
SUBSTITUTE SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8200

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Cortes, Wellman, Dhingra, Shewmake, Riccelli, Bateman, Hasegawa, Lovelett, Conway, Orwall, Pedersen, Salomon, Saldaña, C. Wilson, Chapman, Cleveland, Frame, Krishnadasan, Lias, Nobles, Slatter, Stanford, and Valdez)

READ FIRST TIME 02/14/25.

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 2 and Article VIII, section 6 of the
7 Constitution of the state of Washington and an amendment to Article
8 XI of the Constitution of the state of Washington by adding a new
9 section to read as follows:

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

1 limitation imposed by law in conformity therewith may be exceeded
2 only as follows:

3 (a) By any taxing district when specifically authorized so to do
4 by a majority of at least three-fifths of the voters of the taxing
5 district voting on the proposition to levy such additional tax
6 submitted not more than twelve months prior to the date on which the
7 proposed initial levy is to be made and not oftener than twice in
8 such twelve month period, either at a special election or at the
9 regular election of such taxing district, at which election the
10 number of voters voting "yes" on the proposition shall constitute
11 three-fifths of a number equal to forty percent of the total number
12 of voters voting in such taxing district at the last preceding
13 general election when the number of voters voting on the proposition
14 does not exceed forty percent of the total number of voters voting in
15 such taxing district in the last preceding general election; or by a
16 majority of at least three-fifths of the voters of the taxing
17 district voting on the proposition to levy when the number of voters
18 voting on the proposition exceeds forty percent of the number of
19 voters voting in such taxing district in the last preceding general
20 election. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution,
21 any proposition pursuant to this subsection to levy additional tax
22 for the support of the common schools or fire protection districts
23 may provide such support for a period of up to four years and any
24 proposition to levy an additional tax to support the construction,
25 modernization, or remodelling of school facilities or fire facilities
26 may provide such support for a period not exceeding six years.
27 Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection, a proposition
28 under this subsection to levy an additional tax for a school district
29 shall be authorized by a majority of the voters voting on the
30 proposition, regardless of the number of voters voting on the
31 proposition;

32 (b) By any taxing district otherwise authorized by law to issue
33 general obligation bonds for capital purposes, for the sole purpose
34 of making the required payments of principal and interest on general
35 obligation bonds issued solely for capital purposes, other than the
36 replacement of equipment, when authorized so to do by majority of at
37 least three-fifths of the voters of the taxing district voting on the
38 proposition to issue such bonds and to pay the principal and interest
39 thereon by annual tax levies in excess of the limitation herein
40 provided during the term of such bonds, submitted not oftener than

1 twice in any calendar year, at an election held in the manner
2 provided by law for bond elections in such taxing district, at which
3 election the total number of voters voting on the proposition shall
4 constitute not less than forty percent of the total number of voters
5 voting in such taxing district at the last preceding general
6 election. Any such taxing district shall have the right by vote of
7 its governing body to refund any general obligation bonds of said
8 district issued for capital purposes only, and to provide for the
9 interest thereon and amortization thereof by annual levies in excess
10 of the tax limitation provided for herein. A proposition by a school
11 district to issue bonds, and to pay the principal and interest on the
12 bonds by an annual tax levy during the term of the bonds in excess of
13 the limitation provided in this section, shall be authorized by a
14 majority of the voters voting on the proposition, without regard to
15 the total number of voters voting on the proposition. The provisions
16 of this section shall also be subject to the limitations contained in
17 Article VIII, Section 6, of this Constitution;

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

21 Article VIII, section 6. No county, city, town, school district,
22 or other municipal corporation shall for any purpose become indebted
23 in any manner to an amount exceeding one and one-half per centum of
24 the taxable property in such county, city, town, school district, or
25 other municipal corporation, without the assent of three-fifths of
26 the voters therein voting at an election to be held for that purpose,
27 nor in cases requiring such assent shall the total indebtedness at
28 any time exceed five per centum on the value of the taxable property
29 therein, to be ascertained by the last assessment for state and
30 county purposes previous to the incurring of such indebtedness,
31 except that in incorporated cities the assessment shall be taken from
32 the last assessment for city purposes: *Provided, That the assent*
33 necessary to authorize a school district to incur such debt shall be
34 by a majority of the voters voting on the proposition, without regard
35 to the total number of voters voting on the proposition: *Provided*
36 further, That no part of the indebtedness allowed in this section
37 shall be incurred for any purpose other than strictly county, city,
38 town, school district, or other municipal purposes: *Provided further,*
39 That (a) any city or town, with such assent, may be allowed to become

1 indebted to a larger amount, but not exceeding five per centum
2 additional for supplying such city or town with water, artificial
3 light, and sewers, when the works for supplying such water, light,
4 and sewers shall be owned and controlled by the municipality and (b)
5 any school district with such assent, may be allowed to become
6 indebted to a larger amount but not exceeding five per centum
7 additional for capital outlays.

8 Article XI, Section No county, city, or township may
9 impose or collect payment of money as a condition of approval for new
10 residential development if such money is to be transferred to a
11 school district.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this amendment is a single amendment
13 within the meaning of Article XXIII, section 1 of the state
14 Constitution.

15 The legislature finds that the changes contained in this
16 amendment constitute a single integrated plan for modifying local
17 funding authority for school district facilities. If this amendment
18 is held to be separate amendments, this joint resolution is void in
19 its entirety and is of no force and effect.

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

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