

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

**1991: Proposal 5**

**Subject: Statewide elected officers; four-year terms**

PROPOSAL 5

Sec. 1 PURPOSE

This proposal would amend the Vermont Constitution to provide that the term of office for Governor, Lieutenant- Governor, Treasurer, Secretary of State and Auditor of Accounts be four years, beginning with the term commencing after the general election in November 1998.

Sec. 2. Section 43 of Chapter II of the Vermont Constitution is amended to read:

[§43. \*[BIENNIAL ELECTIONS]\* ELECTIONS]

The Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Treasurer, Secretary of State, Auditor of Accounts, \*[Senators, Town Representatives,]\* Assistant Judges \*[of the County Court]\* , Sheriffs, High Bailiffs, State's Attorneys, and Judges of Probate \*[and Justices of the Peace]\* , shall be elected \*[biennially]\* every fourth year on the first Tuesday next after the first Monday of November, beginning in A.D. \*[1914]\* 1998.

Justices of the Peace shall be elected biennially on the first Tuesday next after the first Monday of November, beginning in A.D. 1998.

Sec. 3. Section 47 of Chapter II of the Vermont Constitution is amended to read:

[§47. ELECTION OF GOVERNOR, LEUTENANT GOVERNOR AND TREASURER]

The freemen of each town shall, on the day of election \*[for choosing Representatives to attend the General Assembly, bring in]\* , cast 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]\* . 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 term. 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.

Sec. 4. Section 49 of Chapter II of the Vermont Constitution is amended to read:

[§49. TERM OF GOVERNOR, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR \*[AND]\* , TREASURER, SECRETARY OF STATE AND AUDITOR OF ACCOUNTS]

The term of Governor, Lieutenant-Governor \*[and]\* , Treasurer, Secretary of State and Auditor of Accounts, of the State, respectively, shall commence when they shall be chosen and qualified, and shall continue for the term of \*[two]\* 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.

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

Once ratified and adopted by the people of this state in accordance with the provisions of chapter 32 of Title 17, the provisions of this amendment shall become a part of the Constitution as of the first

Tuesday next after the first Monday of November, 1998.