

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

**1975: Proposal 3**

**Subject: State officers; election**

PROPOSAL 3

That Section 48 of Chapter II of the Constitution be repealed, and that Sections 43, 47, 49 and 73 of Chapter II of the Constitution be amended to read as follows:

SECTION 43. The state officers shall be the Governor, the Lieutenant-Governor, the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, the Treasurer and the Auditor of Accounts and they shall be elected to office by the Freemen of the state for a term of four years at a general election to held every four years on the first Tuesday next after the first Monday in November beginning A. D.1978.

SECTION 47. A copy of each return of votes for Governor, and for any other state office the holder of which under the Constitution is elected by the freemen of the state, shall be filed with the Secretary of State following each general election in a manner prescribed by law. On the second Tuesday following the day of the election, a canvassing board, to be constituted as the General Assembly shall provide, shall meet at the State House, and shall canvass the returns of votes and declare the results of the election.

A candidate who receives a majority of the total number of votes cast by the freemen of the state for Governor or for any other state office shall be declared elected. If, for the office of Governor or for any other state office, no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast by the freemen of the state, the canvassing board shall so certify to the Secretary of State who shall issue a call for a special election to be held on the second Tuesday after the first Monday in December next following the general election. The names of the respective candidates receiving the largest and next largest number of votes, for the office or offices for which there

was no majority of votes at the general election, shall be printed on the ballots as candidates for that office or those offices at the special election. The returns of votes cast at the special election shall be canvassed in the same manner as returns of votes cast for the offices of Governor and other state offices at the general election, and the candidate receiving the largest number of votes in each instance shall be declared elected.

The General Assembly may establish procedures for determining results of contested elections for the offices of Governor and other state offices, and for adjudication of controversies arising in connection with elections for those offices.

SECTION 49. The term of office of the Governor, and of each state officer who under the Constitution is elected by the freemen of the state and is qualified, shall commence on the first Wednesday next after the first Monday in January following his election and shall continue for four years, or until his successor shall be chosen and qualified.

SECTION 73. The justices of the Supreme Court are hereby authorized and directed to revise the Constitution by incorporating into said Chapter all amendments of the Constitution that are now or may be then in force and excluding therefrom all sections, clauses and words not in force and rearranged and renumbering the section thereof under appropriate titles as in their judgement may be most logical and convenient; and said revised Constitution as certified to the Secretary of State by said Justices or a majority thereof shall be a part of the Constitution of this State in substitution for the existing Constitution and all amendments thereof.