

Initiative Measure No. 94

BALLOT TITLE

AN ACT relating to taxation: limiting the aggregate annual rate of levy on real and personal property for state, county, city or town, school district and road district purposes to forty mills; limiting the levy by the state to two mills to be used exclusively for the support of the University of Washington, Washington State College and the Normal Schools; limiting the levy by counties, cities and towns, school districts and road districts to certain designated maximums; excepting port districts from the operation of the act; and providing that additional levies may be made as therein provided.

AN ACT relating to the taxation of real and personal property and limiting the aggregate annual rate of levy thereon for state, county, municipal, school district and road district purposes to forty mills.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Washington:

SECTION 1. Except as hereinafter provided, the aggregate of all tax levies upon real and personal property by the state, county, school district, road district, and city or town shall not in any year exceed forty mills on the dollar of assessed valuation, which assessed valuation shall be fifty per cent of the true and fair value of any such property in money; and the levy by the state shall not exceed two mills to be exclusively for the support of the University of Washington, Washington State College and the Normal Schools of the state; the levy by any county shall not exceed ten mills including the levy for the county school fund, the levy by or for any school district shall not exceed ten mills, the levy for any road district shall not exceed three mills, and the levy by any city or town shall not exceed fifteen mills; Provided, that nothing herein shall limit port district levies otherwise than as provided by existing law, nor limit the power of any county to levy taxes at the rate provided by law for any taxing district other than a school district or road district, where such taxing district includes less than the whole county; Provided, further, that the limitations imposed by this

section shall not prevent the levy of additional taxes, not in excess of five mills per annum and without anticipation of delinquencies in payment of taxes, in an amount equal to the interest and principal payable in the next succeeding year on general obligation bonds, outstanding at the time of the taking effect of this act, issued by or through the agency of the state, or any county, city, town, or school district, nor the levy of additional taxes to pay interest on or toward the reduction, at the rate provided by statute, of the principal of county, city, town, or school district warrants outstanding on December 8, 1932; but the millage limitation of this proviso with respect to general obligation bonds shall not apply to any taxing district in which a larger levy is necessary in order to prevent the impairment of the obligation of contracts; Provided, further, that any county, school district, road district, city or town shall have the power to levy taxes at a rate in excess of the rate specified in this act, when authorized so to do by the electors of such county, school district, road district, city or town by a three-fifths majority of those voting on the proposition at a special election, to be held in the year in which the levy is made, and not oftener than once in such year, in the manner provided by law for holding general elections, at such time as may be fixed by the body authorized to call the same, which special election may be called by the board of county commissioners, board of

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school directors, or council or other governing body of any city or town or road district, by giving notice thereof for two successive weeks by publication and posting in the manner provided by law for giving notices of general elections, at which special election the proposition of authorizing such excess levy shall be submitted in such form as to enable

the voters favoring the proposition to vote "YES," and those opposed thereto to vote "NO," provided that the total number of persons voting at such special election shall constitute a majority of the voters in said taxing district who voted for the office of governor at the next preceding gubernatorial election.

ARGUMENT FOR INITIATIVE MEASURE NO. 94

"THE 40 MILL TAX LIMIT LAW"

If you are a tax payer, read this

Excessive Taxation

Confiscates homes, farms and business properties;

Keeps out industries which provide jobs;

"Kills the goose that lays the golden egg";

\$48,000,000.00 of taxes are delinquent in this state;

Over 75,000 properties have been sold for taxes of 1925 and prior and no sale has been attempted for later years.

Last year Mr. A. S. Goss, then Master of the State Grange, in his annual address said: "There is no uncertainty as to the seriousness of the situation when taxes are delinquent upon 75 % of the property of a whole county and 90 % of the farm land."

The Present 40 Mill Tax Limit Law

Saved from 4 % to 20 % on the 1933 taxes. Forced reductions in the cost of government without curtailing service; courts function, offices are open and no schools have closed. Mr. Goss declared, "The Forty Mill Bill was a mandate to reduce expenses."

It demonstrated the effectiveness of tax rate limitations. Real property, visible and immovable, needs protection. Other states have tax limits. Ohio's is 10 mills and Michigan 15 mills on a 100 % valuation.

Why a New Law?

Initiative No. 94 prevents the present 40 mill law being repealed or tampered with by the next legislature and cures its defects and omissions.

94 will not interfere with working out a complete state tax code.

94 means additional saving of 3 % to 10 %.

94 reduces the state levy from 5 mills to 2 mills all going to the University, the State College and the three Normals; this is more than their present millage—look at your 1933 tax receipt. They should also

receive a share of revenue from other sources. That door should not be closed to them.

94 limits road district taxes to 3 mills.

94 leaves other limits as in present law.

94 does not repudiate outstanding obligations.

94,177 persons signed petition for Initiative 94.

Government and Schools

We can only have such government and schools as we can pay for. Ambitious plans of the past, public as well as private, must be deferred. Common schools receive the entire net revenue raised by state occupational tax—over \$6,000,000 this year.

94 permits a levy additional to 10 mills for school districts when authorized by a three-fifths vote of a majority of the voters in the district. All may vote, whether taxpayers or not; the election may be held at any time designated by the school directors, on the same day as a general election, if desired, therefore the provision is absolutely fair and reasonable. Ohio levies only 10 mills for all schools, roads, courts, police, firemen and all local purposes.

Other forms of taxation come and go, but the property tax will be with us for years to come; let's keep it within reason.

Farmers, home owners and others working together the past eight years are at last getting results.

Keep the good work up.

Look for Initiative No. 94 on the Ballot and Vote for It.

W. H. MILLER, Tacoma;

L. S. BOOTH, Seattle;

LLOYD GANDY, Spokane;

PROPERTY OWNERS DIVISION OF WASHINGTON
REAL ESTATE BOARDS,

By J. W. WHEELER.