

SSJR 8201 - S AMD 385

By Senator Zeiger

NOT CONSIDERED 12/23/2019

1 Beginning on page 1, line 3, strike all material through "state."
2 on page 4, line 18 and insert the following:

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

9 Article VII, section 2. Except as hereinafter provided and
10 notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, the
11 aggregate of all tax levies upon real and personal property by the
12 state and all taxing districts now existing or hereafter created,
13 shall not in any year exceed one percent of the true and fair value
14 of such property in money. Nothing herein shall prevent levies at
15 the rates now provided by law by or for any port or public utility
16 district. The term "taxing district" for the purposes of this
17 section shall mean any political subdivision, municipal corporation,
18 district, or other governmental agency authorized by law to levy, or
19 have levied for it, ad valorem taxes on property, other than a port
20 or public utility district. Such aggregate limitation or any
21 specific limitation imposed by law in conformity therewith may be
22 exceeded only as follows:

23 (a) By any taxing district when specifically authorized so to do
24 by a majority of at least three-fifths of the voters of the taxing
25 district voting on the proposition to levy such additional tax
26 submitted not more than twelve months prior to the date on which the
27 proposed initial levy is to be made and not oftener than twice in

1 such twelve month period, either at a special election or at the
2 regular election of such taxing district, at which election the
3 number of voters voting "yes" on the proposition shall constitute
4 three-fifths of a number equal to forty percent of the total number
5 of voters voting in such taxing district at the last preceding
6 general election when the number of voters voting on the proposition
7 does not exceed forty percent of the total number of voters voting
8 in such taxing district in the last preceding general election; or
9 by a majority of at least three-fifths of the voters of the taxing
10 district voting on the proposition to levy when the number of voters
11 voting on the proposition exceeds forty percent of the number of
12 voters voting in such taxing district in the last preceding general
13 election. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution,
14 any proposition pursuant to this subsection to levy additional tax
15 for the support of the common schools or fire protection districts
16 may provide such support for a period of up to four years and any
17 proposition to levy an additional tax to support the construction,
18 modernization, or remodelling of school facilities or fire
19 facilities may provide such support for a period not exceeding six
20 years. Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection, a
21 proposition under this subsection to levy an additional tax for a
22 school district shall be authorized by a majority of the voters
23 voting on the proposition, regardless of the number of voters voting
24 on the proposition;

25 (b) By any taxing district otherwise authorized by law to issue
26 general obligation bonds for capital purposes, for the sole purpose
27 of making the required payments of principal and interest on general
28 obligation bonds issued solely for capital purposes, other than the
29 replacement of equipment, when authorized so to do by majority of at
30 least three-fifths of the voters of the taxing district voting on
31 the proposition to issue such bonds and to pay the principal and
32 interest thereon by annual tax levies in excess of the limitation
33 herein provided during the term of such bonds, submitted not oftener
34 than twice in any calendar year, at an election held in the manner

1 provided by law for bond elections in such taxing district, at which
2 election the total number of voters voting on the proposition shall
3 constitute not less than forty percent of the total number of voters
4 voting in such taxing district at the last preceding general
5 election. Any such taxing district shall have the right by vote of
6 its governing body to refund any general obligation bonds of said
7 district issued for capital purposes only, and to provide for the
8 interest thereon and amortization thereof by annual levies in excess
9 of the tax limitation provided for herein. Notwithstanding any other
10 provision of this subsection (b), a proposition under this
11 subsection to levy an additional tax for a school district to pay
12 principal and interest on bonds as provided under this subsection
13 (b) shall be authorized by at least fifty-five percent of the voters
14 voting on the proposition, regardless of the number of voters voting
15 on the proposition, if the proposition is approved at the general
16 election. The provisions of this section shall also be subject to
17 the limitations contained in Article VIII, Section 6, of this
18 Constitution;

19 (c) By the state or any taxing district for the purpose of
20 preventing the impairment of the obligation of a contract when
21 ordered so to do by a court of last resort.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this amendment is a single
23 amendment within the meaning of Article XXIII, section 1 of the
24 state Constitution.

25 The legislature finds that the changes contained in this
26 amendment constitute a single integrated plan for funding school
27 construction projects. If this amendment is held to be separate
28 amendments, this joint resolution is void in its entirety and is of
29 no further force and effect.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause notice
31 of this constitutional amendment to be published at least four times
32 during the four weeks next preceding the election in every legal
33 newspaper in the state."
34

EFFECT: Authorizes bond approval at 55% voter approval if approved at a general election.

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