



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION U

June 20, 2000, Introduced by Rep. Richner and referred to the Committee on Constitutional Law and Ethics.

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the state constitution of 1963, by amending section 31 of article IX, to require that local tax increases be approved by not less than one-third of the qualified electors of a unit of local government.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the state of Michigan, That the following amendment to the state constitution of 1963, to require that local tax increases be approved by not less than one-third of the qualified electors of a unit of local government, is proposed, agreed to, and submitted to the people of the state:

ARTICLE IX

Sec. 31. Units of Local Government are hereby prohibited from levying any tax not authorized by law or charter when this section is ratified or from increasing the rate of an existing

1 tax above that rate authorized by law or charter when this
2 section is ratified, without the approval of a majority of the
3 qualified electors of that unit of Local Government voting
4 thereon, WHICH MAJORITY SHALL CONSTITUTE NOT LESS THAN ONE-THIRD
5 OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THAT UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT. If
6 the definition of the base of an existing tax is broadened, the
7 maximum authorized rate of taxation on the new base in each unit
8 of Local Government shall be reduced to yield the same estimated
9 gross revenue as on the prior base. If the assessed valuation of
10 property as finally equalized, excluding the value of new con-
11 struction and improvements, increases by a larger percentage than
12 the increase in the General Price Level from the previous year,
13 the maximum authorized rate applied thereto in each unit of Local
14 Government shall be reduced to yield the same gross revenue from
15 existing property, adjusted for changes in the General Price
16 Level, as could have been collected at the existing authorized
17 rate on the prior assessed value.

18 The limitations of this section shall not apply to taxes
19 imposed for the payment of principal and interest on bonds or
20 other evidence of indebtedness or for the payment of assessments
21 on contract obligations in anticipation of which bonds are issued
22 which were authorized prior to the effective date of this
23 amendment.

24 Resolved further, That the foregoing amendment shall be sub-
25 mitted to the people of the state at the next general election in
26 the manner provided by law.