
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4208

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Orcutt, Hope, Herrera, Warnick, McCune, Armstrong,
and Kristiansen

Read first time 02/09/09. Referred to Committee on Finance.

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 of the Constitution of the state of Washington by adding a
7 new section to read as follows:

8 Article VII, section (1) A tax increase may be imposed only
9 by a favorable vote of two-thirds of the members of each house of the
10 legislature.

11 (2) For the purposes of this section, "tax" means a charge imposed
12 on a person, property, or transaction for the general support of
13 government.

14 (3) For the purposes of this section, "tax increase" includes, but
15 is not limited to, a new tax, a monetary increase in an existing tax,
16 a tax rate increase, an expansion in the legal definition of a tax
17 base, and an extension of an expiring tax.

18 (4) This section does not apply to:

1 (a) A tax that must be used exclusively for highway purposes under
2 Article II, section 40 of this Constitution; or

3 (b) A tax that is enacted pursuant to an emergency previously
4 declared in law with the favorable vote of two-thirds of the members of
5 each house of the legislature and that expires not later than twelve
6 months after the effective date of the emergency declaration. The law
7 declaring the emergency must state the nature of the emergency.

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.

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