

Initiative Measure No. 129

BALLOT TITLE

AN ACT limiting to 40 mills the aggregate annual levy on real and personal property for all purposes; limiting the levy by the state to 2 mills, provided that the legislature may omit this levy, in which case it may increase the permitted levy by cities or towns; limiting the levy by counties, cities and towns, school districts and road districts to certain designated maximums; exempting port districts and power districts from its operation and providing that additional levies may be made by election.

AN ACT relating to the taxation of real and personal property and limiting the aggregate annual rate of levy thereon for all 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, municipal corporations, taxing districts and governmental agencies, now existing or hereafter created, shall not in any year exceed forty mills on the dollar of assessed valuation, which assessed valuation shall be fifty per centum of the true and fair value of such property in money; and within and subject to the aforesaid limitation the levy by the state shall not exceed two mills to be used 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 any levy for the county school fund required by law, 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; but the legislature may reduce or abolish the millage hereinabove provided for the state, and in that event may increase the millage hereinabove provided for cities and towns to the extent of the reduction of the state millage, the maximum increase in the

millage for cities and towns not to exceed two mills; *Provided*, That nothing herein shall prevent levies at the rates provided by existing law by or for any port or power district; *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 on December 6, 1934, 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, 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, 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

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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 school directors, or council or other governing body of any city or town, 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 proposi-

tion 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 forty per cent 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. 129

"THE 40-MILL TAX LIMIT LAW"

Initiative No. 129 is sponsored by the same 40-Mill Committee which sponsored the 40-Mill Limit Initiatives in 1932, 1934 and 1936. It is the only measure on the ballot which will protect your tax savings and give you further tax reductions under the 40-mill principle.

TAX PROTECTION

Initiative No. 129 insures for another two years the protection of the 40-Mill Tax Limit which has already reduced our property taxes \$40,000,000 a year, with still further reductions coming as old debts are paid off. Re-enactment each two years is necessary to prevent repeal of tax limitation and the loss of your tax savings.

Initiative 129 reenacts the present 40-Mill Act voted by the people which has reduced the cost of government, placed the schools in better financial condition than ever before and reduced the public debt, while permitting all well-managed units of government to maintain their needed functions.

Initiative 129 protects the overall limit of 40 mills. It retains the present limitations for the state, county, cities, school, port and power districts. It retains the margin provided within the 40-mill limit for necessary levies by smaller classes of taxing districts for such purposes as flood control and irrigation while protecting the taxpayer from increased taxes.

Initiative 129 safeguards the taxpayer in the voting of special levies by requiring their approval by a substantial majority.

Initiative 129 provides for flexibility in the allocation of state revenue by permitting a transfer of the state levy but only if the Governor and the Legislature find it advisable to do so. While providing flexibility, it does not deprive any state institution of a dollar of revenue.

BENEFITS EVERY CITIZEN

The 40-Mill Act in reducing taxes has benefited every person in this

state since it has protected the farm and home owners and has attracted investments in our natural resources. The state can only be as prosperous as its citizens; its citizens can only be prosperous if taxes are low enough for them to own property.

Initiative No. 129 further encourages the ownership of homes, increases the security of all property owners and encourages taxpayers to pay their taxes and decrease tax delinquency. Lower taxes and protection to the property owners in this state can be maintained only by voting for Initiative No. 129.

Thousands of farmers, home owners and other citizens working together have secured the benefits of the 40-Mill Act. Over 125,000 citizens signed the petition for Initiative No. 129.

Every vote for Initiative 129 is a mandate to the next Legislature to submit a constitutional amendment to ensure permanent tax limitation in this state. Every vote for Initiative 129 is a blow to radical tax spenders who are always seeking to add new burdens to the already overburdened taxpayers.

By passing Initiative 129 you re-enact the 40-Mill Act.

Remember Initiative 129. Look for it on the ballot and Vote for 129.

THE 40-MILL TAX LIMIT
COMMITTEE,

J. W. Wheeler, President,

L. S. Booth, Vice-President.

Endorsed by:

WASHINGTON STATE FARM
BUREAU,

WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION
OF REAL ESTATE BOARDS,

WASHINGTON STATE TAX-
PAYERS ASSOCIATION,

and other civic, commercial and
farm organizations and im-
provement clubs.