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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4204**

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**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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