

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION

School Districts: Increasing Levy Periods

TO BE VOTED UPON NOVEMBER 4, 1958

OFFICIAL BALLOT TITLE

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4

SCHOOL DISTRICTS: INCREASING LEVY PERIODS

Shall the state constitution be amended to permit school district electors to authorize excess tax levies at a specified maximum rate for up to two years for operation and/or up to six years for capital outlay, if the proposition or propositions therefor shall be approved by a three-fifths majority, and the number of electors voting thereon constitutes not less than forty per centum of the votes cast at the last preceding general election in such district?

*Be It Resolved*, By the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Washington in legislative session assembled:

THAT, At the general election to be held in this state on the Tuesday next succeeding the first Monday in November, 1958, there shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the state, for their approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to Article 7, section 2, as amended by Amendment 17, of the Constitution of the State of Washington, by adding thereto a new subsection designated as subsection (d), which shall read as follows:

Article 7, Section 2, Subsection (d). By any school district for the purposes and in the manner in this subsection provided. School district tax levy or levies at a specified maximum rate for each year may be authorized at any single election for a specified number of years not in excess of two years for a levy for operations or six years for a levy for capital outlay, or both when the proposition therefor has been approved by a majority of at least three-fifths of the electors voting thereon at which election the number of persons voting

on the proposition shall constitute not less than forty per centum of the total number of votes cast at the last preceding general election in such district. If any tax levy is authorized pursuant to the provisions of this subsection, the governing body of the school district shall determine annually thereafter the amount of funds required from the authorized levy or levies for the current use of the schools of the district and/or for capital purposes, and within the limits of each tax levy so authorized a levy shall be made at the rate required to produce the amount of funds determined as aforesaid.

The proposition or propositions to authorize additional tax levies for current operations or capital outlays or both may be submitted to the electors of a school district at any election, whether called specially for this purpose, or called for any other purpose, but may be submitted not more than twice in any one year.

No district shall submit to the electorate upon authority of this subsection a proposition to authorize additional levies for current operations or capital outlays for any year for which such

*Substitute House Joint Resolution No. 4 (Continued)*

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electors have previously approved a levy under the authority of this subsection for the same purpose. A district may however at any time submit to the electorate a proposition to substitute for any prior authorization, a new authorization for the same purpose: *Provided*, (1) That the levy authorized by the substituted authorization will be adequate to fulfill all contractual obligations of the district incurred by reason of the prior authorization, and (2) that the substitute proposition shall by its terms supersede the prior authorization and by its terms shall not become effective until the first tax levy year following the date of the election at which it was authorized and then be in lieu of any tax levy authorized by the superseded authorization.

The procedures specified in this subsection shall be deemed cumulative to the other procedures specified in this section.

*And Be It Resolved*, That the Secretary of State shall cause the foregoing constitutional amendment to be published for at least three months next preceding the election in a weekly newspaper in every county in the state in which such a newspaper is published.

Passed the House February 19, 1957.

JOHN L. O'BRIEN,  
*Speaker of the House.*

Passed the Senate March 11, 1957.

JOHN A. CHERBERG,  
*President of the senate.*

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STATE OF WASHINGTON—ss.

Filed in the office of the Secretary of State March 14, 1957.

VICTOR A. MEYERS, *Secretary of State.*

# HJR-4\*

will remove this costly roadblock



## HJR-4 is an economy measure for stronger schools

- Cuts election costs — Frequent levies are expensive.
- Cuts construction costs through savings in bond interest.
- Cuts taxes — A sensible longer-term levy means smaller levy in any one year.
- Fewer tax elections . . . wiser spending for schools.
- Better informed voters — with more time between elections.
- HJR-4 is enabling legislation only. Voters will make own decisions.

## \* vote **YES** for substitute House Joint Resolution 4

WASH. STATE SCHOOL DIRECTORS ASSN. • PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES OF WASH.  
WASH. CONGRESS OF PARENTS and TEACHERS • WASH. EDUCATION ASSN.  
WASH. STATE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS ASSN. • SUPT. OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION  
THE ALLIED SCHOOL COUNCIL OF WASHINGTON  
Mrs. Arthur Skelton, President Elmer Stanley, Sec.  
Capitol Park Bldg., Olympia

STATE OF WASHINGTON—~~ss~~

Filed in the office of the Secretary of State July 2, 1958.

VICTOR A. MEYERS, *Secretary of State.*

# Argument *AGAINST* Sub. House Joint Resolution No. 4

## A BOX OF FACTS

### THE SKYROCKETING COST OF EDUCATION IN WASHINGTON

#### **SINCE 1900 —**

Enrollment in public schools has more than doubled. State income has multiplied 25 times.

#### **YET —**

Spending for schools has multiplied **100 times**.

The schools' share of state income has multiplied more than 4 times.

**IN THE NEXT 12 YEARS**, if present trends continue . . . Cost of education will more than double again.

**TO PAY THIS DOUBLED COST** will require **NEW TAXES** equal to:

1. A sales tax jump from  $3\frac{1}{3}$  to 6 per cent, or:
2. A doubling of present property taxes, or:
3. A big **NEW, STATE INCOME TAX**.

### PROTECT YOUR 40-MILL LIMIT — VOTE NO ON NO. 4

1. **This measure—Number Four—is a plan leading to destruction of YOUR present property tax protection.**

This protection is embodied in the 40-Mill Tax Limit provision of the State Constitution.

Number Four would **make a hole** in the tax dike represented by the 40-Mill Limit which now keeps back a flood of new, bigger taxes. Once that tax dike is breached by Number Four, the 40-Mill Limit will crumble; your constitutional tax protection will be swept away.

Make no mistake about it—this fight is "FORTY VERSUS FOUR." The 40-Mill Limit versus Number Four.

If enacted, Number Four would make it legal to saddle **you** with **EIGHT BIG NEW EXCESS TAX LEVIES** in any one election—2 for school operating expenses and 6 for school capital outlays.

And this could be done at "quiet" elections—that is, when relatively few voters bother to go to the polls. This means that a very small minority of voters—perhaps only 100 or so—could impose **EIGHT NEW TAX LEVIES** on a school district having thousands of taxpaying voters!

Thus, Number Four contains a trick whereby **THE TAIL COULD WAG THE DOG**, no matter how it hurts.

(Continued on next page)

# Argument *AGAINST* Sub. House Joint Resolution No. 4 NO. 4 AMENDS THE 40-MILL LIMIT

## 2. Don't be ashamed to vote against Number Four.

For years, school PROPAGANDISTS have tried to force-feed the idea that voting against any school levy—no matter how ridiculous—was "voting against the kids."

This technique insults the intelligence and good citizenship of all those who have paid the enormous bills to give Washington youngsters schooling as good or better than any in America.

Just how generous we have been is shown by a glance at the "box of facts" on the preceding page. This proves that while school enrollment doubled since 1900, our spending for schools multiplied 100 times. (The national outlay for schools increased 60 times in the same period—which means Washington is now paying out FAR MORE THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE for schools.)

Of course, our state's population also increased since 1900. Then it was 518,103 persons. Now it is about 2,650,000 persons, or five times as many.

That's to say: Five times as many people are paying 100 times as much money for schools.

(A vote against Number 4 saves you from even higher taxes!)

## 3. Number Four would SKYROCKET school costs, and YOU would have to foot the bill.

The school PROPAGANDISTS sneer at the Taxpayers' proved generosity to the schools, and back Number Four as a means to make us spend fabulously rather than generously.

In the next 12 years, if present trends continue, Washington school costs will more than double.

How could you be COMPELLED TO PAY twice as much as now?

Again, look at the "Box of Facts" on the preceding page.

It shows three very grim alternatives:

1. Your PROPERTY TAXES would be DOUBLED OR MORE, or
2. The present sales tax would be jumped to 6 per cent, or
3. You'd have to saddle yourself with a BIG, NEW STATE INCOME TAX!

(Don't be fooled by any claim that Number Four would reduce taxes in any way. The exact opposite is true.)

## 4. Propagandists for Number Four claim that Washington neglects her schools; that we are losing teachers to better-paying jobs; that we need a vastly greater number of schools to care for the growing enrollment, and that Number Four is a "cure-all" for any school ailments.

But THE FACTS disprove these assertions.

The fact is that, rather than neglecting our schools, we are spending far more money, and a much greater percentage of our total income, for schools than ever before.

The fact is that more people are leaving private jobs to take teaching jobs than the other way around.

The fact is that the average teacher's pay increased 218 per cent since 1929, from \$1,400 to \$4,450 per year nationally, and their pay in Washington averages higher.

The fact is that teachers' earnings in Washington are rising faster than those of dentists, lawyers and engineers, for example.

The fact is that we are now building new school space, and will continue to do so under present taxes, fast enough to take care of all projected demands.

The fact is that Number Four, rather than "curing" any school ailments, probably will "kill the goose that lays the golden eggs"—meaning the desire and ability of the taxpayers to pay for superior schools. In many districts, Washington voters already are "striking" against high levies for school "frills." Number Four, if enacted, would exaggerate this trend into state-wide rebellion against higher school costs.

(Many of the facts given above are based on the authoritative book, "School Needs in the Decade Ahead" by Roger A. Freeman, 1958.)

## Protect the 40-Mill Limit—Vote No on No. 4

Washington Assoc. of Realtors  
Don A. Wilcox, President

40-Mill Tax Limit Committee  
J. W. Wheeler, Chairman  
Frank C. Jackson, Secretary  
1103 Vance Building, Seattle 1

STATE OF WASHINGTON—ss.

Filed in the office of the Secretary of State July 15, 1958.

VICTOR A. MEYERS, *Secretary of State.*