

**Office of the Vermont Secretary of State**  
**Vermont State Archives**

**1971: Proposal 10**

**Subject: General Assembly; apportionment**

PROPOSAL X

That sections 13, 15, 18, 36, 37 and 38 of Chapter II of the Constitution of the State of Vermont be amended to read as follows:

§13. Representatives; number

SECTION 13. The House of Representatives shall be composed of one hundred fifty Representatives. The freemen of each representative district established by law shall elect one or two Representatives from that district, the number from each district to be established by the General Assembly.

In establishing representative districts, which shall afford equality of representation, the General Assembly shall seek to maintain geographical compactness and contiguity and to adhere to boundaries of counties and other existing political subdivisions.

§15. Residence of Representatives and Senators

SECTION 15. No person shall be elected a Representative or a Senator until he has resided in this State two years, the last year of which shall he in the legislative district for which he is elected.

§18. Senators; numbers; qualifications

SECTION 18. The Senate shall be composed of thirty Senators, to be of the freemen of the senatorial district from which they are elected. The freemen of each senatorial district established by law shall elect one or more Senators from that district, the number from each district to be established by the General Assembly.

In establishing senatorial districts, which shall afford equality of representation, the General Assembly shall seek to maintain geographical compactness and contiguity and to adhere to boundaries of counties and other existing political subdivisions.

### §36. Election of Representatives and Senators

SECTION 36. Senators and Representatives shall be elected to office at a general election to be held biennially on the first Tuesday next after the first Monday of November, A.D. 1974.

### §37. Manner of election

SECTION 37. The manner of election, certification, and filling of vacancies in office of Senators and Representatives shall be as established by law.

### §38. Terms of Senators and Representatives

SECTION 38. The term of office of Senators and Representatives shall be two years, commencing on the first Wednesday next after the first Monday of January following their election.

And that Section 72 be added to Chapter II of the Constitution to read as follows:

### §72. Manner of apportionment of General Assembly

SECTION 72. The General Assembly shall establish senatorial districts, within and including all of the state, and shall further establish representative districts within and including all of the state.

At the biennial session following each second presidential election, and at such other times as the General Assembly finds necessary, it shall revise the boundaries of the legislative districts and shall make a new apportionment of its membership in order to maintain equality of representation among the respective districts as nearly as it is practicable. The General Assembly may provide for establishment of a legislative apportionment board to advise and

assist the General Assembly concerning legislative apportionment. If the General Assembly fails to revise the legislative districts as required in this section, the Supreme Court in appropriate legal proceedings brought for that purpose may order reapportionment of the districts.