

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 23

Proposed Constitutional Amendment

Official ballot title:*

TAXING DISTRICTS: EXCESS LEVY ELECTIONS

Shall the State Constitution be amended to permit taxing districts, if authorized by the legislature, to submit propositions for property tax levies exceeding the forty-mill limit to their voters up to 24 months before the levy date, thereby permitting two consecutive annual excess levies to be approved at one election; and authorizing submission of a second proposition in any twelve-month period only if it is substituted for the excess levy previously approved for that year?

Vote cast by members of the 1967 Legislature on final passage:
SENATE: (49 members) Yeas, 48; Nays, 0; Absent or not voting, 1.
HOUSE: (99 members) Yeas, 93; Nays, 0; Absent or not voting, 6.

*Ballot Title as issued by the Attorney General.

Statement **FOR**

What does SJR 23 do for you?

SJR 23 protects *your 40-mill limit law*. SJR 23 is a *permissive* resolution. It permits *you* to approve special levies for up to two years, provided further that *60 per cent* of the electors vote favorably on the issue. It still requires that *40 per cent* of those who voted in the last general election vote on the special levies submitted. SJR 23 prohibits any *pyramiding* of levies, one upon another; each *levy* would have to be *substituted* for the prior authorization.

How will SJR 23 save you money?

SJR 23 will *eliminate* unnecessary yearly levy elections. At present it is costing *you* as much as \$125,000 per election in our larger taxing districts for every special levy election. One election could do the job of two—SJR 23 could save *you* \$125,000 in *your* district every other year.

SJR 23 will provide *you* greater *fiscal responsibility* through more careful fiscal management and economies through the elimination of costly one-year financing.

SJR 23 will give *you* the opportunity to *plan ahead* and will permit *you* to consider *immediate future needs* as well as *current needs*.

SJR 23 will give *you* the purse strings. *You* will decide what *you* want; *you* will decide

when *you* want it; *you* will decide when *you* want to pay for it.

Who supports SJR 23?

SJR 23 passed the legislature without a dissenting vote. A total of 141 of the 148 members were present in the House and Senate when this measure received final consideration. *Your* representatives and senators recognize the need for this modest improvement in special levy financing *now* until such time as the citizens of our state agree upon a more general tax reform. SJR 23 has general support from members of both political parties, from labor, business, industry, education, from state officials, from hundreds of civic groups and individuals who realize the necessity for greater fiscal responsibility throughout the state.

Save Tax Dollars with Fewer Elections—Vote YES on SJR 23.

Committee appointed to compose statement FOR Senate Resolution No. 23:

WES C. UHLMAN, State Senator; GERALD L. SALING, State Representative; LOWELL PETERSON, State Senator.

Citizens Committee for Local Fiscal Responsibility:

NORM SCHUT, Executive Director, Washington Federation of State Employees AFL-CIO; DR. GARRETT HEYNS, Past Director, State Institutions; MRS. ROBERTA MORICAL, Past President, Washington Congress of Parents and Teachers; AUSTIN M. CLARK, President, Association of Washington Cities; GORDON S. CLINTON, Attorney.

Effect of Senate Joint Resolution No. 23 if approved into Law:

The Law as it now exists:

Amendment 17 of the state constitution (commonly referred to as the 40 mill limit provision) limits the aggregate of property tax levies by taxing districts to 40 mills on the dollar of assessed valuation, unless the voters of a taxing district, under certain specified conditions, have authorized levies in excess of the 40 mill limit. Except in the case of excess levies to pay principal and interest on general obligation bond issues, no proposition to levy a tax in excess of 40 mills may be submitted to the voters of the district more than 12 months before the proposed levy is to be made. Thus, the voters of a taxing district can only authorize a single one year excess levy for other than bond redemption purposes at any given election.

The proposed amendment would permit taxing districts, if authorized by appropriate act of the legislature, to submit propositions for tax levies exceeding the 40 mill limit to their voters up to 24 months before the levy date, thereby permitting the submission of two consecutive annual excess levies for approval at one election.

No taxing district would be permitted to submit to the voters a proposition to authorize additional levies under the amendment for any year for which the voters have previously authorized an excess levy. However, under certain specified conditions, a taxing district could submit to the voters at any time a new proposition to be substituted for the excess levy authorization which had been previously approved for that year.

Note: Complete text of Senate Joint Resolution No. 23 starts on Page 49.

Statement **AGAINST**

Protect your 40-mill limit, vote **NO** on SJR 23

This measure, SJR 23, is a plan leading to destruction of your present property tax protection. This protection is embodied in the 40-MILL TAX LIMIT Constitutional Provision. SJR 23 would make a hole in the tax dike which now keeps back a flood of new, bigger taxes. Once that tax dike is breached by SJR 23 the 40-mill limit will crumble. Your tax protection will be swept away.

1-Year excess levies cost

228 school districts voted \$97,256,706 for collection in 1969. If SJR 23 had been in effect, this sum or greater could apply in 1970—2 years tax \$194,513,412.

Education's demands for 1967-69 were General Fund \$982.8 million, other funds \$368,700,000, total \$1,351,500,000, 60.3% of all demands. Schools' property taxes 1967, \$175,370,000, 51.83% of all property taxes that year. Their 1968-69 bite will exceed \$400 million based on 1% yearly average increase for the last 5 years.

School excess levies 1963 were \$36,064,748. In 7 years, 1962 to 1969, excess levies have multiplied 3-fold. If you vote SJR 23 into effect this increase could be greatly accelerated, and if SJR 23 were now in effect excess levies in 1970 could be another \$97¼ million.

The school forces have repeatedly said they wish to abandon the excess levy method of raising

money. Certainly the passage of SJR 23 demanded by school forces is in the opposite direction.

Those voting for SJR 23 are signing a check for over \$100 million of excess levies for each second year. The total of these excess levies could multiply an additional 3-fold in the next 6 years.

If schools demand more money and SJR 23 should become law the aroused citizenry may alert itself to the extent that excess levies for schools would be difficult or impossible to pass. If schools demand more money, is this a wise measure? We definitely say NO.

If SJR 23 passes every taxing district can vote 2 levies for 2 years.

DON'T KILL THE 40-MILL, VOTE NO ON SJR 23.

Committee appointed to compose statement **AGAINST**
Senate Joint Resolution No. 23:

DEWEY C. DONOHUE, State Senator; RICHARD TAYLOR, State Representative; Former Senator, FRANK C. JACKSON, Secretary, 40-MILL TAX LIMIT COMMITTEE.

Advisory Committee: J. W. WHEELER, Chairman and ERIC B. BERKLEY, Treasurer, 40-MILL TAX LIMIT COMMITTEE.

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 Senate February 15, 1967. Passed the House March 9, 1967.

JOHN A. CHERBERG, President of the Senate.
DON ELDRIDGE, Speaker of the House.

EXPLANATORY COMMENT S.J.R. NO. 6:

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

COMPLETE TEXT OF

**Proposed
Constitutional Amendment**

**SENATE JOINT
RESOLUTION 17**

Ballot Title as issued by the Attorney General:

**PROVIDING FOR STATE BUILDING
AUTHORITY**

Shall Article VIII of the State Constitution be amended by adding a new section authorizing creation by the legislature of a state building authority to construct buildings and improvements for lease to state agencies or departments for up to seventy-five years, and to finance such construction through issuance of bonds or other evidences of indebtedness to be paid from the authority's revenues which would not be subject to the constitutional debt limitation?

BE IT RESOLVED, *By the Senate and 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 this state for their approval and ratification, or rejection, a proposal to amend Article VIII of the Constitution of the state of Washington by adding thereto a new section to be designated section 8 which shall read as follows:

NEW SECTION. Article VIII, section 8. The legislature is empowered notwithstanding any other provision in this Constitution, to provide for a state building authority in corporate and politic form which may contract with agencies or departments of the state government to construct upon land owned by the state or its agencies, or to be acquired by the state building authority, buildings and appurtenant improvements which such state agencies or departments are hereby empowered to lease at reasonable rental rates from the Washington state building authority for terms up to seventy-five years with provisions for eventual vesting of title in the state or its agencies. This section shall not be construed as authority to provide buildings through lease or otherwise to nongovern-

mental entities. The legislature may authorize the state building authority to borrow funds solely upon its own credit and to issue bonds or other evidences of indebtedness therefor to be repaid from its revenues and to secure the same by pledging its income or mortgaging its leaseholds. The provisions of sections 1 and 3 of this article shall not apply to indebtedness incurred pursuant to this section.

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 Senate February 17, 1967. Passed the House March 6, 1967.
JOHN A. CHERBERG, President of the Senate.
DON ELDRIDGE, Speaker of the House.

EXPLANATORY COMMENT S.J.R. NO. 17:

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

COMPLETE TEXT OF

**Proposed
Constitutional Amendment**

**SENATE JOINT
RESOLUTION 23**

Ballot Title as issued by the Attorney General:

**TAXING DISTRICTS:
EXCESS LEVY ELECTIONS**

Shall the State Constitution be amended to permit taxing districts, if authorized by the legislature, to submit propositions for property tax levies exceeding the forty-mill limit to their voters up to 24 months before the levy date, thereby permitting two consecutive annual excess levies to be approved at one election; and authorizing submission of a second proposition in any twelve-month period only if it is substituted for the excess levy previously approved for that year?

BE IT RESOLVED, *By the Senate and the 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, 1967, 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 amending section 2 as added by the 17th Amendment of the Constitution, as follows:

Article VII, section 2. Except as hereinafter provided and notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, the aggregate of all tax levies upon real and personal property by the state and all taxing districts 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 assessed and fair value of such property in money: *Provided, however,* That nothing herein shall prevent levies at the rates now provided by law by or for any port or public utility district. The term "taxing district" for the purposes of this section shall mean any political subdivision, municipal corporation, district, or other governmental agency authorized by law to levy, or have levied for it, ad valorem taxes on property, other than a port or public utility district. Such aggregate limitation or any specific limitation imposed by law in conformity therewith may be exceeded only

(a) By any taxing district when specifically authorized so to do by a majority of at least three-fifths of the electors thereof voting on the proposition to levy such additional tax submitted not more than ~~[[twelve]]~~ twenty-four months prior to the date ~~[[on which]]~~ for making the proposed levy or levies ~~[[is to be made]]~~ and not oftener than twice in ~~[[such]]~~ any twelve month period, either at a special election or at the regular election of such taxing district, 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 in such taxing district at the last preceding general election: *Provided, however,* That no taxing district shall submit to the electors thereof a proposition to authorize the levy of additional tax upon the authority of this subsection (a) to be made in any year for which the electors previously have authorized the levy of additional tax under the authority of this subsection (a) unless the proposed authorization is submitted to the electors by a proposition to substitute for the prior authorization under this subsection (a) a new authorization the amount of which will be adequate to fulfill all contractual obligations of the taxing district incurred by reason of the prior authorization, and unless the substitute proposition shall by its terms supersede the prior authorization and then be in lieu of any additional tax authorized by but not yet levied upon the authority of the superseded authorization;

(b) By any taxing district otherwise authorized by law to issue general obligation bonds for capital purposes, for the sole purpose of making the required payments of principal and interest on general obligation bonds issued solely for capital purposes, other than the replacement of equipment, when authorized so to do by majority of at least three-fifths of the electors thereof voting on the proposition to issue such bonds and to pay the principal and interest thereon by an annual tax levy in excess of the limitation herein provided during the term of such bonds, submitted not oftener than twice in any calendar year, at an election held in the manner provided by law for bond elections in such taxing district, at which election the total number of persons voting on the proposition shall constitute not less than forty per centum of the total number of votes cast in such taxing district at the last preceding general election: *Provided,* That any such taxing district shall have the right by vote of its governing body to refund any general obligation bonds of said district issued for capital purposes only, and to provide for the interest thereon and amortization thereof by annual levies in excess of the tax limitation provided for herein, *And provided further,* That the provisions of this section shall also be subject to the limitations contained in Article VIII, section 6, of this Constitution;

(c) By the state or any taxing district for the purpose of paying the principal or interest on gen-

eral obligation bonds outstanding on December 6, 1934; or for the purpose of preventing the impairment of the obligation of a contract when ordered so to do by a court of last resort.

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 Senate April 27, 1967.

JOHN A. CHERBERG,
President of the Senate.

Passed the House April 27, 1967.

DON ELDRIDGE,
Speaker of the House.

EXPLANATORY COMMENT S.J.R. NO. 23:

All words 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.

COMPLETE TEXT OF

Proposed Constitutional Amendment

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 24

Ballot Title as issued by the Attorney General:

VACANCY: LEGISLATIVE, COUNTY ELECTIVE OFFICES

Shall the State Constitution be amended to provide for filling vacancies in legislative or partisan county elective offices as follows:

- (1) The county commissioners of the county affected shall appoint a person from the same legislative, county or county commissioner district and political party as the officer whose office has been vacated;
- (2) On failure of the county commissioners to so appoint within sixty days, the governor shall within thirty days appoint a person similarly qualified?

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 electors of the state, for their approval and ratification, or rejection, a proposed amendment to Article II, section 15 (as amended by Amendment 13 and Amendment 32), and to Article XI, section 6 of the Constitution of the State of Washington to read as follows:

Article II, section 15. (Amendment 32). Such vacancies as may occur in either house of the legislature or in any partisan county elective office shall be filled by appointment by the board of county commissioners of the county in which the vacancy occurs: *Provided,* That the person appointed to fill the vacancy must be from the same legislative district, county or county commissioner