

---

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4204

---

State of Washington                      52nd Legislature                      1991 Regular Session

By Representatives H. Sommers, Peery, Brough, Cole, Holland, Valle, Miller, Neher, Phillips, Rust, Dorn, Rasmussen, Orr, Spanel, Vance, Rayburn, Jacobsen, Brekke, Nelson, Basich, Leonard and Anderson.

Read first time January 23, 1991. 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 there  
4 shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the state for their  
5 approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to Article VII,  
6 section 2 of the Constitution of the state of Washington to read as  
7 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

1 corporation, district, or other governmental agency authorized by law  
2 to levy, or have levied for it, ad valorem taxes on property, other  
3 than a port or public utility district. Such aggregate limitation or  
4 any specific limitation imposed by law in conformity therewith may be  
5 exceeded only

6 (a) By any taxing district when specifically authorized so to do  
7 by a majority of at least three-fifths of the electors thereof voting  
8 on the proposition to levy such additional tax submitted not more than  
9 twelve months prior to the date on which the proposed levy is to be  
10 made and not oftener than twice in such twelve month period, either at  
11 a special election or at the regular election of such taxing district,  
12 at which election the number of persons voting "yes" on the proposition  
13 shall constitute three-fifths of a number equal to forty (~~per centum~~)  
14 percent of the total votes cast in such taxing district at the last  
15 preceding general election when the number of electors voting on the  
16 proposition does not exceed forty (~~per centum~~) percent of the total  
17 votes cast in such taxing district in the last preceding general  
18 election; or by a majority of at least three-fifths of the electors  
19 thereof voting on the proposition to levy when the number of electors  
20 voting on the proposition exceeds forty (~~per centum~~) percent of the  
21 total votes cast in such taxing district in the last preceding general  
22 election: PROVIDED, That notwithstanding any other provision of this  
23 Constitution, any proposition pursuant to this subsection to levy  
24 additional tax for the support of the common schools may provide such  
25 support for a two year period, except that if a school district submits  
26 a levy that is an increase over the previous levy and the increased  
27 proposition fails to be approved the school district may levy an amount  
28 not greater than the amount levied in the preceding year, without  
29 resubmission of a proposition to the people, and any proposition to  
30 levy an additional tax to support the construction, modernization, or

1 remodelling of school facilities may provide such support for a period  
2 not exceeding six years;

3 (b) By any taxing district otherwise authorized by law to issue  
4 general obligation bonds for capital purposes, for the sole purpose of  
5 making the required payments of principal and interest on general  
6 obligation bonds issued solely for capital purposes, other than the  
7 replacement of equipment, when authorized so to do by majority of at  
8 least three-fifths of the electors thereof voting on the proposition to  
9 issue such bonds and to pay the principal and interest thereon by an  
10 annual tax levy in excess of the limitation herein provided during the  
11 term of such bonds, submitted not oftener than twice in any calendar  
12 year, at an election held in the manner provided by law for bond  
13 elections in such taxing district, at which election the total number  
14 of persons voting on the proposition shall constitute not less than  
15 forty (~~per centum~~) percent of the total number of votes cast in such  
16 taxing district at the last preceding general election: PROVIDED, That  
17 any such taxing district shall have the right by vote of its governing  
18 body to refund any general obligation bonds of said district issued for  
19 capital purposes only, and to provide for the interest thereon and  
20 amortization thereof by annual levies in excess of the tax limitation  
21 provided for herein, AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That the provisions of this  
22 section shall also be subject to the limitations contained in Article  
23 VIII, Section 6, of this Constitution;

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

1           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause  
2 notice of the foregoing constitutional amendment to be published at  
3 least four times during the four weeks next preceding the election in  
4 every legal newspaper in the state.