein, *And provided further,* That the
11 provisions of this section shall also be subject to the limitations
12 contained in Article VIII, Section 6, of this Constitution;

13 (c) By the state or any taxing district for the purpose of
14 preventing the impairment of the obligation of a contract when ordered
15 so to do by a court of last resort.

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

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