

SENATE CHAMBER
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE STATE OF VERMONT

Offered by Senator Condos of Chittenden District, Senator Collins of Franklin District, Senator Copenrath of Caledonia District, Senator Lyons of Chittenden District, Senator Miller of Chittenden District, Senator Mullin of Rutland District, Senator Snelling of Chittenden District and Senator Starr of Essex-Orleans District

Subject: Statewide officers; senators; state representatives; four-year terms

PROPOSAL 4

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, Auditor of Accounts, Attorney General, State Senators, and State Representatives be four years, beginning with the term commencing after the general election in November 2012.

Sec. 2. Section 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,~~ Attorney General, State Senators, and State Representatives shall be elected ~~biennially~~ every four years on the first Tuesday next after the first Monday of November, beginning in A.D. ~~1914~~ 2012. 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. 2010.

Sec. 3. Section 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, bring in, cast 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. 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, 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. 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, AUDITOR OF
ACCOUNTS, ATTORNEY GENERAL, STATE SENATORS, AND
STATE REPRESENTATIVES]

The term of office of ~~the~~ Governor, Lieutenant-Governor ~~and,~~ Treasurer, Secretary of State, Auditor of Accounts, Attorney General, State Senators, and State Representatives 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 Vermont Constitution as of the first Tuesday next after the first Monday of November 2012.