
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4208

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representative Sutherland

Read first time 02/21/19. 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, section 1 of the Constitution of the state of Washington
7 to read as follows:

8 Article VII, section 1. **SECTION 1 TAXATION.** The power of taxation
9 shall never be suspended, surrendered or contracted away. All taxes
10 shall be uniform upon the same class of property within the
11 territorial limits of the authority levying the tax and shall be
12 levied and collected for public purposes only. The word "property" as
13 used herein shall mean and include everything, whether tangible or
14 intangible, subject to ownership. All real estate shall constitute
15 one class: *Provided*, That the legislature may tax mines and mineral
16 resources and lands devoted to reforestation by either a yield tax or
17 an ad valorem tax at such rate as it may fix, or by both. Such
18 property as the legislature may by general laws provide shall be
19 exempt from taxation. Property of the United States and of the state,
20 counties, school districts and other municipal corporations, and
21 credits secured by property actually taxed in this state, not
22 exceeding in value the value of such property, shall be exempt from

1 taxation. The legislature shall have power, by appropriate
2 legislation, to exempt personal property to the amount of fifteen
3 thousand (\$15,000.00) dollars for each head of a family liable to
4 assessment and taxation under the provisions of the laws of this
5 state of which the individual is the actual bona fide owner.
6 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, the
7 legislature may limit the amount of residential real property value
8 that is subject to property taxation for state purposes to the lesser
9 of that property's value in the assessment year or that property's
10 assessed value in 2019.

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

--- END ---