

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

**1983: Proposal 9**

**Subject: Four Year Terms for elected officials**

PROPOSAL 9

That Sections 43, 47, 48, 49 and 52 of the Vermont Constitution be amended to read:

[§ 43. Biennial elections]

SECTION 43. The Governor, Lieutenant- Govern or, Treasurer, Secretary of State, Auditor of Accounts, Attorney General, Assistant Judges, Sheriffs, State's Attorneys and Judges of Probate shall be elected quadrennially on the first Tuesday next after the first Monday of November, beginning in A.D. 1988.

[§ 47. Election of governor, lieutenant-governor and treasurer]

SECTION 47. The freemen of each town shall, on the day of election, cast their votes for Governor. At the opening of the General Assembly, there shall be a committee appointed out of the Senate and House of Representatives, who, after being duly sworn to the faithful discharge of their trust, shall proceed to receive, sort, and count the votes for Governor, and declare the person who has the major part of the votes, to be Governor for the four years ensuing. The Lieutenant-Governor and the Treasurer shall be chosen in the manner above directed.

The votes for Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, and Treasurer, of the State, shall be sorted and counted, and the result declared, by a committee appointed by the Senate and House of Representatives.

If, at any time, there shall be no election, by the freemen, of Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or Treasurer, of the State, the Senate and House of Representatives shall by a joint ballot, elect

to fill the office, not filled by the freemen as aforesaid, one of the three candidates for such office (if there be so many) for whom the greatest number of votes shall have been returned.

[§ 48. Election of secretary of state and auditor of accounts]

SECTION 48. The Secretary of State, Auditor of Accounts and Attorney General shall be elected by the freemen of the State at the same time as the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor and Treasurer; and the Legislature shall carry this provision into effect by appropriate legislation.

[§ 49. Term of state officers]

SECTION 49. The term of office of the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Treasurer, Secretary of State, Auditor of Accounts and Attorney General of the State, respectively, shall commence when they shall be chosen and qualified, and shall continue for the term of four years, or until their successors shall be chosen and qualified, or to the adjournment of the session of the Legislature at which, by the Constitution and laws, their successors are required to be chosen, and not after such adjournment.

[§ 52. Freemen to elect justices of the peace; apportionment]

SECTION 52. Justices of the Peace shall be elected by the freemen of their respective towns; and towns having less than one thousand inhabitants may elect any number of Justices of the Peace not exceeding five; towns having one thousand and less than two thousand inhabitants, may elect seven; towns having two thousand and less than three thousand inhabitants, may elect ten; towns having three thousand and less than five thousand inhabitants, may elect twelve; and towns having five thousand, or more, inhabitants, may elect fifteen Justices of the Peace. Justices of the Peace shall not exercise judicial powers, except that they may serve as magistrates when so commissioned by the Supreme Court.

Justices of the Peace shall be elected to office at a general election to be held biennially on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of

November in even-numbered years.