
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8207

State of Washington **55th Legislature** **1997 Regular Session**

By Senators Oke, Winsley, Sellar, Rasmussen, Patterson and Haugen

Read first time 01/20/97. 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 an amendment to Article VIII, section 6 of
7 the 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 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 (~~per centum~~) percent of the true and fair value of
13 such property in money: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That nothing herein shall
14 prevent levies at the rates now provided by law by or for any port or
15 public utility district. The term "taxing district" for the purposes
16 of this section shall mean any political subdivision, municipal
17 corporation, district, or other governmental agency authorized by law
18 to levy, or have levied for it, ad valorem taxes on property, other
19 than a port or public utility district. Such aggregate limitation or
20 any specific limitation imposed by law in conformity therewith may be
21 exceeded only

1 (a) By any taxing district when specifically authorized so to do by
2 a majority of at least three-fifths of the ((electors)) voters thereof
3 voting on the proposition to levy such additional tax submitted not
4 more than twelve months prior to the date on which the proposed initial
5 levy is to be made and not oftener than twice in such twelve month
6 period, either at a special election or at the regular election of such
7 taxing district, at which election the number of ((persons)) voters
8 voting "yes" on the proposition shall constitute three-fifths of a
9 number equal to forty ((per centum)) percent of the ((total votes
10 east)) number of voters voting in such taxing district at the last
11 preceding general election when the number of ((electors)) voters
12 voting on the proposition does not exceed forty ((per centum)) percent
13 of the ((total votes east)) number of voters voting in such taxing
14 district in the last preceding general election; or by a majority of at
15 least three-fifths of the ((electors)) voters thereof voting on the
16 proposition to levy when the number of ((electors)) voters voting on
17 the proposition exceeds forty ((percentum)) percent of the ((total
18 votes east)) 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 may provide such support for a two year period and any proposition to
23 levy an additional tax to support the construction, modernization, or
24 remodelling of school facilities may provide such support for a period
25 not exceeding six years: PROVIDED FURTHER, That a proposition under
26 this subsection to levy an additional tax for a school district shall
27 be authorized only at a general election by a majority of the voters
28 voting on the proposition;

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

1 the total number of (~~persons~~) voters voting on the proposition shall
2 constitute not less than forty (~~per centum~~) percent of the total
3 number of (~~votes cast~~) voters voting in such taxing district at the
4 last preceding general election: PROVIDED, That any such taxing
5 district shall have the right by vote of its governing body to refund
6 any general obligation bonds of said district issued for capital
7 purposes only, and to provide for the interest thereon and amortization
8 thereof by annual levies in excess of the tax limitation provided for
9 herein(~~7~~): PROVIDED FURTHER, That a proposition by a school district
10 to issue bonds, and to pay the principal and interest on the bonds by
11 an annual tax levy during the term of the bonds in excess of the
12 limitation provided in this section, shall be authorized only at a
13 general election by a majority of the voters voting on the proposition:
14 AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That the provisions of this section shall also be
15 subject to the limitations contained in Article VIII, Section 6, of
16 this Constitution;

17 (c) By the state or any taxing district for the purpose of paying
18 the principal or interest on general obligation bonds outstanding on
19 December 6, 1934; or for the purpose of preventing the impairment of
20 the obligation of a contract when ordered so to do by a court of last
21 resort.

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

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

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

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this amendment is a single amendment
13 within the meaning of Article XXIII, section 1 of the state
14 Constitution.

15 The legislature finds that the changes contained in this amendment
16 constitute a single integrated plan providing for a simple majority of
17 voters voting at a general election to authorize school district levies
18 and bonds. If this amendment is held to be separate amendments, this
19 joint resolution is void in its entirety and is of no further force and
20 effect.

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