

RESOLUTION # 123-95

SUPPORTING PROPERTY TAX REFORM LEGISLATION

WHEREAS, the real estate market has been experiencing several years of inflation; and

WHEREAS, real estate inflation directly impacts the property tax burden on individual taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, expanded taxing district formations and levy capabilities have been added by the legislature; and

WHEREAS, the tax burden on long-time property owners has forced many to live in fear of losing their family home because taxes continue to increase; and

WHEREAS, the limitations in place now do not adequately protect the homeowner; and

WHEREAS, other states with similar property tax systems and laws have significantly reduced or eliminated a state property tax levy; and

WHEREAS, the 1995 legislature passed SHB 1957, HB 1022 and ESSB 5000, all of which were designed to reduce the state property tax levy; and

WHEREAS, Governor Lowry signed ESSB 5000 which makes a one time reduction in the state property tax levy of approximately 4.7 percent; and

WHEREAS, Governor Lowry, due to declining revenue forecasts and other reasons, decided to veto SHB 1957 and HB 1022; and

WHEREAS, Governor Lowry's veto message indicated that he plans to create a task force of interested parties to study both short and long term solutions to the reduction of the property tax in Washington State,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mason County Board of Commissioners does hereby endorse legislation that will systematically reduce and ultimately eliminate the State's portion of the property tax levy.

Dated this 19th day of December, 1995

William Hunter Mary Jo Cady M. L. Faughender
Commissioner Hunter, Chair Commissioner Cady Commissioner Faughender

Attest: Rebecca S. Rogers
Clerk of the Board