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CONSTITUTION.

NEW CONSTITUTION PROPOSED TO THE CITIZENS OF THIS COMMONWEALTH FOR THEIR APPROVAL OR REJECTION, BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Published by order of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, in pursuance of the 4th section of an act of the General Assembly, entitled "An act to provide for calling a Convention to amend the Constitution," approved the 11th day of April, A. D. 1872.

PREAMBLE.

We, the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of civil and religious liberty, and humbly invoking His guidance, do ordain and establish this Constitution.

ARTICLE I.

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS.

That the general, great, and essential principles of liberty and free government may be recognized and unalterably established, we declare that

SECTION 1. All men are born equally free and independent, and have certain inherent and indefeasible rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, of acquiring, possessing and protecting property and reputation, and of pursuing their own happiness.

SEC. 2. All power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority and instituted for their peace, safety and happiness. For the advancement of these ends they have at all times an inalienable and indefeasible right to alter, reform, or abolish their government in such manner as they may think proper.

SEC. 3. All men have a natural and indefeasible right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own consciences; no man can of right be compelled to attend, erect or support any place of worship, or to maintain any ministry against his consent; no human authority can, in any case whatever, control or interfere with the rights of conscience, and no preference shall ever be given by law to any religious establishments or modes of worship.

SEC. 4. No person who acknowledges the being of a God and a future state of rewards and punishment shall, on account of his religious sentiments, be disqualified to hold any office or place of trust or profit under this Commonwealth.

SEC. 5. Elections shall be free and equal; and no power, civil or military, shall at any time interfere to prevent the free exercise of the right of suffrage.

SEC. 6. Trial by jury shall be as heretofore, and the right thereof remain inviolate.

SEC. 7. The printing press shall be free to every person who may undertake to examine the proceedings of the Legislature or any branch of government, and no law shall ever be made to restrain the right thereof. The free communication of thoughts and opinions is one of the invaluable rights of man, and every citizen may freely speak, write, and print on any subject, being responsible for the abuse of that liberty. No conviction shall be had in any prosecution of the publication of papers relating to the official conduct of officers or men in public capacity, or to any other matter proper for public investigation or information, where the matter published is true, and was published with good motives and for justifiable ends; and in all indictments for libels the jury shall have the right to determine the law and the facts, under the direction of the court, as in other cases.

SEC. 8. The people shall be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and possessions from unreasonable searches and seizures, and no warrant to search any place or to seize any person or things, shall issue without describing them as nearly as may be, nor without probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, subscribed to by the affiant.

SEC. 9. In all criminal prosecutions, the accused hath a right to be heard by himself and his counsel; to demand the nature and cause of the accusation against him, to meet the witnesses face to face, to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and in prosecutions by indictment or information a speedy public trial by an impartial jury of the vicinage; he cannot be compelled to give evidence against himself, nor can he be deprived of his life, liberty, or property, unless by the judgment of his peers or the law of the land.

SEC. 10. No person shall for any indictable offense be proceeded against criminally, by information, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces or in the militia, when in actual service, in time of war or public danger, or by leave of the court, for oppression or misdemeanor in office. No person shall for the same offence be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall private property be taken or applied to public use without authority of law, and without just compensation being first made or secured. Any person who shall be injured in his lands, goods, person, or reputation, shall have remedy by due course of law, and right and justice administered without sale, denial, or delay. Suits may be brought against the Commonwealth in such manner, in such courts, and in such cases, as the Legislature may by law direct.

SEC. 11. No power of suspending laws shall be exercised unless by the Legislature or by its authority.

SEC. 13. Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel punishments inflicted.

SEC. 14. All prisoners shall be bailable by sufficient sureties, unless for capital offences, when the proof is evident or presumption great; and the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended, unless in case of rebellion or invasion the public safety may require it.

SEC. 15. No commission of oyer and terminer or jail delivery shall be issued.

SEC. 16. The person of a debtor, where there is not strong presumption of fraud, shall not be continued in prison after delivering up his estate for the benefit of his creditors, in such manner as shall be prescribed by law.

SEC. 17. *No ex post facto* law, nor any law impairing the obligation of contracts, or making irrevocable any grant of special privileges or immunities, shall be passed.

SEC. 18. No person shall be attainted of treason or felony by the Legislature.

SEC. 19. No attainder shall work corruption of blood nor, except during the life of the offender, forfeiture of estate to the Commonwealth; the estate of such persons as shall destroy their own lives shall descend or vest as in cases of natural death, and if any person shall be killed by casualty, there shall be no forfeiture by reason thereof.

SEC. 20. The citizens have a right in a peaceable manner to assemble together for their common good, and to apply to those invested with the powers of government for redress of grievances or other proper purposes, by petition, address or remonstrance.

SEC. 21. The right of citizens to bear arms in defense of themselves and the State shall not be questioned.

SEC. 22. No standing army shall, in time of peace, be kept up without the consent of the Legislature, and the military shall in all cases, and at all times, be in strict subordination to the civil power.

SEC. 23. No soldier shall in time of peace be quartered in any house without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

SEC. 24. The Legislature shall not grant any title of nobility or hereditary distinction, nor create any office, on the appointment to which shall be for a longer term than during good behavior.

SEC. 25. Emigration from the State shall not be prohibited.

SEC. 26. To guard against transgressions of the high powers which we have delegated, we declare that everything in this article is excepted out of the general powers of government, and shall forever remain inviolate.

ARTICLE II.

THE LEGISLATURE

SECTION 1. The legislative power of this Commonwealth shall be vested in a General Assembly, which shall consist of a Senate and a House of Representatives.

SEC. 2. Members of the General Assembly shall be chosen at the general election every second year. Their term of service shall begin on the first day of December next after their election. Whenever a vacancy shall occur in either House the presiding officer thereof shall issue a writ of election to fill such vacancy for the remainder of the term.

SEC. 3. Senators shall be elected for the term of four years and Representatives for the term of two years.

SEC. 4. The General Assembly shall meet at 12 o'clock noon, on the first Tuesday of January every second year, and at other times when convened by the Governor, but shall hold no adjourned annual session after the year 1878. In case of a vacancy in the office of Senator or State from this Commonwealth, in a recess between sessions, the Governor shall convene the two houses by proclamation on notice not exceeding ninety days of the time.

SEC. 5. Senators shall be at least twenty-five years of age, and Representatives twenty-one years of age. They shall have been citizens and inhabitants of the State four years, and inhabitants of their respective districts one year next before their election (unless absent on the public business of the United States or of this State), and shall reside in their respective districts during their terms of office.

SEC. 6. No Senator or Representative shall, during the time for which he shall have been elected, be appointed to any civil office in this Commonwealth, nor shall he be a member of Congress or other person holding any office (except of attorney-at-law or in the militia) under the United States or of this Commonwealth, nor shall he be a member of either house during his continuance in office.

SEC. 7. No person hereafter convicted of embezzlement of public moneys, bribery, perjury, or other infamous crime, shall be eligible to the General Assembly or capable of holding any office of trust or profit in this Commonwealth.

SEC. 8. The members of the General Assembly shall receive such salary and mileage for regular and special sessions as shall be fixed by law, and no other compensation whatever, whether for services upon committee or otherwise. No member of the House shall, during the term for which he may have been elected, receive any increase of salary, or mileage, under any law passed during such term.

SEC. 9. The Senate shall, at the beginning and close of each regular session, and at such other times as may be necessary, elect one of its members president pro tempore who shall perform the duties of the Lieutenant Governor, in any case of absence or disability of that officer, and whenever the said office of Lieutenant Governor shall be vacant. The House of Representatives shall elect one of its members as Speaker. Each House shall choose its other officers, and shall judge of the election and qualification of its members.

SEC. 10. A majority of each House shall constitute a quorum, but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and compel the attendance of absent members.

SEC. 11. Each house shall have power to determine the rules of its proceedings and punish its members or other persons for contempt or disorderly behavior in its presence, to enforce obedience to its process, to protect its members against violence, or offers of bribes or private solicitation, and with the concurrence of two-thirds, to expel a member, but not a second time for the same cause, and shall have all other powers necessary for the legislature of a free State. A member expelled for corruption shall not thereafter be eligible to or have a seat in either house, and punishment for contempt or disorderly behavior shall not bar an indictment for the same offence.

SEC. 12. Each house shall keep a journal of its proceedings and from time to time publish the same, except such parts as require secrecy, and the yeas and nays of the members on any question shall, at the desire of any two of them, be entered on the journal.

SEC. 13. The sessions of each house and of committees of the whole shall be open, unless when the business is such as ought to be kept secret.

SEC. 14. Neither house shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other place than that in which the two houses shall be sitting.

SEC. 15. The members of the General Assembly shall in all cases, except treason, felony, violation of their oath of office, and breach or surety of the peace, be privileged from arrest during their attendance at the sessions of their respective houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any speech or debate in either house, they shall not be questioned in any other place.

SEC. 16. The State shall be divided into fifty Senatorial districts of compact and contiguous territory, as nearly equal in population as may be, and each district shall be entitled to elect one Senator. Each county containing one or more ratios of population shall be entitled to one Senator for each ratio, and to an additional Senator for a surplus of population exceeding three-fifths of a ratio; but no county shall form a separate district unless it shall contain four-fifths of a ratio, except where the adjoining counties are each entitled to one or more Senators, when such county may be assigned a Senator or less than four-fifths and exceeding one-half of a ratio, and no county shall be divided unless entitled to two or more Senators. No city or county shall be entitled to separate representation exceeding one-sixth of the whole number of Senators. No ward, borough, or township shall be divided in the formation of a district. The Senatorial ratio shall be ascertained by dividing the population of the State by the number fifty.

SEC. 17. The members of the House of Representatives shall be apportioned among the several counties, on a ratio obtained by dividing the population of the State ascertained by the most recent United States census by two hundred. Every county containing less than five ratios shall have one representative for every full ratio, and an additional representative when the surplus exceeds half a ratio; but each county shall have at least one representative. Every county containing five ratios or more shall have one representative for every full ratio. Every city containing a population equal to a ratio shall elect separately its proportion of the representatives allotted to the county in which it is located. Every city entitled to more than four representatives, and every county having over one hundred thousand inhabitants, shall be divided into districts of compact and contiguous territory, each district to elect its proportion of representatives according to its population, but no district shall elect more than four representatives.

SEC. 18. The General Assembly at its first session after the adoption of this constitution, and immediately after each United States decennial census, shall apportion the State into Senatorial and Representative districts agreeably to the provisions of the two next preceding sections.

ARTICLE III.

LEGISLATION.

SECTION 1. No law shall be passed except by bill, and no bill shall be so altered or amended on its passage through either house as to change its original purpose.

SEC. 2. No bill shall be considered unless referred to a committee, returned therefrom, and printed for the use of the members.

SEC. 3. No bill, except general appropriation bills, shall be passed, containing more than one subject, which shall be clearly expressed in its title.

SEC. 4. Every bill shall be read at length on three different days in each house; all amendments made thereto shall be printed for the use of the members before the final vote is taken on that bill, and no bill shall become a law unless on its final passage the vote be taken by yeas and nays, the names of the persons voting for and against the same be entered on the journal, and a majority of the members elected to each house be recorded thereon as voting in its favor.

SEC. 5. No amendment to bills by one house shall be concurred in by the other, except by the vote of a majority of the members elected thereto, taken by yeas and nays, and the names of those voting for and against recorded upon the journal. And reports of committees of conference shall be adopted in either house only by the vote of a majority of the members elected thereto, taken by yeas and nays, and the names of those voting recorded upon the journal.

SEC. 6. No law shall be revived, amended, or the provisions thereof extended or conferred by reference to its title only, but so much thereof as is revived, amended, extended or conferred, shall re-enacted and published at length.

SEC. 7. The General Assembly shall not pass any local or special law:

Authorizing the creation, extension or impairing of liens;

Regulating the affairs of counties, cities, townships, wards, boroughs or school districts;

Changing the names of persons or places.

Changing the venue in civil or criminal cases;

Authorizing the laying out, opening, altering, or maintaining roads, highways, streets, or alleys;

Relating to ferries or bridges, or incorporating ferry or bridge companies, except for the erection of bridges crossing streams which form boundaries between this and any other State;

Vacating roads, town plats, streets or alleys;

Relating to cemeteries, graveyards or public grounds not of the State;

Authorizing the adoption or legitimation of children;

Locating or changing county seats, erecting new counties or changing county lines;

Incorporating cities, towns, or villages, or changing their charters;

For the opening and conducting of elections, or fixing or changing the place of voting;

Granting divorces;

Erecting new townships or boroughs, changing township lines, borough limits, or school districts;

Creating offices, or prescribing the powers and duties of officers in counties, cities, boroughs, townships, election or school districts;

Changing the laws of descent or succession;

Regulating the practice or jurisdiction of, or changing the rules of evidence in any judicial proceeding or inquiry before courts, aldermen, justices of the peace, sheriffs, commissioners, auditors, assessors, masters in chancery, or other tribunals, or providing or changing methods for the collection of debts, or the enforcing of judgments, or prescribing the effect of sales on executions taken by yeas and nays, and shall be entered on the journal.

SEC. 9. He shall have power to remit fines and forfeitures, to grant reprieves, commutations of sentence and pardons, except in cases of impeachment, but no pardon shall be granted, nor sentence commuted except upon the recommendation in writing of the Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the Commonwealth, Attorney General and Judges of the Supreme Court, and of the Orphan's Court, and within their respective districts shall be justices of the peace as to criminal matters.

SEC. 10. The judges of the courts of Common Pleas within their respective counties, shall have power to issue writs of certiorari to justices of the peace and other inferior courts not of record, and to cause their proceedings to be brought before them and right and justice to be done.

SEC. 11. Except as otherwise provided in this Constitution, justices of the peace or aldermen shall be elected in the city of Philadelphia by the qualified electors of the wards at the time of the election of constables, by the qualified electors thereof, in such manner as shall be directed by law, and in other districts by the electors at the general election next preceding the expiration of their terms. Their terms of office shall be five years from the first day of January next after their election. In case the people of any district entitled to elect a justice or justices shall neglect to elect, the Governor may appoint, which appointment shall continue for the term of five years. No township, ward, district, or borough shall elect more than two justices of the peace or aldermen without the consent of a majority of the qualified electors thereof, nor shall any township, ward, district, or borough elect unless it shall have been separated from a township, borough, ward, or district for the purpose of such election, or unless it shall contain a population equal to a ratio. No person shall be elected a justice of the peace or alderman who is not a resident in the township, borough, ward, or district for which he may be chosen, or who shall not have been commissioned as such at least one month preceding the election. No township, ward, district, or borough shall elect more than one justice of the peace or alderman during the term of office of those in commission therein, unless the number of justices of the peace or aldermen shall become entitled to an additional justice or justices according to the provisions of the first section of this article, in which case two justices may be elected; but no township, ward, district, or borough shall be entitled to more than two justices of the peace or aldermen. In the city of Philadelphia the number of justices of the peace or aldermen shall be limited to one for each ward, district, or part of a district, now or hereafter created therein, and when a new district shall be created out of parts of two or more wards, the number of justices to be elected therein shall be apportioned by the court of common pleas of said city, according to the number of qualified voters in each part of said wards, districts, or parts of districts, so taken to form such new district. The compensation of justices of the peace and aldermen, notaries public, and persons in the militia service of the State; nor shall any election officer be eligible to any civil office to be filled at an election at which he shall act as such, nor for one month thereafter; nor shall any electors be disqualified from holding any office of trust or profit within this Commonwealth.

SEC. 12. Every county, township, school district, or other municipality incurring a new indebtedness shall at or before the time of so doing, provide for the collection of annual tax sufficient to pay the interest and also the principal thereof within thirty years.

Appointed officers other than judges of the courts of record and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, may be removed at the pleasure of the power by which they shall have been appointed. All officers elected by the people, except Governor, Lieutenant Governor, members of the General Assembly, and judges of the courts of record, learned in the law, shall be removed by the Governor for reasonable cause, after due notice and full hearing, on the address of two-thirds of the Senate.

ARTICLE VII.

OATH OF OFFICE.

SECTION 1. Senators and Representatives and all judicial, State, and county officers, shall, before entering on the duties of their respective offices, take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth, and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity; that I have not paid or contributed, or promised to pay or contribute, either directly or indirectly, any money or other valuable thing, to procure my nomination or election (or appointment), except for necessary and proper expenses expressly authorized by law; that I have not knowingly violated any election law of this Commonwealth, or procured it to be done by others in my behalf; that I will not knowingly receive, directly or indirectly, any money or other valuable thing for the performance or non-performance of any act or duty pertaining to my office, other than the compensation allowed by law."

The foregoing oath shall be administered by some person authorized to administer oaths, and in the case of State officers and Judges of the Supreme Court, shall be filed in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, and in the case of other judicial and county officers, in the office of the Prothonotary of the county in which the same is taken; any person refusing to take said oath or affirmation shall forfeit his office, and any person who shall be convicted of having sworn or affirmed falsely, or of having violated said oath or affirmation, shall be guilty of perjury, and be forever disqualified from holding any office of trust or profit within this Commonwealth.

The oath to the members of the Senate and House of Representatives shall be administered by one of the judges of the Supreme Court or of a Court of Common Pleas, learned in the law, in the hall of the house to which the member shall be elected.

ARTICLE VIII.

SUFFRAGE AND ELECTIONS.

SECTION 1. Every male citizen twenty-one years of age, possessing the following qualifications, shall be entitled to vote at all elections:

First. He shall have been a citizen of the United States at least one month.

Second. He shall have resided in the State one year (or if, having previously been a qualified elector or native born citizen of the State, he shall have removed therefrom and returned, then six months) immediately preceding the election.

Third. He shall have resided in the election district where he shall offer to vote at least two months immediately preceding the election.

Fourth. If twenty-two years of age or upwards, he shall have paid within two years a State or county tax, which shall have been assessed at least two months and paid at least one month before the election.

SEC. 2. The general election shall be held annually on the Tuesday next following the first Monday of November, but the General Assembly may by law fix a different day, two-thirds of all the members of each house consenting thereto.

SEC. 3. All elections for city, ward, borough, and township officers, for regular term of service, shall be held on the third Tuesday of February.

SEC. 4. All elections by the citizens shall be by ballot. Every ballot voted shall be numbered in the order in which it shall be received, and the number recorded by the election officers on the list of voters, opposite the name of the elector who presents the ballot. Any elector may write his name upon his ticket, or cause the same to be written thereon and attested by a citizen of the district. The election officers shall be sworn or affirmed not to disclose how any elector shall have voted unless required to do so as witnesses in a judicial proceeding.

SEC. 5. Electors shall in all cases, except treason, felony, and breach or surety of the peace, be privileged from arrest during their attendance at elections and going to and returning therefrom.

SEC. 6. Whenever any of the qualified electors of this Commonwealth shall be in actual military service, under a requisition from the President of the United States or by the authority of this Commonwealth, such electors may exercise the right of suffrage in all elections by the citizens, under such regulations as are or shall be prescribed by law, as fully as if they were present at their usual places of election.

SEC. 7. All laws regulating the holding of elections by the citizens or for the registration of electors shall be uniform throughout the State, but no elector shall be deprived of the privilege of voting by reason of his name not being registered.

SEC. 8. Any person who shall give, or promise, or offer to give to an elector, any money, reward, or other valuable consideration for his vote at an election, or for withholding the same, or who shall give or promise to give such consideration to any other person or party for such elector's vote, or for the withholding thereof, and any elector who shall receive or agree to receive, for himself or for another, any money reward or other valuable consideration for his vote at an election, or for withholding the same, shall thereby forfeit the right to vote at such election, and any elector whose right to vote shall be challenged for such cause before the election officers at the polls shall be required to make oath that the matter of the challenge is untrue before his vote shall be received.

SEC. 9. Any person who shall, while a qualified elector of this Commonwealth, be employed in the service of any election law, shall be forever disqualified from holding any office of trust or profit in this Commonwealth; and any person who shall, while holding any office of trust or profit, be employed in the service of any election law, shall be forever disqualified from holding an office of trust or profit in this Commonwealth; and any person who shall in addition to any penalties provided by law, be deprived of the right of suffrage absolutely for a term of four years.

SEC. 10. In trials of contested elections, and in proceedings for the investigation of elections, no person shall be permitted to withhold his testimony upon the ground that it may criminate himself or subject him to public infamy; but such testimony shall not afterwards be used against him in any judicial proceeding, except for perjury in giving such testimony.

SEC. 11. The boroughs and wards of cities or boroughs shall form or be divided into election districts of compact and contiguous territory, in such manner as the Court of Quarter Sessions of the city or county in which the same are located may direct. No ward or borough of over one hundred thousand inhabitants shall be divided by the Courts of Quarter Sessions having jurisdiction therein without the consent of a majority of the electors thereof; and no city or county shall possess all the powers and jurisdiction of a Register's Court, and separate Registers' Courts are hereby abolished.

SEC. 12. The style of all process shall be "The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania." All prosecutions shall be carried on in the name and by the authority of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and conclude against the peace and dignity of the same.

SEC. 24. In all cases of felonious homicide, and in such other criminal cases as may be provided for by law, the accused, after such challenges as are allowed by law, the indictment, records, and all proceedings to the Supreme Court for review.

SEC. 25. Any vacancy happening by death, resignation, or otherwise, in any court of record, shall be filled by appointment by the Governor, to continue till the first Monday of January next succeeding the first general election, which shall occur three or more months after the happening of such vacancy.

SEC. 26. All laws relating to courts shall be general and of uniform operation throughout the State, and the organization, and powers of all courts of the same class or grade, so far as regulated by law, and the force and effect of the process and judgments of such courts shall be uniform; and the Legislature is hereby prohibited from creating other courts to exercise the powers vested by this constitution in the judges of the Court of Common Pleas and Orphans' Court.

SEC. 27. The parties, by agreement filed, may, in any civil case, dispense with trial by jury, and submit the decision of such case to the court having jurisdiction thereof, and such decision shall be subject to review as provided by law, and the judgment thereon shall be subject to writ of error as in other cases.

ARTICLE VI.

IMPEACHMENT AND REMOVAL FROM OFFICE.

SECTION 1. The House of Representatives shall have the sole power of impeachment.

SEC. 2. All impeachments shall be tried by the Senate; and when sitting for that purpose, the Senators shall be upon oath or affirmation; no person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present.

SEC. 3. The Governor and all civil officers shall be liable to impeachment for any misdemeanor in office, but judgment in such cases shall not extend further than to removal from office and disqualification to hold any office of honor, trust or profit under this Commonwealth; the person accused whether convicted or acquitted, shall nevertheless be liable to indictment, trial, judgment, and punishment according to law.

SEC. 4. All officers shall hold their offices on the condition that they behave themselves well while in office, and shall be removed on conviction of misbehavior in office or any other high crime.

Appointed officers other than judges of the courts of record and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, may be removed at the pleasure of the power by which they shall have been appointed. All officers elected by the people, except Governor, Lieutenant Governor, members of the General Assembly, and judges of the courts of record learned in the law, shall be removed by the Governor for reasonable cause, after due notice and full hearing, on the address of two-thirds of the Senate.

ARTICLE VII.

OATH OF OFFICE.

SECTION 1. Senators and Representatives and all judicial, State, and county officers, shall, before entering on the duties of their respective offices, take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth, and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity; that I have not paid or contributed, or promised to pay or contribute, either directly or indirectly, any money or other valuable thing, to procure my nomination or election (or appointment), except for necessary and proper expenses expressly authorized by law; that I have not knowingly violated any election law of this Commonwealth, or procured it to be done by others in my behalf; that I will not knowingly receive, directly or indirectly, any money or other valuable thing for the performance or non-performance of any act or duty pertaining to my office, other than the compensation allowed by law."

The foregoing oath shall be administered by some person authorized to administer oaths, and in the case of State officers and Judges of the Supreme Court, shall be filed in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, and in the case of other judicial and county officers, in the office of the Prothonotary of the county in which the same is taken; any person refusing to take said oath or affirmation shall forfeit his office, and any person who shall be convicted of having sworn or affirmed falsely, or of having violated said oath or affirmation, shall be guilty of perjury, and be forever disqualified from holding any office of trust or profit within this Commonwealth.

The oath to the members of the Senate and House of Representatives shall be administered by one of the judges of the Supreme Court or of a Court of Common Pleas, learned in the law, in the hall of the house to which the member shall be elected.

ARTICLE VIII.

SUFFRAGE AND ELECTIONS.

SECTION 1. Every male citizen twenty-one years of age, possessing the following qualifications, shall be entitled to vote at all elections:

First. He shall have been a citizen of the United States at least one month.

Second. He shall have resided in the State one year (or if, having previously been a qualified elector or native born citizen of the State, he shall have removed therefrom and returned, then six months) immediately preceding the election.

Third. He shall have resided in the election district where he shall offer to vote at least two months immediately preceding the election.

Fourth. If twenty-two years of age or upwards, he shall have paid within two years a State or county tax, which shall have been assessed at least two months and paid at least one month before the election.

SEC. 2. The general election shall be held annually on the Tuesday next following the first Monday of November, but the General Assembly may by law fix a different day, two-thirds of all the members of each house consenting thereto.

SEC. 3. All elections for city, ward, borough, and township officers, for regular term of service, shall be held on the third Tuesday of February.

SEC. 4. All elections by the citizens shall be by ballot. Every ballot voted shall be numbered in the order in which it shall be received, and the number recorded by the election officers on the list of voters, opposite the name of the elector who presents the ballot. Any elector may write his name upon his ticket, or cause the same to be written thereon and attested by a citizen of the district. The election officers shall be sworn or affirmed not to disclose how any elector shall have voted unless required to do so as witnesses in a judicial proceeding.

SEC. 5. Electors shall in all cases, except treason, felony, and breach or surety of the peace, be privileged from arrest during their attendance at elections and going to and returning therefrom.

SEC. 6. Whenever any of the qualified electors of this Commonwealth shall be in actual military service, under a requisition from the President of the United States or by the authority of this Commonwealth, such electors may exercise the right of suffrage in all elections by the citizens, under such regulations as are or shall be prescribed by law, as fully as if they were present at their usual places of election.

SEC. 7. All laws regulating the holding of elections by the citizens or for the registration of electors shall be uniform throughout the State, but no elector shall be deprived of the privilege of voting by reason of his name not being registered.

SEC. 8. Any person who shall give, or promise, or offer to give to an elector, any money, reward, or other valuable consideration for his vote at an election, or for withholding the same, or who shall give or promise to give such consideration to any other person or party for such elector's vote, or for the withholding thereof, and any elector who shall receive or agree to receive, for himself or for another, any money reward or other valuable consideration for his vote at an election, or for withholding the same, shall thereby forfeit the right to vote at such election, and any elector whose right to vote shall be challenged for such cause before the election officers at the polls shall be required to make oath that the matter of the challenge is untrue before his vote shall be received.

SEC. 9. Any person who shall, while a qualified elector of this Commonwealth, be employed in the service of any election law, shall be forever disqualified from holding an office of trust or profit in this Commonwealth; and any person who shall, while holding any office of trust or profit, be employed in the service of any election law, shall be forever disqualified from holding an office of trust or profit in this Commonwealth; and any person who shall in addition to any penalties provided by law, be deprived of the right of suffrage absolutely for a term of four years.

SEC. 10. In trials of contested elections, and in proceedings for the investigation of elections, no person shall be permitted to withhold his testimony upon the ground that it may criminate himself or subject him to public infamy; but such testimony shall not afterwards be used against him in any judicial proceeding, except for perjury in giving such testimony.

SEC. 11. The boroughs and wards of cities or boroughs shall form or be divided into election districts of compact and contiguous territory, in such manner as the Court of Quarter Sessions of the city or county in which the same are located may direct. No ward or borough of over one hundred thousand inhabitants shall be divided by the Courts of Quarter Sessions having jurisdiction therein without the consent of a majority of the electors thereof; and no city or county shall possess all the powers and jurisdiction of a Register's Court, and separate Registers' Courts are hereby abolished.

SEC. 12. The style of all process shall be "The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania." All prosecutions shall be carried on in the name and by the authority of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and conclude against the peace and dignity of the same.

SEC. 24. In all cases of felonious homicide, and in such other criminal cases as may be provided for by law, the accused, after such challenges as are allowed by law, the indictment, records, and all proceedings to the Supreme Court for review.

SEC. 25. Any vacancy happening by death, resignation, or otherwise, in any court of record, shall be filled by appointment by the Governor, to continue till the first Monday of January next succeeding the first general election, which shall occur three or more months after the happening of such vacancy.

SEC. 26. All laws relating to courts shall be general and of uniform operation throughout the State, and the organization, and powers of all courts of the same class or grade, so far as regulated by law, and the force and effect of the process and judgments of such courts shall be uniform; and the Legislature is hereby prohibited from creating other courts to exercise the powers vested by this constitution in the judges of the Court of Common Pleas and Orphans' Court.

SEC. 27. The parties, by agreement filed, may, in any civil case, dispense with trial by jury, and submit the decision of such case to the court having jurisdiction thereof, and such decision shall be subject to review as provided by law, and the judgment thereon shall be subject to writ of error as in other cases.

ARTICLE VI.

IMPEACHMENT AND REMOVAL FROM OFFICE.

SECTION 1. The House of Representatives shall have the sole power of impeachment.

SEC. 2. All impeachments shall be tried by the Senate; and when sitting for that purpose, the Senators shall be upon oath or affirmation; no person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present.

SEC. 3. The Governor and all civil officers shall be liable to impeachment for any misdemeanor in office, but judgment in such cases shall not extend further than to removal from office and disqualification to hold any office of honor, trust or profit under this Commonwealth; the person accused whether convicted or acquitted, shall nevertheless be liable to indictment, trial, judgment, and punishment according to law.

SEC. 4. All officers shall hold their offices on the condition that they behave themselves well while in office, and shall be removed on conviction of misbehavior in office or any other high crime.

Appointed officers other than judges of the courts of record and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, may be removed at the pleasure of the power by which they shall have been appointed. All officers elected by the people, except Governor, Lieutenant Governor, members of the General Assembly, and judges of the courts of record learned in the law, shall be removed by the Governor for reasonable cause, after due notice and full hearing, on the address of two-thirds of the Senate.

ARTICLE VII.

OATH OF OFFICE.

SECTION 1. Senators and Representatives and all judicial, State, and county officers, shall, before entering on the duties of their respective offices, take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth, and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity; that I have not paid or contributed, or promised to pay or contribute, either directly or indirectly, any money or other valuable thing, to procure my nomination or election (or appointment), except for necessary and proper expenses expressly authorized by law; that I have not knowingly violated any election law of this Commonwealth, or procured it to be done by others in my behalf; that I will not knowingly receive, directly or indirectly, any money or other valuable thing for the performance or non-performance of any act or duty pertaining to my office, other than the compensation allowed by law."

The foregoing oath shall be administered by some person authorized to administer oaths, and in the case of State officers and Judges of the Supreme Court, shall be filed in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, and in the case of other judicial and county officers, in the office of the Prothonotary of the county in which the same is taken; any person refusing to take said oath or affirmation shall forfeit his office, and any person who shall be convicted of having sworn or affirmed falsely, or of having violated said oath or affirmation, shall be guilty of perjury, and be forever disqualified from holding any office of trust or profit within this Commonwealth.

The oath to the members of the Senate and House of Representatives shall be administered by one of the judges of the Supreme Court or of a Court of Common Pleas, learned in the law, in the hall of the house to which the member shall be elected.

ARTICLE VIII.

SUFFRAGE AND ELECTIONS.

SECTION 1. Every male citizen twenty-one years of age, possessing the following qualifications, shall be entitled to vote at all elections:

First. He shall have been a citizen of the United States at least one month.

Second. He shall have resided in the State one year (or if, having previously been a qualified elector or native born citizen of the State, he shall have removed therefrom and returned, then six months) immediately preceding the election.

Third. He shall have resided in the election district where he shall offer to vote at least two months immediately preceding the election.

Fourth. If twenty-two years of age or upwards, he shall have paid within two years a State or county tax, which shall have been assessed at least two months and paid at least one month before the election.

SEC. 2. The general election shall be held annually on the Tuesday next following the first Monday of November, but the General Assembly may by law fix a different day, two-thirds of all the members of each house consenting thereto.

SEC. 3. All elections for city, ward, borough, and township officers, for regular term of service, shall be held on the third Tuesday of February.

SEC. 4. All elections by the citizens shall be by ballot. Every ballot voted shall be numbered in the order in which it shall be received, and the number recorded by the election officers on the list of voters, opposite the name of the elector who presents the ballot. Any elector may write his name upon his ticket, or cause the same to be written thereon and attested by a citizen of the district. The election officers shall be sworn or affirmed not to disclose how any elector shall have voted unless required to do so as witnesses in a judicial proceeding.

SEC. 5. Electors shall in all cases, except treason, felony, and breach or surety of the peace, be privileged from arrest during their attendance at elections and going to and returning therefrom.

SEC. 6. Whenever any of the qualified electors of this Commonwealth shall be in actual military service, under a requisition from the President of the United States or by the authority of this Commonwealth, such electors may exercise the right of suffrage in all elections by the citizens, under such regulations as are or shall be prescribed by law, as fully as if they were present at their usual places of election.

SEC. 7. All laws regulating the holding of elections by the citizens or for the registration of electors shall be uniform throughout the State, but no elector shall be deprived of the privilege of voting by reason of his name not being registered.

SEC. 8. Any person who shall give, or promise, or offer to give to an elector, any money, reward, or other valuable consideration for his vote at an election, or for withholding the same, or who shall give or promise to give such consideration to any other person or party for such elector's vote, or for the withholding thereof, and any elector who shall receive or agree to receive, for himself or for another, any money reward or other valuable consideration for his vote at an election, or for withholding the same, shall thereby forfeit the right to vote at such election, and any elector whose right to vote shall be challenged for such cause before the election officers at the polls shall be required to make oath that the matter of the challenge is untrue before his vote shall be received.

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