



King County

John Wilson
King County Assessor

News Release

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Wilson Supports Effort to Create Property Tax Homestead Exemption; a Tool to Protect Homeowners From Rising Property Taxes

SUMMARY

This week, the House Finance Committee held a public hearing on HJR 4208, a measure to send to the voters a proposed constitutional amendment creating a property tax Homestead exemption. <http://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2017-18/Pdf/Bill%20Reports/House/4208%20HBA%20FIN%2017.pdf> King County Assessor John Wilson expressed support for this measure.

STORY

Many states, including California, Alaska, and Colorado, have Homestead exemptions which limit property taxes on taxpayers' primary residences. Many believe Washington State's constitution prevents such an exemption. If approved, HJR 4208 would amend the constitution to allow the legislature to provide a homestead exemption from property taxes levied for state purposes on up to \$50,000 of residential real property valuation.

"Washington State lacks a valuable tool many other states use to prevent rising property taxes from driving people out of their homes, it's time we fix that" said King County Assessor John Wilson.

"Property taxes pay for vital services our community needs, such as schools, human services, and transit, so we can't just slash taxes," said Wilson. "A Homestead exemption would maintain services, while lightening the burden on low to moderate income homeowners. I urge the legislature to send this issue to the voters."

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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