

Office of the Vermont Secretary of State
Vermont State Archives

1987: Proposal 5

Subject: Election of Constitutional Officers

Proposal 5

Sec. 1. PURPOSE

This proposal would amend the Constitution of the state to provide for the election of Governor by a plurality of at least 40 percent of the vote cast, and for a runoff election between the two persons with the greatest number of votes cast for Governor if a plurality of at least 40 percent is not obtained. This proposal also provides for the election of the Lieutenant-Governor, Treasurer, Secretary of State and Auditor of Accounts by a plurality of the votes cast for those offices.

Sec. 2. Section 47, and 48 of Chapter II of the Constitution is amended to read:

SECTION 47. [ELECTION OF GOVERNOR]* [,LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR AND TREASURER]*

The freemen of each town shall, on the day of election, cast their votes for Governor. A copy of each return of votes for Governor shall be filed with the Secretary of State in the manner prescribed by law. The person who receives a plurality of the votes cast shall be declared to be elected Governor if that person receives at least 40 percent of the votes cast for the office.

If no person receives the required number of votes for Governor, the Secretary of State shall declare that no person has been elected and shall issue a call for a runoff election to be held in the manner prescribed by law. The two persons who receive the greatest number of votes for Governor in the general election shall be the candidates in the runoff election. The person who receives the major part of the votes in the runoff election shall be declared

to be elected Governor. The procedure for determining the results of the vote for Governor in the runoff election shall be the same as the procedure for determining the results of the vote in the general election.

[The freemen of each town shall, on the day of election for choosing Representatives to attend the General Assembly, bring in their votes for Governor, with his name fairly written, to the Constable, who shall seal them up and write on them, Votes for Governor, and deliver them to the Representatives chosen to attend the General Assembly; and 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 two years ensuing. The lieutenant-Governor and the Treasurer shall be chosen in the manner above directed.]

[The votes for Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, and Treasurers, 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.]

The freemen of each town shall, on the day of election, cast their votes for Lieutenant-Governor, Treasurer, Secretary of State and Auditor of Accounts. The person who receives a plurality of the votes cast for the office of Lieutenant-Governor, Treasurer, Secretary of State or Auditor of Accounts shall be declared to be elected to that office. *[The Secretary of State and the Auditor of Accounts shall be elected by the freemen of the State upon the same ticket with the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor and Treasurer; and the Legislature shall carry this provision into effect

by appropriate legislation.]*