

tory annexed, it shall be the duty of the council and officers of the corporation to arrange and keep and maintain the accounts and funds of the corporation in such a manner that the interests of the inhabitants and taxpayers of the several districts of the corporation in the various funds and property of the city shall be clearly shown, and in all transactions these different interests shall be considered and protected.

SEC. 12. All elections for the validation of any debt created by any city, which has since become consolidated with any other city, shall be by [ballot], and the vote shall be taken in the new consolidated city as the same is constituted at the time of any such election.

SEC. 13. An emergency exists, and this act shall take effect immediately.

Passed the Senate March 10, 1897.

Passed the House March 11, 1897.

Approved by the Governor March 16, 1897.

CHAPTER LXXXV.

[H. B. No. 398.]

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION.

AN ACT to provide for voting on a constitutional amendment at the general election to be held in November, 1898, relative to taxation.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

SECTION 1. There shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the State of Washington, at the next general election, in November, 1898, for their approval or rejection, the following amendment to the constitution of the State of Washington, which, when ratified by a majority of those voting thereon, shall be valid as a part of the constitution, to wit: Section 2 of article VII of the constitution of the State of Washington shall be amended so as to

Election November, 1898.

Method of
taxation.

read as follows: Sec. 2. The legislature shall provide by law a uniform and equal rate of assessment and taxation on all property in the state, according to its value in money, and shall prescribe such regulations by general law as shall secure a just valuation for taxation of all property, so that every person and corporation shall pay a tax in proportion to his, or her or its property: *Provided*, That a deduction of debts from credits may be authorized: *Provided further*, That it shall be optional with each municipal corporation in the state to fix and determine by majority vote of the qualified electors voting thereon the class or classes of property upon which taxes for municipal purposes shall be levied, which tax shall be uniform as to persons and class: *Provided still further*, That the property of the United States and the state, counties, school districts and other municipal corporations, and such other property as the legislature may by general laws provide, may be exempt from taxation.

Property
taxed optional
with municip-
alities, etc.

Publication.

SEC. 2. The secretary of state shall cause the foregoing amendment to be published for three months next preceding said election to be held in November, 1898, in some weekly newspaper in each county within this state wherein a newspaper is published.

Ballot.

SEC. 3. That there shall be printed on each of the ballots supplied for said election the words "For proposed amendment to section 2, article VII, of constitution, relating to taxation," "Against proposed amendment to section 2, article VII, of constitution, relative to taxation."

Passed the House February 26, 1897.

Passed the Senate March 11, 1897.

Approved by the Governor March 16, 1897.