

# REFERENDUM 23 BILL NUMBER

Chapter 67, Laws of 1970

Official ballot title:\*

## 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.

Vote cast by members of the 1970 Legislature on final passage:

SENATE: (49 members) Yeas, 46; Nays, 1; Absent or not voting, 2.

HOUSE: (99 members) Yeas, 90; Nays, 3; Absent or not voting, 6.

\*Ballot Title as issued by the Attorney General.

## Statement **FOR**

### **In 1968, the voters approved bonds for water pollution control**

The people of Washington State, in 1968, passed Referendum 17 by the largest margin of any initiative or referendum on the ballot. With a 75% approval (845,372—Yes/276,161—No), voters authorized a \$25,000,000 bond sale to assist local government in the construction of water pollution control facilities.

Referendum 17 contained a provision limiting to 6% the interest rate on bonds sold. Additionally, it provided that all bonds must be sold by January 1, 1971. Because of rising interest rates the State has been unable to sell those bonds.

### **These bonds are needed to help local government keep our water clean**

It is critical to the success of efforts to enhance water quality and reduce pollution that the bonds be saleable. Moneys will then be available for required municipal projects.

The State of Washington, through its Department of Ecology, has undertaken a program of water quality improvement. Included is the requirement that local governmental units construct—during 1968-1973—municipal water pollution control facilities (estimated \$108,000,000 cost). Proceeds of the bonds authorized under Referendum 17 are to be used as an important state contribution to assist in financing these vital local government activities.

### **How Referendum 23 will help**

A "Yes" vote for Referendum 23 will insure the availability of these moneys. It does this in two ways: (1) it removes the 6% interest limitation; (2) it deletes the requirement that bonds must be sold by January 1, 1971.

### **Referendum 23 does not authorize any new bonds**

Referendum 23 does *not* authorize the sale of any new bonds. It does make saleable the bonds so overwhelmingly approved by the people in 1968.

Municipal water pollution control facility construction is needed to insure public health and continue the effort to keep our waters clean. Referendum 23 is an outstanding investment in a better natural environment for all.

*Committee appointed to compose statement FOR Referendum Bill No. 23:*

GORDON SANDISON, State Senator; FRANK W. FOLEY, State Senator; ROBERT F. GOLDSWORTHY, State Representative.

*Advisory Committee:* WHEELER GREY, Past President, Seattle Chamber of Commerce; MRS. RICHARD MARCHISIO, President, League of Women Voters; HOWARD NELSON, Secretary, Washington State Sportsmen's Council; FRANK RANDALL, President, Washington State Association of Counties; MRS. MORTIMER THOMAS, Washington State Environmental Council.

**The Law as it now exists:**

The people at the 1968 general election approved Referendum Bill No. 17. This law authorized the sale of general obligation bonds prior to January 1, 1971, in an amount up to \$25 million dollars to finance grants by the Pollution Control Commission to public bodies, in conjunction with federal grants authorized pursuant to the federal water pollution control act, for the purpose of aiding in the construction of water pollution control facilities. The proposition was submitted to the voters because under our constitution, with certain exceptions not here involved, a law authorizing the state to contract debts through the issuance of general obligation bonds cannot take effect until after it has been approved by the people.

The law, having received a favorable vote, is now effective and the state finance committee is authorized thereunder to proceed with the sale of the bonds. However, the law expressly limits the maximum interest rate which may be paid on the bonds to six percent (6%) per annum.

By chapter 67, Laws of 1970, the legislature has provided that unless all the bonds authorized by Referendum Bill No. 17 are sold on or before September 2, 1970, then one section of the 1970 law, now designated as Referendum Bill No. 23, is to be submitted to the people seeking approval of the following changes in the original law: (1) Deleting the requirement that bonds be sold prior to January 1, 1971; and (2) removing the provision fixing the maximum rate of interest at six percent and substituting therefor a provision that the state finance committee shall fix the maximum interest rate. If approved, the effect of this referendum bill will simply be to provide for these changes.

*Note: Complete text of Referendum Bill No. 23 appears on  
Page 26.*

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## Statement **AGAINST**

No member of the 1970 Legislature could be enlisted by the Speaker, House of Representatives, or by the President, State Senate, to write a statement against Referendum Bill No. 23 for publication in this pamphlet.

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.