

1 **PROPOSAL TO AMEND UTAH CONSTITUTION - REVENUE**

2 **AND TAXATION**

3 2023 GENERAL SESSION

4 STATE OF UTAH

5

LONG TITLE

6 **General Description:**

7 This joint resolution of the Legislature proposes to amend the Utah Constitution to
8 modify provisions relating to property tax and real estate.

9 **Highlighted Provisions:**

10 This resolution proposes to amend the Utah Constitution to:

- 11 ▶ require that 45% of the fair market value of residential property be exempt from
12 property tax;
13 ▶ permit the exemption of greater than 45% of the fair market value of residential
14 property to be exempt from property tax; and
15 ▶ prohibit the State, or a political subdivision of the state, from imposing a tax on the
16 transfer of real property.
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18 **Special Clauses:**

19 This resolution directs the lieutenant governor to submit this proposal to voters.

20 This resolution provides a contingent effective date of January 1, 2025 for this proposal.

21 **Utah Constitution Sections Affected:**

22 AMENDS:

23 **Article XIII, Section 3**

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*Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, two-thirds of all members elected to each
25 of the two houses voting in favor thereof:*

26 Section 1. It is proposed to amend Utah Constitution, Article XIII, Section 3, to read:

27 **Article XIII, Section 3. [Property tax exemptions.]**

28 (1) The following are exempt from property tax:

- 29 (a) property owned by the State;
30 (b) property owned by a public library;
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- 32 (c) property owned by a school district;
- 33 (d) property owned by a political subdivision of the State, other than a school district,
34 and located within the political subdivision;
- 35 (e) property owned by a political subdivision of the State, other than a school district,
36 and located outside the political subdivision unless the Legislature by statute authorizes the
37 property tax on that property;
- 38 (f) property owned by a nonprofit entity used exclusively for religious, charitable, or
39 educational purposes;
- 40 (g) 45% or more of the fair market value of residential property, as provided by statute;
- 41 ~~[(g)]~~ (h) places of burial not held or used for private or corporate benefit;
- 42 ~~[(h)]~~ (i) farm equipment and farm machinery as defined by statute;
- 43 ~~[(i)]~~ (j) water rights, reservoirs, pumping plants, ditches, canals, pipes, flumes, power
44 plants, and transmission lines to the extent owned and used by an individual or corporation to
45 irrigate land that is:
- 46 (i) within the State; and
- 47 (ii) owned by the individual or corporation, or by an individual member of the
48 corporation; and
- 49 ~~[(j)]~~ (k) (i) if owned by a nonprofit entity and used within the State to irrigate land,
50 provide domestic water, as defined by statute, or provide water to a public water supplier:
- 51 (A) water rights; and
- 52 (B) reservoirs, pumping plants, ditches, canals, pipes, flumes, and, as defined by
53 statute, other water infrastructure;
- 54 (ii) land occupied by a reservoir, ditch, canal, or pipe that is exempt under Subsection
55 ~~[(1)(j)(i)(B)]~~ (1)(k)(i)(B) if the land is owned by the nonprofit entity that owns the reservoir,
56 ditch, canal, or pipe; and
- 57 (iii) land immediately adjacent to a reservoir, ditch, canal, or pipe that is exempt under
58 Subsection ~~[(1)(j)(i)(B)]~~ (1)(k)(i)(B) if the land is:
- 59 (A) owned by the nonprofit entity that owns the adjacent reservoir, ditch, canal, or
60 pipe; and
- 61 (B) reasonably necessary for the maintenance or for otherwise supporting the operation
62 of the reservoir, ditch, canal, or pipe.

63 (2) (a) The Legislature may by statute exempt the following from property tax:

64 (i) tangible personal property constituting inventory present in the State on January 1
65 and held for sale in the ordinary course of business;

66 (ii) tangible personal property present in the State on January 1 and held for sale or
67 processing and shipped to a final destination outside the State within 12 months;

68 (iii) subject to Subsection (2)(b), property to the extent used to generate and deliver
69 electrical power for pumping water to irrigate lands in the State;

70 [~~(iv) up to 45% of the fair market value of residential property, as defined by statute;~~]

71 [~~(v)~~] (iv) household furnishings, furniture, and equipment used exclusively by the
72 owner of that property in maintaining the owner's home; and

73 [~~(vi)~~] (v) tangible personal property that, if subject to property tax, would generate an
74 inconsequential amount of revenue.

75 (b) The exemption under Subsection (2)(a)(iii) shall accrue to the benefit of the users
76 of pumped water as provided by statute.

77 (3) The following may be exempted from property tax as provided by statute:

78 (a) property owned by a disabled person who, during military training or a military
79 conflict, was disabled in the line of duty in the military service of the United States or the State;

80 (b) property owned by the unmarried surviving spouse or the minor orphan of a person
81 who:

82 (i) is described in Subsection (3)(a); or

83 (ii) during military training or a military conflict, was killed in action or died in the line
84 of duty in the military service of the United States or the State; and

85 (c) real property owned by a person in the military or the person's spouse, or both, and
86 used as the person's primary residence, if the person serves under an order to federal active duty
87 out of state for at least 200 days in a continuous 365-day period.

88 (4) The Legislature may by statute provide for the remission or abatement of the taxes
89 of the poor.

90 (5) The State and its political subdivisions are prohibited from imposing a tax on the
91 transfer of real property.

92 Section 2. **Submittal to voters.**

93 The lieutenant governor is directed to submit this proposed amendment to the voters of

94 the state at the next regular general election in the manner provided by law.

95 Section 3. **Contingent effective date.**

96 If the amendment proposed by this joint resolution is approved by a majority of those
97 voting on it at the next regular general election, the amendment shall take effect on January 1,
98 2025.