
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4204

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Muri, Gregerson, Kilduff, Hudgins, McBride, Ormsby, Bergquist, Slatter, Jinkins, and Santos

Read first time 01/30/17. 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 and Article VIII, section 6 of the
7 Constitution of the state of Washington to read as follows:

8 Article VII, section 2. Except as hereinafter provided and
9 notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, the
10 aggregate of all tax levies upon real and personal property by the
11 state and all taxing districts now existing or hereafter created,
12 shall not in any year exceed one percent of the true and fair value
13 of such property in money. Nothing herein shall prevent levies at the
14 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,
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
19 or public utility district. Such aggregate limitation or any specific
20 limitation imposed by law in conformity therewith may be exceeded
21 only as follows:

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

30 (b) By any taxing district otherwise authorized by law to issue
31 general obligation bonds for capital purposes, for the sole purpose
32 of 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
39 twice in any calendar year, at an election held in the manner
40 provided by law for bond elections in such taxing district, at which

1 election the total number of voters voting on the proposition shall
2 constitute not less than forty percent of the total number of voters
3 voting in such taxing district at the last preceding general
4 election. Any such taxing district shall have the right by vote of
5 its governing body to refund any general obligation bonds of said
6 district issued for capital purposes only, and to provide for the
7 interest thereon and amortization thereof by annual levies in excess
8 of the tax limitation provided for herein. Notwithstanding any other
9 provision of this subsection, a proposition under this subsection by
10 a school district to issue bonds, and to pay the principal and
11 interest on the bonds by an annual tax levy during the term of the
12 bonds in excess of the limitation in this section, may be authorized
13 by a majority of the voters voting on the proposition at a general
14 election, at which election the total number of voters voting on the
15 proposition shall constitute not less than forty percent of the total
16 number of voters voting in such taxing district at the last preceding
17 general election. The provisions of this section shall also be
18 subject to the limitations contained in Article VIII, Section 6, of
19 this Constitution;

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

23 Article VIII, section 6. No county, city, town, school district,
24 or other municipal corporation shall for any purpose become indebted
25 in any manner to an amount exceeding one and one-half per centum of
26 the taxable property in such county, city, town, school district, or
27 other municipal corporation, without the assent of three-fifths of
28 the voters therein voting at an election to be held for that purpose,
29 nor in cases requiring such assent shall the total indebtedness at
30 any time exceed five per centum on the value of the taxable property
31 therein, to be ascertained by the last assessment for state and
32 county purposes previous to the incurring of such indebtedness,
33 except that in incorporated cities the assessment shall be taken from
34 the last assessment for city purposes: Provided, That the assent of a
35 majority of the voters voting on the proposition at a general
36 election is sufficient to authorize a school district to incur such
37 debt: Provided further, That no part of the indebtedness allowed in
38 this section shall be incurred for any purpose other than strictly
39 county, city, town, school district, or other municipal purposes:

1 *Provided further*, That (a) any city or town, with such assent, may be
2 allowed to become indebted to a larger amount, but not exceeding five
3 per centum additional for supplying such city or town with water,
4 artificial light, and sewers, when the works for supplying such
5 water, light, and sewers shall be owned and controlled by the
6 municipality and (b) any school district with such assent, may be
7 allowed to become indebted to a larger amount but not exceeding five
8 per centum additional for capital outlays.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this amendment is a single amendment
10 within the meaning of Article III, section 1 of the state
11 Constitution.

12 The legislature finds that the changes contained in this
13 amendment constitute a single integrated plan for approval of school
14 district bonds. If this amendment is held to be separate amendments,
15 this joint resolution is void in its entirety and is of no further
16 force and effect.

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
20 legal newspaper in the state.

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