
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8213

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

By Senators Parlette, Tom, and McAuliffe

Read first time 02/06/09. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 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 percent of the true and fair value of such property in
13 money. Nothing herein shall prevent levies at the rates now provided
14 by law by or for any port or public utility district. The term "taxing
15 district" for the purposes of this section shall mean any political
16 subdivision, municipal corporation, district, or other governmental
17 agency authorized by law to levy, or have levied for it, ad valorem
18 taxes on property, other than a port or public utility district. Such

1 aggregate limitation or any specific limitation imposed by law in
2 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 initial levy is to be made and not oftener than twice in such
8 twelve month period, either at a special election or at the regular
9 election of such taxing district, at which election the number of
10 voters voting "yes" on the proposition shall constitute three-fifths of
11 a number equal to forty percent of the total number of voters voting in
12 such taxing district at the last preceding general election when the
13 number of voters voting on the proposition does not exceed forty
14 percent of the total number of voters voting in such taxing district in
15 the last preceding general election; or by a majority of at least
16 three-fifths of the voters of the taxing district voting on the
17 proposition to levy when the number of voters voting on the proposition
18 exceeds forty percent of the number of voters voting in such taxing
19 district in the last preceding general election. 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. Notwithstanding any other provision of this
27 subsection, a proposition under this subsection to levy an additional
28 tax for a school district shall be authorized by a majority of the
29 voters voting on the proposition, regardless of the number of voters
30 voting on the proposition, and when submitted not more than eighteen
31 months prior to the date on which the proposed initial levy is to be
32 made and not oftener than twice in such eighteen-month period;

33 (b) By any taxing district otherwise authorized by law to issue
34 general obligation bonds for capital purposes, for the sole purpose of
35 making the required payments of principal and interest on general
36 obligation bonds issued solely for capital purposes, other than the
37 replacement of equipment, when authorized so to do by majority of at
38 least three-fifths of the voters of the taxing district voting on the

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

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

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

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