

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

7

Proposed Constitutional Amendment

*Official Ballot Title:**

RETIRED PERSONS PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

Shall Article VII of the state constitution be amended to authorize the legislature to grant relief from property taxes on real property owned and occupied as a residence by retired persons, subject to such restrictions and conditions as the legislature may establish, including but not limited to level of income and length of residence?

Vote cast by members of the 1965 Legislature on final passage:

SENATE: (49 members) Yeas, 34; Nays, 10; Absent or not voting, 5.

HOUSE: (99 members) Yeas, 83; Nays, 15; Absent or not voting, 1.

*Ballot Title as issued by the Attorney General.

Statement **FOR**

Articles of the state constitution should be amended only for grave reasons. Such a reason exists now. At present, Article VII requires "that all taxes shall be uniform upon the same class of property within the state or other taxing body." This requirement is very unfair to retired persons who are property owners with a fixed income threatened by inflation.

Aside from creating hardships for our senior citizens, Article VII penalizes many communities whenever local agencies must rely on levy elections for special revenues. Real need on the part of many retired property owners compels them to oppose levies which increase their property tax. Some tax relief would enable many of these persons to cast more positive votes.

To help these retired persons and their communities, all voters are urged to approve House Joint Resolution No. 7 which passed both the House and Senate by much better than the two-thirds majority required by the constitution. The Resolution is in favor of amending the present Article VII of the state constitution to the effect that it would grant relief from "taxes on real property owned and occupied as a residence by retired persons."

Many states and political subdivisions imposing taxation upon real property have granted substantial exemptions and rebates to senior citizens on the ground that their generally limited income makes it difficult for them to maintain themselves in their own homes. The 1965 session of the Legislature passed a bill granting such relief which could not be made effective until such time as HJR 7 was adopted.

The practical advantages of amending the present Article VII of the state constitution are readily apparent. However, there is another, more humane, reason for voting for House Joint Resolution No. 7. Our senior citizens have labored hard to make our state grow. For this we owe them a debt. We can pay it best by helping our retired neighbors to continue and share with us the work they have begun. Voting for House Joint Resolution No. 7 would do just that.

Committee appointed to compose statement FOR House Joint Resolution No. 7:

ERIC O. ANDERSON, State Representative; **FRANK CONNOR**, State Senator; **Dr. FRANZ K. SCHNEIDER**, Assoc. Professor, Gonzaga University, Spokane.

Advisory Committee: **MICHAEL WOLFSTONE**, Chairman Wash. State Council Senior Citizens; **ROBERT (BOB) McDOUGALL**, State Representative; **A. LARS NELSON**, Master Washington State Grange; **ROBERT (BOB) KULL**, State Representative; **JOHN R. BARTELL**, State President, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Kelso.

*Explanatory comment issued by the
Attorney General as required by law*

The Law as it now exists:

Article VII, Section 1 (Amendment 14) of the state constitution presently requires that all taxes shall be uniform upon the same class of property within the state or other taxing body. In addition, Article VII, section 2 (Amendment 17) of the state constitution, limiting the aggregate of all property tax levied by the state and all taxing districts without a vote of the people to forty mills on the dollar of assessed valuation, states that the assessed valuation of property shall be fifty percent of the true and fair value of such property in money.

**Effect of House Joint Resolution
No. 7 if approved into Law:**

The proposed amendment would grant to our state legislature authority, notwithstanding these

above-noted provisions, to grant relief from property tax on real property owned and occupied as a residence by retired persons. The legislature would be authorized to place such restrictions and conditions upon the granting of such relief as it deems proper. Such restrictions and conditions could include, among others, the limiting of the relief to those property owners below a specific level of income and those fulfilling certain minimum residential requirements.

Approval of this proposed amendment will specifically validate the provisions of chapter 168, Laws of 1965, Ex. Sess., which, subject to certain specific qualifications, will grant an exemption from the first fifty dollars of real property taxes to certain elderly heads of households having a total income (including income of a spouse) not in excess of three thousand dollars during the preceding calendar year.

Note: Complete text of House Joint Resolution No. 7 starts on Page 43.

Statement **AGAINST**

This proposed constitutional amendment was approved by a substantial majority of the members of the 1965 Legislature in its Extraordinary Session. Further, no member of the Legislature could be enlisted to write a statement against the proposal for publication in this pamphlet.

A. LUDLOW KRAMER, *Secretary of State*

Passed the Senate March 23, 1965. Passed the House March 29, 1965.
JOHN A. CHERBERG, JOHN A. CHERBERG,
President of the Senate. Robert M. Schaefer,
Speaker of the House.

EXPLANATORY COMMENT S.J.R. NO. 25:

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

A. LUDLOW KRAMER, Secretary of State.

COMPLETE TEXT OF

Proposed
Constitutional Amendment
Sub. HOUSE JOINT **4**
RESOLUTION

Ballot Title as issued by the Attorney General:

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS FOR
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

Shall Article VI of the state constitution be amended to allow United States citizens meeting all constitutional qualifications for voting in the state, except for length of residence, to vote at a United States presidential election solely for presidential electors or for the office of president and vice president if they

- (1) Intend to make this state their permanent residence; and
- (2) Have resided in the state at least sixty days immediately preceding the particular presidential election?

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, 1966, there shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the state for their approval and ratification, or rejection, a proposal to amend Article VI of the Constitution of the State of Washington by adding thereto a new section to be known as section 1A, to read as follows:

NEW SECTION. Article VI, section 1A. In consideration of those citizens of the United States who become residents of the state of Washington during the year of a presidential election with the intention of making this state their permanent residence, this section is for the purpose of authorizing such persons who can meet all qualifications for voting as set forth in section 1 of this article, except for residence, to vote for presidential electors or for the office of President and Vice-President of the United States, as the case may be, but no other: PROVIDED, That such persons have resided in the state at least sixty days immediately preceding the presidential election concerned.

The legislature shall establish the time, manner and place for such person to cast such presidential ballots.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the

secretary of state shall cause notice of the foregoing constitutional amendment to be published at least four times during the four weeks next preceding the election in every legal newspaper in the state.

Passed the House April 23, 1965. Passed the Senate April 22, 1965.
Robert M. Schaefer, JOHN A. CHERBERG,
Speaker of the House. President of the Senate.

EXPLANATORY COMMENT SUB. H.J.R. NO. 4:

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

A. LUDLOW KRAMER, Secretary of State.

COMPLETE TEXT OF

Proposed
Constitutional Amendment
HOUSE JOINT **7**
RESOLUTION

Ballot Title as issued by the Attorney General:

RETIRED PERSONS PROPERTY
TAX EXEMPTION

Shall Article VII of the state constitution be amended to authorize the legislature to grant relief from property taxes on real property owned and occupied as a residence by retired persons, subject to such restrictions and conditions as the legislature may establish, including but not limited to level of income and length of residence?

BE IT RESOLVED, *By the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, in Legislative Session Assembled:*

THAT, At the next general election to be held in this state there shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the state for their approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to Article VII of the Constitution of the state of Washington, by adding a new section thereto to read as follows:

NEW SECTION. Article VII, section 10. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 7, section 1 (Amendment 14) and Article 7, section 2 (Amendment 17), the following tax exemption shall be allowed as to real property:

The legislature shall have the power, by appropriate legislation, to grant to retired property owners relief from the property tax on the real property occupied as a residence by those owners. The legislature may place such restrictions and conditions upon the granting of such relief as it shall deem proper. Such restrictions and conditions may include, but are not limited to, the limiting of the relief to those property owners below a specific level of income and those fulfilling certain minimum residential requirements.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause notice of the foregoing constitutional amendment to be published at least four times during the four weeks next pre-

ceding the election in every legal newspaper in the state.

Passed the House May 6, 1965.

Robert M. Schaefer,
Speaker of the House.

Passed the Senate May 7, 1965.

JOHN A. CHERBERG,
President of the Senate.

EXPLANATORY COMMENT H.J.R. NO. 7:

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

A. LUDLOW KRAMER, Secretary of State.

COMPLETE TEXT OF

**Proposed
Constitutional Amendment**

**HOUSE JOINT
RESOLUTION 39**

~~preceding the election at which it is submitted to the people~~) at least four times during the four weeks next preceding the election in every legal newspaper in the state: PROVIDED, that failure of any newspaper to publish this notice shall not be interpreted as affecting the outcome of the election.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause notice of the foregoing constitutional amendment to be published at least four times during the four weeks next preceding the election in every legal newspaper in the state.

Passed the House March 22, 1965

Robert M. Schaefer,
Speaker of the House.

Passed the Senate April 13, 1965.

JOHN A. CHERBERG,
President of the Senate.

EXPLANATORY COMMENT H.J.R. NO. 39:

All words enclosed in double parentheses and lined through are in our State Constitution at the present and are being taken out by this amendment. All words underscored do not appear in the State Constitution as it is now written but will be put in if this amendment is adopted.

A. LUDLOW KRAMER, Secretary of State.

Ballot Title as issued by the Attorney General:

**PUBLICATION—LAWS AUTHORIZING
STATE DEBT**

Shall Article VIII, section 3 of the state constitution, requiring the publication, in a newspaper in each county for three months prior to the election, of the text of any law to be voted upon by the people authorizing state debts, be amended so as to require only that notice of the law be published at least four times during the four weeks preceding the election in every legal newspaper in the state?

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 Tuesday next succeeding the first Monday in November 1966, there shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the state for their approval and ratification, or rejection, a proposed amendment to the Constitution of the State of Washington, by amending Article VIII, section 3 to read as follows:

Article VIII, section 3. Except the debt specified in sections one and two of this article, no debts shall hereafter be contracted by, or on behalf of this state, unless such debt shall be authorized by law for some single work or object to be distinctly specified therein, which law shall provide ways and means, exclusive of loans, for the payment of the interest on such debt as it falls due, and also to pay and discharge the principal of such debt within twenty years from the time of the contracting thereof. No such law shall take effect until it shall, at a general election, have been submitted to the people and have received a majority of all the votes cast for and against it at such election, and all moneys raised by authority of such law shall be applied only to the specific object therein stated, or to the payment of the debt thereby created, (~~and such law~~) and notice that such law will be submitted to the people shall be published (~~in at least one newspaper in each county, if one be published therein, throughout the state, for three months next~~