

Office of the Vermont Secretary of State
Vermont State Archives

1991: Proposal 1

Subject: Citizens' rights and duties; bearing arms; taxation; state mandates

PROPOSAL 1

Article 9th of Chapter I of the Vermont Constitution is amended to read:

[ARTICLE 9th. CITIZENS' RIGHTS AND DUTIES IN THE STATE; BEARING ARMS; TAXATION; STATE MANDATES]

That every member of society hath a right to be protected in the enjoyment of life, liberty, and property, and therefore is bound to contribute his proportion towards the expense of that protection, and yield his personal service, when necessary, or an equivalent thereto, but no part of any person's property can be justly taken from him, or applied to public uses, without his own consent, or that of the Representative Body of the freemen, nor can any man who is conscientiously scrupulous of bearing arms, be justly compelled thereto, if he will pay such equivalent; nor are the people bound by any law but such as they have in like manner assented to, for their common good: and previous to any law being made to raise a tax, the purpose for which it is to be raised ought to appear evident to the Legislature to be of more service to community than the money would be if not collected. No law may be enacted after the effective date of this provision that requires expenditure by a political subdivision of the state unless the state provides funds sufficient to pay in full for the program, responsibility, or other required expenditure, or unless the legislative body of a political subdivision approves expenditure of local revenue for the program, responsibility or other required expenditure.