
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8218

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Senator Stanford

1 BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2 STATE OF WASHINGTON, IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION ASSEMBLED:

3 THAT, It is the legislature's specific public policy objective to
4 provide tax relief to homeowners and to find ways to make our state's
5 tax system more modern and progressive. The legislature recognizes
6 that property taxes impose a substantial financial burden on working
7 families and those on fixed incomes, and that property tax relief
8 programs have considerable value in addressing this burden and making
9 our tax system more equitable. The vast majority of states in our
10 nation — forty — have some form of broad-based property tax relief
11 for homeowners. Washington state is not one of these states. It is
12 the legislature's intent to establish a mechanism for adjusting
13 property tax relief to account for variations in county by county
14 property values; and

15 THAT, At the next general election to be held in this state the
16 secretary of state shall submit to the qualified voters of the state
17 for their approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to
18 Article VII, section 10 of the Constitution of the state of
19 Washington to read as follows:

20 Article VII, section 10. **SECTION 10 ((RETIRED—PERSONS))**
21 **RESIDENTIAL AND SMALL COMMERCIAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION.**

22 Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 7, section 1 (Amendment 14)

1 and Article 7, section 2 (Amendment 17), the following tax exemption
2 shall be allowed as to real property:

3 The legislature shall have the power, by appropriate legislation,
4 to grant to (~~retired~~) property owners relief from the property tax
5 on the real property occupied as a residence by those owners. The
6 legislature may place such restrictions and conditions upon the
7 granting of such relief as it shall deem proper. Such restrictions
8 and conditions may include, but are not limited to, the limiting of
9 the relief to properties or portions thereof below a specific
10 assessed value, or to those property owners below a specific level of
11 income and those fulfilling certain minimum residential requirements.

12 The legislature shall additionally have the power, by appropriate
13 legislation, to grant to property owners relief from the property tax
14 on real property utilized for commercial purposes. Such relief shall
15 not exceed the sum of ten thousand dollars. The legislature may place
16 such restrictions and conditions upon the granting of such relief as
17 it shall deem proper. Such restrictions and conditions may include,
18 but are not limited to, the limiting of the relief to properties or
19 portions thereof below a specific assessed value, or to those
20 property owners below a specific level of income and those fulfilling
21 certain commercial requirements.

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

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