

1936

RELIEF TO ASSESSMENT DISTRICTS

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<p>RELIEF TO ASSESSMENT DISTRICTS. Assembly Constitutional Amendment 20. Adds section 31c to Article IV of Constitution. Declares Legislature may enact general laws for refunding, repayment or adjustment, from public funds raised or appropriated by United States, the State or its political subdivisions for street and highway improvement purposes, of assessments or bonds or any portion thereof, which have become a lien on real property and were levied or issued to pay costs of such improvements which may be, or may have become, of more than local benefit. Ratifies any such acts of Legislature heretofore adopted.</p>	YES	
	NO	

(For full text of measure, see page 38, Part II)

Argument in Favor of Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 20

This Amendment is submitted for the purpose of removing any limitation or prohibition against the granting of relief to overburdened special assessment districts.

During the boom years immediately preceding the depression beginning in 1929, millions of dollars in special assessments were levied against property in the State of California to pay the cost and expense of major street and highway improvements. The result has been that private property has been overburdened with assessments far in excess of any special benefits to such property by reason of such improvements. Thousands of small home owners face the distress and injustice of losing their homes by foreclosure by reason of such excessive assessments levied for major improvements.

The policy of both the state and local governments has changed. Improvements of state highways and streets of major importance are now paid for out of the gasoline tax funds rather than by an impost against an abutting property owner. To illustrate: San Fernando Road, a primary state highway carrying the truck traffic from San Joaquin Valley and northern points to San Pedro Harbor, was paved and improved through the cities of San Fernando, Burbank, Glendale, and Los Angeles, and the cost of such improvements was paid by special assessments levied against the property abutting the highway. If this improvement was to be constructed today the entire cost would be borne by general highway funds because of its benefit to the people as a whole.

It is to correct and remedy such mistakes that this Amendment is submitted. The Amendment is permissive. It will enable the state legislature to adopt general laws for the "refund, repayment or adjustment, from public funds raised or appropriated by the United States, the State or any city, city and county, or county for street and highway improvement purposes, of assessments or bonds, or any portion thereof, which have become a lien upon real property, and which were levied or issued to pay the cost of street or highway improvements or of opening and widening proceedings which may be or may have become of more than local benefit."

The legislature at its last session adopted Assembly Bill No. 242 and Assembly Bill 440, with the approval of the Governor, which provide for carrying into effect relief to over-assessed property. This Amendment will validate such laws.

This Amendment is designed to relieve the real property owners and not for the benefit and relief of speculators in special assessment bonds.

In behalf of those unfortunate people of this State whose life savings, invested in their homes, are about to be lost by foreclosure; those people who have been specially assessed for improvements which benefit the entire state, we most sincerely urge that you vote "YES" on Proposition No. 15.

C. DON FIELD,
Member of the Assembly,
Forty-third District.

E. V. LATHAM,
Member of the Assembly,
Fifty-third District.

RELIEF TO ASSESSMENT DISTRICTS. Assembly Constitutional Amendment 20. Adds section 31c to Article IV of Constitution. Declares Legislature may enact general laws for refunding, repayment or adjustment, from public funds raised or appropriated by United States, the State or its political subdivisions for street and highway improvement purposes, of assessments or bonds or any portion thereof, which have become a lien on real property and were levied or issued to pay costs of such improvements which may be, or may have become, of more than local benefit. Ratifies any such acts of Legislature heretofore adopted.

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YES	
NO	

Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 20—A resolution to propose to the people of the State of California an amendment of Article IV of the Constitution of the State, by adding section 31c thereto, relating to relief to assessment districts.

Resolved by the Assembly, the Senate concurring, That the Legislature of the State of California at its fifty-first regular session commencing on the 7th day of January, 1935, two-thirds of the members elected to each of the two houses of the said Legislature voting in favor thereof, hereby proposes to the people of the State of California that the Constitution of said State be amended by adding to Article IV thereof a new section to be numbered 31c, to read as follows:

(This proposed amendment does not expressly amend any existing section of the Constitution, but adds a new section thereto; therefore, the provisions thereof are printed in BLACK-FACED TYPE to indicate that they are NEW.)

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION.

Sec. 31c. No provision of this Constitution shall be construed as a limitation upon the power of the Legislature to provide by general law for the refunding, repayment or adjustment, from public funds raised or appropriated by the United States, the State or any city, city and county, or county for street and highway improvement purposes, of assessments or bonds, or any portion thereof, which have become a lien upon real property, and which were levied or issued to pay the cost of street or highway improvements or of opening and widening proceedings which may be or may have become of more than local benefit. Any such acts of the Legislature heretofore adopted are hereby confirmed and declared valid and shall have the same force and effect as if adopted after the effective date of this amendment.

WATER DISTRICTS AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS. TEMPORARY TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO PAY BONDS OF POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS. Assembly Constitutional Amendment 39. Amends section 31 of Article IV of Constitution. Authorizes water districts and water conservation districts, for the purpose of acquiring water, water rights and other necessary property, to acquire and hold stock of corporations owning waters, water rights, canals, water works and franchises. Authorizes treasurer of political subdivision under resolution of governing body thereof to make temporary transfer of funds in his custody to pay interest and principal of bonds issued by such subdivision.

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YES	
NO	

Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 39—A resolution to propose to the people of the State of California, an amendment to Article IV of the Constitution of the State, by amending section 31 thereof, relating to paying the principal and interest on bonds issued by city, county, city and county, district or other political subdivision whose funds are in the custody of the treasurer of any city, county, or city and county.

Resolved by the Assembly, the Senate concurring, That the Legislature of the State of California at its fifty-first regular session, commencing on the seventh day of January, 1935, two-thirds of the members elected to each of the two houses of the Legislature voting in favor thereof, hereby proposes to the people of the State of California, that the Constitution of the State be amended by amending

[Thirty-eight]