
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4221

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Hankins, Haler, Wood, Morris, Chase, Hudgins and Ormsby

Read first time . Referred to .

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
14 levies at the rates now provided by law by or for any port or public
15 utility district. The term "taxing district" for the purposes of this
16 section shall mean any political subdivision, municipal corporation,
17 district, or other governmental agency authorized by law to levy, or
18 have levied for it, ad valorem taxes on property, other than a port or

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

4 (a) By any taxing district when specifically authorized so to do by
5 a majority of at least three-fifths of the voters of the taxing
6 district voting on the proposition to levy such additional tax
7 submitted not more than twelve months prior to the date on which the
8 proposed initial levy is to be made and not oftener than twice in such
9 twelve month period, either at a special election or at the regular
10 election of such taxing district, at which election the number of
11 voters voting "yes" on the proposition shall constitute three-fifths of
12 a number equal to forty percent of the total number of voters voting in
13 such taxing district at the last preceding general election when the
14 number of voters voting on the proposition does not exceed forty
15 percent of the total number of voters voting in such taxing district in
16 the last preceding general election; or by a majority of at least
17 three-fifths of the voters of the taxing district voting on the
18 proposition to levy when the number of voters voting on the proposition
19 exceeds forty percent of the number of voters voting in such taxing
20 district in the last preceding general election(~~(+—Provided, That)~~).
21 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, any
22 proposition pursuant to this subsection to levy additional tax for the
23 support of the common schools or fire protection districts may provide
24 such support for a period of up to four years and any proposition to
25 levy an additional tax to support the construction, modernization, or
26 remodelling of school facilities or fire facilities may provide such
27 support for a period not exceeding six years. A proposition under this
28 subsection to levy an additional tax for a school district shall be
29 authorized by a majority of at least fifty-five percent of the voters
30 voting on the 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 voters of the taxing district voting on the
37 proposition to issue such bonds and to pay the principal and interest
38 thereon by annual tax levies in excess of the limitation herein

1 provided during the term of such bonds, submitted not oftener than
2 twice in any calendar year, at an election held in the manner provided
3 by law for bond elections in such taxing district, at which election
4 the total number of voters voting on the proposition shall constitute
5 not less than forty percent of the total number of voters voting in
6 such taxing district at the last preceding general election(~~(+
7 Provided, That))~~). Any such taxing district shall have the right by
8 vote of its governing body to refund any general obligation bonds of
9 said district issued for capital purposes only, and to provide for the
10 interest thereon and amortization thereof by annual levies in excess of
11 the tax limitation provided for herein(~~(, And provided further, That))~~.
12 The provisions of this section shall also be subject to the limitations
13 contained in Article VIII, Section 6, of this Constitution;

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

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

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