

Office of the Vermont Secretary of State
Vermont State Archives

1995: Proposal 10

Subject: General Assembly; membership; four-year terms

PROPOSAL 10

Sec. 1. PURPOSE

This proposal would amend the Constitution of Vermont by reducing the size of the Senate from 30 to 25 members and by reducing the size of the House of Representatives from 150 to 75 members, and provide for four-year terms of office for members of the General Assembly.

Sec. 2. §7 of Chapter II of the Vermont Constitution is amended to read:

§7. [*[BIENNIAL]* ANNUAL SESSIONS]

The General Assembly shall meet *[biennially]* annually on the first Wednesday next after the first Monday of January, beginning in A.D. *[1915]* 2001.

Sec. 3. §13 of Chapter II of the Vermont Constitution is amended to read:

§13. [REPRESENTATIVES; NUMBER]

The House of Representatives shall be composed of *[one hundred fifty]* seventy-five Representatives. The voters of each representative district established by law shall elect one or two Representatives from that district, the number from each district to be established by the General Assembly.

In establishing representative districts, which shall afford equality of representation, the General Assembly shall seek to maintain

geographical compactness and contiguity and to adhere to boundaries of counties and other existing political subdivisions.

Sec. 4. §18 of Chapter II of the Vermont Constitution is amended to read:

§18. [SENATORS; NUMBERS; QUALIFICATIONS]

The Senate shall be composed of *[thirty]* twenty-five Senators to be of the senatorial district from which they are elected. The voters of each senatorial district established by law shall elect one or more Senators from that district, the number from each district to be established by the General Assembly.

In establishing senatorial districts, which shall afford equality of representation, the General Assembly shall seek to maintain geographical compactness and contiguity and to adhere to boundaries of counties and other existing political subdivisions.

Sec. 5. §43 of Chapter II of the Vermont Constitution is amended to read:

§43. [BIENNIAL 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, Judges of Probate]* and Justices of the Peace, shall be elected biennially on the first Tuesday next after the first Monday of November, beginning in A.D.1914.

Sec. 6. §44 of Chapter II of the Vermont Constitution is amended to read:

§44. [ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS]

Senators and Representatives shall be elected to office at *[a general]* an election to be held *[biennially]* quadrennially on the first Tuesday next after the first Monday of November*[,]* beginning in A.D.*[1974]* 2000.

Sec. 7. §46 of Chapter II of the Vermont Constitution is amended to read:

§46. [TERMS OF SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES]

The term of office of Senators and Representatives shall be *[two] * four years, commencing on the first Wednesday next after the first Monday of January following their election.

Sec. 8. §47 of Chapter II of the Vermont Constitution is amended to read:

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

The voters of each town shall, on the day of election for choosing

[Representatives to attend the General Assembly] the Governor, bring in their votes for Governor, with the 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 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, 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 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. 9. §49 of Chapter II of the Vermont Constitution is amended to read:

§49. [TERM OF GOVERNOR, LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR AND TREASURER]

The term of office of the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor and Treasurer of the State, respectively, shall commence when they shall be chosen and qualified, and shall continue for the term of two years, or until their successors shall be chosen and qualified, or to the adjournment of the second annual session of the Legislature following their election at which, by the Constitution and laws, their successors are required to be chosen, and not after such adjournment.

Sec. 10. 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 proposal shall become a part of the Constitution as of the first Tuesday next after the first Monday of November, 2000.