By:  Shaheen H.J.R. No. 127

A JOINT RESOLUTION

proposing a constitutional amendment to increase the maximum amount of the local option residence homestead exemption from ad valorem taxation by a school district.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1.  Section 1-b, Article VIII, Texas Constitution, is amended by amending Subsection (e) and adding Subsection (e-1) to read as follows:

(e)  The governing body of a political subdivision, other than a school [~~county education~~] district, may exempt from ad valorem taxation a percentage of the market value of the residence homestead of an individual [~~a married or unmarried adult, including one living alone. In the manner provided by law, the voters of a county education district at an election held for that purpose may exempt from ad valorem taxation a percentage of the market value of the residence homestead of a married or unmarried adult, including one living alone~~]. The percentage may not exceed 20 [~~twenty~~] percent. However, the amount of an exemption authorized pursuant to this subsection may not be less than $5,000 unless the legislature by general law prescribes other monetary restrictions on the amount of the exemption. The legislature by general law may prohibit the governing body of a political subdivision that adopts an exemption under this subsection from reducing the amount of or repealing the exemption. An individual [~~eligible adult~~] is entitled to receive other applicable exemptions provided by law. Where ad valorem tax has previously been pledged for the payment of debt, the governing body of a political subdivision may continue to levy and collect the tax against the value of the homesteads exempted under this subsection until the debt is discharged if the cessation of the levy would impair the obligation of the contract by which the debt was created. The legislature by general law may prescribe procedures for the administration of residence homestead exemptions.

(e-1)  The governing body of a school district may exempt from ad valorem taxation a percentage of the market value of the residence homestead of an individual. The percentage may not exceed 50 percent. The legislature by general law may prohibit the governing body of a school district that adopts an exemption under this subsection from reducing the amount of or repealing the exemption. An individual is entitled to receive other applicable exemptions provided by law.

SECTION 2.  This proposed constitutional amendment shall be submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 5, 2019. The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the proposition: "The constitutional amendment to increase the maximum amount of the local option residence homestead exemption from ad valorem taxation by a school district from 20 percent to 50 percent."