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DIGEST

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Arnold

HB No. 903

**Abstract:** Limits the power of a taxing authority with a governing authority which is not elected to increase millage rates without voter approval, and requires elections to approve the levy or renewal of property taxes of such unelected tax authorities to be held only on the same dates as gubernatorial and congressional primary and general elections.

Present constitution prohibits the total amount of ad valorem taxes collected by any taxing authority in the year of a statewide reappraisal from being increased or decreased because of the reappraisal above or below the amount collected in the year preceding reappraisal. Requires a "roll forward" or "roll back" of millage rates to accomplish this purpose.

Present constitution further authorizes taxing authorities, with a 2/3 vote, to levy an increase in the millage rate in excess of the rates established as provided above, but not in excess of the prior year's maximum authorized millage rate, without further voter approval.

Proposed constitutional amendment further limits the power of a taxing authority with a governing authority which is not elected as follows:

(1) Limits the power of such unelected tax authorities to increase millage rates without voter approval to annual increases which do not exceed 2.5% of the property tax collections for the immediately preceding calendar year.

(2) Requires elections to approve the levy or renewal of the property taxes of such unelected tax authorities to be held only on the same dates as gubernatorial primary, gubernatorial general, congressional primary, or congressional general elections. However, in a year without a gubernatorial general, congressional primary, or congressional election, the election for such approval may be called on the same date as a municipal or general election.

Specifies submission of the amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held on Nov. 2, 2010.

Effective Jan. 1, 2011.

(Amends Const. Art. VII, Sec. 23(C); Adds Const. Art. VII, Sec. (H))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill.

1. Adds provision for elections in a year without a gubernatorial general, congressional primary, or congressional election to authorize the election for such proposals to be called on the same date as a municipal or general election.