
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8204

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By Senators Morton, Brandland, Hewitt, Benson, Carrell and Mulliken

Read first time 01/18/2005. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

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, or cemetery districts may provide
23 such support for a period of up to four years and any proposition to
24 levy an additional tax to support the construction, modernization, or
25 remodelling of school facilities ~~((or))~~, fire facilities, or cemetery
26 facilities may provide such support for a period not exceeding six
27 years;

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

1 the total number of voters voting on the proposition shall constitute
2 not less than forty percent of the total number of voters voting in
3 such taxing district at the last preceding general election: *Provided,*
4 That any such taxing district shall have the right by vote of its
5 governing body to refund any general obligation bonds of said district
6 issued for capital purposes only, and to provide for the interest
7 thereon and amortization thereof by annual levies in excess of the tax
8 limitation provided for herein, *And provided further,* That the
9 provisions of this section shall also be subject to the limitations
10 contained in Article VIII, Section 6, of this Constitution;

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

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