
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4213

State of Washington 53rd Legislature 1993 Regular Session

By Representatives G. Fisher, Holm and Appelwick

Read first time 02/24/93. Referred to Committee on Revenue.

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; and an
7 amendment to Article VII of the Constitution of the state of Washington
8 by adding a new section to read as follows:

9 Article VII, section ... The legislature may, by appropriate
10 legislation, provide a homestead exemption for property tax on real
11 property occupied as residences by the owners of the real property.
12 The amount of the exemption may vary among counties according to the
13 median value of property for which homestead exemptions have been
14 granted in each county. The legislature may place restrictions and
15 conditions upon the granting of homestead exemptions as the legislature
16 deems proper. Subject to the limit in section 2 of this Article, the
17 legislature may raise property tax rates to compensate for the loss of
18 taxable value resulting from homestead exemptions.

1 Article VII, section 2. Except as hereinafter provided and
2 notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, the aggregate
3 of all tax levies upon real and personal property by the state and all
4 taxing districts now existing or hereafter created, shall not in any
5 year exceed one and one-tenth per centum of the true and fair value of
6 such property in money: *Provided, however,* That nothing herein shall
7 prevent levies at the rates now provided by law by or for any port or
8 public utility district. The term "taxing district" for the purposes
9 of this section shall mean any political subdivision, municipal
10 corporation, district, or other governmental agency authorized by law
11 to levy, or have levied for it, ad valorem taxes on property, other
12 than a port or public utility district. Such aggregate limitation or
13 any specific limitation imposed by law in conformity therewith may be
14 exceeded only

15 (a) By any taxing district when specifically authorized so to do by
16 a majority of at least three-fifths of the electors thereof voting on
17 the proposition to levy such additional tax submitted not more than
18 twelve months prior to the date on which the proposed levy is to be
19 made and not oftener than twice in such twelve month period, either at
20 a special election or at the regular election of such taxing district,
21 at which election the number of persons voting "yes" on the
22 proposition shall constitute three-fifths of a number equal to forty
23 per centum of the total votes cast in such taxing district at the last
24 preceding general election when the number of electors voting on the
25 proposition does not exceed forty per centum of the total votes cast in
26 such taxing district in the last preceding general election; or by a
27 majority of at least three-fifths of the electors thereof voting on the
28 proposition to levy when the number of electors voting on the
29 proposition exceeds forty per centum of the total votes cast in such
30 taxing district in the last preceding general election: *Provided,* That
31 notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, any
32 proposition pursuant to this subsection to levy additional tax for the
33 support of the common schools may provide such support for a two year
34 period and any proposition to levy an additional tax to support the
35 construction, modernization, or remodelling of school facilities may
36 provide such support for a period not exceeding six years;

37 (b) By any taxing district otherwise authorized by law to issue
38 general obligation bonds for capital purposes, for the sole purpose of
39 making the required payments of principal and interest on general

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

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

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

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