
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4204

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By House Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives G. Cole, Brough, Flemming, Dorn, Peery, Karahalios, Rust, Sheldon, Jones, Chappell, Holm, Shin, R. Johnson, Johanson, J. Kohl, Springer, Cooke, Wood, Lemmon, Jacobsen, Wang, Leonard, Quall, Brumsickle, Thomas, H. Myers, Rayburn and King; by request of Washington State School Directors Association, Board of Education and Superintendent of Public Instruction)

Read first time 02/22/93.

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 and Article VIII, section 6 of the Constitution of the state
7 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 of the true and fair value of such property
13 in money: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That nothing herein shall prevent levies
14 at the rates now provided by law by or for any port or public utility
15 district. The term "taxing district" for the purposes of this section
16 shall mean any political subdivision, municipal corporation, district,
17 or other governmental agency authorized by law to levy, or have levied
18 for it, ad valorem taxes on property, other than a port or public
19 utility district. Such aggregate limitation or any specific limitation
20 imposed by law in conformity therewith may be 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 levy is
5 to be made and not oftener than twice in such twelve month period,
6 either at a special election or at the regular election of such taxing
7 district, at which election the number of ((persons)) voters voting
8 "yes" on the proposition shall constitute three-fifths of a number
9 equal to forty per centum of the total ((votes-cast)) number of voters
10 voting in such taxing district at the last preceding general election
11 when the number of ((electors)) voters voting on the proposition does
12 not exceed forty per centum of the total ((votes-cast)) number of
13 voters voting in such taxing district in the last preceding general
14 election; or by a majority of at least three-fifths of the ((electors))
15 voters thereof voting on the proposition to levy when the number of
16 ((electors)) voters voting on the proposition exceeds forty
17 ((percentum)) per centum of the total ((votes-cast)) number of voters
18 voting in such taxing district in the last preceding general election:
19 PROVIDED, That notwithstanding any other provision of this
20 Constitution, any proposition pursuant to this subsection to levy
21 additional tax for the support of the common schools may provide such
22 support for a two year period and any proposition to levy an additional
23 tax to support the construction, modernization, or remodelling of
24 school facilities may provide such support for a period not exceeding
25 six years: PROVIDED FURTHER, That a proposition under this subsection
26 to levy an additional tax for a school district or a library district
27 shall be authorized by a majority of the voters voting on the
28 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 of the total number of
3 (~~votes cast~~) voters voting in such taxing district at the last
4 preceding general election: PROVIDED, That any such taxing district
5 shall have the right by vote of its governing body to refund any
6 general obligation bonds of said district issued for capital purposes
7 only, and to provide for the interest thereon and amortization thereof
8 by annual levies in excess of the tax limitation provided for
9 herein(~~7~~): PROVIDED FURTHER, That a proposition under this
10 subsection to authorize a levy for an additional tax for a school
11 district or library district shall be authorized by a majority of the
12 voters voting on the proposition: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That the
13 provisions of this section shall also be subject to the limitations
14 contained in Article VIII, Section 6, of this Constitution;

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

20 Article VIII, section 6. No county, city, town, school district,
21 or other municipal corporation shall for any purpose become indebted in
22 any manner to an amount exceeding one and one-half per centum of the
23 taxable property in such county, city, town, school district, or other
24 municipal corporation, without the assent of three-fifths of the voters
25 therein voting at an election to be held for that purpose, nor in cases
26 requiring such assent shall the total indebtedness at any time exceed
27 five per centum on the value of the taxable property therein, to be
28 ascertained by the last assessment for state and county purposes
29 previous to the incurring of such indebtedness, except that in
30 incorporated cities the assessment shall be taken from the last
31 assessment for city purposes: PROVIDED, That no part of the
32 indebtedness allowed in this section shall be incurred for any purpose
33 other than strictly county, city, town, school district, or other
34 municipal purposes: PROVIDED FURTHER, That (a) any city or town, with
35 such assent, may be allowed to become indebted to a larger amount, but
36 not exceeding five per centum additional for supplying such city or
37 town with water, artificial light, and sewers, when the works for
38 supplying such water, light, and sewers shall be owned and controlled

1 by the municipality and (b) any school district (~~(with such assent,~~)
2 or library district may become indebted in excess of one and one-half
3 per centum of the taxable property in such district with the assent of
4 a majority of the voters therein voting at an election to be held for
5 that purpose and school districts may be allowed to become indebted to
6 a larger amount but not exceeding five per centum additional for
7 capital outlays.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the foregoing amendment shall be
9 construed as a single amendment within the meaning of Article XXIII,
10 section 1 of the state Constitution.

11 The legislature finds that the changes contained in the foregoing
12 amendment constitute a single integrated plan providing for a simple
13 majority of electors voting to authorize school district and library
14 district levies and bonds. If the foregoing amendment is held to be
15 separate amendments, this joint resolution shall be void in its
16 entirety and shall be of no further force and effect.

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