

CONSTITUTION

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AS AMENDED BY THE CONVENTION OF ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SEVEN.

WE, The People of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, ordain and establish this Constitution for its Government.

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

Section II. The Representatives shall be chosen annually by the citizens of the city of Philadelphia and of each county respectively on the second Tuesday of October.

Section III. No person shall be a representative who shall not have attained the age of twenty-one years, and have been a citizen and inhabitant of the State three years next preceding his election, and the last year thereof an inhabitant of the district in and for which he shall be chosen a representative, unless he shall have been absent on the public business of the United States or of this State.

Section IV. Within three years after the first meeting of the General Assembly, and within every subsequent term of seven years, an enumeration of the taxable inhabitants shall be made in such manner as shall be directed by law. The number of representatives shall, at the several periods of making such enumeration, be fixed by the Legislature, and apportioned among the city of Philadelphia and the several counties, according to the number of taxable inhabitants in each: and shall never be less than sixty nor greater than one hundred. Each county shall have at least one representative, but no county hereafter erected shall be entitled to a separate representation until a sufficient number of taxable inhabitants shall be contained within it, to entitle them to one representative agreeably to the ratio which shall then be established.

Section V. The senators shall be chosen for three years by the citizens of Philadelphia and of the several counties at the same time, in the same manner, and at the same places where they shall vote for representatives.

Section VI. The number of Senators shall, at the several periods of making the enumeration before mentioned, be fixed by the Legislature and apportioned among the districts formed as hereinafter directed, according to the number of taxable inhabitants in each; and shall never be less than one-fourth, nor greater than one-third, of the number of representatives.

Section VII. The senators shall be chosen in districts, to be formed by the legislature, but no district shall be so formed as to entitle it to elect more than two senators, unless the number of taxable inhabitants in any city or county shall, at any time, be such as to entitle it to elect more than two senators; when a district shall be composed of two or more counties, they shall be adjoining; neither the city of Philadelphia nor any county shall be divided in forming a district.

Section VIII. No person shall be a senator, who shall not have attained the age of twenty-five years, and have been a citizen and inhabitant of the State four years next before his election, and the last year thereof an inhabitant of the district for which he shall be chosen, unless he shall have been absent on the public business of the United States or of this State; and no person elected as aforesaid, shall hold said office after he shall have removed from such district.

Section IX. The senators who may be elected at the first general election after the adoption of the amendments to the constitution, shall be divided by lot into three classes. The seats of the senators of the first class shall be vacated at the expiration of the first year; of the second class at the expiration of the second year; and of the third class at the expiration of the third year; so that thereafter one-third of the whole number of senators may be chosen every year. The senators elected before the amendments to the constitution shall be divided, and their terms of office, in the same manner as if they respectively have been elected.

Section X. The General Assembly shall meet on the first Tuesday of January, in every year, unless sooner convened by the Governor.

Section XI. Each house shall choose its Speaker and other officers; and the Senate shall also choose a Speaker pro tempore, when the Speaker shall exercise the office of Governor.

Section XII. Each house shall judge of the qualifications of its members. Contested elections shall be determined by a committee to be selected, formed and regulated in such manner as shall be directed by law. A majority of each house shall constitute a quorum to do business; but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized by law to compel the attendance of absent members, in such manner and under such penalties as may be provided.

Section XIII. Each house may determine the rules of its proceedings, punish its members for disorderly behaviour, and with the concurrence of two-thirds, expel a member, but not a second time for the same cause; and shall have all other powers necessary for a branch of the legislature of a free State.

Section XIV. The legislature shall not have power to enact laws annulling the contract of marriage in any case where, by law, the contract of this Commonwealth or is or may hereafter be empowered to decree a divorce.

Section XV. Each house shall keep a journal of its proceedings, and publish them weekly, except such parts as may 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 journals.

Section XVI. The doors of each house and of committees of the whole shall be open, unless when the business shall be such as ought to be kept secret.

Section XVII. 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.

Section XVIII. The Senators and Representatives shall receive a compensation for their services to be ascertained by law, and paid out of the treasury of the Commonwealth. They shall in all cases, except treason, felony and breach of surety of the peace, be privileged from arrest during their attendance at the session 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.

Section XIX. No Senator or representative shall, during the time for which he shall have been elected, be appointed to any civil office under this Commonwealth which shall have been created, or the emoluments of which shall have been increased during such time; nor shall any member of Congress or other person holding any office (except of attorney at law and in the militia) under the United States or this Commonwealth, shall be a member of either house during his continuance in Congress or in office.

Section XX. When vacancies happen in either house, the Speaker shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies.

Section XXI. All bills for raising revenue shall originate in the house of representatives, but the Senate may propose amendments as in other bills.

Section XXII. No money shall be drawn from the treasury but in consequence of appropriations made by law.

Section XXIII. Every bill which shall have passed both houses shall be presented to the Governor. If he approve he shall sign it, but if he shall not approve he shall return it with his objections to the house in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the objections at large upon their journals and proceed to re-consider it. If, after such re-consideration, two-thirds of that house shall agree to pass the bill, it shall be sent with the objections to the other house, by which likewise it shall be re-considered, and if approved by two-thirds of that house, it shall be a law. But in such cases the votes of both houses shall be determined by yeas and nays, and the names of the persons voting for or against the bill shall be entered on the journals of each house respectively. If any bill shall not be returned by the Governor within ten days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, it shall be a law in like manner as if he had signed it, unless the General Assembly, by their adjournment, prevent its return, in which case it shall be a law, unless sent back within three days after their next meeting.

Section XXIV. Every order, resolution or vote to which the concurrence of both houses may be necessary (except on a question of adjournment) shall be executed by the Governor, and before it

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