

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

6

Proposed Constitutional Amendment

Official ballot title:*

ESTABLISHING VOTING AGE AT 19

Shall Article VI, Section 1 of the state Constitution be amended to reduce from 21 years to 19 years the age at which an otherwise qualified person shall be entitled to vote and to remove currently inoperative language pertaining to the voting qualifications of certain citizens?

Vote cast by members of the 1970 Legislature on final passage:
HOUSE: (99 members) Yeas, 73; Nays, 24; Absent or not voting, 2.
SENATE: (49 members) Yeas, 41; Nays, 8; Absent or not voting, 0.

*Ballot Title as issued by the Attorney General.

Statement **FOR**

US Congress lowers voting age to 18

How did 21 come to be declared the age of adulthood? In the Dark Ages, 21 was the age when a man could become a knight because 21 was 3 times the magic number 7.

The US Congress recently recognized that the age of adulthood should be decided not by a tradition based on magic numbers, but on more logical and compelling factors. The measure to lower the voting age to 18 was overwhelmingly passed by members of both parties.

19 year-olds are treated as adults before the law

Why should 19 and 20 year-olds have the right to vote?

1. 19 year-olds hold jobs and pay taxes.
2. 19 year-olds can marry and enter into other binding legal contracts, make wills, and receive medical aid without parental consent.
3. 19 year-olds are tried in court as adults.
4. 19 year-olds can sue and be sued.
5. 19 year-olds fight and die for our country.

19 and 20 year-olds should be encouraged to participate legitimately in the democratic process

Fifty years ago the same arguments used today against 19 and 20 year-olds were used against giving the vote to women. Many said women were too emotional, irrational, and financially irresponsible. This was not the

case. Today women are a vital part of our electorate. It is time we extend this same opportunity to participate to the 19 year-olds.

HJR 6 will further impress the responsibility of citizenship

We should take advantage of this opportunity to impress further the responsibility of citizenship on 19 and 20 year-olds, by granting them to right to participate in a government of all the people.

Giving 19 and 20 year-olds the right to vote will give them a legitimate channel to express their views, to work peacefully and lawfully within our democratic system.

Vote YES—HJR 6

Committee appointed to compose statement **FOR** House Joint Resolution No. 6:

RICHARD KING, State Representative; ROBERT C. BAILEY, State Senator; WES WILBURN, Past President, Washington State Young Democrats.

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

The Law as it now exists:

Under the present state constitution, with one exception, any person who is twenty-one years old or older and is otherwise qualified, is entitled to vote at all elections. That single exception prohibits nontaxed Indians from voting.

The provision in the 1889 constitution regarding nontaxed Indians is now totally inoperative. Indians have paid both state and federal taxes of some type for many years and have long been citizens under federal law.

Effect of House Joint Resolution No. 6 if approved into Law:

The proposed amendment would permit any person who is nineteen years old or older and is otherwise qualified, to vote in all elections. It would also eliminate the obsolete provision regarding nontaxed Indians.

Note: Complete text of House Joint Resolution No. 6 starts on Page 26.

Statement AGAINST

Voters should oppose HJR 6, the 19 year old voting proposal. A minimum voting age, which would certainly soon grant full emancipation at 19 years of age (the total release of youth from parental control and full responsibility of adulthood with all legal rights and responsibilities, including the admittance to liquor stores and cocktail bars), is highly undesirable. A 19 year old voting group unaccustomed to total self-support and reliance would in all likelihood further increase government complexity. This bracket of youth will actually benefit neither political party (vote-wise), as in the majority of cases they follow parental lines or school influence. Interviews with numerous youths of this age, along with many letters received, indicate that a great many are reluctant to assume voting franchise responsibilities.

The "old enough to fight—old enough to vote" argument is invalidated by the fact that 19 year old women, who are over half of this class of citizen, have no military obligation.

Youths of 19 are usually not self-sufficient, are not familiar with the rigors of steady employment or supporting a family. There is an old adage which we believe fits this issue: "When you earn you learn." When young men and women begin to make their own way in life they will better understand the seriousness inherent in the voting fran-

chise. They are inexperienced in the comprehension of holding and meeting financial obligations, paying high property taxes and insurances. They know little of the problems that beset business, farmers, manufacturers, employers and employees.

We feel that the answer to the real issue (should 19 years of age be considered the age of majority), should be NO!

*Committee appointed to compose statement AGAINST
House Joint Resolution No. 6:*

JOHN STENDER, State Senator, and WILLIAM SCHUMAKER, State Representative.

COMPLETE TEXT OF

REFERENDUM BILL NUMBER 23

(CHAPTER 67, LAWS OF 1970)

Ballot Title as issued by the Attorney General:

POLLUTION CONTROL BONDS—SALES; INTEREST

AN ACT amending the law approved by the voters in 1968 which authorized the sale of \$25,000,000 in bonds for aid in the construction and improvement of water pollution control facilities; deleting the requirement in the original act that these bonds be sold prior to January 1, 1971; removing the 6% maximum interest rate payable on said bonds and substituting therefor a provision that the state finance committee shall fix the maximum interest rate.

LEGISLATIVE TITLE
(Senate Bill No. 318)

BONDS, WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITIES—INTEREST RATE

AN ACT relating to state government and the support thereof, amending section 1, chapter 106, Laws of 1967 and RCW 90.50.010; and providing for submission of this act to a vote of the people.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature
of the State of Washington:*

Section 1. Section 1, chapter 106, Laws of 1967 and RCW 90.50.010 are each amended to read as follows:

For the purpose of providing state matching funds to assist public bodies in the construction and improvement of water pollution control facilities the state finance committee is hereby authorized to issue ~~[[any time prior to January 1, 1971]]~~ general obligation bonds of the state of Washington in the sum of twenty-five million dollars to be paid and discharged within twenty years of the date of issuance.

The state finance committee is authorized to prescribe the form of such bonds, the maximum rate of interest the same shall bear, and the time of sale of all or any portion or portions of such bonds, and the conditions of sale and issuance thereof: *Provided*, That none of the bonds herein authorized shall be sold for less than the par value thereof ~~[[, nor shall they bear interest at a rate in excess of six percent per annum]]~~.

The bonds shall pledge the full faith and credit of the state of Washington and contain an unconditional promise to pay the interest and principal when due. The committee may provide that the bonds, or any of them, may be called prior to the due date thereof under such terms and conditions as it may determine. The state finance committee may authorize the use of facsimile signatures in the issuance of the bonds.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. In the event all of the bonds authorized by RCW 90.50.010 through 90.50.080 and 90.50.900, have not been issued on or before September 2, 1970, then this 1970 amendatory act shall be submitted to the people for their adoption and ratification, or rejection, at the general election to be held in this state on the Tuesday next succeeding the first Monday in November, 1970, in accordance with the provisions of section 3, Article VIII of the state Constitution; and in accordance with the provisions of section 1, Article II of the state Constitution as amended, and the laws adopted to facilitate the operation thereof.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. Section 1 of this 1970 amendatory act shall not become effective unless this act is adopted and ratified at the referendum election provided for in section 2 of this 1970 amendatory act.

Passed the Senate February 12, 1970.

Passed the House February 6, 1970.

Approved by the Governor February 20, 1970.

COMPLETE TEXT OF

Proposed Constitutional Amendment

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 6

Ballot Title as issued by the Attorney General:

ESTABLISHING VOTING AGE AT 19

Shall Article VI, Section 1 of the state Constitution be amended to reduce from 21 years to 19 years the age at which an otherwise qualified person shall be entitled to vote and to remove currently inoperative language pertaining to the voting qualifications of certain citizens?

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 the state for their approval and ratification, or rejection, a proposal to amend Article VI, of the Constitution of the state of Washington by amending section 1, as last amended by Amendment 5, to read as follows:

Article VI, section 1. All persons of the age of ~~[[twenty-one]]~~ nineteen years or over, possessing the following qualifications, shall be entitled to vote at all elections: They shall be citizens of the United States; they shall have lived in the state one year, and in the county ninety days, and in the city, town, ward or precinct thirty days immediately preceding the election at which they offer to vote; they shall be able to read and speak the English language: *Provided*, ~~[[That Indians not taxed shall never be allowed the elective franchise: And further provided,]]~~ That this amendment shall not affect the rights of franchise of any person who is now a qualified elector of this state. The legislative authority shall enact laws defining the manner of ascertaining the qualifications of voters as to their ability to read and speak the English language, and providing for punishment of persons voting or registering in violation of the provision of this section.

There shall be no denial of the elective franchise at any election on account of sex.

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 January 21, 1970. Passed the Senate February 5, 1970.
DON ELDRIDGE, Speaker of the House. JOHN A. CHERBERG, President of the Senate.
EXPLANATORY COMMENT H.J.R. NO. 6:

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

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 42

Ballot Title as issued by the Attorney General:

REVISING REVENUE LIMITATIONS

Shall the State Constitution be amended to reduce the maximum allowable rate of taxation against property to 1 percent of true and fair value in the absence of authorized excess levies, and to permit the legislature to tax income at a single rate without regard to this limitation or, after 1975, at a graduated rate if the voters in that year or thereafter approve the removal of the single rate 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 the state for their approval and ratification, or rejection, a proposal to amend Article VII of the Constitution of the state of Washington by amending section 2, as amended by Amendment 17, to read as follows:

Article VII, section 2. (1) 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~~] one per centum of the true 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 months prior to the date on which the proposed levy is to be made and not oftener than twice in such 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;

(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 general 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.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, the legislature shall have the power,

(a) To impose a tax upon income from whatever source derived, at a rate or rates in excess of that permitted by subsection (1) of this section: *Provided,* That the tax may be imposed only (i) at a single rate upon the income of all taxpayers, or (ii) at a single rate upon the income of corporations which may be different from the single rate imposed upon other income;

(b) To provide for allowance of credits, exclusions, exemptions, and deductions to be used in determining the amount of income subject to tax or in computing such tax; and to provide further for direct payments to an individual or corporation to the extent that (i) insufficient income tax liability exists for full application of an otherwise applicable credit, and (ii) such credit is granted for the purpose of providing direct or indirect relief from other state or local taxes;

(c) To coordinate the administration and collection of state income taxes with the income tax laws and procedures of the United States, and to delegate to such state administrators as it may designate the authority to prescribe the means of coordination of state and United States tax laws and methods for the allocation of income for taxing purposes. The legislature may adopt by reference any federal statutes relating to the determination of taxable income, as existing at time of adoption and as amended from time to time.

A proposition to remove the limitations contained in clause (a) of this subsection (2) upon the types of income tax which may be imposed shall be submitted to the qualified voters of this state at the general election to be held in this state in November, 1975.