

Proposed Constitutional Amendment

*OFFICIAL BALLOT TITLE

SUBSTITUTE SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1

SCHOOL DISTRICTS: INCREASING LEVY PERIODS

Shall the State Constitution be amended to permit school district voters to authorize tax levies in excess of the 40-mill limit at a specified maximum rate for up to four years for operations and/or capital outlay, if the proposition or propositions be approved by a three-fifths majority, and the number of voters voting thereon constitutes not less than forty percent of the votes cast at the last preceding general election in such district?

* Ballot Title issued by John J. O'Connell, Attorney General.

Vote cast by 1961 Legislature on final passage of Substitute Senate Joint Resolution No. 1: STATE SENATE: 49 Members—42 Yeas; 1 Nay; 6 Absent or not voting. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: 99 Members—92 Yeas; 2 Nays; 5 Absent or not voting.

EXPLANATORY COMMENT ISSUED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AS REQUIRED BY LAW

The Law As It Now Exists:

Article VII, section 2, Amendment 17, of the State Constitution (commonly known as the 40-mill limit provision)
(Continued at top of next page)

OFFICIAL ARGUMENT **FOR** SUBSTITUTE SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1

What Does SJR-1 Do For You?

SJR-1 is a permissive resolution. It permits you to approve special levies for one, two, three or four years for current school operations or capital outlay. SJR-1 retains the 40-mill limit law. It still requires that 40% of those who voted in the last General Election vote on the levy, and that 60% of them approve it.

How Will SJR-1 Save YOU Money?

SJR-1 will eliminate unnecessary yearly levy elections. At present, it is costing you as much as \$125,000 each year per district every time a special levy election is called. One election could do the job of four—SJR-1 could save you \$375,000 over a four-year period.

SJR-1 will eliminate the need for costly one year financing. SJR-1 will permit school districts to spread payments over two, three or four years—**interest-free!**

SJR-1 will give you the opportunity to plan ahead. It will permit you to consider future as well as current needs.

SJR-1 will give you the purse-strings. You will decide what you want. You will decide when you want it. And you will decide when you want to pay for it.

Who Supports SJR-1?

98% of your state Legislators—265 mayors across the State—both major political parties—Washington State Labor Council—League of Women Voters—Washington Congress of Parents and Teachers—

Washington Education Association—American Association of University Women—Municipal League—Washington State Junior Chamber of Commerce—Association of Washington Cities—hundreds of civic groups and countless thousands of individuals who want to keep the responsibility for equipping our children to meet the challenges of the future.

SJR-1 is on the November ballot because 98% of your State Legislators put it there—and because thousands of concerned citizens throughout the State know that the development of youthful potential is the hope of our future. They are convinced that SJR-1 is a giant step toward providing that development.

Save a Ton of Money With Fewer Tax Elections — Vote "YES" on Sub. S.J.R. No. 1

COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO COMPOSE ARGUMENT FOR SUBSTITUTE SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1

ANDY HESS, State Senator
1414 S.W. 158th, Seattle, Wash.

JOHN RYDER, State Senator
6811 55th N.E., Seattle, Wash.

FRANK BROUILLET, State Representative
619 7th Ave. S.W., Puyallup, Wash.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DAMON R. CANFIELD
State Representative
Granger, Wash.

MRS. FORREST S. SMITH
Chairman, Citizens Committee to
Reduce Local Election Costs
4507 University Way N.E., Seattle

MRS. ROBERT J. STUART
Past President, League
of Women Voters of
Washington, Spokane

limits the aggregate of property tax levies by the state and taxing districts, including *school districts*, to forty mills on the dollar of assessed valuation, except that the voters of a taxing district, under certain specified conditions, may authorize the following levies in excess of the 40-mill limit:

- (a) An excess levy for one year.
- (b) Excess levies sufficient to meet the required annual payments of principal and interest on general obligation bonds issued solely for capital purposes, other than the replacement of equipment, or to refund such general obligation bonds.

In each case, the proposition must be approved by a three-fifths majority of the voters at an election where the number of persons voting constitute not less than forty percent of the total number of votes cast in such taxing district at the last preceding general election.

There are further limitations as to the number of such propositions and the time within which they may be submitted to the people.

Effect of Substitute Senate Joint Resolution No. 1 If Approved Into Law:

The proposed constitutional amendment would add a new subsection additionally permitting *school district* voters to authorize, at a single election, tax levies in excess of the 40-mill limit for a specified number of years, not to exceed four years, *for either operations or capital outlay purposes, or both*. Such propositions would be subject to the same percentage requirements for voter approval as now govern excess levies.

No school district would be permitted to submit to the voters a proposition to authorize additional levies under the new subsection for any year for which the voters have previously authorized an excess levy under this subsection for the same purpose. However, under certain specified conditions, a school district could submit to the voters at any time a new proposition for the same purpose as a substitute for a prior excess levy authorization made under this subsection.

NOTE: Complete text of Substitute Senate Joint Resolution No. 1 appears on Page 42.

OFFICIAL ARGUMENT AGAINST SUBSTITUTE SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1 WASHINGTON VOTERS—Home Owners, Renters, Property Owners! Protect Your 40-Mill Tax Limit, Vote "NO" on Sub. SJR No. 1

1. Do you want property taxes increased \$100 million? This will happen unless you vote "NO" on Sub. SJR No. 1.

2. If the 40-mill tax limit constitutional provision is amended by this measure, 8 excess levies can be voted at one election, 2 each year for 4 years.

3. School districts now get \$61 million per year under excess levies and bonded indebtedness. The cost of elections paid by taxpayers is pennies compared to this yearly sum.

4. Do you know that 80% of the school districts in this state voted over 1/4 billion dollars bonded debt the property taxpayers are now paying off? Talk of saving interest is a specious claim since districts are already bonded to the full limit. This limit has been increased 6-fold in 15 years.

5. Do we, the people, desire to give any group a blank check to add \$100 million in excess levies in addition to the \$110 million of property taxes the school districts are now receiving each year? That is certain to happen if Sub. SJR No. 1 is voted to amend the 40-mill tax limit constitutional provision.

6. Do you know that the Legislature passed a bill changing the biennial school election from March of the

even years to March of the odd years? WHY? So the 40% of those who voted at the last general election (See Attorney General's explanatory comments above) would apply on these odd year school elections for 20 months out of 24 and permit a small partisan group to pass excess levies. Now school districts and municipalities each separately pay the full cost of elections instead of sharing the cost, thus **doubling the election costs**.

7. You need not be fooled by the fallacious claim that 4-year levies will save you money on fewer elections. Sub. SJR No. 1 provides that these additional two 4-year levies are cumulative to the two one-year levies now permitted school districts under the 40-mill tax limit. They want to be able to vote 16 excess levies in 4 years, which is just what Sub. SJR No. 1 permits. The claim to save election money is false. A 4-year period is too long for operations, particularly since the local budget needs are dependent on the biennial actions of the State Legislature.

8. If the schools need money and the above measure should become part of the constitution, an aroused citizenry may alert itself to such an extent that excess millages for schools may be more difficult to attain than under present constitutional limitations. If the schools need money, is this the way to get it? Is this a wise measure? We definitely reply "NO."

483,165 statewide voters defeated a similar amendment in 1958 by a majority of 189,779; they will again protect the 40-mill tax limit.

Don't Kill the 40-Mill, Vote "NO" on Sub. SJR No. 1

COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO COMPOSE ARGUMENT AGAINST SUBSTITUTE SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1

ERNEST W. LENNART
State Senator
Everson, Wash.

ED M. MORRISSEY
State Representative
17 So. 12th Ave., Yakima, Wash.

LLOYD J. ANDREWS, Former (1957-61)
Superintendent of Public Instruction
N. 10122 Huntington Rd., Spokane, Wash.

Constitutional Amendments

COMPLETE TEXT OF *Substitute Senate Joint Resolution No. 1*

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, 1962, 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 four years for a levy for operations or four 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 percentum 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 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 Senate Mar. 10, 1961.
JOHN A. CHERBERG,
President of the Senate.

Passed the House Mar. 24, 1961.
JOHN L. O'BRIEN,
Speaker of the House.

EXPLANATORY COMMENT SUB. S.J.R. NO. 1:

All words underscored do not appear in our State Constitution as it is now written but will be put in if this amendment is adopted.

VICTOR A. MEYERS, Secretary of State

COMPLETE TEXT OF *Senate Joint Resolution No. 9*

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, 1962, there shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the state for their approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to Article II, section 1 of the Constitution of the State of Washington, as amended by Amendment 7 by adding thereto a **new subsection** to be known as subsection (e), reading as follows:

Article II, section 1, subsection (e). The legislature shall provide methods of publicity of all laws or parts of laws, and amendments to the Constitution referred to the people with arguments for and against the laws and amendments so referred. The secretary of state shall send one copy of the publication to each individual place of residence in the state and shall make such additional distribution as he shall determine necessary to reasonably assure that each voter will have an opportunity to study the measures prior to election. These provisions supersede the provisions set forth in the last paragraph of section 1 of this article as amended by the seventh amendment to the Constitution of this state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause the foregoing constitutional amendment to be published for at least three months next preceding the