

# An Amendment to the State Constitution

To Be Submitted to the Qualified Electors of the State for Their Approval  
or Rejection at the

## GENERAL ELECTION

TO BE HELD ON

Tuesday, November 7, 1950

### BALLOT TITLE

Shall Section 6, Article VIII of the Constitution be amended to permit school districts to become indebted when authorized by popular vote up to an additional 5% of assessed valuation for capital outlays?

#### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10

*Be It Resolved*, By the House of Representatives and the Senate of the State of Washington, in Legislative Session Assembled:

THAT, At the next general election to be held in this state, whether regularly or specially called, there shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the state for their approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to section 6, Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Washington to read as follows:

SEC. 6. Limitations Upon Municipal Indebtedness—No county, city, town, school district, or other municipal corporation shall for any purpose become indebted in any manner to an amount exceeding one and one-half per centum of the taxable property in such county, city, town, school district, or other municipal corporation, without the assent of three-fifths of the voters therein voting at an election to be held for that purpose, nor in cases requiring such assent shall the total indebtedness at any time exceed five per centum on the value of the taxable property therein, to be ascertained by the last assessment for state and county purposes previous to

the incurring of such indebtedness, except that in incorporated cities the assessment shall be taken from the last assessment for city purposes: *Provided*, That no part of the indebtedness allowed in this section shall be incurred for any purpose other than strictly county, city, town, school district, or other municipal purposes: *Provided, further*, That (a) any city or town, with such assent, may be allowed to become indebted to a larger amount, but not exceeding five per centum additional for supplying such city or town with water, artificial light, and sewers, when the works for supplying such water, light, and sewers shall be owned and controlled by the municipality; and (b) any school district with such assent, may be allowed to become indebted to a larger amount but not exceeding five per centum (5%) additional for capital outlays.

Adopted by the House March 3, 1949.

CHAS. W. HODDE,  
*Speaker of the House.*

Adopted by the Senate March 7, 1949.

VICTOR A. MEYERS,  
*President of the Senate.*

STATE OF WASHINGTON—ss.

Filed in the office of the Secretary of State March 10, 1949.

EARL COE,  
*Secretary of State.*

**ARGUMENT for House Joint Resolution No. 10—  
Constitutional Amendment—**

**EDUCATION MOLDS  
OUR FUTURE**



**BETTER SCHOOLS MAKE  
BETTER COMMUNITIES**

**OUR GROWING SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

As the State of Washington continues its healthy growth, many communities are under pressure to provide school facilities for their youngsters but find themselves up against the stone wall of an outmoded 5 per cent debt limit.

HJR 10 will amend the State Constitution to permit **those School Districts that want to**, to bond up to 10 per cent of their valuation for school construction purposes. This proposition merely extends to School Districts a right already established for cities and towns and will bring Washington in line with the large majority of states throughout the country (Oregon recently passed a similar measure, and California's debt limit for years has been 15 per cent.)

**School houses must be built!** Increasing the debt limit will provide the needed buildings and at the same time modernize our tax program.

With the present 5 per cent debt limit, many School Districts must vote themselves heavy tax levies to be paid immediately. A 10 per cent bonding capacity will make it possible to spread the cost of needed schools over a reasonable period of time, and will insure the payment of construction costs by those who will enjoy the benefits.

At the 1949 session of the Legislature, HJR 10 passed the House of Representatives with only three dissenting votes. It passed the Senate unanimously. It is endorsed by the Washington State School Directors' Association, the Washington Congress of Parents and Teachers, and by scores of other groups and individuals. It benefits the children, the schools, and the taxpayers.

**IRVING E. STIMPSON, *Chairman***

United Voters for School, College and Institution Bonds  
4144 Arcade Building, Seattle 1  
Telephone Main 8510

**SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOLS—FOR A GROWING STATE  
VOTE "YES" ON HJR NO. 10!**

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STATE OF WASHINGTON—ss.

Filed in the office of the Secretary of State July 5, 1950.

**EARL COE,**  
*Secretary of State.*