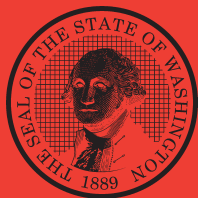


**2019 – 2020  
LEGISLATIVE  
MANUAL**



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**

# **2019 – 2020 LEGISLATIVE MANUAL**

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**2019 – 2020**  
**Legislative Manual**  
**State of Washington**  
**Sixty-sixth Legislature**

**Cyrus Habib,**  
Lieutenant Governor,  
President of the Senate

**Karen Keiser,**  
President Pro Tempore,  
Senate

**Steve Conway,**  
Vice President Pro Tempore,  
Senate

**Brad Hendrickson,**  
Secretary of the Senate

**Sarah Bannister,**  
Deputy Secretary of the  
Senate

**Frank Chopp,**  
Speaker of the House

**John Lovick,**  
Speaker Pro Tempore,  
House

**Tina Orwall,**  
Deputy Speaker Pro Tempore,  
House

**Bernard Dean,**  
Chief Clerk, House

**Nona Snell,**  
Deputy Chief Clerk,  
House



# Table of Contents

<b>The Declaration of Independence</b> .....	1
<b>Constitution of the United States</b> .....	5
Preamble .....	8
Articles .....	8
Amendments .....	21
<b>Enabling Act</b> .....	33
<b>Constitution of the State of Washington</b> .....	53
Summary .....	53
Preamble .....	63
Articles .....	63
Certificate .....	202
Amendments .....	204
Index .....	310
Sources of the Washington State Constitution .....	397
<b>Senate</b>	
Senate Officers .....	435
Senate Leaders .....	436
Permanent Rules of the Senate .....	437
Index to Senate Rules .....	468
Forms of Motion .....	483
Order of Business .....	484
Membership of Senate Standing Committees .....	485
Member Assignments to Senate Standing Committees .....	487
Senate Roster .....	491
<b>House</b>	
House Officers .....	497
House Leaders .....	498
Votes Necessary on House Action .....	499
Permanent Rules of the House .....	502
Index to House Rules .....	526
House Forms of Motion .....	535
Membership of House Standing Committees .....	541
Member Assignments to House Standing Committees .....	543
House Roster .....	549
<b>U.S. Executive</b> .....	561
<b>Congressional Officials</b> .....	561
<b>Washington State Officials</b> .....	569
<b>Nonpartisan Judiciary</b> .....	572





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# The Declaration of Independence

When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained, and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places, unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the meantime exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavored to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies, without the Consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation: For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us: For protecting them by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States: For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world: For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent: For depriving us in many cases of the benefits of Trial by Jury: For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offenses: For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary govern-

ment, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies: For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments: For suspending our own Legislatures and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of cruelty and perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions. In every stage of these Oppressions We have petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms. Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people. Nor have We been wanting in attention to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, THEREFORE, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, Free and Independent States: that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

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# Constitution of the United States

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## Article I

**Section 1.** Legislative powers; in whom vested.

**Sec. 2.** House of Representatives, how and by whom chosen - Qualifications of a Representative - Representatives and direct taxes, how apportioned - Census - Vacancies to be filled - Power of choosing officers, and of impeachment.

**Sec. 3.** Senators, how and by whom chosen - How classified - State Executive to make temporary appointments, in case, etc. - Qualifications of a Senator - President of the Senate, his right to vote - President pro tem, and other officers of Senate, how chosen - Power to try impeachment - When President is tried, Chief Justice to preside - Sentence.

**Sec. 4.** Times, etc., of holding elections, how prescribed - One session in each year.

**Sec. 5.** Membership - Quorum - Adjournment - Rules - Power to punish or expel - Journal - Time of adjournment limited, unless, etc.

**Sec. 6.** Compensation - Privileges - Disqualification in certain cases.

**Sec. 7.** House to originate all revenue bills - Veto - Bill may be passed by two-thirds of each house notwithstanding, etc. - Bill not returned in ten days - Provisions as to all orders, etc., except etc.

**Sec. 8.** Powers of Congress.

**Sec. 9.** Provision as to migration or importation of certain persons - Habeas Corpus - Bills of attainder, etc. - Taxes, how apportioned - No export duty - No commercial preference - No money drawn from treasury, unless, etc. - No titular nobility - Officers not to receive presents, unless, etc.

**Sec. 10.** States prohibited from the exercise of certain powers.

## Article II

**Section 1.** President; his term of office - Electors of President; number and how appointed - Electors to vote on same day - Qualification of President - On whom his duties devolve in case of his removal, death, etc. - President's compensation - His oath.

**Sec. 2.** President to be commander-in-chief - He may require opinion of, etc., and may pardon - Treaty-making power - Nomination of certain officers - When President may fill vacancies.

**Sec. 3.** President shall communicate to Congress - He may convene and adjourn Congress, in case, etc., shall receive ambassadors, execute laws, and commission officers.

**Sec. 4.** All civil offices forfeited for certain crimes.

## Article III

**Section 1.** Judicial power - Tenure - Compensation.

**Sec. 2.** Judicial power; to what cases it extends - Original jurisdiction of Supreme Court - Appellate - Trial by jury, except, etc. - Trial where.

**Sec. 3.** Treason defined - Proof of - Punishment of.

## Article IV

**Section 1.** Each State to give credit to the public acts, etc., of every other State.

**Sec. 2.** Privileges of citizens of each State - Fugitives from justice to be delivered up - Persons held to service having escaped, to be delivered up.

**Sec. 3.** Admission of new States - Power of Congress over territory and other property.

**Sec. 4.** Republican form of government guaranteed - Each State to be protected.

## Article V

Constitution; how amended - Proviso.

## Article VI

Certain debts, etc., adopted - Supremacy of Constitution, treaties, and laws of the United States - Oath to support Constitution, by whom taken - No religious test.

**Article VII**

What ratification shall establish Constitution.

**Amendments**

- I. Religious establishments prohibited - Freedom of speech, of the press, and right to petition.
- II. Right to keep and bear arms.
- III. No soldier to be quartered in any house, unless, etc.
- IV. Right of search and seizure regulated.
- V. Provisions concerning prosecutions, trial and punishment - Private property not to be taken for public use, without, etc.
- VI. Further provisions respecting criminal prosecutions.
- VII. Right of trial by jury secured.
- VIII. Excessive bail or fines and cruel punishments prohibited.
- IX. Rule of construction.
- X. Same subject.
- XI. Same subject.
- XII. Manner of choosing President and Vice-President.
- XIII. Slavery abolished.
- XIV. Citizenship.
- XV. Right of suffrage.
- XVI. Income tax.
- XVII. Direct election of senators.
- XVIII. National prohibition.
- XIX. Woman suffrage.
- XX. Lame Duck.
- XXI. Repealing the XVIII amendment.
- XXII. Terms of office of President.
- XXIII. Sec. 1. Granting representation in the electoral college to the District of Columbia. Sec. 2. Legislation.
- XXIV. Sec. 1. Qualifications of electors; poll tax. Sec. 2. Legislation.
- XXV. Succession to the Presidency and Vice-Presidency - Inability of President to discharge powers and duties of office.
- XXVI. Extending the right to vote to citizens eighteen years of age or older.
- XXVII. Compensation of members of Congress.

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# Constitution of the United States

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## Preamble

We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America

## Articles

### Article I

**Section 1. Legislative Powers.** All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a congress of the United States, which shall consist of a senate and house of representatives.

**Section 2. House of Representatives, how constituted, power of impeachment.** The house of representatives shall be composed of members chosen every second year by the people of the several states, and the electors in each state shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the state legislature.

No person shall be a representative who shall not have attained to the age of twenty-five years, and been seven years a citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of that state in which he shall be chosen.

Representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several states which may be included within this union, according to their respective numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three-fifths of all other person.\* The actual enumeration shall be made within three years after the first meeting of the congress of the United States, and within every subsequent term of ten years, in



such manner as they shall by law direct. The number of representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty thousand, but each state shall have at least one representative; and until such enumeration shall be made, the state of New Hampshire shall be entitled to choose three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

When vacancies happen in the representation from any state, the executive authority thereof shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies.

The house of representatives shall choose their speaker and other officers; and shall have the sole power of impeachment.

*\*Note: Modified by Amendment XIV, Section 2.*

### **Section 3. The Senate, how constituted, impeachment trials.**

The senate of the United States shall be composed of two senators from each state, chosen by the legislature thereof, for six years; and each senator shall have one vote.

Immediately after they shall be assembled in consequence of the first election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three classes. The seats of the senators of the first class shall be vacated at the expiration of the second year, of the second class at the expiration of the fourth year, and of the third class at the expiration of the sixth year, so that one-third may be chosen every second year; and if vacancies happen by resignation, or otherwise, during the recess of the legislature of any state, the executive thereof may make temporary appointments until the next meeting of the legislature, which shall then fill such vacancies.\*

No person shall be a senator who shall not have attained to the age of thirty years, and been nine years a citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of that state for which he shall be chosen.

The vice president of the United States shall be president of the senate, but shall have no vote, unless they be equally divided.

The senate shall choose their other officers, and also a president pro tempore, in the absence of the vice president, or when he shall exercise the office of president of the United States.

The senate shall have the sole power to try all impeachments. When sitting for that purpose, they shall be on oath or affirmation.

When the president of the United States is tried, the chief justice shall preside: and no person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present.

Judgment in cases of impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust or profit under the United States: but the party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to indictment, trial, judgment and punishment, according to law.

*\*Note:* Provisions changed by Amendment XVII.

**Section 4. Election of senators and representatives.** The times, places and manner of holding elections for senators and representatives, shall be prescribed in each state by the legislature thereof; but the congress may at any time by law make or alter such regulations, except as to the places of choosing senators.

The congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.\*

*\*Note:* Provision changed by Amendment XX, Section 2.

**Section 5. Quorum, journals, meetings, adjournments.** Each house shall be the judge of the elections, returns and qualifications of its own members, and a majority of each shall constitute a quorum to do business; but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the attendance of absent members, in such manner, and under such penalties as each house may provide.

Each house may determine the rules of its proceedings, punish its members for disorderly behavior, and, with the concurrence of two-thirds, expel a member.

Each house shall keep a journal of its proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such parts as may in their judgment require secrecy; and the yeas and nays of the members of either house on any question shall, at the desire of one-fifth of those present, be entered on the journal.

Neither house, during the session of congress, shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other place than that in which the two houses shall be sitting.

**Section 6. Compensation, privileges, disabilities.** The senators and representatives shall receive a compensation for their

services, to be ascertained by law, and paid out of the treasury of the United States. They shall in all cases, except treason, felony and breach of the peace, be privileged from arrest during their attendance at the session of their respective houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any speech or debate in either house, they shall not be questioned in any other place.

No senator or representative shall, during the time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil office under the authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the emoluments whereof shall have been increased during such time; and no person holding any office under the United States, shall be a member of either house during his continuance in office.

**Section 7. Procedure in passing bills and resolutions.** All bills for raising revenue shall originate in the house of representatives; but the senate may propose or concur with amendments as on other bills.

Every bill which shall have passed the house of representatives and the senate, shall, before it become a law, be presented to the president of the United States; if he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his objections to that house in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the objections at large on their journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such reconsideration two-thirds of that house shall agree to pass the bill, it shall be sent, together with the objections, to the other house, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two-thirds of that house, it shall become a law. But in all such cases the votes of both houses shall be determined by yeas and nays, and the names of the persons voting for and against the bill shall be entered on the journal of each house respectively. If any bill shall not be returned by the president within ten days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the same shall be a law, in like manner as if he had signed it, unless the congress by their adjournment prevent its return, in which case it shall not be a law.

Every order, resolution, or vote to which the concurrence of the senate and house of representatives may be necessary (except on a question of adjournment) shall be presented to the president of the United States; and before the same shall take effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be repassed

by two-thirds of the senate and house of representatives, according to the rules and limitations prescribed in the case of a bill.

**Section 8. Powers of congress.** The congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow money on the credit of the United States;

To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;

To establish an uniform rule of naturalization, and uniform laws on the subject of bankruptcies throughout the United States;

To coin money, regulate the value thereof, and of foreign coin, and fix the standard of weights and measures;

To provide for the punishment of counterfeiting the securities and current coin of the United States;

To establish post offices and post roads;

To promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries;

To constitute tribunals inferior to the supreme court;

To define and punish piracies and felonies committed on the high seas, and offences against the law of nations;

To declare war, grant letters of marque and reprisal, and make rules concerning captures on land and water;

To raise and support armies, but no appropriation of money to that use shall be for a longer term than two years;

To provide and maintain a navy;

To make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces;

To provide for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the union, suppress insurrections and repel invasions;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the militia, and for governing such part of them as may be employed in the service of the United States, reserving to the states respectively, the appointment of the officers, and the authority of training the militia according to the discipline prescribed by congress;

To exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever, over such district (not exceeding ten miles square) as may, by cession of

particular states, and the acceptance of congress, become the seat of the government of the United States, and to exercise like authority over all places purchased by the consent of the legislature of the state in which the same shall be, for the erection of forts, magazines, arsenals, dock yards, and other needful buildings; and

To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

**Section 9. Limitations upon powers of congress.** The migration or importation of such persons as any of the states now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the congress prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a tax or duty may be imposed on such importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each person.

The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in cases of rebellion or invasion the public safety may require it.

No bill of attainder or ex post facto law shall be passed.

No capitation, or other direct, tax shall be laid, unless in proportion to the census or enumeration hereinbefore directed to be taken.

No tax or duty shall be laid on articles exported from any state.

No preference shall be given by any regulation of commerce or revenue to the ports of one state over those of another nor shall vessels bound to, or from, one state, be obliged to enter, clear, or pay duties in another.

No money shall be drawn from the treasury, but in consequence of appropriations made by law; and a regular statement and account of the receipts and expenditures of all public money shall be published from time to time.

No title of nobility shall be granted by the United States: And no person holding any office of profit or trust under them, shall, without the consent of the congress, accept of any present, emolument, office, or title, of any kind whatever, from any king, prince, or foreign state.

**Section 10. Restrictions upon powers of states.** No state shall enter into any treaty, alliance, or confederation; grant letters of marque and reprisal; coin money; emit bills of credit; make any thing but gold and silver coin a tender in payment of debts; pass

any bill of attainder, ex post facto law, or law impairing the obligation of contracts, or grant any title of nobility.

No state shall, without the consent of the congress, lay any imposts or duties on imports or exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing its inspection laws: and the net produce of all duties and imposts, laid by any state on imports or exports, shall be for the use of the treasury of the United States; and all such laws shall be subject to the revision and control of the congress.

No state shall, without the consent of congress, lay any duty of tonnage, keep troops, or ships of war in time of peace, enter into any agreement or compact with another state, or with a foreign power, or engage in war, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent danger as will not admit of delay.

## Article II

**Section 1. Executive power, election, qualifications of the president.** The executive power shall be vested in a president of the United States of America. He shall hold his office during the term of four years, and, together with the vice president, chosen for the same term, be elected, as follows

Each state shall appoint, in such manner as the legislature thereof may direct, a number of electors, equal to the whole number of senators and representatives to which the state may be entitled in the congress: but no senator or representative, or person holding an office of trust or profit under the United States, shall be appointed an elector.

The electors shall meet in their respective states, and vote by ballot for two persons, of whom one at least shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves. And they shall make a list of all the persons voted for, and of the number of votes for each; which list they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the government of the United States, directed to the president of the senate. The president of the senate shall, in the presence of the senate and house of representatives, open all the certificates, and the votes shall then be counted. The person having the greatest number of votes shall be the president, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed; and if there be more than one who have such majority, and have an equal number of

votes, then the house of representatives shall immediately choose by ballot one of them for president; and if no person have a majority, then from the five highest on the list the said house shall in like manner choose the president. But in choosing the president, the votes shall be taken by states, the representation from each state having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the states, and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice. In every case, after the choice of the president, the person having the greatest number of votes of the electors shall be the vice president. But if there should remain two or more who have equal votes, the senate shall choose from them by ballot the vice president.\*

The congress may determine the time of choosing the electors, and the day on which they shall give their votes; which day shall be the same throughout the United States.

No person except a natural born citizen, or a citizen of the United States, at the time of the adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the office of president; neither shall any person be eligible to that office who shall not have attained to the age of thirty-five years, and been fourteen years a resident within the United States. In case of the removal of the president from office, or of his death, resignation, or inability to discharge the powers and duties of the said office, the same shall devolve on the vice president, and the congress may by law provide for the case of removal, death, resignation or inability, both of the president and vice president, declaring what officer shall then act as president, and such officer shall act accordingly, until the disability be removed, or a president shall be elected.

The president shall, at stated times, receive for his services, a compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that period any other emolument from the United States, or any of them.

Before he enter on the execution of his office, he shall take the following oath or affirmation: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of president of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

\**Note:* Provisions superseded by Amendment XII.

**Section 2. Powers of the president.** The president shall be commander in chief of the army and navy of the United States, and of the militia of the several states, when called into the actual service of the United States; he may require the opinion, in writing, of the principal officer in each of the executive departments, upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices, and he shall have power to grant reprieves and pardons for offences against the United States, except in cases of impeachment.

He shall have power, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, to make treaties, provided two-thirds of the senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the senate, shall appoint ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, judges of the supreme court, and all other officers of the United States, whose appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by law: but the congress may by law vest the appointment of such inferior officers, as they think proper in the president alone, in the courts of law, or in the heads of departments.

The president shall have power to fill up all vacancies that may happen during the recess of the senate, by granting commissions which shall expire at the end of their next session.

**Section 3. Powers and duties of the president.** He shall from time to time give to the congress information of the state of the union, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary occasions, convene both houses, or either of them, and in case of disagreement between them, with respect to the time of adjournment, he may adjourn them to such time as he shall think proper; he shall receive ambassadors and other public ministers; he shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed, and shall commission all the officers of the United States.

**Section 4. Impeachment.** The president, vice president and all civil officers of the United States, shall be removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of, treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors.



### Article III

**Section 1. Judicial power, tenure of office.** The judicial power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme court, and in such inferior courts as the congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The judges, both of the supreme and inferior courts, shall hold their offices during good behavior, and shall, at stated times, receive for their services, a compensation, which shall not be diminished during their continuance in office.

**Section 2. Jurisdiction.** The judicial power shall extend to all cases, in law and equity, arising under this Constitution, the laws of the United States, and treaties made, or which shall be made, under their authority; to all cases affecting ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls; to all cases of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction; to controversies to which the United States shall be a party; to controversies between two or more states; between a state and citizens of another state; between citizens of different states, between citizens of the same state claiming lands under grants of different states, and between a state, or the citizens thereof, and foreign states, citizens or subjects.\*

In all cases affecting ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, and those in which a state shall be party, the supreme court shall have original jurisdiction. In all the other cases before mentioned, the supreme court shall have appellate jurisdiction, both as to law and fact, with such exceptions, and under such regulations as the congress shall make.

The trial of all crimes, except in cases of impeachment, shall be by jury; and such trial shall be held in the state where the said crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any state, the trial shall be at such place or places as the congress may by law have directed.

*\*Note: Clause changed by Amendment XI.*

**Section 3. Treason, proof and punishment.** Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying war against them, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort. No person shall be convicted of treason unless on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or on confession in open court.

The congress shall have power to declare the punishment of treason, but no attainder of treason shall work corruption of blood, or forfeiture except during the life of the person attainted.

## Article IV

**Section 1. Faith and credit among states.** Full faith and credit shall be given in each state to the public acts, records, and judicial proceedings of every other state. And the congress may by general laws prescribe the manner in which such acts, records and proceedings shall be proved, and the effect thereof.

**Section 2. Privileges and immunities, fugitives.** The citizens of each state shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of citizens in the several states.

A person charged in any state with treason, felony, or other crime, who shall flee from justice, and be found in another state, shall on demand of the executive authority of the state from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the state having jurisdiction of the crime.

No person held to service or labor in one state, under the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in consequence of any law or regulation therein, be discharged from such service or labor, but shall be delivered up on claim of the party to whom such service or labor may be due.

**Section 3. Admission of new states.** New states may be admitted by the congress into this union; but no new state shall be formed or erected within the jurisdiction of any other state; nor any state be formed by the junction of two or more states, or parts of states, without the consent of the legislatures of the states concerned as well as of the congress.

The congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to prejudice any claims of the United States, or of any particular state.

**Section 4. Guarantee of republican government.** The United States shall guarantee to every state in this union a republican form of government, and shall protect each of them against invasion;

and on application of the legislature, or of the executive (when the legislature cannot be convened) against domestic violence.

## Article V

**Amendment of the Constitution.** The congress, whenever two-thirds of both houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this Constitution, or, on the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the several states, shall call a convention for proposing amendments, which, in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three-fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the congress; provided that no amendment which may be made prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any manner affect the first and fourth clauses in the ninth section of the first article; and that no state, without its consent, shall be deprived of its equal suffrage in the senate.

## Article VI

**Debts, supremacy, oath.** All debts contracted and engagements entered into, before the adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this Constitution, as under the confederation.

This Constitution, and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof; and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land; and the judges in every state shall be bound thereby, any thing in the Constitution or laws of any state to the contrary notwithstanding.

The senators and representatives before mentioned, and the members of the several state legislatures, and all executive and judicial officers, both of the United States and of the several states, shall be bound by oath or affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States.

## Article VII

**Ratification and establishment.** The ratification of the conventions of nine states, shall be sufficient for the establishment of this Constitution between the states so ratifying the same.

Done in convention by the unanimous consent of the states present the seventeenth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven and of the independence of the United States of America the twelfth.\* In witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names,

GEO. WASHINGTON, President and Deputy from Virginia.

**New Hampshire**

John Langdon  
Nicholas Gilman

**Massachusetts**

Nathaniel Gorham  
Rufus King

**Connecticut**

Wm. Saml. Johnson  
Roger Sherman

**New York**

Alexander Hamilton

**New Jersey**

Wil. Livingston  
David Brearley  
Wm. Paterson  
Jona. Dayton

**Pennsylvania**

B. Franklin  
Thomas Mifflin  
Robt. Morris  
Geo. Clymer  
Thos. FitzSimons  
Jared Ingersoll  
James Wilson  
Gouv. Morris

**Delaware**

Geo. Read  
Gunning Bedford, Jr.  
John Dickinson  
Richard Bassett  
Jaco. Broom

**Maryland**

James McHenry  
Dan of St. Thos. Jenifer  
Danl. Carroll

**Virginia**

John Blair  
James Madison, Jr.

**North Carolina**

Wm. Blount  
Richd. Dobbs Spaight  
Hu. Williamson

**South Carolina**

J. Rutledge  
Charles Cotesworth Pinckney  
Charles Pinckney  
Pierce Butler

**Georgia**

William Few  
Abr. Baldwin

\**Note:* The Constitution was submitted on September 17, 1787, by the Constitutional Convention, was ratified by the conventions of several states at various dates up to May 29, 1790, and became effective on March 4, 1789.

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# Amendments to United States Constitution

## 1791-1992

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### Amendment I (1791)

**Freedom of religion, of speech, and of the press.** Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

### Amendment II (1791)

**Right to keep and bear arms.** A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.

### Amendment III (1791)

**Quartering of soldiers.** No soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

### Amendment IV (1791)

**Security from unwarrantable search and seizure.** The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

### Amendment V (1791)

**Rights of accused in criminal proceedings.** No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless

on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb, nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

### **Amendment VI (1791)**

**Right to speedy trial, witnesses, etc.** In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

### **Amendment VII (1791)**

**Trial by jury in civil cases.** In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise reexamined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

### **Amendment VIII (1791)**

**Bails, fines, punishments.** Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

### **Amendment IX (1791)**

**Reservation of rights of the people.** The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

### **Amendment X (1791)**

**Powers reserved to states or people.** The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.\*

*\*Note:* The first ten amendments were all proposed by congress on September 25, 1789, and were ratified and adoption certified on December 15, 1791.

### **Amendment XI (1798)**

**Restriction of judicial powers.** The judicial power of the United States shall not be construed to extend to any suit in law or equity, commenced or prosecuted against one of the United States by citizens of another state, or by citizens or subjects of any foreign state.\*

*\*Note:* Proposed by congress on March 4, 1794, and declared ratified on January 8, 1798.

### **Amendment XII (1804)**

**Election of president and vice president.** The electors shall meet in their respective states, and vote by ballot for president and vice president, one of whom, at least, shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves; they shall name in their ballots the person voted for as president, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as vice president, and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as president, and of all persons voted for as vice president, and of the number of votes for each, which lists they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the government of the United States, directed to the president of the senate; the president of the senate shall, in the presence of the senate and house of representatives, open all the certificates and the votes shall then be counted; the person having the greatest number of votes for president, shall be the president, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed; and if no person have such majority, then from the persons having the highest numbers not exceeding three on the list of those voted for as president, the house of representatives shall choose immediately, by ballot, the president. But in choosing the president, the votes shall be taken by states, the representation from each state having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the states, and a majority of all the states shall

be necessary to a choice. And if the house of representatives shall not choose a president whenever the right of choice shall devolve upon them, before the fourth day of March next following, then the vice president shall act as president, as in the case of the death or other constitutional disability of the president. The person having the greatest number of votes as vice president, shall be the vice president, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed, and if no person have a majority, then from the two highest numbers on the list, the senate shall choose the vice president; a quorum for the purpose shall consist of two-thirds of the whole number of senators, and a majority of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice. But no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of president shall be eligible to that of vice president of the United States.\*

*\*Note:* Proposed by congress on December 9, 1803; declared ratified on September 25, 1804; supplemented by Amendment XX.

### **Amendment XIII (1865)**

**Section 1. Abolition of slavery.** Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

**Section 2. Power to enforce this article.** Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.\*

*\*Note:* Proposed by congress on January 31, 1865; declared ratified on December 18, 1865.

### **Amendment XIV (1868)**

**Section 1. Citizenship rights not to be abridged by states.**

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.



**Section 2. Apportionment of representatives in congress.**

Representatives shall be apportioned among the several states according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each state, excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for president and vice president of the United States, representatives in congress, the executive and judicial officers of a state, or the members of the legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such state, being twenty-one years of age, and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridges, except for participation in rebellion, or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such state.

**Section 3. Persons disqualified from holding office.** No person shall be a senator or representative in congress, or elector of president and vice president, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any state, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any state legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any state, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But congress may by a vote of two-thirds of each house, remove such disability.

**Section 4. What public debts are valid.** The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any state shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void.

**Section 5. Power to enforce this article.** The congress shall have power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.\*

\**Note:* Proposed by congress on June 13, 1866; declared ratified on July 28, 1868.

### Amendment XV (1870)

**Section 1. Negro suffrage.** The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

**Section 2. Power to enforce this article.** The congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.\*

\**Note:* Proposed by congress on February 26, 1869; declared ratified on March 30, 1870.

### Amendment XVI (1913)

**Authorizing income taxes.** The congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several states, and without regard to any census or enumeration.\*

\**Note:* Proposed by congress on July 12, 1909; declared ratified on February 25, 1913.

### Amendment XVII (1913)

**Popular election of senators.** The senate of the United States shall be composed of two senators from each state, elected by the people thereof, for six years; and each senator shall have one vote. The electors in each state shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the state legislatures.

When vacancies happen in the representation of any state in the senate, the executive authority of such state shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies: *Provided*, That the legislature of any state may empower the executive thereof to make temporary appointments until the people fill the vacancies by election as the legislature may direct.

This amendment shall not be so construed as to affect the election or term of any senator chosen before it becomes valid as part of the Constitution.\*

\**Note:* Proposed by congress on May 13, 1912; declared ratified on May 31, 1913.

### **Amendment XVIII (1919)**

**Section 1. National liquor prohibition.** After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.

**Section 2. Power to enforce this article.** The congress and the several states shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

**Section 3. Ratification within seven years.** This article shall be inoperative until it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of the several states, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the states by the congress.\*

*\*Note:* Proposed by congress on December 18, 1917; declared ratified on January 29, 1919. Repealed by Amendment XXI.

### **Amendment XIX (1920)**

**Woman Suffrage.** The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.\*

*\*Note:* Proposed by congress on June 4, 1919; declared ratified on August 26, 1920.

### **Amendment XX (1933)**

**Section 1. Terms of office.** The terms of the president and vice president shall end at noon on the 20th day of January, and the terms of senators and representatives at noon on the 3rd day of January, of the years in which such terms would have ended if this article had not been ratified; and the terms of their successors shall then begin.

**Section 2. Time of convening congress.** The congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall begin

at noon on the 3rd day of January, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

**Section 3. Death of president elect.** If, at the time fixed for the beginning of the term of the president, the president elect shall have died, the vice president elect shall become president. If a president shall not have been chosen before the time fixed for the beginning of his term, or if the president elect shall have failed to qualify, then the vice president elect shall act as president until a president shall have qualified; and the congress may by law provide for the case wherein neither a president elect nor a vice president elect shall have qualified, declaring who shall then act as president, or the manner in which one who is to act shall be selected, and such person shall act accordingly until a president or vice president shall have qualified.

**Section 4. Election of the president.** The congress may by law provide for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the house of representatives may choose a president whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them, and for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the senate may choose a vice president whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them.

**Section 5.** Sections 1 and 2 shall take effect on the 15th day of October following the ratification of this article.

**Section 6.** This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states within seven years from the date of its submission.\*

\**Note:* Proposed by congress on March 2, 1932; declared ratified on February 6, 1933.

### **Amendment XXI (1933)**

**Section 1. National liquor prohibition repealed.** The eighteenth article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States is hereby repealed.

**Section 2. Transportation of liquor into "dry" states.** The transportation or importation into any states, territory, or posses-

sion of the United States for delivery or use therein of intoxicating liquors, in violation of the laws thereof, is hereby prohibited.

**Section 3.** This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by conventions in the several states, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the states by the congress.\*

*\*Note:* Proposed by congress on February 20, 1933; declared ratified on December 5, 1933.

### **Amendment XXII (1951)**

**Section 1. Terms of office of president.** No person shall be elected to the office of the president more than twice, and no person who held the office of president, or acted as president, for more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected president, shall be elected to the office of president more than once. But this article shall not apply to any person holding the office of president when this article was proposed by the congress, and shall not prevent any person who may be holding the office of president, or acting as president, during the term within which this article becomes operative from holding the office of president or acting as president during the remainder of such term.

**Section 2. When operative.** This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states within seven years from the date of its submission to the states by the congress.\*

*\*Note:* The certificate of adoption of the 22nd Amendment, dated March 1, 1951, was published in the Federal Register of March 3, 1951.

### **Amendment XXIII (1961)**

**Section 1. Granting representation in the electoral college to the District Of Columbia.** The District constituting the seat of Government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as the Congress may direct:

A number of electors of President and Vice President equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives in Congress

to which the District would be entitled if it were a State, but in no event more than the least populous State; they shall be in addition to those appointed by the States, but they shall be considered, for the purposes of the election of President and Vice President, to be electors appointed by a State; and they shall meet in the District and perform such duties as provided by the twelfth article of amendment.

**Section 2. Legislation.** The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.\*

\**Note:* The certificate of adoption of the 23rd Amendment, dated April 3, 1961, is published in Vol. 26 Federal Register, page 2808.

### **Amendment XXIV (1964)**

**Section 1. Failure to pay tax shall not deny right to vote for federal offices.** The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President, for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax.

**Section 2. Legislation.** The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.\*

\**Note:* The certificate of adoption of the 24th Amendment dated February 4, 1964, is published in Vol. 29 Federal Register, page 1715.

### **Amendment XXV (1967)** **Succession to the Presidency and Vice Presidency - Inability of President to Discharge Powers and Duties of Office**

**Section 1. Succession to the presidency.** In case of the removal of the President from office or of his death or resignation, the Vice President shall become President.

**Section 2. Succession to the vice presidency.** Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Vice President, the President shall nominate a Vice President who shall take office upon confirmation by a majority vote of both Houses of Congress.

**Section 3. President's declaration of inability to discharge powers and duties of office.** Whenever the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the Vice President as Acting President.

**Section 4. Determination that president is unable to discharge the powers and duties of office.** Whenever the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President.

Thereafter, when the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that no inability exists, he shall resume the powers and duties of his office unless the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive department or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit within four days to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office. Thereupon Congress shall decide the issue, assembling within forty-eight hours for that purpose if not in session. If the Congress, within twenty-one days after receipt of the latter written declaration, or, if Congress is not in session, within twenty-one days after Congress is required to assemble, determines by two-thirds vote of both Houses that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall continue to discharge the same as Acting President; otherwise, the President shall resume the powers and duties of his office.\*

*\*Note:* The certificate of adoption of the 25th Amendment dated February 23, 1967, is published in Vol 32 Federal Register, page 3287.

### **Amendment XXVI (1971)**

**Section 1. Extending the right to vote to citizens eighteen years of age or older.** The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.

**Section 2. Legislation.** The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.\*

*\*Note:* The certificate of adoption of the 26th Amendment dated July 5, 1971, is published in Vol. 36, No. 130, Federal Register, page 12726.

### **Amendment XXVII (1992)**

**Compensation of members of Congress.** No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened.\*

*\*Note:* The certification of adoption of the 27th Amendment dated May 18, 1992, is published in Vol. 57, No. 97, Federal Register, page 21187.



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## Enabling Act

AN ACT to provide for the division of Dakota into two States and to enable the people of North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Washington to form constitutions and State governments and to be admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the original States, and to make donations of public lands to such States.

(Approved February 22, 1889.) [25 U.S. Statutes at Large, c 180 p 676.]

[President's proclamation declaring Washington a state: 26 St. at Large, Proclamations, p 10, Nov. 11, 1889.]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the inhabitants of all that part of the area of the United States now constituting the Territories of Dakota, Montana, and Washington, as at present described, may become the States of North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Washington, respectively, as hereinafter provided.

**Sec. 2.** The area comprising the Territory of Dakota shall, for the purposes of this act, be divided on the line of the seventh standard parallel produced due west to the western boundary of said Territory; and the delegates elected as hereinafter provided to the constitutional convention in districts north of said parallel shall assemble in convention, at the time prescribed in this act, at the city of Bismarck; and the delegates elected in districts south of said parallel shall, at the same time, assemble in convention at the city of Sioux Falls.

**Sec. 3.** That all persons who are qualified by the laws of said Territories to vote for representatives to the legislative assemblies thereof, are hereby authorized to vote for and choose delegates to form conventions in said proposed States; and the qualifications for delegates to such conventions shall be such as by the laws of said Territories respectively persons are required to possess to be eligible to the legislative assemblies thereof; and the aforesaid delegates to form said conventions shall be apportioned within the limits of the proposed States, in such districts as may be established as herein provided, in proportion to the population in each of

said counties and districts, as near as may be, to be ascertained at the time of making said apportionments by the persons hereinafter authorized to make the same, from the best information obtainable, in each of which districts three delegates shall be elected, but no elector shall vote for more than two persons for delegates to such conventions; that said apportionments shall be made by the governor, the chief-justice, and the secretary of said Territories; and the governors of said Territories shall, by proclamation, order an election of the delegates aforesaid in each of said proposed States, to be held on the Tuesday after the second Monday in May, eighteen hundred and eighty-nine, which proclamation shall be issued on the fifteenth day of April, eighteen hundred and eighty-nine; and such election shall be conducted, the returns made, the result ascertained, and the certificates to persons elected to such convention issued in the same manner as is prescribed by the laws of the said Territories regulating elections therein for Delegates to Congress; and the number of votes cast for delegates in each precinct shall also be returned. The number of delegates to said conventions respectively shall be seventy-five; and all persons resident in said proposed States, who are qualified voters of said Territories as herein provided, shall be entitled to vote upon the election of delegates, and under such rules and regulations as said conventions may prescribe, not in conflict with this act, upon the ratification or rejection of the constitutions.

**Sec. 4.** That the delegates to the conventions elected as provided for in this act shall meet at the seat of government of each of said Territories, except the delegates elected in South Dakota, who shall meet at the city of Sioux Falls, on the fourth day of July, eighteen hundred and eighty-nine, and, after organization, shall declare, on behalf of the people of said proposed States, that they adopt the Constitution of the United States; whereupon the said conventions shall be, and are hereby, authorized to form constitutions and States governments for said proposed states, respectively. The constitutions shall be republican in form, and make no distinction in civil or political rights on account of race or color, except as to Indians not taxed, and not be repugnant to the Constitution of the United States and the principles of the Declaration of Independence. And said conventions shall provide, by ordinances irrevocable without the consent of the United States and the people of said States:

First. That perfect toleration of religious sentiment shall be secured and that no inhabitant of said States shall ever be molested in person or property on account of his or her mode of religious worship.

Second. That the people inhabiting said proposed States do agree and declare that they forever disclaim all right and title to the unappropriated public lands lying within the boundaries thereof, and to all lands lying within said limits owned or held by any Indian or Indian tribes; and that until the title thereto shall have been extinguished by the United States, the same shall be and remain subject to the disposition of the United States, and said Indian lands shall remain under the absolute jurisdiction and control of the Congress of the United States; that the lands belonging to citizens of the United States residing without the said States shall never be taxed at a higher rate than the lands belonging to residents thereof; that no taxes shall be imposed by the States on lands or property therein belonging to or which may hereafter be purchased by the United States or reserved for its use. But nothing herein, or in the ordinances herein provided for, shall preclude the said States from taxing as other lands are taxed any lands owned or held by any Indian who has severed his tribal relations, and has obtained from the United States or from any person a title thereto by patent or other grant, save and except such lands as have been or may be granted to any Indian or Indians under any act of Congress containing a provision exempting the lands thus granted from taxation; but said ordinances shall provide that all such lands shall be exempt from taxation by said States so long and to such extent as such act of Congress may prescribe.

Third. That the debts and liabilities of said Territories shall be assumed and paid by said States, respectively.

Fourth. That provision shall be made for the establishment and maintenance of systems of public schools, which shall be open to all the children of said States, and free from sectarian control.

**Sec. 5.** That the convention which shall assemble at Bismarck shall form a constitution and State government for a State to be known as North Dakota, and the convention which shall assemble at Sioux Falls shall form a constitution and State government for a State to be known as South Dakota: Provided, That at the election for delegates to the constitutional convention in South Dakota, as hereinbefore provided, each elector may have written or printed

on his ballot the words "For the Sioux Falls constitution," or the words "Against the Sioux Falls constitution," and the votes on this question shall be returned and canvassed in the same manner as for the election provided for in section three of this act; and if a majority of all votes cast on this question shall be "for the Sioux Falls constitution" it shall be the duty of the convention which may assemble at Sioux Falls, as herein provided, to resubmit to the people of South Dakota, for ratification or rejection at the election hereinafter provided for in this act, the constitution framed at Sioux Falls and adopted November third, eighteen hundred and eighty-five, and also the articles and propositions separately submitted at the election, including the question of locating the temporary seat of government, with such changes only as relate to the name and boundary of the proposed State, to the re-apportionment of the judicial and legislative districts, and such amendments as may be necessary in order to comply with the provisions of this act; and if a majority of the votes cast on the ratification or rejection of the constitution shall be for the constitution irrespective of the articles separately submitted, the State of South Dakota shall be admitted as a State in the Union under said constitution as hereinafter provided; but the archives, records, and books of the Territory of Dakota shall remain at Bismarck, the capital of North Dakota, until an agreement in reference thereto is reached by said States. But if at the election for delegates to the constitutional convention in South Dakota a majority of all the votes cast at that election shall be "against the Sioux Falls constitution", then and in that event it shall be the duty of the convention which will assemble at the city of Sioux Falls on the fourth day of July, eighteen hundred and eighty-nine, to proceed to form a constitution and State government as provided in this act the same as if that question had not been submitted to a vote of the people of South Dakota.

**Sec. 6.** It shall be the duty of the constitutional conventions of North Dakota and South Dakota to appoint a joint commission, to be composed of not less than three members of each convention, whose duty it shall be to assemble at Bismarck, the present seat of government of said Territory, and agree upon an equitable division of all property belonging to the Territory of Dakota, the disposition of all public records, and also adjust and agree upon the amount of the debts and liabilities of the Territory, which shall be assumed

and paid by each of the proposed States of North Dakota and South Dakota; and the agreement reached respecting the Territorial debts and liabilities shall be incorporated in the respective constitutions, and each of said States shall obligate itself to pay its proportion of such debts and liabilities the same as if they had been created by such States respectively.

**Sec. 7.** If the constitutions formed for both North Dakota and South Dakota shall be rejected by the people at the elections for the ratification or rejection of their respective constitutions as provided for in this act, the Territorial government of Dakota shall continue in existence the same as if this act had not been passed. But if the constitution formed for either North Dakota or South Dakota shall be rejected by the people, that part of the Territory so rejecting its proposed constitution shall continue under the Territorial government of the present Territory of Dakota, but shall, after the State adopting its constitution is admitted into the Union, be called by the name of the Territory of North Dakota or South Dakota, as the case may be: Provided, That if either of the proposed States provided for in this act shall reject the constitution which may be submitted for ratification or rejection at the election provided therefor, the governor of the Territory in which such proposed constitution was rejected shall issue his proclamation reconvening the delegates elected to the convention which formed such rejected constitution, fixing the time and place at which said delegates shall assemble; and when so assembled they shall proceed to form another constitution or to amend the rejected constitution, and shall submit such new constitution or amended constitution to the people of the proposed State for ratification or rejection, at such time as said convention may determine; and all the provisions of this act, so far as applicable, shall apply to such convention so reassembled and to the constitution which may be formed, its ratification or rejection, and to the admission of the proposed State.

**Sec. 8.** That the constitutional convention which may assemble in South Dakota shall provide by ordinance for resubmitting the Sioux Falls constitution of eighteen hundred and eighty-five, after having amended the same as provided in section five of this act, to the people of South Dakota for ratification or rejection at an election to be held therein on the first Tuesday in October, eighteen hundred and eighty-nine; but if said constitutional convention

is authorized and required to form a new constitution for South Dakota it shall provide for submitting the same in like manner to the people of South Dakota for ratification or rejection at an election to be held in said proposed State on the said first Tuesday in October. And the constitutional conventions which may assemble in North Dakota, Montana, and Washington shall provide in like manner for submitting the constitutions formed by them to the people of said proposed States, respectively, for ratification or rejection at elections to be held in said proposed States on the said first Tuesday in October. At the elections provided for in this section the qualified voters of said proposed States shall vote directly for or against the proposed constitutions, and for or against any articles or propositions separately submitted. The returns of said elections shall be made to the secretary of each of said Territories, who with the governor and chief-justice thereof, or any two of them, shall canvass the same; and if a majority of the legal votes cast shall be for the constitution the governor shall certify the result to the President of the United States, together with a statement of the votes cast thereon and upon separate articles or propositions, and a copy of said constitution, articles, propositions, and ordinances. And if the constitutions and governments of said proposed States are republican in form, and if all the provisions of this act have been complied with in the formation thereof, it shall be the duty of the President of the United States to issue his proclamation announcing the result of the election in each, and thereupon the proposed States which have adopted constitutions and formed State governments as herein provided shall be deemed admitted by Congress into the Union under and by virtue of this act on an equal footing with the original States from and after the date of said proclamation.

**Sec. 9.** That until the next general census, or until otherwise provided by law, said States shall be entitled to one Representative in the House of Representatives of the United States, except South Dakota, which shall be entitled to two; and the Representatives to the fifty-first Congress, together with the governors and other officers provided for in said constitutions, may be elected on the same day of the election for the ratification or rejection of the constitutions; and until said State officers are elected and qualified under the provisions of each constitution and the States, respectively, are admitted into the Union, the Territorial officers shall continue to

discharge the duties of their respective offices in each of said Territories.

**Sec. 10.** That upon the admission of each of said States into the Union sections numbered sixteen and thirty-six in every township of said proposed States, and where such sections, or any parts thereof, have been sold or otherwise disposed of by or under the authority of any act of Congress, other lands equivalent thereto, in legal subdivisions of not less than one-quarter section, and as contiguous as may be to the section in lieu of which the same is taken, are hereby granted to said States for the support of common schools, such indemnity lands to be selected within said States in such manner as the legislature may provide, with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior: Provided, That the sixteenth and thirty-sixth sections embraced in permanent reservations for national purposes shall not, at any time, be subject to the grants nor to the indemnity provisions of this act, nor shall any lands embraced in Indian, military, or other reservations of any character be subject to the grants or to the indemnity provisions of this act until the reservation shall have been extinguished and such lands be restored to, and become a part of, the public domain.

**Sec. 11.** That all lands herein granted for educational purposes shall be disposed of only at public sale, and at a price not less than ten dollars per acre, the proceeds to constitute a permanent school fund, the interest of which only shall be expended in the support of said schools. But said lands may, under such regulations as the legislatures shall prescribe, be leased for periods of not more than five years, in quantities not exceeding one section to any one person or company; and such land shall not be subject to pre-emption, homestead entry, or any other entry under the land laws of the United States, whether surveyed or unsurveyed, but shall be reserved for school purposes only.

*Reviser's note:* Section 11 has at various times been amended by Congress as follows:

**(1) August 11, 1921:**

AN ACT To amend an Act approved February 22, 1889, entitled "An Act to provide for the division of Dakota into two States and to enable the people of North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Washington to form constitutions and State governments, and to be admitted into the Union on an

equal footing with the original States, and to make donations of public lands to such States.”

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That section 11 of the Act entitled “An Act to provide for the division of Dakota into two States and to enable the people of North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Washington to form constitutions and State governments, and to be admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the original States, and to make donations of public lands to such States,” approved February 22, 1889, be, and the same hereby is, amended by adding the following: Provided, however, That the State may, upon such terms as it may prescribe, grant such easements or rights in such lands as may be acquired in, to, or over the lands of private properties through proceedings in eminent domain: And provided further, That any of such granted lands found, after title thereto has vested in the State, to be mineral in character, may be leased for a period not longer than twenty years upon such terms and conditions as the legislature may prescribe. [42 U.S. Statutes at Large, c 61 p 158. Approved, August 11, 1921.]

**(2) May 7, 1932:**

AN ACT To amend section 11 of the Act approved February 22, 1889 (25 Stat. 676), relating to the admission into the Union of the States of North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Washington.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That section 11 of the Act approved February 22, 1889 (25 Stat. 676), be, and the same is hereby, amended to read as follows:

“That all lands granted by this Act shall be disposed of only at public sale after advertising - tillable lands capable of producing agricultural crops for not less than \$10 per acre and lands principally valuable for grazing purposes for not less than \$5 per acre. Any of the said lands may be exchanged for other lands, public or private, of equal value and as near as may be of equal area, but if any of the said lands are exchanged with the United States such exchange shall be limited to surveyed, nonmineral, unreserved public lands of the United States within the State.

“The said lands may be leased under such regulations as the legislature may prescribe; but leases for grazing and agricultural purposes shall not be for a term longer than five years; mineral leases, including leases for exploration for oil and gas and the extraction thereof, for a term not longer than twenty years; and leases for development of hydroelectric power for a term not longer than fifty years.

“The State may also, upon such terms as it may prescribe, grant such easements or rights in any of the lands granted by this Act, as may be acquired in privately owned lands through proceedings in eminent domain: Provided, however, That none of such lands, nor any estate or interest therein, shall ever be disposed of except in pursuance of general laws pro-



viding for such disposition, nor unless the full market value of the estate or interest disposed of, to be ascertained in such manner as may be provided by law, has been paid or safely secured to the State.

“With the exception of the lands granted for public buildings, the proceeds from the sale and other permanent disposition of any of the said lands and from every part thereof, shall constitute permanent funds for the support and maintenance of the public schools and the various State institutions for which the lands have been granted. Rentals on leased lands, interest on deferred payments on lands sold, interest on funds arising from these lands, and all other actual income, shall be available for the maintenance and support of such schools and institutions. Any State may, however, in its discretion, add a portion of the annual income to the permanent funds.

“The lands hereby granted shall not be subject to preemption, homestead entry, or any other entry under the land laws of the United States whether surveyed or unsurveyed, but shall be reserved for the purposes for which they have been granted.”

Sec. 2. Anything in the said Act approved February 22, 1889, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed. [47 U.S. Statutes at Large c 172 p 150. Approved, May 7, 1932.]

**(3) June 25, 1938:**

AN ACT To increase the period for which leases may be made for grazing and agricultural purposes of public lands donated to the States of North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Washington by the Act of February 22, 1889, as amended.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That so much of the second paragraph of section 11 of the Act relating to the admission into the Union of the States of North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Washington, approved February 22, 1889, as amended, as reads “but leases for grazing and agricultural purposes shall not be for a term longer than five years”, is amended to read as follows: “but leases for grazing and agricultural purposes shall not be for a term longer than ten years.” [52 U. S. Statutes at Large c 700 p 1198. Approved, June 25, 1938.]

**(4) April 13, 1948:**

AN ACT to authorize the States of Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Washington to lease their State lands for production of minerals, including leases for exploration for oil, gas, and other hydrocarbons and the extraction thereof, for such terms of years and on such conditions as may be from time to time provided by the legislatures of the respective States.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the second paragraph of section 11 of the Act relating to the admission into the Union of the States of North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Washington, approved February 22, 1889, as amended, is amended to read as follows: “Except as otherwise

provided herein, the said lands may be leased under such regulations as the legislature may prescribe. Leases for the production of minerals, including leases for exploration for oil, gas, and other hydrocarbons and the extraction thereof, shall be for such term of years and on such conditions as may be from time to time provided by the legislatures of the respective States; leases for grazing and agricultural purposes shall be for a term not longer than ten years; and leases for development of hydroelectric power shall be for a term not longer than fifty years.” [62 U.S. Statutes at Large c 183 p 170. Approved April 13, 1948.]

**(5) June 28, 1952:**

AN ACT To authorize each of the States of North Dakota, South Dakota, and Washington to pool moneys derived from lands granted to it for public schools and various State institutions.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the fourth paragraph of section 11 of the Act relating to the admission into the Union of the States of North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Washington, approved February 22, 1889, as amended (47 Stat. 151), is amended by adding at the end thereof the following: “Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this section, each of the States of North Dakota, South Dakota, and Washington may pool the moneys received by it from oil and gas and other mineral leasing of said lands. The moneys so pooled shall be apportioned among the public schools and the various State institutions in such manner that the public schools and each of such institutions shall receive an amount which bears the same ratio to the total amount apportioned as the number of acres (including any that may have been disposed of) granted for such public schools or for such institutions bears to the total number of acres (including any that may have been disposed of) granted by this Act. Not less than 50 per centum of each such amount shall be covered into the appropriate permanent fund.” [66 U.S. Statutes at Large c 480 p 283. Approved June 28, 1952.]

**(6) May 31, 1962:**

AN ACT To amend the Act admitting the State of Washington into the Union in order to authorize the use of funds from the disposition of certain lands for the construction of State charitable, educational, penal, or reformatory institutions.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Act entitled “An Act to provide for the division of Dakota into two States and to enable the people of North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Washington to form constitutions and State governments and to be admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the original States and to make donations of public lands to such States”, approved February 22, 1889 (25 Stat. 676, as amended), is amended by inserting before the period at the end of the first sentence in the fourth paragraph of section 11 a comma and the following: “except that

proceeds from the sale and other permanent disposition of the two hundred thousand acres granted to the State of Washington for State charitable, educational, penal, and reformatory institutions may be used by such State for the construction of any such institution." [Public Law 87-473. 76 U.S. Statutes at Large p 91. Approved May 31, 1962.]

**(7) June 30, 1967:**

AN ACT To authorize the States of North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Washington to use the income from certain lands for the construction of facilities for State charitable, educational, penal, and reformatory institutions.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the second sentence of the fourth paragraph of section 11 of the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the division of Dakota into two States and to enable the people of North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Washington to form constitutions and State governments and to be admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the original States, and to make donations of public lands to such States", approved February 22, 1889 (25 Stat. 676), as amended, is amended to read as follows: "Rentals on leased land, proceeds from the sale of timber and other crops, interest on deferred payments on land sold, interest on funds arising from these lands, and all other actual income, shall be available for the acquisition and construction of facilities, including the retirement of bonds authorized by law for such purposes, and for the maintenance and support of such schools and institutions." [Public Law 90-41. 81 U.S. Statutes at Large p 106. Approved June 30, 1967.]

**(8) October 16, 1970:**

AN ACT To amend section 11 of the Act approved February 22, 1889 (25 Stat. 676) as amended by the Act of May 7, 1932 (47 Stat. 150), and as amended by the Act of April 13, 1948 (62 Stat. 170) relating to the admission to the Union of the States of North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Washington, and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the second sentence of the first paragraph of section 11 of the Act approved February 22, 1889 (25 Stat. 676), as amended by the Act of May 7, 1932 (47 Stat. 150), is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Any of the said lands may be exchanged for other lands, public or private, of equal value and as near as may be of equal area, but if any of the said lands are exchanged with the United States such exchange shall be limited to Federal lands that are surveyed, nonmineral, unreserved public lands within the State, or are reserved public lands within the State that are subject to exchange under the laws governing the administration of such Federal reserved public lands."

and that a new paragraph be added immediately following the above, as follows:

“All exchanges heretofore made under section 11 of the Act approved February 22, 1889 (25 Stat. 676), as amended by the Act approved May 7, 1932 (47 Stat. 150), for reserved public lands of the United States that were subject to exchange under law pursuant to which they were being administered and the requirements thereof have been met, are hereby approved to the same extent as though the lands exchanged were unreserved public lands.”

and that the present paragraph 2 of section 11 be amended to read as follows:

“The said lands may be leased under such regulations as the legislature may prescribe.” [Public Law 91-463. 84 U.S. Statutes at Large p 987. Approved October 16, 1970.]

**Sec. 12.** That upon the admission of each of said States into the Union, in accordance with the provisions of this act, fifty sections of the unappropriated public lands within said States, to be selected and located in legal subdivisions as provided in section ten of this act, shall be, and are hereby, granted to said States for the purpose of erecting public buildings at the capital of said States for legislative, executive, and judicial purposes.

*Reviser's note:* Section 12 has been amended by Congress as follows:

AN ACT To amend section 12 of the Act approved February 22, 1889 (25 Stat. 676) relating to the admission into the Union of the States of North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Washington, by providing for the use of public lands granted to the States therein for the purpose of construction, reconstruction, repair, renovation, furnishings, equipment, or other permanent improvement of public buildings at the capital of said States.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That section 12 of the Act relating to the admission into the Union of the States of North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Washington, approved February 22, 1889, is amended to read as follows:

“That upon the admission of each of said States into the Union, in accordance with the provisions of this act, fifty sections of unappropriated public lands within such States, to be selected and located in legal subdivisions as provided in section 10 of this Act, shall be, and are hereby, granted to said States for public buildings at the capital of said States for legislative, executive, and judicial purposes, including construction, reconstruction, repair, renovation, furnishings, equipment, and any other permanent improvement of such buildings and the acquisition of necessary land for such buildings,

and the payment of principal and interest on bonds issued for any of the above purposes.”

Sec. 2. This Act shall take effect as of February 22, 1889. [Public Law 85-6. 71 U.S. Statutes at large p 5. Approved February 26, 1957.]

**Sec. 13.** That five per centum of the proceeds of the sales of public lands lying within said States which shall be sold by the United States subsequent to the admission of said States into the Union, after deducting all the expenses incident to the same, shall be paid to the said States, to be used as a permanent fund, the interest of which only shall be expended for the support of common schools within said States, respectively.

**Sec. 14.** That the lands granted to the Territories of Dakota and Montana by the act of February eighteenth, eighteen hundred and eighty-one, entitled “An act to grant lands to Dakota, Montana, Arizona, Idaho, and Wyoming for university purposes,” are hereby vested in the States of South Dakota, North Dakota, and Montana, respectively, if such States are admitted into the Union, as provided in this act, to the extent of the full quantity of seventy-two sections to each of said States, and any portion of said lands that may not have been selected by either of said Territories of Dakota or Montana may be selected by the respective States aforesaid; but said act of February eighteenth, eighteen hundred and eighty-one, shall be so amended as to provide that none of said lands shall be sold for less than ten dollars per acre, and the proceeds shall constitute a permanent fund to be safely invested and held by said States severally, and the income thereof be used exclusively for university purposes. And such quantity of the lands authorized by the fourth section of the act of July seventeenth, eighteen hundred and fifty-four, to be reserved for university purposes in the Territory of Washington, as, together with the lands confirmed to the vendees of the Territory by the act of March fourteenth, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, will make the full quantity of seventy-two entire sections, are hereby granted in like manner to the State of Washington for the purposes of a university in said State. None of the lands granted in this section shall be sold at less than ten dollars per acre; but said lands may be leased in the same manner as provided in section eleven of this act. The schools, colleges, and universities provided for in this act shall forever remain under the exclusive control of the said States, respectively, and no part of

the proceeds arising from the sale or disposal of any lands herein granted for educational purposes shall be used for the support of any sectarian or denominational school, college, or university. The section of land granted by the act of June sixteenth, eighteen hundred and eighty, to the Territory of Dakota, for an asylum for the insane shall, upon the admission of said State of South Dakota into the Union, become the property of said State.

**Sec. 15.** That so much of the lands belonging to the United States as have been acquired and set apart for the purpose mentioned in "An act appropriating money for the erection of a penitentiary in the Territory of Dakota," approved March second, eighteen hundred and eighty-one, together with the buildings thereon, be, and the same is hereby, granted, together with any unexpended balances of the moneys appropriated therefor by said act, to said State of South Dakota, for the purposes therein designated; and the States of North Dakota and Washington shall, respectively, have like grants for the same purpose, and subject to like terms and conditions as provided in said act of March second, eighteen hundred and eighty-one, for the Territory of Dakota. The penitentiary at Deer Lodge City, Montana, and all lands connected therewith and set apart and reserved therefor, are hereby granted to the State of Montana.

**Sec. 16.** That ninety thousand acres of land, to be selected and located as provided in section 10 of this act, are hereby granted to each of said States, except to the State of South Dakota, to which one hundred and twenty thousand acres are granted, for the use and support of agricultural colleges in said States, as provided in the acts of Congress making donations of lands for such purpose.

**Sec. 17.** That in lieu of the grant of land for purposes of internal improvement made to new States by the eighth section of the act of September fourth, eighteen hundred and forty-one, which act is hereby repealed as to the States provided for by this act, and in lieu of any claim or demand by the said States, or either of them, under the act of September twenty-eighth, eighteen hundred and fifty, and section twenty-four hundred and seventy-nine of the Revised Statutes, making a grant of swamp and overflowed lands to certain States, which grant it is hereby declared is not extended to the States provided for in this act, and in lieu of any grant of

saline lands to said States, the following grants of land are hereby made, to wit:

To the State of South Dakota: For the school of mines, forty thousand acres; for the reform school, forty thousand acres; for the deaf and dumb asylum, forty thousand acres; for the agricultural college, forty thousand acres; for the university, forty thousand acres; for State normal schools, eighty thousand acres; for public buildings at the capital of said State, fifty thousand acres, and for such other educational and charitable purposes as the legislature of said State may determine, one hundred and seventy thousand acres; in all five hundred thousand acres.

To the State of North Dakota a like quantity of land as in this section granted to the State of South Dakota, and to be for like purposes, and in like proportion as far as practicable.

To the State of Montana: For the establishment and maintenance of a school of mines, one hundred thousand acres; for State normal schools, one hundred thousand acres; for agricultural colleges, in addition to the grant hereinbefore made for that purpose, fifty thousand acres; for the establishment of a State reform school, fifty thousand acres; for the establishment of a deaf and dumb asylum, fifty thousand acres; for public buildings at the capital of the State, in addition to the grant hereinbefore made for that purpose, one hundred and fifty thousand acres.

To the State of Washington: For the establishment and maintenance of a scientific school, one hundred thousand acres; for State normal schools, one hundred thousand acres; for public buildings at the State capital, in addition to the grant hereinbefore made for that purpose, one hundred thousand acres; for State charitable, educational, penal, and reformatory institutions, two hundred thousand acres.

That the States provided for in this act shall not be entitled to any further or other grants of land for any purpose than as expressly provided in this act. And the lands granted by this section shall be held, appropriated, and disposed of exclusively for the purposes herein mentioned, in such manner as the legislatures of the respective States may severally provide.

**Sec. 18.** That all mineral lands shall be exempted from the grants made by this act. But if sections sixteen and thirty-six, or any subdivisions or portion of any smallest subdivision thereof in

any township shall be found by the Department of the Interior to be mineral lands, said States are hereby authorized and empowered to select, in legal subdivisions, an equal quantity of other unappropriated lands in said States, in lieu thereof, for the use and the benefit of the common schools of said States.

**Sec. 19.** That all lands granted in quantity or as indemnity by this act shall be selected, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, from the surveyed, unreserved, and unappropriated public lands of the United States within the limits of the respective States entitled thereto. And there shall be deducted from the number of acres of land donated by this act for specific objects to said States the number of acres in each heretofore donated by Congress to said Territories for similar objects.

**Sec. 20.** That the sum of twenty thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to each of said Territories for defraying the expenses of the said conventions, except to Dakota, for which the sum of forty thousand dollars is so appropriated, twenty thousand dollars each for South Dakota and North Dakota, and for the payment of the members thereof, under the same rules and regulations and at the same rates as are now provided by law for the payment of the Territorial legislatures. Any money hereby appropriated not necessary for such purpose shall be covered into the Treasury of the United States.

**Sec. 21.** That each of said States, when admitted as aforesaid, shall constitute one judicial district, the names thereof to be the same as the names of the States, respectively; and the circuit and district courts therefor shall be held at the capital of such State for the time being, and each of said districts shall, for judicial purposes, until otherwise provided, be attached to the eighth judicial circuit, except Washington and Montana, which shall be attached to the ninth judicial circuit. There shall be appointed for each of said districts one district judge, one United States attorney, and one United States marshal. The judge of each of said districts shall receive a yearly salary of three thousand five hundred dollars, payable in four equal installments, on the first days of January, April, July, and October of each year, and shall reside in the district. There shall be appointed clerks of said courts in each district, who shall keep their offices at the capital of said State. The regular



terms of said courts shall be held in each district, at the place aforesaid, on the first Monday in April and the first Monday in November of each year, and only one grand jury and one petit jury shall be summoned in both said circuit and district courts. The circuit and district courts for each of said districts, and the judges thereof, respectively, shall possess the same powers and jurisdiction, and perform the same duties required to be performed by the other circuit and district courts and judges of the United States, and shall be governed by the same laws and regulations. The Marshal, district attorney, and clerks of the circuit and district courts of each of said districts, and all other officers and persons performing duties in the administration of justice therein, shall severally possess the powers and perform the duties lawfully possessed and required to be performed by similar officers in other districts of the United States; and shall, for the services they may perform, receive the fees and compensation allowed by law to other similar officers and persons performing similar duties in the State of Nebraska.

**Sec. 22.** That all cases of appeal or writ of error heretofore prosecuted and now pending in the Supreme Court of the United States upon any record from the supreme court of either of the Territories mentioned in this act, or that may hereafter lawfully be prosecuted upon any record from either of said courts may be heard and determined by said Supreme Court of the United States. And the mandate of execution or of further proceedings shall be directed by the Supreme Court of the United States to the circuit or district court hereby established within the State succeeding the Territory from which such record is or may be pending, or to the supreme court of such State, as the nature of the case may require: Provided, That the mandate of execution or of further proceedings shall, in cases arising in the Territory of Dakota, be directed by the Supreme Court of the United States to the circuit or district court of the district of South Dakota, or to the supreme court of the State of South Dakota, or to the circuit or district court of the district of North Dakota, or to the supreme court of the State of North Dakota, or to the supreme court of the Territory of North Dakota, as the nature of the case may require. And each of the circuit, district, and State courts, herein named, shall, respectively, be the successor of the supreme court of the Territory, as to all such cases arising within the limits embraced within the jurisdiction of such courts respec-

tively with full power to proceed with the same, and award mesne or final process therein; and that from all judgments and decrees of the supreme court of either of the Territories mentioned in this act, in any case arising within the limits of any of the proposed States prior to admission, the parties to such judgment shall have the same right to prosecute appeals and writs of error to the Supreme Court of the United States as they shall have had by law prior to the admission of said State into the Union.

**Sec. 23.** That in respect to all cases, proceedings, and matters now pending in the supreme or district courts of either of the Territories mentioned in this act at the time of the admission into the Union of either of the States mentioned in this act, and arising within the limits of any such State, whereof the circuit or district courts by this act established might have had jurisdiction under the laws of the United States had such courts existed at the time of the commencement of such cases, the said circuit and district courts, respectively, shall be the successors of said supreme and district courts of said Territory; and in respect to all other cases, proceedings and matters pending in the supreme or district courts of any of the Territories mentioned in this act at the time of the admission of such Territory into the Union, arising within the limits of said proposed State, the courts established by such State shall, respectively, be the successors of said supreme and district Territorial courts; and all the files, records, indictments, and proceedings relating to any such cases, shall be transferred to such circuit, district, and State courts, respectively, and the same shall be proceeded with therein in due course of law; but no writ, action, indictment, cause or proceeding now pending, or that prior to the admission of any of the States mentioned in this act, shall be pending in any Territorial court in any of the Territories mentioned in this act, shall abate by the admission of any such State into the Union, but the same shall be transferred and proceeded with in the proper United States circuit, district or State court, as the case may be: *Provided, however,* That in all civil actions, causes, and proceedings, in which the United States is not a party, transfers shall not be made to the circuit and district courts of the United States, except upon written request of one of the parties to such action or proceeding filed in the proper court; and in the absence of such request such cases shall be proceeded with in the proper State courts.

**Sec. 24.** That the constitutional conventions may, by ordinance, provide for the election of officers for full State governments, including members of the legislatures and Representatives in the fifty-first Congress; but said State governments shall remain in abeyance until the States shall be admitted into the Union, respectively, as provided in this act. In case the constitution of any of said proposed States shall be ratified by the people, but not otherwise, the legislature thereof may assemble, organize, and elect two senators of the United States; and the governor and secretary of state of such proposed State shall certify the election of the Senators and Representatives in the manner required by law; and when such State is admitted into the Union, the Senators and Representatives shall be entitled to be admitted to seats in Congress, and to all the rights and privileges of Senators and Representatives of other States in the Congress of the United States; and the officers of the State governments formed in pursuance of said constitutions, as provided by the constitutional conventions, shall proceed to exercise all the functions of such State officers; and all laws in force made by said Territories, at the time of their admission into the Union, shall be in force in said States, except as modified or changed by this act or by the constitutions of the States, respectively.

**Sec. 25.** That all acts or parts of acts in conflict with the provisions of this act, whether passed by the legislatures of said Territories or by Congress, are hereby repealed.

Approved, February 22, 1889. [25 U.S. Statutes at Large, c 180 p 676.]



# CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

This Constitution was framed by a convention of seventy-five delegates, chosen by the people of the Territory of Washington at an election held May 14, 1889, under section 3 of the Enabling Act. The convention met at Olympia on the fourth day of July, 1889, and adjourned on the twenty-second day of August, 1889. The Constitution was ratified by the people at an election held on October 1, 1889, and on November 11, 1889, in accordance with section 8 of the Enabling Act, the president of the United States proclaimed the admission of the State of Washington into the Union.

## PREAMBLE

### Article I — DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

#### Sections

- 1 Political power.
- 2 Supreme law of the land.
- 3 Personal rights.
- 4 Right of petition and assemblage.
- 5 Freedom of speech.
- 6 Oaths — Mode of administering.
- 7 Invasion of private affairs or home prohibited.
- 8 Irrevocable privilege, franchise or immunity prohibited.
- 9 Rights of accused persons.
- 10 Administration of justice.
- 11 Religious freedom.
- 12 Special privileges and immunities prohibited.
- 13 Habeas corpus.
- 14 Excessive bail, fines and punishments.
- 15 Convictions, effect of.
- 16 Eminent domain.
- 17 Imprisonment for debt.
- 18 Military power, limitation of.
- 19 Freedom of elections.
- 20 Bail, when authorized.
- 21 Trial by jury.
- 22 Rights of the accused.

- 23 Bill of attainder, ex post facto law, etc.
- 24 Right to bear arms.
- 25 Prosecution by information.
- 26 Grand jury.
- 27 Treason, defined, etc.
- 28 Hereditary privileges abolished.
- 29 Constitution mandatory.
- 30 Rights reserved.
- 31 Standing army.
- 32 Fundamental principles.
- 33 Recall of elective officers.
- 34 Same.
- 35 Victims of crimes — Rights.

## **Article II — LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT**

### Sections

- 1 Legislative powers, where vested.
- 1(a) Initiative and referendum, signatures required.
- 2 House of representatives and senate.
- 3 The census.
- 4 Election of representatives and term of office.
- 5 Elections, when to be held.
- 6 Election and term of office of senators.
- 7 Qualifications of legislators.
- 8 Judges of their own election and qualification — Quorum.
- 9 Rules of procedure.
- 10 Election of officers.
- 11 Journal, publicity of meetings — Adjournments.
- 12 Sessions, when — Duration.
- 13 Limitation on members holding office in the state.
- 14 Same, federal or other office.
- 15 Vacancies in legislature and in partisan county elective office.
- 16 Privileges from arrest.
- 17 Freedom of debate.
- 18 Style of laws.
- 19 Bill to contain one subject.
- 20 Origin and amendment of bills.
- 21 Yeas and nays.
- 22 Passage of bills.
- 23 Compensation of members.

- 24 Lotteries and divorce.
- 25 Extra compensation prohibited.
- 26 Suits against the state.
- 27 Elections — Viva voce vote.
- 28 Special legislation.
- 29 Convict labor.
- 30 Bribery or corrupt solicitation.
- 31 Laws, when to take effect.
- 32 Laws, how signed.
- 33 Alien ownership.
- 34 Bureau of statistics, agriculture and immigration.
- 35 Protection of employees.
- 36 When bills must be introduced.
- 37 Revision or amendment.
- 38 Limitation on amendments.
- 39 Free transportation to public officer prohibited.
- 40 Highway funds.
- 41 Laws, effective date, initiative, referendum — Amendment or repeal.
- 42 Governmental continuity during emergency periods.
- 43 Redistricting.

### **Article III — THE EXECUTIVE**

#### Sections

- 1 Executive department.
- 2 Governor, term of office.
- 3 Other executive officers, terms of office.
- 4 Returns of elections, canvass, etc.
- 5 General duties of governor.
- 6 Messages.
- 7 Extra legislative sessions.
- 8 Commander-in-chief.
- 9 Pardoning power.
- 10 Vacancy in office of governor.
- 11 Remission of fines and forfeitures.
- 12 Veto powers.
- 13 Vacancy in appointive office.
- 14 Salary.
- 15 Commissions, how issued.
- 16 Lieutenant governor, duties and salary.

- 17 Secretary of state, duties and salary.
- 18 Seal.
- 19 State treasurer, duties and salary.
- 20 State auditor, duties and salary.
- 21 Attorney general, duties and salary.
- 22 Superintendent of public instruction, duties and salary.
- 23 Commissioner of public lands — Compensation.
- 24 Records, where kept, etc.
- 25 Qualifications, compensation, offices which may be abolished.

### **Article IV — THE JUDICIARY**

#### Sections

- 1 Judicial power, where vested.
- 2 Supreme court.
- 2(a) Temporary performance of judicial duties.
- 3 Election and terms of supreme court judges.
- 3(a) Retirement of supreme court and superior court judges.
- 4 Jurisdiction.
- 5 Superior court — Election of judges, terms of, etc.
- 6 Jurisdiction of superior courts.
- 7 Exchange of judges — Judge pro tempore.
- 8 Absence of judicial officer.
- 9 Removal of judges, attorney general, etc.
- 10 Justices of the peace.
- 11 Courts of record.
- 12 Inferior courts.
- 13 Salaries of judicial officers — How paid, etc.
- 14 Salaries of supreme and superior court judges.
- 15 Ineligibility of judges.
- 16 Charging juries.
- 17 Eligibility of judges.
- 18 Supreme court reporter.
- 19 Judges may not practice law.
- 20 Decisions, when to be made.
- 21 Publication of opinions.
- 22 Clerk of the supreme court.
- 23 Court commissioners.
- 24 Rules for superior courts.
- 25 Reports of superior court judges.



- 26 Clerk of the superior court.
- 27 Style of process.
- 28 Oath of judges.
- 29 Election of superior court judges.
- 30 Court of appeals.
- 31 Commission on judicial conduct.

## **Article V — IMPEACHMENT**

### Sections

- 1 Impeachment — Power of and procedure.
- 2 Officers liable to.
- 3 Removal from office.

## **Article VI — ELECTIONS AND ELECTIVE RIGHTS**

### Sections

- 1 Qualifications of electors.
- 1A Voter qualifications for presidential elections.
- 2 School elections — Franchise, how extended.
- 3 Who disqualified.
- 4 Residence, contingencies affecting.
- 5 Voter — When privileged from arrest.
- 6 Ballot.
- 7 Registration.
- 8 Elections, time of holding.

## **Article VII — REVENUE AND TAXATION**

### Sections

- 1 Taxation.
- 2 Limitation on levies.
- 3 Taxation of federal agencies and property.
- 4 No surrender of power or suspension of tax on corporate property.
- 5 Taxes, how levied.
- 6 Taxes, how paid.
- 7 Annual statement.
- 8 Tax to cover deficiencies.
- 9 Special assessments or taxation for local improvements.
- 10 Retired persons property tax exemption.
- 11 Taxation based on actual use.
- 12 Budget stabilization account.

## **Article VIII — STATE, COUNTY, AND MUNICIPAL INDEBTEDNESS**

### Sections

- 1 State debt.
- 2 Powers extended in certain cases.
- 3 Special indebtedness, how authorized.
- 4 Moneys disbursed only by appropriations.
- 5 Credit not to be loaned.
- 6 Limitations upon municipal indebtedness.
- 7 Credit not to be loaned.
- 8 Port expenditures — Industrial development — Promotion.
- 9 State building authority.
- 10 Energy, water, or stormwater or sewer services conservation assistance.
- 11 Agricultural commodity assessments — Development, promotion, and hosting.

## **Article IX — EDUCATION**

### Sections

- 1 Preamble.
- 2 Public school system.
- 3 Funds for support.
- 4 Sectarian control or influence prohibited.
- 5 Loss of permanent fund to become state debt.

## **Article X — MILITIA**

### Sections

- 1 Who liable to military duty.
- 2 Organization — Discipline — Officers — Power to call out.
- 3 Soldiers' home.
- 4 Public arms.
- 5 Privilege from arrest.
- 6 Exemption from military duty.

## **Article XI — COUNTY, CITY, AND TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION**

### Sections

- 1 Existing counties recognized.
- 2 County seats — Location and removal.

- 3 New counties.
- 4 County government and township organization.
- 5 County government.
- 6 Vacancies in township, precinct or road district office.
- 7 Tenure of office limited to two terms.
- 8 Salaries and limitations affecting.
- 9 State taxes not to be released or commuted.
- 10 Incorporation of municipalities.
- 11 Police and sanitary regulations.
- 12 Assessment and collection of taxes in municipalities.
- 13 Private property, when may be taken for public debt.
- 14 Private use of public funds prohibited.
- 15 Deposit of public funds.
- 16 Combined city-county.

## **Article XII — CORPORATIONS OTHER THAN MUNICIPAL**

### Sections

- 1 Corporations, how formed.
- 2 Existing charters.
- 3 Existing charters not to be extended nor forfeiture remitted.
- 4 Liability of stockholders.
- 5 Term "corporation," defined — Right to sue and be sued.
- 6 Limitations upon issuance of stock.
- 7 Foreign corporations.
- 8 Alienation of franchise not to release liabilities.
- 9 State not to loan its credit or subscribe for stock.
- 10 Eminent domain affecting.
- 11 Stockholder liability.
- 12 Receiving deposits by bank after insolvency.
- 13 Common carriers, regulation of.
- 14 Prohibition against combinations by carriers.
- 15 Prohibition against discriminating charges.
- 16 Prohibition against consolidating of competing lines.
- 17 Rolling stock, personalty for purpose of taxation.
- 18 Rates for transportation.
- 19 Telegraph and telephone companies.
- 20 Prohibition against free transportation for public officers.
- 21 Express companies.
- 22 Monopolies and trusts.

**Article XIII — STATE INSTITUTIONS**

## Sections

- 1 Educational, reformatory, and penal institutions.

**Article XIV — SEAT OF GOVERNMENT**

## Sections

- 1 State capital, location of.
- 2 Change of state capital.
- 3 Restrictions on appropriations for capitol buildings.

**Article XV — HARBORS AND TIDE WATERS**

## Sections

- 1 Harbor line commission and restraint on disposition.
- 2 Leasing and maintenance of wharves, docks, etc.
- 3 Extension of streets over tide lands.

**Article XVI — SCHOOL AND GRANTED LANDS**

## Sections

- 1 Disposition of.
- 2 Manner and terms of sale.
- 3 Limitations on sales.
- 4 How much may be offered in certain cases — Platting of.
- 5 Investment of permanent common school fund.
- 6 Investment of higher education permanent funds.

**Article XVII — TIDE LANDS**

## Sections

- 1 Declaration of state ownership.
- 2 Disclaimer of certain lands.

**Article XVIII — STATE SEAL**

## Sections

- 1 Seal of the state.

**Article XIX — EXEMPTIONS**

## Sections

- 1 Exemptions — Homesteads, etc.

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**Article XX — PUBLIC HEALTH AND VITAL STATISTICS**

Sections

- 1 Board of health and bureau of vital statistics.
- 2 Regulations concerning medicine, surgery and pharmacy.

**Article XXI — WATER AND WATER RIGHTS**

Sections

- 1 Public use of water.

**Article XXII — LEGISLATIVE APPORTIONMENT**

Sections

- 1 Senatorial apportionment.
- 2 Apportionment of representatives.

**Article XXIII — AMENDMENTS**

Sections

- 1 How made.
- 2 Constitutional conventions.
- 3 Submission to the people.

**Article XXIV — BOUNDARIES**

Sections

- 1 State boundaries.

**Article XXV — JURISDICTION**

Sections

- 1 Authority of the United States.

**Article XXVI — COMPACT WITH THE UNITED STATES**

**Article XXVII — SCHEDULE**

Sections

- 1 Existing rights, actions, and contracts saved.
- 2 Laws in force continued.
- 3 Debts, fines, etc., to inure to the state.
- 4 Recognizances.
- 5 Criminal prosecutions and penal actions.
- 6 Retention of territorial officers.

- 7 Constitutional officers, when elected.
- 8 Change of courts — Transfer of causes.
- 9 Seals of courts and municipalities.
- 10 Probate court, transfer of.
- 11 Duties of first legislature.
- 12 Election contests for superior judges, how decided.
- 13 Representation in congress.
- 14 Duration of term of certain officers.
- 15 Election on adoption of Constitution, how to be conducted.
- 16 When Constitution to take effect.
- 17 Separate articles.
- 18 Ballot.
- 19 Appropriation.

### **Article XXVIII — COMPENSATION OF STATE OFFICERS**

#### Sections

- 1 Salaries for legislators, elected state officials, and judges — Independent commission — Referendum.

### **Article XXIX — INVESTMENTS OF PUBLIC PENSION AND RETIREMENT FUNDS**

#### Sections

- 1 May be invested as authorized by law.

### **Article XXX — COMPENSATION OF PUBLIC OFFICERS**

#### Sections

- 1 Authorizing compensation increase during term.

### **Article XXXI — SEX EQUALITY — RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITY**

#### Sections

- 1 Equality not denied because of sex.
- 2 Enforcement power of legislature.

### **Article XXXII — SPECIAL REVENUE FINANCING**

#### Sections

- 1 Special revenue financing.

## PREAMBLE

We, the people of the State of Washington, grateful to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe for our liberties, do ordain this constitution.

### ARTICLE I DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

**SECTION 1 POLITICAL POWER.** All political power is inherent in the people, and governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed, and are established to protect and maintain individual rights.

**SECTION 2 SUPREME LAW OF THE LAND.** The Constitution of the United States is the supreme law of the land.

**SECTION 3 PERSONAL RIGHTS.** No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law.

**SECTION 4 RIGHT OF PETITION AND ASSEMBLAGE.** The right of petition and of the people peaceably to assemble for the common good shall never be abridged.

**SECTION 5 FREEDOM OF SPEECH.** Every person may freely speak, write and publish on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of that right.

**SECTION 6 OATHS - MODE OF ADMINISTERING.** The mode of administering an oath, or affirmation, shall be such as may be most consistent with and binding upon the conscience of the person to whom such oath, or affirmation, may be administered.

**SECTION 7 INVASION OF PRIVATE AFFAIRS OR HOME PROHIBITED.** No person shall be disturbed in his private affairs, or his home invaded, without authority of law.

**SECTION 8 IRREVOCABLE PRIVILEGE, FRANCHISE OR IMMUNITY PROHIBITED.** No law granting irrevocably any privilege, franchise or immunity, shall be passed by the legislature.

**SECTION 9 RIGHTS OF ACCUSED PERSONS.** No person shall be compelled in any criminal case to give evidence against himself, or be twice put in jeopardy for the same offense.

**SECTION 10 ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.** Justice in all cases shall be administered openly, and without unnecessary delay.

**SECTION 11 RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.** Absolute freedom of conscience in all matters of religious sentiment, belief and worship, shall be guaranteed to every individual, and no one shall be molested or disturbed in person or property on account of religion; but the liberty of conscience hereby secured shall not be so construed as to excuse acts of licentiousness or justify practices inconsistent with the peace and safety of the state. No public money or property shall be appropriated for or applied to any religious worship, exercise or instruction, or the support of any religious establishment: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That this article shall not be so construed as to forbid the employment by the state of a chaplain for such of the state custodial, correctional, and mental institutions, or by a county's or public hospital district's hospital, health care facility, or hospice, as in the discretion of the legislature may seem justified. No religious qualification shall be required for any public office or employment, nor shall any person be incompetent as a witness or juror, in consequence of his opinion on matters of religion, nor be questioned in any court of justice touching his religious belief to affect the weight of his testimony. [AMENDMENT 88, 1993 House Joint Resolution No. 4200, p 3062. Approved November 2, 1993.]

**Amendment 34 (1957) — Art. 1 Section 11 RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**  
— *Absolute freedom of conscience in all matters of religious sentiment, belief and worship, shall be guaranteed to every individual, and no one shall be molested or disturbed in person or property on account of religion; but the liberty of conscience hereby secured shall not be so construed as to excuse acts of licentiousness or justify practices inconsistent with the peace and safety of the state. No public money or property shall be appropriated for or applied to any religious worship, exercise or instruction, or the support of any religious establishment: Provided, however, That this article shall not be so construed as to forbid the employment by the state of a chaplain for such of the state custodial, correctional and mental institutions as in the discretion of the legislature may seem justified. No religious qualification shall be required for any public office or employment, nor shall any person be incompetent as a witness or juror, in consequence of his opinion on matters of religion, nor be questioned in any court of justice touching his religious belief to affect the weight of his testimony.* [AMENDMENT 34, 1957 Senate Joint Resolution No. 14, p 1299. Approved November 4, 1958.]



**Amendment 4 (1904) — Art. 1 Section 11 RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

*Absolute freedom of conscience in all matters of religious sentiment, belief and worship, shall be guaranteed to every individual, and no one shall be molested or disturbed in person or property on account of religion; but the liberty of conscience hereby secured shall not be so construed as to excuse acts of licentiousness or justify practices inconsistent with the peace and safety of the state. No public money or property shall be appropriated for or applied to any religious worship, exercise or instruction, or the support of any religious establishment. Provided, however, That this article shall not be so construed as to forbid the employment by the state of a chaplain for the state penitentiary, and for such of the state reformatories as in the discretion of the legislature may seem justified. No religious qualification shall be required for any public office or employment, nor shall any person be incompetent as a witness or juror, in consequence of his opinion on matters of religion, nor be questioned in any court of justice touching his religious belief to affect the weight of his testimony.* [AMENDMENT 4, 1903 p 283 Section 1. Approved November, 1904.]

**Original text — Art. 1 Section 11 RELIGIOUS FREEDOM —**

*Absolute freedom of conscience in all matters of religious sentiment, belief, and worship, shall be guaranteed to every individual, and no one shall be molested or disturbed in person, or property, on account of religion; but the liberty of conscience hereby secured shall not be so construed as to excuse acts of licentiousness, or justify practices inconsistent with the peace and safety of the state. No public money or property shall be appropriated for, or applied to any religious worship, exercise or instruction, or the support of any religious establishment. No religious qualification shall be required for any public office, or employment, nor shall any person be incompetent as a witness, or juror, in consequence of his opinion on matters of religion, nor be questioned in any court of justice touching his religious belief to affect the weight of his testimony.*

**SECTION 12 SPECIAL PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES**

**PROHIBITED.** No law shall be passed granting to any citizen, class of citizens, or corporation other than municipal, privileges or immunities which upon the same terms shall not equally belong to all citizens, or corporations.

**SECTION 13 HABEAS CORPUS.** The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended, unless in case of rebellion or invasion the public safety requires it.

**SECTION 14 EXCESSIVE BAIL, FINES AND PUNISHMENTS.** Excessive bail shall not be required, excessive fines imposed, nor cruel punishment inflicted.

**SECTION 15 CONVICTIONS, EFFECT OF.** No conviction shall work corruption of blood, nor forfeiture of estate.

**SECTION 16 EMINENT DOMAIN.** Private property shall not be taken for private use, except for private ways of necessity, and for drains, flumes, or ditches on or across the lands of others for agricultural, domestic, or sanitary purposes. No private property shall be taken or damaged for public or private use without just compensation having been first made, or paid into court for the owner, and no right-of-way shall be appropriated to the use of any corporation other than municipal until full compensation therefor be first made in money, or ascertained and paid into court for the owner, irrespective of any benefit from any improvement proposed by such corporation, which compensation shall be ascertained by a jury, unless a jury be waived, as in other civil cases in courts of record, in the manner prescribed by law. Whenever an attempt is made to take private property for a use alleged to be public, the question whether the contemplated use be really public shall be a judicial question, and determined as such, without regard to any legislative assertion that the use is public: *Provided*, That the taking of private property by the state for land reclamation and settlement purposes is hereby declared to be for public use. [AMENDMENT 9, 1919 p 385 Section 1. Approved November, 1920.]

*Original text — Art. 1 Section 16 EMINENT DOMAIN — Private property shall not be taken for private use, except for private ways of necessity, and for drains, flumes or ditches on or across the lands of others for agricultural, domestic or sanitary purposes. No private property shall be taken or damaged for public or private use without just compensation having first been made, or paid into court for the owner; and no right of way shall be appropriated to the use of any corporation other than municipal, until full compensation therefor be first made in money, or ascertained and paid into the court for the owner, irrespective of any benefit from any improvement proposed by such corporation, which compensation shall be ascertained by a jury, unless a jury be waived as in other civil cases in courts of record, in the manner prescribed by law. Whenever an attempt is made to take private property for a use alleged to be public, the question whether the contemplated use be really public shall be a judicial question, and determined as such without regard to any legislative assertion that the use is public.*

**SECTION 17 IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.** There shall be no imprisonment for debt, except in cases of absconding debtors.

**SECTION 18 MILITARY POWER, LIMITATION OF.** The military shall be in strict subordination to the civil power.

**SECTION 19 FREEDOM OF ELECTIONS.** All Elections shall be free and equal, and no power, civil or military, shall at any time interfere to prevent the free exercise of the right of suffrage.

**SECTION 20 BAIL, WHEN AUTHORIZED.** All persons charged with crime shall beailable by sufficient sureties, except for capital offenses when the proof is evident, or the presumption great. Bail may be denied for offenses punishable by the possibility of life in prison upon a showing by clear and convincing evidence of a propensity for violence that creates a substantial likelihood of danger to the community or any persons, subject to such limitations as shall be determined by the legislature. [AMENDMENT 104, 2010 Engrossed Substitute House Joint Resolution No. 4220, p 3129. Approved November 2, 2010.]

**Original text — Art. 1 Section 20 BAIL, WHEN AUTHORIZED**  
— *All persons charged with crime shall beailable by sufficient sureties, except for capital offenses when the proof is evident, or the presumption great.*

**SECTION 21 TRIAL BY JURY.** The right of trial by jury shall remain inviolate, but the legislature may provide for a jury of any number less than twelve in courts not of record, and for a verdict by nine or more jurors in civil cases in any court of record, and for waiving of the jury in civil cases where the consent of the parties interested is given thereto.

**SECTION 22 RIGHTS OF THE ACCUSED.** In criminal prosecutions the accused shall have the right to appear and defend in person, or by counsel, to demand the nature and cause of the accusation against him, to have a copy thereof, to testify in his own behalf, to meet the witnesses against him face to face, to have compulsory process to compel the attendance of witnesses in his own behalf, to have a speedy public trial by an impartial jury of the county in which the offense is charged to have been committed and the right to appeal in all cases: *Provided*, The route traversed by any railway coach, train or public conveyance, and the water traversed by any boat shall be criminal districts; and the jurisdiction of all public offenses committed on any such railway car, coach, train, boat or other public conveyance, or at any station or depot

upon such route, shall be in any county through which the said car, coach, train, boat or other public conveyance may pass during the trip or voyage, or in which the trip or voyage may begin or terminate. In no instance shall any accused person before final judgment be compelled to advance money or fees to secure the rights herein guaranteed. [AMENDMENT 10, 1921 p 79 Section 1. Approved November, 1922.]

**Original text — Art. 1 Section 22 RIGHTS OF ACCUSED PERSONS** — *In criminal prosecution, the accused shall have the right to appear and defend in person, and by counsel, to demand the nature and cause of the accusation against him, to have a copy thereof, to testify in his own behalf, to meet the witnesses against him face to face, to have compulsory process to compel the attendance of witnesses in his own behalf, to have a speedy public trial by an impartial jury of the county in which the offense is alleged to have been committed, and the right to appeal in all cases; and, in no instance, shall any accused person before final judgment be compelled to advance money or fees to secure the rights herein guaranteed.*

**SECTION 23 BILL OF ATTAINDER, EX POST FACTO LAW, ETC.** No bill of attainder, ex post facto law, or law impairing the obligations of contracts shall ever be passed.

**SECTION 24 RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS.** The right of the individual citizen to bear arms in defense of himself, or the state, shall not be impaired, but nothing in this section shall be construed as authorizing individuals or corporations to organize, maintain or employ an armed body of men.

**SECTION 25 PROSECUTION BY INFORMATION.** Offenses heretofore required to be prosecuted by indictment may be prosecuted by information, or by indictment, as shall be prescribed by law.

**SECTION 26 GRAND JURY.** No grand jury shall be drawn or summoned in any county, except the superior judge thereof shall so order.

**SECTION 27 TREASON, DEFINED, ETC.** Treason against the state shall consist only in levying war against the state, or adhering to its enemies, or in giving them aid and comfort. No person shall be convicted of treason unless on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or confession in open court.

**SECTION 28 HEREDITARY PRIVILEGES ABOLISHED.** No hereditary emoluments, privileges, or powers, shall be granted or conferred in this state.

**SECTION 29 CONSTITUTION MANDATORY.** The provisions of this Constitution are mandatory, unless by express words they are declared to be otherwise.

**SECTION 30 RIGHTS RESERVED.** The enumeration in this Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny others retained by the people.

**SECTION 31 STANDING ARMY.** No standing army shall be kept up by this state in time of peace, and no soldier shall in time of peace be quartered in any house without the consent of its owner, nor in time of war except in the manner prescribed by law.

**SECTION 32 FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES.** A frequent recurrence to fundamental principles is essential to the security of individual right and the perpetuity of free government.

**SECTION 33 RECALL OF ELECTIVE OFFICERS.** Every elective public officer of the state of Washington except [except] judges of courts of record is subject to recall and discharge by the legal voters of the state, or of the political subdivision of the state, from which he was elected whenever a petition demanding his recall, reciting that such officer has committed some act or acts of malfeasance or misfeasance while in office, or who has violated his oath of office, stating the matters complained of, signed by the percentages of the qualified electors thereof, hereinafter provided, the percentage required to be computed from the total number of votes cast for all candidates for his said office to which he was elected at the preceding election, is filed with the officer with whom a petition for nomination, or certificate for nomination, to such office must be filed under the laws of this state, and the same officer shall call a special election as provided by the general election laws of this state, and the result determined as therein provided. [AMENDMENT 8, 1911 p 504 Section 1. Approved November, 1912.]

**SECTION 34 SAME.** The legislature shall pass the necessary laws to carry out the provisions of section thirty-three (33) of this article, and to facilitate its operation and effect without delay: *Provided*, That the authority hereby conferred upon the legislature

shall not be construed to grant to the legislature any exclusive power of lawmaking nor in any way limit the initiative and referendum powers reserved by the people. The percentages required shall be, state officers, other than judges, senators and representatives, city officers of cities of the first class, school district boards in cities of the first class; county officers of counties of the first, second and third classes, twenty-five per cent. Officers of all other political subdivisions, cities, towns, townships, precincts and school districts not herein mentioned, and state senators and representatives, thirty-five per cent. [AMENDMENT 8, 1911 p 504 Section 1. Approved November, 1912.]

**SECTION 35 VICTIMS OF CRIMES — RIGHTS.** Effective law enforcement depends on cooperation from victims of crime. To ensure victims a meaningful role in the criminal justice system and to accord them due dignity and respect, victims of crime are hereby granted the following basic and fundamental rights.

Upon notifying the prosecuting attorney, a victim of a crime charged as a felony shall have the right to be informed of and, subject to the discretion of the individual presiding over the trial or court proceedings, attend trial and all other court proceedings the defendant has the right to attend, and to make a statement at sentencing and at any proceeding where the defendant's release is considered, subject to the same rules of procedure which govern the defendant's rights. In the event the victim is deceased, incompetent, a minor, or otherwise unavailable, the prosecuting attorney may identify a representative to appear to exercise the victim's rights. This provision shall not constitute a basis for error in favor of a defendant in a criminal proceeding nor a basis for providing a victim or the victim's representative with court appointed counsel. [AMENDMENT 84, 1989 Senate Joint Resolution No. 8200, p 2999. Approved November 7, 1989.]

## ARTICLE II LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

### SECTION 1 LEGISLATIVE POWERS, WHERE VESTED.

The legislative authority of the state of Washington shall be vested in the legislature, consisting of a senate and house of representatives, which shall be called the legislature of the state of Washington, but the people reserve to themselves the power to propose

bills, laws, and to enact or reject the same at the polls, independent of the legislature, and also reserve power, at their own option, to approve or reject at the polls any act, item, section, or part of any bill, act, or law passed by the legislature.

(a) Initiative: The first power reserved by the people is the initiative. Every such petition shall include the full text of the measure so proposed. In the case of initiatives to the legislature and initiatives to the people, the number of valid signatures of legal voters required shall be equal to eight percent of the votes cast for the office of governor at the last gubernatorial election preceding the initial filing of the text of the initiative measure with the secretary of state.

Initiative petitions shall be filed with the secretary of state not less than four months before the election at which they are to be voted upon, or not less than ten days before any regular session of the legislature. If filed at least four months before the election at which they are to be voted upon, he shall submit the same to the vote of the people at the said election. If such petitions are filed not less than ten days before any regular session of the legislature, he shall certify the results within forty days of the filing. If certification is not complete by the date that the legislature convenes, he shall provisionally certify the measure pending final certification of the measure. Such initiative measures, whether certified or provisionally certified, shall take precedence over all other measures in the legislature except appropriation bills and shall be either enacted or rejected without change or amendment by the legislature before the end of such regular session. If any such initiative measures shall be enacted by the legislature it shall be subject to the referendum petition, or it may be enacted and referred by the legislature to the people for approval or rejection at the next regular election. If it is rejected or if no action is taken upon it by the legislature before the end of such regular session, the secretary of state shall submit it to the people for approval or rejection at the next ensuing regular general election. The legislature may reject any measure so proposed by initiative petition and propose a different one dealing with the same subject, and in such event both measures shall be submitted by the secretary of state to the people for approval or rejection at the next ensuing regular general election. When conflicting measures are submitted to the people the ballots shall be so printed that a voter can express separately by making one cross

(X) for each, two preferences, first, as between either measure and neither, and secondly, as between one and the other. If the majority of those voting on the first issue is for neither, both fail, but in that case the votes on the second issue shall nevertheless be carefully counted and made public. If a majority voting on the first issue is for either, then the measure receiving a majority of the votes on the second issue shall be law.

(b) Referendum. The second power reserved by the people is the referendum, and it may be ordered on any act, bill, law, or any part thereof passed by the legislature, except such laws as may be necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health or safety, support of the state government and its existing public institutions, either by petition signed by the required percentage of the legal voters, or by the legislature as other bills are enacted: *Provided*, That the legislature may not order a referendum on any initiative measure enacted by the legislature under the foregoing subsection (a). The number of valid signatures of registered voters required on a petition for referendum of an act of the legislature or any part thereof, shall be equal to or exceeding four percent of the votes cast for the office of governor at the last gubernatorial election preceding the filing of the text of the referendum measure with the secretary of state.

(c) No act, law, or bill subject to referendum shall take effect until ninety days after the adjournment of the session at which it was enacted. No act, law, or bill approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon shall be amended or repealed by the legislature within a period of two years following such enactment: *Provided*, That any such act, law, or bill may be amended within two years after such enactment at any regular or special session of the legislature by a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house with full compliance with section 12, Article III, of the Washington Constitution, and no amendatory law adopted in accordance with this provision shall be subject to referendum. But such enactment may be amended or repealed at any general regular or special election by direct vote of the people thereon.

(d) The filing of a referendum petition against one or more items, sections, or parts of any act, law, or bill shall not delay the remainder of the measure from becoming operative. Referendum petitions against measures passed by the legislature shall be filed with the secretary of state not later than ninety days after the final



adjournment of the session of the legislature which passed the measure on which the referendum is demanded. The veto power of the governor shall not extend to measures initiated by or referred to the people. All elections on measures referred to the people of the state shall be had at the next succeeding regular general election following the filing of the measure with the secretary of state, except when the legislature shall order a special election. Any measure initiated by the people or referred to the people as herein provided shall take effect and become the law if it is approved by a majority of the votes cast thereon: *Provided*, That the vote cast upon such question or measure shall equal one-third of the total votes cast at such election and not otherwise. Such measure shall be in operation on and after the thirtieth day after the election at which it is approved. The style of all bills proposed by initiative petition shall be: "Be it enacted by the people of the State of Washington." This section shall not be construed to deprive any member of the legislature of the right to introduce any measure. All such petitions shall be filed with the secretary of state, who shall be guided by the general laws in submitting the same to the people until additional legislation shall especially provide therefor. This section is self-executing, but legislation may be enacted especially to facilitate its operation.

(e) The legislature shall provide methods of publicity of all laws or parts of laws, and amendments to the Constitution referred to the people with arguments for and against the laws and amendments so referred. The secretary of state shall send one copy of the publication to each individual place of residence in the state and shall make such additional distribution as he shall determine necessary to reasonably assure that each voter will have an opportunity to study the measures prior to election. [AMENDMENT 72, 1981 Substitute Senate Joint Resolution No. 133, p 1796. Approved November 3, 1981.]

*Referendum procedures regarding salaries: Art. 28 Section 1.*

**Amendment 7 (1911) — Art. 2 Section 1 Legislative Powers, Where Vested** — *The legislative authority of the state of Washington shall be vested in the legislature, consisting of a senate and house of representatives, which shall be called the legislature of the state of Washington, but the people reserve to themselves the power to propose bills, laws, and to enact or reject the same at the polls, independent of the legislature, and also reserve power,*

*at their own option, to approve or reject at the polls any act, item, section or part of any bill, act or law passed by the legislature.*

*(a) Initiative: The first power reserved by the people is the initiative. Ten per centum, but in no case more than fifty thousand, of the legal voters shall be required to propose any measure by such petition, and every such petition shall include the full text of the measure so proposed. [Note: Signature requirements were superseded by Art. 2 Sec. 1(a), AMENDMENT 30.] Initiative petitions shall be filed with the secretary of state not less than four months before the election at which they are to be voted upon, or not less than ten days before any regular session of the legislature. If filed at least four months before the election at which they are to be voted upon, he shall submit the same to the vote of the people at the said election. If such petitions are filed not less than ten days before any regular session of the legislature, he shall transmit the same to the legislature as soon as it convenes and organizes. Such initiative measure shall take precedence over all other measures in the legislature except appropriation bills and shall be either enacted or rejected without change or amendment by the legislature before the end of such regular session. If any such initiative measures shall be enacted by the legislature it shall be subject to the referendum petition, or it may be enacted and referred by the legislature to the people for approval or rejection at the next regular election. If it is rejected or if no action is taken upon it by the legislature before the end of such regular session, the secretary of state shall submit it to the people for approval or rejection at the next ensuing regular general election. The legislature may reject any measure so proposed by initiative petition and propose a different one dealing with the same subject, and in such event both measures shall be submitted by the secretary of state to the people for approval or rejection at the next ensuing regular general election. When conflicting measures are submitted to the people the ballots shall be so printed that a voter can express separately by making one cross (X) for each, two preferences, first, as between either measure and neither; and secondly, as between one and the other. If the majority of those voting on the first issue is for neither, both fail, but in that case the votes on the second issue shall nevertheless be carefully counted and made public. If a majority voting on the first issue is for either, then the measure receiving a majority of the votes on the second issue shall be law.*

*(b) Referendum. The second power reserved by the people is the referendum, and it may be ordered on any act, bill, law, or any part thereof passed by the legislature, except such laws as may be necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health or safety, support of the state government and its existing public institutions, either by petition signed by the required percentage of the legal voters, or by the legislature as other bills are enacted. Six per centum, but in no case more than thirty thousand, of the legal voters shall be required to sign and make a valid referendum*

petition. *[Note: Signature requirements were superseded by Art. 2 Sec. 1(a), AMENDMENT 30.]*

(c) No act, law, or bill subject to referendum shall take effect until ninety days after the adjournment of the session at which it was enacted. No act, law, or bill approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon shall be amended or repealed by the legislature within a period of two years following such enactment. But such enactment may be amended or repealed at any general regular or special election by direct vote of the people thereon. *[Note: Subsection (c) was expressly superseded by Art. 2 Sec. 41, AMENDMENT 26.]*

(d) *The filing of a referendum petition against one or more items, sections or parts of any act, law or bill shall not delay the remainder of the measure from becoming operative. Referendum petitions against measures passed by the legislature shall be filed with the secretary of state not later than ninety days after the final adjournment of the session of the legislature which passed the measure on which the referendum is demanded. The veto power of the governor shall not extend to measures initiated by or referred to the people. All elections on measures referred to the people of the state shall be had at the biennial regular elections, except when the legislature shall order a special election. Any measure initiated by the people or referred to the people as herein provided shall take effect and become the law if it is approved by a majority of the votes cast thereon: Provided, That the vote cast upon such question or measure shall equal one-third of the total votes cast at such election and not otherwise. Such measure shall be in operation on and after the thirtieth day after the election at which it is approved. The style of all bills proposed by initiative petition shall be: "Be it enacted by the people of the State of Washington." This section shall not be construed to deprive any member of the legislature of the right to introduce any measure. The whole number of electors who voted for governor at the regular gubernatorial election last preceding the filing of any petition for the initiative or for the referendum shall be the basis on which the number of legal voters necessary to sign such petition shall be counted. [Note: Cf. Art. 2 Sec. 1(a), AMENDMENT 30.] All such petitions shall be filed with the secretary of state, who shall be guided by the general laws in submitting the same to the people until additional legislation shall especially provide therefor. This section is self-executing, but legislation may be enacted especially to facilitate its operation.*

The legislature shall provide methods of publicity of all laws or parts of laws, and amendments to the Constitution referred to the people with arguments for and against the laws and amendments so referred, so that each voter of the state shall receive the publication at least fifty days before the election at which they are to be voted upon. *[Note: This paragraph was expressly superseded by subsection (e) of this section, which was added by AMENDMENT 36.]*

(e) *The legislature shall provide methods of publicity of all laws or parts of laws, and amendments to the Constitution referred to the people with arguments for and against the laws and amendments so referred. The secretary of state shall send one copy of the publication to each individual place of residence in the state and shall make such additional distribution as he shall determine necessary to reasonably assure that each voter will have an opportunity to study the measures prior to election. These provisions supersede the provisions set forth in the last paragraph of section 1 of this article as amended by the seventh amendment to the Constitution of this state.* [AMENDMENT 7, 1911 House Bill No. 153 p 136. Approved November, 1912; Subsection (e) added by AMENDMENT 36, 1961 Senate Joint Resolution No. 9, p 2751. Approved November, 1962.]

**Original text — Art. 2 Section 1 LEGISLATIVE POWERS, WHERE VESTED** — *The legislative powers shall be vested in a senate and house of representatives, which shall be called the legislature of the State of Washington.*

Note: Art. 2 Sec. 31 was also stricken by AMENDMENT 7.

**SECTION 1(a) INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM, SIGNATURES REQUIRED.** [Stricken by AMENDMENT 72, 1981 Substitute Senate Joint Resolution No. 133, p 1796. Approved November 3, 1981.]

**Amendment 30 (1956) — Art. 2 Section 1(a) INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM, SIGNATURES REQUIRED** — *Hereafter, the number of valid signatures of legal voters required upon a petition for an initiative measure shall be equal to eight per centum of the number of voters registered and voting for the office of governor at the last preceding regular gubernatorial election. Hereafter, the number of valid signatures of legal voters required upon a petition for a referendum of an act of the legislature or any part thereof, shall be equal to four per centum of the number of voters registered and voting for the office of governor at the last preceding regular gubernatorial election. These provisions supersede the requirements specified in section 1 of this article as amended by the seventh amendment to the Constitution of this state.* [AMENDMENT 30, 1955 Senate Joint Resolution No. 4, p 1860. Approved November 6, 1956.]

**SECTION 2 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE.** The house of representatives shall be composed of not less than sixty-three nor more than ninety-nine members. The number of senators shall not be more than one-half nor less than one-third of the number of members of the house of representatives. The first legislature shall be composed of seventy members of the house of representatives, and thirty-five senators.

**SECTION 3 THE CENSUS. [Repealed by AMENDMENT 74, 1983 Substitute Senate Joint Resolution No. 103, p 2202. Approved November 8, 1983.]**

**Original text** — **Art. 2 Section 3 THE CENSUS** — *The legislature shall provide by law for an enumeration of the inhabitants of the state in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five and every ten years thereafter; and at the first session after such enumeration, and also after each enumeration made by the authority of the United States, the legislature shall apportion and district anew the members of the senate and house of representatives, according to the number of inhabitants, excluding Indians not taxed, soldiers, sailors and officers of the United States army and navy in active service.*

**SECTION 4 ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES AND TERM OF OFFICE.** Members of the house of representatives shall be elected in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-nine at the time and in the manner provided by this Constitution, and shall hold their offices for the term of one year and until their successors shall be elected.

**SECTION 5 ELECTIONS, WHEN TO BE HELD.** The next election of the members of the house of representatives after the adoption of this Constitution shall be on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November, eighteen hundred and ninety, and thereafter, members of the house of representatives shall be elected biennially and their term of office shall be two years; and each election shall be on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, unless otherwise changed by law.

**SECTION 6 ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE OF SENATORS.** After the first election the senators shall be elected by single districts of convenient and contiguous territory, at the same time and in the same manner as members of the house of representatives are required to be elected; and no representative district shall be divided in the formation of a senatorial district. They shall be elected for the term of four years, one-half of their number retiring every two years. The senatorial districts shall be numbered consecutively, and the senators chosen at the first election had by virtue of this Constitution, in odd numbered districts, shall go out of office at the end of the first year; and the senators, elected in the even numbered districts, shall go out of office at the end of the third year.

**SECTION 7 QUALIFICATIONS OF LEGISLATORS.** No person shall be eligible to the legislature who shall not be a citizen of the United States and a qualified voter in the district for which he is chosen.

**SECTION 8 JUDGES OF THEIR OWN ELECTION AND QUALIFICATION - QUORUM.** Each house shall be the judge of the election, returns and qualifications of its own members, and a majority of each house shall constitute a quorum to do business; but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day and may compel the attendance of absent members, in such manner and under such penalties as each house may provide.

*Governmental continuity during emergency periods: Art. 2 Section 42.*

**SECTION 9 RULES OF PROCEDURE.** Each house may determine the rules of its own proceedings, punish for contempt and disorderly behavior, and, with the concurrence of two-thirds of all the members elected, expel a member, but no member shall be expelled a second time for the same offense.

**SECTION 10 ELECTION OF OFFICERS.** Each house shall elect its own officers; and when the lieutenant governor shall not attend as president, or shall act as governor, the senate shall choose a temporary president. When presiding, the lieutenant governor shall have the deciding vote in case of an equal division of the senate.

**SECTION 11 JOURNAL, PUBLICITY OF MEETINGS - ADJOURNMENTS.** Each house shall keep a journal of its proceedings and publish the same, except such parts as require secrecy. The doors of each house shall be kept open, except when the public welfare shall require secrecy. Neither house shall adjourn for more than three days, nor to any place other than that in which they may be sitting, without the consent of the other.

**SECTION 12 SESSIONS, WHEN — DURATION.** (1) Regular Sessions. A regular session of the legislature shall be convened each year. Regular sessions shall convene on such day and at such time as the legislature shall determine by statute. During each odd-numbered year, the regular session shall not be more than one hundred five consecutive days. During each even-numbered year, the regular session shall not be more than sixty consecutive days.

(2) Special Legislative Sessions. Special legislative sessions may be convened for a period of not more than thirty consecutive days by proclamation of the governor pursuant to Article III, section 7 of this Constitution. Special legislative sessions may also be convened for a period of not more than thirty consecutive days by resolution of the legislature upon the affirmative vote in each house of two-thirds of the members elected or appointed thereto, which vote may be taken and resolution executed either while the legislature is in session or during any interim between sessions in accordance with such procedures as the legislature may provide by law or resolution. The resolution convening the legislature shall specify a purpose or purposes for the convening of a special session, and any special session convened by the resolution shall consider only measures germane to the purpose or purposes expressed in the resolution, unless by resolution adopted during the session upon the affirmative vote in each house of two-thirds of the members elected or appointed thereto, an additional purpose or purposes are expressed. The specification of purpose by the governor pursuant to Article III, section 7 of this Constitution shall be considered by the legislature but shall not be mandatory.

(3) Committees of the Legislature. Standing and special committees of the legislature shall meet and conduct official business pursuant to such rules as the legislature may adopt. [AMENDMENT 68, 1979 Substitute Senate Joint Resolution No. 110, p 2286. Approved November 6, 1979.]

*Extraordinary sessions to reconsider vetoes: Art. 3 Section 12.*

*Sessions to convene on the second Monday in January: RCW 44.04.010.*

**Original text — Art. 2 Section 12 SESSIONS, WHEN —**

**DURATION** — *The first legislature shall meet on the first Wednesday after the first Monday in November, A. D., 1889. The second legislature shall meet on the first Wednesday after the first Monday in January, A. D., 1891, and sessions of the legislature shall be held biennially thereafter, unless specially convened by the governor, but the times of meeting of subsequent sessions may be changed by the legislature. After the first legislature the sessions shall not be more than sixty days.*

**SECTION 13 LIMITATION ON MEMBERS HOLDING**

**OFFICE IN THE STATE.** No member of the legislature, during the term for which he is elected, shall be appointed or elected to any civil office in the state, which shall have been created during

the term for which he was elected. Any member of the legislature who is appointed or elected to any civil office in the state, the emoluments of which have been increased during his legislative term of office, shall be compensated for the initial term of the civil office at the level designated prior to the increase in emoluments. [AMENDMENT 69, 1979 Senate Joint Resolution No. 112, p 2287. Approved November 6, 1979.]

**Original text — Art. 2 Section 13 LIMITATION ON MEMBERS HOLDING OFFICE IN THE STATE** — *No member of the legislature, during the term for which he is elected, shall be appointed or elected to any civil office in the state, which shall have been created, or the emoluments of which shall have been increased, during the term for which he was elected.*

**SECTION 14 SAME, FEDERAL OR OTHER OFFICE.** No person, being a member of congress, or holding any civil or military office under the United States or any other power, shall be eligible to be a member of the legislature; and if any person after his election as a member of the legislature, shall be elected to congress or be appointed to any other office, civil or military, under the government of the United States, or any other power, his acceptance thereof shall vacate his seat, provided, that officers in the militia of the state who receive no annual salary, local officers and postmasters, whose compensation does not exceed three hundred dollars per annum, shall not be ineligible.

**SECTION 15 VACANCIES IN LEGISLATURE AND IN PARTISAN COUNTY ELECTIVE OFFICE.** Such vacancies as may occur in either house of the legislature or in any partisan county elective office shall be filled by appointment by the county legislative authority of the county in which the vacancy occurs: *Provided*, That the person appointed to fill the vacancy must be from the same legislative district, county, or county commissioner or council district and the same political party as the legislator or partisan county elective officer whose office has been vacated, and shall be one of three persons who shall be nominated by the county central committee of that party, and in case a majority of the members of the county legislative authority do not agree upon the appointment within sixty days after the vacancy occurs, the governor shall within thirty days thereafter, and from the list of nominees provided for herein, appoint a person who shall be from the same legislative district, county, or county commissioner or



council district and of the same political party as the legislator or partisan county elective officer whose office has been vacated, and the person so appointed shall hold office until his or her successor is elected at the next general election, and has qualified: *Provided*, That in case of a vacancy occurring after the general election in a year that the office appears on the ballot and before the start of the next term, the term of the successor who is of the same party as the incumbent may commence once he or she has qualified and shall continue through the term for which he or she was elected: *Provided*, That in case of a vacancy occurring in the office of joint senator, or joint representative, the vacancy shall be filled from a list of three nominees selected by the state central committee, by appointment by the joint action of the boards of county legislative authorities of the counties composing the joint senatorial or joint representative district, the person appointed to fill the vacancy must be from the same legislative district and of the same political party as the legislator whose office has been vacated, and in case a majority of the members of the county legislative authority do not agree upon the appointment within sixty days after the vacancy occurs, the governor shall within thirty days thereafter, and from the list of nominees provided for herein, appoint a person who shall be from the same legislative district and of the same political party as the legislator whose office has been vacated. [AMENDMENT 96, 2003 House Joint Resolution No. 4206, p 2819. Approved November 4, 2003.]

*Governmental continuity during emergency periods: Art. 2 Section 42.*

*Vacancies in county, etc., offices, how filled: Art. 11 Section 6.*

**Amendment 52, part (1967) — Art. 2 Section 15 VACANCIES IN LEGISLATURE AND IN PARTISAN COUNTY ELECTIVE OFFICE** — *Such vacancies as may occur in either house of the legislature or in any partisan county elective office shall be filled by appointment by the board of county commissioners of the county in which the vacancy occurs: Provided, That the person appointed to fill the vacancy must be from the same legislative district, county or county commissioner district and the same political party as the legislator or partisan county elective officer whose office has been vacated, and shall be one of three persons who shall be nominated by the county central committee of that party, and in case a majority of said county commissioners do not agree upon the appointment within sixty days after the vacancy occurs, the governor shall within thirty days thereafter, and from the list of nominees provided for herein, appoint a person who shall be from the same legislative district, county or county*

*commissioner district and of the same political party as the legislator or partisan county elective officer whose office has been vacated, and the person so appointed shall hold office until his successor is elected at the next general election, and shall have qualified: Provided, That in case of a vacancy occurring in the office of joint senator, or joint representative, the vacancy shall be filled from a list of three nominees selected by the state central committee, by appointment by the joint action of the boards of county commissioners of the counties composing the joint senatorial or joint representative district, the person appointed to fill the vacancy must be from the same legislative district and of the same political party as the legislator whose office has been vacated, and in case a majority of said county commissioners do not agree upon the appointment within sixty days after the vacancy occurs, the governor shall within thirty days thereafter, and from the list of nominees provided for herein, appoint a person who shall be from the same legislative district and of the same political party as the legislator whose office has been vacated. [AMENDMENT 52, part, 1967 Senate Joint Resolution No. 24, part; see 1969 p 2976. Approved November 5, 1968.]*

**Amendment 32 (1956) — Art. 2 Section 15 VACANCIES IN LEGISLATURE AND IN PARTISAN COUNTY ELECTIVE OFFICE** — *Such vacancies as may occur in either house of the legislature or in any partisan county elective office shall be filled by appointment by the board of county commissioners of the county in which the vacancy occurs: Provided, That the person appointed to fill the vacancy must be from the same legislative district and the same political party as the legislator whose office has been vacated, and shall be one of three persons who shall be nominated by the county central committee of that party, and the person so appointed shall hold office until his successor is elected at the next general election, and shall have qualified: Provided, That in case of a vacancy occurring in the office of joint senator, or joint representative, the vacancy shall be filled from a list of three nominees selected by the state central committee, by appointment by the joint action of the boards of county commissioners of the counties composing the joint senatorial or joint representative district, the person appointed to fill the vacancy must be from the same legislative district and of the same political party as the legislator whose office has been vacated, and in case a majority of said county commissioners do not agree upon the appointment within sixty days after the vacancy occurs, the governor shall within thirty days thereafter, and from the list of nominees provided for herein, appoint a person who shall be from the same legislative district and of the same political party as the legislator whose office has been vacated. [AMENDMENT 32, 1955 Senate Joint Resolution No. 14, p 1862. Approved November 6, 1956.]*

**Amendment 13 (1930) — Art. 2 Section 15 VACANCIES IN LEGISLATURE** — *Such vacancies as may occur in either house of the legislature shall be filled by appointment by the board of county*

*commissioners of the county in which the vacancy occurs, and the person so appointed shall hold office until his successor is elected at the next general election, and shall have qualified: Provided, That in case of a vacancy occurring in the office of joint senator, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the joint action of the boards of county commissioners of the counties composing the joint senatorial district. [AMENDMENT 13, 1929 p 690. Approved November, 1930.]*

**Original text — Art. 2 Section 15 WRITS OF ELECTION TO FILL VACANCIES** — *The governor shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies as may occur in either house of the legislature.*

**SECTION 16 PRIVILEGES FROM ARREST.** Members of the legislature shall be privileged from arrest in all cases except treason, felony and breach of the peace; they shall not be subject to any civil process during the session of the legislature, nor for fifteen days next before the commencement of each session.

**SECTION 17 FREEDOM OF DEBATE.** No member of the legislature shall be liable in any civil action or criminal prosecution whatever, for words spoken in debate.

**SECTION 18 STYLE OF LAWS.** The style of the laws of the state shall be: “Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington.” And no laws shall be enacted except by bill.

**SECTION 19 BILL TO CONTAIN ONE SUBJECT.** No bill shall embrace more than one subject, and that shall be expressed in the title.

**SECTION 20 ORIGIN AND AMENDMENT OF BILLS.** Any bill may originate in either house of the legislature, and a bill passed by one house may be amended in the other.

**SECTION 21 YEAS AND NAYS.** The yeas and nays of the members of either house shall be entered on the journal, on the demand of one-sixth of the members present.

**SECTION 22 PASSAGE OF BILLS.** No bill shall become a law unless on its final passage the vote be taken by yeas and nays, the names of the members voting for and against the same be entered on the journal of each house, and a majority of the members elected to each house be recorded thereon as voting in its favor.

*Governmental continuity during emergency periods: Art. 2 Section 42.*

**SECTION 23 COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.** Each member of the legislature shall receive for his services five dollars for each day's attendance during the session, and ten cents for every mile he shall travel in going to and returning from the place of meeting of the legislature, on the most usual route.

*Compensation of legislators, elected state officials, and judges: Art. 28 Section 1, Art. 30.*

**SECTION 24 LOTTERIES AND DIVORCE.** The legislature shall never grant any divorce. Lotteries shall be prohibited except as specifically authorized upon the affirmative vote of sixty percent of the members of each house of the legislature or, notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, by referendum or initiative approved by a sixty percent affirmative vote of the electors voting thereon. [AMENDMENT 56, 1971 Senate Joint Resolution No. 5, p 1828. Approved November 7, 1972.]

**Original text — Art. 2 Section 24 LOTTERIES AND DIVORCE —**  
*The legislature shall never authorize any lottery or grant any divorce.*

**SECTION 25 EXTRA COMPENSATION PROHIBITED.** The legislature shall never grant any extra compensation to any public officer, agent, employee, servant, or contractor, after the services shall have been rendered, or the contract entered into, nor shall the compensation of any public officer be increased or diminished during his term of office. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to prevent increases in pensions after such pensions shall have been granted. [AMENDMENT 35, 1957 Senate Joint Resolution No. 18, p 1301. Approved November 4, 1958.]

*Compensation of legislators, elected state officials, and judges: Art. 28 Section 1.*

*Increase during term of certain officers, authorized: Art. 30 Section 1.*

*Increase or diminution of compensation during term of office prohibited.*

*county, city, town or municipal officers: Art. 11 Section 8.*

*judicial officers: Art. 4 Section 13.*

*state officers: Art. 3 Section 25.*

**Original text — Art. 2 Section 25 EXTRA COMPENSATION, PROHIBITED —**  
*The legislature shall never grant any extra compensation to any public officer, agent, servant, or contractor, after the services shall have been rendered, or the contract entered into, nor shall the compensation of any public officer be increased or diminished during his term of office.*

**SECTION 26 SUITS AGAINST THE STATE.** The legislature shall direct by law, in what manner, and in what courts, suits may be brought against the state.

**SECTION 27 ELECTIONS — VIVA VOCE VOTE.** In all elections by the legislature the members shall vote viva voce, and their votes shall be entered on the journal.

**SECTION 28 SPECIAL LEGISLATION.** The legislature is prohibited from enacting any private or special laws in the following cases:

1. For changing the names of persons, or constituting one person the heir at law of another.

2. For laying out, opening or altering highways, except in cases of state roads extending into more than one county, and military roads to aid in the construction of which lands shall have been or may be granted by congress.

3. For authorizing persons to keep ferries wholly within this state.

4. For authorizing the sale or mortgage of real or personal property of minors, or others under disability.

5. For assessment or collection of taxes, or for extending the time for collection thereof.

6. For granting corporate powers or privileges.

7. For authorizing the apportionment of any part of the school fund.

8. For incorporating any town or village or to amend the charter thereof.

9. From giving effect to invalid deeds, wills or other instruments.

10. Releasing or extinguishing in whole or in part, the indebtedness, liability or other obligation, of any person, or corporation to this state, or to any municipal corporation therein.

11. Declaring any person of age or authorizing any minor to sell, lease, or encumber his or her property.

12. Legalizing, except as against the state, the unauthorized or invalid act of any officer.

13. Regulating the rates of interest on money.

14. Remitting fines, penalties or forfeitures.

15. Providing for the management of common schools.

16. Authorizing the adoption of children.

17. For limitation of civil or criminal actions.

18. Changing county lines, locating or changing county seats, provided, this shall not be construed to apply to the creation of new counties.

*Corporations for municipal purposes shall not be created by special laws:  
Art. 11 Section 10.*

**SECTION 29 CONVICT LABOR.** The labor of inmates of this state shall not be let out by contract to any person, copartnership, company, or corporation, except as provided by statute, and the legislature shall by law provide for the working of inmates for the benefit of the state, including the working of inmates in state-run inmate labor programs. Inmate labor programs provided by statute that are operated and managed, in total or in part, by any profit or nonprofit entities shall be operated so that the programs do not unfairly compete with Washington businesses as determined by law. [AMENDMENT 100, 2007 Senate Joint Resolution No. 8212, p 3143. Approved November 6, 2007.]

**Original text — Art. 2 Section 29 CONVICT LABOR** — *After the first day of January eighteen hundred and ninety the labor of convicts of this state shall not be let out by contract to any person, copartnership, company or corporation, and the legislature shall by law provide for the working of convicts for the benefit of the state.*

**SECTION 30 BRIBERY OR CORRUPT SOLICITATION.**

The offense of corrupt solicitation of members of the legislature, or of public officers of the state or any municipal division thereof, and any occupation or practice of solicitation of such members or officers to influence their official action, shall be defined by law, and shall be punished by fine and imprisonment. Any person may be compelled to testify in any lawful investigation or judicial proceeding against any person who may be charged with having committed the offense of bribery or corrupt solicitation, or practice of solicitation, and shall not be permitted to withhold his testimony on the ground that it may criminate himself or subject him to public infamy, but such testimony shall not afterwards be used against him in any judicial proceeding - except for perjury in giving such testimony - and any person convicted of either of the offenses aforesaid, shall as part of the punishment therefor, be disqualified from ever holding any position of honor, trust or profit in this state. A member who has a private interest in any bill or measure pro-

posed or pending before the legislature, shall disclose the fact to the house of which he is a member, and shall not vote thereon.

**SECTION 31 LAWS, WHEN TO TAKE EFFECT.** [This section stricken by *AMENDMENT 7*, 1911 House Bill No. 153, p 136. Approved November, 1912.]

**Original text — Art. 2 Section 31 LAWS, WHEN TO TAKE EFFECT** — *No law, except appropriation bills, shall take effect until ninety days after the adjournment of the session at which it was enacted, unless in case of an emergency (which emergency must be expressed in the preamble or in the body of the act) the legislature shall otherwise direct by a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house; said vote to be taken by yeas and nays and entered on the journals.*

*Effective dates of laws: Art. 2 Sections 1 and 41.*

**SECTION 32 LAWS, HOW SIGNED.** No bill shall become a law until the same shall have been signed by the presiding officer of each of the two houses in open session, and under such rules as the legislature shall prescribe.

**SECTION 33 ALIEN OWNERSHIP.** [Repealed by *AMENDMENT 42*, 1965 ex.s. Senate Joint Resolution No. 20, p 2816. Approved November 8, 1966.]

**Amendment 29 (1954) — Art. 2 Section 33 ALIEN OWNERSHIP—***The ownership of lands by aliens, other than those who in good faith have declared their intention to become citizens of the United States, is prohibited in this state, except where acquired by inheritance, under mortgage or in good faith in the ordinary course of justice in the collection of debts; and all conveyances of lands hereafter made to any alien directly, or in trust for such alien, shall be void: Provided, That the provisions of this section shall not apply to lands containing valuable deposits of minerals, metals, iron, coal, or fire clay, and the necessary land for mills and machinery to be used in the development thereof and the manufacture of the products therefrom: And provided further, That the provisions of this section shall not apply to the citizens of such of the Provinces of the Dominion of Canada as do not expressly or by implication prohibit ownership of provincial lands by citizens of this state.* [AMENDMENT 29, 1953 House Joint Resolution No. 16, p 853. Approved November 2, 1954.]

**Amendment 24 (1950) — Art. 2 Section 33 ALIEN OWNERSHIP—***The ownership of lands by aliens, other than those who in good faith have declared their intention to become citizens of the United States, is prohibited in this state, except where acquired by inheritance, under mortgage or in good faith in the ordinary course of justice in the collection of debts; and*

*all conveyances of lands hereafter made to any alien directly, or in trust for such alien, shall be void: Provided, That the provisions of this section shall not apply to lands containing valuable deposits of minerals, metals, iron, coal, or fire clay, and the necessary land for mills and machinery to be used in the development thereof and the manufacture of the products therefrom: And provided further, That the provisions of this section shall not apply to the citizens of such of the Provinces of the Dominion of Canada as do not expressly or by implication prohibit ownership of provincial lands by citizens of this state. Every corporation, the majority of the capital stock of which is owned by aliens, shall be considered an alien for the purposes of this prohibition. [AMENDMENT 24, 1949 Senate Joint Resolution No. 9, p 999. Approved November, 1950.]*

**Original text — Art. 2 Section 33 OWNERSHIP OF LANDS BY ALIENS, PROHIBITED — Exceptions —** *The ownership of lands by aliens, other than those who in good faith have declared their intention to become citizens of the United States, is prohibited in this state, except where acquired by inheritance, under mortgage or in good faith in the ordinary course of justice in the collection of debts; and all conveyances of lands hereafter made to any alien directly or in trust for such alien shall be void: Provided, That the provisions of this section shall not apply to lands containing valuable deposits of minerals, metals, iron, coal, or fire-clay, and the necessary land for mills and machinery to be used in the development thereof and the manufacture of the products therefrom. Every corporation, the majority of the capital stock of which is owned by aliens, shall be considered on alien for the purposes of this prohibition.*

**SECTION 34 BUREAU OF STATISTICS, AGRICULTURE AND IMMIGRATION.** There shall be established in the office of the secretary of state, a bureau of statistics, agriculture and immigration, under such regulations as the legislature may provide.

**SECTION 35 PROTECTION OF EMPLOYEES.** The legislature shall pass necessary laws for the protection of persons working in mines, factories and other employments dangerous to life or deleterious to health; and fix pains and penalties for the enforcement of the same.

**SECTION 36 WHEN BILLS MUST BE INTRODUCED.** No bill shall be considered in either house unless the time of its introduction shall have been at least ten days before the final adjournment of the legislature, unless the legislature shall otherwise direct by a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, said vote to be taken by yeas and nays and entered upon the journal, or unless the same be at a special session.



**SECTION 37 REVISION OR AMENDMENT.** No act shall ever be revised or amended by mere reference to its title, but the act revised or the section amended shall be set forth at full length.

**SECTION 38 LIMITATION ON AMENDMENTS.** No amendment to any bill shall be allowed which shall change the scope and object of the bill.

**SECTION 39 FREE TRANSPORTATION TO PUBLIC OFFICER PROHIBITED.** It shall not be lawful for any person holding public office in this state to accept or use a pass or to purchase transportation from any railroad or other corporation, other than as the same may be purchased by the general public, and the legislature shall pass laws to enforce this provision.

**SECTION 40 HIGHWAY FUNDS.** All fees collected by the State of Washington as license fees for motor vehicles and all excise taxes collected by the State of Washington on the sale, distribution or use of motor vehicle fuel and all other state revenue intended to be used for highway purposes, shall be paid into the state treasury and placed in a special fund to be used exclusively for highway purposes. Such highway purposes shall be construed to include the following:

(a) The necessary operating, engineering and legal expenses connected with the administration of public highways, county roads and city streets;

(b) The construction, reconstruction, maintenance, repair, and betterment of public highways, county roads, bridges and city streets; including the cost and expense of (1) acquisition of rights-of-way, (2) installing, maintaining and operating traffic signs and signal lights, (3) policing by the state of public highways, (4) operation of movable span bridges, (5) operation of ferries which are a part of any public highway, county road, or city street;

(c) The payment or refunding of any obligation of the State of Washington, or any political subdivision thereof, for which any of the revenues described in section 1 may have been legally pledged prior to the effective date of this act;

(d) Refunds authorized by law for taxes paid on motor vehicle fuels;

(e) The cost of collection of any revenues described in this section:

*Provided*, That this section shall not be construed to include revenue from general or special taxes or excises not levied primarily for highway purposes, or apply to vehicle operator's license fees or any excise tax imposed on motor vehicles or the use thereof in lieu of a property tax thereon, or fees for certificates of ownership of motor vehicles. [AMENDMENT 18, 1943 House Joint Resolution No. 4, p 938. Approved November, 1944.]

**SECTION 41 LAWS, EFFECTIVE DATE, INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM AMENDMENT OR REPEAL.** No act, law, or bill subject to referendum shall take effect until ninety days after the adjournment of the session at which it was enacted. No act, law or bill approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon shall be amended or repealed by the legislature within a period of two years following such enactment: *Provided*, That any such act, law or bill may be amended within two years after such enactment at any regular or special session of the legislature by a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house with full compliance with section 12, Article III, of the Washington Constitution, and no amendatory law adopted in accordance with this provision shall be subject to referendum. But such enactment may be amended or repealed at any general regular or special election by direct vote of the people thereon. These provisions supersede the provisions of subsection (c) of section 1 of this article as amended by the seventh amendment to the Constitution of this state. [AMENDMENT 26, 1951 Substitute Senate Joint Resolution No. 7, p 959. Approved November 4, 1952.]

**Reviser's note:** (1) In third sentence, comma between "general" and "regular" omitted in conformity with enrolled resolution.

(2) Subsection (c) of section 1 of this article was amended by Amendment 72, approved November 3, 1981.

**SECTION 42 GOVERNMENTAL CONTINUITY DURING EMERGENCY PERIODS.** The legislature, in order to insure continuity of state and local governmental operations in periods of emergency resulting from enemy attack, shall have the power and the duty, immediately upon and after adoption of this amendment, to enact legislation providing for prompt and temporary succession to the powers and duties of public offices of whatever nature and whether filled by election or appointment, the incumbents and legal successors of which may become unavailable for carrying on

the powers and duties of such offices; the legislature shall likewise enact such other measures as may be necessary and proper for insuring the continuity of governmental operations during such emergencies. Legislation enacted under the powers conferred by this amendment shall in all respects conform to the remainder of the Constitution: *Provided*, That if, in the judgment of the legislature at the time of disaster, conformance to the provisions of the Constitution would be impracticable or would admit of undue delay, such legislation may depart during the period of emergency caused by enemy attack only, from the following sections of the Constitution:

Article 14, Sections 1 and 2, Seat of Government;

Article 2, Sections 8, 15 (Amendments 13 and 32), and 22, Membership, Quorum of Legislature and Passage of Bills;

Article 3, Section 10 (Amendment 6), Succession to Governorship: *Provided*, That the legislature shall not depart from Section 10, Article III, as amended by Amendment 6, of the state Constitution relating to the Governor's office so long as any successor therein named is available and capable of assuming the powers and duties of such office as therein prescribed;

Article 3, Section 13, Vacancies in State Offices;

Article 11, Section 6, Vacancies in County Offices;

Article 11, Section 2, Seat of County Government;

Article 3, Section 24, State Records. [AMENDMENT 39, 1961 House Joint Resolution No. 9, p 2758. Approved November, 1962.]

*Continuity of government act: Chapter 42.14 RCW.*

**SECTION 43 REDISTRICTING.** (1) In January of each year ending in one, a commission shall be established to provide for the redistricting of state legislative and congressional districts.

(2) The commission shall be composed of five members to be selected as follows: The legislative leader of the two largest political parties in each house of the legislature shall appoint one voting member to the commission by January 15th of each year ending in one. By January 31st of each year ending in one, the four appointed members, by an affirmative vote of at least three, shall appoint the remaining member. The fifth member of the commission, who shall be nonvoting, shall act as its chairperson. If any appointing authority fails to make the required appointment by the date established by this subsection, within five days after that date the supreme court shall make the required appointment.

(3) No elected official and no person elected to legislative district, county, or state political party office may serve on the commission. A commission member shall not have been an elected official and shall not have been an elected legislative district, county, or state political party officer within two years of his or her appointment to the commission. The provisions of this subsection do not apply to the office of precinct committee person.

(4) The legislature shall enact laws providing for the implementation of this section, to include additional qualifications for commissioners and additional standards to govern the commission. The legislature shall appropriate funds to enable the commission to carry out its duties.

(5) Each district shall contain a population, excluding non-resident military personnel, as nearly equal as practicable to the population of any other district. To the extent reasonable, each district shall contain contiguous territory, shall be compact and convenient, and shall be separated from adjoining districts by natural geographic barriers, artificial barriers, or political subdivision boundaries. The commission's plan shall not provide for a number of legislative districts different than that established by the legislature. The commission's plan shall not be drawn purposely to favor or discriminate against any political party or group.

(6) The commission shall complete redistricting as soon as possible following the federal decennial census, but no later than November 15th of each year ending in one. At least three of the voting members shall approve such a redistricting plan. If three of the voting members of the commission fail to approve a plan within the time limitations provided in this subsection, the supreme court shall adopt a plan by April 30th of the year ending in two in conformance with the standards set forth in subsection (5) of this section.

(7) The legislature may amend the redistricting plan but must do so by a two-thirds vote of the legislators elected or appointed to each house of the legislature. Any amendment must have passed both houses by the end of the thirtieth day of the first session convened after the commission has submitted its plan to the legislature. After that day, the plan, with any legislative amendments, constitutes the state districting law.

(8) The legislature shall enact laws providing for the reconvening of a commission for the purpose of modifying a districting law

adopted under this section. Such reconvening requires a two-thirds vote of the legislators elected or appointed to each house of the legislature. The commission shall conform to the standards prescribed under subsection (5) of this section and any other standards or procedures that the legislature may provide by law. At least three of the voting members shall approve such a modification. Any modification adopted by the commission may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the legislators elected and appointed to each house of the legislature. The state districting law shall include the modifications with amendments, if any.

(9) The legislature shall prescribe by law the terms of commission members and the method of filling vacancies on the commission.

(10) The supreme court has original jurisdiction to hear and decide all cases involving congressional and legislative redistricting.

(11) Legislative and congressional districts may not be changed or established except pursuant to this section. A districting plan and any legislative amendments to the plan are not subject to Article III, section 12 of this Constitution. [AMENDMENT 108, 2016 Senate Joint Resolution No. 8210. Approved November 8, 2016.]

**Amendment 74 (1983) — Art. 2 Section 43 REDISTRICTING** — (1) *In January of each year ending in one, a commission shall be established to provide for the redistricting of state legislative and congressional districts.*

(2) *The commission shall be composed of five members to be selected as follows: The legislative leader of the two largest political parties in each house of the legislature shall appoint one voting member to the commission by January 15th of each year ending in one. By January 31st of each year ending in one, the four appointed members, by an affirmative vote of at least three, shall appoint the remaining member. The fifth member of the commission, who shall be nonvoting, shall act as its chairperson. If any appointing authority fails to make the required appointment by the date established by this subsection, within five days after that date the supreme court shall make the required appointment.*

(3) *No elected official and no person elected to legislative district, county, or state political party office may serve on the commission. A commission member shall not have been an elected official and shall not have been an elected legislative district, county, or state political party officer within two years of his or her*

*appointment to the commission. The provisions of this subsection do not apply to the office of precinct committee person.*

*(4) The legislature shall enact laws providing for the implementation of this section, to include additional qualifications for commissioners and additional standards to govern the commission. The legislature shall appropriate funds to enable the commission to carry out its duties.*

*(5) Each district shall contain a population, excluding non-resident military personnel, as nearly equal as practicable to the population of any other district. To the extent reasonable, each district shall contain contiguous territory, shall be compact and convenient, and shall be separated from adjoining districts by natural geographic barriers, artificial barriers, or political subdivision boundaries. The commission's plan shall not provide for a number of legislative districts different than that established by the legislature. The commission's plan shall not be drawn purposely to favor or discriminate against any political party or group.*

*(6) The commission shall complete redistricting as soon as possible following the federal decennial census, but no later than January 1st of each year ending in two. At least three of the voting members shall approve such a redistricting plan. If three of the voting members of the commission fail to approve a plan within the time limitations provided in this subsection, the supreme court shall adopt a plan by April 30th of the year ending in two in conformance with the standards set forth in subsection (5) of this section.*

*(7) The legislature may amend the redistricting plan but must do so by a two-thirds vote of the legislators elected or appointed to each house of the legislature. Any amendment must have passed both houses by the end of the thirtieth day of the first session convened after the commission has submitted its plan to the legislature. After that day, the plan, with any legislative amendments, constitutes the state districting law.*

*(8) The legislature shall enact laws providing for the reconvening of a commission for the purpose of modifying a districting law adopted under this section. Such reconvening requires a two-thirds vote of the legislators elected or appointed to each house of the legislature. The commission shall conform to the standards prescribed under subsection (5) of this section and any other standards or procedures that the legislature may provide by law.*

*At least three of the voting members shall approve such a modification. Any modification adopted by the commission may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the legislators elected and appointed to each house of the legislature. The state districting law shall include the modifications with amendments, if any.*

*(9) The legislature shall prescribe by law the terms of commission members and the method of filling vacancies on the commission.*

*(10) The supreme court has original jurisdiction to hear and decide all cases involving congressional and legislative redistricting.*

*(11) Legislative and congressional districts may not be changed or established except pursuant to this section. A districting plan and any legislative amendments to the plan are not subject to Article III, section 12 of this Constitution. [AMENDMENT 74, 1983 Substitute Senate Joint Resolution No. 103, p 2202. Approved November 8, 1983.]*

### ARTICLE III THE EXECUTIVE

**SECTION 1 EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.** The executive department shall consist of a governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, treasurer, auditor, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction, and a commissioner of public lands, who shall be severally chosen by the qualified electors of the state at the same time and place of voting as for the members of the legislature.

**SECTION 2 GOVERNOR, TERM OF OFFICE.** The supreme executive power of this state shall be vested in a governor, who shall hold his office for a term of four years, and until his successor is elected and qualified.

**SECTION 3 OTHER EXECUTIVE OFFICERS, TERMS OF OFFICE.** The lieutenant governor, secretary of state, treasurer, auditor, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction, and commissioner of public lands, shall hold their offices for four years respectively, and until their successors are elected and qualified.

**SECTION 4 RETURNS OF ELECTIONS, CANVASS, ETC.** The returns of every election for the officers named in the

first section of this article shall be sealed up and transmitted to the seat of government by the returning officers, directed to the secretary of state, who shall deliver the same to the speaker of the house of representatives at the first meeting of the house thereafter, who shall open, publish and declare the result thereof in the presence of a majority of the members of both houses. The person having the highest number of votes shall be declared duly elected, and a certificate thereof shall be given to such person, signed by the presiding officers of both houses; but if any two or more shall be highest and equal in votes for the same office, one of them shall be chosen by the joint vote of both houses. Contested elections for such officers shall be decided by the legislature in such manner as shall be determined by law. The terms of all officers named in section one of this article shall commence on the second Monday in January after their election until otherwise provided by law.

**SECTION 5 GENERAL DUTIES OF GOVERNOR.** The governor may require information in writing from the officers of the state upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices, and shall see that the laws are faithfully executed.

**SECTION 6 MESSAGES.** He shall communicate at every session by message to the legislature the condition of the affairs of the state, and recommend such measures as he shall deem expedient for their action.

**SECTION 7 EXTRA LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS.** He may, on extraordinary occasions, convene the legislature by proclamation, in which shall be stated the purposes for which the legislature is convened.

*Extraordinary sessions to reconsider vetoes: Art. 3 Section 12.*

**SECTION 8 COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.** He shall be commander-in-chief of the military in the state except when they shall be called into the service of the United States.

**SECTION 9 PARDONING POWER.** The pardoning power shall be vested in the governor under such regulations and restrictions as may be prescribed by law.

**SECTION 10 VACANCY IN OFFICE OF GOVERNOR.** In case of the removal, resignation, death or disability of the governor, the duties of the office shall devolve upon the lieutenant gov-



error; and in case of a vacancy in both the offices of governor and lieutenant governor, the duties of the governor shall devolve upon the secretary of state. In addition to the line of succession to the office and duties of governor as hereinabove indicated, if the necessity shall arise, in order to fill the vacancy in the office of governor, the following state officers shall succeed to the duties of governor and in the order named, viz.: Treasurer, auditor, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction and commissioner of public lands. In case of the death, disability, failure or refusal of the person regularly elected to the office of governor to qualify at the time provided by law, the duties of the office shall devolve upon the person regularly elected to and qualified for the office of lieutenant governor, who shall act as governor until the disability be removed, or a governor be elected; and in case of the death, disability, failure or refusal of both the governor and the lieutenant governor elect to qualify, the duties of the governor shall devolve upon the secretary of state; and in addition to the line of succession to the office and duties of governor as hereinabove indicated, if there shall be the failure or refusal of any officer named above to qualify, and if the necessity shall arise by reason thereof, then in that event in order to fill the vacancy in the office of governor, the following state officers shall succeed to the duties of governor in the order named, viz: Treasurer, auditor, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction and commissioner of public lands. Any person succeeding to the office of governor as in this section provided, shall perform the duties of such office only until the disability be removed, or a governor be elected and qualified; and if a vacancy occur more than thirty days before the next general election occurring within two years after the commencement of the term, a person shall be elected at such election to fill the office of governor for the remainder of the unexpired term. [AMENDMENT 6, 1909 p 642 Section 1. Approved November, 1910.]

*Governmental continuity during emergency periods: Art. 2 Section 42.*

**Original text — Art. 3 Section 10 VACANCY IN** — *In case of the removal, resignation, death, or disability of the governor, the duties of the office shall devolve upon the lieutenant governor, and in case of a vacancy in both the offices of governor and lieutenant governor, the duties of governor shall devolve upon the secretary of state, who shall act as governor until the disability be removed or a governor elected.*

**SECTION 11 REMISSION OF FINES AND FORFEITURES.** The governor shall have power to remit fines and forfeitures, under such regulations as may be prescribed by law, and shall report to the legislature at its next meeting each case of reprieve, commutation or pardon granted, and the reasons for granting the same, and also the names of all persons in whose favor remission of fines and forfeitures shall have been made, and the several amounts remitted and the reasons for the remission.

**SECTION 12 VETO POWERS.** Every act which shall have passed the legislature shall be, before it becomes a law, presented to the governor. If he approves, he shall sign it; but if not, he shall return it, with his objections, to that house in which it shall have originated, which house shall enter the objections at large upon the journal and proceed to reconsider. If, after such reconsideration, two-thirds of the members present shall agree to pass the bill it shall be sent, together with the objections, to the other house, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two-thirds of the members present, it shall become a law; but in all such cases the vote of both houses shall be determined by the yeas and nays, and the names of the members voting for or against the bill shall be entered upon the journal of each house respectively. If any bill shall not be returned by the governor within five days, Sundays excepted, after it shall be presented to him, it shall become a law without his signature, unless the general adjournment shall prevent its return, in which case it shall become a law unless the governor, within twenty days next after the adjournment, Sundays excepted, shall file such bill with his objections thereto, in the office of secretary of state, who shall lay the same before the legislature at its next session in like manner as if it had been returned by the governor: *Provided*, That within forty-five days next after the adjournment, Sundays excepted, the legislature may, upon petition by a two-thirds majority or more of the membership of each house, reconvene in extraordinary session, not to exceed five days duration, solely to reconsider any bills vetoed. If any bill presented to the governor contain several sections or appropriation items, he may object to one or more sections or appropriation items while approving other portions of the bill: *Provided*, That he may not object to less than an entire section, except that if the section contain one or more appropriation items he may object to any such appropriation item or items. In case of objection he shall append

to the bill, at the time of signing it, a statement of the section or sections, appropriation item or items to which he objects and the reasons therefor; and the section or sections, appropriation item or items so objected to shall not take effect unless passed over the governor's objection, as hereinbefore provided. The provisions of Article II, section 12 insofar as they are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed. [AMENDMENT 62, 1974 Senate Joint Resolution No. 140, p 806. Approved November 5, 1974.]

*Veto power withheld from initiated and referred measures: Art. 2 Section 1.*

**Original text — Art. 3 Section 12 VETO POWER** — *Every act which shall have passed the legislature shall be, before it becomes a law, presented to the governor. If he approves, he shall sign it; but if not, he shall return it, with his objections, to that house in which it shall have originated, which house shall enter the objections at large upon the journal and proceed to reconsider. If, after such reconsideration, two-thirds of the members present shall agree to pass the bill it shall be sent, together with the objections, to the other house, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two-thirds of the members present, it shall become a law; but in all cases the vote of both houses shall be determined by the yeas and nays, and the names of the members voting for or against the bill shall be entered upon the journal of each house respectively. If any bill shall not be returned by the governor within five days, Sundays excepted, after it shall be presented to him, it shall become a law without his signature, unless the general adjournment shall prevent its return, in which case it shall become a law unless the governor, within ten days next after the adjournment, Sundays excepted, shall file such bill with his objections thereto, in the office of secretary of state, who shall lay the same before the legislature at its next session in like manner as if it had been returned by the governor. If any bill presented to the governor contain several sections or items, he may object to one or more sections or items while approving other portions of the bill. In such case he shall append to the bill, at the time of signing it, a statement of the section, or sections; item or items to which he objects and the reasons therefor, and the section or sections, item or items so objected to, shall not take effect unless passed over the governor's objection, as hereinbefore provided.*

*Veto power does not extend to initiated or referred measures: Art. 2 Section 1(d).*

**SECTION 13 VACANCY IN APPOINTIVE OFFICE.** When, during a recess of the legislature, a vacancy shall happen in any office, the appointment to which is vested in the legislature, or when at any time a vacancy shall have occurred in any other state office, for the filling of which vacancy no provision is made else-

where in this Constitution, the governor shall fill such vacancy by appointment, which shall expire when a successor shall have been elected and qualified.

*Appointment of governing boards of educational, reformatory and penal institutions: Art. 13 Section 1.*

*Governmental continuity during emergency periods: Art. 2 Section 42.*

**SECTION 14 SALARY.** The governor shall receive an annual salary of four thousand dollars, which may be increased by law, but shall never exceed six thousand dollars per annum.

*Compensation of legislators, elected state officials, and judges: Art. 28 Section 1, Art. 30.*

**SECTION 15 COMMISSIONS, HOW ISSUED.** All commissions shall issue in the name of the state, shall be signed by the governor, sealed with the seal of the state, and attested by the secretary of state.

**SECTION 16 LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, DUTIES AND SALARY.** The lieutenant governor shall be presiding officer of the state senate, and shall discharge such other duties as may be prescribed by law. He shall receive an annual salary of one thousand dollars, which may be increased by the legislature, but shall never exceed three thousand dollars per annum.

*Compensation of legislators, elected state officials, and judges: Art. 28 Section 1, Art. 30.*

**SECTION 17 SECRETARY OF STATE, DUTIES AND SALARY.** The secretary of state shall keep a record of the official acts of the legislature, and executive department of the state, and shall, when required, lay the same, and all matters relative thereto, before either branch of the legislature, and shall perform such other duties as shall be assigned him by law. He shall receive an annual salary of twenty-five hundred dollars, which may be increased by the legislature, but shall never exceed three thousand dollars per annum.

*Compensation of legislators, elected state officials, and judges: Art. 28 Section 1, Art. 30.*

**SECTION 18 SEAL.** There shall be a seal of the state kept by the secretary of state for official purposes, which shall be called, "The Seal of the State of Washington."

*Design of the Seal: Art. 18 Section 1.*

*State seal: RCW 1.20.080.*

**SECTION 19 STATE TREASURER, DUTIES AND SALARY.** The treasurer shall perform such duties as shall be prescribed by law. He shall receive an annual salary of two thousand dollars, which may be increased by the legislature, but shall never exceed four thousand dollars per annum.

*Compensation of legislators, elected state officials, and judges: Art. 28 Section 1, Art. 30.*

**SECTION 20 STATE AUDITOR, DUTIES AND SALARY.** The auditor shall be auditor of public accounts, and shall have such powers and perform such duties in connection therewith as may be prescribed by law. He shall receive an annual salary of two thousand dollars, which may be increased by the legislature, but shall never exceed three thousand dollars per annum.

*Compensation of legislators, elected state officials, and judges: Art. 28 Section 1, Art. 30.*

**SECTION 21 ATTORNEY GENERAL, DUTIES AND SALARY.** The attorney general shall be the legal adviser of the state officers, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law. He shall receive an annual salary of two thousand dollars, which may be increased by the legislature, but shall never exceed thirty-five hundred dollars per annum.

*Compensation of legislators, elected state officials, and judges: Art. 28 Section 1, Art. 30.*

**SECTION 22 SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, DUTIES AND SALARY.** The superintendent of public instruction shall have supervision over all matters pertaining to public schools, and shall perform such specific duties as may be prescribed by law. He shall receive an annual salary of twenty-five hundred dollars, which may be increased by law, but shall never exceed four thousand dollars per annum.

*Compensation of legislators, elected state officials, and judges: Art. 28 Section 1, Art. 30.*

**SECTION 23 COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS COMPENSATION.** The commissioner of public lands shall perform such duties and receive such compensation as the legislature may direct.

**SECTION 24 RECORDS, WHERE KEPT, ETC.** The governor, secretary of state, treasurer, auditor, superintendent of public instruction, commissioner of public lands and attorney general shall severally keep the public records, books and papers relating to their respective offices, at the seat of government, at which place also the governor, secretary of state, treasurer and auditor shall reside.

*Governmental continuity during emergency periods: Art. 2 Section 42.*

**SECTION 25 QUALIFICATIONS, COMPENSATION, OFFICES WHICH MAY BE ABOLISHED.** No person, except a citizen of the United States and a qualified elector of this state, shall be eligible to hold any state office. The compensation for state officers shall not be increased or diminished during the term for which they shall have been elected. The legislature may in its discretion abolish the offices of the lieutenant governor, auditor and commissioner of public lands. [AMENDMENT 31, 1955 Senate Joint Resolution No. 6, p 1861. Approved November 6, 1956.]

*Authorizing compensation increase during term: Art. 30 Section 1.*

*Increase or diminution of compensation during term of office prohibited.*  
*county, city, town or municipal officers: Art. 11 Section 8.*  
*judicial officers: Art. 4 Section 13.*  
*public officers: Art. 2 Section 25.*

**Original text — Art. 3 Section 25 QUALIFICATIONS** — *No person, except a citizen of the United States and a qualified elector of this state, shall be eligible to hold any state office, and the state treasurer shall be ineligible for the term succeeding that for which he was elected. The compensation for state officers shall not be increased or diminished during the term for which they shall have been elected. The legislature may in its discretion abolish the offices of the lieutenant governor, auditor and commissioner of public lands.*

## ARTICLE IV THE JUDICIARY

**SECTION 1 JUDICIAL POWER, WHERE VESTED.** The judicial power of the state shall be vested in a supreme court, superior courts, justices of the peace, and such inferior courts as the legislature may provide.

*Court of appeals: Art. 4 Section 30.*

**SECTION 2 SUPREME COURT.** The supreme court shall consist of five judges, a majority of whom shall be necessary to form a quorum, and pronounce a decision. The said court shall always be open for the transaction of business except on nonjudicial days. In the determination of causes all decisions of the court shall be given in writing and the grounds of the decision shall be stated. The legislature may increase the number of judges of the supreme court from time to time and may provide for separate departments of said court.

**SECTION 2(a) TEMPORARY PERFORMANCE OF JUDICIAL DUTIES.** When necessary for the prompt and orderly administration of justice a majority of the Supreme Court is empowered to authorize judges or retired judges of courts of record of this state, to perform, temporarily, judicial duties in the Supreme Court, and to authorize any superior court judge to perform judicial duties in any superior court of this state. [AMENDMENT 38, 1961 House Joint Resolution No. 6, p 2757. Approved November, 1962.]

**SECTION 3 ELECTION AND TERMS OF SUPREME COURT JUDGES.** The judges of the supreme court shall be elected by the qualified electors of the state at large at the general state election at the times and places at which state officers are elected, unless some other time be provided by the legislature. The first election of judges of the supreme court shall be at the election which shall be held upon the adoption of this Constitution and the judges elected thereat shall be classified by lot, so that two shall hold their office for the term of three years, two for the term of five years, and one for the term of seven years. The lot shall be drawn by the judges who shall for that purpose assemble at the seat of government, and they shall cause the result thereof to be certified to the secretary of state, and filed in his office. The supreme court shall select a chief justice from its own membership to serve for a four-year term at the pleasure of a majority of the court as prescribed by supreme court rule. The chief justice shall preside at all sessions of the supreme court. In case of the absence of the chief justice, the majority of the remaining court shall select one of their members to serve as acting chief justice. After the first election the terms of judges elected shall be six years from and after the second Monday in January next succeeding their election. If a vacancy

occur in the office of a judge of the supreme court the governor shall only appoint a person to ensure the number of judges as specified by the legislature, to hold the office until the election and qualification of a judge to fill the vacancy, which election shall take place at the next succeeding general election, and the judge so elected shall hold the office for the remainder of the unexpired term. The term of office of the judges of the supreme court, first elected, shall commence as soon as the state shall have been admitted into the Union, and continue for the term herein provided, and until their successors are elected and qualified. The sessions of the supreme court shall be held at the seat of government until otherwise provided by law. [AMENDMENT 89, 1995 Substitute Senate Joint Resolution No. 8210, p 2905. Approved November 7, 1995.]

**Original text — Art. 4 Section 3 ELECTION AND TERMS OF SUPREME COURT JUDGES** — *The judges of the supreme court shall be elected by the qualified electors of the state at large at the general state election at the times and places at which state officers are elected, unless some other time be provided by the legislature. The first election of judges of the supreme court shall be at the election which shall be held upon the adoption of this Constitution and the judges elected thereat shall be classified by lot, so that two shall hold their office for the term of three years, two for the term of five years, and one for the term of seven years. The lot shall be drawn by the judges who shall for that purpose assemble at the seat of government, and they shall cause the result thereof to be certified to the secretary of state, and filed in his office. The judge having the shortest term to serve not holding his office by appointment or election to fill a vacancy, shall be the chief justice, and shall preside at all sessions of the supreme court, and in case there shall be two judges having in like manner the same short term, the other judges of the supreme court shall determine which of them shall be chief justice. In case of the absence of the chief justice, the judge having in like manner the shortest or next shortest term to serve shall preside. After the first election the terms of judges elected shall be six years from and after the second Monday in January next succeeding their election. If a vacancy occur in the office of a judge of the supreme court the governor shall appoint a person to hold the office until the election and qualification of a judge to fill the vacancy, which election shall take place at the next succeeding general election, and the judge so elected shall hold the office for the remainder of the unexpired term. The term of office of the judges of the supreme court, first elected, shall commence as soon as the state shall have been admitted into the Union, and continue for the term herein provided, and until their successors are elected and qualified. The sessions of the supreme court shall be held at the seat of government until otherwise provided by law.*



**SECTION 3(a) RETIREMENT OF SUPREME COURT AND SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES.** A judge of the supreme court or the superior court shall retire from judicial office at the end of the calendar year in which he attains the age of seventy-five years. The legislature may, from time to time, fix a lesser age for mandatory retirement, not earlier than the end of the calendar year in which any such judge attains the age of seventy years, as the legislature deems proper. This provision shall not affect the term to which any such judge shall have been elected or appointed prior to, or at the time of, approval and ratification of this provision. Notwithstanding the limitations of this section, the legislature may by general law authorize or require the retirement of judges for physical or mental disability, or any cause rendering judges incapable of performing their judicial duties. [AMENDMENT 25, 1951 House Joint Resolution No. 6, p 960. Approved November 4, 1952.]

**SECTION 4 JURISDICTION.** The supreme court shall have original jurisdiction in habeas corpus, and quo warranto and mandamus as to all state officers, and appellate jurisdiction in all actions and proceedings, excepting that its appellate jurisdiction shall not extend to civil actions at law for the recovery of money or personal property when the original amount in controversy, or the value of the property does not exceed the sum of two hundred dollars (\$200) unless the action involves the legality of a tax, impost, assessment, toll, municipal fine, or the validity of a statute. The supreme court shall also have power to issue writs of mandamus, review, prohibition, habeas corpus, certiorari and all other writs necessary and proper to the complete exercise of its appellate and revisory jurisdiction. Each of the judges shall have power to issue writs of habeas corpus to any part of the state upon petition by or on behalf of any person held in actual custody, and may make such writs returnable before himself, or before the supreme court, or before any superior court of the state or any judge thereof.

**SECTION 5 SUPERIOR COURT — ELECTION OF JUDGES, TERMS OF, ETC.** There shall be in each of the organized counties of this state a superior court for which at least one judge shall be elected by the qualified electors of the county at the general state election: **Provided,** That until otherwise directed by the legislature one judge only shall be elected for the counties of Spokane and Stevens; one judge for the county of Whitman;

one judge for the counties of Lincoln, Okanogan, Douglas and Adams; one judge for the counties of Walla Walla and Franklin; one judge for the counties of Columbia, Garfield and Asotin; one judge for the counties of Kittitas, Yakima and Klickitat; one judge for the counties of Clarke, Skamania, Pacific, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum; one judge for the counties of Thurston, Chehalis, Mason and Lewis; one judge for the county of Pierce; one judge for the county of King; one judge for the counties of Jefferson, Island, Kitsap, San Juan and Clallam; and one judge for the counties of Whatcom, Skagit and Snohomish. In any county where there shall be more than one superior judge, there may be as many sessions of the superior court at the same time as there are judges thereof, and whenever the governor shall direct a superior judge to hold court in any county other than that for which he has been elected, there may be as many sessions of the superior court in said county at the same time as there are judges therein or assigned to duty therein by the governor, and the business of the court shall be so distributed and assigned by law or in the absence of legislation therefor, by such rules and orders of court as shall best promote and secure the convenient and expeditious transaction thereof. The judgments, decrees, orders and proceedings of any session of the superior court held by any one or more of the judges of such court shall be equally effectual as if all the judges of said court presided at such session. The first superior judges elected under this Constitution shall hold their offices for the period of three years, and until their successors shall be elected and qualified, and thereafter the term of office of all superior judges in this state shall be for four years from the second Monday in January next succeeding their election and until their successors are elected and qualified. The first election of judges of the superior court shall be at the election held for the adoption of this Constitution. If a vacancy occurs in the office of judge of the superior court, the governor shall appoint a person to hold the office until the election and qualification of a judge to fill the vacancy, which election shall be at the next succeeding general election, and the judge so elected shall hold office for the remainder of the unexpired term.

*Supreme court may authorize superior court judge to perform judicial duties in any superior court: Art. 4 Section 2(a).*

## **SECTION 6 JURISDICTION OF SUPERIOR COURTS.**

Superior courts and district courts have concurrent jurisdiction

in cases in equity. The superior court shall have original jurisdiction in all cases at law which involve the title or possession of real property, or the legality of any tax, impost, assessment, toll, or municipal fine, and in all other cases in which the demand or the value of the property in controversy amounts to three thousand dollars or as otherwise determined by law, or a lesser sum in excess of the jurisdiction granted to justices of the peace and other inferior courts, and in all criminal cases amounting to felony, and in all cases of misdemeanor not otherwise provided for by law; of actions of forcible entry and detainer; of proceedings in insolvency; of actions to prevent or abate a nuisance; of all matters of probate, of divorce, and for annulment of marriage; and for such special cases and proceedings as are not otherwise provided for. The superior court shall also have original jurisdiction in all cases and of all proceedings in which jurisdiction shall not have been by law vested exclusively in some other court; and said court shall have the power of naturalization and to issue papers therefor. They shall have such appellate jurisdiction in cases arising in justices' and other inferior courts in their respective counties as may be prescribed by law. They shall always be open, except on nonjudicial days, and their process shall extend to all parts of the state. Said courts and their judges shall have power to issue writs of mandamus, quo warranto, review, certiorari, prohibition, and writs of habeas corpus, on petition by or on behalf of any person in actual custody in their respective counties. Injunctions and writs of prohibition and of habeas corpus may be issued and served on legal holidays and nonjudicial days. [AMENDMENT 87, 1993 House Joint Resolution No. 4201, p 3063. Approved November 2, 1993.]

**Amendment 65, part (1977) — Art. 4 Section 6 Jurisdiction of Superior Courts** — *The superior court shall have original jurisdiction in all cases in equity and in all cases at law which involve the title or possession of real property, or the legality of any tax, impost, assessment, toll, or municipal fine, and in all other cases in which the demand or the value of the property in controversy amounts to three thousand dollars or as otherwise determined by law, or a lesser sum in excess of the jurisdiction granted to justices of the peace and other inferior courts, and in all criminal cases amounting to felony, and in all cases of misdemeanor not otherwise provided for by law; of actions of forcible entry and detainer; of proceedings in insolvency; of actions to prevent or abate a nuisance; of all matters of probate, of divorce, and for annulment of marriage; and for such special cases and proceedings as are not otherwise provided for. The superior court*

*shall also have original jurisdiction in all cases and of all proceedings in which jurisdiction shall not have been by law vested exclusively in some other court; and said court shall have the power of naturalization and to issue papers therefor. They shall have such appellate jurisdiction in cases arising in justices' and other inferior courts in their respective counties as may be prescribed by law. They shall always be open, except on nonjudicial days, and their process shall extend to all parts of the state. Said courts and their judges shall have power to issue writs of mandamus, quo warranto, review, certiorari, prohibition, and writs of habeas corpus, on petition by or on behalf of any person in actual custody in their respective counties. Injunctions and writs of prohibition and of habeas corpus may be issued and served on legal holidays and nonjudicial days. [AMENDMENT 65, part, 1977 Senate Joint Resolution No. 113, p 1714. Approved November 8, 1977.]*

*Amendment 65 also amended Art. 4 Section 10.*

**Amendment 28, part (1952) — Art. 4 Section 6 JURISDICTION OF SUPERIOR COURTS** — *The superior court shall have original jurisdiction in all cases in equity and in all cases at law which involve the title or possession of real property, or the legality of any tax, impost, assessment, toll, or municipal fine, and in all other cases in which the demand or the value of the property in controversy amounts to one thousand dollars, or a lesser sum in excess of the jurisdiction granted to justices of the peace and other inferior courts, and in all criminal cases amounting to felony, and in all cases of misdemeanor not otherwise provided for by law; of actions of forcible entry and detainer; of proceedings in insolvency; of actions to prevent or abate a nuisance; of all matters of probate, of divorce, and for annulment of marriage; and for such special cases and proceedings as are not otherwise provided for. The superior court shall also have original jurisdiction in all cases and of all proceedings in which jurisdiction shall not have been by law vested exclusively in some other court; and said court shall have the power of naturalization and to issue papers therefor. They shall have such appellate jurisdiction in cases arising in justices' and other inferior courts in their respective counties as may be prescribed by law. They shall always be open, except on nonjudicial days, and their process shall extend to all parts of the state. Said courts and their judges shall have power to issue writs of mandamus, quo warranto, review, certiorari, prohibition, and writs of habeas corpus, on petition by or on behalf of any person in actual custody in their respective counties. Injunctions and writs of prohibition and of habeas corpus may be issued and served on legal holidays and nonjudicial days. [AMENDMENT 28, part, 1951 Substitute House Joint Resolution No. 13, p 962. Approved November 4, 1952.]*

Note: Amendment 28 also amended Art. 4 Section 10.

**ORIGINAL TEXT ART. 4 Section 6 JURISDICTION OF SUPERIOR COURTS**— *The superior court shall have original jurisdiction in all cases in equity, and in all cases at law which involve the title or possession of real property, or the legality of any tax, impost, assessment, toll or municipal fine, and in all other cases in which the demand, or the value of the property in controversy amounts to one hundred dollars, and in all criminal cases amounting to felony, and in all cases of misdemeanor not otherwise provided for by law; of actions of forcible entry and detainer; of proceedings in insolvency; of actions to prevent or abate a nuisance; of all matters of probate, of divorce, and for annulment of marriage; and for such special cases and proceedings as are not otherwise provided for. The superior court shall also have original jurisdiction in all cases and of all proceedings in which jurisdiction shall not have been by law vested exclusively in some other court; and said court shall have the power of naturalization, and to issue papers therefor. They shall have such appellate jurisdiction in cases arising in justice's and other inferior courts in their respective counties as may be prescribed by law. They shall be always open except on non-judicial days, and their process shall extend to all parts of the state. Said courts and their judges shall have power to issue writs of mandamus, quo warranto, review, certiorari, prohibition, and writs of habeas corpus on petition by or on behalf of any person in actual custody in their respective counties. Injunctions and writs of prohibition and of habeas corpus may be issued and served on legal holidays and non-judicial days.*

**SECTION 7 EXCHANGE OF JUDGES — JUDGE PRO TEMPORE.** The judge of any superior court may hold a superior court in any county at the request of the judge of the superior court thereof, and upon the request of the governor it shall be his or her duty to do so. A case in the superior court may be tried by a judge pro tempore either with the agreement of the parties if the judge pro tempore is a member of the bar, is agreed upon in writing by the parties litigant or their attorneys of record, and is approved by the court and sworn to try the case; or without the agreement of the parties if the judge pro tempore is a sitting elected judge and is acting as a judge pro tempore pursuant to supreme court rule. The supreme court rule must require assignments of judges pro tempore based on the judges' experience and must provide for the right, exercisable once during a case, to a change of judge pro tempore. Such right shall be in addition to any other right provided by law. However, if a previously elected judge of the superior court retires leaving a pending case in which the judge has made discretionary rulings, the judge is entitled to hear the pending case as a judge pro tempore without any written agreement. [AMENDMENT

94, 2001 Engrossed Senate Joint Resolution No. 8208, p 2327. Approved November 6, 2001.]

**Amendment 80 — Art. 4 Section 7 EXCHANGE OF JUDGES — JUDGE PRO TEMPORE** — *The judge of any superior court may hold a superior court in any county at the request of the judge of the superior court thereof, and upon the request of the governor it shall be his duty to do so. A case in the superior court may be tried by a judge, pro tempore, who must be a member of the bar, agreed upon in writing by the parties litigant, or their attorneys of record, approved by the court and sworn to try the case. However, if a previously elected judge of the superior court retires leaving a pending case in which the judge has made discretionary rulings, the judge is entitled to hear the pending case as a judge pro tempore without any written agreement.* [Amendment 80, 1987 Senate Joint Resolution No. 8207, p 2815. Approved November 3, 1987.]

**ORIGINAL TEXT — Art. 4 Section 7 EXCHANGE OF JUDGES — JUDGE PRO TEMPORE** — *The judge of any superior court may hold a superior court in any county at the request of the judge of the superior court thereof, and upon the request of the governor it shall be his duty to do so. A case in the superior court may be tried by a judge, pro tempore, who must be a member of the bar, agreed upon in writing by the parties litigant, or their attorneys of record, approved by the court and sworn to try the case.*

**SECTION 8 ABSENCE OF JUDICIAL OFFICER.** Any judicial officer who shall absent himself from the state for more than sixty consecutive days shall be deemed to have forfeited his office: *Provided*, That in cases of extreme necessity the governor may extend the leave of absence such time as the necessity therefor shall exist.

**SECTION 9 REMOVAL OF JUDGES, ATTORNEY GENERAL, ETC.** Any judge of any court of record, the attorney general, or any prosecuting attorney may be removed from office by joint resolution of the legislature, in which three-fourths of the members elected to each house shall concur, for incompetency, corruption, malfeasance, or delinquency in office, or other sufficient cause stated in such resolution. But no removal shall be made unless the officer complained of shall have been served with a copy of the charges against him as the ground of removal, and shall have an opportunity of being heard in his defense. Such resolution shall be entered at length on the journal of both houses and on the question of removal the ayes and nays shall also be entered on the journal.

*Removal, censure, suspension, or retirement of judges or justices: Art. 4 Section 31.*

**SECTION 10 JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.** The legislature shall determine the number of justices of the peace to be elected and shall prescribe by law the powers, duties and jurisdiction of justices of the peace: *Provided, That such jurisdiction granted by the legislature shall not trench upon the jurisdiction of superior or other courts of record, except that justices of the peace may be made police justices of incorporated cities and towns. Justices of the peace shall have original jurisdiction in cases where the demand or value of the property in controversy is less than three hundred dollars or such greater sum, not to exceed three thousand dollars or as otherwise determined by law, as shall be prescribed by the legislature. In incorporated cities or towns having more than five thousand inhabitants, the justices of the peace shall receive such salary as may be provided by law, and shall receive no fees for their own use.* [AMENDMENT 65, part, 1977 Senate Joint Resolution No. 113, p 1714. Approved November 8, 1977.]

*Amendment 65 also amended Art. 4 Section 6.*

**Amendment 28, part (1952) — Art. 4 Section 10 JUSTICES OF THE PEACE** — *The legislature shall determine the number of justices of the peace to be elected and shall prescribe by law the powers, duties and jurisdiction of justices of the peace: Provided, That such jurisdiction granted by the legislature shall not trench upon the jurisdiction of superior or other courts of record, except that justices of the peace may be made police justices of incorporated cities and towns. Justices of the peace shall have original jurisdiction in cases where the demand or value of the property in controversy is less than three hundred dollars or such greater sum, not to exceed one thousand dollars, as shall be prescribed by the legislature. In incorporated cities or towns having more than five thousand inhabitants, the justices of the peace shall receive such salary as may be provided by law, and shall receive no fees for their own use.* [AMENDMENT 28, part, 1951 Substitute House Joint Resolution No. 13, p 962. Approved November 4, 1952.]

**Note:** Amendment 28 also amended Art. 4 Section 6.

**Original text — Art. 4 Section 10 JUSTICES OF THE PEACE** — *The legislature shall determine the number of justices of the peace to be elected in incorporated cities or towns and in precincts, and shall prescribe by law the powers, duties and jurisdiction of justices of the peace; Provided, That such jurisdiction granted by the legislature shall not trench upon the jurisdiction of superior or other courts of record, except that justices of*

*the peace may be made police justices of incorporated cities and towns. In incorporated cities or towns having more than five thousand inhabitants the justices of the peace shall receive such salary as may be provided by law, and shall receive no fees for their own use.*

**SECTION 11 COURTS OF RECORD.** The supreme court and the superior courts shall be courts of record, and the legislature shall have power to provide that any of the courts of this state, excepting justices of the peace, shall be courts of record.

**SECTION 12 INFERIOR COURTS.** The legislature shall prescribe by law the jurisdiction and powers of any of the inferior courts which may be established in pursuance of this Constitution.

**SECTION 13 SALARIES OF JUDICIAL OFFICERS HOW PAID, ETC.** No judicial officer, except court commissioners and unsalaried justices of the peace, shall receive to his own use any fees or perquisites of office. The judges of the supreme court and judges of the superior courts shall severally at stated times, during their continuance in office, receive for their services the salaries prescribed by law therefor, which shall not be increased after their election, nor during the term for which they shall have been elected. The salaries of the judges of the supreme court shall be paid by the state. One-half of the salary of each of the superior court judges shall be paid by the state, and the other one-half by the county or counties for which he is elected. In cases where a judge is provided for more than one county, that portion of his salary which is to be paid by the counties shall be apportioned between or among them according to the assessed value of their taxable property, to be determined by the assessment next preceding the time for which such salary is to be paid.

*Authorizing compensation increase during term: Art. 30 Section 1.*

*Increase or diminution of compensation during term of office prohibited county, city or municipal officers: Art. 11 Section 8.*

*public officers: Art. 2 Section 25.*

*state officers: Art. 3 Section 25.*

**SECTION 14 SALARIES OF SUPREME AND SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES.** Each of the judges of the supreme court shall receive an annual salary of four thousand dollars (\$4,000); each of the superior court judges shall receive an annual salary of three thousand dollars (\$3,000), which said salaries shall be payable



quarterly. The legislature may increase the salaries of judges herein provided.

*Compensation of legislators, elected state officials, and judges: Art. 28 Section 1.*

**SECTION 15 INELIGIBILITY OF JUDGES.** The judges of the supreme court and the judges of the superior court shall be ineligible to any other office or public employment than a judicial office, or employment, during the term for which they shall have been elected.

**SECTION 16 CHARGING JURIES.** Judges shall not charge juries with respect to matters of fact, nor comment thereon, but shall declare the law.

**SECTION 17 ELIGIBILITY OF JUDGES.** No person shall be eligible to the office of judge of the supreme court, or judge of a superior court, unless he shall have been admitted to practice in the courts of record of this state, or of the Territory of Washington.

**SECTION 18 SUPREME COURT REPORTER.** The judges of the supreme court shall appoint a reporter for the decisions of that court, who shall be removable at their pleasure. He shall receive such annual salary as shall be prescribed by law.

**SECTION 19 JUDGES MAY NOT PRACTICE LAW.** No judge of a court of record shall practice law in any court of this state during his continuance in office.

**SECTION 20 DECISIONS, WHEN TO BE MADE.** Every cause submitted to a judge of a superior court for his decision shall be decided by him within ninety days from the submission thereof; *Provided*, That if within said period of ninety days a rehearing shall have been ordered, then the period within which he is to decide shall commence at the time the cause is submitted upon such a hearing.

**SECTION 21 PUBLICATION OF OPINIONS.** The legislature shall provide for the speedy publication of opinions of the supreme court, and all opinions shall be free for publication by any person.

**SECTION 22 CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT.** The judges of the supreme court shall appoint a clerk of that court who shall be removable at their pleasure, but the legislature may

provide for the election of the clerk of the supreme court, and prescribe the term of his office. The clerk of the supreme court shall receive such compensation by salary only as shall be provided by law.

**SECTION 23 COURT COMMISSIONERS.** There may be appointed in each county, by the judge of the superior court having jurisdiction therein, one or more court commissioners, not exceeding three in number, who shall have authority to perform like duties as a judge of the superior court at chambers, subject to revision by such judge, to take depositions and to perform such other business connected with the administration of justice as may be prescribed by law.

**SECTION 24 RULES FOR SUPERIOR COURTS.** The judges of the superior courts, shall from time to time, establish uniform rules for the government of the superior courts.

**SECTION 25 REPORTS OF SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES.** Superior judges, shall on or before the first day of November in each year, report in writing to the judges of the supreme court such defects and omissions in the laws as their experience may suggest, and the judges of the supreme court shall on or before the first day of January in each year report in writing to the governor such defects and omissions in the laws as they may believe to exist.

**SECTION 26 CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT.** The county clerk shall be by virtue of his office, clerk of the superior court.

**SECTION 27 STYLE OF PROCESS.** The style of all process shall be, "The State of Washington," and all prosecutions shall be conducted in its name and by its authority.

**SECTION 28 OATH OF JUDGES.** Every judge of the supreme court, and every judge of a superior court shall, before entering upon the duties of his office, take and subscribe an oath that he will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Washington, and will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of judge to the best of his ability, which oath shall be filed in the office of the secretary of state.

**SECTION 29 ELECTION OF SUPERIOR COURT**

**JUDGES.** Notwithstanding any provision of this Constitution to the contrary, if, after the last day as provided by law for the withdrawal of declarations of candidacy has expired, only one candidate has filed for any single position of superior court judge in any county containing a population of one hundred thousand or more, no primary or election shall be held as to such position, and a certificate of election shall be issued to such candidate. If, after any contested primary for superior court judge in any county, only one candidate is entitled to have his name printed on the general election ballot for any single position, no election shall be held as to such position, and a certificate of election shall be issued to such candidate: *Provided*, That in the event that there is filed with the county auditor within ten days after the date of the primary, a petition indicating that a write in campaign will be conducted for such single position and signed by one hundred registered voters qualified to vote with respect of the office, then such single position shall be subject to the general election. Provisions for the contingency of the death or disqualification of a sole candidate between the last date for withdrawal and the time when the election would be held but for the provisions of this section, and such other provisions as may be deemed necessary to implement the provisions of this section, may be enacted by the legislature. [AMENDMENT 41, 1965 ex.s. Substitute Senate Joint Resolution No. 6, p 2815. Approved November 8, 1966.]

**SECTION 30 COURT OF APPEALS.** (1) *Authorization.* In addition to the courts authorized in section 1 of this article, judicial power is vested in a court of appeals, which shall be established by statute.

(2) *Jurisdiction.* The jurisdiction of the court of appeals shall be as provided by statute or by rules authorized by statute.

(3) *Review of Superior Court.* Superior court actions may be reviewed by the court of appeals or by the supreme court as provided by statute or by rule authorized by statute.

(4) *Judges.* The number, manner of election, compensation, terms of office, removal and retirement of judges of the court of appeals shall be as provided by statute.

(5) *Administration and Procedure.* The administration and procedures of the court of appeals shall be as provided by rules issued by the supreme court.

(6) *Conflicts.* The provisions of this section shall supersede any conflicting provisions in prior sections of this article. [AMENDMENT 50, 1967 Senate Joint Resolution No. 6; see 1969 p 2975. Approved November 5, 1968.]

**Reviser's note:** This section which was adopted as Sec. 29 is herein renumbered Sec. 30 to avoid confusion with Sec. 29, *supra*.

### SECTION 31 COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT. (1)

There shall be a commission on judicial conduct, existing as an independent agency of the judicial branch, and consisting of a judge selected by and from the court of appeals judges, a judge selected by and from the superior court judges, a judge selected by and from the limited jurisdiction court judges, two persons admitted to the practice of law in this state selected by the state bar association, and six persons who are not attorneys appointed by the governor.

(2) Whenever the commission receives a complaint against a judge or justice, or otherwise has reason to believe that a judge or justice should be admonished, reprimanded, censured, suspended, removed, or retired, the commission shall first investigate the complaint or belief and then conduct initial proceedings for the purpose of determining whether probable cause exists for conducting a public hearing or hearings to deal with the complaint or belief. The investigation and initial proceedings shall be confidential. Upon beginning an initial proceeding, the commission shall notify the judge or justice of the existence of and basis for the initial proceeding.

(3) Whenever the commission concludes, based on an initial proceeding, that there is probable cause to believe that a judge or justice has violated a rule of judicial conduct or that the judge or justice suffers from a disability which is permanent or likely to become permanent and which seriously interferes with the performance of judicial duties, the commission shall conduct a public hearing or hearings and shall make public all those records of the initial proceeding that provide the basis for its conclusion. If the commission concludes that there is not probable cause, it shall notify the judge or justice of its conclusion.

(4) Upon the completion of the hearing or hearings, the commission in open session shall either dismiss the case, or shall admonish, reprimand, or censure the judge or justice, or shall censure the judge or justice and recommend to the supreme court the

suspension or removal of the judge or justice, or shall recommend to the supreme court the retirement of the judge or justice. The commission may not recommend suspension or removal unless it censures the judge or justice for the violation serving as the basis for the recommendation. The commission may recommend retirement of a judge or justice for a disability which is permanent or likely to become permanent and which seriously interferes with the performance of judicial duties.

(5) Upon the recommendation of the commission, the supreme court may suspend, remove, or retire a judge or justice. The office of a judge or justice retired or removed by the supreme court becomes vacant, and that person is ineligible for judicial office until eligibility is reinstated by the supreme court. The salary of a removed judge or justice shall cease. The supreme court shall specify the effect upon salary when it suspends a judge or justice. The supreme court may not suspend, remove, or retire a judge or justice until the commission, after notice and hearing, recommends that action be taken, and the supreme court conducts a hearing, after notice, to review commission proceedings and findings against the judge or justice.

(6) Within thirty days after the commission admonishes, reprimands, or censures a judge or justice, the judge or justice shall have a right of appeal *de novo* to the supreme court.

(7) Any matter before the commission or supreme court may be disposed of by a stipulation entered into in a public proceeding. The stipulation shall be signed by the judge or justice and the commission or court. The stipulation may impose any terms and conditions deemed appropriate by the commission or court. A stipulation shall set forth all material facts relating to the proceeding and the conduct of the judge or justice.

(8) Whenever the commission adopts a recommendation that a judge or justice be removed, the judge or justice shall be suspended immediately, with salary, from his or her judicial position until a final determination is made by the supreme court.

(9) The legislature shall provide for commissioners' terms of office and compensation. The commission shall employ one or more investigative officers with appropriate professional training and experience. The investigative officers of the commission shall report directly to the commission. The commission shall also

employ such administrative or other staff as are necessary to manage the affairs of the commission.

(10) The commission shall, to the extent that compliance does not conflict with this section, comply with laws of general applicability to state agencies with respect to rule-making procedures, and with respect to public notice of and attendance at commission proceedings other than initial proceedings. The commission shall establish rules of procedure for commission proceedings including due process and confidentiality of proceedings. [AMENDMENT 97, 2005 Senate Joint Resolution No. 8207, pp 2799, 2800. Approved November 8, 2005.]

*Removal by legislature: Art. 4 Section 9.*

**Amendment 85 (1989) — Art. 4 Section 31 COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT—** (1) *There shall be a commission on judicial conduct, existing as an independent agency of the judicial branch, and consisting of a judge selected by and from the court of appeals judges, a judge selected by and from the superior court judges, a judge selected by and from the district court judges, two persons admitted to the practice of law in this state selected by the state bar association, and six persons who are not attorneys appointed by the governor.*

(2) *Whenever the commission receives a complaint against a judge or justice, or otherwise has reason to believe that a judge or justice should be admonished, reprimanded, censured, suspended, removed, or retired, the commission shall first investigate the complaint or belief and then conduct initial proceedings for the purpose of determining whether probable cause exists for conducting a public hearing or hearings to deal with the complaint or belief. The investigation and initial proceedings shall be confidential. Upon beginning an initial proceeding, the commission shall notify the judge or justice of the existence of and basis for the initial proceeding.*

(3) *Whenever the commission concludes, based on an initial proceeding, that there is probable cause to believe that a judge or justice has violated a rule of judicial conduct or that the judge or justice suffers from a disability which is permanent or likely to become permanent and which seriously interferes with the performance of judicial duties, the commission shall conduct a public hearing or hearings and shall make public all those records of the initial proceeding that provide the basis for its conclusion. If the commission concludes that there is not probable cause, it shall notify the judge or justice of its conclusion.*

(4) *Upon the completion of the hearing or hearings, the commission in open session shall either dismiss the case, or shall admonish, reprimand, or censure the judge or justice, or shall censure the judge or justice and recommend to the supreme court the suspension or removal of the judge or justice, or shall recommend to the supreme court the retirement of the judge*

or justice. The commission may not recommend suspension or removal unless it censures the judge or justice for the violation serving as the basis for the recommendation. The commission may recommend retirement of a judge or justice for a disability which is permanent or likely to become permanent and which seriously interferes with the performance of judicial duties.

(5) Upon the recommendation of the commission, the supreme court may suspend, remove, or retire a judge or justice. The office of a judge or justice retired or removed by the supreme court becomes vacant, and that person is ineligible for judicial office until eligibility is reinstated by the supreme court. The salary of a removed judge or justice shall cease. The supreme court shall specify the effect upon salary when it suspends a judge or justice. The supreme court may not suspend, remove, or retire a judge or justice until the commission, after notice and hearing, recommends that action be taken, and the supreme court conducts a hearing, after notice, to review commission proceedings and findings against the judge or justice.

(6) Within thirty days after the commission admonishes, reprimands, or censures a judge or justice, the judge or justice shall have a right of appeal *de novo* to the supreme court.

(7) Any matter before the commission or supreme court may be disposed of by a stipulation entered into in a public proceeding. The stipulation shall be signed by the judge or justice and the commission or court. The stipulation may impose any terms and conditions deemed appropriate by the commission or court. A stipulation shall set forth all material facts relating to the proceeding and the conduct of the judge or justice.

(8) Whenever the commission adopts a recommendation that a judge or justice be removed, the judge or justice shall be suspended immediately, with salary, from his or her judicial position until a final determination is made by the supreme court.

(9) The legislature shall provide for commissioners' terms of office and compensation. The commission shall employ one or more investigative officers with appropriate professional training and experience. The investigative officers of the commission shall report directly to the commission. The commission shall also employ such administrative or other staff as are necessary to manage the affairs of the commission.

(10) The commission shall, to the extent that compliance does not conflict with this section, comply with laws of general applicability to state agencies with respect to rule-making procedures, and with respect to public notice of and attendance at commission proceedings other than initial proceedings. The commission shall establish rules of procedure for commission proceedings including due process and confidentiality of proceedings.

[AMENDMENT 85, 1989 Substitute Senate Joint Resolution No. 8202, p 3000. Approved November 7, 1989.]

**Amendment 77 (1986) — Art. 4 Section 31 COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT — REMOVAL, CENSURE, SUSPENSION, OR RETIREMENT OF JUDGES OR JUSTICES — PROCEEDINGS—**

*There shall be a commission on judicial conduct consisting of a judge selected by and from the court of appeals judges, a judge selected by and from the superior court judges, a judge selected by and from the district court judges, two persons admitted to the practice of law in this state selected by the state bar association, and four persons who are not attorneys appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate.*

*The supreme court may censure, suspend, or remove a judge or justice for violating a rule of judicial conduct and may retire a judge or justice for disability which is permanent or is likely to become permanent and which seriously interferes with the performance of judicial duties. The office of a judge or justice retired or removed by the supreme court becomes vacant, and that person is ineligible for judicial office until eligibility is reinstated by the supreme court. The salary of a removed judge or justice shall cease.*

*The supreme court shall specify the effect upon salary when disciplinary action other than removal is taken. The supreme court may not discipline or retire a judge or justice until the commission on judicial conduct recommends after notice and hearing that action be taken and the supreme court conducts a hearing, after notice, to review commission proceedings and findings against a judge or justice.*

*Whenever the commission receives a complaint against a judge or justice, it shall first conduct proceedings for the purpose of determining whether sufficient reason exists for conducting a hearing or hearings to deal with the accusations. These initial proceedings shall be confidential, unless confidentiality is waived by the judge or justice, but all subsequent hearings conducted by the commission shall be open to members of the public.*

*Whenever the commission adopts a recommendation that a judge or justice be removed, the judge or justice shall be suspended immediately, with salary, from his or her judicial position until a final determination is made by the supreme court.*

*The legislature shall provide for commissioners' terms of office and compensation. The commission shall establish rules of procedure for commission proceedings including due process and confidentiality of proceedings. [AMENDMENT 77, 1986 Senate Joint Resolution No. 136, p 1532. Approved November 4, 1986.]*

**Amendment 71 (1980) — Art. 4 Section 31 JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION — REMOVAL, CENSURE, SUSPENSION, OR RETIREMENT OF JUDGES OR JUSTICES —**

*There shall be a judicial qualifications commission consisting of a judge selected by and from the court of appeals judges, a judge selected by and from the superior court judges, a judge selected by and from the district court judges, two persons admitted to the practice of law in this state selected by the state bar association, and two persons who are not attorneys appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate.*

*The supreme court may censure, suspend, or remove a judge or justice for violating a rule of judicial conduct and may retire a judge or justice for*



*disability which is permanent or is likely to become permanent and which seriously interferes with the performance of judicial duties. The office of a judge or justice retired or removed by the supreme court becomes vacant, and that person is ineligible for judicial office until eligibility is reinstated by the supreme court. The salary of a removed judge or justice shall cease.*

*The supreme court shall specify the effect upon salary when disciplinary action other than removal is taken. The supreme court may not discipline or retire a judge or justice until the judicial qualifications commission recommends after notice and hearing that action be taken and the supreme court conducts a hearing, after notice, to review commission proceedings and findings against a judge or justice.*

*The legislature shall provide for commissioners' terms of office and compensation. The commission shall establish rules of procedure for commission proceedings including due process and confidentiality of proceedings. [AMENDMENT 71, 1980 Substitute House Joint Resolution No. 37, p 652. Approved November 4, 1980.]*

## ARTICLE V IMPEACHMENT

**SECTION 1 IMPEACHMENT - POWER OF AND PROCEDURE.** The house of representatives shall have the sole power of impeachment. The concurrence of a majority of all the members shall be necessary to an impeachment. All impeachments shall be tried by the senate, and, when sitting for that purpose, the senators shall be upon oath or affirmation to do justice according to law and evidence. When the governor or lieutenant governor is on trial, the chief justice of the supreme court shall preside. No person shall be convicted without a concurrence of two-thirds of the senators elected.

**SECTION 2 OFFICERS LIABLE TO.** The governor and other state and judicial officers, except judges and justices of courts not of record, shall be liable to impeachment for high crimes or misdemeanors, or malfeasance in office, but judgment in such cases shall extend only to removal from office and disqualification to hold any office of honor, trust or profit, in the state. The party, whether convicted or acquitted, shall, nevertheless, be liable to prosecution, trial, judgment and punishment according to law.

**SECTION 3 REMOVAL FROM OFFICE.** All officers not liable to impeachment shall be subject to removal for misconduct or malfeasance in office, in such manner as may be provided by law.

## ARTICLE VI ELECTIONS AND ELECTIVE RIGHTS

**SECTION 1 QUALIFICATIONS OF ELECTORS.** All persons of the age of eighteen years or over who are citizens of the United States and who have lived in the state, county, and precinct thirty days immediately preceding the election at which they offer to vote, except those disqualified by Article VI, section 3 of this Constitution, shall be entitled to vote at all elections. [AMENDMENT 63, 1974 Senate Joint Resolution No. 143, p 807. Approved November 5, 1974.]

**Amendment 5 (1910) — Art. 6 Section 1 QUALIFICATIONS OF ELECTORS**— *All persons of the age of twenty-one years or over, possessing the following qualifications, shall be entitled to vote at all elections: They shall be citizens of the United States; they shall have lived in the state one year, and in the county ninety days, and in the city, town, ward or precinct thirty days immediately preceding the election at which they offer to vote; they shall be able to read and speak the English language: Provided, That Indians not taxed shall never be allowed the elective franchise: And further provided, That this amendment shall not affect the rights of franchise of any person who is now a qualified elector of this state. The legislative authority shall enact laws defining the manner of ascertaining the qualifications of voters as to their ability to read and speak the English language, and providing for punishment of persons voting or registering in violation of the provision of this section. There shall be no denial of the elective franchise at any election on account of sex.* [AMENDMENT 5, 1909 p 26 Section 1. Approved November, 1910.]

**Amendment 2 (1896) — Art. 6 Section 1 QUALIFICATIONS OF VOTERS** — *All male persons of the age of twenty-one years or over, possessing the following qualifications, shall be entitled to vote at all elections: They shall be citizens of the United States; they shall have lived in the state one year, and in the county ninety days, and in the city, town, ward or precinct thirty days immediately preceding the election at which they offer to vote; they shall be able to read and speak the English language: Provided, That Indians not taxed shall never be allowed the elective franchise: And further provided, That this amendment shall not effect [affect] the right of franchise of any person who is now a qualified elector of this state. The legislature shall enact laws defining the manner of ascertaining the qualifications of voters as to their ability to read and speak the English language, and providing for punishment of persons voting or registering in violation of the provisions of this section.* [AMENDMENT 2, 1895 p 60 Section 1. Approved November, 1896.]

**Original text — Art. 6 Section 1 QUALIFICATIONS OF ELECTORS** — *All male persons of the age of twenty-one years or over, possessing the following qualifications, shall be entitled to vote at all elections: They shall be citizens of the United States; They shall have lived in the state one year, and in the county ninety days, and in the city, town, ward or precinct thirty days immediately preceding the election at which they offer to vote; Provided, that Indians not taxed shall never be allowed the elective franchise; Provided, further; that all male persons who at the time of the adoption of this Constitution are qualified electors of the Territory, shall be electors.*

**SECTION 1A VOTER QUALIFICATIONS FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS.** [Repealed by AMENDMENT 105, 2011 Senate Joint Resolution No. 8205, p 4281. Approved November 8, 2011.]

**Original text — Art. 6 Section 1A VOTER QUALIFICATIONS FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS** — *In consideration of those citizens of the United States who become residents of the state of Washington during the year of a presidential election with the intention of making this state their permanent residence, this section is for the purpose of authorizing such persons who can meet all qualifications for voting as set forth in section 1 of this article, except for residence, to vote for presidential electors or for the office of President and Vice-President of the United States, as the case may be, but no other: Provided, That such persons have resided in the state at least sixty days immediately preceding the presidential election concerned.*

*The legislature shall establish the time, manner and place for such persons to cast such presidential ballots.*

**SECTION 2 SCHOOL ELECTIONS — FRANCHISE, HOW EXTENDED.** [This section stricken by AMENDMENT 5, see Art. 6 Section 1.]

**Original text — Art. 6 Section 2 SCHOOL ELECTIONS FRANCHISE, HOW EXTENDED** — *The legislature may provide that there shall be no denial of the elective franchise at any school election on account of sex.*

**SECTION 3 WHO DISQUALIFIED.** All persons convicted of infamous crime unless restored to their civil rights and all persons while they are judicially declared mentally incompetent are excluded from the elective franchise. [AMENDMENT 83, 1988 House Joint Resolution No. 4231, p 1553. Approved November 8, 1988.]

**Original text — Art. 6 Section 3 WHO DISQUALIFIED** — *All idiots, insane persons, and persons convicted of infamous crime unless restored to their civil rights are excluded from the elective franchise.*

**SECTION 4 RESIDENCE, CONTINGENCIES AFFECTING.**

For the purpose of voting and eligibility to office no person shall be deemed to have gained a residence by reason of his presence or lost it by reason of his absence, while in the civil or military service of the state or of the United States, nor while a student at any institution of learning, nor while kept at public expense at any poor-house or other asylum, nor while confined in public prison, nor while engaged in the navigation of the waters of this state or of the United States, or of the high seas.

**SECTION 5 VOTER — WHEN PRIVILEGED FROM**

**ARREST.** Voters shall in all cases except treason, felony, and breach of the peace be privileged from arrest during their attendance at elections and in going to, and returning therefrom. No elector shall be required to do military duty on the day of any election except in time of war or public danger.

**SECTION 6 BALLOT.** All elections shall be by ballot. The legislature shall provide for such method of voting as will secure to every elector absolute secrecy in preparing and depositing his ballot.

**SECTION 7 REGISTRATION.** The legislature shall enact a registration law, and shall require a compliance with such law before any elector shall be allowed to vote; *Provided*, that this provision is not compulsory upon the legislature except as to cities and towns having a population of over five hundred inhabitants. In all other cases the legislature may or may not require registration as a prerequisite to the right to vote, and the same system of registration need not be adopted for both classes.

**SECTION 8 ELECTIONS, TIME OF HOLDING.** The first election of county and district officers not otherwise provided for in this Constitution shall be on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November 1890, and thereafter all elections for such officers shall be held bi-ennially on the Tuesday next succeeding the first Monday in November. The first election of all state officers not otherwise provided for in this Constitution, after the election held for the adoption of this Constitution, shall be on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November, 1892, and the elections for such state officers shall be held in every fourth year thereafter on the Tuesday succeeding the first Monday in November.

*Cf. Art. 27 Section 14.*

## ARTICLE VII REVENUE AND TAXATION

**SECTION 1 TAXATION.** The power of taxation shall never be suspended, surrendered or contracted away. All taxes shall be uniform upon the same class of property within the territorial limits of the authority levying the tax and shall be levied and collected for public purposes only. The word “property” as used herein shall mean and include everything, whether tangible or intangible, subject to ownership. All real estate shall constitute one class: *Provided*, That the legislature may tax mines and mineral resources and lands devoted to reforestation by either a yield tax or an ad valorem tax at such rate as it may fix, or by both. Such property as the legislature may by general laws provide shall be exempt from taxation. Property of the United States and of the state, counties, school districts and other municipal corporations, and credits secured by property actually taxed in this state, not exceeding in value the value of such property, shall be exempt from taxation. The legislature shall have power, by appropriate legislation, to exempt personal property to the amount of fifteen thousand (\$15,000.00) dollars for each head of a family liable to assessment and taxation under the provisions of the laws of this state of which the individual is the actual bona fide owner. [AMENDMENT 98, 2006 House Joint Resolution No. 4223, p 2117. Approved November 7, 2006.]

**Amendment 81 (1988) — Art. 7 Section 1 TAXATION—** *The power of taxation shall never be suspended, surrendered or contracted away. All taxes shall be uniform upon the same class of property within the territorial limits of the authority levying the tax and shall be levied and collected for public purposes only. The word “property” as used herein shall mean and include everything, whether tangible or intangible, subject to ownership. All real estate shall constitute one class: Provided, That the legislature may tax mines and mineral resources and lands devoted to reforestation by either a yield tax or an ad valorem tax at such rate as it may fix, or by both. Such property as the legislature may by general laws provide shall be exempt from taxation. Property of the United States and of the state, counties, school districts and other municipal corporations, and credits secured by property actually taxed in this state, not exceeding in value the value of such property, shall be exempt from taxation. The legislature shall have power, by appropriate legislation, to exempt personal property to the amount of three*

thousand (\$3,000.00) dollars for each head of a family liable to assessment and taxation under the provisions of the laws of this state of which the individual is the actual bona fide owner. [AMENDMENT 81, 1988 House Joint Resolution No. 4222, p 1551. Approved November 8, 1988.]

**Amendment 14 (1930) — Art. 7 Section 1 TAXATION**— *The power of taxation shall never be suspended, surrendered or contracted away. All taxes shall be uniform upon the same class of property within the territorial limits of the authority levying the tax and shall be levied and collected for public purposes only. The word “property” as used herein shall mean and include everything, whether tangible or intangible, subject to ownership. All real estate shall constitute one class: Provided, That the legislature may tax mines and mineral resources and lands devoted to reforestation by either a yield tax or an ad valorem tax at such rate as it may fix, or by both. Such property as the legislature may by general laws provide shall be exempt from taxation. Property of the United States and of the state, counties, school districts and other municipal corporations, and credits secured by property actually taxed in this state, not exceeding in value the value of such property, shall be exempt from taxation. The legislature shall have power, by appropriate legislation, to exempt personal property to the amount of three hundred (\$300.00) dollars for each head of a family liable to assessment and taxation under the provisions of the laws of this state of which the individual is the actual bona fide owner.* [AMENDMENT 14, 1929 p 499 Section 1. Approved November, 1930.]

**Reviser’s note:** Amendment 14 amended Art. 7 by striking all of Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4. Subsequently, Amendment 17 added a new Section 2, and Amendment 19 added a new Section 3.

**Original text — Art. 7 Section 1 ANNUAL STATE TAX** — *All property in the state, not exempt under the laws of the United States, or under this Constitution, shall be taxed in proportion to its value, to be ascertained as provided by law. The legislature shall provide by law for an annual tax sufficient, with other sources of revenue to defray the estimated ordinary expenses of the state for each fiscal year. And for the purpose of paying the state debt, if there be any, the legislature shall provide for levying a tax annually, sufficient to pay the annual interest and principal of such debt within twenty years from the final passage of the law creating the debt.*

**Amendment 3 (1900) — Art. 7 Section 2, was amended by adding the following proviso:** — *“And provided further, That the legislature shall have power, by appropriate legislation, to exempt personal property to the amount of three hundred dollars (\$300) for each head of a family liable to assessment and taxation under the provisions of the laws of this state of which the individual is the actual and bona fide owner.”* [AMENDMENT 3, 1899 p 121 Section 1. Approved November, 1900.]

**Original text — Art. 7 Section 2 TAXATION — UNIFORMITY AND EQUALITY — EXEMPTION** — *The legislature shall provide by law a uniform and equal rate of assessment and taxation on all property in the state, according to its value in money, and shall prescribe such regulations by general law as shall secure a just valuation for taxation of all property, so that every person and corporation shall pay a tax in proportion to the value of his, her, or its property; Provided, that a deduction of debts from credits may be authorized: Provided, further, that the property of the United States and of the state, counties, school districts and other municipal corporations, and such other property as the legislature may by general laws provide, shall be exempt from taxation.*

**Original text — Art. 7 Section 3 ASSESSMENT OF CORPORATE PROPERTY** — *The legislature shall provide by general law for the assessing and levying of taxes on all corporation property as near as may be by the same methods as are provided for the assessing and levying of taxes on individual property.*

**Original text — Art. 7 Section 4 NO SURRENDER OF POWER OR SUSPENSION OF TAX ON CORPORATE PROPERTY** — *The power to tax corporations and corporate property shall not be surrendered or suspended by any contract or grant to which the state shall be a party.*

**SECTION 2 LIMITATION ON LEVIES.** Except as hereinafter provided and notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, the aggregate of all tax levies upon real and personal property by the state and all taxing districts now existing or hereafter created, shall not in any year exceed one percent of the true and fair value of such property in money. Nothing herein shall prevent levies at the rates now provided by law by or for any port or public utility district. The term “taxing district” for the purposes of this section shall mean any political subdivision, municipal corporation, district, or other governmental agency authorized by law to levy, or have levied for it, ad valorem taxes on property, other than a port or public utility district. Such aggregate limitation or any specific limitation imposed by law in conformity therewith may be exceeded only as follows:

(a) By any taxing district when specifically authorized so to do by a majority of at least three-fifths of the voters of the taxing district voting on the proposition to levy such additional tax submitted not more than twelve months prior to the date on which the proposed initial levy is to be made and not oftener than twice in such twelve month period, either at a special election or at the regular election of such taxing district, at which election the number of

voters voting “yes” on the proposition shall constitute three-fifths of a number equal to forty percent of the total number of voters voting in such taxing district at the last preceding general election when the number of voters voting on the proposition does not exceed forty percent of the total number of voters voting in such taxing district in the last preceding general election; or by a majority of at least three-fifths of the voters of the taxing district voting on the proposition to levy when the number of voters voting on the proposition exceeds forty percent of the number of voters voting in such taxing district in the last preceding general election. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, any proposition pursuant to this subsection to levy additional tax for the support of the common schools or fire protection districts may provide such support for a period of up to four years and any proposition to levy an additional tax to support the construction, modernization, or remodelling of school facilities or fire facilities may provide such support for a period not exceeding six years. Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection, a proposition under this subsection to levy an additional tax for a school district shall be authorized by a majority of the voters voting on the proposition, regardless of the number of voters voting on the proposition;

(b) By any taxing district otherwise authorized by law to issue general obligation bonds for capital purposes, for the sole purpose of making the required payments of principal and interest on general obligation bonds issued solely for capital purposes, other than the replacement of equipment, when authorized so to do by majority of at least three-fifths of the voters of the taxing district voting on the proposition to issue such bonds and to pay the principal and interest thereon by annual tax levies in excess of the limitation herein provided during the term of such bonds, submitted not oftener than twice in any calendar year, at an election held in the manner provided by law for bond elections in such taxing district, at which election the total number of voters voting on the proposition shall constitute not less than forty percent of the total number of voters voting in such taxing district at the last preceding general election. Any such taxing district shall have the right by vote of its governing body to refund any general obligation bonds of said district issued for capital purposes only, and to provide for the interest thereon and amortization thereof by annual levies in excess of the tax limitation provided for herein. The provisions of this section



shall also be subject to the limitations contained in Article VIII, Section 6, of this Constitution;

(c) By the state or any taxing district for the purpose of preventing the impairment of the obligation of a contract when ordered so to do by a court of last resort. [AMENDMENT 101, 2007 Engrossed House Joint Resolution No. 4204, pp 3143-3145. Approved November 6, 2007.]

Prior amendments of Art. 7 Section 2, see Amendments 17, 55, 59, 64, 79, and 90.

**Amendment 95 (2002) — Art. 7 Section 2 LIMITATION ON LEVIES** — *Except as hereinafter provided and notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, the aggregate of all tax levies upon real and personal property by the state and all taxing districts now existing or hereafter created, shall not in any year exceed one percent of the true and fair value of such property in money: Provided, however, That nothing herein shall prevent levies at the rates now provided by law by or for any port or public utility district. The term "taxing district" for the purposes of this section shall mean any political subdivision, municipal corporation, district, or other governmental agency authorized by law to levy, or have levied for it, ad valorem taxes on property, other than a port or public utility district. Such aggregate limitation or any specific limitation imposed by law in conformity therewith may be exceeded only as follows:*

*(a) By any taxing district when specifically authorized so to do by a majority of at least three-fifths of the voters of the taxing district voting on the proposition to levy such additional tax submitted not more than twelve months prior to the date on which the proposed levy is to be made and not oftener than twice in such twelve month period, either at a special election or at the regular election of such taxing district, at which election the number of voters voting "yes" on the proposition shall constitute three-fifths of a number equal to forty percent of the total number of voters voting in such taxing district at the last preceding general election when the number of voters voting on the proposition does not exceed forty percent of the total number of voters voting in such taxing district in the last preceding general election; or by a majority of at least three-fifths of the voters of the taxing district voting on the proposition to levy when the number of voters voting on the proposition exceeds forty percent of the number of voters voting in such taxing district in the last preceding general election: Provided, That notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, any proposition pursuant to this subsection to levy additional tax for the support of the common schools or fire protection districts may provide such support for a period of up to four years and any proposition to levy an additional tax to support the construction, modernization, or remodelling of school facilities or fire facilities may provide such support for a period not exceeding six years;*

*(b) By any taxing district otherwise authorized by law to issue general obligation bonds for capital purposes, for the sole purpose of making the required payments of principal and interest on general obligation bonds issued solely for capital purposes, other than the replacement of equipment, when authorized so to do by majority of at least three-fifths of the voters of the taxing district voting on the proposition to issue such bonds and to pay the principal and interest thereon by annual tax levies in excess of the limitation herein provided during the term of such bonds, submitted not oftener than twice in any calendar year, at an election held in the manner provided by law for bond elections in such taxing district, at which election the total number of voters voting on the proposition shall constitute not less than forty percent of the total number of voters voting in such taxing district at the last preceding general election: Provided, That any such taxing district shall have the right by vote of its governing body to refund any general obligation bonds of said district issued for capital purposes only, and to provide for the interest thereon and amortization thereof by annual levies in excess of the tax limitation provided for herein, And provided further, That the provisions of this section shall also be subject to the limitations contained in Article VIII, Section 6, of this Constitution;*

*(c) By the state or any taxing district for the purpose of preventing the impairment of the obligation of a contract when ordered so to do by a court of last resort. [AMENDMENT 95, 2002 House Joint Resolution No. 4220, p 2203. Approved November 5, 2002.]*

**Amendment 90 (1997) — Art. 7 Section 2 LIMITATION ON LEVIES** — *Except as hereinafter provided and notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, the aggregate of all tax levies upon real and personal property by the state and all taxing districts now existing or hereafter created, shall not in any year exceed one per centum of the true and fair value of such property in money: Provided, however, That nothing herein shall prevent levies at the rates now provided by law by or for any port or public utility district. The term “taxing district” for the purposes of this section shall mean any political subdivision, municipal corporation, district, or other governmental agency authorized by law to levy, or have levied for it, ad valorem taxes on property, other than a port or public utility district. Such aggregate limitation or any specific limitation imposed by law in conformity therewith may be exceeded only*

*(a) By any taxing district when specifically authorized so to do by a majority of at least three-fifths of the electors thereof voting on the proposition to levy such additional tax submitted not more than twelve months prior to the date on which the proposed levy is to be made and not oftener than twice in such twelve month period, either at a special election or at the regular election of such taxing district, at which election the number of persons voting “yes” on the proposition shall constitute three-fifths of a number equal to forty per centum of the total votes cast in such taxing district at the last preceding general election when the number of*

*electors voting on the proposition does not exceed forty per centum of the total votes cast in such taxing district in the last preceding general election; or by a majority of at least three-fifths of the electors thereof voting on the proposition to levy when the number of electors voting on the proposition exceeds forty per centum of the total votes cast in such taxing district in the last preceding general election: Provided, That notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, any proposition pursuant to this subsection to levy additional tax for the support of the common schools may provide such support for a two year period and any proposition to levy an additional tax to support the construction, modernization, or remodelling of school facilities may provide such support for a period not exceeding six years;*

*(b) By any taxing district otherwise authorized by law to issue general obligation bonds for capital purposes, for the sole purpose of making the required payments of principal and interest on general obligation bonds issued solely for capital purposes, other than the replacement of equipment, when authorized so to do by majority of at least three-fifths of the electors thereof voting on the proposition to issue such bonds and to pay the principal and interest thereon by an annual tax levy in excess of the limitation herein provided during the term of such bonds, submitted not oftener than twice in any calendar year, at an election held in the manner provided by law for bond elections in such taxing district, at which election the total number of persons voting on the proposition shall constitute not less than forty per centum of the total number of votes cast in such taxing district at the last preceding general election: Provided, That any such taxing district shall have the right by vote of its governing body to refund any general obligation bonds of said district issued for capital purposes only, and to provide for the interest thereon and amortization thereof by annual levies in excess of the tax limitation provided for herein, And provided further, That the provisions of this section shall also be subject to the limitations contained in Article VIII, Section 6, of this Constitution;*

*(c) By the state or any taxing district for the purpose of paying the principal or interest on general obligation bonds outstanding on December 6, 1934; or for the purpose of preventing the impairment of the obligation of a contract when ordered so to do by a court of last resort. [AMENDMENT 90, 1997 House Joint Resolution No. 4208, p 3063. Approved November 4, 1997.]*

**Amendment 79 (1986) — Art. 7 Section 2 LIMITATION ON LEVIES** — *Except as hereinafter provided and notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, the aggregate of all tax levies upon real and personal property by the state and all taxing districts now existing or hereafter created, shall not in any year exceed one per centum of the true and fair value of such property in money: Provided, however, That nothing herein shall prevent levies at the rates now provided by law by or for any port or public utility district. The term "taxing district" for the purposes of this section shall mean any political subdivision, municipal corporation, district, or other governmental agency authorized by law to levy, or have*

levied for it, ad valorem taxes on property, other than a port or public utility district. Such aggregate limitation or any specific limitation imposed by law in conformity therewith may be exceeded only

(a) By any taxing district when specifically authorized so to do by a majority of at least three-fifths of the electors thereof voting on the proposition to levy such additional tax submitted not more than twelve months prior to the date on which the proposed levy is to be made and not oftener than twice in such twelve month period, either at a special election or at the regular election of such taxing district, at which election the number of persons voting "yes" on the proposition shall constitute three-fifths of a number equal to forty per centum of the total votes cast in such taxing district at the last preceding general election when the number of electors voting on the proposition does not exceed forty per centum of the total votes cast in such taxing district in the last preceding general election; or by a majority of at least three-fifths of the electors thereof voting on the proposition to levy when the number of electors voting on the proposition exceeds forty per centum of the total votes cast in such taxing district in the last preceding general election: Provided, That notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, any proposition pursuant to this subsection to levy additional tax for the support of the common schools may provide such support for a two year period and any proposition to levy an additional tax to support the construction, modernization, or remodelling of school facilities may provide such support for a period not exceeding six years;

(b) By any taxing district otherwise authorized by law to issue general obligation bonds for capital purposes, for the sole purpose of making the required payments of principal and interest on general obligation bonds issued solely for capital purposes, other than the replacement of equipment, when authorized so to do by majority of at least three-fifths of the electors thereof voting on the proposition to issue such bonds and to pay the principal and interest thereon by an annual tax levy in excess of the limitation herein provided during the term of such bonds, submitted not oftener than twice in any calendar year, at an election held in the manner provided by law for bond elections in such taxing district, at which election the total number of persons voting on the proposition shall constitute not less than forty per centum of the total number of votes cast in such taxing district at the last preceding general election: Provided, That any such taxing district shall have the right by vote of its governing body to refund any general obligation bonds of said district issued for capital purposes only, and to provide for the interest thereon and amortization thereof by annual levies in excess of the tax limitation provided for herein, And provided further, That the provisions of this section shall also be subject to the limitations contained in Article VIII, Section 6, of this Constitution;

(c) By the state or any taxing district for the purpose of paying the principal or interest on general obligation bonds outstanding on December 6, 1934; or for the purpose of preventing the impairment of the obligation of a

*contract when ordered so to do by a court of last resort. [AMENDMENT 79, 1986 House Joint Resolution No. 55, p 1530. Approved November 4, 1986.]*

**Amendment 64 (1976) — Art. 7 Section 2 LIMITATION ON LEVIES** — *Except as hereinafter provided and notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, the aggregate of all tax levies upon real and personal property by the state and all taxing districts now existing or hereafter created, shall not in any year exceed one per centum of the true and fair value of such property in money: Provided, however, That nothing herein shall prevent levies at the rates now provided by law by or for any port or public utility district. The term "taxing district" for the purposes of this section shall mean any political subdivision, municipal corporation, district, or other governmental agency authorized by law to levy, or have levied for it, ad valorem taxes on property, other than a port or public utility district. Such aggregate limitation or any specific limitation imposed by law in conformity therewith may be exceeded only*

*(a) By any taxing district when specifically authorized so to do by a majority of at least three-fifths of the electors thereof voting on the proposition to levy such additional tax submitted not more than twelve months prior to the date on which the proposed levy is to be made and not oftener than twice in such twelve month period, either at a special election or at the regular election of such taxing district, at which election the number of persons voting "yes" on the proposition shall constitute three-fifths of a number equal to forty per centum of the total votes cast in such taxing district at the last preceding general election when the number of electors voting on the proposition does not exceed forty per centum of the total votes cast in such taxing district in the last preceding general election; or by a majority of at least three-fifths of the electors thereof voting on the proposition to levy when the number of electors voting on the proposition exceeds forty per centum of the total votes cast in such taxing district in the last preceding general election: Provided, That notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, any proposition pursuant to this subsection to levy additional tax for the support of the common schools may provide such support for a two year period;*

*(b) By any taxing district otherwise authorized by law to issue general obligation bonds for capital purposes, for the sole purpose of making the required payments of principal and interest on general obligation bonds issued solely for capital purposes, other than the replacement of equipment, when authorized so to do by majority of at least three-fifths of the electors thereof voting on the proposition to issue such bonds and to pay the principal and interest thereon by an annual tax levy in excess of the limitation herein provided during the term of such bonds, submitted not oftener than twice in any calendar year, at an election held in the manner provided by law for bond elections in such taxing district, at which election the total number of persons voting on the proposition shall constitute not less than forty per centum of the total number of votes cast in such taxing*

*district at the last preceding general election: Provided, That any such taxing district shall have the right by vote of its governing body to refund any general obligation bonds of said district issued for capital purposes only, and to provide for the interest thereon and amortization thereof by annual levies in excess of the tax limitation provided for herein, And provided further, That the provisions of this section shall also be subject to the limitations contained in Article VIII, Section 6, of this Constitution;*

*(c) By the state or any taxing district for the purpose of paying the principal or interest on general obligation bonds outstanding on December 6, 1934; or for the purpose of preventing the impairment of the obligation of a contract when ordered so to do by a court of last resort. [AMENDMENT 64, 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. Senate Joint Resolution No. 137, p 518. Approved November 2, 1976.]*

**Amendment 59 (1972) and Amendment 55 (1972) — Art. 7 Section 2 LIMITATION ON LEVIES** — *Except as hereinafter provided and notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, the aggregate of all tax levies upon real and personal property by the state and all taxing districts now existing or hereafter created, shall not in any year exceed one per centum of the true and fair value of such property in money: Provided, however, That nothing herein shall prevent levies at the rates now provided by law by or for any port or public utility district. The term "taxing district" for the purposes of this section shall mean any political subdivision, municipal corporation, district, or other governmental agency authorized by law to levy, or have levied for it, ad valorem taxes on property, other than a port or public utility district. Such aggregate limitation or any specific limitation imposed by law in conformity therewith may be exceeded only*

*(a) By any taxing district when specifically authorized so to do by a majority of at least three-fifths of the electors thereof voting on the proposition to levy such additional tax submitted not more than twelve months prior to the date on which the proposed levy is to be made and not oftener than twice in such twelve month period, either at a special election or at the regular election of such taxing district, at which election the number of persons voting "yes" on the proposition shall constitute three-fifths of a number equal to forty per centum of the total votes cast in such taxing district at the last preceding general election when the number of electors voting on the proposition does not exceed forty per centum of the total votes cast in such taxing district in the last preceding general election; or by a majority of at least three-fifths of the electors thereof voting on the proposition to levy when the number of electors voting on the proposition exceeds forty per centum of the total votes cast in such taxing district in the last preceding general election;*

*(b) By any taxing district otherwise authorized by law to issue general obligation bonds for capital purposes, for the sole purpose of making the required payments of principal and interest on general obligation bonds issued solely for capital purposes, other than the replacement of*

equipment, when authorized so to do by majority of at least three-fifths of the electors thereof voting on the proposition to issue such bonds and to pay the principal and interest thereon by an annual tax levy in excess of the limitation herein provided during the term of such bonds, submitted not oftener than twice in any calendar year, at an election held in the manner provided by law for bond elections in such taxing district, at which election the total number of persons voting on the proposition shall constitute not less than forty per centum of the total number of votes cast in such taxing district at the last preceding general election: Provided, That any such taxing district shall have the right by vote of its governing body to refund any general obligation bonds of said district issued for capital purposes only, and to provide for the interest thereon and amortization thereof by annual levies in excess of the tax limitation provided for herein, And provided further, That the provisions of this section shall also be subject to the limitations contained in Article VIII, Section 6, of this Constitution;

(c) By the state or any taxing district for the purpose of paying the principal or interest on general obligation bonds outstanding on December 6, 1934; or for the purpose of preventing the impairment of the obligation of a contract when ordered so to do by a court of last resort. [(i) AMENDMENT 59, 1971 House Joint Resolution No. 47, p 1834. Approved November, 1972. (ii) AMENDMENT 55, 1971 Senate Joint Resolution No. 1, p 1827. Approved November, 1972.]

**Reviser's note:** Article 7 Section 2 was twice amended in different respects at the November 1972 general election by the ratification of both S.J.R. No. 1. (AMENDMENT 55) and H.J.R. No. 47. (AMENDMENT 59.) 1971 HJR No. 47 contained the following paragraph:

*"Be It Further Resolved, That the foregoing amendment shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the state in such a manner that they may vote for or against it separately from the proposed amendment to Article VII, section 2, (Amendment 17) of the Constitution of the State of Washington contained in Senate Joint Resolution No. 1: Provided, That if both proposed amendments are approved and ratified, both shall become part of the Constitution"* [1971 House Joint Resolution No. 47, part, p 1834]

*The section as printed above reflects the content of both amendments.*

**Amendment 17 (1944) — Art. 7 Section 2 FORTY MILL LIMIT**

— Except as hereinafter provided and notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, the aggregate of all tax levies upon real and personal property by the state and all taxing districts now existing or hereafter created, shall not in any year exceed forty mills on the dollar of assessed valuation, which assessed valuation shall be fifty per centum of the true and fair value of such property in money: Provided, however, That nothing herein shall prevent levies at the rates now provided by law by or for any port or public utility district. The term "taxing district" for the purposes of this section shall mean any political subdivision, municipal corporation, district, or other governmental agency authorized by law to levy, or have

levied for it, ad valorem taxes on property, other than a port or public utility district. Such aggregate limitation or any specific limitation imposed by law in conformity therewith may be exceeded only

(a) By any taxing district when specifically authorized so to do by a majority of at least three-fifths of the electors thereof voting on the proposition to levy such additional tax submitted not more than twelve months prior to the date on which the proposed levy is to be made and not oftener than twice in such twelve month period, either at a special election or at the regular election of such taxing district, at which election the number of persons voting on the proposition shall constitute not less than forty per centum of the total number of votes cast in such taxing district at the last preceding general election;

(b) By any taxing district otherwise authorized by law to issue general obligation bonds for capital purposes, for the sole purpose of making the required payments of principal and interest on general obligation bonds issued solely for capital purposes, other than the replacement of equipment, when authorized so to do by majority of at least three-fifths of the electors thereof voting on the proposition to issue such bonds and to pay the principal and interest thereon by an annual tax levy in excess of the limitation herein provided during the term of such bonds, submitted not oftener than twice in any calendar year, at an election held in the manner provided by law for bond elections in such taxing district, at which election the total number of persons voting on the proposition shall constitute not less than forty per centum of the total number of votes cast in such taxing district at the last preceding general election: Provided, That any such taxing district shall have the right by vote of its governing body to refund any general obligation bonds of said district issued for capital purposes only, and to provide for the interest thereon and amortization thereof by annual levies in excess of the tax limitation provided for herein, and Provided further, That the provisions of this section shall also be subject to the limitations contained in Article VIII, Section 6, of this Constitution;

(c) By the state or any taxing district for the purpose of paying the principal or interest on general obligation bonds outstanding on December 6, 1934; or for the purpose of preventing the impairment of the obligation of a contract when ordered so to do by a court of last resort. [AMENDMENT 17, 1943 House Joint Resolution No. 1, p 936. Approved November, 1944.]

**Reviser's note:** Original section 2, as amended by Amendment 3, was stricken by Amendment 14. The original section and Amendment 3, are set out following Art. 7, Section 1, above.

**SECTION 3 TAXATION OF FEDERAL AGENCIES AND PROPERTY.** The United States and its agencies and instrumentalities, and their property, may be taxed under any of the tax laws of this state, whenever and in such manner as such taxation may be authorized or permitted under the laws of the United States,



notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Constitution of this state. [AMENDMENT 19, 1945 House Joint Resolution No. 9, p 932. Approved November, 1946.]

**Reviser's note:** Original section 3 was stricken by Amendment 14. The original section is set out following Art. 7 Section 1, above.

#### **SECTION 4 NO SURRENDER OF POWER OR SUSPENSION OF TAX ON CORPORATE PROPERTY.**

**Reviser's note:** Original section 4 was stricken by Amendment 14. It is set out following Art. 7 Section 1, above.

**SECTION 5 TAXES, HOW LEVIED.** No tax shall be levied except in pursuance of law; and every law imposing a tax shall state distinctly the object of the same to which only it shall be applied.

**SECTION 6 TAXES, HOW PAID.** All taxes levied and collected for state purposes shall be paid in money only into the state treasury.

**SECTION 7 ANNUAL STATEMENT.** An accurate statement of the receipts and expenditures of the public moneys shall be published annually in such manner as the legislature may provide.

**SECTION 8 TAX TO COVER DEFICIENCIES.** Whenever the expenses of any fiscal year shall exceed the income, the legislature may provide for levying a tax for the ensuing fiscal year, sufficient, with other sources of income, to pay the deficiency, as well as the estimated expenses of the ensuing fiscal year.

**SECTION 9 SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS OR TAXATION FOR LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS.** The legislature may vest the corporate authorities of cities, towns and villages with power to make local improvements by special assessment, or by special taxation of property benefited. For all corporate purposes, all municipal corporations may be vested with authority to assess and collect taxes and such taxes shall be uniform in respect to persons and property within the jurisdiction of the body levying the same.

**SECTION 10 RETIRED PERSONS PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION.** Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 7, section 1 (Amendment 14) and Article 7, section 2 (Amendment 17), the following tax exemption shall be allowed as to real property:

The legislature shall have the power, by appropriate legislation, to grant to retired property owners relief from the property tax on the real property occupied as a residence by those owners. The legislature may place such restrictions and conditions upon the granting of such relief as it shall deem proper. Such restrictions and conditions may include, but are not limited to, the limiting of the relief to those property owners below a specific level of income and those fulfilling certain minimum residential requirements. [AMENDMENT 47, 1965 ex.s. House Joint Resolution No. 7, p 2821. Approved November 8, 1966.]

**SECTION 11 TAXATION BASED ON ACTUAL USE.** Nothing in this Article VII as amended shall prevent the legislature from providing, subject to such conditions as it may enact, that the true and fair value in money (a) of farms, agricultural lands, standing timber and timberlands, and (b) of other open space lands which are used for recreation or for enjoyment of their scenic or natural beauty shall be based on the use to which such property is currently applied, and such values shall be used in computing the assessed valuation of such property in the same manner as the assessed valuation is computed for all property. [AMENDMENT 53, 1967 House Joint Resolution No. 1; see 1969 p 2976. Approved November 5, 1968.]

**SECTION 12 BUDGET STABILIZATION ACCOUNT.** (a) A budget stabilization account shall be established and maintained in the state treasury.

(b)(1) By June 30th of each fiscal year, an amount equal to one percent of the general state revenues for that fiscal year shall be transferred to the budget stabilization account. Nothing in this subsection (b) shall prevent the appropriation of additional amounts to the budget stabilization account.

(2) By June 30th of the second year of each fiscal biennium, three-quarters of any extraordinary revenue growth shall be transferred to the budget stabilization account. However, no transfer of extraordinary revenue growth under this subsection (b)(2) shall occur in a fiscal biennium following a fiscal biennium in which annual average state employment growth averaged less than one percent per fiscal year. "Extraordinary revenue growth" means the amount by which the growth in general state revenues for that fiscal biennium exceeds by one-third the average biennial percentage

growth in general state revenues over the prior five fiscal biennia. In making this determination, the comparability of data shall be maintained by adjusting historical general state revenues to reflect statutory changes to the dedication of state revenues. The transfer under this subsection shall be made only to the extent that it exceeds the total transfers under (1) of this subsection for that fiscal biennium.

(c) Each fiscal quarter, the state economic and revenue forecast council appointed and authorized as provided by statute, or successor entity, shall estimate state employment growth for the current and next two fiscal years.

(d) Moneys may be withdrawn and appropriated from the budget stabilization account as follows:

(i) If the governor declares a state of emergency resulting from a catastrophic event that necessitates government action to protect life or public safety, then for that fiscal year moneys may be withdrawn and appropriated from the budget stabilization account, via separate legislation setting forth the nature of the emergency and containing an appropriation limited to the above-authorized purposes as contained in the declaration, by a favorable vote of a majority of the members elected to each house of the legislature.

(ii) If the employment growth forecast for any fiscal year is estimated to be less than one percent, then for that fiscal year moneys may be withdrawn and appropriated from the budget stabilization account by the favorable vote of a majority of the members elected to each house of the legislature.

(iii) Any amount may be withdrawn and appropriated from the budget stabilization account at any time by the favorable vote of at least three-fifths of the members of each house of the legislature.

(e) Amounts in the budget stabilization account may be invested as provided by law and retained in that account. When the balance in the budget stabilization account, including investment earnings, equals more than ten percent of the estimated general state revenues in that fiscal year, the legislature by the favorable vote of a majority of the members elected to each house of the legislature may withdraw and appropriate the balance to the extent that the balance exceeds ten percent of the estimated general state revenues. Appropriations under this subsection (e) may be made solely for deposit to the education construction fund.

(f) As used in this section, “general state revenues” has the meaning set forth in Article VIII, section 1 of the Constitution. Forecasts and estimates shall be made by the state economic and revenue forecast council appointed and authorized as provided by statute, or successor entity.

(g) The legislature shall enact appropriate laws to carry out the purposes of this section.

(h) This section takes effect July 1, 2008. [AMENDMENT 106, 2011 Senate Joint Resolution No. 8206, p 4281-4283. Approved November 8, 2011.]

**Amendment 99 (2007) — Art. 7 Section 12 BUDGET STABILIZATION ACCOUNT** — (a) *A budget stabilization account shall be established and maintained in the state treasury.*

(b) *By June 30th of each fiscal year, an amount equal to one percent of the general state revenues for that fiscal year shall be transferred to the budget stabilization account. Nothing in this subsection (b) shall prevent the appropriation of additional amounts to the budget stabilization account.*

(c) *Each fiscal quarter, the state economic and revenue forecast council appointed and authorized as provided by statute, or successor entity, shall estimate state employment growth for the current and next two fiscal years.*

(d) *Moneys may be withdrawn and appropriated from the budget stabilization account as follows:*

(i) *If the governor declares a state of emergency resulting from a catastrophic event that necessitates government action to protect life or public safety, then for that fiscal year moneys may be withdrawn and appropriated from the budget stabilization account, via separate legislation setting forth the nature of the emergency and containing an appropriation limited to the above-authorized purposes as contained in the declaration, by a favorable vote of a majority of the members elected to each house of the legislature.*

(ii) *If the employment growth forecast for any fiscal year is estimated to be less than one percent, then for that fiscal year moneys may be withdrawn and appropriated from the budget stabilization account by the favorable vote of a majority of the members elected to each house of the legislature.*

(iii) *Any amount may be withdrawn and appropriated from the budget stabilization account at any time by the favorable vote of at least three-fifths of the members of each house of the legislature.*

(e) *Amounts in the budget stabilization account may be invested as provided by law and retained in that account. When the balance in the budget stabilization account, including investment earnings, equals more than ten percent of the estimated general state revenues in that fiscal year, the legislature by the favorable vote of a majority of the members elected to each house of the legislature may withdraw and appropriate the balance to the extent that the balance exceeds ten percent of the estimated general state*

revenues. Appropriations under this subsection (e) may be made solely for deposit to the education construction fund.

(f) As used in this section, “general state revenues” has the meaning set forth in Article VIII, section 1 of the Constitution. Forecasts and estimates shall be made by the state economic and revenue forecast council appointed and authorized as provided by statute, or successor entity.

(g) The legislature shall enact appropriate laws to carry out the purposes of this section.

(h) This section takes effect July 1, 2008. [AMENDMENT 99, 2007 Engrossed Substitute Senate Joint Resolution No. 8206, pp 3146, 3147. Approved November 6, 2007.]

## ARTICLE VIII STATE, COUNTY, AND MUNICIPAL INDEBTEDNESS

**SECTION 1 STATE DEBT.** (a) The state may contract debt, the principal of which shall be paid and discharged within thirty years from the time of contracting thereof, in the manner set forth herein.

(b) The aggregate debt contracted by the state, as calculated by the treasurer at the time debt is contracted, shall not exceed that amount for which payments of principal and interest in any fiscal year would require the state to expend more than the applicable percentage limit of the arithmetic mean of its general state revenues for the six immediately preceding fiscal years as certified by the treasurer. The term “applicable percentage limit” means eight and one-half percent from July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2016; eight and one-quarter percent from July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2034; eight percent from July 1, 2034, and thereafter. The term “fiscal year” means that period of time commencing July 1 of any year and ending on June 30 of the following year.

(c) The term “general state revenues,” when used in this section, shall include all state money received in the treasury from each and every source, including moneys received from ad valorem taxes levied by the state and deposited in the general fund in each fiscal year, but not including: (1) Fees and other revenues derived from the ownership or operation of any undertaking, facility, or project; (2) Moneys received as gifts, grants, donations, aid, or assistance or otherwise from the United States or any department, bureau, or corporation thereof, or any person, firm, or corporation, public or private, when the terms and conditions of such gift, grant,

donation, aid, or assistance require the application and disbursement of such moneys otherwise than for the general purposes of the state of Washington; (3) Moneys to be paid into and received from retirement system funds, and performance bonds and deposits; (4) Moneys to be paid into and received from trust funds and the several permanent and irreducible funds of the state and the moneys derived therefrom but excluding bond redemption funds; (5) Moneys received from taxes levied for specific purposes and required to be deposited for those purposes into specified funds or accounts other than the general fund; and (6) Proceeds received from the sale of bonds or other evidences of indebtedness.

(d) In computing the amount required for payment of principal and interest on outstanding debt under this section, debt shall be construed to mean borrowed money represented by bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness which are secured by the full faith and credit of the state or are required to be repaid, directly or indirectly, from general state revenues and which are incurred by the state, any department, authority, public corporation, or quasi public corporation of the state, any state university or college, or any other public agency created by the state but not by counties, cities, towns, school districts, or other municipal corporations, but shall not include obligations for the payment of current expenses of state government, nor shall it include debt hereafter incurred pursuant to section 3 of this article, obligations guaranteed as provided for in subsection (g) of this section, principal of bond anticipation notes or obligations issued to fund or refund the indebtedness of the Washington state building authority. In addition, for the purpose of computing the amount required for payment of interest on outstanding debt under subsection (b) of this section and this subsection, "interest" shall be reduced by subtracting the amount scheduled to be received by the state as payments from the federal government in each year in respect of bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness subject to this section.

(e) The state may pledge the full faith, credit, and taxing power of the state to guarantee the voter approved general obligation debt of school districts in the manner authorized by the legislature. Any such guarantee does not remove the debt obligation of the school district and is not state debt.

(f) The state may, without limitation, fund or refund, at or prior to maturity, the whole or any part of any existing debt or of any

debt hereafter contracted pursuant to section 1, section 2, or section 3 of this article, including any premium payable with respect thereto and interest thereon, or fund or refund, at or prior to maturity, the whole or any part of any indebtedness incurred or authorized prior to the effective date of this amendment by any entity of the type described in subsection (h) of this section, including any premium payable with respect thereto and any interest thereon. Such funding or refunding shall not be deemed to be contracting debt by the state.

(g) Notwithstanding the limitation contained in subsection (b) of this section, the state may pledge its full faith, credit, and taxing power to guarantee the payment of any obligation payable from revenues received from any of the following sources: (1) Fees collected by the state as license fees for motor vehicles; (2) Excise taxes collected by the state on the sale, distribution or use of motor vehicle fuel; and (3) Interest on the permanent common school fund: *Provided*, That the legislature shall, at all times, provide sufficient revenues from such sources to pay the principal and interest due on all obligations for which said source of revenue is pledged.

(h) No money shall be paid from funds in custody of the treasurer with respect to any debt contracted after the effective date of this amendment by the Washington state building authority, the capitol committee, or any similar entity existing or operating for similar purposes pursuant to which such entity undertakes to finance or provide a facility for use or occupancy by the state or any agency, department, or instrumentality thereof.

(i) The legislature shall prescribe all matters relating to the contracting, funding or refunding of debt pursuant to this section, including: The purposes for which debt may be contracted; by a favorable vote of three-fifths of the members elected to each house, the amount of debt which may be contracted for any class of such purposes; the kinds of notes, bonds, or other evidences of debt which may be issued by the state; and the manner by which the treasurer shall determine and advise the legislature, any appropriate agency, officer, or instrumentality of the state as to the available debt capacity within the limitation set forth in this section. The legislature may delegate to any state officer, agency, or instrumentality any of its powers relating to the contracting, funding or refunding of debt pursuant to this section except its power to determine the amount and purposes for which debt may be contracted.

(j) The full faith, credit, and taxing power of the state of Washington are pledged to the payment of the debt created on behalf of the state pursuant to this section and the legislature shall provide by appropriation for the payment of the interest upon and installments of principal of all such debt as the same falls due, but in any event, any court of record may compel such payment.

(k) Notwithstanding the limitations contained in subsection (b) of this section, the state may issue certificates of indebtedness in such sum or sums as may be necessary to meet temporary deficiencies of the treasury, to preserve the best interests of the state in the conduct of the various state institutions, departments, bureaus, and agencies during each fiscal year; such certificates may be issued only to provide for appropriations already made by the legislature and such certificates must be retired and the debt discharged other than by refunding within twelve months after the date of incurrence.

(l) Bonds, notes, or other obligations issued and sold by the state of Washington pursuant to and in conformity with this article shall not be invalid for any irregularity or defect in the proceedings of the issuance or sale thereof and shall be incontestable in the hands of a bona fide purchaser or holder thereof. [AMENDMENT 107, 2012 Engrossed Senate Joint Resolution No. 8221, p 2429-2432. Approved November 6, 2012.]

**Amendment 103 (2010) — Art. 8 Section 1 STATE DEBT —** (a) *The state may contract debt, the principal of which shall be paid and discharged within thirty years from the time of contracting thereof, in the manner set forth herein.*

(b) *The aggregate debt contracted by the state shall not exceed that amount for which payments of principal and interest in any fiscal year would require the state to expend more than nine percent of the arithmetic mean of its general state revenues for the three immediately preceding fiscal years as certified by the treasurer. The term “fiscal year” means that period of time commencing July 1 of any year and ending on June 30 of the following year.*

(c) *The term “general state revenues” when used in this section, shall include all state money received in the treasury from each and every source whatsoever except: (1) Fees and revenues derived from the ownership or operation of any undertaking, facility, or project; (2) Moneys received as gifts, grants, donations, aid, or assistance or otherwise from the United States or any department, bureau, or corporation thereof, or any person, firm, or corporation, public or private, when the terms and conditions of such gift, grant, donation, aid, or assistance require the application and disbursement of such moneys otherwise than for the general purposes of the*



state of Washington; (3) Moneys to be paid into and received from retirement system funds, and performance bonds and deposits; (4) Moneys to be paid into and received from trust funds including but not limited to moneys received from taxes levied for specific purposes and the several permanent and irreducible funds of the state and the moneys derived therefrom but excluding bond redemption funds; (5) Proceeds received from the sale of bonds or other evidences of indebtedness.

(d) In computing the amount required for payment of principal and interest on outstanding debt under this section, debt shall be construed to mean borrowed money represented by bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness which are secured by the full faith and credit of the state or are required to be repaid, directly or indirectly, from general state revenues and which are incurred by the state, any department, authority, public corporation, or quasi public corporation of the state, any state university or college, or any other public agency created by the state but not by counties, cities, towns, school districts, or other municipal corporations, but shall not include obligations for the payment of current expenses of state government, nor shall it include debt hereafter incurred pursuant to section 3 of this article, obligations guaranteed as provided for in subsection (g) of this section, principal of bond anticipation notes or obligations issued to fund or refund the indebtedness of the Washington state building authority. In addition, for the purpose of computing the amount required for payment of interest on outstanding debt under subsection (b) of this section and this subsection, "interest" shall be reduced by subtracting the amount scheduled to be received by the state as payments from the federal government in each year in respect of bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness subject to this section.

(e) The state may pledge the full faith, credit, and taxing power of the state to guarantee the voter approved general obligation debt of school districts in the manner authorized by the legislature. Any such guarantee does not remove the debt obligation of the school district and is not state debt.

(f) The state may, without limitation, fund or refund, at or prior to maturity, the whole or any part of any existing debt or of any debt hereafter contracted pursuant to section 1, section 2, or section 3 of this article, including any premium payable with respect thereto and interest thereon, or fund or refund, at or prior to maturity, the whole or any part of any indebtedness incurred or authorized prior to the effective date of this amendment by any entity of the type described in subsection (h) of this section, including any premium payable with respect thereto and any interest thereon. Such funding or refunding shall not be deemed to be contracting debt by the state.

(g) Notwithstanding the limitation contained in subsection (b) of this section, the state may pledge its full faith, credit, and taxing power to guarantee the payment of any obligation payable from revenues received from any of the following sources: (1) Fees collected by the state as license

fees for motor vehicles; (2) Excise taxes collected by the state on the sale, distribution or use of motor vehicle fuel; and (3) Interest on the permanent common school fund: Provided, That the legislature shall, at all times, provide sufficient revenues from such sources to pay the principal and interest due on all obligations for which said source of revenue is pledged.

(h) No money shall be paid from funds in custody of the treasurer with respect to any debt contracted after the effective date of this amendment by the Washington state building authority, the capitol committee, or any similar entity existing or operating for similar purposes pursuant to which such entity undertakes to finance or provide a facility for use or occupancy by the state or any agency, department, or instrumentality thereof.

(i) The legislature shall prescribe all matters relating to the contracting, funding or refunding of debt pursuant to this section, including: The purposes for which debt may be contracted; by a favorable vote of three-fifths of the members elected to each house, the amount of debt which may be contracted for any class of such purposes; the kinds of notes, bonds, or other evidences of debt which may be issued by the state; and the manner by which the treasurer shall determine and advise the legislature, any appropriate agency, officer, or instrumentality of the state as to the available debt capacity within the limitation set forth in this section. The legislature may delegate to any state officer, agency, or instrumentality any of its powers relating to the contracting, funding or refunding of debt pursuant to this section except its power to determine the amount and purposes for which debt may be contracted.

(j) The full faith, credit, and taxing power of the state of Washington are pledged to the payment of the debt created on behalf of the state pursuant to this section and the legislature shall provide by appropriation for the payment of the interest upon and installments of principal of all such debt as the same falls due, but in any event, any court of record may compel such payment.

(k) Notwithstanding the limitations contained in subsection (b) of this section, the state may issue certificates of indebtedness in such sum or sums as may be necessary to meet temporary deficiencies of the treasury, to preserve the best interests of the state in the conduct of the various state institutions, departments, bureaus, and agencies during each fiscal year; such certificates may be issued only to provide for appropriations already made by the legislature and such certificates must be retired and the debt discharged other than by refunding within twelve months after the date of incurrence.

(l) Bonds, notes, or other obligations issued and sold by the state of Washington pursuant to and in conformity with this article shall not be invalid for any irregularity or defect in the proceedings of the issuance or sale thereof and shall be incontestable in the hands of a bona fide purchaser or holder thereof. [AMENDMENT 103, 2010 Senate Joint Resolution No. 8225, p 3129-3132. Approved November 2, 2010.]

**Amendment 92 (1999) — Art. 8 Section 1 STATE DEBT** — (a) *The state may contract debt, the principal of which shall be paid and discharged within thirty years from the time of contracting thereof, in the manner set forth herein.*

(b) *The aggregate debt contracted by the state shall not exceed that amount for which payments of principal and interest in any fiscal year would require the state to expend more than nine percent of the arithmetic mean of its general state revenues for the three immediately preceding fiscal years as certified by the treasurer. The term “fiscal year” means that period of time commencing July 1 of any year and ending on June 30 of the following year.*

(c) *The term “general state revenues” when used in this section, shall include all state money received in the treasury from each and every source whatsoever except: (1) Fees and revenues derived from the ownership or operation of any undertaking, facility, or project; (2) Moneys received as gifts, grants, donations, aid, or assistance or otherwise from the United States or any department, bureau, or corporation thereof, or any person, firm, or corporation, public or private, when the terms and conditions of such gift, grant, donation, aid, or assistance require the application and disbursement of such moneys otherwise than for the general purposes of the state of Washington; (3) Moneys to be paid into and received from retirement system funds, and performance bonds and deposits; (4) Moneys to be paid into and received from trust funds including but not limited to moneys received from taxes levied for specific purposes and the several permanent and irreducible funds of the state and the moneys derived therefrom but excluding bond redemption funds; (5) Proceeds received from the sale of bonds or other evidences of indebtedness.*

(d) *In computing the amount required for payment of principal and interest on outstanding debt under this section, debt shall be construed to mean borrowed money represented by bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness which are secured by the full faith and credit of the state or are required to be repaid, directly or indirectly, from general state revenues and which are incurred by the state, any department, authority, public corporation, or quasi public corporation of the state, any state university or college, or any other public agency created by the state but not by counties, cities, towns, school districts, or other municipal corporations, but shall not include obligations for the payment of current expenses of state government, nor shall it include debt hereafter incurred pursuant to section 3 of this article, obligations guaranteed as provided for in subsection (g) of this section, principal of bond anticipation notes or obligations issued to fund or refund the indebtedness of the Washington state building authority.*

(e) *The state may pledge the full faith, credit, and taxing power of the state to guarantee the voter approved general obligation debt of school districts in the manner authorized by the legislature. Any such guarantee does not remove the debt obligation of the school district and is not state debt.*

(f) *The state may, without limitation, fund or refund, at or prior to*

maturity, the whole or any part of any existing debt or of any debt hereafter contracted pursuant to section 1, section 2, or section 3 of this article, including any premium payable with respect thereto and interest thereon, or fund or refund, at or prior to maturity, the whole or any part of any indebtedness incurred or authorized prior to the effective date of this amendment by any entity of the type described in subsection (h) of this section, including any premium payable with respect thereto and any interest thereon. Such funding or refunding shall not be deemed to be contracting debt by the state.

(g) Notwithstanding the limitation contained in subsection (b) of this section, the state may pledge its full faith, credit, and taxing power to guarantee the payment of any obligation payable from revenues received from any of the following sources: (1) Fees collected by the state as license fees for motor vehicles; (2) Excise taxes collected by the state on the sale, distribution or use of motor vehicle fuel; and (3) Interest on the permanent common school fund: Provided, That the legislature shall, at all times, provide sufficient revenues from such sources to pay the principal and interest due on all obligations for which said source of revenue is pledged.

(h) No money shall be paid from funds in custody of the treasurer with respect to any debt contracted after the effective date of this amendment by the Washington state building authority, the capitol committee, or any similar entity existing or operating for similar purposes pursuant to which such entity undertakes to finance or provide a facility for use or occupancy by the state or any agency, department, or instrumentality thereof.

(i) The legislature shall prescribe all matters relating to the contracting, funding or refunding of debt pursuant to this section, including: The purposes for which debt may be contracted; by a favorable vote of three-fifths of the members elected to each house, the amount of debt which may be contracted for any class of such purposes; the kinds of notes, bonds, or other evidences of debt which may be issued by the state; and the manner by which the treasurer shall determine and advise the legislature, any appropriate agency, officer, or instrumentality of the state as to the available debt capacity within the limitation set forth in this section. The legislature may delegate to any state officer, agency, or instrumentality any of its powers relating to the contracting, funding or refunding of debt pursuant to this section except its power to determine the amount and purposes for which debt may be contracted.

(j) The full faith, credit, and taxing power of the state of Washington are pledged to the payment of the debt created on behalf of the state pursuant to this section and the legislature shall provide by appropriation for the payment of the interest upon and installments of principal of all such debt as the same falls due, but in any event, any court of record may compel such payment.

(k) Notwithstanding the limitations contained in subsection (b) of this section, the state may issue certificates of indebtedness in such sum or

sums as may be necessary to meet temporary deficiencies of the treasury, to preserve the best interests of the state in the conduct of the various state institutions, departments, bureaus, and agencies during each fiscal year; such certificates may be issued only to provide for appropriations already made by the legislature and such certificates must be retired and the debt discharged other than by refunding within twelve months after the date of incurrence.

(l) Bonds, notes, or other obligations issued and sold by the state of Washington pursuant to and in conformity with this article shall not be invalid for any irregularity or defect in the proceedings of the issuance or sale thereof and shall be incontestable in the hands of a bona fide purchaser or holder thereof. [AMENDMENT 92, 1999 Senate Joint Resolution No. 8206, p 2387. Approved November 2, 1999.]

**Amendment 60, part, (1972) — Art. 8 Section 1 STATE DEBT —**

(a) The state may contract debt, the principal of which shall be paid and discharged within thirty years from the time of contracting thereof, in the manner set forth herein.

(b) The aggregate debt contracted by the state shall not exceed that amount for which payments of principal and interest in any fiscal year would require the state to expend more than nine percent of the arithmetic mean of its general state revenues for the three immediately preceding fiscal years as certified by the treasurer. The term "fiscal year" means that period of time commencing July 1 of any year and ending on June 30 of the following year.

(c) The term "general state revenues" when used in this section, shall include all state money received in the treasury from each and every source whatsoever except: (1) Fees and revenues derived from the ownership or operation of any undertaking, facility, or project; (2) Moneys received as gifts, grants, donations, aid, or assistance or otherwise from the United States or any department, bureau, or corporation thereof, or any person, firm, or corporation, public or private, when the terms and conditions of such gift, grant, donation, aid, or assistance require the application and disbursement of such moneys otherwise than for the general purposes of the state of Washington; (3) Moneys to be paid into and received from retirement system funds, and performance bonds and deposits; (4) Moneys to be paid into and received from trust funds including but not limited to moneys received from taxes levied for specific purposes and the several permanent and irreducible funds of the state and the moneys derived therefrom but excluding bond redemption funds; (5) Proceeds received from the sale of bonds or other evidences of indebtedness.

(d) In computing the amount required for payment of principal and interest on outstanding debt under this section, debt shall be construed to mean borrowed money represented by bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness which are secured by the full faith and credit of the state or are required to be repaid, directly or indirectly, from general state revenues and which are incurred by the state, any department, authority, public

corporation, or quasi public corporation of the state, any state university or college, or any other public agency created by the state but not by counties, cities, towns, school districts, or other municipal corporations, but shall not include obligations for the payment of current expenses of state government, nor shall it include debt hereafter incurred pursuant to section 3 of this article, obligations guaranteed as provided for in subsection (f) of this section, principal of bond anticipation notes or obligations issued to fund or refund the indebtedness of the Washington state building authority.

(e) The state may, without limitation, fund or refund, at or prior to maturity, the whole or any part of any existing debt or of any debt hereafter contracted pursuant to section 1, section 2, or section 3 of this article, including any premium payable with respect thereto and interest thereon, or fund or refund, at or prior to maturity, the whole or any part of any indebtedness incurred or authorized prior to the effective date of this amendment by any entity of the type described in subsection (g) of this section, including any premium payable with respect thereto and any interest thereon. Such funding or refunding shall not be deemed to be contracting debt by the state.

(f) Notwithstanding the limitation contained in subsection (b) of this section, the state may pledge its full faith, credit, and taxing power to guarantee the payment of any obligation payable from revenues received from any of the following sources: (1) Fees collected by the state as license fees for motor vehicles; (2) Excise taxes collected by the state on the sale, distribution or use of motor vehicle fuel; and (3) Interest on the permanent common school fund: Provided, That the legislature shall, at all times, provide sufficient revenues from such sources to pay the principal and interest due on all obligations for which said source of revenue is pledged.

(g) No money shall be paid from funds in custody of the treasurer with respect to any debt contracted after the effective date of this amendment by the Washington state building authority, the capitol committee, or any similar entity existing or operating for similar purposes pursuant to which such entity undertakes to finance or provide a facility for use or occupancy by the state or any agency, department, or instrumentality thereof.

(h) The legislature shall prescribe all matters relating to the contracting, funding or refunding of debt pursuant to this section, including: The purposes for which debt may be contracted; by a favorable vote of three-fifths of the members elected to each house, the amount of debt which may be contracted for any class of such purposes; the kinds of notes, bonds, or other evidences of debt which may be issued by the state; and the manner by which the treasurer shall determine and advise the legislature, any appropriate agency, officer, or instrumentality of the state as to the available debt capacity within the limitation set forth in this section. The legislature may delegate to any state officer, agency, or instrumentality any of its powers relating to the contracting, funding or refunding of debt pursuant to this section except its power to determine the amount and purposes for

which debt may be contracted.

(i) *The full faith, credit, and taxing power of the state of Washington are pledged to the payment of the debt created on behalf of the state pursuant to this section and the legislature shall provide by appropriation for the payment of the interest upon and installments of principal of all such debt as the same falls due, but in any event, any court of record may compel such payment.*

(j) *Notwithstanding the limitations contained in subsection (b) of this section, the state may issue certificates of indebtedness in such sum or sums as may be necessary to meet temporary deficiencies of the treasury, to preserve the best interests of the state in the conduct of the various state institutions, departments, bureaus, and agencies during each fiscal year; such certificates may be issued only to provide for appropriations already made by the legislature and such certificates must be retired and the debt discharged other than by refunding within twelve months after the date of incurrence.*

(k) *Bonds, notes, or other obligations issued and sold by the state of Washington pursuant to and in conformity with this article shall not be invalid for any irregularity or defect in the proceedings of the issuance or sale thereof and shall be incontestable in the hands of a bona fide purchaser or holder thereof. [AMENDMENT 60, part, 1971 House Joint Resolution No. 52, part, p 1836. Approved November, 1972.]*

**Original text — Art. 8 Section 1 LIMITATION OF STATE DEBT —**

*The state may to meet casual deficits or failure in revenues, or for expenses not provided for, contract debts, but such debts, direct and contingent, singly or in the aggregate, shall not at any time exceed four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000), and the moneys arising from the loans creating such debts shall be applied to the purpose for which they were obtained or to repay the debts so contracted, and to no other purpose whatever.*

**SECTION 2 POWERS EXTENDED IN CERTAIN CASES.** In addition to the above limited power to contract debts the state may contract debts to repel invasion, suppress insurrection, or to defend the state in war, but the money arising from the contracting of such debts shall be applied to the purpose for which it was raised and to no other purpose whatever.

**SECTION 3 SPECIAL INDEBTEDNESS, HOW AUTHORIZED.** Except the debt specified in sections one and two of this article, no debts shall hereafter be contracted by, or on behalf of this state, unless such debt shall be authorized by law for some single work or object to be distinctly specified therein. No such law shall take effect until it shall, at a general election, or a special election called for that purpose, have been submitted to the people

and have received a majority of all the votes cast for and against it at such election. [AMENDMENT 60, part, 1971 House Joint Resolution No. 52, part, p 1836. Approved November, 1972.]

**Amendment 48 (1966) — Art. 8 Section 3 SPECIAL INDEBTEDNESS, HOW AUTHORIZED** — *Except the debt specified in sections one and two of this article, no debts shall hereafter be contracted by, or on behalf of this state, unless such debt shall be authorized by law for some single work or object to be distinctly specified therein, which law shall provide ways and means, exclusive of loans, for the payment of the interest on such debt as it falls due, and also to pay and discharge the principal of such debt within twenty years from the time of the contracting thereof. No such law shall take effect until it shall, at a general election, have been submitted to the people and have received a majority of all the votes cast for and against it at such election, and all moneys raised by authority of such law shall be applied only to the specific object therein stated, or to the payment of the debt thereby created, and notice that such law will be submitted to the people shall be published at least four times during the four weeks next preceding the election in every legal newspaper in the state: Provided, That failure of any newspaper to publish this notice shall not be interpreted as affecting the outcome of the election.* [AMENDMENT 48, 1965 ex.s. House Joint Resolution No. 39, p 2822. Approved November 8, 1966.]

**Original text — Art. 8 Section 3 SPECIAL INDEBTEDNESS HOW AUTHORIZED** — *Except the debt specified in sections one and two of this article, no debts shall hereafter be contracted by, or on behalf of this state, unless such debt shall be authorized by law for some single work or object to be distinctly specified therein, which law shall provide ways and means, exclusive of loans, for the payment of the interest on such debt as it falls due, and also to pay and discharge the principal of such debt within twenty years from the time of the contracting thereof. No such law shall take effect until it shall, at a general election, have been submitted to the people and have received a majority of all the votes cast for and against it at such election, and all moneys raised by authority of such law shall be applied only to the specific object therein stated, or to the payment of the debt thereby created, and such law shall be published in at least one newspaper in each county, if one be published therein, throughout the state, for three months next preceding the election at which it is submitted to the people.*

**SECTION 4 MONEYS DISBURSED ONLY BY APPROPRIATIONS.** No moneys shall ever be paid out of the treasury of this state, or any of its funds, or any of the funds under its management, except in pursuance of an appropriation by law; nor unless such payment be made within one calendar month after the end of the next ensuing fiscal biennium, and every such law making a new



appropriation, or continuing or reviving an appropriation, shall distinctly specify the sum appropriated, and the object to which it is to be applied, and it shall not be sufficient for such law to refer to any other law to fix such sum. [AMENDMENT 11, 1921 p 80 Section 1. Approved November, 1922.]

**Original text — Art. 8 Section 4 MONEYS DISBURSED ONLY BY APPROPRIATIONS** — *No moneys shall ever be paid out of the treasury of this state, or any of its funds, or any of the funds under its management, except in pursuance of an appropriation by law; nor unless such payment be made within two years from the first day of May next after the passage of such appropriation act, and every such law making a new appropriation, or continuing or reviving an appropriation, shall distinctly specify the sum appropriated, and the object to which it is to be applied, and it shall not be sufficient for such law to refer to any other law to fix such sum.*

**SECTION 5 CREDIT NOT TO BE LOANED.** The credit of the state shall not, in any manner be given or loaned to, or in aid of, any individual, association, company or corporation.

**SECTION 6 LIMITATIONS UPON MUNICIPAL INDEBTEDNESS.** No county, city, town, school district, or other municipal corporation shall for any purpose become indebted in any manner to an amount exceeding one and one-half per centum of the taxable property in such county, city, town, school district, or other municipal corporation, without the assent of three-fifths of the voters therein voting at an election to be held for that purpose, nor in cases requiring such assent shall the total indebtedness at any time exceed five per centum on the value of the taxable property therein, to be ascertained by the last assessment for state and county purposes previous to the incurring of such indebtedness, except that in incorporated cities the assessment shall be taken from the last assessment for city purposes: *Provided*, That no part of the indebtedness allowed in this section shall be incurred for any purpose other than strictly county, city, town, school district, or other municipal purposes: *Provided further*, That (a) any city or town, with such assent, may be allowed to become indebted to a larger amount, but not exceeding five per centum additional for supplying such city or town with water, artificial light, and sewers, when the works for supplying such water, light, and sewers shall be owned and controlled by the municipality and (b) any school district with such assent, may be allowed to become indebted to a larger amount but not exceeding five per centum additional for capital outlays.

[**AMENDMENT 27**, 1951 House Joint Resolution No. 8, p 961. Approved November 4, 1952.]

*Provisions of Art. 7 Section 2 (Limitation on Levies) also subject to limitations contained in Art. 8 Section 6: Art. 7 Section 2 (b).*

**Original text — Art. 8 Section 6 LIMITATIONS UPON MUNICIPAL INDEBTEDNESS** — *No county, city, town, school district or other municipal corporation, shall for any purpose become indebted in any manner to an amount exceeding one and one-half percentum of the taxable property in such county, city, town, school district or other municipal corporation, without the assent of three-fifths of the voters therein, voting at an election to be held for that purpose, nor in cases requiring such assent shall the total indebtedness at any time exceed five per centum on the value of the taxable property therein, to be ascertained by the last assessment for state, and county purposes previous to the incurring of such indebtedness; except that in incorporated cities the assessment shall be taken from the last assessment for city purposes; Provided, That no part of the indebtedness allowed in this section, shall be incurred for any purpose other than strictly county, city, town, school district, or other municipal purposes. Provided further; that any city or town, with such assent may be allowed to become indebted to a larger amount but not exceeding five per centum additional for supplying such city or town with water, artificial light, and sewers, when the works for supplying such water, light, and sewers shall be owned and controlled by the municipality.*

**SECTION 7 CREDIT NOT TO BE LOANED.** No county, city, town or other municipal corporation shall hereafter give any money, or property, or loan its money, or credit to or in aid of any individual, association, company or corporation, except for the necessary support of the poor and infirm, or become directly or indirectly the owner of any stock in or bonds of any association, company or corporation.

**SECTION 8 PORT EXPENDITURES INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT PROMOTION.** The use of public funds by port districts in such manner as may be prescribed by the legislature for industrial development or trade promotion and promotional hosting shall be deemed a public use for a public purpose, and shall not be deemed a gift within the provisions of section 7 of this Article. [**AMENDMENT 45**, 1965 ex.s. Senate Joint Resolution No. 25, p 2819. Approved November 8, 1966.]

**SECTION 9 STATE BUILDING AUTHORITY.** The legislature is empowered notwithstanding any other provision in this

Constitution, to provide for a state building authority in corporate and politic form which may contract with agencies or departments of the state government to construct upon land owned by the state or its agencies, or to be acquired by the state building authority, buildings and appurtenant improvements which such state agencies or departments are hereby empowered to lease at reasonable rental rates from the Washington state building authority for terms up to seventy-five years with provisions for eventual vesting of title in the state or its agencies. This section shall not be construed as authority to provide buildings through lease or otherwise to nongovernmental entities. The legislature may authorize the state building authority to borrow funds solely upon its own credit and to issue bonds or other evidences of indebtedness therefor to be repaid from its revenues and to secure the same by pledging its income or mortgaging its leaseholds. The provisions of sections 1 and 3 of this article shall not apply to indebtedness incurred pursuant to this section. [AMENDMENT 51, 1967 Senate Joint Resolution No. 17; see 1969 p 2976. Approved November 5, 1968.]

**Reviser's note:** This section which was adopted as Sec. 8, is herein renumbered Sec. 9, to avoid confusion with Sec. 8, *supra*.

**SECTION 10 ENERGY, WATER, OR STORMWATER OR SEWER SERVICES CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE.** Notwithstanding the provisions of section 7 of this Article, any county, city, town, quasi municipal corporation, municipal corporation, or political subdivision of the state which is engaged in the sale or distribution of water, energy, or stormwater or sewer services may, as authorized by the legislature, use public moneys or credit derived from operating revenues from the sale of water, energy, or stormwater or sewer services to assist the owners of structures or equipment in financing the acquisition and installation of materials and equipment for the conservation or more efficient use of water, energy, or stormwater or sewer services in such structures or equipment. Except as provided in section 7 of this Article, an appropriate charge back shall be made for such extension of public moneys or credit and the same shall be a lien against the structure benefited or a security interest in the equipment benefited. Any financing for energy conservation authorized by this article shall only be used for conservation purposes in existing structures and shall not be used for any purpose which results in a conversion from one

energy source to another. [AMENDMENT 91, 1997 House Joint Resolution No. 4209, p 3065. Approved November 4, 1997.]

**Amendment 86 (1989) — Art. 8 Section 10 ENERGY AND WATER CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE** — *Notwithstanding the provisions of section 7 of this Article, any county, city, town, quasi municipal corporation, municipal corporation, or political subdivision of the state which is engaged in the sale or distribution of water or energy may, as authorized by the legislature, use public moneys or credit derived from operating revenues from the sale of water or energy to assist the owners of structures or equipment in financing the acquisition and installation of materials and equipment for the conservation or more efficient use of water or energy in such structures or equipment. Except as provided in section 7 of this Article, an appropriate charge back shall be made for such extension of public moneys or credit and the same shall be a lien against the structure benefited or a security interest in the equipment benefited. Any financing for energy conservation authorized by this article shall only be used for conservation purposes in existing structures and shall not be used for any purpose which results in a conversion from one energy source to another.* [AMENDMENT 86, 1989 Senate Joint Resolution No. 8210, p 3003. Approved November 7, 1989.]

**Amendment 82 (1988) — Art. 8 Section 10 RESIDENTIAL ENERGY CONSERVATION** — *Notwithstanding the provisions of section 7 of this Article, any county, city, town, quasi municipal corporation, municipal corporation, or political subdivision of the state which is engaged in the sale or distribution of energy may, as authorized by the legislature, use public moneys or credit derived from operating revenues from the sale of energy to assist the owners of structures or equipment in financing the acquisition and installation of materials and equipment for the conservation or more efficient use of energy in such structures or equipment. Except as provided in section 7 of this Article, an appropriate charge back shall be made for such extension of public moneys or credit and the same shall be a lien against the structure benefited or a security interest in the equipment benefited. Any financing authorized by this article shall only be used for conservation purposes in existing structures and shall not be used for any purpose which results in a conversion from one energy source to another.* [AMENDMENT 82, 1988 House Joint Resolution No. 4223, p 1552. Approved November 8, 1988.]

**Amendment 70 (1979) — Art. 8 Section 10 RESIDENTIAL ENERGY CONSERVATION** — *Notwithstanding the provisions of section 7 of this Article, until January 1, 1990 any county, city, town, quasi municipal corporation, municipal corporation, or political subdivision of the state which is engaged in the sale or distribution of energy may, as authorized by the legislature, use public moneys or credit derived from operating revenues*

*from the sale of energy to assist the owners of residential structures in financing the acquisition and installation of materials and equipment for the conservation or more efficient use of energy in such structures. Except as provided in section 7 of this Article, an appropriate charge back shall be made for such extension of public moneys or credit and the same shall be a lien against the residential structure benefited. Except as to contracts entered into prior thereto, this amendment to the state Constitution shall be null and void as of January 1, 1990 and shall have no further force or effect after that date. [AMENDMENT 70, Substitute Senate Joint Resolution No. 120, p 2288. Approved November 6, 1979.]*

#### **SECTION 11 AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY ASSESSMENTS DEVELOPMENT, PROMOTION, AND HOSTING.**

The use of agricultural commodity assessments by agricultural commodity commissions in such manner as may be prescribed by the legislature for agricultural development or trade promotion and promotional hosting shall be deemed a public use for a public purpose, and shall not be deemed a gift within the provisions of section 5 of this article. [AMENDMENT 76, 1985 House Joint Resolution No. 42, p 2402. Approved November 5, 1985.]

### **ARTICLE IX EDUCATION**

**SECTION 1 PREAMBLE.** It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders, without distinction or preference on account of race, color, caste, or sex.

**SECTION 2 PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM.** The legislature shall provide for a general and uniform system of public schools. The public school system shall include common schools, and such high schools, normal schools, and technical schools as may hereafter be established. But the entire revenue derived from the common school fund and the state tax for common schools shall be exclusively applied to the support of the common schools.

**SECTION 3 FUNDS FOR SUPPORT.** The principal of the common school fund as the same existed on June 30, 1965, shall remain permanent and irreducible. The said fund shall consist of the principal amount thereof existing on June 30, 1965, and such additions thereto as may be derived after June 30, 1965, from the following named sources, to wit: Appropriations and donations

by the state to this fund; donations and bequests by individuals to the state or public for common schools; the proceeds of lands and other property which revert to the state by escheat and forfeiture; the proceeds of all property granted to the state when the purpose of the grant is not specified, or is uncertain; funds accumulated in the treasury of the state for the disbursement of which provision has not been made by law; the proceeds of the sale of stone, minerals, or property other than timber and other crops from school and state lands, other than those granted for specific purposes; all moneys received from persons appropriating stone, minerals or property other than timber and other crops from school and state lands other than those granted for specific purposes, and all moneys other than rental recovered from persons trespassing on said lands; five per centum of the proceeds of the sale of public lands lying within the state, which shall be sold by the United States subsequent to the admission of the state into the Union as approved by section 13 of the act of congress enabling the admission of the state into the Union; the principal of all funds arising from the sale of lands and other property which have been, and hereafter may be granted to the state for the support of common schools. The legislature may make further provisions for enlarging said fund.

There is hereby established the common school construction fund to be used exclusively for the purpose of financing the construction of facilities for the common schools. The sources of said fund shall be: (1) Those proceeds derived from the sale or appropriation of timber and other crops from school and state lands subsequent to June 30, 1965, other than those granted for specific purposes; (2) the interest accruing on said permanent common school fund from and after July 1, 1967, together with all rentals and other revenues derived therefrom and from lands and other property devoted to the permanent common school fund from and after July 1, 1967; and (3) such other sources as the legislature may direct. That portion of the common school construction fund derived from interest on the permanent common school fund may be used to retire such bonds as may be authorized by law for the purpose of financing the construction of facilities for the common schools.

The interest accruing on the permanent common school fund together with all rentals and other revenues accruing thereto pursuant to subsection (2) of this section during the period after the

effective date of this amendment and prior to July 1, 1967, shall be exclusively applied to the current use of the common schools.

To the extent that the moneys in the common school construction fund are in excess of the amount necessary to allow fulfillment of the purpose of said fund, the excess shall be available for deposit to the credit of the permanent common school fund or available for the current use of the common schools, as the legislature may direct. [AMENDMENT 43, 1965 ex.s. Senate Joint Resolution No. 22, part 1, p 2817. Approved November 8, 1966.]

**Original text — Art. 9 Section 3 FUNDS FOR SUPPORT —**

*The principal of the common school fund shall remain permanent and irreducible. The said fund shall be derived from the following named sources, to wit: Appropriations and donations by the state to this fund; donations and bequests by individuals to the state or public for common schools; the proceeds of lands and other property which revert to the state by escheat and forfeiture; the proceeds of all property granted to the state when the purpose of the grant is not specified, or is uncertain; funds accumulated in the treasury of the state for the disbursement of which provision has not been made by law; the proceeds of the sale of timber, stone, minerals, or other property from school and state lands, other than those granted for specific purposes; all moneys received from persons appropriating timber, stone, minerals or other property from school and state lands other than those granted for specific purposes, and all moneys other than rental recovered from persons trespassing on said lands; five per centum of the proceeds of the sale of public lands lying within the state, which shall be sold by the United States subsequent to the admission of the state into the Union as approved by section 13 of the act of congress enabling the admission of the state into the Union; the principal of all funds arising from the sale of lands and other property which have been, and hereafter may be granted to the state for the support of common schools. The legislature may make further provisions for enlarging said fund. The interest accruing on said fund together with all rentals and other revenues derived therefrom and from lands and other property devoted to the common school fund shall be exclusively applied to the current use of the common schools.*

**SECTION 4 SECTARIAN CONTROL OR INFLUENCE**

**PROHIBITED.** All schools maintained or supported wholly or in part by the public funds shall be forever free from sectarian control or influence.

**SECTION 5 LOSS OF PERMANENT FUND TO BECOME**

**STATE DEBT.** All losses to the permanent common school or any other state educational fund, which shall be occasioned by defalcation, mismanagement or fraud of the agents or officers controlling

or managing the same, shall be audited by the proper authorities of the state. The amount so audited shall be a permanent funded debt against the state in favor of the particular fund sustaining such loss, upon which not less than six per cent annual interest shall be paid. The amount of liability so created shall not be counted as a part of the indebtedness authorized and limited elsewhere in this Constitution.

*Investment of permanent school fund: Art. 16 Section 5.*

## ARTICLE X MILITIA

**SECTION 1 WHO LIABLE TO MILITARY DUTY.** All able-bodied male citizens of this state between the ages of eighteen (18) and forty-five (45) years except such as are exempt by laws of the United States or by the laws of this state, shall be liable to military duty.

**SECTION 2 ORGANIZATION DISCIPLINE OFFICERS POWER TO CALL OUT.** The legislature shall provide by law for organizing and disciplining the militia in such manner as it may deem expedient, not incompatible with the Constitution and laws of the United States. Officers of the militia shall be elected or appointed in such manner as the legislature shall from time to time direct and shall be commissioned by the governor. The governor shall have power to call forth the militia to execute the laws of the state to suppress insurrections and repel invasions.

**SECTION 3 SOLDIERS' HOME.** The legislature shall provide by law for the maintenance of a soldiers' home for honorably discharged Union soldiers, sailors, marines and members of the state militia disabled while in the line of duty and who are *bona fide* citizens of the state.

**SECTION 4 PUBLIC ARMS.** The legislature shall provide by law, for the protection and safe keeping of the public arms.

**SECTION 5 PRIVILEGE FROM ARREST.** The militia shall, in all cases, except treason, felony and breach of the peace, be privileged from arrest during their attendance at musters and elections of officers, and in going to and returning from the same.



**SECTION 6 EXEMPTION FROM MILITARY DUTY.** No person or persons, having conscientious scruples against bearing arms, shall be compelled to do militia duty in time of peace: *Provided*, such person or persons shall pay an equivalent for such exemption.

## ARTICLE XI

### COUNTY, CITY, AND TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION

**SECTION 1 EXISTING COUNTIES RECOGNIZED.** The several counties of the Territory of Washington existing at the time of the adoption of this Constitution are hereby recognized as legal subdivisions of this state.

**SECTION 2 COUNTY SEATS LOCATION AND REMOVAL.** No county seat shall be removed unless three-fifths of the qualified electors of the county, voting on the proposition at a general election shall vote in favor of such removal, and three-fifths of all votes cast on the proposition shall be required to relocate a county seat. A proposition of removal shall not be submitted in the same county more than once in four years.

*Governmental continuity during emergency periods: Art. 2 Section 42.*

**SECTION 3 NEW COUNTIES.** No new counties shall be established which shall reduce any county to a population less than four thousand (4,000), nor shall a new county be formed containing a less population than two thousand (2,000). There shall be no territory stricken from any county unless a majority of the voters living in such territory shall petition therefor and then only under such other conditions as may be prescribed by a general law applicable to the whole state. Every county which shall be enlarged or created from territory taken from any other county or counties shall be liable for a just proportion of the existing debts and liabilities of the county or counties from which such territory shall be taken: *Provided*, That in such accounting neither county shall be charged with any debt or liability then existing incurred in the purchase of any county property, or in the purchase or construction of any county buildings then in use, or under construction, which shall fall within and be retained by the county: *Provided further*, That this shall not be construed to affect the rights of creditors.

**SECTION 4 COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION.** The legislature shall establish a system of county government, which shall be uniform throughout the state except as hereinafter provided, and by general laws shall provide for township organization, under which any county may organize whenever a majority of the qualified electors of such county voting at a general election shall so determine; and whenever a county shall adopt township organization, the assessment and collection of the revenue shall be made, and the business of such county and the local affairs of the several townships therein, shall be managed and transacted in the manner prescribed by such general law.

Any county may frame a "Home Rule" charter for its own government subject to the Constitution and laws of this state, and for such purpose the legislative authority of such county may cause an election to be had, at which election there shall be chosen by the qualified voters of said county not less than fifteen (15) nor more than twenty-five (25) freeholders thereof, as determined by the legislative authority, who shall have been residents of said county for a period of at least five (5) years preceding their election and who are themselves qualified electors, whose duty it shall be to convene within thirty (30) days after their election and prepare and propose a charter for such county. Such proposed charter shall be submitted to the qualified electors of said county, and if a majority of such qualified electors voting thereon ratify the same, it shall become the charter of said county and shall become the organic law thereof, and supersede any existing charter, including amendments thereto, or any existing form of county government, and all special laws inconsistent with such charter. Said proposed charter shall be published in two (2) legal newspapers published in said county, at least once a week for four (4) consecutive weeks prior to the day of submitting the same to the electors for their approval as above provided. All elections in this section authorized shall only be had upon notice, which notice shall specify the object of calling such election and shall be given for at least ten (10) days before the day of election in all election districts of said county. Said elections may be general or special elections and except as herein provided, shall be governed by the law regulating and controlling general or special elections in said county. Such charter may be amended by proposals therefor submitted by the legislative authority of said county to the electors thereof at any general election after notice

of such submission published as above specified, and ratified by a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon. In submitting any such charter or amendment thereto, any alternate article or proposition may be presented for the choice of the voters and may be voted on separately without prejudice to others.

Any home rule charter proposed as herein provided, may provide for such county officers as may be deemed necessary to carry out and perform all county functions as provided by charter or by general law, and for their compensation, but shall not affect the election of the prosecuting attorney, the county superintendent of schools, the judges of the superior court, and the justices of the peace, or the jurisdiction of the courts.

Notwithstanding the foregoing provision for the calling of an election by the legislative authority of such county for the election of freeholders to frame a county charter, registered voters equal in number to ten (10) per centum of the voters of any such county voting at the last preceding general election, may at any time propose by petition the calling of an election of freeholders. The petition shall be filed with the county auditor of the county at least three (3) months before any general election and the proposal that a board of freeholders be elected for the purpose of framing a county charter shall be submitted to the vote of the people at said general election, and at the same election a board of freeholders of not less than fifteen (15) or more than twenty-five (25), as fixed in the petition calling for the election, shall be chosen to draft the new charter. The procedure for the nomination of qualified electors as candidates for said board of freeholders shall be prescribed by the legislative authority of the county, and the procedure for the framing of the charter and the submission of the charter as framed shall be the same as in the case of a board of freeholders chosen at an election initiated by the legislative authority of the county.

In calling for any election of freeholders as provided in this section, the legislative authority of the county shall apportion the number of freeholders to be elected in accordance with either the legislative districts or the county commissioner districts, if any, within said county, the number of said freeholders to be elected from each of said districts to be in proportion to the population of said districts as nearly as may be.

Should the charter proposed receive the affirmative vote of the majority of the electors voting thereon, the legislative authority of

the county shall immediately call such special election as may be provided for therein, if any, and the county government shall be established in accordance with the terms of said charter not more than six (6) months after the election at which the charter was adopted.

The terms of all elective officers, except the prosecuting attorney, the county superintendent of schools, the judges of the superior court, and the justices of the peace, who are in office at the time of the adoption of a Home Rule Charter shall terminate as provided in the charter. All appointive officers in office at the time the charter goes into effect, whose positions are not abolished thereby, shall continue until their successors shall have qualified.

After the adoption of such charter, such county shall continue to have all the rights, powers, privileges and benefits then possessed or thereafter conferred by general law. All the powers, authority and duties granted to and imposed on county officers by general law, except the prosecuting attorney, the county superintendent of schools, the judges of the superior court and the justices of the peace, shall be vested in the legislative authority of the county unless expressly vested in specific officers by the charter. The legislative authority may by resolution delegate any of its executive or administrative powers, authority or duties not expressly vested in specific officers by the charter, to any county officer or officers or county employee or employees.

The provisions of sections 5, 6, 7, and the first sentence of section 8 of this Article as amended shall not apply to counties in which the government has been established by charter adopted under the provisions hereof. The authority conferred on the board of county commissioners by Section 15 of Article II as amended, shall be exercised by the legislative authority of the county.

[**AMENDMENT 21**, 1947 Senate Joint Resolution No. 5, p 1372. Approved November 2, 1948.]

**Original text — Art. 11 Section 4 COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION** — *The legislature shall establish a system of county government which shall be uniform throughout the state, and by general laws shall provide for township organization, under which any county may organize whenever a majority of the qualified electors of such county voting at a general election shall so determine, and whenever a county shall adopt township organization the assessment and collection of the revenue shall be made and the business of such county, and the local*

*affairs of the several townships therein shall be managed and transacted in the manner prescribed by such general laws.*

**SECTION 5 COUNTY GOVERNMENT.** The legislature, by general and uniform laws, shall provide for the election in the several counties of boards of county commissioners, sheriffs, county clerks, treasurers, prosecuting attorneys and other county, township or precinct and district officers, as public convenience may require, and shall prescribe their duties, and fix their terms of office: *Provided*, That the legislature may, by general laws, classify the counties by population and provide for the election in certain classes of counties certain officers who shall exercise the powers and perform the duties of two or more officers. It shall regulate the compensation of all such officers, in proportion to their duties, and for that purpose may classify the counties by population: *Provided*, That it may delegate to the legislative authority of the counties the right to prescribe the salaries of its own members and the salaries of other county officers. And it shall provide for the strict accountability of such officers for all fees which may be collected by them and for all public moneys which may be paid to them, or officially come into their possession. [AMENDMENT 57, part, 1971 Senate Joint Resolution No. 38, part, p 1829. Approved November, 1972.]

**Amendment 12 (1924) — Art. 11 Section 5 COUNTY GOVERNMENT** — *The legislature, by general and uniform laws, shall provide for the election in the several counties of boards of county commissioners, sheriffs, county clerks, treasurers, prosecuting attorneys and other county, township or precinct and district officers, as public convenience may require, and shall prescribe their duties, and fix their terms of office: Provided, That the legislature may, by general laws, classify the counties by population and provide for the election in certain classes of counties certain officers who shall exercise the powers and perform the duties of two or more officers. It shall regulate the compensation of all such officers, in proportion to their duties, and for that purpose may classify the counties by population. And it shall provide for the strict accountability of such officers for all fees which may be collected by them and for all public moneys which may be paid to them, or officially come into their possession.* [AMENDMENT 12, 1923 p 255 Section 1. Approved November, 1924.]

**Original text — Art. 11 Section 5 ELECTION AND COMPENSATION OF COUNTY OFFICERS** — *The legislature by general and uniform laws shall provide for the election in the several counties of boards of county commissioners, sheriffs, county clerks, treasurers, prosecuting attorneys, and other county, township or precinct*

*and district officers as public convenience may require, and shall prescribe their duties, and fix their terms of office. It shall regulate the compensation of all such officers, in proportion to their duties, and for that purpose may classify the counties by population. And it shall provide for the strict accountability of such officers for all fees which may be collected by them, and for all public moneys which may be paid to them, or officially come into their possession.*

**SECTION 6 VACANCIES IN TOWNSHIP, PRECINCT OR ROAD DISTRICT OFFICE.** The board of county commissioners in each county shall fill all vacancies occurring in any township, precinct or road district office of such county by appointment, and officers thus appointed shall hold office till the next general election, and until their successors are elected and qualified. [AMENDMENT 52, part, 1967 Senate Joint Resolution No. 24, part. Approved November 5, 1968.]

*Governmental continuity during emergency periods: Art. 2 Section 42.*

*Vacancies in legislature and in partisan county elective office: Art. 2 Section 15.*

**Original text — Art. 11 Section 6 VACANCIES IN COUNTY, ETC., OFFICES, HOW FILLED** — *The board of county commissioners in each county shall fill all vacancies occurring in any county, township, precinct or road district office of such county by appointment, and officers thus appointed shall hold office till the next general election, and until their successors are elected and qualified.*

**SECTION 7 TENURE OF OFFICE LIMITED TO TWO TERMS.** [Repealed by AMENDMENT 22, 1947 House Joint Resolution No. 4, p 1385. Approved November 2, 1948.]

**Original text — Art. 11 Section 7 TENURE OF OFFICE LIMITED TO TWO TERMS** — *No county officer shall be eligible to hold his office more than two terms in succession.*

**SECTION 8 SALARIES AND LIMITATIONS AFFECTING.** The salary of any county, city, town, or municipal officers shall not be increased except as provided in section 1 of Article XXX or diminished after his election, or during his term of office; nor shall the term of any such officer be extended beyond the period for which he is elected or appointed. [AMENDMENT 57, art, 1971 Senate Joint Resolution No. 38, part, p 1829. Approved November, 1972.]

**Original text — Art. 11 Section 8 SALARIES AND LIMITATIONS AFFECTING** — *The legislature shall fix the compensation by salaries of all county officers, and of constables in cities having a population of five thousand and upwards; except that public administrators, surveyors and coroners may or may not be salaried officers. The salary of any county, city, town, or municipal officers shall not be increased or diminished after his election, or during his term of office; nor shall the term of any such officer be extended beyond the period for which he is elected or appointed.*

**SECTION 9 STATE TAXES NOT TO BE RELEASED OR COMMUTED.** No county, nor the inhabitants thereof, nor the property therein, shall be released or discharged from its or their proportionate share of taxes to be levied for state purposes, nor shall commutation for such taxes be authorized in any form whatever.

**SECTION 10 INCORPORATION OF MUNICIPALITIES.** Corporations for municipal purposes shall not be created by special laws; but the legislature, by general laws, shall provide for the incorporation, organization and classification in proportion to population, of cities and towns, which laws may be altered, amended or repealed. Cities and towns heretofore organized, or incorporated may become organized under such general laws whenever a majority of the electors voting at a general election, shall so determine, and shall organize in conformity therewith; and cities or towns heretofore or hereafter organized, and all charters thereof framed or adopted by authority of this Constitution shall be subject to and controlled by general laws. Any city containing a population of ten thousand inhabitants, or more, shall be permitted to frame a charter for its own government, consistent with and subject to the Constitution and laws of this state, and for such purpose the legislative authority of such city may cause an election to be had at which election there shall be chosen by the qualified electors of said city, fifteen freeholders thereof, who shall have been residents of said city for a period of at least two years preceding their election and qualified electors, whose duty it shall be to convene within ten days after their election, and prepare and propose a charter for such city. Such proposed charter shall be submitted to the qualified electors of said city, and if a majority of such qualified electors voting thereon ratify the same, it shall become the charter of said city, and shall become the organic law thereof, and supersede any existing charter including amendments thereto, and all special laws inconsistent with such charter. Said proposed charter shall be published

in the daily newspaper of largest general circulation published in the area to be incorporated as a first class city under the charter or, if no daily newspaper is published therein, then in the newspaper having the largest general circulation within such area at least once each week for four weeks next preceding the day of submitting the same to the electors for their approval, as above provided. All elections in this section authorized shall only be had upon notice, which notice shall specify the object of calling such election, and shall be given as required by law. Said elections may be general or special elections, and except as herein provided shall be governed by the law regulating and controlling general or special elections in said city. Such charter may be amended by proposals therefor submitted by the legislative authority of such city to the electors thereof at any general election after notice of said submission published as above specified, and ratified by a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon. In submitting any such charter, or amendment thereto, any alternate article or proposition may be presented for the choice of the voters, and may be voted on separately without prejudice to others. [AMENDMENT 40, 1963 ex.s. Senate Joint Resolution No. 1, p 1526. Approved November 3, 1964.]

**Original text — Art. 11 Section 10 INCORPORATION OF MUNICIPALITIES** — *Corporations for municipal purposes shall not be created by special laws; but the legislature, by general laws, shall provide for the incorporation, organization and classification in proportion to population, of cities and towns, which laws may be altered, amended or repealed. Cities and towns heretofore organized, or incorporated may become organized under such general laws whenever a majority of the electors voting at a general election, shall so determine, and shall organize in conformity therewith; and cities or towns heretofore or hereafter organized, and all charters thereof framed or adopted by authority of this Constitution shall be subject to, and controlled by general laws. Any city containing a population of twenty thousand inhabitants, or more, shall be permitted to frame a charter for its own government, consistent with and subject to the Constitution and laws of this state, and for such purpose the legislative authority of such city may cause an election to be had at which election there shall be chosen by the qualified electors of said city, fifteen freeholders thereof, who shall have been residents of said city for a period of at least two years preceding their election and qualified electors, whose duty it shall be to convene within ten days after their election, and prepare and propose a charter for such city. Such proposed charter shall be submitted to the qualified electors of said city, and if a majority of such qualified electors voting thereon ratify the same, it shall become the charter of said city, and*



*shall become the organic law thereof, and supersede any existing charter including amendments thereto, and all special laws inconsistent with such charter. Said proposed charter shall be published in two daily newspapers published in said city, for at least thirty days prior to the day of submitting the same to the electors for their approval, as above provided. All elections in this section authorized shall only be had upon notice, which notice shall specify the object of calling such election, and shall be given for at least ten days before the day of election, in all election districts of said city. Said elections may be general or special elections, and except as herein provided shall be governed by the law regulating and controlling general or special elections in said city. Such charter may be amended by proposals therefore submitted by the legislative authority of such city to the electors thereof at any general election after notice of said submission published as above specified, and ratified by a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon. In submitting any such charter, or amendment thereto, any alternate article or proposition may be presented for the choice of the voters, and may be voted on separately without prejudice to others.*

*Authority to incur and limit of indebtedness: Art. 8 Section 6.*

#### **SECTION 11 POLICE AND SANITARY REGULATIONS.**

Any county, city, town or township may make and enforce within its limits all such local police, sanitary and other regulations as are not in conflict with general laws.

#### **SECTION 12 ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION OF TAXES IN MUNICIPALITIES.**

The legislature shall have no power to impose taxes upon counties, cities, towns or other municipal corporations, or upon the inhabitants or property thereof, for county, city, town, or other municipal purposes, but may, by general laws, vest in the corporate authorities thereof, the power to assess and collect taxes for such purposes.

#### **SECTION 13 PRIVATE PROPERTY, WHEN MAY BE**

**TAKEN FOR PUBLIC DEBT.** Private property shall not be taken or sold for the payment of the corporate debt of any public or municipal corporation, except in the mode provided by law for the levy and collection of taxes.

#### **SECTION 14 PRIVATE USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS PROHIBITED.**

The making of profit out of county, city, town, or other public money, or using the same for any purpose not authorized by law, by any officer having the possession or control thereof, shall be a felony, and shall be prosecuted and punished as prescribed by law.

**SECTION 15 DEPOSIT OF PUBLIC FUNDS.** All moneys, assessments and taxes belonging to or collected for the use of any county, city, town or other public or municipal corporation, coming into the hands of any officer thereof, shall immediately be deposited with the treasurer, or other legal depository to the credit of such city, town, or other corporation respectively, for the benefit of the funds to which they belong.

**SECTION 16 COMBINED CITY-COUNTY.** Any county may frame a "Home Rule" charter subject to the Constitution and laws of this state to provide for the formation and government of combined city and county municipal corporations, each of which shall be known as "city-county". Registered voters equal in number to ten (10) percent of the voters of any such county voting at the last preceding general election may at any time propose by a petition the calling of an election of freeholders. The provisions of section 4 of this Article with respect to a petition calling for an election of freeholders to frame a county home rule charter, the election of freeholders, and the framing and adoption of a county home rule charter pursuant to such petition shall apply to a petition proposed under this section for the election of freeholders to frame a city-county charter, the election of freeholders, and to the framing and adoption of such city-county charter pursuant to such petition. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the provisions of section 4 applicable to a county home rule charter shall apply to a city-county charter. If there are not sufficient legal newspapers published in the county to meet the requirements for publication of a proposed charter under section 4 of this Article, publication in a legal newspaper circulated in the county may be substituted for publication in a legal newspaper published in the county. No such "city-county" shall be formed except by a majority vote of the qualified electors voting thereon in the county. The charter shall designate the respective officers of such city-county who shall perform the duties imposed by law upon county officers. Every such city-county shall have and enjoy all rights, powers and privileges asserted in its charter, and in addition thereto, such rights, powers and privileges as may be granted to it, or to any city or county or class or classes of cities and counties. In the event of a conflict in the constitutional provisions applying to cities and those applying to counties or of a conflict in the general laws applying to cities and those applying to counties, a city-county shall be authorized

to exercise any powers that are granted to either the cities or the counties.

No legislative enactment which is a prohibition or restriction shall apply to the rights, powers and privileges of a city-county unless such prohibition or restriction shall apply equally to every other city, county, and city-county.

The provisions of sections 2, 3, 5, 6, and 8 and of the first paragraph of section 4 of this article shall not apply to any such city-county.

Municipal corporations may be retained or otherwise provided for within the city-county. The formation, powers and duties of such municipal corporations shall be prescribed by the charter.

No city-county shall for any purpose become indebted in any manner to an amount exceeding three per centum of the taxable property in such city-county without the assent of three-fifths of the voters therein voting at an election to be held for that purpose, nor in cases requiring such assent shall the total indebtedness at any time exceed ten per centum of the value of the taxable property therein, to be ascertained by the last assessment for city-county purposes previous to the incurring of such indebtedness: *Provided*, That no part of the indebtedness allowed in this section shall be incurred for any purpose other than strictly city-county or other municipal purposes: *Provided further*, That any city-county, with such assent may be allowed to become indebted to a larger amount, but not exceeding five per centum additional for supplying such city-county with water, artificial light, and sewers, when the works for supplying such water, light, and sewers shall be owned and controlled by the city-county.

No municipal corporation which is retained or otherwise provided for within the city-county shall for any purpose become indebted in any manner to an amount exceeding one and one-half per centum of the taxable property in such municipal corporation without the assent of three-fifths of the voters therein voting at an election to be held for that purpose, nor shall the total indebtedness at any time exceed five per centum of the value of the taxable property therein, to be ascertained by the last assessment for city-county purposes previous to the incurring of such indebtedness: *Provided*, That no part of the indebtedness allowed in this section shall be incurred for any purpose other than strictly municipal purposes: *Provided further*, That any such municipal

corporation, with such assent, may be allowed to become indebted to a larger amount, but not exceeding five per centum additional for supplying such municipal corporation with water, artificial light, and sewers, when the works for supplying such water, light, and sewers shall be owned and controlled by the municipal corporation. All taxes which are levied and collected within a municipal corporation for a specific purpose shall be expended within that municipal corporation.

The authority conferred on the city-county government shall not be restricted by the second sentence of Article 7, section 1, or by Article 8, section 6 of this Constitution. [AMENDMENT 58, 1971 House Joint Resolution No. 21, p 1831. Approved November, 1972.]

**Amendment 23 (1948) — Art. 11 Section 16 COMBINED CITY AND COUNTY** — *The legislature shall, by general law, provide for the formation of combined city and county municipal corporations, and for the manner of determining the territorial limits thereof, each of which shall be known as a "city and county," and, when organized, shall contain a population of at least three hundred thousand (300,000) inhabitants. No such city and county shall be formed except by a majority vote of the qualified electors of the area proposed to be included therein and also by a majority vote of the qualified electors of the remainder of that county from which such area is to be taken. Any such city and county shall be permitted to frame a charter for its own government, and amend the same, in the manner provided for cities by section 10 of this article: Provided, however, That the first charter of such city and county shall be framed and adopted in a manner to be specified in the general law authorizing the formation of such corporations: Provided further, That every such charter shall designate the respective officers of such city and county who shall perform the duties imposed by law upon county officers. Every such city and county shall have and enjoy all rights, powers and privileges asserted in its charter, not inconsistent with general laws, and in addition thereto, such rights, powers and privileges as may be granted to it, or possessed and enjoyed by cities and counties of like population separately organized.*

*No county or county government existing outside the territorial limits of such county and city shall exercise any police, taxation or other powers within the territorial limits of such county and city, but all such powers shall be exercised by the city and county and the officers thereof, subject to such constitutional provisions and general laws as apply to either cities or counties: Provided, That the provisions of sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 of this article shall not apply to any such city and county: Provided further, That the salary of any elective or appointive officer of a city and county shall not be changed after his election or appointment or during his term of office; nor shall the term of any such officer be extended beyond the period*

*for which he is elected or appointed. In case an existing county is divided in the formation of a city and county, such city and county shall be liable for a just proportion of the existing debts or liabilities of the former county, and shall account for and pay the county remaining a just proportion of the value of any real estate or other property owned by the former county and taken over by the county and city, the method of determining such just proportion to be prescribed by general law, but such division shall not affect the rights of creditors. The officers of a city and county, their compensation, qualifications, term of office and manner of election or appointment shall be as provided for in its charter, subject to general laws and applicable constitutional provisions. [AMENDMENT 23, 1947 House Joint Resolution No. 13, p 1386. Approved November 2, 1948.]*

## ARTICLE XII CORPORATIONS OTHER THAN MUNICIPAL

**SECTION 1 CORPORATIONS, HOW FORMED.** Corporations may be formed under general laws, but shall not be created by special acts. All laws relating to corporations may be altered, amended or repealed by the legislature at any time, and all corporations doing business in this state may, as to such business, be regulated, limited or restrained by law.

**SECTION 2 EXISTING CHARTERS.** All existing charters, franchises, special or exclusive privileges, under which an actual and *bona fide* organization shall not have taken place, and business been commenced in good faith, at the time of the adoption of this Constitution shall thereafter have no validity.

**SECTION 3 EXISTING CHARTERS NOT TO BE EXTENDED NOR FORFEITURE REMITTED.** The legislature shall not extend any franchise or charter, nor remit the forfeiture of any franchise or charter of any corporation now existing, or which shall hereafter exist under the laws of this state.

**SECTION 4 LIABILITY OF STOCKHOLDERS.** Each stockholder in all incorporated companies, except corporations organized for banking or insurance purposes, shall be liable for the debts of the corporation to the amount of his unpaid stock and no more; and one or more stockholders may be joined as parties defendant in suits to recover upon this liability.

**SECTION 5 TERM "CORPORATION," DEFINED RIGHT TO SUE AND BE SUED.** The term corporations, as used in this

article, shall be construed to include all associations and joint stock companies having any powers or privileges of corporations not possessed by individuals or partnerships, and all corporations shall have the right to sue and shall be subject to be sued, in all courts, in like cases as natural persons.

**SECTION 6 LIMITATIONS UPON ISSUANCE OF STOCK.**

Corporations shall not issue stock, except to *bona fide* subscribers therefor, or their assignees; nor shall any corporation issue any bond, or other obligation, for the payment of money, except for money or property received or labor done. The stock of corporations shall not be increased, except in pursuance of a general law, nor shall any law authorize the increase of stock, without the consent of the person or persons holding the larger amount in value of the stock, nor without due notice of the proposed increase having been previously given in such manner as may be prescribed by law. All fictitious increase of stock or indebtedness shall be void.

**SECTION 7 FOREIGN CORPORATIONS.** No corporation organized outside the limits of this state shall be allowed to transact business within the state on more favorable conditions than are prescribed by law to similar corporations organized under the laws of this state.

**SECTION 8 ALIENATION OF FRANCHISE NOT TO**

**RELEASE LIABILITIES.** No corporation shall lease or alienate any franchise, so as to relieve the franchise, or property held thereunder, from the liabilities of the lessor, or grantor, lessee, or grantee, contracted or incurred in the operation, use, or enjoyment of such franchise or any of its privileges.

**SECTION 9 STATE NOT TO LOAN ITS CREDIT OR SUB-**

**SCRIBE FOR STOCK.** The state shall not in any manner loan its credit, nor shall it subscribe to, or be interested in the stock of any company, association or corporation.

**SECTION 10 EMINENT DOMAIN AFFECTING.**

The exercise of the right of eminent domain shall never be so abridged or construed as to prevent the legislature from taking the property and franchises of incorporated companies, and subjecting them to public use the same as the property of individuals.

**SECTION 11 STOCKHOLDER LIABILITY.** No corporation, association, or individual shall issue or put in circulation as money anything but the lawful money of the United States. Each stockholder of any banking or insurance corporation or joint stock association shall be individually and personally liable equally and ratably, and not one for another, for all contracts, debts, and engagements of such corporation or association accruing while they remain such stockholders, to the extent of the amount of their stock therein at the par value thereof, in addition to the amount invested in such shares.

The legislature may provide that stockholders of banking corporations organized under the laws of this state which shall provide and furnish, either through membership in the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, or through membership in any other instrumentality of the government of the United States, insurance or security for the payment of the debts and obligations of such banking corporation equivalent to that required by the laws of the United States to be furnished and provided by national banking associations, shall be relieved from liability for the debts and obligations of such banking corporation to the same extent that stockholders of national banking associations are relieved from liability for the debts and obligations of such national banking associations under the laws of the United States. [AMENDMENT 16, 1939 Senate Joint Resolution No. 8, p 1024. Approved November, 1940.]

**Original text — Art. 12 Section 11 PROHIBITION AGAINST ISSUANCE OF MONEY AND LIABILITY OF STOCKHOLDERS IN BANKS** — *No corporation, association, or individual shall issue or put in circulation as money anything but the lawful money of the United States. Each stockholder of any banking or insurance corporation or joint stock association, shall be individually and personally liable equally and ratably and not one for another; for all contracts, debts and engagements of such corporation or association accruing while they remain such stockholders to the extent of the amount of their stock therein at the par value thereof, in addition to the amount invested in such shares.*

**SECTION 12 RECEIVING DEPOSITS BY BANK AFTER INSOLVENCY.** Any president, director, manager, cashier, or other officer of any banking institution, who shall receive or assent to the reception of deposits, after he shall have knowledge of the fact that such banking institution is insolvent or in failing cir-

cumstances, shall be individually responsible for such deposits so received.

### **SECTION 13 COMMON CARRIERS, REGULATION OF.**

All railroad, canal and other transportation companies are declared to be common carriers and subject to legislative control. Any association or corporation organized for the purpose, under the laws of this state, shall have the right to connect at the state line with railroads of other states. Every railroad company shall have the right with its road, whether the same be now constructed or may hereafter be constructed, to intersect, cross or connect with any other railroad, and when such railroads are of the same or similar gauge they shall at all crossings and at all points, where a railroad shall begin or terminate at or near any other railroad, form proper connections so that the cars of any such railroad companies may be speedily transferred from one railroad to another. All railroad companies shall receive and transport each the other's passengers, tonnage and cars without delay or discrimination.

### **SECTION 14 PROHIBITION AGAINST COMBINATIONS BY CARRIERS.** [Repealed by AMENDMENT 67, 1977 House Joint Resolution No. 57, p 1714. Approved November 8, 1977.]

**Original text — Art. 12 Section 14 PROHIBITION AGAINST COMBINATIONS BY CARRIERS** — *No railroad company, or other common carrier, shall combine or make any contract with the owners of any vessel that leaves port or makes port in this state, or with any common carrier, by which combination or contract the earnings of one doing the carrying are to be shared by the other not doing the carrying.*

### **SECTION 15 PROHIBITION AGAINST DISCRIMINATING CHARGES.**

No discrimination in charges or facilities for transportation shall be made by any railroad or other transportation company between places or persons, or in the facilities for the transportation of the same classes of freight or passengers within this state, or coming from or going to any other state. Persons and property transported over any railroad, or by any other transportation company, or individual, shall be delivered at any station, landing or port, at charges not exceeding the charges for the transportation of persons and property of the same class, in the same direction, to any more distant station, port or landing. Excursion and commutation tickets may be issued at special rates.



**SECTION 16 PROHIBITION AGAINST CONSOLIDATING OF COMPETING LINES.** No railroad corporation shall consolidate its stock, property or franchises with any other railroad corporation owning a competing line.

**SECTION 17 ROLLING STOCK, PERSONALTY FOR PURPOSE OF TAXATION.** The rolling stock and other movable property belonging to any railroad company or corporation in this state, shall be considered personal property, and shall be liable to taxation and to execution and sale in the same manner as the personal property of individuals and such property shall not be exempted from execution and sale.

**SECTION 18 RATES FOR TRANSPORTATION.** The legislature may pass laws establishing reasonable rates of charges for the transportation of passengers and freight, and to correct abuses and prevent discrimination and extortion in the rates of freight and passenger tariffs on the different railroads and other common carriers in the state, and shall enforce such laws by adequate penalties. A railroad and transportation commission may be established and its powers and duties fully defined by law. [AMENDMENT 66, 1977 House Joint Resolution No. 55, p 1713. Approved November 8, 1977.]

**Original text — Art. 12 Section 18 MAXIMUM RATES FOR TRANSPORTATION** — *The legislature shall pass laws establishing reasonable maximum rates of charges for the transportation of passengers and freight, and to correct abuses and prevent discrimination and extortion in the rates of freight and passenger tariffs on the different railroads and other common carriers in the state, and shall enforce such laws by adequate penalties. A railroad and transportation commission may be established and its powers and duties fully defined by law.*

**SECTION 19 TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE COMPANIES.** Any association or corporation, or the lessees or managers thereof, organized for the purpose, or any individual, shall have the right to construct and maintain lines of telegraph and telephone within this state, and said companies shall receive and transmit each other's messages without delay or discrimination and all of such companies are hereby declared to be common carriers and subject to legislative control. Railroad corporations organized or doing business in this state shall allow telegraph and telephone corporations and companies to construct and maintain telegraph lines

on and along the rights of way of such railroads and railroad companies, and no railroad corporation organized or doing business in this state shall allow any telegraph corporation or company any facilities, privileges or rates for transportation of men or material or for repairing their lines not allowed to all telegraph companies. The right of eminent domain is hereby extended to all telegraph and telephone companies. The legislature shall, by general law of uniform operation, provide reasonable regulations to give effect to this section.

*Eminent domain: Art. 1 Section 16.*

**SECTION 20 PROHIBITION AGAINST FREE TRANSPORTATION FOR PUBLIC OFFICERS.** No railroad or other transportation company shall grant free passes, or sell tickets or passes at a discount, other than as sold to the public generally, to any member of the legislature, or to any person holding any public office within this state. The legislature shall pass laws to carry this provision into effect.

**SECTION 21 EXPRESS COMPANIES.** Railroad companies now or hereafter organized or doing business in this state, shall allow all express companies organized or doing business in this state, transportation over all lines of railroad owned or operated by such railroad companies upon equal terms with any other express company, and no railroad corporation organized or doing business in this state shall allow any express corporation or company any facilities, privileges or rates for transportation of men or materials or property carried by them or for doing the business of such express companies not allowed to all express companies.

**SECTION 22 MONOPOLIES AND TRUSTS.** Monopolies and trusts shall never be allowed in this state, and no incorporated company, copartnership, or association of persons in this state shall directly or indirectly combine or make any contract with any other incorporated company, foreign or domestic, through their stockholders, or the trustees or assignees of such stockholders, or with any copartnership or association of persons, or in any manner whatever for the purpose of fixing the price or limiting the production or regulating the transportation of any product or commodity. The legislature shall pass laws for the enforcement of this section by adequate penalties, and in case of incorporated companies, if

necessary for that purpose, may declare a forfeiture of their franchises.

## ARTICLE XIII STATE INSTITUTIONS

**SECTION 1 EDUCATIONAL, REFORMATORY, AND PENAL INSTITUTIONS.** Educational, reformatory, and penal institutions; those for the benefit of youth who are blind or deaf or otherwise disabled; for persons who are mentally ill or developmentally disabled; and such other institutions as the public good may require, shall be fostered and supported by the state, subject to such regulations as may be provided by law. The regents, trustees, or commissioners of all such institutions existing at the time of the adoption of this Constitution, and of such as shall thereafter be established by law, shall be appointed by the governor, by and with the advice and consent of the senate; and upon all nominations made by the governor, the question shall be taken by ayes and noes, and entered upon the journal. [AMENDMENT 83, 1988 House Joint Resolution No. 4231, p 1553. Approved November 8, 1988.]

**Original text — Art. 13 Section 1 EDUCATIONAL, REFORMATORY AND PENAL INSTITUTIONS** — *Educational, reformatory and penal institutions; those for the benefit of blind, deaf, dumb, or otherwise defective youth; for the insane or idiotic; and such other institutions as the public good may require, shall be fostered and supported by the state, subject to such regulations as may be provided by law. The regents, trustees, or commissioners of all such institutions existing at the time of the adoption of this Constitution, and of such as shall thereafter be established by law, shall be appointed by the governor, by and with the advice and consent of the senate; and upon all nominations made by the governor, the question shall be taken by ayes and noes, and entered upon the journal.*

## ARTICLE XIV SEAT OF GOVERNMENT

**SECTION 1 STATE CAPITAL, LOCATION OF.** The legislature shall have no power to change, or to locate the seat of government of this state; but the question of the permanent location of the seat of government of the state shall be submitted to the qualified

electors of the Territory, at the election to be held for the adoption of this Constitution. A majority of all the votes cast at said election, upon said question, shall be necessary to determine the permanent location of the seat of government for the state; and no place shall ever be the seat of government which shall not receive a majority of the votes cast on that matter. In case there shall be no choice of location at said first election the legislature shall, at its first regular session after the adoption of this Constitution, provide for submitting to the qualified electors of the state, at the next succeeding general election thereafter, the question of choice of location between the three places for which the highest number of votes shall have been cast at the said first election. Said legislature shall provide further that in case there shall be no choice of location at said second election, the question of choice between the two places for which the highest number of votes shall have been cast, shall be submitted in like manner to the qualified electors of the state at the next ensuing general election: *Provided*, That until the seat of government shall have been permanently located as herein provided, the temporary location thereof shall remain at the city of Olympia.

**SECTION 2 CHANGE OF STATE CAPITAL.** When the seat of government shall have been located as herein provided, the location thereof shall not thereafter be changed except by a vote of two-thirds of all the qualified electors of the state voting on that question, at a general election, at which the question of location of the seat of government shall have been submitted by the legislature.

*Governmental continuity during emergency periods: Art. 2 Section 42.*

**SECTION 3 RESTRICTIONS ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR CAPITOL BUILDINGS.** The legislature shall make no appropriations or expenditures for capitol buildings or grounds, except to keep the Territorial capitol buildings and grounds in repair, and for making all necessary additions thereto, until the seat of government shall have been permanently located, and the public buildings are erected at the permanent capital in pursuance of law.

## ARTICLE XV HARBORS AND TIDE WATERS

### SECTION 1 HARBOR LINE COMMISSION AND

**RESTRAINT ON DISPOSITION.** The legislature shall provide for the appointment of a commission whose duty it shall be to locate and establish harbor lines in the navigable waters of all harbors, estuaries, bays and inlets of this state, wherever such navigable waters lie within or in front of the corporate limits of any city, or within one mile thereof on either side. Any harbor line so located or established may thereafter be changed, relocated or reestablished by the commission pursuant to such provision as may be made therefor by the legislature. The state shall never give, sell or lease to any private person, corporation, or association any rights whatever in the waters beyond such harbor lines, nor shall any of the area lying between any harbor line and the line of ordinary high water, and within not less than fifty feet nor more than two thousand feet of such harbor line (as the commission shall determine) be sold or granted by the state, nor its rights to control the same relinquished, but such area shall be forever reserved for landings, wharves, streets, and other conveniences of navigation and commerce. [AMENDMENT 15, 1931 p 417 Section 1. Approved November, 1932.]

*Tide lands: Art. 17.*

### Original text — Art. 15 Section 1 HARBOR LINE COMMISSION AND RESTRAINT ON DISPOSITION OF CERTAIN TIDE LANDS —

*The legislature shall provide for the appointment of a commission whose duty it shall be to locate and establish harbor lines in the navigable waters of all harbors, estuaries, bays and inlets of this state, wherever such navigable waters lie within or in front of the corporate limits of any city or within one mile thereof on either side. The state shall never give, sell or lease to any private person, corporation or association any rights whatever in the waters beyond such harbor lines, nor shall any of the area lying between any harbor line and the line of ordinary high tide, and within not less than fifty feet nor more than six hundred feet of such harbor line (as the commission shall determine) be sold or granted by the state, nor its right to control the same relinquished, but such area shall be forever reserved for landings, wharves, streets and other conveniences of navigation and commerce.*

### SECTION 2 LEASING AND MAINTENANCE OF

**WHARVES, DOCKS, ETC.** The legislature shall provide gen-

eral laws for the leasing of the right to build and maintain wharves, docks and other structures, upon the areas mentioned in section one of this article, but no lease shall be made for any term longer than thirty years, or the legislature may provide by general laws for the building and maintaining upon such area wharves, docks, and other structures.

**SECTION 3 EXTENSION OF STREETS OVER TIDE LANDS.** Municipal corporations shall have the right to extend their streets over intervening tide lands to and across the area reserved as herein provided.

## **ARTICLE XVI SCHOOL AND GRANTED LANDS**

**SECTION 1 DISPOSITION OF.** All the public lands granted to the state are held in trust for all the people and none of such lands, nor any estate or interest therein, shall ever be disposed of unless the full market value of the estate or interest disposed of, to be ascertained in such manner as may be provided by law, be paid or safely secured to the state; nor shall any lands which the state holds by grant from the United States (in any case in which the manner of disposal and minimum price are so prescribed) be disposed of except in the manner and for at least the price prescribed in the grant thereof, without the consent of the United States.

**SECTION 2 MANNER AND TERMS OF SALE.** None of the lands granted to the state for educational purposes shall be sold otherwise than at public auction to the highest bidder, the value thereof, less the improvements shall, before any sale, be appraised by a board of appraisers to be provided by law, the terms of payment also to be prescribed by law, and no sale shall be valid unless the sum bid be equal to the appraised value of said land. In estimating the value of such lands for disposal, the value of the improvements thereon shall be excluded: *Provided*, That the sale of all school and university land heretofore made by the commissioners of any county or the university commissioners when the purchase price has been paid in good faith, may be confirmed by the legislature.

**SECTION 3 LIMITATIONS ON SALES.** No more than one-fourth of the land granted to the state for educational purposes

shall be sold prior to January 1, 1895, and not more than one-half prior to January 1, 1905: *provided*, that nothing herein shall be so construed as to prevent the state from selling the timber or stone off of any of the state lands in such manner and on such terms as may be prescribed by law: and *provided, further*; that no sale of timber lands shall be valid unless the full value of such lands is paid or secured to the state.

**SECTION 4 HOW MUCH MAY BE OFFERED IN CERTAIN CASES — PLATTING OF.** No more than one hundred and sixty (160) acres of any granted lands of the state shall be offered for sale in one parcel, and all lands within the limits of any incorporated city or within two miles of the boundary of any incorporated city where the valuation of such land shall be found by appraisal to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100) per acre shall, before the same be sold, be platted into lots and blocks of not more than five acres in a block, and not more than one block shall be offered for sale in one parcel.

**SECTION 5 INVESTMENT OF PERMANENT COMMON SCHOOL FUND.** The permanent common school fund of this state may be invested as authorized by law. [AMENDMENT 44, 1965 ex.s. Senate Joint Resolution No. 22, part 2, p 2817. Approved November 8, 1966.]

**Amendment 1 (1894) — Art. 16 Section 5 INVESTMENT OF SCHOOL FUND** — *None of the permanent school fund of this state shall ever be loaned to private persons or corporations, but it may be invested in national, state, county, municipal or school district bonds.* [AMENDMENT 1, 1893 p 9 Section 1. Approved November, 1894.]

**Original text — Art. 16 Section 5 INVESTMENT OF PERMANENT SCHOOL FUND** — *None of the permanent school fund shall ever be loaned to private persons or corporations, but it may be invested in national, state, county or municipal bonds.*

Funds for support of education: Art. 9 Section 3.

**SECTION 6 INVESTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION PERMANENT FUNDS.** Notwithstanding the provisions of Article VIII, sections 5 and 7 and Article XII, section 9, or any other section or article of the Constitution of the state of Washington, the moneys of the permanent funds established for any of the institutions of higher education in this state may be invested as autho-

rized by law. Without limitation, this shall include the authority to invest permanent funds held for the benefit of institutions of higher education in stocks or bonds issued by any association, company, or corporation if authorized by law. [AMENDMENT 102, 2007 Substitute House Joint Resolution No. 4215, p 3145. Approved November 6, 2007.]

## ARTICLE XVII TIDE LANDS

**SECTION 1 DECLARATION OF STATE OWNERSHIP.** The state of Washington asserts its ownership to the beds and shores of all navigable waters in the state up to and including the line of ordinary high tide, in waters where the tide ebbs and flows, and up to and including the line of ordinary high water within the banks of all navigable rivers and lakes: *Provided*, that this section shall not be construed so as to debar any person from asserting his claim to vested rights in the courts of the state.

*Harbors and tide waters: Art. 15.*

**SECTION 2 DISCLAIMER OF CERTAIN LANDS.** The state of Washington disclaims all title in and claim to all tide, swamp and overflowed lands, patented by the United States: *Provided*, the same is not impeached for fraud.

## ARTICLE XVIII STATE SEAL

**SECTION 1 SEAL OF THE STATE.** The seal of the State of Washington shall be, a seal encircled with the words: "The Seal of the State of Washington," with the vignette of General George Washington as the central figure, and beneath the vignette the figures "1889."

*Custody of seal: Art. 3 Section 18.*

*State seal: RCW 1.20.080.*



## **ARTICLE XIX EXEMPTIONS**

**SECTION 1 EXEMPTIONS — HOMESTEADS, ETC.** The legislature shall protect by law from forced sale a certain portion of the homestead and other property of all heads of families.

## **ARTICLE XX PUBLIC HEALTH AND VITAL STATISTICS**

**SECTION 1 BOARD OF HEALTH AND BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS.** There shall be established by law a state board of health and a bureau of vital statistics in connection therewith, with such powers as the legislature may direct.

**SECTION 2 REGULATIONS CONCERNING MEDICINE, SURGERY AND PHARMACY.** The legislature shall enact laws to regulate the practice of medicine and surgery, and the sale of drugs and medicines.

## **ARTICLE XXI WATER AND WATER RIGHTS**

**SECTION 1 PUBLIC USE OF WATER.** The use of the waters of this state for irrigation, mining and manufacturing purposes shall be deemed a public use.

## **ARTICLE XXII LEGISLATIVE APPORTIONMENT**

**SECTION 1 SENATORIAL APPORTIONMENT.** Until otherwise provided by law, the state shall be divided into twenty-four (24) senatorial districts, and said districts shall be constituted and numbered as follows: The counties of Stevens and Spokane shall constitute the first district, and be entitled to one senator; the county of Spokane shall constitute the second district, and be entitled to three senators; the county of Lincoln shall constitute the third district, and be entitled to one senator; the counties of Okanogan, Lincoln, Adams and Franklin shall constitute the fourth district, and be entitled to one senator; the county of Whitman shall constitute the fifth district, and be entitled to three senators; the

counties of Garfield and Asotin shall constitute the sixth district, and be entitled to one senator; the county of Columbia shall constitute the seventh district, and be entitled to one senator; the county of Walla Walla shall constitute the eighth district, and be entitled to two senators; the counties of Yakima and Douglas shall constitute the ninth district, and be entitled to one senator; the county of Kittitas shall constitute the tenth district and be entitled to one senator; the counties of Klickitat, and Skamania shall constitute the eleventh district, and be entitled to one senator; the county of Clarke shall constitute the twelfth district, and be entitled to one senator; the county of Cowlitz shall constitute the thirteenth district, and be entitled to one senator; the county of Lewis shall constitute the fourteenth district, and be entitled to one senator; the counties of Pacific and Wahkiakum shall constitute the fifteenth district, and be entitled to one senator; the county of Thurston shall constitute the sixteenth district, and be entitled to one senator; the county of Chehalis shall constitute the seventeenth district, and be entitled to one senator; the county of Pierce shall constitute the eighteenth district, and be entitled to three senators; the county of King shall constitute the nineteenth district, and be entitled to five senators; the counties of Mason and Kitsap shall constitute the twentieth district, and be entitled to one senator; the counties of Jefferson, Clallam and San Juan shall constitute the twenty-first district, and be entitled to one senator; the county of Snohomish shall constitute the twenty-second district, and shall be entitled to one senator; the counties of Skagit and Island shall constitute the twenty-third district, and be entitled to one senator; the county of Whatcom shall constitute the twenty-fourth district, and be entitled to one senator.

*Districts and apportionment: Chapter 44.07D RCW.*

## **SECTION 2 APPORTIONMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

Until otherwise provided by law the representatives shall be divided among the several counties of the state in the following manner; the county of Adams shall have one representative; the county of Asotin shall have one representative; the county of Chehalis shall have two representatives; the county of Clarke shall have three representatives; the county of Clallam shall have one representative; the county of Columbia shall have two representatives; the county of Cowlitz shall have one representative; the county of Douglas shall have one representative; the county of Franklin shall

have one representative; the county of Garfield shall have one representative; the county of Island shall have one representative; the county of Jefferson shall have two representatives; the county of King shall have eight representatives; the county of Klickitat shall have two representatives; the county of Kittitas shall have two representatives; the county of Kitsap shall have one representative; the county of Lewis shall have two representatives; the county of Lincoln shall have two representatives; the county of Mason shall have one representative; the county of Okanogan shall have one representative; the county of Pacific shall have one representative; the county of Pierce shall have six representatives; the county of San Juan shall have one representative; the county of Skamania shall have one representative; the county of Snohomish shall have two representatives; the county of Skagit shall have two representatives; the county of Spokane shall have six representatives; the county of Stevens shall have one representative; the county of Thurston shall have two representatives; the county of Walla Walla shall have three representatives; the county of Wahkiakum shall have one representative; the county of Whatcom shall have two representatives; the county of Whitman shall have five representatives; the county of Yakima shall have one representative.

*Districts and apportionment: Chapter 44.07D RCW.*

## ARTICLE XXIII AMENDMENTS

**SECTION 1 HOW MADE.** Any amendment or amendments to this Constitution may be proposed in either branch of the legislature; and if the same shall be agreed to by two-thirds of the members elected to each of the two houses, such proposed amendment or amendments shall be entered on their journals, with the ayes and noes thereon, and be submitted to the qualified electors of the state for their approval, at the next general election; and if the people approve and ratify such amendment or amendments, by a majority of the electors voting thereon, the same shall become part of this Constitution, and proclamation thereof shall be made by the governor: *Provided*, That if more than one amendment be submitted, they shall be submitted in such a manner that the people may vote for or against such amendments separately. The legislature shall also cause notice of the amendments that are to be submitted

to the people to be published at least four times during the four weeks next preceding the election in every legal newspaper in the state: *Provided*, That failure of any newspaper to publish this notice shall not be interpreted as affecting the outcome of the election. [AMENDMENT 37, 1961 Senate Joint Resolution No. 25, p 2753. Approved November, 1962.]

**Original text — Art. 23 Section 1 HOW MADE** — *Any amendment or amendments to this Constitution may be proposed in either branch of the legislature; and if the same shall be agreed to by two-thirds of the members elected to each of the two houses, such proposed amendment or amendments shall be entered on their journals, with the ayes and noes thereon, and be submitted to the qualified electors of the state for their approval, at the next general election; and if the people approve and ratify such amendment or amendments, by a majority of the electors voting thereon, the same shall become part of this Constitution, and proclamation thereof shall be made by the governor: Provided, that if more than one amendment be submitted, they shall be submitted in such a manner that the people may vote for or against such amendments separately. The legislature shall also cause the amendments that are to be submitted to the people to be published for at least three months next preceding the election, in some weekly newspaper, in every county where a newspaper is published throughout the state.*

**SECTION 2 CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS.** Whenever two-thirds of the members elected to each branch of the legislature shall deem it necessary to call a convention to revise or amend this Constitution, they shall recommend to the electors to vote at the next general election, for or against a convention, and if a majority of all the electors voting at said election shall have voted for a convention, the legislature shall at the next session, provide by law for calling the same; and such convention shall consist of a number of members, not less than that of the most numerous branch of the legislature.

**SECTION 3 SUBMISSION TO THE PEOPLE.** Any Constitution adopted by such convention shall have no validity until it has been submitted to and adopted by the people.

## ARTICLE XXIV BOUNDARIES

**SECTION 1 STATE BOUNDARIES.** The boundaries of the state of Washington shall be as follows: Beginning at a point in

the Pacific ocean one marine league due west of and opposite the middle of the mouth of the north ship channel of the Columbia river thence running easterly to and up the middle channel of said river and where it is divided by islands up the middle of the widest channel thereof to where the forty-sixth parallel of north latitude crosses said river near the mouth of the Walla Walla river; thence east on said forty-sixth parallel of latitude to the middle of the main channel of Shoshone or Snake river, thence follow down the middle of the main channel of Snake river to a point opposite the mouth of the Kooskooskia or Clear Water river, thence due north to the forty-ninth parallel of north latitude, thence west along said forty-ninth parallel of north latitude to the middle of the channel which separates Vancouver's island from the continent, that is to say to a point in longitude 123 degrees, 19 minutes and 15 seconds west, thence following the boundary line between the United States and British possessions through the channel which separates Vancouver's island from the continent to the termination of the boundary line between the United States and British possessions at a point in the Pacific ocean equidistant between Bonnilla point on Vancouver's island and Tatoosh island light house, thence running in a southerly course and parallel with the coast line, keeping one marine league off shore to place of beginning; until such boundaries are modified by appropriate interstate compacts duly approved by the Congress of the United States. [AMENDMENT 33, 1957 Senate Joint Resolution No. 10, p 1292. Approved November 4, 1958.]

**Original text — Art. 24 Section 1 STATE BOUNDARIES —** *The boundaries of the State of Washington shall be as follows: Beginning at a point in the Pacific ocean one marine league due west of and opposite the middle of the mouth of the north ship channel of the Columbia river thence running easterly to and up the middle channel of said river and where it is divided by islands up the middle of the widest channel thereof to where the forty-sixth parallel of north latitude crosses said river near the mouth of the Walla Walla river; thence east on said forty-sixth parallel of latitude to the middle of the main channel of the Shoshone or Snake river; thence follow down the middle of the main channel of Snake river to a point opposite the mouth of the Kooskooskia or Clear Water river; thence due north to the forty-ninth parallel of north latitude, thence west along said forty-ninth parallel of north latitude to the middle of the channel which separates Vancouver's island from the continent, that is to say to a point in longitude 123 degrees, 19 minutes and 15 seconds west, thence following the boundary*

*line between the United States and British possessions through the channel which separates Vancouver's island from the continent to the termination of the boundary line between the United States and British possessions at a point in the Pacific ocean equi distant between Bonnilla point on Vancouver's island and Tatoosh island light house, thence running in a southerly course and parallel with the coast line, keeping one marine league off shore to place of beginning.*

## ARTICLE XXV JURISDICTION

**SECTION 1 AUTHORITY OF THE UNITED STATES.** The consent of the State of Washington is hereby given to the exercise, by the congress of the United States, of exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever over such tracts or parcels of land as are now held or reserved by the government of the United States for the purpose of erecting or maintaining thereon forts, magazines, arsenals, dockyards, lighthouses and other needful buildings, in accordance with the provisions of the seventeenth paragraph of the eighth section of the first article of the Constitution of the United States, so long as the same shall be so held and reserved by the United States. *Provided:* That a sufficient description by metes and bounds, and an accurate plat or map of each such tract or parcel of land be filed in the proper office of record in the county in which the same is situated, together with copies of the orders, deeds, patents or other evidences in writing of the title of the United States: *and provided,* That all civil process issued from the courts of this state and such criminal process as may issue under the authority of this state against any person charged with crime in cases arising outside of such reservations, may be served and executed thereon in the same mode and manner, and by the same officers, as if the consent herein given had not been made.

## ARTICLE XXVI COMPACT WITH THE UNITED STATES

The following ordinance shall be irrevocable without the consent of the United States and the people of this state:

**First.** That perfect toleration of religious sentiment shall be secured and that no inhabitant of this state shall ever be molested

in person or property on account of his or her mode of religious worship.

**Second.** That the people inhabiting this state do agree and declare that they forever disclaim all right and title to the unappropriated public lands lying within the boundaries of this state, and to all lands lying within said limits owned or held by any Indian or Indian tribes; and that until the title thereto shall have been extinguished by the United States, the same shall be and remain subject to the disposition of the United States, and said Indian lands shall remain under the absolute jurisdiction and control of the congress of the United States and that the lands belonging to citizens of the United States residing without the limits of this state shall never be taxed at a higher rate than the lands belonging to residents thereof; and that no taxes shall be imposed by the state on lands or property therein, belonging to or which may be hereafter purchased by the United States or reserved for use: *Provided*, That nothing in this ordinance shall preclude the state from taxing as other lands are taxed any lands owned or held by any Indian who has severed his tribal relations, and has obtained from the United States or from any person a title thereto by patent or other grant, save and except such lands as have been or may be granted to any Indian or Indians under any act of congress containing a provision exempting the lands thus granted from taxation, which exemption shall continue so long and to such an extent as such act of congress may prescribe.

**Third.** The debts and liabilities of the Territory of Washington and payment of the same are hereby assumed by this state.

**Fourth.** Provision shall be made for the establishment and maintenance of systems of public schools free from sectarian control which shall be open to all the children of said state.

## ARTICLE XXVII SCHEDULE

In order that no inconvenience may arise by reason of a change from a Territorial to a State government, it is hereby declared and ordained as follows:

**SECTION 1 EXISTING RIGHTS, ACTIONS, AND CONTRACTS SAVED.** No existing rights, actions, suits, proceedings, contracts or claims shall be affected by a change in the form of government, but all shall continue as if no such change had taken

place; and all process which may have been issued under the authority of the Territory of Washington previous to its admission into the Union shall be as valid as if issued in the name of the state.

**SECTION 2 LAWS IN FORCE CONTINUED.** All laws now in force in the Territory of Washington, which are not repugnant to this Constitution, shall remain in force until they expire by their own limitation, or are altered or repealed by the legislature: *Provided*, That this section shall not be so construed as to validate any act of the legislature of Washington Territory granting shore or tide lands to any person, company or any municipal or private corporation.

**SECTION 3 DEBTS, FINES, ETC., TO INURE TO THE STATE.** All debts, fines, penalties and forfeitures, which have accrued, or may hereafter accrue, to the Territory of Washington, shall inure to the State of Washington.

**SECTION 4 RECOGNIZANCES.** All recognizances heretofore taken, or which may be taken before the change from a territorial to a state government shall remain valid, and shall pass to, and may be prosecuted in the name of the state; and all bonds executed to the Territory of Washington or to any county or municipal corporation, or to any officer or court in his or its official capacity, shall pass to the state authorities and their successors in office, for the uses therein expressed, and may be sued for and recovered accordingly, and all the estate, real, personal and mixed, and all judgments decrees, bonds, specialties, choses in action, and claims or debts, of whatever description, belonging to the Territory of Washington, shall inure to and vest in the State of Washington, and may be sued for and recovered in the same manner, and to the same extent, by the State of Washington, as the same could have been by the Territory of Washington.

**SECTION 5 CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS AND PENAL ACTIONS.** All criminal prosecutions and penal actions which may have arisen, or which may arise, before the change from a territorial to a state government, and which shall then be pending, shall be prosecuted to judgment, and execution in the name of the state. All offenses committed against the laws of the Territory of Washington, before the change from a territorial to a state government, and which shall not be prosecuted before such change, may



be prosecuted in the name and by the authority of the State of Washington, with like effect as though such change had not taken place; and all penalties incurred shall remain the same as if this Constitution had not been adopted. All actions at law and suits in equity which may be pending in any of the courts of the Territory of Washington, at the time of the change from a territorial to a state government, shall be continued, and transferred to the court of the state having jurisdiction of the subject matter thereof.

#### **SECTION 6 RETENTION OF TERRITORIAL OFFICERS.**

All officers now holding their office under the authority of the United States, or of the Territory of Washington, shall continue to hold and exercise their respective offices until they shall be superseded by the authority of the state.

#### **SECTION 7 CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS, WHEN**

**ELECTED.** All officers provided for in this Constitution including a county clerk for each county when no other time is fixed for their election, shall be elected at the election to be held for the adoption of this Constitution on the first Tuesday of October, 1889.

#### **SECTION 8 CHANGE OF COURTS — TRANSFER OF**

**CAUSES.** Whenever the judge of the superior court of any county, elected or appointed under the provisions of this Constitution shall have qualified the several causes then pending in the district court of the territory except such causes as would have been within the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States district court had such court existed at the time of the commencement of such causes, within such county, and the records, papers and proceedings of said district court, and the seal and other property pertaining thereto, shall pass into the jurisdiction and possession of the superior court for such county. And where the same judge is elected for two or more counties, it shall be the duty of the clerk of the district court having custody of such papers and records to transmit to the clerk of such county, or counties, other than that in which such records are kept the original papers in all cases pending in such district court and belonging to the jurisdiction of such county or counties together with transcript of so much of the records of said district court as relate to the same; and until the district courts of the Territory shall be superseded in manner aforesaid, the said district courts and the judges thereof, shall continue with the same jurisdiction and powers, to be exercised in the same judicial districts

respectively, as heretofore constituted under the laws of the Territory. Whenever a quorum of the judges of the supreme court of the state shall have been elected and qualified, the causes then pending in the supreme court of the Territory, except such causes as would have been within the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States, circuit court had such court existed at the time of the commencement of such causes, and the papers, records and proceedings of said court and the seal and other property pertaining thereto, shall pass into the jurisdiction and possession of the supreme court of the state, and until so superseded, the supreme court of the Territory and the judges thereof, shall continue with like powers and jurisdiction as if this Constitution had not been adopted.

**SECTION 9 SEALS OF COURTS AND MUNICIPALITIES.** Until otherwise provided by law, the seal now in use in the supreme court of the Territory shall be the seal of the supreme court of the state. The seals of the superior courts of the several counties of the state shall be, until otherwise provided by law, the vignette of General George Washington with the words: "Seal of the Superior Court of ----- county" surrounding the vignette. The seal of municipalities, and of all county officers of the Territory, shall be the seals of such municipalities, and county officers respectively under the state, until otherwise provided by law.

**SECTION 10 PROBATE COURT, TRANSFER OF.** When the state is admitted into the Union, and the superior courts in the respective counties organized, the books, records, papers and proceedings of the probate court in each county, and all causes and matters of administration pending therein, shall, upon the expiration of the term of office of the probate judges, on the second Monday in January, 1891, pass into the jurisdiction and possession of the superior court of the same county created by this Constitution, and the said court shall proceed to final judgment or decree, order or other determination in the several matters and causes, as the territorial probate court might have done, if this Constitution had not been adopted. And until the expiration of the term of office of the probate judges, such probate judges shall perform the duties now imposed upon them by the laws of the Territory. The superior courts shall have appellate and revisory jurisdiction over the decisions of the probate courts, as now provided by law, until such latter courts expire by limitation.

**SECTION 11 DUTIES OF FIRST LEGISLATURE.** The legislature, at its first session, shall provide for the election of all officers whose election is not provided for elsewhere in this Constitution, and fix the time for the commencement and duration of their term.

**SECTION 12 ELECTION CONTESTS FOR SUPERIOR JUDGES, HOW DECIDED.** In case of a contest of election between candidates, at the first general election under this Constitution, for judges of the superior courts, the evidence shall be taken in the manner prescribed by the Territorial laws, and the testimony so taken shall be certified to the secretary of state; and said officer, together with the governor and treasurer of state, shall review the evidence and determine who is entitled to the certificate of election.

**SECTION 13 REPRESENTATION IN CONGRESS.**

[Repealed by AMENDMENT 74, 1983 Substitute Senate Joint Resolution No. 103. Approved November 8, 1983.]

**Original text — Art. 27 Section 13 REPRESENTATION IN CONGRESS** — *One representative in the congress of the United States shall be elected from the state at large, at the first election provided for in this Constitution; and, thereafter, at such times and places, and in such manner, as may be prescribed by law. When a new apportionment shall be made by congress, the legislature shall divide the state into congressional districts, in accordance with such apportionment. The vote cast for representative in congress, at the first election, shall be canvassed, and the result determined in the manner provided for by the laws of the Territory for the canvass of the vote for delegate in congress.*

**SECTION 14 DURATION OF TERM OF CERTAIN OFFICERS.** All district, county and precinct officers, who may be in office at the time of the adoption of this Constitution, and the county clerk of each county elected at the first election, shall hold their respective offices until the second Monday of January, A. D., 1891, and until such time as their successors may be elected and qualified, in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution; and the official bonds of all such officers shall continue in full force and effect as though this Constitution had not been adopted. And such officers shall continue to receive the compensation now provided, until the same be changed by law.

**SECTION 15 ELECTION ON ADOPTION OF CONSTITUTION, HOW TO BE CONDUCTED.** The election held at the time of the adoption of this Constitution shall be held and

conducted in all respects according to the laws of the Territory, and the votes cast at said election for all officers (where no other provisions are made in this Constitution), and for the adoption of this Constitution and the several separate articles and the location of the state capital, shall be canvassed and returned in the several counties in the manner provided by Territorial law, and shall be returned to the secretary of the Territory in the manner provided by the Enabling Act.

**SECTION 16 WHEN CONSTITUTION TO TAKE EFFECT.**

The provisions of this Constitution shall be in force from the day on which the president of the United States shall issue his proclamation declaring the State of Washington admitted into the Union, and the terms of all officers elected at the first election under the provisions of this Constitution shall commence on the Monday next succeeding the issue of said proclamation, unless otherwise provided herein.

**SECTION 17 SEPARATE ARTICLES.** The following separate articles shall be submitted to the people for adoption or rejection at the election for the adoption of this Constitution:

SEPARATE ARTICLE, NO. 1

“All persons male and female of the age of twenty-one years or over, possessing the other qualifications, provided by this Constitution, shall be entitled to vote at all elections.”

SEPARATE ARTICLE, NO. 2

“It shall not be lawful for any individual, company or corporation, within the limits of this state, to manufacture, or cause to be manufactured, or to sell, or offer for sale, or in any manner dispose of any alcoholic, malt or spirituous liquors, except for medicinal, sacramental or scientific purposes.”

If a majority of the ballots cast at said election on said separate articles be in favor of the adoption of either of said separate articles, then such separate article so receiving a majority shall become a part of this Constitution and shall govern and control any provision of the Constitution in conflict therewith.

**SECTION 18 BALLOT.** The form of ballot to be used in voting for or against this Constitution, or for or against the separate

articles, or for the permanent location of the seat of government, shall be:

1. For the Constitution- - -  
Against the Constitution- - -
2. For Woman Suffrage Article- - -  
Against Woman Suffrage Article- - -
3. For Prohibition Article- - -  
Against Prohibition Article- - -
4. For the Permanent Location of the Seat of Government  
(Name of place voted for)- - -

*The result of the election was against both woman suffrage and prohibition.*

**SECTION 19 APPROPRIATION.** The legislature is hereby authorized to appropriate from the state treasury sufficient money to pay any of the expenses of this convention not provided for by the Enabling Act of Congress.

## ARTICLE XXVIII COMPENSATION OF STATE OFFICERS

**SECTION 1 SALARIES FOR LEGISLATURE, ELECTED STATE OFFICIALS, AND JUDGES — INDEPENDENT COMMISSION — REFERENDUM.** Salaries for members of the legislature, elected officials of the executive branch of state government, and judges of the state’s supreme court, court of appeals, superior courts, and district courts shall be fixed by an independent commission created and directed by law to that purpose. No state official, public employee, or person required by law to register with a state agency as a lobbyist, or immediate family member of the official, employee, or lobbyist, may be a member of that commission.

As used in this section the phrase “immediate family” has the meaning that is defined by law.

Any change of salary shall be filed with the secretary of state and shall become law ninety days thereafter without action of the legislature or governor, but shall be subject to referendum petition by the people, filed within the ninety-day period. Referendum measures under this section shall be submitted to the people at the next following general election, and shall be otherwise governed by the provisions of this Constitution generally applicable to referendum

measures. The salaries fixed pursuant to this section shall supersede any other provision for the salaries of members of the legislature, elected officials of the executive branch of state government, and judges of the state's supreme court, court of appeals, superior courts, and district courts. The salaries for such officials in effect on January 12, 1987, shall remain in effect until changed pursuant to this section.

After the initial adoption of a law by the legislature creating the independent commission, no amendment to such act which alters the composition of the commission shall be valid unless the amendment is enacted by a favorable vote of two-thirds of the members elected to each house of the legislature and is subject to referendum petition.

The provisions of section 14 of Article IV, sections 14, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, and 22 of Article III, and section 23 of Article II, insofar as they are inconsistent herewith, are hereby superseded. The provisions of section 1 of Article II relating to referendum procedures, insofar as they are inconsistent herewith, are hereby superseded with regard to the salaries governed by this section. [AMENDMENT 78, 1986 Substitute House Joint Resolution No. 49, p 1529. Approved November 4, 1986.]

*Authorizing compensation increase during term: Art. 30 Section 1.*

**Amendment 20 (1948) — Art. 28 Section 1 COMPENSATION OF STATE OFFICERS** — *All elected state officials shall each severally receive such compensation as the legislature may direct. The compensation of any state officer shall not be increased or diminished during his term of office, except that the legislature, at its thirty-first regular session, may increase or diminish the compensation of all state officers whose terms exist on the Thursday after the second Monday in January, 1949.*

*The provisions of sections 14, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, and 22 of Article III and section 23 of Article II in so far as they are inconsistent herewith, are hereby repealed. [AMENDMENT 20, 1947 Senate Joint Resolution No. 4, p 1371. Approved November 2, 1948.]*

## ARTICLE XXIX INVESTMENTS OF PUBLIC PENSION AND RETIREMENT FUNDS

**SECTION 1 MAY BE INVESTED AS AUTHORIZED BY LAW.** Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 5, and 7 of Article VIII and section 9 of Article XII or any other section or

article of the Constitution of the state of Washington, the moneys of any public pension or retirement fund, industrial insurance trust fund, or fund held in trust for the benefit of persons with developmental disabilities may be invested as authorized by law. [AMENDMENT 93, 2000 Senate Joint Resolution No. 8214, p 1919. Approved November 7, 2000.]

**Amendment 75 (1985) — Art. 29 Section 1 MAY BE INVESTED AS AUTHORIZED BY LAW** — *Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 5, and 7 of Article VIII and section 9 of Article XII or any other section or article of the Constitution of the state of Washington, the moneys of any public pension or retirement fund or industrial insurance trust fund may be invested as authorized by law.* [AMENDMENT 75, 1985 House Joint Resolution No. 12, p 2398. Approved November 5, 1985.]

**Amendment 49 (1968) — Art. 29 Section 1 MAY BE INVESTED AS AUTHORIZED BY LAW** — *Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 5, and 7 of Article VIII and section 9 of Article XII or any other section or article of the Constitution of the state of Washington, the moneys of any public pension or retirement fund may be invested as authorized by law.* [AMENDMENT 49, 1967 Senate Joint Resolution No. 5; see 1969 p 2975. Approved November 5, 1968.]

## ARTICLE XXX COMPENSATION OF PUBLIC OFFICERS

**SECTION 1 AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION INCREASE DURING TERM.** The compensation of all elective and appointive state, county, and municipal officers who do not fix their own compensation, including judges of courts of record and the justice courts may be increased during their terms of office to the end that such officers and judges shall each severally receive compensation for their services in accordance with the law in effect at the time the services are being rendered.

The provisions of section 25 of Article II (Amendment 35), section 25 of Article III (Amendment 31), section 13 of Article IV, section 8 of Article XI, and section 1 of Article XXVIII (Amendment 20) insofar as they are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed. [AMENDMENT 54, 1967 House Joint Resolution No. 13; see 1969 p 2976. Approved November 5, 1968.]

**Reviser's note:** (1) Amendment 49 (1967 SJR No. 5) and Amendment 54 (1967 HJR No. 13) each added a new Article XXIX to the Constitution.

Amendment 49 is carried herein as Article XXIX while Amendment 54 has been herein redesignated as Article XXX.

(2) The name of this Article has been supplied by the reviser.

## **ARTICLE XXXI SEX EQUALITY - RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **SECTION 1 EQUALITY NOT DENIED BECAUSE OF SEX.**

Equality of rights and responsibility under the law shall not be denied or abridged on account of sex.

### **SECTION 2 ENFORCEMENT POWER OF LEGISLATURE.**

The legislature shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article. [AMENDMENT 61, 1972 House Joint Resolution No. 61, p 526. Approved November, 1972.]

*The name of this Article and the captions have been supplied by the reviser.*

## **ARTICLE XXXII SPECIAL REVENUE FINANCING**

**SECTION 1 SPECIAL REVENUE FINANCING.** The legislature may enact laws authorizing the state, counties, cities, towns, port districts, or public corporations established thereby to issue nonrecourse revenue bonds or other nonrecourse revenue obligations and to apply the proceeds thereof in the manner and for the purposes heretofore or hereafter authorized by law, subject to the following limitations:

(a) Nonrecourse revenue bonds and other nonrecourse revenue obligations issued pursuant to this section shall be payable only from money or other property received as a result of projects financed by the nonrecourse revenue bonds or other nonrecourse revenue obligations and from money and other property received from private sources.

(b) Nonrecourse revenue bonds and other nonrecourse revenue obligations issued pursuant to this section shall not be payable from or secured by any tax funds or governmental revenue or by all or part of the faith and credit of the state or any unit of local government.



(c) Nonrecourse revenue bonds or other nonrecourse revenue obligations issued pursuant to this section may be issued only if the issuer certifies that it reasonably believes that the interest paid on the bonds or obligations will be exempt from income taxation by the federal government.

(d) Nonrecourse revenue bonds or other nonrecourse revenue obligations may only be used to finance industrial development projects as defined in legislation.

(e) The state, counties, cities, towns, port districts, or public corporations established thereby, shall never exercise their respective attributes of sovereignty, including but not limited to, the power to tax, the power of eminent domain, and the police power on behalf of any industrial development project authorized pursuant to this section.

After the initial adoption of a law by the legislature authorizing the issuance of nonrecourse revenue bonds or other nonrecourse revenue obligations, no amendment to such act which expands the definition of industrial development project shall be valid unless the amendment is enacted by a favorable vote of three-fifths of the members elected to each house of the legislature and is subject to referendum petition.

Sections 5 and 7 of Article VIII and section 9 of Article XII shall not be construed as a limitation upon the authority granted by this section. The proceeds of revenue bonds and other revenue obligations issued pursuant to this section for the purpose of financing privately owned property or loans to private persons or corporations shall be subject to audit by the state but shall not otherwise be deemed to be public money or public property for purposes of this Constitution. This section is supplemental to and shall not be construed as a repeal of or limitation on any other authority lawfully exercisable under the Constitution and laws of this state, including, among others, any existing authority to issue revenue bonds. [AMENDMENT 73, 1981 Substitute House Joint Resolution No. 7, p 1794. Approved November 3, 1981.]

*The name of this Article has been supplied by the reviser.*

## Certificate

We, the undersigned, members of the convention to form a Constitution for the State of Washington; which is to be submitted to the people for their adoption or rejection, do hereby declare this to be the Constitution formed by us, and in testimony thereof, do hereunto set our hands, this twenty-second day of August Anno Domini, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-nine.

John P. Hoyt,  
 President  
 J. J. Browne  
 N. G. Blalock  
 John F. Gowey  
 Frank M. Dallam  
 James Z. Moore  
 E. H. Sullivan  
 George Turner  
 Austin Mires  
 M. M. Godman  
 Gwin Hicks  
 Wm. F. Prosser  
 C. H. Warner  
 J. P. T. McCroskey  
 S. G. Cosgrove  
 Thos. Hayton  
 Charles P. Coey  
 Robert F. Sturdevant  
 John A. Shoudy  
 Allen Weir  
 W. B. Gray  
 Trusten P. Dyer  
 Geo. H. Jones  
 B. L. Sharpstein  
 H. M. Lillis  
 James A. Burk  
 John McReavy  
 R. O. Dunbar  
 Morgan Morgans  
 Jas. Power

Edward Eldridge  
 George H. Stevenson  
 Louis Sohns  
 A. A. Lindsley  
 J. J. Weisenburger  
 P. C. Sullivan  
 R. S. More  
 Thomas T. Minor  
 J. J. Travis  
 Arnold J. West  
 Charles T. Fay  
 George W. Tibbetts  
 H. W. Fairweather  
 Thomas C. Griffiths  
 J. F. Van Name  
 Albert Schooley  
 H. C. Willison  
 T. M. Reed  
 S. H. Manly  
 Richard Jeffs  
 Francis Henry  
 George Comegys  
 Oliver H. Joy  
 David E. Durie  
 D. Buchanan  
 John R. Kinnear  
 Sylvious A. Dickey  
 Henry Winsor  
 Theodore L. Stiles  
 Harrison Clothier  
 Matt. J. McElroy

B. B. Glascock

O. A. Bowen

Sam'l H. Berry

D. J. Crowley

J. T. McDonald

John M. Reed

J. T. Eshelman

Robert Jamieson

Hiram E. Allen

H. F. Suksdorf

J. C. Kellogg

J. A. Hungate

Attest: JNO. I. BOOGE, Chief Clerk

*The above names are not in the order in which subscribed to the Constitution.*

**(B) Constitutional Amendments  
(In Order of Adoption)**

1	Art. 16	§ 5	Investment of school fund.
2	Art. 6	§ 1	Qualifications of voters.
3	Art. 7	§ 2	(original) Taxation--Uniformity and equality--Exemption.
4	Art. 1	§ 11	Religious freedom.
5	Art. 6	§ 1	Qualifications of electors.
6	Art. 3	§ 10	Vacancy in office of governor.
7	Art. 2	§ 1	Legislative powers, where vested.
8	Art. 1	§§33, 34	Recall of elective officers.
9	Art. 1	§ 16	Eminent domain.
10	Art. 1	§ 22	Rights of the accused.
11	Art. 8	§ 4	Moneys disbursed only by appropriation.
12	Art. 11	§ 5	County government.
13	Art. 2	§ 15	Vacancies in legislature.
14	Art. 7	§ 1	Taxation (and repealing Art. 7 §§ 1-4.)
15	Art. 15	§ 1	Harbor line commission and restraint on disposition.
16	Art. 12	§ 11	Stockholder liability.
17	Art. 7	§ 2	Forty mill limit.
18	Art. 2	§ 40	Highway funds.
19	Art. 7	§ 3	Taxation of federal agencies and property.
20	Art. 28	§ 1	Compensation of state officers.
21	Art. 11	§ 4	County government and township organization.
22	Art. 11	§ 7	Tenure of office limited to two terms. (Repealed.)
23	Art. 11	§ 16	Combined city and county.
24	Art. 2	§ 33	Alien ownership.
25	Art. 4	§ 3(a)	Retirement of supreme court and superior court judges.
26	Art. 2	§ 41	Laws, effective date. Initiative, referendum--Amendment or repeal.
27	Art. 8	§ 6	Limitations upon municipal indebtedness.
28	Art. 4	§ 6	Jurisdiction of superior courts.
	Art. 4	§ 10	Justices of the peace.
29	Art. 2	§ 33	Alien ownership.
30	Art. 2	§ 1(a)	Initiative and referendum, signatures required.
31	Art. 3	§ 25	Qualifications, compensation, offices which may be abolished.

- 32 Art. 2 § 15 Vacancies in legislature and in partisan county elective office.
- 33 Art. 24 § 1 State boundaries.
- 34 Art. 1 § 11 Religious freedom.
- 35 Art. 2 § 25 Extra compensation prohibited.
- 36 Art. 2 § 1 Legislative powers, where vested (publicity of laws referred to the people).
- 37 Art. 23 § 1 (Amendments to Constitution) How made.
- 38 Art. 4 § 2(a) Temporary performance of judicial duties.
- 39 Art. 2 § 42 Governmental continuity during emergency periods.
- 40 Art. 11 § 10 Incorporation of municipalities.
- 41 Art. 4 § 29 Election of superior court judges.
- 42 (Repeals Art. 2 § 33 and Amendments 24 and 29.)
- 43 Art. 9 § 3 (Schools) Funds for support.
- 44 Art. 16 § 5 Investment of permanent common school fund.
- 45 Art. 8 § 8 Port expenditures--Industrial development--Promotion.
- 46 Art. 6 § 1A Voter qualifications for presidential elections.
- 47 Art. 7 § 10 Retired persons property tax exemption.
- 48 Art. 8 § 3 Special indebtedness, how authorized.
- 49 Art. 29 § 1 (Investments of public pension and retirement funds.) May be invested as authorized by law.
- 50 Art. 4 § 30 Court of appeals.
- 51 Art. 8 § 9 State building authority.
- 52 Art. 2 § 15 Vacancies in legislature and in partisan county elective office.
- Art. 11 § 6 Vacancies in township, precinct or road district offices.
- 53 Art. 7 § 11 Taxation based on actual use.
- 54 Art. 30 § 1 (Compensation of public officers.)  
Authorizing compensation increase during term.
- 55 Art. 7 § 2 Limitation on levies.
- 56 Art. 2 § 24 Lotteries and divorce.
- 57 Art. 11 §§ 5, 8 County government. Salaries and limitations affecting.
- 58 Art. 11 § 16 Combined city-county.
- 59 Art. 7 § 2 Limitation on levies.

- 60 Art. 8 §§ 1, 3 State debt. Special indebtedness, how authorized.
- 61 Art. 31 §§ 1, 2 Equality not denied because of sex. Enforcement power of legislature.
- 62 Art. 3 § 12 Veto power.
- 63 Art. 6 § 1 Qualifications of electors.
- 64 Art. 7 § 2 Limitation on levies.
- 65 Art. 4 § 6 Jurisdiction of superior courts.  
Art. 4 § 10 Justices of the peace.
- 66 Art. 12 § 18 Rates for transportation.
- 67 Art. 12 § 14 Prohibition against combinations by carriers. (Repealed)
- 68 Art. 2 § 12 Sessions, when--Duration.
- 69 Art. 2 § 13 Limitation on members holding office in the state.
- 70 Art. 8 § 10 Residential energy conservation.
- 71 Art. 4 § 31 Judicial qualifications commission--Removal, censure, suspension, or retirement of judges or justices.
- 72 Art. 2 § 1 Legislative powers, where vested.  
Art. 2 § 1(a) Initiative and referendum, signatures required. (Stricken)
- 73 Art. 32 § 1 Special revenue financing.
- 74 Art. 2 § 3 The census. (Repealed)  
Art. 2 § 43 Redistricting.  
Art. 27 § 13 Representation in congress. (Repealed)
- 75 Art. 29 § 1 May be invested as authorized by law.
- 76 Art. 8 § 11 Agricultural commodity assessments--Development, promotion, and hosting.
- 77 Art. 4 § 31 Commission on judicial conduct--Removal, censure, suspension, or retirement of judges or justices--Proceedings.
- 78 Art. 28 § 1 Salaries for legislators, elected state officials, and judges--Independent commission--Referendum.
- 79 Art. 7 § 2 Limitation on levies.
- 80 Art. 4 § 7 Exchange of judges--Judge pro tempore.
- 81 Art. 7 § 1 Taxation.
- 82 Art. 8 § 10 Residential energy conservation.
- 83 Art. 6 § 3 Who disqualified.  
Art. 13 § 1 Educational, reformatory, and penal institutions.
- 84 Art. 1 § 35 Victims of crimes--Rights.

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<b>85</b>	Art.	4	§	31	Commission on judicial conduct.
<b>86</b>	Art.	8	§	10	Energy and water conservation assistance.
<b>87</b>	Art.	4	§	6	Jurisdiction of superior courts.
<b>88</b>	Art.	1	§	11	Religious freedom.
<b>89</b>	Art.	4	§	3	Election and terms of supreme court judges.
<b>90</b>	Art.	7	§	2	Limitation on levies.
<b>91</b>	Art.	8	§	10	Energy, water, or stormwater or sewer services conservation assistance.
<b>92</b>	Art.	8	§	1	State debt.
<b>93</b>	Art.	29	§	1	May be invested as authorized by law.
<b>94</b>	Art.	4	§	7	Exchange of judges--Judge pro tempore.
<b>95</b>	Art.	7	§	2	Limitation on levies.
<b>96</b>	Art.	2	§	15	Vacancies in legislature and in partisan county elective office.
<b>97</b>	Art.	4	§	31	Commission on judicial conduct.
<b>98</b>	Art.	7	§	1	Taxation.
<b>99</b>	Art.	7	§	12	Budget stabilization account.
<b>100</b>	Art.	2	§	29	Convict labor.
<b>101</b>	Art.	7	§	2	Limitation on levies.
<b>102</b>	Art.	16	§	6	Investment of higher education permanent funds.
<b>103</b>	Art.	8	§	1	State debt.
<b>104</b>	Art.	1	§	20	Bail, when authorized.
<b>105</b>	Art.	6	§	1A	Voter qualifications for presidential elections.
<b>106</b>	Art.	7	§	12	Budget stabilization account.
<b>107</b>	Art.	8	§	1	State debt.
<b>108</b>	Art.	2	§	43	Redistricting.

### AMENDMENT 1

Art. 16 Section 5 INVESTMENT OF SCHOOL FUND. None of the permanent school fund of this state shall ever be loaned to private persons or corporations, but it may be invested in national, state, county, municipal or school district bonds. [1893 p 9 Section 1. Adopted November, 1894.]

Art. 16 Section 5 was later amended by Amendment 44.

### AMENDMENT 2

Art. 6 Section 1 QUALIFICATIONS OF VOTERS. All male persons of the age of twenty-one years or over, possessing the following qualifications, shall be entitled to vote at all elections: They shall be citizens of the United States; they shall have lived in the state one year, and in the county ninety days, and in the city, town, ward or precinct thirty days immediately preceding the election at which they offer to vote; they shall be able to read and speak the English language: *Provided*, That Indians not taxed shall never be allowed the elective franchise: *And further provided*, That this amendment shall not effect [affect] the right of franchise of any person who is now a qualified elector of this state. The legislature shall enact laws defining the manner of ascertaining the qualifications of voters as to their ability to read and speak the English language, and providing for punishment of persons voting or registering in violation of the provisions of this section. [1895 p 60 Section 1. Approved November, 1896.]

Art. 6 Section 1 was later amended by Amendment 5.

### AMENDMENT 3

Art. 7 Section 2 was amended by adding the following proviso: "*And provided further*, That the legislature shall have power, by appropriate legislation, to exempt personal property to the amount of three hundred dollars (\$300) for each head of a family liable to assessment and taxation under the provisions of the laws of this state of which the individual is the actual and *bona fide* owner." [1899 p 121 Section 1. Approved November, 1900.]

Original Art. 7 Section 2 and Amendment 3 were stricken by Amendment 14.



### AMENDMENT 4

Art. 1 Section 11 RELIGIOUS FREEDOM. Absolute freedom of conscience in all matters of religious sentiment, belief and worship, shall be guaranteed to every individual, and no one shall be molested or disturbed in person or property on account of religion; but the liberty of conscience hereby secured shall not be so construed as to excuse acts of licentiousness or justify practices inconsistent with the peace and safety of the state. No public money or property shall be appropriated for or applied to any religious worship, exercise or instruction, or the support of any religious establishment. *Provided, however,* That this article shall not be so construed as to forbid the employment by the state of a chaplain for the state penitentiary, and for such of the state reformatories as in the discretion of the legislature may seem justified. No religious qualification shall be required for any public office or employment, nor shall any person be incompetent as a witness or juror, in consequence of his opinion on matters of religion, nor be questioned in any court of justice touching his religious belief to affect the weight of his testimony. [1903 p 283 Section 1. Approved November, 1904.]

Art. 1 Section 11 was later amended by Amendments 34 and 88.

### AMENDMENT 5

Article 6 was amended by striking from said article all of sections one (1) and two (2) and inserting in lieu thereof the following, to be known as section one (1):

Art. 6 Section 1 QUALIFICATIONS OF ELECTORS.

All person of the age of twenty-one years or over, possessing the following qualifications, shall be entitled to vote at all elections: They shall be citizens of the United States; they shall have lived in the state one year, and in the county ninety days, and in the city, town, ward or precinct thirty days immediately preceding the election at which they offer to vote; they shall be able to read and speak the English language: *Provided,* That Indians not taxed shall never be allowed the elective franchise: *And further provided,* That this amendment shall not affect the rights of franchise of any person who is now a qualified elector of this state. The legislative authority shall enact laws defining the manner of ascertaining the qualifications of voters as to their ability to read and speak the English language, and

providing for punishment of persons voting or registering in violation of the provision of this section. There shall be no denial of the elective franchise at any election on account of sex. [1909 p 26 Section 1. Approved November, 1910.]

Prior amendment of Art. 6, see Amendment 2.

Art. 6. Section 1 was later amended by Amendment 63.

## **AMENDMENT 6**

### **Art. 3 Section 10 VACANCY IN OFFICE OF GOVERNOR.**

In case of the removal, resignation, death or disability of the governor, the duties of the office shall devolve upon the lieutenant governor; and in case of a vacancy in both the offices of governor and lieutenant governor, the duties of the governor shall devolve upon the secretary of state. In addition to the line of succession to the office and duties of governor as hereinabove indicated, if the necessity shall arise, in order to fill the vacancy in the office of governor, the following state officers shall succeed to the duties of governor and in the order named, viz.: Treasurer, auditor, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction and commissioner of public lands. In case of the death, disability, failure or refusal of the person regularly elected to the office of governor to qualify at the time provided by law, the duties of the office shall devolve upon the person regularly elected to and qualified for the office of lieutenant governor, who shall act as governor until the disability be removed, or a governor be elected; and in case of the death, disability, failure or refusal of both the governor and the lieutenant governor elect to qualify, the duties of the governor shall devolve upon the secretary of state; and in addition to the line of succession to the office and duties of governor as hereinabove indicated, if there shall be the failure or refusal of any officer named above to qualify, and if the necessity shall arise by reason thereof, then in that event in order to fill the vacancy in the office of governor, the following state officers shall succeed to the duties of governor in the order named, viz.: Treasurer, auditor, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction and commissioner of public lands. Any person succeeding to the office of governor as in this section provided, shall perform the duties of such office only until the disability be removed, or a governor be elected and qualified; and if a vacancy occur more than thirty days before the next general election occurring within two years

after the commencement of the term, a person shall be elected at such election to fill the office of governor for the remainder of the unexpired term. [1909 p 642 Section 1. Approved November, 1910.]

### AMENDMENT 7

Article 2 was amended by striking all of sections 1 and 31, and inserting in lieu thereof as section 1 the following, so that the same shall read as follows:

Art. 2 Section 1 LEGISLATIVE POWERS, WHERE VESTED. The legislative authority of the state of Washington shall be vested in the legislature, consisting of a senate and house of representatives, which shall be called the legislature of the state of Washington, but the people reserve to themselves the power to propose bills, laws, and to enact or reject the same at the polls, independent of the legislature, and also reserve power, at their own option, to approve or reject at the polls any act, item, section or part of any bill, act or law passed by the legislature.

(a) Initiative: The first power reserved by the people is the initiative. *Ten per centum, but in no case more than fifty thousand, of the legal voters shall be required to propose any measure by such petition*, and every such petition shall include the full text of the measure so proposed. Initiative petitions shall be filed with the secretary of state not less than four months before the election at which they are to be voted upon, or not less than ten days before any regular session of the legislature. If filed at least four months before the election at which they are to be voted upon, he shall submit the same to the vote of the people at the said election. If such petitions are filed not less than ten days before any regular session of the legislature, he shall transmit the same to the legislature as soon as it convenes and organizes. Such initiative measure shall take precedence over all other measures in the legislature except appropriation bills and shall be either enacted or rejected without change or amendment by the legislature before the end of such regular session. If any such initiative measure shall be enacted by the legislature it shall be subject to the referendum petition, or it may be enacted and referred by the legislature to the people for approval or rejection at the next regular election. If it is rejected or if no action is taken upon it by the legislature before the end of such regular session, the secretary of state shall

submit it to the people for approval or rejection at the next ensuing regular general election. The legislature may reject any measure so proposed by initiative petition and propose a different one dealing with the same subject, and in such event both measures shall be submitted by the secretary of state to the people for approval or rejection at the next ensuing regular general election. When conflicting measures are submitted to the people the ballots shall be so printed that a voter can express separately by making one cross (X) for each, two preferences, first, as between either measure and neither, and secondly, as between one and the other. If the majority of those voting on the first issue is for neither, both fail, but in that case the votes on the second issue shall nevertheless be carefully counted and made public. If a majority voting on the first issue is for either, then the measure receiving a majority of the votes on the second issue shall be law.

*Portion of subdivision (a) is superseded by Amendment 30.*

(b) Referendum. The second power reserved by the people is the referendum, and it may be ordered on any act, bill, law, or any part thereof passed by the legislature, except such laws as may be necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health or safety, support of the state government and its existing public institutions, either by petition signed by the required percentage of the legal voters, or by the legislature as other bills are enacted. Six per centum, but in no case more than thirty thousand, of the legal voters shall be required to sign and make a valid referendum petition.

*Portion of subdivision (b) is superseded by Amendment 30.*

(c) No act, law, or bill subject to referendum shall take effect until ninety days after the adjournment of the session at which it was enacted. No act, law, or bill approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon shall be amended or repealed by the legislature within a period of two years following such enactment. But such enactment may be amended or repealed at any general regular or special election by direct vote of the people thereon.

*Subdivision (c) is superseded by Amendment 26.*

(d) The filing of a referendum petition against one or more items, sections or parts of any act, law or bill shall not delay the remainder of the measure from becoming operative. Referendum

petitions against measures passed by the legislature shall be filed with the secretary of state not later than ninety days after the final adjournment of the session of the legislature which passed the measure on which the referendum is demanded. The veto power of the governor shall not extend to measures initiated by or referred to the people. All elections on measures referred to the people of the state shall be had at the biennial regular elections, except when the legislature shall order a special election. Any measure initiated by the people or referred to the people as herein provided shall take effect and become the law if it is approved by a majority of the votes cast thereon: *Provided*, That the vote cast upon such question or measure shall equal one-third of the total votes cast at such election and not otherwise. Such measure shall be in operation on and after the thirtieth day after the election at which it is approved. The style of all bills proposed by initiative petition shall be: "Be it enacted by the people of the State of Washington." This section shall not be construed to deprive any member of the legislature of the right to introduce any measure. *The whole number of electors who voted for governor at the regular gubernatorial election last preceding the filing of any petition for the initiative or for the referendum shall be the basis on which the number of legal voters necessary to sign such petition shall be counted.* All such petitions shall be filed with the secretary of state, who shall be guided by the general laws in submitting the same to the people until additional legislation shall especially provide therefor. This section is self-executing, but legislation may be enacted especially to facilitate its operation.

*The legislature shall provide methods of publicity of all laws or parts of laws, and amendments to the constitution referred to the people with arguments for and against the laws and amendments so referred, so that each voter of the state shall receive the publication at least fifty days before the election at which they are to be voted upon.* [1911 p 136 Section 1. Approved November, 1912.]

Last paragraph is superseded by Amendment 36.

Art. 2 Section 1 was later amended by Amendment 72.

## AMENDMENT 8

Article 1 was amended by adding the two following sections:

Art. 1 Section 33 **RECALL OF ELECTIVE OFFICERS.** Every elective public officer in the state of Washington except [except] judges of courts of record is subject to recall and discharge by the legal voters of the state, or of the political subdivision of the state, from which he was elected whenever a petition demanding his recall, reciting that such officer has committed some act or acts of malfeasance or misfeasance while in office, or who has violated his oath of office, stating the matters complained of, signed by the percentages of the qualified electors thereof, hereinafter provided, the percentage required to be computed from the total number of votes cast for all candidates for his said office to which he was elected at the preceding election, is filed with the officer with whom a petition for nomination, or certificate for nomination, to such office must be filed under the laws of this state, and the same officer shall call a special election as provided by the general election laws of this state, and the result determined as therein provided.

Art. 1 Section 34 **SAME.** The legislature shall pass the necessary laws to carry out the provisions of section thirty-three (33) of this article, and to facilitate its operation and effect without delay: *Provided*, That the authority hereby conferred upon the legislature shall not be construed to grant to the legislature any exclusive power of law-making nor in any way limit the initiative and referendum powers reserved by the people. The percentages required shall be, state officers, other than judges, senators and representatives, city officers of cities of the first class, school district boards in cities of the first class; county officers of counties of the first, second and third classes, twenty-five per cent. Officers of all other political subdivisions, cities, towns, townships, precincts and school districts not herein mentioned, and state senators and representatives, thirty-five per cent. [1911 p 504 Section 1. Approved November, 1912.]

## AMENDMENT 9

Art. 1 Section 16 **EMINENT DOMAIN.** Private property shall not be taken for private use, except for private ways of necessity, and for drains, flumes, or ditches on or across the lands of others for agricultural, domestic, or sanitary purposes. No private

property shall be taken or damaged for public or private use without just compensation having been first made, or paid into court for the owner, and no right-of-way shall be appropriated to the use of any corporation other than municipal until full compensation therefor be first made in money, or ascertained and paid into court for the owner, irrespective of any benefit from any improvement proposed by such corporation, which compensation shall be ascertained by a jury, unless a jury be waived, as in other civil cases in courts of record, in the manner prescribed by law. Whenever an attempt is made to take private property for a use alleged to be public, the question whether the contemplated use be really public shall be a judicial question, and determined as such, without regard to any legislative assertion that the use is public: *Provided*, that the taking of private property by the state for land reclamation and settlement purposes is hereby declared to be for public use. [1919 p 385 Section 1. Approved November, 1920.]

### AMENDMENT 10

Art. 1 Section 22 RIGHTS OF THE ACCUSED. In criminal prosecutions the accused shall have the right to appear and defend in person, or by counsel, to demand the nature and cause of the accusation against him, to have a copy thereof, to testify in his own behalf, to meet the witnesses against him face to face, to have compulsory process to compel the attendance of witnesses in his own behalf, to have a speedy public trial by an impartial jury of the county in which the offense is charged to have been committed and the right to appeal in all cases: *Provided*, The route traversed by any railway coach, train or public conveyance, and the water traversed by any boat shall be criminal districts; and the jurisdiction of all public offenses committed on any such railway car, coach, train, boat or other public conveyance, or at any station or depot upon such route, shall be in any county through which the said car, coach, train, boat or other public conveyance may pass during the trip or voyage, or in which the trip or voyage may begin or terminate. In no instance shall any accused person before final judgment be compelled to advance money or fees to secure the rights herein guaranteed. [1921 p 79 Section 1. Approved November, 1922.]

### AMENDMENT 11

Art. 8 Section 4 MONEYS DISBURSED ONLY BY APPROPRIATIONS. No moneys shall ever be paid out of the treasury of this state, or any of its funds, or any of the funds under its management, except in pursuance of an appropriation by law; nor unless such payment be made within one calendar month after the end of the next ensuing fiscal biennium, and every such law making a new appropriation, or continuing or reviving an appropriation, shall distinctly specify the sum appropriated, and the object to which it is to be applied, and it shall not be sufficient for such law to refer to any other law to fix such sum. [1921 p 80 Section 1. Approved November, 1922.]

### AMENDMENT 12

Art. 11 Section 5 COUNTY GOVERNMENT. The legislature, by general and uniform laws, shall provide for the election in the several counties of boards of county commissioners, sheriffs, county clerks, treasurers, prosecuting attorneys and other county, township or precinct and district officers, as public convenience may require, and shall prescribe their duties, and fix their terms of office: *Provided*, That the legislature may, by general laws, classify the counties by population and provide for the election in certain classes of counties certain officers who shall exercise the powers and perform the duties of two or more officers. It shall regulate the compensation of all such officers, in proportion to their duties, and for that purpose may classify the counties by population. And it shall provide for the strict accountability of such officers for all fees which may be collected by them and for all public moneys which may be paid to them, or officially come into their possession. [1923 p 255 Section 1. Approved November, 1924.]

Art. 11 Section 5 was later amended by Amendment 57.

### AMENDMENT 13

Art. 2 Section 15 VACANCIES IN LEGISLATURE. Such vacancies as may occur in either house of the legislature shall be filled by appointment by the board of county commissioners of the county in which the vacancy occurs, and the person so appointed shall hold office until his successor is elected at the next general election, and shall have qualified: *Provided*, That in case of a vacancy occurring in the office of joint senator, the vacancy shall



be filled by appointment by the joint action of the boards of county commissioners of the counties composing the joint senatorial district. [1929 p 690. Approved November, 1930.]

Art. 2 Section 15 was later amended by Amendments 32, 52, and 96.

### AMENDMENT 14

Article 7 is amended by striking out all of sections 1, 2, 3 and 4, and inserting in lieu thereof the following, to be known as section 1:

Art. 7 Section 1 TAXATION. The power of taxation shall never be suspended, surrendered or contracted away. All taxes shall be uniform upon the same class of property within the territorial limits of the authority levying the tax and shall be levied and collected for public purposes only. The word "property" as used herein shall mean and include everything, whether tangible or intangible, subject to ownership. All real estate shall constitute one class: *Provided*, That the legislature may tax mines and mineral resources and lands devoted to reforestation by either a yield tax or an ad valorem tax at such rate as it may fix, or by both. Such property as the legislature may by general laws provide shall be exempt from taxation. Property of the United States and of the state, counties, school districts and other municipal corporations, and credits secured by property actually taxed in this state, not exceeding in value the value of such property, shall be exempt from taxation. The legislature shall have power, by appropriate legislation, to exempt personal property to the amount of three hundred (\$300.00) dollars for each head of a family liable to assessment and taxation under the provisions of the laws of this state of which the individual is the actual bona fide owner. [1929 p 499 Section 1. Approved November, 1930.]

Amendment 17 added a new Section 2.

Amendment 19 added a new Section 3.

Art. 7 Section 1 was later amended by Amendments 81 and 98.

### AMENDMENT 15

Art. 15 Section 1 HARBOR LINE COMMISSION AND RESTRAINT ON DISPOSITION. The legislature shall provide for the appointment of a commission whose duty it shall be to locate and establish harbor lines in the navigable waters of all

harbors, estuaries, bays and inlets of this state, wherever such navigable waters lie within or in front of the corporate limits of any city, or within one mile thereof on either side. Any harbor line so located or established may thereafter be changed, relocated or reestablished by the commission pursuant to such provision as may be made therefor by the legislature. The state shall never give, sell or lease to any private person, corporation, or association any rights whatever in the waters beyond such harbor lines, nor shall any of the area lying between any harbor line and the line of ordinary high water, and within not less than fifty feet nor more than two thousand feet of such harbor line (as the commission shall determine) be sold or granted by the state, nor its rights to control the same relinquished, but such area shall be forever reserved for landings, wharves, streets, and other conveniences of navigation and commerce. [1931 p 417 Section 1. Approved November, 1932.]

### **AMENDMENT 16**

Art. 12 Section 11 STOCKHOLDER LIABILITY. No corporation, association, or individual shall issue or put in circulation as money anything but the lawful money of the United States. Each stockholder of any banking or insurance corporation or joint stock association shall be individually and personally liable equally and ratably, and not one for another, for all contracts, debts, and engagements of such corporation or association accruing while they remain such stockholders, to the extent of the amount of their stock therein at the par value thereof, in addition to the amount invested in such shares.

The legislature may provide that stockholders of banking corporations organized under the laws of this state which shall provide and furnish, either through membership in the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, or through membership in any other instrumentality of the government of the United States, insurance or security for the payment of the debts and obligations of such banking corporation equivalent to that required by the laws of the United States to be furnished and provided by national banking associations, shall be relieved from liability for the debts and obligations of such banking corporation to the same extent that stockholders of national banking associations are relieved from liability for the debts and obligations of such national banking associations

under the laws of the United States. [1939 Senate Joint Resolution No. 8, p 1024. Approved November, 1940.]

### AMENDMENT 17

Art. 7 Section 2 FORTY MILL LIMIT. Except as hereinafter provided and notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, the aggregate of all tax levies upon real and personal property by the state and all taxing districts now existing or hereafter created, shall not in any year exceed forty mills on the dollar of assessed valuation, which assessed valuation shall be fifty per centum of the true and fair value of such property in money: *Provided, however;* That nothing herein shall prevent levies at the rates now provided by law by or for any port or public utility district. The term "taxing district" for the purposes of this section shall mean any political subdivision, municipal corporation, district, or other governmental agency authorized by law to levy, or have levied for it, ad valorem taxes on property, other than a port or public utility district. Such aggregate limitation or any specific limitation imposed by law in conformity therewith may be exceeded only

(a) By any taxing district when specifically authorized so to do by a majority of at least three-fifths of the electors thereof voting on the proposition to levy such additional tax submitted not more than twelve months prior to the date on which the proposed levy is to be made and not oftener than twice in such twelve month period, either at a special election or at the regular election of such taxing district, at which election the number of persons voting on the proposition shall constitute not less than forty per centum of the total number of votes cast in such taxing district at the last preceding general election;

(b) By any taxing district otherwise authorized by law to issue general obligation bonds for capital purposes, for the sole purpose of making the required payments of principal and interest on general obligation bonds issued solely for capital purposes, other than the replacement of equipment, when authorized so to do by majority of at least three-fifths of the electors thereof voting on the proposition to issue such bonds and to pay the principal and interest thereon by an annual tax levy in excess of the limitation herein provided during the term of such bonds, submitted not oftener than twice in any calendar year, at an election held in the

manner provided by law for bond elections in such taxing district, at which election the total number of persons voting on the proposition shall constitute not less than forty per centum of the total number of votes cast in such taxing district at the last preceding general election: *Provided*, That any such taxing district shall have the right by vote of its governing body to refund any general obligation bonds of said district issued for capital purposes only, and to provide for the interest thereon and amortization thereof by annual levies in excess of the tax limitation provided for herein, and *Provided further*, That the provisions of this section shall also be subject to the limitations contained in Article VIII, Section 6, of this Constitution;

(c) By the state or any taxing district for the purpose of paying the principal or interest on general obligation bonds outstanding on December 6, 1934; or for the purpose of preventing the impairment of the obligation of a contract when ordered so to do by a court of last resort. [1943 House Joint Resolution No. 1, p 936. Approved November, 1944.]

Art. 7 Section 2 was later amended by Amendments 55, 59, 64, 79, 90, 95, and 101.

## AMENDMENT 18

Art. 2 Section 40 HIGHWAY FUNDS. All fees collected by the State of Washington as license fees for motor vehicles and all excise taxes collected by the State of Washington on the sale, distribution or use of motor vehicle fuel and all other state revenue intended to be used for highway purposes, shall be paid into the state treasury and placed in a special fund to be used exclusively for highway purposes. Such highway purposes shall be construed to include the following:

(a) The necessary operating, engineering and legal expenses connected with the administration of public highways, county roads and city streets;

(b) The construction, reconstruction, maintenance, repair, and betterment of public highways, county roads, bridges and city streets; including the cost and expense of (1) acquisition of rights-of-way, (2) installing, maintaining and operating traffic signs and signal lights, (3) policing by the state of public highways, (4) operation of movable span bridges, (5) operation of ferries which are a part of any public highway, county road, or city street;

(c) The payment or refunding of any obligation of the State of Washington, or any political subdivision thereof, for which any of the revenues described in section 1 may have been legally pledged prior to the effective date of this act;

(d) Refunds authorized by law for taxes paid on motor vehicle fuels;

(e) The cost of collection of any revenues described in this section:

*Provided*, That this section shall not be construed to include revenue from general or special taxes or excises not levied primarily for highway purposes, or apply to vehicle operator's license fees or any excise tax imposed on motor vehicles or the use thereof in lieu of a property tax thereon, or fees for certificates of ownership of motor vehicles. [1943 House Joint Resolution No. 4, p 938. Approved November, 1944.]

### AMENDMENT 19

Art. 7 Section 3 TAXATION OF FEDERAL AGENCIES AND PROPERTY. The United States and its agencies and instrumentalities, and their property, may be taxed under any of the tax laws of this state, whenever and in such manner as such taxation may be authorized or permitted under the laws of the United States, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Constitution of this state. [1945 House Joint Resolution No. 9, p 932. Approved November, 1946.]

### AMENDMENT 20

Art. 28 Section 1 COMPENSATION OF STATE OFFICERS. All elected state officials shall each severally receive such compensation as the legislature may direct. The compensation of any state officer shall not be increased or diminished during his term of office, except that the legislature, at its thirty-first regular session, may increase or diminish the compensation of all state officers whose terms exist on the Thursday after the second Monday in January, 1949.

The provisions of sections 14, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, and 22 of Article III and section 23 of Article II in so far as they are inconsistent herewith, are hereby repealed. [1947 Senate Joint Resolution No. 4, p 1371. Approved November 2, 1948.]

Art. 28 Section 1 was later amended by Amendment 78.

Authorizing compensation increase during term: See Amendment 54.

**AMENDMENT 21**

Art. 11 Section 4 COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION. The legislature shall establish a system of county government, which shall be uniform throughout the state except as hereinafter provided, and by general laws shall provide for township organization, under which any county may organize whenever a majority of the qualified electors of such county voting at a general election shall so determine; and whenever a county shall adopt township organization, the assessment and collection of the revenue shall be made, and the business of such county and the local affairs of the several townships therein, shall be managed and transacted in the manner prescribed by such general law.

Any county may frame a "Home Rule" charter for its own government subject to the Constitution and laws of this state, and for such purpose the legislative authority of such county may cause an election to be had, at which election there shall be chosen by the qualified voters of said county not less than fifteen (15) nor more than twenty-five (25) freeholders thereof, as determined by the legislative authority, who shall have been residents of said county for a period of at least five (5) years preceding their election and who are themselves qualified electors, whose duty it shall be to convene within thirty (30) days after their election and prepare and propose a charter for such county. Such proposed charter shall be submitted to the qualified electors of said county, and if a majority of such qualified electors voting thereon ratify the same, it shall become the charter of said county and shall become the organic law thereof, and supersede any existing charter, including amendments thereto, or any existing form of county government, and all special laws inconsistent with such charter. Said proposed charter shall be published in two (2) legal newspapers published in said county, at least once a week for four (4) consecutive weeks prior to the day of submitting the same to the electors for their approval as above provided. All elections in this section authorized shall only be had upon notice, which notice shall specify the object of calling such election and shall be given for at least ten (10) days before the day of election in all election districts of said county. Said elections may be general or special elections and except as herein provided, shall be governed by the law regulating and controlling general or special elections in said county. Such charter may be amended by

proposals therefor submitted by the legislative authority of said county to the electors thereof at any general election after notice of such submission published as above specified, and ratified by a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon. In submitting any such charter or amendment thereto, any alternate article or proposition may be presented for the choice of the voters and may be voted on separately without prejudice to others.

Any home rule charter proposed as herein provided, may provide for such county officers as may be deemed necessary to carry out and perform all county functions as provided by charter or by general law, and for their compensation, but shall not affect the election of the prosecuting attorney, the county superintendent of schools, the judges of the superior court, and the justices of the peace, or the jurisdiction of the courts.

Notwithstanding the foregoing provision for the calling of an election by the legislative authority of such county for the election of freeholders to frame a county charter, registered voters equal in number to ten (10) per centum of the voters of any such county voting at the last preceding general election, may at any time propose by petition the calling of an election of freeholders. The petition shall be filed with the county auditor of the county at least three (3) months before any general election and the proposal that a board of freeholders be elected for the purpose of framing a county charter shall be submitted to the vote of the people at said general election, and at the same election a board of freeholders of not less than fifteen (15) or more than twenty-five (25), as fixed in the petition calling for the election, shall be chosen to draft the new charter. The procedure for the nomination of qualified electors as candidates for said board of freeholders shall be prescribed by the legislative authority of the county, and the procedure for the framing of the charter and the submission of the charter as framed shall be the same as in the case of a board of freeholders chosen at an election initiated by the legislative authority of the county.

In calling for any election of freeholders as provided in this section, the legislative authority of the county shall apportion the number of freeholders to be elected in accordance with either the legislative districts or the county commissioner districts, if any, within said county, the number of said freeholders to be elected from each of said districts to be in proportion to the population of said districts as nearly as may be.

Should the charter proposed receive the affirmative vote of the majority of the electors voting thereon, the legislative authority of the county shall immediately call such special election as may be provided for therein, if any, and the county government shall be established in accordance with the terms of said charter not more than six (6) months after the election at which the charter was adopted.

The terms of all elective officers, except the prosecuting attorney, the county superintendent of schools, the judges of the superior court, and the justices of the peace, who are in office at the time of the adoption of a Home Rule Charter shall terminate as provided in the charter. All appointive officers in office at the time the charter goes into effect, whose positions are not abolished thereby, shall continue until their successors shall have qualified.

After the adoption of such charter, such county shall continue to have all the rights, powers, privileges and benefits then possessed or thereafter conferred by general law. All the powers, authority and duties granted to and imposed on county officers by general law, except the prosecuting attorney, the county superintendent of schools, the judges of the superior court and the justices of the peace, shall be vested in the legislative authority of the county unless expressly vested in specific officers by the charter. The legislative authority may by resolution delegate any of its executive or administrative powers, authority or duties not expressly vested in specific officers by the charter, to any county officer or officers or county employee or employees.

The provisions of sections 5, 6, 7, and the first sentence of section 8 of this Article as amended shall not apply to counties in which the government has been established by charter adopted under the provisions hereof. The authority conferred on the board of county commissioners by Section 15 of Article II as amended, shall be exercised by the legislative authority of the county. [1947 Senate Joint Resolution No. 5, p 1372. Approved November 2, 1948.]

## **AMENDMENT 22**

Section 7, Article XI, Constitution of the State of Washington is hereby repealed. [1947 House Joint Resolution No. 4, p 1385. Approved November 2, 1948.]



### AMENDMENT 23

Art. 11 Section 16 COMBINED CITY AND COUNTY. The legislature shall, by general law, provide for the formation of combined city and county municipal corporations, and for the manner of determining the territorial limits thereof, each of which shall be known as a "city and county," and, when organized, shall contain a population of at least three hundred thousand (300,000) inhabitants. No such city and county shall be formed except by a majority vote of the qualified electors of the area proposed to be included therein and also by a majority vote of the qualified electors of the remainder of that county from which such area is to be taken. Any such city and county shall be permitted to frame a charter for its own government, and amend the same, in the manner provided for cities by section 10 of this article: *Provided, however;* That the first charter of such city and county shall be framed and adopted in a manner to be specified in the general law authorizing the formation of such corporations: *Provided further;* That every such charter shall designate the respective officers of such city and county who shall perform the duties imposed by law upon county officers. Every such city and county shall have and enjoy all rights, powers and privileges asserted in its charter, not inconsistent with general laws, and in addition thereto, such rights, powers and privileges as may be granted to it, or possessed and enjoyed by cities and counties of like population separately organized.

No county or county government existing outside the territorial limits of such county and city shall exercise any police, taxation or other powers within the territorial limits of such county and city, but all such powers shall be exercised by the city and county and the officers thereof, subject to such constitutional provisions and general laws as apply to either cities or counties: *Provided,* That the provisions of sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 of this article shall not apply to any such city and county: *Provided further;* That the salary of any elective or appointive officer of a city and county shall not be changed after his election or appointment or during his term of office; nor shall the term of any such officer be extended beyond the period for which he is elected or appointed. In case an existing county is divided in the formation of a city and county, such city and county shall be liable for a just proportion of the existing debts or liabilities of the former county, and shall account for and pay the county remaining a just proportion of the value

of any real estate or other property owned by the former county and taken over by the county and city, the method of determining such just proportion to be prescribed by general law, but such division shall not affect the rights of creditors. The officers of a city and county, their compensation, qualifications, term of office and manner of election or appointment shall be as provided for in its charter, subject to general laws and applicable constitutional provisions. [1947 House Joint Resolution No. 13, p 1386. Approved November 2, 1948.]

Art. 11 Section 16 was later amended by Amendment 58.

## AMENDMENT 24

[Repealed by *AMENDMENT 42*, 1965 ex.s. Senate Joint Resolution No. 20, p 2816. Approved November 8, 1966.]

**Text of Amendment 24 — Art. 2 Section 33 ALIEN OWNERSHIP -**  
*The ownership of lands by aliens, other than those who in good faith have declared their intention to become citizens of the United States, is prohibited in this state, except where acquired by inheritance, under mortgage or in good faith in the ordinary course of justice in the collection of debts; and all conveyances of lands hereafter made to any alien directly, or in trust for such alien, shall be void: Provided, That the provisions of this section shall not apply to lands containing valuable deposits of minerals, metals, iron, coal, or fire clay, and the necessary land for mills and machinery to be used in the development thereof and the manufacture of the products therefrom: And provided further; That the provisions of this section shall not apply to the citizens of such of the Provinces of the Dominion of Canada as do not expressly or by implication prohibit ownership of provincial lands by citizens of this state. Every corporation, the majority of the capital stock of which is owned by aliens, shall be considered an alien for the purposes of this prohibition. [1949 Senate Joint Resolution No. 9, p 999. Approved November 7, 1950.]*

Art. 2 Section 33 was also amended by Amendment 29.

## AMENDMENT 25

Article 4 was amended by adding the following section:

Art. 4 Section 3(a) **RETIREMENT OF SUPREME COURT AND SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES.** A judge of the supreme court or the superior court shall retire from judicial office at the end of the calendar year in which he attains the age of seventy-five years. The legislature may, from time to time, fix a lesser age for

mandatory retirement, not earlier than the end of the calendar year in which any such judge attains the age of seventy years, as the legislature deems proper. This provision shall not affect the term to which any such judge shall have been elected or appointed prior to, or at the time of, approval and ratification of this provision. Notwithstanding the limitations of this section, the legislature may by general law authorize or require the retirement of judges for physical or mental disability, or any cause rendering judges incapable of performing their judicial duties. [1951 House Joint Resolution No. 6, p 960. Approved November 4, 1952.]

### AMENDMENT 26

Article 2 was amended by adding the following section:

Art. 2 Section 41 LAWS, EFFECTIVE DATE. INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM - AMENDMENT OR REPEAL. No act, law, or bill subject to referendum shall take effect until ninety days after the adjournment of the session at which it was enacted. No act, law or bill approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon shall be amended or repealed by the legislature within a period of two years following such enactment: *Provided*, That any such act, law or bill may be amended within two years after such enactment at any regular or special session of the legislature by a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house with full compliance with section 12, Article III, of the Washington Constitution, and no amendatory law adopted in accordance with this provision shall be subject to referendum. But such enactment may be amended or repealed at any general regular or special election by direct vote of the people thereon. These provisions supersede the provisions of subsection (c) of section 1 of this article as amended by the seventh amendment to the Constitution of this state. [1951 Substitute Senate Joint Resolution No. 7, p 959. Approved November 4, 1952.]

**Reviser's note:** In third sentence, comma between "general" and "regular" omitted in conformity with enrolled resolution.

### AMENDMENT 27

Art. 8 Section 6 LIMITATIONS UPON MUNICIPAL INDEBTEDNESS. No county, city, town, school district, or other municipal corporation shall for any purpose become indebted in

any manner to an amount exceeding one and one-half per centum of the taxable property in such county, city, town, school district, or other municipal corporation, without the assent of three-fifths of the voters therein voting at an election to be held for that purpose, nor in cases requiring such assent shall the total indebtedness at any time exceed five per centum on the value of the taxable property therein, to be ascertained by the last assessment for state and county purposes previous to the incurring of such indebtedness, except that in incorporated cities the assessment shall be taken from the last assessment for city purposes: *Provided*, That no part of the indebtedness allowed in this section shall be incurred for any purpose other than strictly county, city, town, school district, or other municipal purposes: *Provided further*, That (a) any city or town, with such assent, may be allowed to become indebted to a larger amount, but not exceeding five per centum additional for supplying such city or town with water, artificial light, and sewers, when the works for supplying such water, light, and sewers shall be owned and controlled by the municipality and (b) any school district with such assent, may be allowed to become indebted to a larger amount but not exceeding five per centum additional for capital outlays. [1951 House Joint Resolution No. 8, p 961. Approved November 4, 1952.]

## AMENDMENT 28

### Art. 4 Section 6 JURISDICTION OF SUPERIOR COURTS.

The superior court shall have original jurisdiction in all cases in equity and in all cases at law which involve the title or possession of real property, or the legality of any tax, impost, assessment, toll, or municipal fine, and in all other cases in which the demand or the value of the property in controversy amounts to one thousand dollars, or a lesser sum in excess of the jurisdiction granted to justices of the peace and other inferior courts, and in all criminal cases amounting to felony, and in all cases of misdemeanor not otherwise provided for by law; of actions of forcible entry and detainer; of proceedings in insolvency; of actions to prevent or abate a nuisance; of all matters of probate, of divorce, and for annulment of marriage; and for such special cases and proceedings as are not otherwise provided for. The superior court shall also have original jurisdiction in all cases and of all proceedings in which jurisdiction shall not have been by law vested exclusively

in some other court; and said court shall have the power of naturalization and to issue papers therefor. They shall have such appellate jurisdiction in cases arising in justices' and other inferior courts in their respective counties as may be prescribed by law. They shall always be open, except on nonjudicial days, and their process shall extend to all parts of the state. Said courts and their judges shall have power to issue writs of mandamus, quo warranto, review, certiorari, prohibition, and writs of habeas corpus, on petition by or on behalf of any person in actual custody in their respective counties. Injunctions and writs of prohibition and of habeas corpus may be issued and served on legal holidays and nonjudicial days.

Later amendment to Art. 4 Section 6, see Amendment 87.

Art. 4 Section 10 JUSTICES OF THE PEACE. The legislature shall determine the number of justices of the peace to be elected and shall prescribe by law the powers, duties and jurisdiction of justices of the peace: *Provided*, That such jurisdiction granted by the legislature shall not trench upon the jurisdiction of superior or other courts of record, except that justices of the peace may be made police justices of incorporated cities and towns. Justices of the peace shall have original jurisdiction in cases where the demand or value of the property in controversy is less than three hundred dollars or such greater sum, not to exceed one thousand dollars, as shall be prescribed by the legislature. In incorporated cities or towns having more than five thousand inhabitants, the justices of the peace shall receive such salary as may be provided by law, and shall receive no fees for their own use. [1951 Substitute House Joint Resolution No. 13, p 962. Approved November 4, 1952.]

Later amendment to Art. 4 Section 6 and Section 10, see Amendment 65.

## AMENDMENT 29

[Repealed by *AMENDMENT 42*, 1965 ex.s. Senate Joint Resolution No. 20, p 2816. Approved November 8, 1966.]

**Text of Amendment 29 - Art. 2 Section 33 Alien Ownership** - *The ownership of lands by aliens, other than those who in good faith have declared their intention to become citizens of the United States, is prohibited in this state, except where acquired by inheritance, under mortgage or in good faith in the ordinary course of justice in the collection of debts; and*

*all conveyances of lands hereafter made to any alien directly, or in trust for such alien, shall be void: Provided, That the provisions of this section shall not apply to lands containing valuable deposits of minerals, metals, iron, coal, or fire clay, and the necessary land for mills and machinery to be used in the development thereof and the manufacture of the products therefrom: And provided further, That the provisions of this section shall not apply to the citizens of such of the Provinces of the Dominion of Canada as do not expressly or by implication prohibit ownership of provincial lands by citizens of this state. [1953 House Joint Resolution No. 16, p 853. Approved November 2, 1954.]*

Prior amendment of Art. 2 Section 33, see Amendment 24.

### AMENDMENT 30

[Stricken by *AMENDMENT 72*, 1981 Substitute Senate Joint Resolution No. 133, p 1796. Approved November 3, 1981.]

**Text of Amendment 30 - Art. 2 Section 1(a) INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM, SIGNATURES REQUIRED** - *Hereafter, the number of valid signatures of legal voters required upon a petition for an initiative measure shall be equal to eight per centum of the number of voters registered and voting for the office of governor at the last preceding regular gubernatorial election. Hereafter, the number of valid signatures of legal voters required upon a petition for a referendum of an act of the legislature or any part thereof, shall be equal to four per centum of the number of voters registered and voting for the office of governor at the last preceding regular gubernatorial election. These provisions supersede the requirements specified in section 1 of this article as amended by the seventh amendment to the Constitution of this state. [1955 Senate Joint Resolution No. 4, p 1860. Approved November 6, 1956.]*

### AMENDMENT 31

**Art. 3 Section 25 QUALIFICATIONS, COMPENSATION, OFFICES WHICH MAY BE ABOLISHED.** No person, except a citizen of the United States and a qualified elector of this state, shall be eligible to hold any state office. The compensation for state officers shall not be increased or diminished during the term for which they shall have been elected. The legislature may in its discretion abolish the offices of the lieutenant governor, auditor and commissioner of public lands. [1955 Senate Joint Resolution No. 6, p 1861. Approved November 6, 1956.]

*Authorizing compensation increase during term: See Amendment 54.*

### AMENDMENT 32

Art. 2 Section 15 VACANCIES IN LEGISLATURE AND IN PARTISAN COUNTY ELECTIVE OFFICE. Such vacancies as may occur in either house of the legislature or in any partisan county elective office shall be filled by appointment by the board of county commissioners of the county in which the vacancy occurs: *Provided*, That the person appointed to fill the vacancy must be from the same legislative district and the same political party as the legislator whose office has been vacated, and shall be one of three persons who shall be nominated by the county central committee of that party, and the person so appointed shall hold office until his successor is elected at the next general election, and shall have qualified: *Provided*, That in case of a vacancy occurring in the office of joint senator, or joint representative, the vacancy shall be filled from a list of three nominees selected by the state central committee, by appointment by the joint action of the boards of county commissioners of the counties composing the joint senatorial or joint representative district, the person appointed to fill the vacancy must be from the same legislative district and of the same political party as the legislator whose office has been vacated, and in case a majority of said county commissioners do not agree upon the appointment within sixty days after the vacancy occurs, the governor shall within thirty days thereafter, and from the list of nominees provided for herein, appoint a person who shall be from the same legislative district and of the same political party as the legislator whose office has been vacated. [1955 Senate Joint Resolution No. 14, p 1862. Approved November 6, 1956.]

Prior amendment of Art. 2 Section 15, see Amendment 13.

Later amendment of Art. 2 Section 15, see Amendments 52 and 96.

### AMENDMENT 33

Art. 24 Section 1 STATE BOUNDARIES. The boundaries of the state of Washington shall be as follows: Beginning at a point in the Pacific ocean one marine league due west of and opposite the middle of the mouth of the north ship channel of the Columbia river thence running easterly to and up the middle channel of said river and where it is divided by islands up the middle of the widest channel thereof to where the forty-sixth parallel of north latitude

crosses said river near the mouth of the Walla Walla river; thence east on said forty-sixth parallel of latitude to the middle of the main channel of the Shoshone or Snake river, thence follow down the middle of the main channel of Snake river to a point opposite the mouth of the Kooskooskia or Clear Water river, thence due north to the forty-ninth parallel of north latitude, thence west along said forty-ninth parallel of north latitude to the middle of the channel which separates Vancouver's island from the continent, that is to say to a point in longitude 123 degrees, 19 minutes and 15 seconds west, thence following the boundary line between the United States and British possessions through the channel which separates Vancouver's island from the continent to the termination of the boundary line between the United States and British possessions at a point in the Pacific ocean equidistant between Bonnilla point on Vancouver's island and Tatoosh island light house, thence running in a southerly course and parallel with the coast line, keeping one marine league off shore to place of beginning; until such boundaries are modified by appropriate interstate compacts duly approved by the Congress of the United States. [1957 Senate Joint Resolution No. 10, p 1292. Approved November 4, 1958.]

### AMENDMENT 34

Art. 1 Section 11 RELIGIOUS FREEDOM. Absolute freedom of conscience in all matters of religious sentiment, belief and worship, shall be guaranteed to every individual, and no one shall be molested or disturbed in person or property on account of religion; but the liberty of conscience hereby secured shall not be so construed as to excuse acts of licentiousness or justify practices inconsistent with the peace and safety of the state. No public money or property shall be appropriated for or applied to any religious worship, exercise or instruction, or the support of any religious establishment: *Provided, however,* That this article shall not be so construed as to forbid the employment by the state of a chaplain for such of the state custodial, correctional and mental institutions as in the discretion of the legislature may seem justified. No religious qualification shall be required for any public office or employment, nor shall any person be incompetent as a witness or juror, in consequence of his opinion on matters of religion, nor be questioned in any court of justice touching his



religious belief to affect the weight of his testimony. [1957 Senate Joint Resolution No. 14, p 1299. Approved November 4, 1958.]

Prior amendment of Art. 1 Section 11, see Amendment 4.

Art. 1 Section 11 was later amended by Amendment 88.

### AMENDMENT 35

Art. 2 Section 25 EXTRA COMPENSATION PROHIBITED. The legislature shall never grant any extra compensation to any public officer, agent, employee, servant, or contractor, after the services shall have been rendered, or the contract entered into, nor shall the compensation of any public officer be increased or diminished during his term of office. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to prevent increases in pensions after such pensions shall have been granted. [1957 Senate Joint Resolution No. 18, p 1301. Approved November 4, 1958.]

*Increase during term in compensation of certain officers authorized: See Amendment 54.*

### AMENDMENT 36

Article 2, section 1 (LEGISLATIVE POWERS, WHERE VESTED) as amended by AMENDMENT 7 was amended by adding the following subsection:

Article 2, section 1, subsection (e). The legislature shall provide methods of publicity of all laws or parts of laws, and amendments to the Constitution referred to the people with arguments for and against the laws and amendments so referred. The secretary of state shall send one copy of the publication to each individual place of residence in the state and shall make such additional distribution as he shall determine necessary to reasonably assure that each voter will have an opportunity to study the measures prior to election. These provisions supersede the provisions set forth in the last paragraph of section 1 of this article as amended by the seventh amendment to the Constitution of this state. [1961 Senate Joint Resolution No. 9, p 2751. Approved November, 1962.]

### AMENDMENT 37

Art. 23 Section 1 HOW MADE. Any amendment or amendments to this Constitution may be proposed in either branch of the legislature; and if the same shall be agreed to by two-thirds of the members elected to each of the two houses, such proposed amendment or amendments shall be entered on their journals, with the ayes and noes thereon, and be submitted to the qualified electors of the state for their approval, at the next general election; and if the people approve and ratify such amendment or amendments, by a majority of the electors voting thereon, the same shall become part of this Constitution, and proclamation thereof shall be made by the governor: *Provided*, That if more than one amendment be submitted, they shall be submitted in such a manner that the people may vote for or against such amendments separately. The legislature shall also cause notice of the amendments that are to be submitted to the people to be published at least four times during the four weeks next preceding the election in every legal newspaper in the state: *Provided*, That failure of any newspaper to publish this notice shall not be interpreted as affecting the outcome of the election. [1961 Senate Joint Resolution No. 25, p 2753. Approved November, 1962.]

### AMENDMENT 38

Article 4 was amended by adding the following section:

Art. 4 Section 2(a) TEMPORARY PERFORMANCE OF JUDICIAL DUTIES. When necessary for the prompt and orderly administration of justice a majority of the Supreme Court is empowered to authorize judges or retired judges of courts of record of this state, to perform, temporarily, judicial duties in the Supreme Court, and to authorize any superior court judge to perform judicial duties in any superior court of this state. [1961 House Joint Resolution No. 6, p 2757. Approved November, 1962.]

### AMENDMENT 39

Art. 2 Section 42 GOVERNMENTAL CONTINUITY DURING EMERGENCY PERIODS. The legislature, in order to insure continuity of state and local governmental operations in periods of emergency resulting from enemy attack, shall have the power and the duty, immediately upon and after adoption of this amendment,

to enact legislation providing for prompt and temporary succession to the powers and duties of public offices of whatever nature and whether filled by election or appointment, the incumbents and legal successors of which may become unavailable for carrying on the powers and duties of such offices; the legislature shall likewise enact such other measures as may be necessary and proper for insuring the continuity of governmental operations during such emergencies. Legislation enacted under the powers conferred by this amendment shall in all respects conform to the remainder of the Constitution: *Provided*, That if, in the judgment of the legislature at the time of disaster, conformance to the provisions of the Constitution would be impracticable or would admit of undue delay, such legislation may depart during the period of emergency caused by enemy attack only, from the following sections of the Constitution:

Article 14, Sections 1 and 2, Seat of Government;

Article 2, Sections 8, 15 (Amendments 13 and 32), and 22, Membership, Quorum of Legislature and Passage of Bills;

Article 3, Section 10 (Amendment 6), Succession to Governorship: *Provided*, That the legislature shall not depart from Section 10, Article III, as amended by Amendment 6, of the state Constitution relating to the Governor's office so long as any successor therein named is available and capable of assuming the powers and duties of such office as therein prescribed;

Article 3, Section 13, Vacancies in State Offices;

Article 11, Section 6, Vacancies in County Offices;

Article 11, Section 2, Seat of County Government;

Article 3, Section 24, State Records. [1961 House Joint Resolution No. 9, p 2758. Approved November, 1962.]

## AMENDMENT 40

Art. 11 Section 10 INCORPORATION OF MUNICIPALITIES. Corporations for municipal purposes shall not be created by special laws; but the legislature, by general laws, shall provide for the incorporation, organization and classification in proportion to population, of cities and towns, which laws may be altered, amended or repealed. Cities and towns heretofore organized, or incorporated may become organized under such general laws whenever a majority of the electors voting at a general election, shall so determine, and shall organize in conformity therewith; and

cities or towns heretofore or hereafter organized, and all charters thereof framed or adopted by authority of this Constitution shall be subject to, and controlled by general laws. Any city containing a population of ten thousand inhabitants, or more, shall be permitted to frame a charter for its own government, consistent with and subject to the Constitution and laws of this state, and for such purpose the legislative authority of such city may cause an election to be had at which election there shall be chosen by the qualified electors of said city, fifteen freeholders thereof, who shall have been residents of said city for a period of at least two years preceding their election and qualified electors, whose duty it shall be to convene within ten days after their election, and prepare and propose a charter for such city. Such proposed charter shall be submitted to the qualified electors of said city, and if a majority of such qualified electors voting thereon ratify the same, it shall become the charter of said city, and shall become the organic law thereof, and supersede any existing charter including amendments thereto, and all special laws inconsistent with such charter. Said proposed charter shall be published in the daily newspaper of largest general circulation published in the area to be incorporated as a first class city under the charter or, if no daily newspaper is published therein, then in the newspaper having the largest general circulation within such area at least once each week for four weeks next preceding the day of submitting the same to the electors for their approval, as above provided. All elections in this section authorized shall only be had upon notice, which notice shall specify the object of calling such election, and shall be given as required by law. Said elections may be general or special elections, and except as herein provided shall be governed by the law regulating and controlling general or special elections in said city. Such charter may be amended by proposals therefor submitted by the legislative authority of such city to the electors thereof at any general election after notice of said submission published as above specified, and ratified by a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon. In submitting any such charter, or amendment thereto, any alternate article or proposition may be presented for the choice of the voters, and may be voted on separately without prejudice to others. [1963 ex.s. Senate Joint Resolution No. 1, p 1526. Approved November 3, 1964.]

## AMENDMENT 41

Art. 4 Section 29 ELECTION OF SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES. Notwithstanding any provision of this Constitution to the contrary, if, after the last day as provided by law for the withdrawal of declarations of candidacy has expired, only one candidate has filed for any single position of superior court judge in any county containing a population of one hundred thousand or more, no primary or election shall be held as to such position, and a certificate of election shall be issued to such candidate. If, after any contested primary for superior court judge in any county, only one candidate is entitled to have his name printed on the general election ballot for any single position, no election shall be held as to such position, and a certificate of election shall be issued to such candidate: *Provided*, That in the event that there is filed with the county auditor within ten days after the date of the primary, a petition indicating that a write in campaign will be conducted for such single position and signed by one hundred registered voters qualified to vote with respect of the office, then such single position shall be subject to the general election. Provisions for the contingency of the death or disqualification of a sole candidate between the last date for withdrawal and the time when the election would be held but for the provisions of this section, and such other provisions as may be deemed necessary to implement the provisions of this section, may be enacted by the legislature. [1965 ex.s. Substitute Senate Joint Resolution No. 6, p 2815. Approved November 8, 1966.]

## AMENDMENT 42

Section 33, Article II and Amendments 24 and 29 amendatory thereof, of the Constitution of the State of Washington are each hereby repealed. [1965 ex.s. Senate Joint Resolution No. 20, p 2816. Approved November 8, 1966.]

## AMENDMENT 43

Art. 9 Section 3 FUNDS FOR SUPPORT. The principal of the common school fund as the same existed on June 30, 1965, shall remain permanent and irreducible. The said fund shall consist of the principal amount thereof existing on June 30, 1965, and such additions thereto as may be derived after June 30, 1965, from the

following named sources, to wit: Appropriations and donations by the state to this fund; donations and bequests by individuals to the state or public for common schools; the proceeds of lands and other property which revert to the state by escheat and forfeiture; the proceeds of all property granted to the state when the purpose of the grant is not specified, or is uncertain; funds accumulated in the treasury of the state for the disbursement of which provision has not been made by law; the proceeds of the sale of stone, minerals, or property other than timber and other crops from school and state lands, other than those granted for specific purposes; all moneys received from persons appropriating stone, minerals or property other than timber and other crops from school and state lands other than those granted for specific purposes, and all moneys other than rental recovered from persons trespassing on said lands; five per centum of the proceeds of the sale of public lands lying within the state, which shall be sold by the United States subsequent to the admission of the state into the Union as approved by section 13 of the act of congress enabling the admission of the state into the Union; the principal of all funds arising from the sale of lands and other property which have been, and hereafter may be granted to the state for the support of common schools. The legislature may make further provisions for enlarging said fund.

There is hereby established the common school construction fund to be used exclusively for the purpose of financing the construction of facilities for the common schools. The sources of said fund shall be: (1) Those proceeds derived from the sale or appropriation of timber and other crops from school and state lands subsequent to June 30, 1965, other than those granted for specific purposes; (2) the interest accruing on said permanent common school fund from and after July 1, 1967, together with all rentals and other revenues derived therefrom and from lands and other property devoted to the permanent common school fund from and after July 1, 1967; and (3) such other sources as the legislature may direct. That portion of the common school construction fund derived from interest on the permanent common school fund may be used to retire such bonds as may be authorized by law for the purpose of financing the construction of facilities for the common schools.

The interest accruing on the permanent common school fund together with all rentals and other revenues accruing thereto pursuant to subsection (2) of this section during the period after the effective date of this amendment and prior to July 1, 1967, shall be exclusively applied to the current use of the common schools.

To the extent that the moneys in the common school construction fund are in excess of the amount necessary to allow fulfillment of the purpose of said fund, the excess shall be available for deposit to the credit of the permanent common school fund or available for the current use of the common schools, as the legislature may direct. [1965 ex.s. Senate Joint Resolution No. 22, part 1, p 2817. Approved November 8, 1966.]

#### **AMENDMENT 44**

Art. 16 Section 5 INVESTMENT OF PERMANENT COMMON SCHOOL FUND. The permanent common school fund of this state may be invested as authorized by law. [1965 ex.s. Senate Joint Resolution No. 22, part 2, p 2817. Approved November 8, 1966.]

Prior amendment of Art. 16 Section 5, see Amendment 1.

#### **AMENDMENT 45**

Art. 8 Section 8 PORT EXPENDITURES - INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT -PROMOTION. The use of public funds by port districts in such manner as may be prescribed by the legislature for industrial development or trade promotion and promotional hosting shall be deemed a public use for a public purpose, and shall not be deemed a gift within the provisions of section 7 of this Article. [1965 ex.s. Senate Joint Resolution No. 25, p 2819. Approved November 8, 1966.]

#### **AMENDMENT 46**

Art. 6 Section 1A VOTER QUALIFICATIONS FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. In consideration of those citizens of the United States who become residents of the state of Washington during the year of a presidential election with the intention of making this state their permanent residence, this section is for the purpose of authorizing such persons who can meet all qualifications for voting as set forth in section 1 of this

article, except for residence, to vote for presidential electors or for the office of President and Vice-President of the United States, as the case may be, but no other: *Provided*, That such persons have resided in the state at least sixty days immediately preceding the presidential election concerned.

The legislature shall establish the time, manner and place for such persons to cast such presidential ballots. [1965 ex.s. Substitute Joint House Resolution No. 4, p 2820. Approved November 8, 1966.]

Art. 6 Section 1A was later amended by Amendment 105.

### AMENDMENT 47

Art. 7 Section 10 RETIRED PERSONS PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 7, section 1 (Amendment 14) and Article 7, section 2 (Amendment 17), the following tax exemption shall be allowed as to real property:

The legislature shall have the power, by appropriate legislation, to grant to retired property owners relief from the property tax on the real property occupied as a residence by those owners. The legislature may place such restrictions and conditions upon the granting of such relief as it shall deem proper. Such restrictions and conditions may include, but are not limited to, the limiting of the relief to those property owners below a specific level of income and those fulfilling certain minimum residential requirements. [1965 ex.s. House Joint Resolution No. 7, p 2821. Approved November 8, 1966.]

### AMENDMENT 48

Art. 8 Section 3 SPECIAL INDEBTEDNESS, HOW AUTHORIZED. Except the debt specified in sections one and two of this article, no debts shall hereafter be contracted by, or on behalf of this state, unless such debt shall be authorized by law for some single work or object to be distinctly specified therein, which law shall provide ways and means, exclusive of loans, for the payment of the interest on such debt as it falls due, and also to pay and discharge the principal of such debt within twenty years from the time of the contracting thereof. No such law shall take effect until it shall, at a general election, have been submitted to the people and have received a majority of all the votes cast for



and against it at such election, and all moneys raised by authority of such law shall be applied only to the specific object therein stated, or to the payment of the debt thereby created, and notice that such law will be submitted to the people shall be published at least four times during the four weeks next preceding the election in every legal newspaper in the state: *Provided*, That failure of any newspaper to publish this notice shall not be interpreted as affecting the outcome of the election. [1965 ex.s. House Joint Resolution No. 39, p 2822. Approved November 8, 1966.]

Art. 8 Section 3 was later amended by Amendment 60.

### AMENDMENT 49

The Constitution was amended by adding the following new article and section 1 thereof:

### ARTICLE XXIX INVESTMENTS OF PUBLIC PENSION AND RETIREMENT FUNDS

Art. 29 Section 1 MAY BE INVESTED AS AUTHORIZED BY LAW. Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 5, and 7 of Article VIII and section 9 of Article XII or any other section or article of the Constitution of the state of Washington, the moneys of any public pension or retirement fund may be invested as authorized by law. [1967 Senate Joint Resolution No. 5; see 1969 p 2975. Approved November 5, 1968.]

Art. 29 Section 1 was later amended by Amendments 75 and 93.

### AMENDMENT 50

Article 4 was amended by adding the following section:

Art. 4 Section 30 COURT OF APPEALS. (1) *Authorization*. In addition to the courts authorized in section 1 of this article, judicial power is vested in a court of appeals, which shall be established by statute.

(2) *Jurisdiction*. The jurisdiction of the court of appeals shall be as provided by statute or by rules authorized by statute.

(3) *Review of Superior Court*. Superior court actions may be reviewed by the court of appeals or by the supreme court as provided by statute or by rule authorized by statute.

(4) *Judges.* The number, manner of election, compensation, terms of office, removal and retirement of judges of the court of appeals shall be as provided by statute.

(5) *Administration and Procedure.* The administration and procedures of the court of appeals shall be as provided by rules issued by the supreme court.

(6) *Conflicts.* The provisions of this section shall supersede any conflicting provisions in prior sections of this article. [1967 Senate Joint Resolution No. 6; see 1969 p 2975. Approved November 5, 1968.]

**Reviser's note:** This section which was adopted as Art. 4 Section 29 is herein renumbered Art. 4 Section 30 to avoid confusion with Amendment 41.

## AMENDMENT 51

Article 8 was amended by adding the following section:

Art. 8 Section 9 STATE BUILDING AUTHORITY. The legislature is empowered notwithstanding any other provision in this Constitution, to provide for a state building authority in corporate and politic form which may contract with agencies or departments of the state government to construct upon land owned by the state or its agencies, or to be acquired by the state building authority, buildings and appurtenant improvements which such state agencies or departments are hereby empowered to lease at reasonable rental rates from the Washington state building authority for terms up to seventy-five years with provisions for eventual vesting of title in the state or its agencies. This section shall not be construed as authority to provide buildings through lease or otherwise to nongovernmental entities. The legislature may authorize the state building authority to borrow funds solely upon its own credit and to issue bonds or other evidences of indebtedness therefor to be repaid from its revenues and to secure the same by pledging its income or mortgaging its leaseholds. The provisions of sections 1 and 3 of this article shall not apply to indebtedness incurred pursuant to this section. [1967 Senate Joint Resolution No. 17; see 1969 p 2976. Approved November 5, 1968.]

**Reviser's note:** This section which was adopted as Art. 8 Section 8 is herein renumbered as Art. 8 Section 9 to avoid confusion with Amendment 45.

## AMENDMENT 52

Art. 2 Section 15 VACANCIES IN LEGISLATURE AND IN PARTISAN COUNTY ELECTIVE OFFICE. Such vacancies as may occur in either house of the legislature or in any partisan county elective office shall be filled by appointment by the board of county commissioners of the county in which the vacancy occurs: *Provided*, That the person appointed to fill the vacancy must be from the same legislative district, county or county commissioner district and the same political party as the legislator or partisan county elective officer whose office has been vacated, and shall be one of three persons who shall be nominated by the county central committee of that party, and in case a majority of said county commissioners do not agree upon the appointment within sixty days after the vacancy occurs, the governor shall within thirty days thereafter, and from the list of nominees provided for herein, appoint a person who shall be from the same legislative district, county or county commissioner district and of the same political party as the legislator or partisan county elective officer whose office has been vacated, and the person so appointed shall hold office until his successor is elected at the next general election, and shall have qualified: *Provided*, That in case of a vacancy occurring in the office of joint senator, or joint representative, the vacancy shall be filled from a list of three nominees selected by the state central committee, by appointment by the joint action of the boards of county commissioners of the counties composing the joint senatorial or joint representative district, the person appointed to fill the vacancy must be from the same legislative district and of the same political party as the legislator whose office has been vacated, and in case a majority of said county commissioners do not agree upon the appointment within sixty days after the vacancy occurs, the governor shall within thirty days thereafter, and from the list of nominees provided for herein, appoint a person who shall be from the same legislative district and of the same political party as the legislator whose office has been vacated.

Art. 11 Section 6 VACANCIES IN TOWNSHIP, PRECINCT OR ROAD DISTRICT OFFICE. The board of county commissioners in each county shall fill all vacancies occurring in any township, precinct or road district office of such county by

appointment, and officers thus appointed shall hold office till the next general election, and until their successors are elected and qualified. [1967 Senate Joint Resolution No. 24; see 1969 p 2976. Approved November 5, 1968.]

Prior amendment of Art. 2 Section 15, see Amendments 13 and 32.  
Later amendment of Art. 2 Section 15, see Amendment 96.

### **AMENDMENT 53**

Article 7 was amended by adding the following section:

Art. 7 Section 11 TAXATION BASED ON ACTUAL USE.

Nothing in this Article VII as amended shall prevent the legislature from providing, subject to such conditions as it may enact, that the true and fair value in money (a) of farms, agricultural lands, standing timber and timberlands, and (b) of other open space lands which are used for recreation or for enjoyment of their scenic or natural beauty shall be based on the use to which such property is currently applied, and such values shall be used in computing the assessed valuation of such property in the same manner as the assessed valuation is computed for all property. [1967 House Joint Resolution No. 1; see 1969 p 2976. Approved November 5, 1968.]

### **AMENDMENT 54**

The Constitution was amended by adding the following new article and section 1 thereof:

#### **ARTICLE XXX.\***

#### **COMPENSATION OF PUBLIC OFFICERS.\*.\***

Art. 30 Section 1 AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION INCREASE DURING TERM. The compensation of all elective and appointive state, county, and municipal officers who do not fix their own compensation, including judges of courts of record and the justice courts may be increased during their terms of office to the end that such officers and judges shall each severally receive compensation for their services in accordance with the law in effect at the time the services are being rendered.

The provisions of section 25 of Article II (Amendment 35), section 25 of Article III (Amendment 31), section 13 of Article IV, section 8 of Article XI, and section 1 of Article XXVIII (Amendment 20) insofar as they are inconsistent herewith are

hereby repealed. [1967 House Joint Resolution No. 13; see 1969 p 2976. Approved November 5, 1968.]

**Reviser's note:** .\*(1) Amendment 49 (1967 SJR No. 5) and Amendment 54 (1967 HJR No. 13) each added a new Article XXIX to the Constitution. Amendment 49 is carried herein as Article XXIX while Amendment 54 has been herein redesignated as Article XXX.

.\*.(2) The name of this Article has been supplied by the reviser.

## AMENDMENT 55

Art. 7 Section 2 LIMITATION ON LEVIES. Except as hereinafter provided and notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, the aggregate of all tax levies upon real and personal property by the state and all taxing districts now existing or hereafter created, shall not in any year exceed one percentum of the true and fair value of such property in money: *Provided, however,* That nothing herein shall prevent levies at the rates now provided by law by or for any port or public utility district. The term "taxing district" for the purposes of this section shall mean any political subdivision, municipal corporation, district, or other governmental agency authorized by law to levy, or have levied for it, ad valorem taxes on property, other than a port or public utility district. Such aggregate limitation or any specific limitation imposed by law in conformity therewith may be exceeded only

(a) By any taxing district when specifically authorized so to do by a majority of at least three-fifths of the electors thereof voting on the proposition to levy such additional tax submitted not more than twelve months prior to the date on which the proposed levy is to be made and not oftener than twice in such twelve month period, either at a special election or at the regular election of such taxing district, at which election the number of persons voting on the proposition shall constitute not less than forty per centum of the total number of votes cast in such taxing district at the last preceding general election;

(b) By any taxing district otherwise authorized by law to issue general obligation bonds for capital purposes, for the sole purpose of making the required payments of principal and interest on general obligation bonds issued solely for capital purposes, other than the replacement of equipment, when authorized so to do by majority of at least three-fifths of the electors thereof voting on

the proposition to issue such bonds and to pay the principal and interest thereon by an annual tax levy in excess of the limitation herein provided during the term of such bonds, submitted not oftener than twice in any calendar year, at an election held in the manner provided by law for bond elections in such taxing district, at which election the total number of persons voting on the proposition shall constitute not less than forty per centum of the total number of votes cast in such taxing district at the last preceding general election: *Provided*, That any such taxing district shall have the right by vote of its governing body to refund any general obligation bonds of said district issued for capital purposes only, and to provide for the interest thereon and amortization thereof by annual levies in excess of the tax limitation provided for herein, *And Provided Further*, That the provisions of this section shall also be subject to the limitations contained in Article VIII, section 6, of this Constitution;

(c) By the state or any taxing district for the purpose of paying the principal or interest on general obligation bonds outstanding on December 6, 1934; or for the purpose of preventing the impairment of the obligation of a contract when ordered so to do by a court of last resort. [1971 Senate Joint Resolution No. 1, p 1827. Approved November 7, 1972.]

**Reviser's note:** Art. 7 Section 2 was also amended at the November 7, 1972 general election by Amendment 59. (HJR 47.)

Prior amendment of Art. 7 Section 2, see Amendment 17.

Art. 7 Section 2 was later amended by Amendments 59, 64, 79, 90, 95, and 101.

## AMENDMENT 56

Art. 2 Section 24 LOTTERIES AND DIVORCE. The legislature shall never grant any divorce. Lotteries shall be prohibited except as specifically authorized upon the affirmative vote of sixty percent of the members of each house of the legislature or, notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, by referendum or initiative approved by a sixty percent affirmative vote of the electors voting thereon. [1971 Senate Joint Resolution No. 5, p 1828. Approved November 7, 1972.]

### AMENDMENT 57

Art. 11 Section 5 COUNTY GOVERNMENT. The legislature, by general and uniform laws, shall provide for the election in the several counties of boards of county commissioners, sheriffs, county clerks, treasurers, prosecuting attorneys and other county, township or precinct and district officers, as public convenience may require, and shall prescribe their duties, and fix their terms of office: *Provided*, That the legislature may, by general laws, classify the counties by population and provide for the election in certain classes of counties certain officers who shall exercise the powers and perform the duties of two or more officers. It shall regulate the compensation of all such officers, in proportion to their duties, and for that purpose may classify the counties by population: *Provided*, That it may delegate to the legislative authority of the counties the right to prescribe the salaries of its own members and the salaries of other county officers. And it shall provide for the strict accountability of such officers for all fees which may be collected by them and for all public moneys which may be paid to them, or officially come into their possession.

Art. 11 Section 8 SALARIES AND LIMITATIONS AFFECTING. The salary of any county, city, town, or municipal officers shall not be increased except as provided in section 1 of Article XXX or diminished after his election, or during his term of office; nor shall the term of any such officer be extended beyond the period for which he is elected or appointed. [1971 Senate Joint Resolution No. 38, p 1829. Approved November 7, 1972.]

Prior amendment of Art. 11 Section 5, see Amendment 12.

### AMENDMENT 58

Art. 11 Section 16 COMBINED CITY-COUNTY. Any county may frame a "Home Rule" charter subject to the Constitution and laws of this state to provide for the formation and government of combined city and county municipal corporations, each of which shall be known as "city-county". Registered voters equal in number to ten (10) percent of the voters of any such county voting at the last preceding general election may at any time propose by a petition the calling of an election of freeholders. The provisions of section 4 of this Article with respect to a petition calling for an election of freeholders to frame a county home rule charter,

the election of freeholders, and the framing and adoption of a county home rule charter pursuant to such petition shall apply to a petition proposed under this section for the election of freeholders to frame a city-county charter, the election of freeholders, and to the framing and adoption of such city-county charter pursuant to such petition. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the provisions of section 4 applicable to a county home rule charter shall apply to a city-county charter. If there are not sufficient legal newspapers published in the county to meet the requirements for publication of a proposed charter under section 4 of this Article, publication in a legal newspaper circulated in the county may be substituted for publication in a legal newspaper published in the county. No such "city-county" shall be formed except by a majority vote of the qualified electors voting thereon in the county. The charter shall designate the respective officers of such city-county who shall perform the duties imposed by law upon county officers. Every such city-county shall have and enjoy all rights, powers and privileges asserted in its charter, and in addition thereto, such rights, powers and privileges as may be granted to it, or to any city or county or class or classes of cities and counties. In the event of a conflict in the constitutional provisions applying to cities and those applying to counties or of a conflict in the general laws applying to cities and those applying to counties, a city-county shall be authorized to exercise any powers that are granted to either the cities or the counties.

No legislative enactment which is a prohibition or restriction shall apply to the rights, powers and privileges of a city-county unless such prohibition or restriction shall apply equally to every other city, county, and city-county.

The provisions of sections 2, 3, 5, 6, and 8 and of the first paragraph of section 4 of this Article shall not apply to any such city-county.

Municipal corporations may be retained or otherwise provided for within the city-county. The formation, powers and duties of such municipal corporations shall be prescribed by the charter.

No city-county shall for any purpose become indebted in any manner to an amount exceeding three per centum of the taxable property in such city-county without the assent of three-fifths of the voters therein voting at an election to be held for that purpose, nor in cases requiring such assent shall the total indebtedness at



any time exceed ten per centum of the value of the taxable property therein, to be ascertained by the last assessment for city-county purposes previous to the incurring of such indebtedness: *Provided*, That no part of the indebtedness allowed in this section shall be incurred for any purpose other than strictly city-county or other municipal purposes: *Provided further*, That any city-county, with such assent may be allowed to become indebted to a larger amount, but not exceeding five per centum additional for supplying such city-county with water, artificial light, and sewers, when the works for supplying such water, light, and sewers shall be owned and controlled by the city-county.

No municipal corporation which is retained or otherwise provided for within the city-county shall for any purpose become indebted in any manner to an amount exceeding one and one-half per centum of the taxable property in such municipal corporation without the assent of three-fifths of the voters therein voting at an election to be held for that purpose, nor shall the total indebtedness at any time exceed five per centum of the value of the taxable property therein, to be ascertained by the last assessment for city-county purposes previous to the incurring of such indebtedness: *Provided*, That no part of the indebtedness allowed in this section shall be incurred for any purpose other than strictly municipal purposes: *Provided further*, That any such municipal corporation, with such assent, may be allowed to become indebted to a larger amount, but not exceeding five per centum additional for supplying such municipal corporation with water, artificial light, and sewers, when the works for supplying such water, light, and sewers shall be owned and controlled by the municipal corporation. All taxes which are levied and collected within a municipal corporation for a specific purpose shall be expended within that municipal corporation.

The authority conferred on the city-county government shall not be restricted by the second sentence of Article 7, section 1, or by Article 8, section 6 of this Constitution. [1971 House Joint Resolution No. 21, p 1831. Approved November 7, 1972.]

Prior amendment of Art. 11 Section 16, see Amendment 23.

**AMENDMENT 59**

Art. 7 Section 2 LIMITATION ON LEVIES. Except as hereinafter provided and notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, the aggregate of all tax levies upon real and personal property by the state and all taxing districts now existing or hereafter created, shall not in any year exceed forty mills on the dollar of assessed valuation, which assessed valuation shall be fifty per centum of the true and fair value of such property in money: *Provided, however;* That nothing herein shall prevent levies at the rates now provided by law by or for any port or public utility district. The term "taxing district" for the purposes of this section shall mean any political subdivision, municipal corporation, district, or other governmental agency authorized by law to levy, or have levied for it, ad valorem taxes on property, other than a port or public utility district. Such aggregate limitation or any specific limitation imposed by law in conformity therewith may be exceeded only

(a) By any taxing district when specifically authorized so to do by a majority of at least three-fifths of the electors thereof voting on the proposition to levy such additional tax submitted not more than twelve months prior to the date on which the proposed levy is to be made and not oftener than twice in such twelve month period, either at a special election or at the regular election of such taxing district, at which election the number of persons voting "yes" on the proposition shall constitute three-fifths of a number equal to forty per centum of the total votes cast in such taxing district at the last preceding general election when the number of electors voting on the proposition does not exceed forty per centum of the total votes cast in such taxing district in the last preceding general election; or by a majority of at least three-fifths of the electors thereof voting on the proposition to levy when the number of electors voting on the proposition exceeds forty per centum of the total votes cast in such taxing district in the last preceding general election;

(b) By any taxing district otherwise authorized by law to issue general obligation bonds for capital purposes, for the sole purpose of making the required payments of principal and interest on general obligation bonds issued solely for capital purposes, other than the replacement of equipment, when authorized so to do by

majority of at least three-fifths of the electors thereof voting on the proposition to issue such bonds and to pay the principal and interest thereon by an annual tax levy in excess of the limitation herein provided during the term of such bonds, submitted not oftener than twice in any calendar year, at an election held in the manner provided by law for bond elections in such taxing district, at which election the total number of persons voting on the proposition shall constitute not less than forty per centum of the total number of votes cast in such taxing district at the last preceding general election: *Provided*, That any such taxing district shall have the right by vote of its governing body to refund any general obligation bonds of said district issued for capital purposes only, and to provide for the interest thereon and amortization thereof by annual levies in excess of the tax limitation provided for herein, *And provided further*, That the provisions of this section shall also be subject to the limitations contained in Article VIII, section 6, of this Constitution;

(c) By the state or any taxing district for the purpose of paying the principal or interest on general obligation bonds outstanding on December 6, 1934; or for the purpose of preventing the impairment of the obligation of a contract when ordered so to do by a court of last resort. [1971 House Joint Resolution No. 47, p 1834. Approved November 7, 1972.]

**Reviser's note:** Art. 7 Section 2 was also amended at the November 7, 1972, general election by Amendment 55 (SJR 1). 1971 HJR No. 47 contained the following paragraph:

“Be It Further Resolved, That the foregoing amendment shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the state in such a manner that they may vote for or against it separately from the proposed amendment to Article VII, section 2, (Amendment 17) of the Constitution of the State of Washington contained in Senate Joint Resolution No. 1: *Provided*, That if both proposed amendments are approved and ratified, both shall become part of the Constitution.”

Prior amendment of Art. 7 Section 2, see Amendments 17 and 55.

Art. 7 Section 2 was later amended by Amendments 64, 79, 90, 95, and 101.

## AMENDMENT 60

Art. 8 Section 1 STATE DEBT. (a) The state may contract debt, the principal of which shall be paid and discharged within thirty

years from the time of contracting thereof, in the manner set forth herein.

(b) The aggregate debt contracted by the state shall not exceed that amount for which payments of principal and interest in any fiscal year would require the state to expend more than nine percent of the arithmetic mean of its general state revenues for the three immediately preceding fiscal years as certified by the treasurer. The term “fiscal year” means that period of time commencing July 1 of any year and ending on June 30 of the following year.

(c) The term “general state revenues” when used in this section, shall include all state money received in the treasury from each and every source whatsoever except: (1) Fees and revenues derived from the ownership or operation of any undertaking, facility, or project; (2) Moneys received as gifts, grants, donations, aid, or assistance or otherwise from the United States or any department, bureau, or corporation thereof, or any person, firm, or corporation, public or private, when the terms and conditions of such gift, grant, donation, aid, or assistance require the application and disbursement of such moneys otherwise than for the general purposes of the state of Washington; (3) Moneys to be paid into and received from retirement system funds, and performance bonds and deposits; (4) Moneys to be paid into and received from trust funds including but not limited to moneys received from taxes levied for specific purposes and the several permanent and irreducible funds of the state and the moneys derived therefrom but excluding bond redemption funds; (5) Proceeds received from the sale of bonds or other evidences of indebtedness.

(d) In computing the amount required for payment of principal and interest on outstanding debt under this section, debt shall be construed to mean borrowed money represented by bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness which are secured by the full faith and credit of the state or are required to be repaid, directly or indirectly, from general state revenues and which are incurred by the state, any department, authority, public corporation, or quasi public corporation of the state, any state university or college, or any other public agency created by the state but not by counties, cities, towns, school districts, or other municipal corporations, but shall not include obligations for the payment of current expenses of state government, nor shall it include debt hereafter incurred

pursuant to section 3 of this Article, obligations guaranteed as provided for in subsection (f) of this section, principal of bond anticipation notes or obligations issued to fund or refund the indebtedness of the Washington state building authority.

(e) The state may, without limitation, fund or refund, at or prior to maturity, the whole or any part of any existing debt or of any debt hereafter contracted pursuant to section 1, section 2, or section 3 of this Article, including any premium payable with respect thereto and interest thereon, or fund or refund, at or prior to maturity, the whole or any part of any indebtedness incurred or authorized prior to the effective date of this amendment by any entity of the type described in subsection (g) of this section, including any premium payable with respect thereto and any interest thereon. Such funding or refunding shall not be deemed to be contracting debt by the state.

(f) Notwithstanding the limitation contained in subsection (b) of this section, the state may pledge its full faith, credit, and taxing power to guarantee the payment of any obligation payable from revenues received from any of the following sources: (1) Fees collected by the state as license fees for motor vehicles; (2) Excise taxes collected by the state on the sale, distribution or use of motor vehicle fuel; and (3) Interest on the permanent common school fund: Provided, That the legislature shall, at all times, provide sufficient revenues from such sources to pay the principal and interest due on all obligations for which said source of revenue is pledged.

(g) No money shall be paid from funds in custody of the treasurer with respect to any debt contracted after the effective date of this amendment by the Washington state building authority, the capitol committee, or any similar entity existing or operating for similar purposes pursuant to which such entity undertakes to finance or provide a facility for use or occupancy by the state or any agency, department, or instrumentality thereof.

(h) The legislature shall prescribe all matters relating to the contracting, funding or refunding of debt pursuant to this section, including: The purposes for which debt may be contracted; by a favorable vote of three-fifths of the members elected to each house, the amount of debt which may be contracted for any class of such purposes; the kinds of notes, bonds, or other evidences of debt which may be issued by the state; and the manner by

which the treasurer shall determine and advise the legislature, any appropriate agency, officer, or instrumentality of the state as to the available debt capacity within the limitation set forth in this section. The legislature may delegate to any state officer, agency, or instrumentality any of its powers relating to the contracting, funding or refunding of debt pursuant to this section except its power to determine the amount and purposes for which debt may be contracted.

(i) The full faith, credit, and taxing power of the state of Washington are pledged to the payment of the debt created on behalf of the state pursuant to this section and the legislature shall provide by appropriation for the payment of the interest upon and installments of principal of all such debt as the same falls due, but in any event, any court of record may compel such payment.

(j) Notwithstanding the limitations contained in subsection (b) of this section, the state may issue certificates of indebtedness in such sum or sums as may be necessary to meet temporary deficiencies of the treasury, to preserve the best interests of the state in the conduct of the various state institutions, departments, bureaus, and agencies during each fiscal year; such certificates may be issued only to provide for appropriations already made by the legislature and such certificates must be retired and the debt discharged other than by refunding within twelve months after the date of incurrence.

(k) Bonds, notes, or other obligations issued and sold by the state of Washington pursuant to and in conformity with this Article shall not be invalid for any irregularity or defect in the proceedings of the issuance or sale thereof and shall be incontestable in the hands of a bona fide purchaser or holder thereof.

Art. 8 Section 3 SPECIAL INDEBTEDNESS, HOW AUTHORIZED. Except the debt specified in sections one and two of this Article, no debts shall hereafter be contracted by, or on behalf of this state, unless such debt shall be authorized by law for some single work or object to be distinctly specified therein. No such law shall take effect until it shall, at a general election, or a special election called for that purpose, have been submitted to the people and have received a majority of all the votes cast for and against it at such election. [1971 House Joint Resolution No. 52, p 1836. Approved November 7, 1972.]

Art 8. Section 1 was later amended by Amendments 92, 103, and 107.

Prior amendment of Art. 8 Section 3, see Amendment 48.

Art. 8 Section 3 was later amended by Amendment 92.

## **AMENDMENT 61**

The Constitution was amended by adding the following new article and sections 1 and 2 thereof:

### **ARTICLE XXXI SEX EQUALITY - RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Art. 31 Section 1 **EQUALITY NOT DENIED BECAUSE OF SEX.** Equality of rights and responsibility under the law shall not be denied or abridged on account of sex.

Art. 31 Section 2 **ENFORCEMENT POWER OF LEGISLATURE.** The legislature shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article. [1972 House Joint Resolution No. 61, p 526. Approved November 7, 1972.]

The name of this article has been supplied by the reviser.

## **AMENDMENT 62**

Art. 3 Section 12 **VETO POWER.** Every act which shall have passed the legislature shall be, before it becomes a law, presented to the governor. If he approves, he shall sign it; but if not, he shall return it, with his objections, to that house in which it shall have originated, which house shall enter the objections at large upon the journal and proceed to reconsider. If, after such reconsideration, two-thirds of the members present shall agree to pass the bill it shall be sent, together with the objections, to the other house, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two-thirds of the members present, it shall become a law; but in all such cases the vote of both houses shall be determined by the yeas and nays, and the names of the members voting for or against the bill shall be entered upon the journal of each house respectively. If any bill shall not be returned by the governor within five days, Sundays excepted, after it shall be presented to him, it shall become a law without his signature, unless the general adjournment shall prevent its return, in which case it shall become a law unless

the governor, within twenty days next after the adjournment, Sundays excepted, shall file such bill with his objections thereto, in the office of secretary of state, who shall lay the same before the legislature at its next session in like manner as if it had been returned by the governor: Provided, That within forty-five days next after the adjournment, Sundays excepted, the legislature may, upon petition by a two-thirds majority or more of the membership of each house, reconvene in extraordinary session, not to exceed five days duration, solely to reconsider any bills vetoed. If any bill presented to the governor contain several sections or appropriation items, he may object to one or more sections or appropriation items while approving other portions of the bill: Provided, That he may not object to less than an entire section, except that if the section contain one or more appropriation items he may object to any such appropriation item or items. In case of objection he shall append to the bill, at the time of signing it, a statement of the section or sections, appropriation item or items to which he objects and the reasons therefor; and the section or sections, appropriation item or items so objected to shall not take effect unless passed over the governor's objection, as hereinbefore provided. The provisions of Article II, section 12 insofar as they are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed. [1974 Senate Joint Resolution No. 140, p 806. Approved November 5, 1974.]

### **AMENDMENT 63**

Art. 6 Section 1 QUALIFICATIONS OF ELECTORS. All persons of the age of eighteen years or over who are citizens of the United States and who have lived in the state, county, and precinct thirty days immediately preceding the election at which they offer to vote, except those disqualified by Article VI, section 3 of this Constitution, shall be entitled to vote at all elections. [1974 Senate Joint Resolution No. 143, p 807. Approved November 5, 1974.]

Prior amendment of Art. 6 Section 1, see Amendments 2 and 5.

### **AMENDMENT 64**

Art. 7 Section 2 LIMITATION ON LEVIES. Except as hereinafter provided and notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, the aggregate of all tax levies upon real and personal property by the state and all taxing districts now existing



or hereafter created, shall not in any year exceed one per centum of the true and fair value of such property in money: Provided, however, That nothing herein shall prevent levies at the rates now provided by law by or for any port or public utility district. The term "taxing district" for the purposes of this section shall mean any political subdivision, municipal corporation, district, or other governmental agency authorized by law to levy, or have levied for it, ad valorem taxes on property, other than a port or public utility district. Such aggregate limitation or any specific limitation imposed by law in conformity therewith may be exceeded only

(a) By any taxing district when specifically authorized so to do by a majority of at least three-fifths of the electors thereof voting on the proposition to levy such additional tax submitted not more than twelve months prior to the date on which the proposed levy is to be made and not oftener than twice in such twelve month period, either at a special election or at the regular election of such taxing district, at which election the number of persons voting "yes" on the proposition shall constitute three-fifths of a number equal to forty per centum of the total votes cast in such taxing district at the last preceding general election when the number of electors voting on the proposition does not exceed forty per centum of the total votes cast in such taxing district in the last preceding general election; or by a majority of at least three-fifths of the electors thereof voting on the proposition to levy when the number of electors voting on the proposition exceeds forty percentum of the total votes cast in such taxing district in the last preceding general election: Provided, That notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, any proposition pursuant to this subsection to levy additional tax for the support of the common schools may provide such support for a two year period;

(b) By any taxing district otherwise authorized by law to issue general obligation bonds for capital purposes, for the sole purpose of making the required payments of principal and interest on general obligation bonds issued solely for capital purposes, other than the replacement of equipment, when authorized so to do by majority of at least three-fifths of the electors thereof voting on the proposition to issue such bonds and to pay the principal and interest thereon by an annual tax levy in excess of the limitation herein provided during the term of such bonds, submitted not oftener than twice in any calendar year, at an election held in the manner provided by law for bond elections in such taxing district, at which election the total

number of persons voting on the proposition shall constitute not less than forty per centum of the total number of votes cast in such taxing district at the last preceding general election: Provided, That any such taxing district shall have the right by vote of its governing body to refund any general obligation bonds of said district issued for capital purposes only, and to provide for the interest thereon and amortization thereof by annual levies in excess of the tax limitation provided for herein, And provided further, That the provisions of this section shall also be subject to the limitations contained in Article VIII, Section 6, of this Constitution;

(c) By the state or any taxing district for the purpose of paying the principal or interest on general obligation bonds outstanding on December 6, 1934; or for the purpose of preventing the impairment of the obligation of a contract when ordered so to do by a court of last resort. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. Senate Joint Resolution No. 137, p 518. Approved November 2, 1976.]

Prior amendment of Art. 7 Section 2, see Amendments 17, 55, and 59.

Art. 7 Section 2 was later amended by Amendments 79, 90, 95, and 101.

## AMENDMENT 65

### Art. 4 Section 6 JURISDICTION OF SUPERIOR COURTS.

The superior court shall have original jurisdiction in all cases in equity and in all cases at law which involve the title or possession of real property, or the legality of any tax, impost, assessment, toll, or municipal fine, and in all other cases in which the demand or the value of the property in controversy amounts to three thousand dollars or as otherwise determined by law, or a lesser sum in excess of the jurisdiction granted to justices of the peace and other inferior courts, and in all criminal cases amounting to felony, and in all cases of misdemeanor not otherwise provided for by law; of actions of forcible entry and detainer; of proceedings in insolvency; of actions to prevent or abate a nuisance; of all matters of probate, of divorce, and for annulment of marriage; and for such special cases and proceedings as are not otherwise provided for. The superior court shall also have original jurisdiction in all cases and of all proceedings in which jurisdiction shall not have been by law vested exclusively in some other court; and said court shall have the power of naturalization and to issue papers therefor. They shall have such appellate jurisdiction in cases arising in

justices' and other inferior courts in their respective counties as may be prescribed by law. They shall always be open, except on nonjudicial days, and their process shall extend to all parts of the state. Said courts and their judges shall have power to issue writs of mandamus, quo warranto, review, certiorari, prohibition, and writs of habeas corpus, on petition by or on behalf of any person in actual custody in their respective counties. Injunctions and writs of prohibition and of habeas corpus may be issued and served on legal holidays and nonjudicial days. [1977 Senate Joint Resolution No. 113, p 1714. Approved November 8, 1977.]

Art. 4 Section 10 JUSTICES OF THE PEACE. The legislature shall determine the number of justices of the peace to be elected and shall prescribe by law the powers, duties and jurisdiction of justices of the peace: Provided, That such jurisdiction granted by the legislature shall not trench upon the jurisdiction of superior or other courts of record, except that justices of the peace may be made police justices of incorporated cities and towns. Justices of the peace shall have original jurisdiction in cases where the demand or value of the property in controversy is less than three hundred dollars or such greater sum, not to exceed three thousand dollars or as otherwise determined by law, as shall be prescribed by the legislature. In incorporated cities or towns having more than five thousand inhabitants, the justices of the peace shall receive such salary as may be provided by law, and shall receive no fees for their own use. [1977 Senate Joint Resolution No. 113, p 1714. Approved November 8, 1977.]

Prior amendment of Art. 4 Section 6 and Section 10, see Amendment 28.

## **AMENDMENT 66**

Art. 12 Section 18 RATES FOR TRANSPORTATION. The legislature may pass laws establishing reasonable rates of charges for the transportation of passengers and freight, and to correct abuses and prevent discrimination and extortion in the rates of freight and passenger tariffs on the different railroads and other common carriers in the state, and shall enforce such laws by adequate penalties. A railroad and transportation commission may be established and its powers and duties fully defined by law. [1977 House Joint Resolution No. 55, p 1713. Approved November 8, 1977.]

**AMENDMENT 67**

Art. 12 Section 14 PROHIBITION AGAINST COMBINATIONS BY CARRIERS. [Repealed by 1977 House Joint Resolution No. 57, p 1714. Approved November 8, 1977.]

**AMENDMENT 68**

Art. 2 Section 12 SESSIONS, WHEN - DURATION. (1) Regular Sessions. A regular session of the legislature shall be convened each year. Regular sessions shall convene on such day and at such time as the legislature shall determine by statute. During each odd-numbered year, the regular session shall not be more than one hundred five consecutive days. During each even-numbered year, the regular session shall not be more than sixty consecutive days.

(2) Special Legislative Sessions. Special legislative sessions may be convened for a period of not more than thirty consecutive days by proclamation of the governor pursuant to Article III, section 7 of this Constitution. Special legislative sessions may also be convened for a period of not more than thirty consecutive days by resolution of the legislature upon the affirmative vote in each house of two-thirds of the members elected or appointed thereto, which vote may be taken and resolution executed either while the legislature is in session or during any interim between sessions in accordance with such procedures as the legislature may provide by law or resolution. The resolution convening the legislature shall specify a purpose or purposes for the convening of a special session, and any special session convened by the resolution shall consider only measures germane to the purpose or purposes expressed in the resolution, unless by resolution adopted during the session upon the affirmative vote in each house of two-thirds of the members elected or appointed thereto, an additional purpose or purposes are expressed. The specification of purpose by the governor pursuant to Article III, section 7 of this Constitution shall be considered by the legislature but shall not be mandatory.

(3) Committees of the Legislature. Standing and special committees of the legislature shall meet and conduct official business pursuant to such rules as the legislature may adopt. [1979 Substitute Senate Joint Resolution No. 110, p 2286. Approved November 6, 1979.]

### **AMENDMENT 69**

Art. 2 Section 13 **LIMITATION ON MEMBERS HOLDING OFFICE IN THE STATE.** No member of the legislature, during the term for which he is elected, shall be appointed or elected to any civil office in the state, which shall have been created during the term for which he was elected. Any member of the legislature who is appointed or elected to any civil office in the state, the emoluments of which have been increased during his legislative term of office, shall be compensated for the initial term of the civil office at the level designated prior to the increase in emoluments. [1979 Senate Joint Resolution No. 112, p 2287. Approved November 6, 1979.]

### **AMENDMENT 70**

Article 8 was amended by adding the following section:

Art. 8 Section 10 **RESIDENTIAL ENERGY CONSERVATION.** Notwithstanding the provisions of section 7 of this Article, until January 1, 1990 any county, city, town, quasi municipal corporation, municipal corporation, or political subdivision of the state which is engaged in the sale or distribution of energy may, as authorized by the legislature, use public moneys or credit derived from operating revenues from the sale of energy to assist the owners of residential structures in financing the acquisition and installation of materials and equipment for the conservation or more efficient use of energy in such structures. Except as provided in section 7 of this Article, an appropriate charge back shall be made for such extension of public moneys or credit and the same shall be a lien against the residential structure benefited. Except as to contracts entered into prior thereto, this amendment to the state Constitution shall be null and void as of January 1, 1990 and shall have no further force or effect after that date. [1979 Substitute Senate Joint Resolution No. 120, p 2288. Approved November 6, 1979.]

Art. 8 Section 10 was later amended by Amendments 82, 86, and 91.

## AMENDMENT 71

Article 4 was amended by adding the following section:

Art. 4 Section 31 JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION - REMOVAL, CENSURE, SUSPENSION, OR RETIREMENT OF JUDGES OR JUSTICES. There shall be a judicial qualifications commission consisting of a judge selected by and from the court of appeals judges, a judge selected by and from the superior court judges, a judge selected by and from the district court judges, two persons admitted to the practice of law in this state selected by the state bar association, and two persons who are not attorneys appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate.

The supreme court may censure, suspend, or remove a judge or justice for violating a rule of judicial conduct and may retire a judge or justice for disability which is permanent or is likely to become permanent and which seriously interferes with the performance of judicial duties. The office of a judge or justice retired or removed by the supreme court becomes vacant, and that person is ineligible for judicial office until eligibility is reinstated by the supreme court. The salary of a removed judge or justice shall cease.

The supreme court shall specify the effect upon salary when disciplinary action other than removal is taken. The supreme court may not discipline or retire a judge or justice until the judicial qualifications commission recommends after notice and hearing that action be taken and the supreme court conducts a hearing, after notice, to review commission proceedings and findings against a judge or justice.

The legislature shall provide for commissioners' terms of office and compensation. The commission shall establish rules of procedure for commission proceedings including due process and confidentiality of proceedings. [1980 Substitute House Joint Resolution No. 37, p 652. Approved November 4, 1980.]

Art. 4 Section 31 was later amended by Amendments 77, 85, and 97.

**AMENDMENT 72**

Art. 2 Section 1 LEGISLATIVE POWERS, WHERE VESTED. The legislative authority of the state of Washington shall be vested in the legislature, consisting of a senate and house of representatives, which shall be called the legislature of the state of Washington, but the people reserve to themselves the power to propose bills, laws, and to enact or reject the same at the polls, independent of the legislature, and also reserve power, at their own option, to approve or reject at the polls any act, item, section, or part of any bill, act, or law passed by the legislature.

(a) Initiative: The first power reserved by the people is the initiative. Every such petition shall include the full text of the measure so proposed. In the case of initiatives to the legislature and initiatives to the people, the number of valid signatures of legal voters required shall be equal to eight percent of the votes cast for the office of governor at the last gubernatorial election preceding the initial filing of the text of the initiative measure with the secretary of state.

Initiative petitions shall be filed with the secretary of state not less than four months before the election at which they are to be voted upon, or not less than ten days before any regular session of the legislature. If filed at least four months before the election at which they are to be voted upon, he shall submit the same to the vote of the people at the said election. If such petitions are filed not less than ten days before any regular session of the legislature, he shall certify the results within forty days of the filing. If certification is not complete by the date that the legislature convenes, he shall provisionally certify the measure pending final certification of the measure. Such initiative measures, whether certified or provisionally certified, shall take precedence over all other measures in the legislature except appropriation bills and shall be either enacted or rejected without change or amendment by the legislature before the end of such regular session. If any such initiative measures shall be enacted by the legislature it shall be subject to the referendum petition, or it may be enacted and referred by the legislature to the people for approval or rejection at the next regular election. If it is rejected or if no action is taken upon it by the legislature before the end of such regular session, the secretary of state shall submit it to the people for approval

or rejection at the next ensuing regular general election. The legislature may reject any measure so proposed by initiative petition and propose a different one dealing with the same subject, and in such event both measures shall be submitted by the secretary of state to the people for approval or rejection at the next ensuing regular general election. When conflicting measures are submitted to the people the ballots shall be so printed that a voter can express separately by making one cross (X) for each, two preferences, first, as between either measure and neither, and secondly, as between one and the other. If the majority of those voting on the first issue is for neither, both fail, but in that case the votes on the second issue shall nevertheless be carefully counted and made public. If a majority voting on the first issue is for either, then the measure receiving a majority of the votes on the second issue shall be law.

(b) Referendum. The second power reserved by the people is the referendum, and it may be ordered on any act, bill, law, or any part thereof passed by the legislature, except such laws as may be necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health or safety, support of the state government and its existing public institutions, either by petition signed by the required percentage of the legal voters, or by the legislature as other bills are enacted: Provided, That the legislature may not order a referendum on any initiative measure enacted by the legislature under the foregoing subsection (a). The number of valid signatures of registered voters required on a petition for referendum of an act of the legislature or any part thereof, shall be equal to or exceeding four percent of the votes cast for the office of governor at the last gubernatorial election preceding the filing of the text of the referendum measure with the secretary of state.

(c) No act, law, or bill subject to referendum shall take effect until ninety days after the adjournment of the session at which it was enacted. No act, law, or bill approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon shall be amended or repealed by the legislature within a period of two years following such enactment: Provided, That any such act, law, or bill may be amended within two years after such enactment at any regular or special session of the legislature by a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house with full compliance with section 12, Article III, of the Washington Constitution, and no amendatory



law adopted in accordance with this provision shall be subject to referendum. But such enactment may be amended or repealed at any general regular or special election by direct vote of the people thereon.

(d) The filing of a referendum petition against one or more items, sections, or parts of any act, law, or bill shall not delay the remainder of the measure from becoming operative. Referendum petitions against measures passed by the legislature shall be filed with the secretary of state not later than ninety days after the final adjournment of the session of the legislature which passed the measure on which the referendum is demanded. The veto power of the governor shall not extend to measures initiated by or referred to the people. All elections on measures referred to the people of the state shall be had at the next succeeding regular general election following the filing of the measure with the secretary of state, except when the legislature shall order a special election. Any measure initiated by the people or referred to the people as herein provided shall take effect and become the law if it is approved by a majority of the votes cast thereon: Provided, That the vote cast upon such question or measure shall equal one-third of the total votes cast at such election and not otherwise. Such measure shall be in operation on and after the thirtieth day after the election at which it is approved. The style of all bills proposed by initiative petition shall be: "Be it enacted by the people of the State of Washington." This section shall not be construed to deprive any member of the legislature of the right to introduce any measure. All such petitions shall be filed with the secretary of state, who shall be guided by the general laws in submitting the same to the people until additional legislation shall especially provide therefor. This section is self-executing, but legislation may be enacted especially to facilitate its operation.

(e) The legislature shall provide methods of publicity of all laws or parts of laws, and amendments to the Constitution referred to the people with arguments for and against the laws and amendments so referred. The secretary of state shall send one copy of the publication to each individual place of residence in the state and shall make such additional distribution as he shall determine necessary to reasonably assure that each voter will have an opportunity to study the measures prior to election. [1981

Substitute Senate Joint Resolution No. 133, p 1796. Approved November 3, 1981.]

Prior amendment of Art. 2 Section 1, see Amendment 7.

Addition of subsection (e) to Art. 2 Section 1, see Amendment 36.

Art. 2 Section 1(a). INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM, SIGNATURES REQUIRED. [Stricken by 1981 Substitute Senate Joint Resolution No. 133, p 1796. Approved November 3, 1981.]

Adoption of Art. 2 Section 1(a), see Amendment 30.

### **AMENDMENT 73**

The Constitution was amended by adding the following new article and section 1 thereof:

#### **ARTICLE XXXII SPECIAL REVENUE FINANCING**

Art. 32 Section 1 SPECIAL REVENUE FINANCING. The legislature may enact laws authorizing the state, counties, cities, towns, port districts, or public corporations established thereby to issue nonrecourse revenue bonds or other nonrecourse revenue obligations and to apply the proceeds thereof in the manner and for the purposes heretofore or hereafter authorized by law, subject to the following limitations:

(a) Nonrecourse revenue bonds and other nonrecourse revenue obligations issued pursuant to this section shall be payable only from money or other property received as a result of projects financed by the nonrecourse revenue bonds or other nonrecourse revenue obligations and from money and other property received from private sources.

(b) Nonrecourse revenue bonds and other nonrecourse revenue obligations issued pursuant to this section shall not be payable from or secured by any tax funds or governmental revenue or by all or part of the faith and credit of the state or any unit of local government.

(c) Nonrecourse revenue bonds or other nonrecourse revenue obligations issued pursuant to this section may be issued only if the issuer certifies that it reasonably believes that the interest paid on the bonds or obligations will be exempt from income taxation by the federal government.

(d) Nonrecourse revenue bonds or other nonrecourse revenue obligations may only be used to finance industrial development projects as defined in legislation.

(e) The state, counties, cities, towns, port districts, or public corporations established thereby, shall never exercise their respective attributes of sovereignty, including but not limited to, the power to tax, the power of eminent domain, and the police power on behalf of any industrial development project authorized pursuant to this section.

After the initial adoption of a law by the legislature authorizing the issuance of nonrecourse revenue bonds or other nonrecourse revenue obligations, no amendment to such act which expands the definition of industrial development project shall be valid unless the amendment is enacted by a favorable vote of three-fifths of the members elected to each house of the legislature and is subject to referendum petition.

Sections 5 and 7 of Article VIII and section 9 of Article XII shall not be construed as a limitation upon the authority granted by this section. The proceeds of revenue bonds and other revenue obligations issued pursuant to this section for the purpose of financing privately owned property or loans to private persons or corporations shall be subject to audit by the state but shall not otherwise be deemed to be public money or public property for purposes of this Constitution. This section is supplemental to and shall not be construed as a repeal of or limitation on any other authority lawfully exercisable under the Constitution and laws of this state, including, among others, any existing authority to issue revenue bonds. [1981 Substitute House Joint Resolution No. 7, p 1794. Approved November 3, 1981.]

The name of this Article has been supplied by the reviser.

## **AMENDMENT 74**

Article 2 was amended by adding the following section:

Art. 2 Section 43 REDISTRICTING. (1) In January of each year ending in one, a commission shall be established to provide for the redistricting of state legislative and congressional districts.

(2) The commission shall be composed of five members to be selected as follows: The legislative leader of the two largest political parties in each house of the legislature shall appoint one

voting member to the commission by January 15th of each year ending in one. By January 31st of each year ending in one, the four appointed members, by an affirmative vote of at least three, shall appoint the remaining member. The fifth member of the commission, who shall be nonvoting, shall act as its chairperson. If any appointing authority fails to make the required appointment by the date established by this subsection, within five days after that date the supreme court shall make the required appointment.

(3) No elected official and no person elected to legislative district, county, or state political party office may serve on the commission. A commission member shall not have been an elected official and shall not have been an elected legislative district, county, or state political party officer within two years of his or her appointment to the commission. The provisions of this subsection do not apply to the office of precinct committee person.

(4) The legislature shall enact laws providing for the implementation of this section, to include additional qualifications for commissioners and additional standards to govern the commission. The legislature shall appropriate funds to enable the commission to carry out its duties.

(5) Each district shall contain a population, excluding nonresident military personnel, as nearly equal as practicable to the population of any other district. To the extent reasonable, each district shall contain contiguous territory, shall be compact and convenient, and shall be separated from adjoining districts by natural geographic barriers, artificial barriers, or political subdivision boundaries. The commission's plan shall not provide for a number of legislative districts different than that established by the legislature. The commission's plan shall not be drawn purposely to favor or discriminate against any political party or group.

(6) The commission shall complete redistricting as soon as possible following the federal decennial census, but no later than January 1st of each year ending in two. At least three of the voting members shall approve such a redistricting plan. If three of the voting members of the commission fail to approve a plan within the time limitations provided in this subsection, the supreme court shall adopt a plan by April 30th of the year ending in two in conformance with the standards set forth in subsection (5) of this section.

(7) The legislature may amend the redistricting plan but must do so by a two-thirds vote of the legislators elected or appointed to each house of the legislature. Any amendment must have passed both houses by the end of the thirtieth day of the first session convened after the commission has submitted its plan to the legislature. After that day, the plan, with any legislative amendments, constitutes the state districting law.

(8) The legislature shall enact laws providing for the reconvening of a commission for the purpose of modifying a districting law adopted under this section. Such reconvening requires a two-thirds vote of the legislators elected or appointed to each house of the legislature. The commission shall conform to the standards prescribed under subsection (5) of this section and any other standards or procedures that the legislature may provide by law. At least three of the voting members shall approve such a modification. Any modification adopted by the commission may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the legislators elected and appointed to each house of the legislature. The state districting law shall include the modifications with amendments, if any.

(9) The legislature shall prescribe by law the terms of commission members and the method of filling vacancies on the commission.

(10) The supreme court has original jurisdiction to hear and decide all cases involving congressional and legislative redistricting.

(11) Legislative and congressional districts may not be changed or established except pursuant to this section. A districting plan and any legislative amendments to the plan are not subject to Article III, section 12 of this Constitution. [1983 Substitute Senate Joint Resolution No. 103, p 2202. Approved November 8, 1983.]

Art. 2 Section 43 was later amended by Amendment 108.

Art. 2 Section 3 THE CENSUS. [Repealed by 1983 Substitute Senate Joint Resolution No. 103, p 2202. Approved November 8, 1983.]

Art. 27 Section 13 REPRESENTATION IN CONGRESS. [Repealed by 1983 Substitute Senate Joint Resolution No. 103, p 2202. Approved November 8, 1983.]

### AMENDMENT 75

Art. 29 Section 1 MAY BE INVESTED AS AUTHORIZED BY LAW. Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 5, and 7 of Article VIII and section 9 of Article XII or any other section or article of the Constitution of the state of Washington, the moneys of any public pension or retirement fund or industrial insurance trust fund may be invested as authorized by law. [1985 House Joint Resolution No. 12, p 2398. Approved November 5, 1985.]

Prior amendment of Art. 29 Section 1, see Amendment 49.

Art. 29 Section 1 was later amended by Amendment 93.

### AMENDMENT 76

Article 8 was amended by adding the following section:

Art. 8 Section 11 AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY ASSESSMENTS - DEVELOPMENT, PROMOTION, AND HOSTING. The use of agricultural commodity assessments by agricultural commodity commissions in such manner as may be prescribed by the legislature for agricultural development or trade promotion and promotional hosting shall be deemed a public use for a public purpose, and shall not be deemed a gift within the provisions of section 5 of this article. [1985 House Joint Resolution No. 42, p 2402. Approved November 5, 1985.]

### AMENDMENT 77

Art. 4 Section 31 COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT - REMOVAL, CENSURE, SUSPENSION, OR RETIREMENT OF JUDGES OR JUSTICES - PROCEEDINGS. There shall be a commission on judicial conduct consisting of a judge selected by and from the court of appeals judges, a judge selected by and from the superior court judges, a judge selected by and from the district court judges, two persons admitted to the practice of law in this state selected by the state bar association, and four persons who are not attorneys appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate.

The supreme court may censure, suspend, or remove a judge or justice for violating a rule of judicial conduct and may retire a judge or justice for disability which is permanent or is likely to become permanent and which seriously interferes with the

performance of judicial duties. The office of a judge or justice retired or removed by the supreme court becomes vacant, and that person is ineligible for judicial office until eligibility is reinstated by the supreme court. The salary of a removed judge or justice shall cease.

The supreme court shall specify the effect upon salary when disciplinary action other than removal is taken. The supreme court may not discipline or retire a judge or justice until the commission on judicial conduct recommends after notice and hearing that action be taken and the supreme court conducts a hearing, after notice, to review commission proceedings and findings against a judge or justice.

Whenever the commission receives a complaint against a judge or justice, it shall first conduct proceedings for the purpose of determining whether sufficient reason exists for conducting a hearing or hearings to deal with the accusations. These initial proceedings shall be confidential, unless confidentiality is waived by the judge or justice, but all subsequent hearings conducted by the commission shall be open to members of the public.

Whenever the commission adopts a recommendation that a judge or justice be removed, the judge or justice shall be suspended immediately, with salary, from his or her judicial position until a final determination is made by the supreme court.

The legislature shall provide for commissioners' terms of office and compensation. The commission shall establish rules of procedure for commission proceedings including due process and confidentiality of proceedings. [1986 Senate Joint Resolution No. 136, p 1532. Approved November 4, 1986.]

Prior amendment of Art. 4 Section 31, see Amendment 71.

Art. 4 Section 31 was later amended by Amendments 85 and 97.

## **AMENDMENT 78**

Art. 28 Section 1 SALARIES FOR LEGISLATORS, ELECTED STATE OFFICIALS, AND JUDGES - INDEPENDENT COMMISSION - REFERENDUM. Salaries for members of the legislature, elected officials of the executive branch of state government, and judges of the state's supreme court, court of appeals, superior courts, and district courts shall be fixed by an independent commission created and directed by law to that

purpose. No state official, public employee, or person required by law to register with a state agency as a lobbyist, or immediate family member of the official, employee, or lobbyist, may be a member of that commission.

As used in this section the phrase "immediate family" has the meaning that is defined by law.

Any change of salary shall be filed with the secretary of state and shall become law ninety days thereafter without action of the legislature or governor, but shall be subject to referendum petition by the people, filed within the ninety-day period. Referendum measures under this section shall be submitted to the people at the next following general election, and shall be otherwise governed by the provisions of this Constitution generally applicable to referendum measures. The salaries fixed pursuant to this section shall supersede any other provision for the salaries of members of the legislature, elected officials of the executive branch of state government, and judges of the state's supreme court, court of appeals, superior courts, and district courts. The salaries for such officials in effect on January 12, 1987, shall remain in effect until changed pursuant to this section.

After the initial adoption of a law by the legislature creating the independent commission, no amendment to such act which alters the composition of the commission shall be valid unless the amendment is enacted by a favorable vote of two-thirds of the members elected to each house of the legislature and is subject to referendum petition.

The provisions of section 14 of Article IV, sections 14, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, and 22 of Article III, and section 23 of Article II, insofar as they are inconsistent herewith, are hereby superseded. The provisions of section 1 of Article II relating to referendum procedures, insofar as they are inconsistent herewith, are hereby superseded with regard to the salaries governed by this section. [1986 Substitute House Joint Resolution No. 49, p 1529. Approved November 4, 1986.]

Prior amendment of Art. 28 Section 1, see Amendment 20.

## **AMENDMENT 79**

Art. 7 Section 2 -LIMITATION ON LEVIES. Except as hereinafter provided and notwithstanding any other provision of



this Constitution, the aggregate of all tax levies upon real and personal property by the state and all taxing districts now existing or hereafter created, shall not in any year exceed one per centum of the true and fair value of such property in money: *Provided, however,* That nothing herein shall prevent levies at the rates now provided by law by or for any port or public utility district. The term "taxing district" for the purposes of this section shall mean any political subdivision, municipal corporation, district, or other governmental agency authorized by law to levy, or have levied for it, ad valorem taxes on property, other than a port or public utility district. Such aggregate limitation or any specific limitation imposed by law in conformity therewith may be exceeded only

(a) By any taxing district when specifically authorized so to do by a majority of at least three-fifths of the electors thereof voting on the proposition to levy such additional tax submitted not more than twelve months prior to the date on which the proposed levy is to be made and not oftener than twice in such twelve month period, either at a special election or at the regular election of such taxing district, at which election the number of persons voting "yes" on the proposition shall constitute three-fifths of a number equal to forty per centum of the total votes cast in such taxing district at the last preceding general election when the number of electors voting on the proposition does not exceed forty per centum of the total votes cast in such taxing district in the last preceding general election; or by a majority of at least three-fifths of the electors thereof voting on the proposition to levy when the number of electors voting on the proposition exceeds forty per centum of the total votes cast in such taxing district in the last preceding general election: *Provided,* That notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, any proposition pursuant to this subsection to levy additional tax for the support of the common schools may provide such support for a two year period and any proposition to levy an additional tax to support the construction, modernization, or remodelling of school facilities may provide such support for a period not exceeding six years;

(b) By any taxing district otherwise authorized by law to issue general obligation bonds for capital purposes, for the sole purpose of making the required payments of principal and interest on general obligation bonds issued solely for capital purposes, other than the replacement of equipment, when authorized so to do by

majority of at least three-fifths of the electors thereof voting on the proposition to issue such bonds and to pay the principal and interest thereon by an annual tax levy in excess of the limitation herein provided during the term of such bonds, submitted not oftener than twice in any calendar year, at an election held in the manner provided by law for bond elections in such taxing district, at which election the total number of persons voting on the proposition shall constitute not less than forty per centum of the total number of votes cast in such taxing district at the last preceding general election: *Provided*, That any such taxing district shall have the right by vote of its governing body to refund any general obligation bonds of said district issued for capital purposes only, and to provide for the interest thereon and amortization thereof by annual levies in excess of the tax limitation provided for herein, *And provided further*, That the provisions of this section shall also be subject to the limitations contained in Article VIII, Section 6, of this Constitution;

(c) By the state or any taxing district for the purpose of paying the principal or interest on general obligation bonds outstanding on December 6, 1934; or for the purpose of preventing the impairment of the obligation of a contract when ordered so to do by a court of last resort. [1986 House Joint Resolution No. 55, p 1530. Approved November 4, 1986.]

Prior amendment of Art. 7 Section 2, see Amendments 17, 55, 59, and 64.

Art. 7 Section 2 was later amended by Amendments 90, 95, and 101.

## AMENDMENT 80

Art. 4 Section 7 EXCHANGE OF JUDGES - JUDGE PRO TEMPORE. The judge of any superior court may hold a superior court in any county at the request of the judge of the superior court thereof, and upon the request of the governor it shall be his duty to do so. A case in the superior court may be tried by a judge, pro tempore, who must be a member of the bar, agreed upon in writing by the parties litigant, or their attorneys of record, approved by the court and sworn to try the case. However, if a previously elected judge of the superior court retires leaving a pending case in which the judge has made discretionary rulings, the judge is entitled to hear the pending case as a judge pro tempore without any written agreement. [1987 Senate Joint Resolution No. 8207, p 2815. Approved November 3, 1987.]

Art. 4 Section 7 was later amended by Amendment 94.

### AMENDMENT 81

Art. 7 Section 1 TAXATION. The power of taxation shall never be suspended, surrendered or contracted away. All taxes shall be uniform upon the same class of property within the territorial limits of the authority levying the tax and shall be levied and collected for public purposes only. The word "property" as used herein shall mean and include everything, whether tangible or intangible, subject to ownership. All real estate shall constitute one class: *Provided*, That the legislature may tax mines and mineral resources and lands devoted to reforestation by either a yield tax or an ad valorem tax at such rate as it may fix, or by both. Such property as the legislature may by general laws provide shall be exempt from taxation. Property of the United States and of the state, counties, school districts and other municipal corporations, and credits secured by property actually taxed in this state, not exceeding in value the value of such property, shall be exempt from taxation. The legislature shall have power, by appropriate legislation, to exempt personal property to the amount of three thousand (\$3,000.00) dollars for each head of a family liable to assessment and taxation under the provisions of the laws of this state of which the individual is the actual bona fide owner. [1988 House Joint Resolution No. 4222, p 1551. Approved November 8, 1988.]

Prior amendment to Art. 7 Section 1, see Amendments 14 and 98.

### AMENDMENT 82

Art. 8 Section 10 RESIDENTIAL ENERGY CONSERVATION. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 7 of this Article, any county, city, town, quasi municipal corporation, municipal corporation, or political subdivision of the state which is engaged in the sale or distribution of energy may, as authorized by the legislature, use public moneys or credit derived from operating revenues from the sale of energy to assist the owners of structures or equipment in financing the acquisition and installation of materials and equipment for the conservation or more efficient use of energy in such structures or equipment. Except as provided in section 7 of this Article, an appropriate charge back shall be made for such extension of public moneys or credit and the same shall

be a lien against the structure benefited or a security interest in the equipment benefited. Any financing authorized by this article shall only be used for conservation purposes in existing structures and shall not be used for any purpose which results in a conversion from one energy source to another. [1988 House Joint Resolution No. 4223, p 1552. Approved November 8, 1988.]

Prior amendment to Art. 8 Section 10, see Amendment 70.

Art. 8 Section 10 was later amended by Amendments 86 and 91.

### **AMENDMENT 83**

Art. 6 Section 3 WHO DISQUALIFIED. All persons convicted of infamous crime unless restored to their civil rights and all persons while they are judicially declared mentally incompetent are excluded from the elective franchise.

Art. 13 Section 1 EDUCATIONAL, REFORMATORY, AND PENAL INSTITUTIONS. Educational, reformatory, and penal institutions; those for the benefit of youth who are blind or deaf or otherwise disabled; for persons who are mentally ill or developmentally disabled; and such other institutions as the public good may require, shall be fostered and supported by the state, subject to such regulations as may be provided by law. The regents, trustees, or commissioners of all such institutions existing at the time of the adoption of this Constitution, and of such as shall thereafter be established by law, shall be appointed by the governor, by and with the advice and consent of the senate; and upon all nominations made by the governor, the question shall be taken by ayes and noes, and entered upon the journal. [1988 House Joint Resolution No. 4231, p 1553. Approved November 8, 1988.]

### **AMENDMENT 84**

Art. 1 Section 35 VICTIMS OF CRIMES - RIGHTS. Effective law enforcement depends on cooperation from victims of crime. To ensure victims a meaningful role in the criminal justice system and to accord them due dignity and respect, victims of crime are hereby granted the following basic and fundamental rights.

Upon notifying the prosecuting attorney, a victim of a crime charged as a felony shall have the right to be informed of and, subject to the discretion of the individual presiding over the trial

or court proceedings, attend trial and all other court proceedings the defendant has the right to attend, and to make a statement at sentencing and at any proceeding where the defendant's release is considered, subject to the same rules of procedure which govern the defendant's rights. In the event the victim is deceased, incompetent, a minor, or otherwise unavailable, the prosecuting attorney may identify a representative to appear to exercise the victim's rights. This provision shall not constitute a basis for error in favor of a defendant in a criminal proceeding nor a basis for providing a victim or the victim's representative with court appointed counsel. [1989 Senate Joint Resolution No. 8200, p 2999. Approved November 7, 1989.]

### **AMENDMENT 85**

Art. 4 Section 31 COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT.

(1) There shall be a commission on judicial conduct, existing as an independent agency of the judicial branch, and consisting of a judge selected by and from the court of appeals judges, a judge selected by and from the superior court judges, a judge selected by and from the district court judges, two persons admitted to the practice of law in this state selected by the state bar association, and six persons who are not attorneys appointed by the governor.

(2) Whenever the commission receives a complaint against a judge or justice, or otherwise has reason to believe that a judge or justice should be admonished, reprimanded, censured, suspended, removed, or retired, the commission shall first investigate the complaint or belief and then conduct initial proceedings for the purpose of determining whether probable cause exists for conducting a public hearing or hearings to deal with the complaint or belief. The investigation and initial proceedings shall be confidential. Upon beginning an initial proceeding, the commission shall notify the judge or justice of the existence of and basis for the initial proceeding.

(3) Whenever the commission concludes, based on an initial proceeding, that there is probable cause to believe that a judge or justice has violated a rule of judicial conduct or that the judge or justice suffers from a disability which is permanent or likely to become permanent and which seriously interferes with the performance of judicial duties, the commission shall conduct a public hearing or hearings and shall make public all those records of the initial proceeding that provide the basis for its conclusion. If

the commission concludes that there is not probable cause, it shall notify the judge or justice of its conclusion.

(4) Upon the completion of the hearing or hearings, the commission in open session shall either dismiss the case, or shall admonish, reprimand, or censure the judge or justice, or shall censure the judge or justice and recommend to the supreme court the suspension or removal of the judge or justice, or shall recommend to the supreme court the retirement of the judge or justice. The commission may not recommend suspension or removal unless it censures the judge or justice for the violation serving as the basis for the recommendation. The commission may recommend retirement of a judge or justice for a disability which is permanent or likely to become permanent and which seriously interferes with the performance of judicial duties.

(5) Upon the recommendation of the commission, the supreme court may suspend, remove, or retire a judge or justice. The office of a judge or justice retired or removed by the supreme court becomes vacant, and that person is ineligible for judicial office until eligibility is reinstated by the supreme court. The salary of a removed judge or justice shall cease. The supreme court shall specify the effect upon salary when it suspends a judge or justice. The supreme court may not suspend, remove, or retire a judge or justice until the commission, after notice and hearing, recommends that action be taken, and the supreme court conducts a hearing, after notice, to review commission proceedings and findings against the judge or justice.

(6) Within thirty days after the commission admonishes, reprimands, or censures a judge or justice, the judge or justice shall have a right of appeal *de novo* to the supreme court.

(7) Any matter before the commission or supreme court may be disposed of by a stipulation entered into in a public proceeding. The stipulation shall be signed by the judge or justice and the commission or court. The stipulation may impose any terms and conditions deemed appropriate by the commission or court. A stipulation shall set forth all material facts relating to the proceeding and the conduct of the judge or justice.

(8) Whenever the commission adopts a recommendation that a judge or justice be removed, the judge or justice shall be suspended immediately, with salary, from his or her judicial position until a final determination is made by the supreme court.

(9) The legislature shall provide for commissioners' terms of office and compensation. The commission shall employ one or more investigative officers with appropriate professional training and experience. The investigative officers of the commission shall report directly to the commission. The commission shall also employ such administrative or other staff as are necessary to manage the affairs of the commission.

(10) The commission shall, to the extent that compliance does not conflict with this section, comply with laws of general applicability to state agencies with respect to rule-making procedures, and with respect to public notice of and attendance at commission proceedings other than initial proceedings. The commission shall establish rules of procedure for commission proceedings including due process and confidentiality of proceedings. [1989 Substitute Senate Joint Resolution No. 8202, p 3000. Approved November 7, 1989.]

Prior amendment of Art. 4 Section 31, see Amendments 71 and 77.

Art. 4 Section 31 was later amended by Amendment 97.

### **AMENDMENT 86**

Art. 8 Section 10 ENERGY AND WATER CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 7 of this Article, any county, city, town, quasi municipal corporation, municipal corporation, or political subdivision of the state which is engaged in the sale or distribution of water or energy may, as authorized by the legislature, use public moneys or credit derived from operating revenues from the sale of water or energy to assist the owners of structures or equipment in financing the acquisition and installation of materials and equipment for the conservation or more efficient use of water or energy in such structures or equipment. Except as provided in section 7 of this Article, an appropriate charge back shall be made for such extension of public moneys or credit and the same shall be a lien against the structure benefited or a security interest in the equipment benefited. Any financing for energy conservation authorized by this article shall only be used for conservation purposes in existing structures and shall not be used for any purpose which results in a conversion from one energy source to another. [1989 Senate Joint Resolution No. 8210, p 3003. Approved November 7, 1989.]

Prior amendment of Art. 8 Section 10, see Amendments 70 and 82.

Art. 8 Section 10 was later amended by Amendment 91.

### **AMENDMENT 87**

Art. 4 Section 6 JURISDICTION OF SUPERIOR COURTS. Superior courts and district courts have concurrent jurisdiction in cases in equity. The superior court shall have original jurisdiction in all cases at law which involve the title or possession of real property, or the legality of any tax, impost, assessment, toll, or municipal fine, and in all other cases in which the demand or the value of the property in controversy amounts to three thousand dollars or as otherwise determined by law, or a lesser sum in excess of the jurisdiction granted to justices of the peace and other inferior courts, and in all criminal cases amounting to felony, and in all cases of misdemeanor not otherwise provided for by law; of actions of forcible entry and detainer; of proceedings in insolvency; of actions to prevent or abate a nuisance; of all matters of probate, of divorce, and for annulment of marriage; and for such special cases and proceedings as are not otherwise provided for. The superior court shall also have original jurisdiction in all cases and of all proceedings in which jurisdiction shall not have been by law vested exclusively in some other court; and said court shall have the power of naturalization and to issue papers therefor. They shall have such appellate jurisdiction in cases arising in justices' and other inferior courts in their respective counties as may be prescribed by law. They shall always be open, except on nonjudicial days, and their process shall extend to all parts of the state. Said courts and their judges shall have power to issue writs of mandamus, quo warranto, review, certiorari, prohibition, and writs of habeas corpus, on petition by or on behalf of any person in actual custody in their respective counties. Injunctions and writs of prohibition and of habeas corpus may be issued and served on legal holidays and nonjudicial days. [1993 House Joint Resolution No. 4201, p 3063. Approved November 2, 1993.]

Prior amendment of Art. 4 Section 6, see Amendments 28 and 65.

### **AMENDMENT 88**

Art. 1 Section 11 RELIGIOUS FREEDOM. Absolute freedom of conscience in all matters of religious sentiment, belief and



worship, shall be guaranteed to every individual, and no one shall be molested or disturbed in person or property on account of religion; but the liberty of conscience hereby secured shall not be so construed as to excuse acts of licentiousness or justify practices inconsistent with the peace and safety of the state. No public money or property shall be appropriated for or applied to any religious worship, exercise or instruction, or the support of any religious establishment: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That this article shall not be so construed as to forbid the employment by the state of a chaplain for such of the state custodial, correctional, and mental institutions, or by a county's or public hospital district's hospital, health care facility, or hospice, as in the discretion of the legislature may seem justified. No religious qualification shall be required for any public office or employment, nor shall any person be incompetent as a witness or juror, in consequence of his opinion on matters of religion, nor be questioned in any court of justice touching his religious belief to affect the weight of his testimony. [1993 House Joint Resolution No. 4200, p 3062. Approved November 2, 1993.]

Prior amendment of Art. 1 Section 11, see Amendments 4, 34, and 88.

### **AMENDMENT 89**

Art. 4 Section 3 ELECTION AND TERMS OF SUPREME COURT JUDGES. The judges of the supreme court shall be elected by the qualified electors of the state at large at the general state election at the times and places at which state officers are elected, unless some other time be provided by the legislature. The first election of judges of the supreme court shall be at the election which shall be held upon the adoption of this Constitution and the judges elected thereat shall be classified by lot, so that two shall hold their office for the term of three years, two for the term of five years, and one for the term of seven years. The lot shall be drawn by the judges who shall for that purpose assemble at the seat of government, and they shall cause the result thereof to be certified to the secretary of state, and filed in his office. The supreme court shall select a chief justice from its own membership to serve for a four-year term at the pleasure of a majority of the court as prescribed by supreme court rule. The chief justice shall preside at all sessions of the supreme court. In case of the absence

of the chief justice, the majority of the remaining court shall select one of their members to serve as acting chief justice. After the first election the terms of judges elected shall be six years from and after the second Monday in January next succeeding their election. If a vacancy occur in the office of a judge of the supreme court the governor shall only appoint a person to ensure the number of judges as specified by the legislature, to hold the office until the election and qualification of a judge to fill the vacancy, which election shall take place at the next succeeding general election, and the judge so elected shall hold the office for the remainder of the unexpired term. The term of office of the judges of the supreme court, first elected, shall commence as soon as the state shall have been admitted into the Union, and continue for the term herein provided, and until their successors are elected and qualified. The sessions of the supreme court shall be held at the seat of government until otherwise provided by law. [1995 Substitute Senate Joint Resolution No. 8210, p 2905. Approved November 7, 1995.]

## AMENDMENT 90

Art. 7 Section 2 LIMITATION ON LEVIES. Except as hereinafter provided and notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, the aggregate of all tax levies upon real and personal property by the state and all taxing districts now existing or hereafter created, shall not in any year exceed one percent of the true and fair value of such property in money: *Provided, however,* That nothing herein shall prevent levies at the rates now provided by law by or for any port or public utility district. The term "taxing district" for the purposes of this section shall mean any political subdivision, municipal corporation, district, or other governmental agency authorized by law to levy, or have levied for it, ad valorem taxes on property, other than a port or public utility district. Such aggregate limitation or any specific limitation imposed by law in conformity therewith may be exceeded only as follows:

(a) By any taxing district when specifically authorized so to do by a majority of at least three-fifths of the voters of the taxing district voting on the proposition to levy such additional tax submitted not more than twelve months prior to the date on which the proposed levy is to be made and not oftener than twice in such twelve month period, either at a special election or at the regular

election of such taxing district, at which election the number of voters voting "yes" on the proposition shall constitute three-fifths of a number equal to forty percent of the total number of voters voting in such taxing district at the last preceding general election when the number of voters voting on the proposition does not exceed forty percent of the total number of voters voting in such taxing district in the last preceding general election; or by a majority of at least three-fifths of the voters of the taxing district voting on the proposition to levy when the number of voters voting on the proposition exceeds forty percent of the number of voters voting in such taxing district in the last preceding general election: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, any proposition pursuant to this subsection to levy additional tax for the support of the common schools may provide such support for a period of up to four years and any proposition to levy an additional tax to support the construction, modernization, or remodelling of school facilities may provide such support for a period not exceeding six years;

(b) By any taxing district otherwise authorized by law to issue general obligation bonds for capital purposes, for the sole purpose of making the required payments of principal and interest on general obligation bonds issued solely for capital purposes, other than the replacement of equipment, when authorized so to do by majority of at least three-fifths of the voters of the taxing district voting on the proposition to issue such bonds and to pay the principal and interest thereon by annual tax levies in excess of the limitation herein provided during the term of such bonds, submitted not oftener than twice in any calendar year, at an election held in the manner provided by law for bond elections in such taxing district, at which election the total number of voters voting on the proposition shall constitute not less than forty percent of the total number of voters voting in such taxing district at the last preceding general election: *Provided*, That any such taxing district shall have the right by vote of its governing body to refund any general obligation bonds of said district issued for capital purposes only, and to provide for the interest thereon and amortization thereof by annual levies in excess of the tax limitation provided for herein, *And provided further*, That the provisions of this section shall also be subject to the limitations contained in Article VIII, Section 6, of this Constitution;

(c) By the state or any taxing district for the purpose of preventing the impairment of the obligation of a contract when ordered so to do by a court of last resort. [1997 House Joint Resolution No. 4208, p 3063. Approved November 4, 1997.]

Prior amendment of Art. 7 Section 2, see Amendments 17, 55, 59, 64, and 79.

Art. 7 Section 2 was later amended by Amendments 95 and 101.

### **AMENDMENT 91**

Art. 8 Section 10 ENERGY, WATER, OR STORMWATER OR SEWER SERVICES CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE.

Notwithstanding the provisions of section 7 of this Article, any county, city, town, quasi municipal corporation, municipal corporation, or political subdivision of the state which is engaged in the sale or distribution of water, energy, or stormwater or sewer services may, as authorized by the legislature, use public moneys or credit derived from operating revenues from the sale of water, energy, or stormwater or sewer services to assist the owners of structures or equipment in financing the acquisition and installation of materials and equipment for the conservation or more efficient use of water, energy, or stormwater or sewer services in such structures or equipment. Except as provided in section 7 of this Article, an appropriate charge back shall be made for such extension of public moneys or credit and the same shall be a lien against the structure benefited or a security interest in the equipment benefited. Any financing for energy conservation authorized by this article shall only be used for conservation purposes in existing structures and shall not be used for any purpose which results in a conversion from one energy source to another. [1997 House Joint Resolution No. 4209, p 3065. Approved November 4, 1997.]

Prior amendment of Art. 8 Section 10, see Amendments 70, 82, and 86.

### **AMENDMENT 92**

Art. 8 Section 1 STATE DEBT. (a) The state may contract debt, the principal of which shall be paid and discharged within thirty years from the time of contracting thereof, in the manner set forth herein.

(b) The aggregate debt contracted by the state shall not exceed that amount for which payments of principal and interest in any fiscal year would require the state to expend more than nine percent of the arithmetic mean of its general state revenues for the three immediately preceding fiscal years as certified by the treasurer. The term “fiscal year” means that period of time commencing July 1 of any year and ending on June 30 of the following year.

(c) The term “general state revenues” when used in this section, shall include all state money received in the treasury from each and every source whatsoever except: (1) Fees and revenues derived from the ownership or operation of any undertaking, facility, or project; (2) Moneys received as gifts, grants, donations, aid, or assistance or otherwise from the United States or any department, bureau, or corporation thereof, or any person, firm, or corporation, public or private, when the terms and conditions of such gift, grant, donation, aid, or assistance require the application and disbursement of such moneys otherwise than for the general purposes of the state of Washington; (3) Moneys to be paid into and received from retirement system funds, and performance bonds and deposits; (4) Moneys to be paid into and received from trust funds including but not limited to moneys received from taxes levied for specific purposes and the several permanent and irreducible funds of the state and the moneys derived therefrom but excluding bond redemption funds; (5) Proceeds received from the sale of bonds or other evidences of indebtedness.

(d) In computing the amount required for payment of principal and interest on outstanding debt under this section, debt shall be construed to mean borrowed money represented by bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness which are secured by the full faith and credit of the state or are required to be repaid, directly or indirectly, from general state revenues and which are incurred by the state, any department, authority, public corporation, or quasi public corporation of the state, any state university or college, or any other public agency created by the state but not by counties, cities, towns, school districts, or other municipal corporations, but shall not include obligations for the payment of current expenses of state government, nor shall it include debt hereafter incurred pursuant to section 3 of this article, obligations guaranteed as provided for in subsection (g) of this section, principal of bond

anticipation notes or obligations issued to fund or refund the indebtedness of the Washington state building authority.

(e) The state may pledge the full faith, credit, and taxing power of the state to guarantee the voter approved general obligation debt of school districts in the manner authorized by the legislature. Any such guarantee does not remove the debt obligation of the school district and is not state debt.

(f) The state may, without limitation, fund or refund, at or prior to maturity, the whole or any part of any existing debt or of any debt hereafter contracted pursuant to section 1, section 2, or section 3 of this article, including any premium payable with respect thereto and interest thereon, or fund or refund, at or prior to maturity, the whole or any part of any indebtedness incurred or authorized prior to the effective date of this amendment by any entity of the type described in subsection (h) of this section, including any premium payable with respect thereto and any interest thereon. Such funding or refunding shall not be deemed to be contracting debt by the state.

(g) Notwithstanding the limitation contained in subsection (b) of this section, the state may pledge its full faith, credit, and taxing power to guarantee the payment of any obligation payable from revenues received from any of the following sources: (1) Fees collected by the state as license fees for motor vehicles; (2) Excise taxes collected by the state on the sale, distribution or use of motor vehicle fuel; and (3) Interest on the permanent common school fund: *Provided*, That the legislature shall, at all times, provide sufficient revenues from such sources to pay the principal and interest due on all obligations for which said source of revenue is pledged.

(h) No money shall be paid from funds in custody of the treasurer with respect to any debt contracted after the effective date of this amendment by the Washington state building authority, the capitol committee, or any similar entity existing or operating for similar purposes pursuant to which such entity undertakes to finance or provide a facility for use or occupancy by the state or any agency, department, or instrumentality thereof.

(i) The legislature shall prescribe all matters relating to the contracting, funding or refunding of debt pursuant to this section, including: The purposes for which debt may be contracted; by a favorable vote of three-fifths of the members elected to each

house, the amount of debt which may be contracted for any class of such purposes; the kinds of notes, bonds, or other evidences of debt which may be issued by the state; and the manner by which the treasurer shall determine and advise the legislature, any appropriate agency, officer, or instrumentality of the state as to the available debt capacity within the limitation set forth in this section. The legislature may delegate to any state officer, agency, or instrumentality any of its powers relating to the contracting, funding or refunding of debt pursuant to this section except its power to determine the amount and purposes for which debt may be contracted.

(j) The full faith, credit, and taxing power of the state of Washington are pledged to the payment of the debt created on behalf of the state pursuant to this section and the legislature shall provide by appropriation for the payment of the interest upon and installments of principal of all such debt as the same falls due, but in any event, any court of record may compel such payment.

(k) Notwithstanding the limitations contained in subsection (b) of this section, the state may issue certificates of indebtedness in such sum or sums as may be necessary to meet temporary deficiencies of the treasury, to preserve the best interests of the state in the conduct of the various state institutions, departments, bureaus, and agencies during each fiscal year; such certificates may be issued only to provide for appropriations already made by the legislature and such certificates must be retired and the debt discharged other than by refunding within twelve months after the date of incurrence.

(l) Bonds, notes, or other obligations issued and sold by the state of Washington pursuant to and in conformity with this article shall not be invalid for any irregularity or defect in the proceedings of the issuance or sale thereof and shall be incontestable in the hands of a bona fide purchaser or holder thereof. [1999 Senate Joint Resolution No. 8206, p 2387. Approved November 2, 1999.]

Prior amendment of Art. 8 Section 1, see Amendment 60.

Art. 8 Section 1 was later amended by Amendments 103 and 107.

## **AMENDMENT 93**

Art. 29 Section 1 MAY BE INVESTED AS AUTHORIZED BY LAW. Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 5, and 7 of

Article VIII and section 9 of Article XII or any other section or article of the Constitution of the state of Washington, the moneys of any public pension or retirement fund, industrial insurance trust fund, or fund held in trust for the benefit of persons with developmental disabilities may be invested as authorized by law. [2000 Senate Joint Resolution No. 8214, p 1919. Approved November 7, 2000.]

Prior amendment of Art. 29 Section 1, see Amendments 49 and 75.

### **AMENDMENT 94**

Art. 4 Section 7 EXCHANGE OF JUDGES - JUDGE PRO TEMPORE. The judge of any superior court may hold a superior court in any county at the request of the judge of the superior court thereof, and upon the request of the governor it shall be his or her duty to do so. A case in the superior court may be tried by a judge pro tempore either with the agreement of the parties if the judge pro tempore is a member of the bar, is agreed upon in writing by the parties litigant or their attorneys of record, and is approved by the court and sworn to try the case; or without the agreement of the parties if the judge pro tempore is a sitting elected judge and is acting as a judge pro tempore pursuant to supreme court rule. The supreme court rule must require assignments of judges pro tempore based on the judges' experience and must provide for the right, exercisable once during a case, to a change of judge pro tempore. Such right shall be in addition to any other right provided by law. However, if a previously elected judge of the superior court retires leaving a pending case in which the judge has made discretionary rulings, the judge is entitled to hear the pending case as a judge pro tempore without any written agreement. [2001 Engrossed Senate Joint Resolution No. 8208, p 2327. Approved November 6, 2001.]

### **AMENDMENT 95**

Art. 7 Section 2 LIMITATION ON LEVIES. Except as hereinafter provided and notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, the aggregate of all tax levies upon real and personal property by the state and all taxing districts now existing or hereafter created, shall not in any year exceed one percent of the true and fair value of such property in money: Provided, however, That nothing herein shall prevent levies at the rates now provided



by law by or for any port or public utility district. The term “taxing district” for the purposes of this section shall mean any political subdivision, municipal corporation, district, or other governmental agency authorized by law to levy, or have levied for it, ad valorem taxes on property, other than a port or public utility district. Such aggregate limitation or any specific limitation imposed by law in conformity therewith may be exceeded only as follows:

(a) By any taxing district when specifically authorized so to do by a majority of at least three-fifths of the voters of the taxing district voting on the proposition to levy such additional tax submitted not more than twelve months prior to the date on which the proposed levy is to be made and not oftener than twice in such twelve month period, either at a special election or at the regular election of such taxing district, at which election the number of voters voting “yes” on the proposition shall constitute three-fifths of a number equal to forty percent of the total number of voters voting in such taxing district at the last preceding general election when the number of voters voting on the proposition does not exceed forty percent of the total number of voters voting in such taxing district in the last preceding general election; or by a majority of at least three-fifths of the voters of the taxing district voting on the proposition to levy when the number of voters voting on the proposition exceeds forty percent of the number of voters voting in such taxing district in the last preceding general election: Provided, That notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, any proposition pursuant to this subsection to levy additional tax for the support of the common schools or fire protection districts may provide such support for a period of up to four years and any proposition to levy an additional tax to support the construction, modernization, or remodelling of school facilities or fire facilities may provide such support for a period not exceeding six years;

(b) By any taxing district otherwise authorized by law to issue general obligation bonds for capital purposes, for the sole purpose of making the required payments of principal and interest on general obligation bonds issued solely for capital purposes, other than the replacement of equipment, when authorized so to do by majority of at least three-fifths of the voters of the taxing district voting on the proposition to issue such bonds and to pay the principal and interest thereon by annual tax levies in excess

of the limitation herein provided during the term of such bonds, submitted not oftener than twice in any calendar year, at an election held in the manner provided by law for bond elections in such taxing district, at which election the total number of voters voting on the proposition shall constitute not less than forty percent of the total number of voters voting in such taxing district at the last preceding general election: Provided, That any such taxing district shall have the right by vote of its governing body to refund any general obligation bonds of said district issued for capital purposes only, and to provide for the interest thereon and amortization thereof by annual levies in excess of the tax limitation provided for herein, And provided further, That the provisions of this section shall also be subject to the limitations contained in Article VIII, Section 6, of this Constitution;

(c) By the state or any taxing district for the purpose of preventing the impairment of the obligation of a contract when ordered so to do by a court of last resort. [2002 House Joint Resolution No. 4220, p 2203. Approved November 5, 2002.]

Prior amendment of Art. 7 Section 2, see Amendments 17, 55, 59, 64, 79, and 90.

## AMENDMENT 96

Art. 2 Section 15 VACANCIES IN LEGISLATURE AND IN PARTISAN COUNTY ELECTIVE OFFICE. Such vacancies as may occur in either house of the legislature or in any partisan county elective office shall be filled by appointment by the county legislative authority of the county in which the vacancy occurs: *Provided*, That the person appointed to fill the vacancy must be from the same legislative district, county, or county commissioner or council district and the same political party as the legislator or partisan county elective officer whose office has been vacated, and shall be one of three persons who shall be nominated by the county central committee of that party, and in case a majority of the members of the county legislative authority do not agree upon the appointment within sixty days after the vacancy occurs, the governor shall within thirty days thereafter, and from the list of nominees provided for herein, appoint a person who shall be from the same legislative district, county, or county commissioner or council district and of the same political party as the legislator or partisan county elective officer whose office has

been vacated, and the person so appointed shall hold office until his or her successor is elected at the next general election, and has qualified: *Provided*, That in case of a vacancy occurring after the general election in a year that the office appears on the ballot and before the start of the next term, the term of the successor who is of the same party as the incumbent may commence once he or she has qualified and shall continue through the term for which he or she was elected: *Provided*, That in case of a vacancy occurring in the office of joint senator, or joint representative, the vacancy shall be filled from a list of three nominees selected by the state central committee, by appointment by the joint action of the boards of county legislative authorities of the counties composing the joint senatorial or joint representative district, the person appointed to fill the vacancy must be from the same legislative district and of the same political party as the legislator whose office has been vacated, and in case a majority of the members of the county legislative authority do not agree upon the appointment within sixty days after the vacancy occurs, the governor shall within thirty days thereafter, and from the list of nominees provided for herein, appoint a person who shall be from the same legislative district and of the same political party as the legislator whose office has been vacated. [2003 House Joint Resolution No. 4206, p 2819. Approved November 4, 2003.]

Prior amendment of Art. 2 Section 15, see Amendments 13, 32, and 52.

## AMENDMENT 97

### Art. 4 Section 31 COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT.

(1) There shall be a commission on judicial conduct, existing as an independent agency of the judicial branch, and consisting of a judge selected by and from the court of appeals judges, a judge selected by and from the superior court judges, a judge selected by and from the limited jurisdiction court judges, two persons admitted to the practice of law in this state selected by the state bar association, and six persons who are not attorneys appointed by the governor.

(2) Whenever the commission receives a complaint against a judge or justice, or otherwise has reason to believe that a judge or justice should be admonished, reprimanded, censured, suspended, removed, or retired, the commission shall first investigate the

complaint or belief and then conduct initial proceedings for the purpose of determining whether probable cause exists for conducting a public hearing or hearings to deal with the complaint or belief. The investigation and initial proceedings shall be confidential. Upon beginning an initial proceeding, the commission shall notify the judge or justice of the existence of and basis for the initial proceeding.

(3) Whenever the commission concludes, based on an initial proceeding, that there is probable cause to believe that a judge or justice has violated a rule of judicial conduct or that the judge or justice suffers from a disability which is permanent or likely to become permanent and which seriously interferes with the performance of judicial duties, the commission shall conduct a public hearing or hearings and shall make public all those records of the initial proceeding that provide the basis for its conclusion. If the commission concludes that there is not probable cause, it shall notify the judge or justice of its conclusion.

(4) Upon the completion of the hearing or hearings, the commission in open session shall either dismiss the case, or shall admonish, reprimand, or censure the judge or justice, or shall censure the judge or justice and recommend to the supreme court the suspension or removal of the judge or justice, or shall recommend to the supreme court the retirement of the judge or justice. The commission may not recommend suspension or removal unless it censures the judge or justice for the violation serving as the basis for the recommendation. The commission may recommend retirement of a judge or justice for a disability which is permanent or likely to become permanent and which seriously interferes with the performance of judicial duties.

(5) Upon the recommendation of the commission, the supreme court may suspend, remove, or retire a judge or justice. The office of a judge or justice retired or removed by the supreme court becomes vacant, and that person is ineligible for judicial office until eligibility is reinstated by the supreme court. The salary of a removed judge or justice shall cease. The supreme court shall specify the effect upon salary when it suspends a judge or justice. The supreme court may not suspend, remove, or retire a judge or justice until the commission, after notice and hearing, recommends that action be taken, and the supreme court conducts a hearing,

after notice, to review commission proceedings and findings against the judge or justice.

(6) Within thirty days after the commission admonishes, reprimands, or censures a judge or justice, the judge or justice shall have a right of appeal de novo to the supreme court.

(7) Any matter before the commission or supreme court may be disposed of by a stipulation entered into in a public proceeding. The stipulation shall be signed by the judge or justice and the commission or court. The stipulation may impose any terms and conditions deemed appropriate by the commission or court. A stipulation shall set forth all material facts relating to the proceeding and the conduct of the judge or justice.

(8) Whenever the commission adopts a recommendation that a judge or justice be removed, the judge or justice shall be suspended immediately, with salary, from his or her judicial position until a final determination is made by the supreme court.

(9) The legislature shall provide for commissioners' terms of office and compensation. The commission shall employ one or more investigative officers with appropriate professional training and experience. The investigative officers of the commission shall report directly to the commission. The commission shall also employ such administrative or other staff as are necessary to manage the affairs of the commission.

(10) The commission shall, to the extent that compliance does not conflict with this section, comply with laws of general applicability to state agencies with respect to rule-making procedures, and with respect to public notice of and attendance at commission proceedings other than initial proceedings. The commission shall establish rules of procedure for commission proceedings including due process and confidentiality of proceedings. [2005 Senate Joint Resolution No. 8207, pp 2799, 2800. Approved November 8, 2005.]

Prior amendment of Art. 4 Section 31, see Amendments 85, 77, and 71.

## **AMENDMENT 98**

Art. 7 Section 1 TAXATION. The power of taxation shall never be suspended, surrendered or contracted away. All taxes shall be uniform upon the same class of property within the territorial limits of the authority levying the tax and shall be levied and

collected for public purposes only. The word “property” as used herein shall mean and include everything, whether tangible or intangible, subject to ownership. All real estate shall constitute one class: Provided, That the legislature may tax mines and mineral resources and lands devoted to reforestation by either a yield tax or an ad valorem tax at such rate as it may fix, or by both. Such property as the legislature may by general laws provide shall be exempt from taxation. Property of the United States and of the state, counties, school districts and other municipal corporations, and credits secured by property actually taxed in this state, not exceeding in value the value of such property, shall be exempt from taxation. The legislature shall have power, by appropriate legislation, to exempt personal property to the amount of fifteen thousand (\$15,000.00) dollars for each head of a family liable to assessment and taxation under the provisions of the laws of this state of which the individual is the actual bona fide owner. [2006 House Joint Resolution No. 4223, p 2117. Approved November 7, 2006.]

Prior amendment of Art. 7 Section 1, see Amendments 14 and 81.

## AMENDMENT 99

Article 7 was amended by adding the following section:

Art. 7 Section 12 BUDGET STABILIZATION ACCOUNT. (a) A budget stabilization account shall be established and maintained in the state treasury.

(b) By June 30th of each fiscal year, an amount equal to one percent of the general state revenues for that fiscal year shall be transferred to the budget stabilization account. Nothing in this subsection (b) shall prevent the appropriation of additional amounts to the budget stabilization account.

(c) Each fiscal quarter, the state economic and revenue forecast council appointed and authorized as provided by statute, or successor entity, shall estimate state employment growth for the current and next two fiscal years.

(d) Moneys may be withdrawn and appropriated from the budget stabilization account as follows:

(i) If the governor declares a state of emergency resulting from a catastrophic event that necessitates government action to protect life or public safety, then for that fiscal year moneys may be

withdrawn and appropriated from the budget stabilization account, via separate legislation setting forth the nature of the emergency and containing an appropriation limited to the above-authorized purposes as contained in the declaration, by a favorable vote of a majority of the members elected to each house of the legislature.

(ii) If the employment growth forecast for any fiscal year is estimated to be less than one percent, then for that fiscal year moneys may be withdrawn and appropriated from the budget stabilization account by the favorable vote of a majority of the members elected to each house of the legislature.

(iii) Any amount may be withdrawn and appropriated from the budget stabilization account at any time by the favorable vote of at least three-fifths of the members of each house of the legislature.

(e) Amounts in the budget stabilization account may be invested as provided by law and retained in that account. When the balance in the budget stabilization account, including investment earnings, equals more than ten percent of the estimated general state revenues in that fiscal year, the legislature by the favorable vote of a majority of the members elected to each house of the legislature may withdraw and appropriate the balance to the extent that the balance exceeds ten percent of the estimated general state revenues. Appropriations under this subsection (e) may be made solely for deposit to the education construction fund.

(f) As used in this section, "general state revenues" has the meaning set forth in Article VIII, section 1 of the Constitution. Forecasts and estimates shall be made by the state economic and revenue forecast council appointed and authorized as provided by statute, or successor entity.

(g) The legislature shall enact appropriate laws to carry out the purposes of this section.

(h) This section takes effect July 1, 2008. [2007 Engrossed Substitute Senate Joint Resolution No. 8206, pp 3146, 3147. Approved November 6, 2007.]

Art. 7 Section 12 was later amended by Amendment 106.

## **AMENDMENT 100**

Art. 2 Section 29 CONVICT LABOR. The labor of inmates of this state shall not be let out by contract to any person, copartnership, company, or corporation, except as provided by

statute, and the legislature shall by law provide for the working of inmates for the benefit of the state, including the working of inmates in state-run inmate labor programs. Inmate labor programs provided by statute that are operated and managed, in total or in part, by any profit or nonprofit entities shall be operated so that the programs do not unfairly compete with Washington businesses as determined by law. [2007 Senate Joint Resolution No. 8212, p 3143. Approved November 6, 2007.]

### **AMENDMENT 101**

Art. 7 Section 2 LIMITATION ON LEVIES. Except as hereinafter provided and notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, the aggregate of all tax levies upon real and personal property by the state and all taxing districts now existing or hereafter created, shall not in any year exceed one percent of the true and fair value of such property in money. Nothing herein shall prevent levies at the rates now provided by law by or for any port or public utility district. The term "taxing district" for the purposes of this section shall mean any political subdivision, municipal corporation, district, or other governmental agency authorized by law to levy, or have levied for it, ad valorem taxes on property, other than a port or public utility district. Such aggregate limitation or any specific limitation imposed by law in conformity therewith may be exceeded only as follows:

(a) By any taxing district when specifically authorized so to do by a majority of at least three-fifths of the voters of the taxing district voting on the proposition to levy such additional tax submitted not more than twelve months prior to the date on which the proposed initial levy is to be made and not oftener than twice in such twelve month period, either at a special election or at the regular election of such taxing district, at which election the number of voters voting "yes" on the proposition shall constitute three-fifths of a number equal to forty percent of the total number of voters voting in such taxing district at the last preceding general election when the number of voters voting on the proposition does not exceed forty percent of the total number of voters voting in such taxing district in the last preceding general election; or by a majority of at least three-fifths of the voters of the taxing district voting on the proposition to levy when the number of voters voting on the proposition exceeds forty percent of the number of



voters voting in such taxing district in the last preceding general election. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, any proposition pursuant to this subsection to levy additional tax for the support of the common schools or fire protection districts may provide such support for a period of up to four years and any proposition to levy an additional tax to support the construction, modernization, or remodelling of school facilities or fire facilities may provide such support for a period not exceeding six years. Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection, a proposition under this subsection to levy an additional tax for a school district shall be authorized by a majority of the voters voting on the proposition, regardless of the number of voters voting on the proposition;

(b) By any taxing district otherwise authorized by law to issue general obligation bonds for capital purposes, for the sole purpose of making the required payments of principal and interest on general obligation bonds issued solely for capital purposes, other than the replacement of equipment, when authorized so to do by majority of at least three-fifths of the voters of the taxing district voting on the proposition to issue such bonds and to pay the principal and interest thereon by annual tax levies in excess of the limitation herein provided during the term of such bonds, submitted not oftener than twice in any calendar year, at an election held in the manner provided by law for bond elections in such taxing district, at which election the total number of voters voting on the proposition shall constitute not less than forty percent of the total number of voters voting in such taxing district at the last preceding general election. Any such taxing district shall have the right by vote of its governing body to refund any general obligation bonds of said district issued for capital purposes only, and to provide for the interest thereon and amortization thereof by annual levies in excess of the tax limitation provided for herein. The provisions of this section shall also be subject to the limitations contained in Article VIII, Section 6, of this Constitution;

(c) By the state or any taxing district for the purpose of preventing the impairment of the obligation of a contract when ordered so to do by a court of last resort. [2007 Engrossed House Joint Resolution No. 4204, pp 3143-3145. Approved November 6, 2007.]

### **AMENDMENT 102**

Article 16 was amended by adding the following section:

Art. 16 Section 6 INVESTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION PERMANENT FUNDS. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article VIII, sections 5 and 7 and Article XII, section 9, or any other section or article of the Constitution of the state of Washington, the moneys of the permanent funds established for any of the institutions of higher education in this state may be invested as authorized by law. Without limitation, this shall include the authority to invest permanent funds held for the benefit of institutions of higher education in stocks or bonds issued by any association, company, or corporation if authorized by law. [2007 Substitute House Joint Resolution No. 4215, p 3145. Approved November 6, 2007.]

### **AMENDMENT 103**

Art. 8 Section 1 STATE DEBT. (a) The state may contract debt, the principal of which shall be paid and discharged within thirty years from the time of contracting thereof, in the manner set forth herein.

(b) The aggregate debt contracted by the state shall not exceed that amount for which payments of principal and interest in any fiscal year would require the state to expend more than nine percent of the arithmetic mean of its general state revenues for the three immediately preceding fiscal years as certified by the treasurer. The term "fiscal year" means that period of time commencing July 1 of any year and ending on June 30 of the following year.

(c) The term "general state revenues" when used in this section, shall include all state money received in the treasury from each and every source whatsoever except: (1) Fees and revenues derived from the ownership or operation of any undertaking, facility, or project; (2) Moneys received as gifts, grants, donations, aid, or assistance or otherwise from the United States or any department, bureau, or corporation thereof, or any person, firm, or corporation, public or private, when the terms and conditions of such gift, grant, donation, aid, or assistance require the application and disbursement of such moneys otherwise than for the general purposes of the state of Washington; (3) Moneys to be paid into

and received from retirement system funds, and performance bonds and deposits; (4) Moneys to be paid into and received from trust funds including but not limited to moneys received from taxes levied for specific purposes and the several permanent and irreducible funds of the state and the moneys derived therefrom but excluding bond redemption funds; (5) Proceeds received from the sale of bonds or other evidences of indebtedness.

(d) In computing the amount required for payment of principal and interest on outstanding debt under this section, debt shall be construed to mean borrowed money represented by bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness which are secured by the full faith and credit of the state or are required to be repaid, directly or indirectly, from general state revenues and which are incurred by the state, any department, authority, public corporation, or quasi public corporation of the state, any state university or college, or any other public agency created by the state but not by counties, cities, towns, school districts, or other municipal corporations, but shall not include obligations for the payment of current expenses of state government, nor shall it include debt hereafter incurred pursuant to section 3 of this article, obligations guaranteed as provided for in subsection (g) of this section, principal of bond anticipation notes or obligations issued to fund or refund the indebtedness of the Washington state building authority. In addition, for the purpose of computing the amount required for payment of interest on outstanding debt under subsection (b) of this section and this subsection, "interest" shall be reduced by subtracting the amount scheduled to be received by the state as payments from the federal government in each year in respect of bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness subject to this section.

(e) The state may pledge the full faith, credit, and taxing power of the state to guarantee the voter approved general obligation debt of school districts in the manner authorized by the legislature. Any such guarantee does not remove the debt obligation of the school district and is not state debt.

(f) The state may, without limitation, fund or refund, at or prior to maturity, the whole or any part of any existing debt or of any debt hereafter contracted pursuant to section 1, section 2, or section 3 of this article, including any premium payable with respect thereto and interest thereon, or fund or refund, at or prior

to maturity, the whole or any part of any indebtedness incurred or authorized prior to the effective date of this amendment by any entity of the type described in subsection (h) of this section, including any premium payable with respect thereto and any interest thereon. Such funding or refunding shall not be deemed to be contracting debt by the state.

(g) Notwithstanding the limitation contained in subsection (b) of this section, the state may pledge its full faith, credit, and taxing power to guarantee the payment of any obligation payable from revenues received from any of the following sources: (1) Fees collected by the state as license fees for motor vehicles; (2) Excise taxes collected by the state on the sale, distribution or use of motor vehicle fuel; and (3) Interest on the permanent common school fund: *Provided*, That the legislature shall, at all times, provide sufficient revenues from such sources to pay the principal and interest due on all obligations for which said source of revenue is pledged.

(h) No money shall be paid from funds in custody of the treasurer with respect to any debt contracted after the effective date of this amendment by the Washington state building authority, the capitol committee, or any similar entity existing or operating for similar purposes pursuant to which such entity undertakes to finance or provide a facility for use or occupancy by the state or any agency, department, or instrumentality thereof.

(i) The legislature shall prescribe all matters relating to the contracting, funding or refunding of debt pursuant to this section, including: The purposes for which debt may be contracted; by a favorable vote of three-fifths of the members elected to each house, the amount of debt which may be contracted for any class of such purposes; the kinds of notes, bonds, or other evidences of debt which may be issued by the state; and the manner by which the treasurer shall determine and advise the legislature, any appropriate agency, officer, or instrumentality of the state as to the available debt capacity within the limitation set forth in this section. The legislature may delegate to any state officer, agency, or instrumentality any of its powers relating to the contracting, funding or refunding of debt pursuant to this section except its power to determine the amount and purposes for which debt may be contracted.

(j) The full faith, credit, and taxing power of the state of Washington are pledged to the payment of the debt created on behalf of the state pursuant to this section and the legislature shall provide by appropriation for the payment of the interest upon and installments of principal of all such debt as the same falls due, but in any event, any court of record may compel such payment.

(k) Notwithstanding the limitations contained in subsection (b) of this section, the state may issue certificates of indebtedness in such sum or sums as may be necessary to meet temporary deficiencies of the treasury, to preserve the best interests of the state in the conduct of the various state institutions, departments, bureaus, and agencies during each fiscal year; such certificates may be issued only to provide for appropriations already made by the legislature and such certificates must be retired and the debt discharged other than by refunding within twelve months after the date of incurrence.

(l) Bonds, notes, or other obligations issued and sold by the state of Washington pursuant to and in conformity with this article shall not be invalid for any irregularity or defect in the proceedings of the issuance or sale thereof and shall be incontestable in the hands of a bona fide purchaser or holder thereof. [2010 Senate Joint Resolution No. 8225, p 3129-3132. Approved November 2, 2010.]

Prior amendment of Art. 8 Section 1, see Amendments 60 and 92.

Art. 8 Section 1 was later amended by Amendment 107.

## **AMENDMENT 104**

Art. 1 Section 20 BAIL, WHEN AUTHORIZED. All persons charged with crime shall be bailable by sufficient sureties, except for capital offenses when the proof is evident, or the presumption great. Bail may be denied for offenses punishable by the possibility of life in prison upon a showing by clear and convincing evidence of a propensity for violence that creates a substantial likelihood of danger to the community or any persons, subject to such limitations as shall be determined by the legislature. [2010 Engrossed Substitute House Joint Resolution No. 4220, p 3129. Approved November 2, 2010.]

**AMENDMENT 105**

Art. 6 Section 1A VOTER QUALIFICATIONS FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. [Repealed by 2011 Senate Joint Resolution No. 8205, p 4281. Approved November 8, 2011.]

Prior amendment of Art. 6 Section 1A, see Amendment 46.

**AMENDMENT 106**

Art. 7 Section 12 BUDGET STABILIZATION ACCOUNT. (a) A budget stabilization account shall be established and maintained in the state treasury.

(b)(1) By June 30th of each fiscal year, an amount equal to one percent of the general state revenues for that fiscal year shall be transferred to the budget stabilization account. Nothing in this subsection (b) shall prevent the appropriation of additional amounts to the budget stabilization account.

(2) By June 30th of the second year of each fiscal biennium, three-quarters of any extraordinary revenue growth shall be transferred to the budget stabilization account. However, no transfer of extraordinary revenue growth under this subsection (b) (2) shall occur in a fiscal biennium following a fiscal biennium in which annual average state employment growth averaged less than one percent per fiscal year. "Extraordinary revenue growth" means the amount by which the growth in general state revenues for that fiscal biennium exceeds by one-third the average biennial percentage growth in general state revenues over the prior five fiscal biennia. In making this determination, the comparability of data shall be maintained by adjusting historical general state revenues to reflect statutory changes to the dedication of state revenues. The transfer under this subsection shall be made only to the extent that it exceeds the total transfers under (1) of this subsection for that fiscal biennium.

(c) Each fiscal quarter, the state economic and revenue forecast council appointed and authorized as provided by statute, or successor entity, shall estimate state employment growth for the current and next two fiscal years.

(d) Moneys may be withdrawn and appropriated from the budget stabilization account as follows:

(i) If the governor declares a state of emergency resulting from a catastrophic event that necessitates government action to protect

life or public safety, then for that fiscal year moneys may be withdrawn and appropriated from the budget stabilization account, via separate legislation setting forth the nature of the emergency and containing an appropriation limited to the above-authorized purposes as contained in the declaration, by a favorable vote of a majority of the members elected to each house of the legislature.

(ii) If the employment growth forecast for any fiscal year is estimated to be less than one percent, then for that fiscal year moneys may be withdrawn and appropriated from the budget stabilization account by the favorable vote of a majority of the members elected to each house of the legislature.

(iii) Any amount may be withdrawn and appropriated from the budget stabilization account at any time by the favorable vote of at least three-fifths of the members of each house of the legislature.

(e) Amounts in the budget stabilization account may be invested as provided by law and retained in that account. When the balance in the budget stabilization account, including investment earnings, equals more than ten percent of the estimated general state revenues in that fiscal year, the legislature by the favorable vote of a majority of the members elected to each house of the legislature may withdraw and appropriate the balance to the extent that the balance exceeds ten percent of the estimated general state revenues. Appropriations under this subsection (e) may be made solely for deposit to the education construction fund.

(f) As used in this section, "general state revenues" has the meaning set forth in Article VIII, section 1 of the Constitution. Forecasts and estimates shall be made by the state economic and revenue forecast council appointed and authorized as provided by statute, or successor entity.

(g) The legislature shall enact appropriate laws to carry out the purposes of this section.

(h) This section takes effect July 1, 2008. [2011 Senate Joint Resolution No. 8206, p 4281-4283. Approved November 8, 2011.] Prior amendment of Art. 7 Section 12, see Amendment 99.

### **AMENDMENT 107**

Art. 8 Section 1 STATE DEBT. (a) The state may contract debt, the principal of which shall be paid and discharged within thirty years from the time of contracting thereof, in the manner set forth herein.

(b) The aggregate debt contracted by the state, as calculated by the treasurer at the time debt is contracted, shall not exceed that amount for which payments of principal and interest in any fiscal year would require the state to expend more than the applicable percentage limit of the arithmetic mean of its general state revenues for the six immediately preceding fiscal years as certified by the treasurer. The term “applicable percentage limit” means eight and one-half percent from July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2016; eight and one-quarter percent from July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2034; eight percent from July 1, 2034, and thereafter. The term “fiscal year” means that period of time commencing July 1 of any year and ending on June 30 of the following year.

(c) The term “general state revenues,” when used in this section, shall include all state money received in the treasury from each and every source, including moneys received from ad valorem taxes levied by the state and deposited in the general fund in each fiscal year, but not including: (1) Fees and other revenues derived from the ownership or operation of any undertaking, facility, or project; (2) Moneys received as gifts, grants, donations, aid, or assistance or otherwise from the United States or any department, bureau, or corporation thereof, or any person, firm, or corporation, public or private, when the terms and conditions of such gift, grant, donation, aid, or assistance require the application and disbursement of such moneys otherwise than for the general purposes of the state of Washington; (3) Moneys to be paid into and received from retirement system funds, and performance bonds and deposits; (4) Moneys to be paid into and received from trust funds and the several permanent and irreducible funds of the state and the moneys derived therefrom but excluding bond redemption funds; (5) Moneys received from taxes levied for specific purposes and required to be deposited for those purposes into specified funds or accounts other than the general fund; and (6) Proceeds received from the sale of bonds or other evidences of indebtedness.

(d) In computing the amount required for payment of principal and interest on outstanding debt under this section, debt shall be construed to mean borrowed money represented by bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness which are secured by the full faith and credit of the state or are required to be repaid, directly or indirectly, from general state revenues and which are incurred by the state, any department, authority, public corporation, or quasi



public corporation of the state, any state university or college, or any other public agency created by the state but not by counties, cities, towns, school districts, or other municipal corporations, but shall not include obligations for the payment of current expenses of state government, nor shall it include debt hereafter incurred pursuant to section 3 of this article, obligations guaranteed as provided for in subsection (g) of this section, principal of bond anticipation notes or obligations issued to fund or refund the indebtedness of the Washington state building authority. In addition, for the purpose of computing the amount required for payment of interest on outstanding debt under subsection (b) of this section and this subsection, "interest" shall be reduced by subtracting the amount scheduled to be received by the state as payments from the federal government in each year in respect of bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness subject to this section.

(e) The state may pledge the full faith, credit, and taxing power of the state to guarantee the voter approved general obligation debt of school districts in the manner authorized by the legislature. Any such guarantee does not remove the debt obligation of the school district and is not state debt.

(f) The state may, without limitation, fund or refund, at or prior to maturity, the whole or any part of any existing debt or of any debt hereafter contracted pursuant to section 1, section 2, or section 3 of this article, including any premium payable with respect thereto and interest thereon, or fund or refund, at or prior to maturity, the whole or any part of any indebtedness incurred or authorized prior to the effective date of this amendment by any entity of the type described in subsection (h) of this section, including any premium payable with respect thereto and any interest thereon. Such funding or refunding shall not be deemed to be contracting debt by the state.

(g) Notwithstanding the limitation contained in subsection (b) of this section, the state may pledge its full faith, credit, and taxing power to guarantee the payment of any obligation payable from revenues received from any of the following sources: (1) Fees collected by the state as license fees for motor vehicles; (2) Excise taxes collected by the state on the sale, distribution or use of motor vehicle fuel; and (3) Interest on the permanent common school fund: *Provided*, That the legislature shall, at all times, provide sufficient revenues from such sources to pay the principal and

interest due on all obligations for which said source of revenue is pledged.

(h) No money shall be paid from funds in custody of the treasurer with respect to any debt contracted after the effective date of this amendment by the Washington state building authority, the capitol committee, or any similar entity existing or operating for similar purposes pursuant to which such entity undertakes to finance or provide a facility for use or occupancy by the state or any agency, department, or instrumentality thereof.

(i) The legislature shall prescribe all matters relating to the contracting, funding or refunding of debt pursuant to this section, including: The purposes for which debt may be contracted; by a favorable vote of three-fifths of the members elected to each house, the amount of debt which may be contracted for any class of such purposes; the kinds of notes, bonds, or other evidences of debt which may be issued by the state; and the manner by which the treasurer shall determine and advise the legislature, any appropriate agency, officer, or instrumentality of the state as to the available debt capacity within the limitation set forth in this section. The legislature may delegate to any state officer, agency, or instrumentality any of its powers relating to the contracting, funding or refunding of debt pursuant to this section except its power to determine the amount and purposes for which debt may be contracted.

(j) The full faith, credit, and taxing power of the state of Washington are pledged to the payment of the debt created on behalf of the state pursuant to this section and the legislature shall provide by appropriation for the payment of the interest upon and installments of principal of all such debt as the same falls due, but in any event, any court of record may compel such payment.

(k) Notwithstanding the limitations contained in subsection (b) of this section, the state may issue certificates of indebtedness in such sum or sums as may be necessary to meet temporary deficiencies of the treasury, to preserve the best interests of the state in the conduct of the various state institutions, departments, bureaus, and agencies during each fiscal year; such certificates may be issued only to provide for appropriations already made by the legislature and such certificates must be retired and the debt discharged other than by refunding within twelve months after the date of incurrence.

(1) Bonds, notes, or other obligations issued and sold by the state of Washington pursuant to and in conformity with this article shall not be invalid for any irregularity or defect in the proceedings of the issuance or sale thereof and shall be incontestable in the hands of a bona fide purchaser or holder thereof. [2012 Engrossed Senate Joint Resolution No. 8221, p 2429-2432. Approved November 6, 2012.]

Prior amendment of Art. 8 Section 1, see Amendments 60, 92, and 103.

### **AMENDMENT 108**

Art. 2 Section 43 REDISTRICTING. (1) In January of each year ending in one, a commission shall be established to provide for the redistricting of state legislative and congressional districts.

(2) The commission shall be composed of five members to be selected as follows: The legislative leader of the two largest political parties in each house of the legislature shall appoint one voting member to the commission by January 15th of each year ending in one. By January 31st of each year ending in one, the four appointed members, by an affirmative vote of at least three, shall appoint the remaining member. The fifth member of the commission, who shall be nonvoting, shall act as its chairperson. If any appointing authority fails to make the required appointment by the date established by this subsection, within five days after that date the supreme court shall make the required appointment.

(3) No elected official and no person elected to legislative district, county, or state political party office may serve on the commission. A commission member shall not have been an elected official and shall not have been an elected legislative district, county, or state political party officer within two years of his or her appointment to the commission. The provisions of this subsection do not apply to the office of precinct committee person.

(4) The legislature shall enact laws providing for the implementation of this section, to include additional qualifications for commissioners and additional standards to govern the commission. The legislature shall appropriate funds to enable the commission to carry out its duties.

(5) Each district shall contain a population, excluding nonresident military personnel, as nearly equal as practicable to the population of any other district. To the extent reasonable,

each district shall contain contiguous territory, shall be compact and convenient, and shall be separated from adjoining districts by natural geographic barriers, artificial barriers, or political subdivision boundaries. The commission's plan shall not provide for a number of legislative districts different than that established by the legislature. The commission's plan shall not be drawn purposely to favor or discriminate against any political party or group.

(6) The commission shall complete redistricting as soon as possible following the federal decennial census, but no later than November 15th of each year ending in one. At least three of the voting members shall approve such a redistricting plan. If three of the voting members of the commission fail to approve a plan within the time limitations provided in this subsection, the supreme court shall adopt a plan by April 30th of the year ending in two in conformance with the standards set forth in subsection (5) of this section.

(7) The legislature may amend the redistricting plan but must do so by a two-thirds vote of the legislators elected or appointed to each house of the legislature. Any amendment must have passed both houses by the end of the thirtieth day of the first session convened after the commission has submitted its plan to the legislature. After that day, the plan, with any legislative amendments, constitutes the state districting law.

(8) The legislature shall enact laws providing for the reconvening of a commission for the purpose of modifying a districting law adopted under this section. Such reconvening requires a two-thirds vote of the legislators elected or appointed to each house of the legislature. The commission shall conform to the standards prescribed under subsection (5) of this section and any other standards or procedures that the legislature may provide by law. At least three of the voting members shall approve such a modification. Any modification adopted by the commission may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the legislators elected and appointed to each house of the legislature. The state districting law shall include the modifications with amendments, if any.

(9) The legislature shall prescribe by law the terms of commission members and the method of filling vacancies on the commission.

(10) The supreme court has original jurisdiction to hear and decide all cases involving congressional and legislative redistricting.

(11) Legislative and congressional districts may not be changed or established except pursuant to this section. A districting plan and any legislative amendments to the plan are not subject to Article III, section 12 of this Constitution. [2016 Senate Joint Resolution No. 8210. Approved November 8, 2016.]

Prior amendment of Art. 2 Section 43, see Amendment 74.

# (C) Index to State Constitution

	Art.	Sec.
<b>Absconding debtors</b>		
Imprisonment. . . . .	1	17
<b>Absence</b>		
Of citizen not affecting residence, for purpose of voting and eligibility to office . . . . .	6	4
Of judicial officer. . . . .	4	8
<b>Acceptance</b>		
Of certain federal or foreign offices vacates seat in legislature . . . . .	2	14
<b>Accused</b>		
Rights in criminal prosecutions. . . . .	1	22
Rights of, on removal from office by legislature . . . . .	4	9
<b>Actions</b>		
Against the state . . . . .	2	26
By and against corporations . . . . .	12	5
Not affected by change in government . . . . .	27	1
Transfer from territorial to state court. . . . .	27	5, 8, 10
<b>Acts</b>		
Effective date (Stricken by Amendment 7) . . . . .	2	31
Effective date. . . . .	2	1, 41
Enacting clause . . . . .	2	18
Not to be amended unless set forth in full. . . . .	2	37
Presentation to governor necessary. . . . .	3	12
When effective without approval . . . . .	3	12
Veto, passage over . . . . .	3	12
(See Bill; Laws; Statutes; Veto)		
<b>Adjournment of legislature</b>		
For want of quorum. . . . .	2	8
Governmental continuity during emergency periods . . . . .	2	42
Restrictions . . . . .	2	11
<b>Adoption of children</b>		
By special act forbidden . . . . .	2	28(16)
<b>Au valorem tax</b>		
Authority to levy on mines and reforested lands . . . . .	7	1
<b>Advances of money or fees</b>		
Prohibited to secure rights of accused. . . . .	1	22
<b>Advice and consent of senate</b>		
Required for appointment of officers of state institutions. . . . .	1	31

	Art.	Sec.
<b>Affirmation</b>		
Mode of administering . . . . .	1	6
<b>Age</b>		
Of voter . . . . .	6	1
<b>Agricultural lands</b>		
Taxation based on actual use . . . . .	7	11
<b>Agriculture</b>		
Bureau of, established . . . . .	2	34
Commodity assessments . . . . .	8	11
Development and trade promotion, funds for . . . . .	8	11
<b>Alienation of franchise</b>		
Corporate liabilities not relieved by . . . . .	12	8
<b>Aliens</b>		
Corporation alien (Repealed by Amendment 42) . . . . .	2	33
Naturalization of, by superior court . . . . .	4	6
Ownership of lands prohibited, exceptions (Repealed by Amendment 42) . . . . .	2	33
<b>Amendment to bills</b>		
Act or section amended to be set forth in full . . . . .	2	37
Either house may amend bills of the other . . . . .	2	20
Initiative measure, prohibition against amendment of . . . . .	2	41
Scope and object not to be changed . . . . .	2	38
<b>Amendment to municipal charter</b>		
By special act forbidden . . . . .	2	28(8)
How proposed, submitted and adopted . . . . .	11	10
<b>Amendment to Constitution</b>		
By convention . . . . .	23	2
Proposal for, may originate in either house . . . . .	23	1
Publication of notice of election . . . . .	23	1
Ratification by electors . . . . .	23	1
Revised Constitution, adoption by people . . . . .	23	3
Separate amendments to be separately voted on . . . . .	23	1
Vote proposing amendment or revision, two-thirds of each house necessary . . . . .	23	1,2

**Amendments to Constitution: Ratified***(1) In order of amendments:*

## Amendment

No. 1	to art 16	sec 5	
No. 2	to art 6	sec 1	
No. 3	to art 7	sec 2	
No. 4	to art 1	sec 11	
No. 5	to art 6	sec 1	
		6 sec 2	(deleted)
No. 6	to art 3	sec 10	
No. 7	to art 2	sec 1	
		2 sec 31	(deleted)
No. 8	to art 1	sec 33	(added)
		1 sec 34	(added)
No. 9	to art 1	sec 16	
No. 10	to art 1	sec 22	
No. 11	to art 8	sec 4	
No. 12	to art 11	sec 5	
No. 13	to art 2	sec 15	
No. 14	to art 7	sec 1	
		7 sec 2, 3, 4	(deleted)
No. 15	to art 15	sec 1	
No. 16	to art 12	sec 11	
No. 17	to art 7	sec 2	
No. 18	to art 2	sec 40	(added)
No. 19	to art 7	sec 3	(new)
No. 20	to art 2	sec 23	(part repeal)
		3 sec 14, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22	(part repeal)
		28 sec 1	(added)
No. 21	to art 11	sec 4	
No. 22	to art 11	sec 7	(repealed)
No. 23	to art 11	sec 16	(added)
No. 24	to art 2	sec 33	
No. 25	to art 4	sec 3	(a) (added)
No. 26	to art 2	sec 1	(c) (superseded)
		sec 41	(added)
No. 27	to art 8	sec 6	
No. 28	to art 4	sec 6	
		4 sec 10	
No. 29	to art 2	sec 33	
No. 30	to art 2	sec 1	(a) (added)
No. 31	to art 3	sec 25	
No. 32	to art 2	sec 15	
No. 33	to art 24	sec 1	



No. 34	to art 1 sec	11
No. 35	to art 2 sec	25
No. 36	to art 2 sec	1 (e) (added)
No. 37	to art 23 sec	1
No. 38	to art 4 sec	2 (a) (added)
No. 39	to art 2 sec	42 (added)
No. 40	to art 11 sec	10
No. 41	to art 4 sec	29 (added)
No. 42	to art 2 sec	33 (repealed)
No. 43	to art 9 sec	3
No. 44	to art 16 sec	5
No. 45	to art 8 sec	8 (added)
No. 46	to art 6 sec	1A (added)
No. 47	to art 7 sec	10 (added)
No. 48	to art 8 sec	3
No. 49	to art 29 sec	1 (added)
No. 50	to art 4 sec	30 (added)
No. 51	to art 8 sec	9 (added)
No. 52	to art 2 sec	15
	11 sec	6
No. 53	to art 7 sec	11 (added)
No. 54	to art 2 sec	25 (part repeal)
	3 sec	25 (part repeal)
	4 sec	13 (part repeal)
	11 sec	8 (part repeal)
	28 sec	1 (part repeal)
	30 sec	1 (added)
No. 55	to art 7 sec	2
No. 56	to art 2 sec	24
No. 57	to art 11 sec	5
	11 sec	8
No. 58	to art 11 sec	16
No. 59	to art 7 sec	2
No. 60	to art 8 sec	1
	8 sec	3
No. 61	to art 31 sec	1 (added)
	31 sec	2 (added)
No. 62	to art 3 sec	12
No. 63	to art 6 sec	1
No. 64	to art 7 sec	2
No. 65	to art 4 sec	6
	4 sec	10
No. 66	to art 12 sec	18
No. 67	to art 12 sec	14 (repealed)
No. 68	to art 2 sec	12

No. 69	to art	2 sec	13	
No. 70	to art	8 sec	10	(added)
No. 71	to art	4 sec	31	(added)
No. 72	to art	2 sec	1	
		2 sec	1	(a) (stricken)
No. 73	to art	32 sec	1	(added)
No. 74	to art	2 sec	3	(repealed)
		2 sec	43	(added)
		27 sec	13	(repealed)
No. 75	to art	29 sec	1	
No. 76	to art	8 sec	11	(added)
No. 77	to art	4 sec	31	
No. 78	to art	28 sec	1	
No. 79	to art	7 sec	2	
No. 80	to art	4 sec	7	
No. 81	to art	7 sec	1	
No. 82	to art	8 sec	10	
No. 83	to art	6 sec	3	
		13 sec	1	
No. 84	to art	1 sec	35	(added)
No. 85	to art	4 sec	31	
No. 86	to art	8 sec	10	
No. 87	to art	4 sec	6	
No. 88	to art	1 sec	11	
No. 89	to art	4 sec	3	
No. 90	to art	7 sec	2	
No. 91	to art	8 sec	10	
No. 92	to art	8 sec	1	
No. 93	to art	29 sec	1	
No. 94	to art	4 sec	7	
No. 95	to art	7 sec	2	
No. 96	to art	2 sec	15	
No. 97	to art	4 sec	31	
No. 98	to art	7 sec	1	
No. 99	to art	7 sec	12	(added)
No.100	to art	2 sec	29	
No.101	to art	7 sec	2	
No.102	to art	16 sec	6	
No.103	to art	8 sec	1	
No.104	to art	1 sec	20	
No.105	to art	6 sec	1A	(repealed)
No.106	to art	7 sec	12	
No 107	to art	8 sec	1	
No 108	to art	2 sec	43	

Art. Sec.

*(2) In order of articles and sections affected:*

Art 1	sec 11—Amendment	No.	4	
	sec 11—Amendment	No.	34	
	sec 11—Amendment	No.	88	
	sec 16—Amendment	No.	9	
	sec 20—Amendment	No.	104	
	sec 22—Amendment	No.	10	
	sec 33—(added)	No.	8	
	sec 34—(added)	No.	8	
Art 2	sec 35—(added)	No.	84	
	sec 1—Amendment	No.	7	
	sec 1(e)—(added)	No.	36	
	sec 1—Amendment	No.	72	
	sec 1(a)—(added)	No.	30	
	sec 1(a)—(stricken)	No.	72	
	sec 3—(repealed)	No.	74	
	sec 11(c)—(supersed.)	No.	26	
	sec 12—Amendment	No.	68	
	sec 13—Amendment	No.	69	
	sec 15—Amendment	No.	13	
	sec 15—Amendment	No.	32	
	sec 15—Amendment	No.	52	
	sec 15—Amendment	No.	96	
	sec 23—(part rep.)	No.	20	
	sec 24—Amendment	No.	56	
	sec 25—Amendment	No.	35	
	sec 25—(part rep.)	No.	54	
	sec 29—Amendment	No.	100	
	sec 31—(deleted)	No.	7	
	sec 33—Amendment	No.	24	
	sec 33—Amendment	No.	29	
	sec 33—(repealed)	No.	42	
	sec 40—(added)	No.	18	
	sec 41—(added)	No.	26	
	sec 42—(added)	No.	39	
	sec 43—(added)	No.	74	
sec 43—Amendment	No.	108		
Art 3	sec 10—Amendment	No.	6	
	sec 12—Amendment	No.	62	
	sec 14	}—Amendment (part rep.)	No.	20
	sec 16			
	sec 17			
	sec 19			
	sec 20			
sec 21				

			Art. Sec.
	sec 22—Amendment	No.	20
	sec 25—Amendment	No.	31
	sec 25—(part rep.)	No.	54
Art 4	sec 2(a)—(added)	No.	38
	sec 3—Amendment	No.	89
	sec 3(a)—(added)	No.	25
	sec 6—Amendment	No.	28
	sec 6—Amendment	No.	65
	sec 6—Amendment	No.	87
	sec 7—Amendment	No.	80
	sec 7—Amendment	No.	94
	sec 10—Amendment	No.	28
	sec 10—Amendment	No.	65
	sec 13—(part rep.)	No.	54
	sec 29—(added)	No.	41
	sec 30—(added)	No.	50
	sec 31—(added)	No.	71
	sec 31—Amendment	No.	77
	sec 31—Amendment	No.	85
	sec 31—Amendment	No.	97
Art 6	sec 1—Amendment	No.	2
	sec 1—Amendment	No.	5
	sec 1—Amendment	No.	63
	sec 1A—(added)	No.	46
	sec 1A—(repealed)	No.	105
	sec 2—(deleted)	No.	5
	sec 3—Amendment	No.	83
Art 7	sec 1—Amendment	No.	14
	sec 1—Amendment	No.	81
	sec 1—Amendment	No.	98
	sec 2—(original)	No.	3
	sec 2—Amendment	No.	17
	sec 2—Amendment	No.	55
	sec 2—Amendment	No.	59
	sec 2—Amendment	No.	64
	sec 2—Amendment	No.	79
	sec 2—Amendment	No.	90
	sec 2—Amendment	No.	95
	sec 2—Amendment	No.	101
	sec 3—(new)	No.	19
	sec 10—(added)	No.	47
	sec 11—(added)	No.	53
	sec 12—(added)	No.	99
	sec 12—Amendment	No.	106
Art 8	sec 1—Amendment	No.	60

Art. Sec.

	sec 1—Amendment	No.	92
	sec 1—Amendment	No.	103
	sec 1—Amendment	No.	107
	sec 3—Amendment	No.	48
	sec 3—Amendment	No.	60
	sec 4—Amendment	No.	11
	sec 6—Amendment	No.	27
	sec 8—(added)	No.	45
	sec 9—(added)	No.	51
	sec 10—(added)	No.	70
	sec 10—Amendment	No.	82
	sec 10—Amendment	No.	86
	sec 10—Amendment	No.	91
	sec 11—(added)	No.	76
Art 9	sec 3—Amendment	No.	43
Art 11	sec 4—Amendment	No.	21
	sec 5—Amendment	No.	12
	sec 5—Amendment	No.	57
	sec 6—Amendment	No.	52
	sec 7—(repealed)	No.	22
	sec 8—(part rep.)	No.	54
	sec 8—Amendment	No.	57
	sec 10—Amendment	No.	40
	sec 10—Amendment	No.	91
	sec 16—(added)	No.	23
	sec 16—Amendment	No.	58
Art 12	sec 11—Amendment	No.	16
	sec 14—(repealed)	No.	67
	sec 18—Amendment	No.	66
Art 13	sec 1—Amendment	No.	83
Art 15	sec 1—Amendment	No.	15
Art 16	sec 5—Amendment	No.	1
	sec 5—Amendment	No.	44
	sec 6—(added)	No.	102
Art 23	sec 1—Amendment	No.	37
Art 24	sec 1—Amendment	No.	33
Art 27	sec 13—(repealed)	No.	74
Art 28	sec 1—(added)	No.	20
	sec 1—(part rep.)	No.	54
	sec 1—Amendment	No.	78
Art 29	sec 1—(added)	No.	49
	sec 1—Amendment	No.	75
	sec 1—Amendment	No.	93
Art 30	sec 1—(added)	No.	54
Art 31	sec 1—(added)	No.	61
	sec 2—(added)	No.	61

Art 32 sec 1—(added) No. 73

*(3) Amendments amended or repealed:*

Amendment	1	amended by	Amendment 44
Amendment	2	amended by	Amendment 5
Amendment	4	amended by	Amendments 34 and 88
Amendment	5	amended by	Amendment 63
Amendment	7	amended by	Amendments 26, 30, 36, and 72
Amendment	12	amended by	Amendment 57
Amendment	13	amended by	Amendments 32, 52, and 96
Amendment	14	amended by	Amendments 81 and 98
Amendment	17	amended by	Amendments 55, 59, 64, 79, 90, 95, and 101
Amendment	20	part rep. by	Amendment 54
		amended by	Amendment 78
Amendment	23	amended by	Amendment 58
Amendment	24	repealed by	Amendment 42
Amendment	28	amended by	Amendments 65 and 87
Amendment	29	repealed by	Amendment 42
Amendment	30	stricken by	Amendment 72
Amendment	31	part rep. by	Amendment 54
Amendment	32	amended by	Amendments 52 and 96
Amendment	34	amended by	Amendment 88
Amendment	35	part rep. by	Amendment 54
Amendment	46	repealed by	Amendment 105
Amendment	48	amended by	Amendment 60
Amendment	49	amended by	Amendments 75 and 93
Amendment	52	amended by	Amendment 96
Amendment	55	amended by	Amendments 59, 64, 79, 90, 95, and 101
Amendment	59	amended by	Amendments 64, 79, 90, 95, and 101
Amendment	60	amended by	Amendments 92 and 103
Amendment	64	amended by	Amendments 79, 90, 95, and 101
Amendment	70	amended by	Amendments 82, 86, and 91
Amendment	71	amended by	Amendments 77 and 85
Amendment	74	amended by	Amendment 108
Amendment	75	amended by	Amendment 93
Amendment	77	amended by	Amendment 85
Amendment	79	amended by	Amendments 90, 95, and 101
Amendment	80	amended by	Amendment 94
Amendment	81	amended by	Amendment 98
Amendment	82	amended by	Amendment 86
Amendment	86	amended by	Amendment 91
Amendment	90	amended by	Amendments 95 and 101
Amendment	92	amended by	Amendment 103
Amendment	99	amended by	Amendment 106
Amendment	103	amended by	Amendment 107

	Art.	Sec.
<b>Amount in controversy</b>		
Appellate jurisdiction of supreme court . . . . .	4	4
Original jurisdiction of superior court. . . . .	4	6
<b>Annual sessions of legislature.</b> . . . . .	2	12
Annulment of marriage		
<b>Appellate jurisdiction of supreme court</b> . . . . .		
Original jurisdiction of superior court. . . . .	4	4
(See Divorce)		
<b>Appeal</b>		
Right of accused in criminal cases . . . . .	1	22
(See Appellate jurisdiction)		
<b>Appearance</b>		
Appearance of accused in criminal cases . . . . .	1	22
<b>Appellate jurisdiction</b>		
Of court of appeals . . . . .	4	30
Of superior court . . . . .	4	6
From territorial probate courts. . . . .	27	10
Of supreme court. . . . .	4	4
<b>Appointment</b>		
Of clerk of supreme court . . . . .	4	22
Of regents of state institutions. . . . .	13	1
Of reporter of supreme court. . . . .	4	18
To fill vacancy in county offices . . . . .	11	6
To fill vacancy in state offices, by governor . . . . .	3	13
Governmental continuity during emergency periods . . . . .	2	42
To office under United States vacates seat in legislature . . . . .	2	14
<b>Apportionment</b>		
Of legislators . . . . .	2	43
Of representatives among counties of state. . . . .	22	2
Of school fund. . . . .	9	3
Of school fund, by special act, prohibited. . . . .	2	28(7)
Of senators among counties of state . . . . .	22	1
<b>Appropriation of private property</b>		
For public or private use . . . . .	1	16
For right-of-way of corporations. . . . .	1	16
(See Eminent domain)		
<b>Appropriations</b>		
Capitol buildings, for. . . . .	14	3
Common school fund, to . . . . .	9	3
Expenses of constitutional convention . . . . .	27	19
Item veto of . . . . .	3	12
Money from state treasury shall be paid out by . . . . .	8	4

	Art.	Sec.
Religious worship, prohibition against appropriation for . . .	1	11
Reverts unless paid out within two years . . . . .	8	4
Sum and object to be specified . . . . .	8	4
Time for payment, limitation of . . . . .	8	4
When act providing for, to take effect (Stricken by Amendment 7). . . . .	2	31
<b>Area reserved</b>		
Between harbor lines and line of high tide . . . . .	15	1
Lease of, by state for wharves. . . . .	15	2
Sale of, restrictions on. . . . .	15	1
Streets over, authorized. . . . .	15	3
(See Harbors; Navigable waters; Wharves)		
<b>Arms</b>		
Private armed bodies not authorized. . . . .	1	24
Right of people to bear arms guaranteed. . . . .	1	24
Safekeeping of public arms to be provided. . . . .	10	4
Scruples against bearing arms, excuses from militia duty in time of peace . . . . .	10	6
<b>Army</b>		
Standing, not to be kept in time of peace . . . . .	1	31
(See Militia)		
<b>Arrest</b>		
Legislators, when privileged from . . . . .	2	16
Militia, when privileged from . . . . .	10	5
Voters privileged from at elections, except. . . . .	6	5
<b>Artificial light</b>		
City or town may contract debt for, limitations . . . . .	8	6
<b>Assemblages of people</b>		
Right of peaceable assembly not to be abridged. . . . .	1	4
<b>Assessment</b>		
Imposition by special act prohibited . . . . .	2	28(5)
Jurisdiction of superior court, original . . . . .	4	6
Jurisdiction of supreme court, appellate . . . . .	4	4
Property of corporations, how assessed (Stricken by Amendment 14). . . . .	7	3
Retired persons, property tax exemption . . . . .	7	10
Special, for local improvements, authorized. . . . .	7	9
Taxation based on special use . . . . .	7	11
Uniform and equal rate of, to be established (Stricken by Amendment 14). . . . .	7	2
(See Taxation)		



	Art.	Sec.
<b>Assignment</b>		
Of superior judges and judicial business by supreme court . . . . .	4	2(a)
Of superior judges by governor. . . . .	4	5
<b>Association</b>		
Combination in restraint of trade prohibited. . . . .	12	22
Included in term "corporation" . . . . .	12	5
Issuance of money by, prohibited . . . . .	12	11
Organization authorized, for construction of telegraph and telephone lines. . . . .	12	19
<b>Assumption</b>		
Of territorial debts by state . . . . .	26	3
<b>Attack</b> (See Invasion and attack)		
<b>Attainder</b>		
Bills of, prohibited. . . . .	1	23
<b>Attestation</b>		
Of commissions, by secretary of state. . . . .	3	15
<b>Attorney general</b>		
Duties. . . . .	3	21
Election of . . . . .	3	1
Impeachment, liability to. . . . .	5	2
Records of office, to be kept at seat of government . . . . .	3	24
Removal from office by legislature. . . . .	4	9
Rights of accused. . . . .	4	9
Salary (See Salaries)		
Succession to governorship. . . . .	3	10
Term of office . . . . .	3	3
<b>Attorneys at law</b>		
Accused in criminal cases entitled to appear by counsel . . . . .	1	22
Prosecuting attorney, duty of legislature to provide for election of. . . . .	11	5
<b>Auditor</b>		
Duties. . . . .	3	20
Election of . . . . .	3	1
Impeachment, liability to. . . . .	5	2
Office may be abolished by legislature. . . . .	3	25
Records to be kept at seat of government . . . . .	3	24
Residence at seat of government required . . . . .	3	24
Salary (See Salaries)		
Succession to governorship. . . . .	3	10
Term of office . . . . .	3	3

	Art.	Sec.
<b>Ayes and noes</b>		
When to be taken and entered on journal		
On amendments to Constitution proposed. . . . .	23	1
On demand of one-sixth of members of either house . . . . .	2	21
On emergency clauses (Stricken by Amendment 7) . . . . .	2	31
On final passage of bills. . . . .	2	22
On removal of public officer by legislature. . . . .	4	9
On senate's confirmation or rejection of governor's appointees . . . . .	13	1
On suspension of the prohibition against introduction of bills . . . . .	2	36
(See Yeas and nays)		
<b>Bail</b>		
Allowable on sufficient sureties, exceptions. . . . .	1	20
Excessive, not to be required. . . . .	1	14
<b>Ballot</b>		
Elections to be by . . . . .	6	6
Form of, in voting for Constitution, etc. . . . .	27	18
Initiative measures, ballot submitting. . . . .	2	1
Presidential, casting. . . . .	6	1(A)
Secrecy of, provision to be made for. . . . .	6	6
Superior court judge, election for . . . . .	4	29
<b>Banking corporations</b>		
Stockholder liability . . . . .	12	11
Officers of, when liable for deposits . . . . .	12	12
<b>Banks</b>		
Liability of officers for deposits . . . . .	12	12
Liability of stockholders . . . . .	12	11
<b>Beds and shores of navigable waters</b>		
Disclaimer of title by state where patented, exception . . . . .	17	2
Ownership of, asserted by state. . . . .	17	1
<b>Bill</b>		
Act or section amended must be set forth in full . . . . .	2	37
Amendment of, may be made by either house . . . . .	2	20
Amendment of, shall not change scope and object. . . . .	2	38
Effective date (Stricken by Amendment 7). . . . .	2	31
Effective date. . . . .	2	1, 41
Either house may originate bills . . . . .	2	20
Enacting clause required . . . . .	2	18
Final passage, requisites of . . . . .	2	22
Initiative measures (See Initiative and referendum)		
Introduction of, limitation on time of . . . . .	2	36
Laws to be enacted by . . . . .	2	18

	Art.	Sec.
Passage by either house, requisite proceedings. . . . .	2	22
Passage by one house, subject to amendment in other . . . . .	2	20
Passage over governor's veto . . . . .	3	12
Power of people to propose, pass, etc. . . . .	2	1
Presentation to governor for approval. . . . .	3	12
When becomes law without approval . . . . .	3	12
Scope of, not to be changed by amendment . . . . .	2	38
Signature by presiding officers of both houses necessary. . . . .	2	32
Subject restricted to one object . . . . .	2	19
Subject to be expressed in title . . . . .	2	19
Title of, to express subject. . . . .	2	19
Veto of, power of governor . . . . .	3	12
Initiative or referred measures . . . . .	2	1
Separate items or sections subject to . . . . .	3	12
Session, extraordinary, to reconsider. . . . .	3	12
Vote on, by interested legislators prohibited. . . . .	2	30
Vote on, how taken . . . . .	2	22
(See Acts; Laws)		
<b>Bill of attainder</b>		
Enactment of, prohibited . . . . .	1	23
<b>Boats</b>		
Jurisdiction of public offense committed on . . . . .	1	22
<b>Bonds</b>		
Corporations can issue only for money, labor or property received . . . . .	12	6
County and municipal corporations not to own bonds of private corporations . . . . .	8	7
Debt limitation. . . . .	8	1
Executed to territory to pass to state . . . . .	27	4
Industrial development projects financing . . . . .	32	1
Investment of school funds in . . . . .	9	3
	16	5
Nonrecourse revenue bonds by governmental entities . . . . .	32	1
State building authority, by . . . . .	8	9
Limitation. . . . .	8	1(g)
<b>Boundaries</b>		
Of county, change by division or enlargement . . . . .	11	3
Of county, change by special legislation prohibited, exceptions . . . . .	2	28(18)
Of existing counties recognized . . . . .	11	1
Of state, defined. . . . .	24	1
<b>Bribery</b>		
Criminating evidence compulsory . . . . .	2	30

	Art.	Sec.
Disqualifies for holding office . . . . .	2	30
Legislature to define and provide punishment for . . . . .	2	30
<b>Buildings, public</b>		
State building authority . . . . .	8	9
<b>Bureau of statistics, agriculture and immigration</b>		
Legislature to provide for . . . . .	2	34
<b>Bureau of vital statistics</b>		
Legislature to establish . . . . .	20	1
<b>Canal companies</b>		
Common carriers, subject to legislative control . . . . .	12	13
Discrimination in charges prohibited . . . . .	12	15
<b>Capital offenses</b>		
Bailable, when . . . . .	1	20
(See Crime)		
<b>Capital of state</b> (See Seat of government)		
<b>Capitol buildings</b>		
Appropriations for . . . . .	14	3
<b>Caste</b>		
Discrimination in education on account of, prohibited. . . . .	9	1
<b>Causes</b>		
Transfer from territorial to state courts . . . . .	27	5, 8, 10
(See Actions)		
<b>Census</b>		
Apportionments of legislative members based on federal census . . . . .	2	43
Enumeration to be made in decennial periods (Repealed by Amendment 74) . . . . .	2	3
<b>Certiorari</b>		
Jurisdiction of superior court . . . . .	4	6
Jurisdiction of supreme court . . . . .	4	4
<b>Cession of jurisdiction</b>		
Exclusive legislation over certain lands given to United States . . . . .	25	1
Retention by state of jurisdiction for service of process. . . . .	25	1
<b>Change of name</b>		
Special legislation prohibited . . . . .	2	28(1)
<b>Changing county lines</b>		
Special legislation prohibited, except . . . . .	2	28(18)
<b>Changing county seats</b>		
Special legislation prohibited . . . . .	2	28(18)

	Art.	Sec.
<b>Chaplain</b>		
For state correctional, mental institutions, county or public health district health care . . . . .	1	11
<b>Charter</b>		
Corporate		
Creation by special legislation forbidden . . . . .	12	1
Extension of, by legislature prohibited . . . . .	12	3
Forfeiture of, not to be remitted. . . . .	12	3
Void for want of organization, when . . . . .	12	2
Municipal		
Creation or amendment by special law, prohibited . . . . .	2	28(8)
Election for, how conducted . . . . .	11	10
Grant of, to be under general laws. . . . .	11	10
How amended . . . . .	11	10
Power of certain cities to frame . . . . .	11	10
Publication, prior to submission . . . . .	11	10
Subject to general laws . . . . .	11	10
Submission of alternate propositions. . . . .	11	10
<b>Chief justice of supreme court</b>		
Method of determining . . . . .	4	3
Presides on trial of impeachments, when . . . . .	5	1
<b>Children</b>		
Adoption of, by special act, forbidden. . . . .	2	28(16)
Duty of state to educate all . . . . .	9	1
(See Minors)		
<b>Citizens</b>		
All entitled to equal privileges and immunities . . . . .	1	12
Citizenship qualification for voters . . . . .	6	1
Voter qualifications, presidential elections . . . . .	6	1A
<b>City</b>		
Bonds, nonrecourse revenue for industrial development projects. . . . .	32	1
Charter		
Alternative propositions, submission of. . . . .	11	10
Amendment by special law prohibited. . . . .	2	28(8)
Amendments of, how effected . . . . .	11	10
Election of freeholders . . . . .	11	10
Freeholder's charter, what cities may frame . . . . .	11	10
Publication of election notices and of proposed charter. . . . .	11	10
Submission of the charter proposed . . . . .	11	10
Vote on, majority necessary to ratify . . . . .	11	10
Combined city-county. . . . .	11	16
Corporate stock or bonds, not to be owned by . . . . .	8	7

	Art.	Sec.
Creation by special act prohibited . . . . .	2	28(8)
Credit of, not to be loaned, except . . . . .	8	7
Incorporation of, must be under general laws. . . . .	11	10
Indebtedness, limitations on . . . . .	8	6
Justice of peace in, legislature to prescribe powers, duties, jurisdiction and number . . . . .	4	10
May act as police justice . . . . .	4	10
Salary of, in cities of over 5,000 . . . . .	4	10
Local improvements by special assessment or taxation . . . . .	7	9
Officers of		
Compensation increase . . . . .	30	1
Must deposit public moneys with treasurer. . . . .	11	15
Recall of officers (See Recall of officers)		
Salary not to be changed during term (Partially repealed by Amendment 54) . . . . .	11	8
(Amendment 54) . . . . .	30	1
Term of office not to be extended . . . . .	11	8
Use of public money by, a felony . . . . .	11	14
Police and sanitary regulations may be enforced . . . . .	11	11
Police justice, justice of peace may act as. . . . .	4	10
Reincorporation under general laws permitted to cities under special charter. . . . .	11	10
Taxation		
Authorized to assess and collect general . . . . .	7	9
Local improvements. . . . .	7	9
Local taxes not to be imposed by legislature. . . . .	11	12
Power to assess and collect rests in city . . . . .	11	12
Uniformity in respect to persons and property required . . . . .	7	9
(See Municipal corporation; Municipal courts; Municipal fine)		
<b>Civil actions</b>		
Limitation by special act prohibited . . . . .	2	28(17)
Number of jurors in . . . . .	1	21
Number of jurors necessary for verdict. . . . .	1	21
Parties may waive jury . . . . .	1	21
(See Actions)		
<b>Civil power</b>		
Elections to be free from interference by . . . . .	1	19
Governmental continuity during emergency periods . . . . .	2	42
Military subordinate to . . . . .	1	18
<b>Classification</b>		
Of cities and towns in proportion to population . . . . .	11	10
Of counties. . . . .	11	5
Of judges of supreme court by lot. . . . .	4	3

	Art.	Sec.
<b>Clerk</b>		
Of county, providing for election of . . . . .	11	5
Of superior court, county clerk is . . . . .	4	26
Of supreme court . . . . .	4	22
<b>Collection of taxes</b>		
Time not to be extended by special laws . . . . .	2	28(5)
(See Taxation)		
<b>Color</b>		
Discrimination in education on account of, prohibited. . . . .	9	1
<b>Combinations</b>		
To affect prices, production, or transportation of commodities, prohibited . . . . .	12	22
(See Monopolies)		
<b>Combined city-county</b> . . . . .	11	16
<b>Commander-in-chief</b>		
Governor to be, when militia in state service . . . . .	3	8
(See Militia)		
<b>Comment on facts</b>		
Judge not to make, in charging jury . . . . .	4	16
<b>Commission</b>		
To establish harbor lines . . . . .	15	1
To regulate railroad and transportation lines. . . . .	12	18
To set salaries, authorized . . . . .	28	1
<b>Commission on judicial conduct</b> . . . . .	4	31
<b>Commissioner of public lands</b>		
Duties of, to be prescribed by legislature . . . . .	3	23
Election of . . . . .	3	1
Office may be abolished by legislature . . . . .	3	25
Records of, to be kept at seat of government . . . . .	3	24
Salary (See Salaries)		
Succession to governorship . . . . .	3	10
Term of office . . . . .	3	3
<b>Commissioners</b>		
Appointment of for state institutions. . . . .	13	1
<b>Commissions</b>		
Issuance of. . . . .	3	15
<b>Committees of legislature</b> . . . . .	2	12
<b>Commodities</b>		
Agricultural commodity commission assessments. . . . .	8	11

	Art.	Sec.
<b>Common carriers</b>		
Canal companies are . . . . .	12	13
Discrimination in charges or service prohibited . . . . .	12	15
Maximum rate of charges, legislature may regulate . . . . .	12	18
Railroad companies are . . . . .	12	13
Regulation of, by commission, authorized . . . . .	12	18
Subject to legislative control . . . . .	12	13
Telegraph and telephone companies are . . . . .	12	19
Transportation companies are . . . . .	12	13
(See Canal, Railroad, Transportation, Telegraph and telephone companies)		
<b>Common school construction fund established . . . . .</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Common school fund</b>		
Enlargement of . . . . .	9	3
Income from, to be applied to common schools . . . . .	9	2
Interest to be expended for current expenses . . . . .	9	3
Investment . . . . .	16	5
Losses occasioned by default, fraud, etc., to become permanent debt against state . . . . .	9	5
Principal of, to remain irreducible . . . . .	9	3
Sources of . . . . .	9	3
(See School fund)		
<b>Common schools</b>		
General and uniform system to be established . . . . .	9	2
Management by special legislation prohibited . . . . .	2	28(15)
Superintendent of public instruction to supervise . . . . .	3	22
(See Education; Public schools)		
<b>Commutation of sentence</b>		
Report by governor to legislature . . . . .	3	11
<b>Commutation of taxes</b>		
Prohibition against state granting . . . . .	11	9
<b>Commutation tickets</b>		
Carrier may grant, at special rates . . . . .	12	15
<b>Compact with United States</b>		
Irrevocable without mutual consent . . . . .	26	1-4



	Art.	Sec.
<b>Compensation</b>		
Appropriation of private property . . . . .	1	16
Attorney general . . . . .	3	21
Change of, during term of public officer (Partially repealed by Amendment 54) . . . . .	2	25
	3	25
	4	13
	11	8
	28	1
(Amendment 54) . . . . .	30	1
Classification of counties in fixing compensation of officers . . . . .	11	5
County, township, precinct and district officers (Partially repealed by Amendment 54) . . . . .	11	5, 8
Eminent domain, compensation for property taken in . . . . .	1	16
Extra, not to be granted to public officers . . . . .	2	25
For right-of-way for corporations . . . . .	1	16
Jury to ascertain compensation due . . . . .	1	16
Judges of court of appeals . . . . .	4	30
Judges of supreme and superior courts . . . . .	4	13, 14
Jury to ascertain compensation in eminent domain . . . . .	1	16
Justice of peace in cities of over 5,000 . . . . .	4	10
Member of legislature (Partially repealed by Amendment 20) . . . . .	2	23
State officers (Partially repealed by Amendment 54) . . . . .	28	1
Increase during term . . . . .	30	1
Waiver of jury trial for ascertaining compensation in eminent domain . . . . .	1	16
<b>Conditions</b>		
On foreign corporations doing business . . . . .	12	7
<b>Confession in open court</b>		
Effect in treason . . . . .	1	27
<b>Confronting witnesses</b>		
Right of accused . . . . .	1	22
<b>Congress</b>		
Exclusive power of legislature over lands of United States in state . . . . .	25	1
Subject to state's right to serve process . . . . .	25	1
Indian lands under jurisdiction of . . . . .	26	2
Legislator elected to, vacates seat . . . . .	2	14
Member of, ineligible to legislature . . . . .	2	14
Representatives in, election of . . . . .	2	43

	Art.	Sec.
<b>Congressional districts</b>		
Redistricting commission . . . . .	2	43
<b>Conscience, freedom of</b>		
Guaranteed to every individual . . . . .	1	11
<b>Consent of governed</b>		
Source of governmental powers . . . . .	1	1
<b>Conservation, energy, water, or stormwater or sewer services</b>		
Loans of credit . . . . .	8	10
<b>Consolidation</b>		
On competing lines of railroad prohibited . . . . .	12	16
<b>Constitution</b>		
Amendment, how effected . . . . .	23	1
Election for voting on, how conducted . . . . .	27	15
Form of ballot . . . . .	27	18
Emergency, legislature's departure from Constitution, limited authority . . . . .	2	42
Existing rights not affected by . . . . .	27	1
In effect, when . . . . .	27	16
Mandatory . . . . .	1	29
Revision . . . . .	23	2
Submission to people . . . . .	23	3
United States, supreme law of land . . . . .	1	2
(See Amendment to Constitution)		
<b>Constitutional convention</b>		
Expenses of . . . . .	27	19
To revise or amend Constitution . . . . .	23	2
<b>Contempt</b>		
Each house may punish for . . . . .	2	9
<b>Contested elections</b> (See Elections)		
<b>Continuity of government</b>		
During periods of emergency due to enemy attack . . . . .	2	42
<b>Contracts</b>		
Affecting price, production, or transportation, prohibited . . . . .	12	22
Combination between common carriers prohibited (Repealed by Amendment 67) . . . . .	12	14
Impairment of obligation prohibited . . . . .	1	23
State building authority, by . . . . .	8	9
<b>Conveyance</b>		
Jurisdiction of public offense committed on public conveyance . . . . .	1	22
Of lands to aliens invalid (Repealed by Amendment 42) . . . . .	2	33

	Art.	Sec.
<b>Conviction</b>		
No corruption of blood nor forfeiture of estate . . . . .	1	15
On impeachment, two-thirds of senators must concur . . . . .	5	1
<b>Convict labor</b>		
Contracts for, prohibited . . . . .	2	29
Working for benefit of state authorized. . . . .	2	29
<b>Copartnerships</b>		
Combinations affecting price, production or transportation prohibited . . . . .	12	22
<b>Copies</b>		
Right of accused to copy of accusation. . . . .	1	22
<b>Corporate powers</b>		
Not to be granted by special laws . . . . .	2	28(6)
<b>Corporate property</b>		
Appropriation by eminent domain not to be abridged . . . . .	12	10
Taxation of, power not to be surrendered (Stricken by Amendment 14). . . . .	7	4
<b>Corporations</b>		
Alien, when (Repealed by Amendment 42) . . . . .	2	33
Appropriation of right-of-way. . . . .	1	16
Bonds		
Not to be owned by counties or cities . . . . .	8	7
Restriction on issuance . . . . .	12	6
Business, may be regulated by law . . . . .	12	1
Charter		
Invalid, if unorganized when Constitution adopted, conditions. . . . .	12	2
Not to be extended. . . . .	12	3
Combinations affecting price, production, or transportation prohibited . . . . .	12	22
Creation by special act prohibited . . . . .	2	28(6)
Debts, relief by special act prohibited . . . . .	2	28(10)
Defined. . . . .	12	5
Eminent domain, property subject to . . . . .	12	10
Equal privileges and immunities. . . . .	1	12
Foreign, not to be favored. . . . .	12	7
Forfeiture of franchise		
For unlawful combinations . . . . .	12	22
Not to be remitted . . . . .	12	3
Formation, by general and not by special laws. . . . .	12	1
Franchise		
Alienation or lease not to relieve liability . . . . .	12	8
May be forfeited. . . . .	12	22

	Art.	Sec.
Laws relating to may be amended or repealed . . . . .	12	1
Legislative control . . . . .	12	1
Liability		
For receipt of bank deposits after insolvency . . . . .	12	12
Not relieved by alienation or lease of franchise . . . . .	12	8
Loan of school funds to, prohibited (Amended by Amendment 44). . . . .	16	5
Money, issuance prohibited. . . . .	12	11
Monopolies and trusts forbidden. . . . .	12	22
State building authority . . . . .	8	9
State		
Not to subscribe to nor own stock . . . . .	12	9
Not to surrender power to tax (Stricken by Amendment 14). . . . .	7	4
State credit not to be loaned to . . . . .	8	5
Stockholders		
Liability . . . . .	12	4
Liability in banking, insurance, and joint stock companies. . . . .	12	11
May be joined as parties defendant . . . . .	12	4
Stock		
Increase, consent and notice necessary . . . . .	12	6
Not to be owned by counties or cities . . . . .	8	7
Restrictions on issuance. . . . .	12	6
Sue and be sued, right and liability . . . . .	12	5
Taxation of property, method of (Stricken by Amendment 14). . . . .	7	3
Telephone and telegraph lines, organization to construct . .	12	19
(See Franchise)		
<b>Corrupt solicitation</b>		
Compulsory testimony in cases of . . . . .	2	30
Disqualification for holding office . . . . .	2	30
Punishment to be provided by legislature . . . . .	2	30
<b>Corruption in office</b>		
Judges, attorney general and prosecuting attorneys removable by legislature . . . . .	4	9
<b>Corruption of blood</b>		
Conviction not to work . . . . .	1	15
<b>County</b>		
Apportionment		
Of representatives among . . . . .	22	2
Of senators . . . . .	22	1
Assignment of superior court judges . . . . .	4	2(a)
	4	5

	Art.	Sec.
Bonds, nonrecourse revenue for industrial development projects . . . . .	32	1
Classification . . . . .	11	5
Combined city and county . . . . .	11	16
Corporate bonds or stocks not to be owned . . . . .	8	7
County seat removal . . . . .	11	2
Not to be changed by special act . . . . .	2	28(18)
Credit not to be loaned, exceptions . . . . .	8	7
Debts		
Apportionment on division or enlargement . . . . .	11	3
Limit of . . . . .	8	6
Private property not to be taken in satisfaction of . . . . .	11	13
Division, how effected . . . . .	11	3
Existing to be legal subdivision of state . . . . .	11	1
Government, legislature to provide system . . . . .	11	4
Home rule charter, authorized . . . . .	11	4
For combined city-county . . . . .	11	16
Indebtedness, limit of . . . . .	8	6
Additional, assent of voters necessary . . . . .	8	6
Assessment as basis of, how ascertained . . . . .	8	6
Restriction as to purpose . . . . .	8	6
Lines, not to be changed by special act . . . . .	2	28(18)
Location of county seat not to be changed by special act . . . . .	2	28(18)
Moneys to be deposited with treasurer . . . . .	11	15
Use of, by official, a felony . . . . .	11	14
New county, formation by special act not prohibited . . . . .	2	28(18)
Restrictions on . . . . .	11	3
Officers		
Election, duties, terms, compensation . . . . .	11	5
Increase in compensation during term . . . . .	30	1
Recall of officers (See Recall)		
Police and sanitary regulations, power to enforce . . . . .	11	11
School funds may be invested in bonds of (Amended by Amendment 44) . . . . .	16	5
Seal . . . . .	27	9
Stock or bonds of corporation not to be owned . . . . .	8	7
Superior court located in each county . . . . .	4	5
Taxation, power to assess and collect . . . . .	11	12
Exemption of county property from taxation . . . . .	7	1
Taxes, liability for proportionate share of state . . . . .	11	9
Local, legislature not to impose . . . . .	11	12
One percent limitation . . . . .	7	2
Township organization in . . . . .	11	4

	Art.	Sec.
<b>County attorney</b> (See Prosecuting attorney)		
<b>County clerk</b>		
Accountability . . . . .	11	5
Clerk of superior court, ex officio . . . . .	4	26
Duties, term, and salary, legislature to provide. . . . .	11	5
Election to be provided for by legislature . . . . .	11	5
First under Constitution, time of . . . . .	27	7
<b>County commissioners</b>		
Election, compensation, etc., legislature to provide . . . . .	11	5
Vacancies in legislature, partisan county elective office, filled by . . . . .	2	15
Vacancies in township, precinct, and road district offices filled by . . . . .	11	6
<b>County indebtedness</b>		
Apportionment, when county divided or enlarged . . . . .	11	3
Rights of creditors not affected . . . . .	11	3
Increase permitted for water, light and sewers . . . . .	8	6
Limit of . . . . .	8	6
Private property not to be taken in satisfaction of. . . . .	11	13
<b>County lines</b>		
Change by special act prohibited. . . . .	2	28(18)
<b>County officers</b>		
Accountability for fees . . . . .	11	5
Bonds unaffected by change in government . . . . .	27	14
Compensation to be regulated by legislature . . . . .	11	5
Classification of counties for purpose of fixing compensation . . . . .	11	5
Increase during term . . . . .	30	1
Duties and term to be prescribed by legislature . . . . .	11	5
Election		
Biennial . . . . .	6	8
Legislature to provide for the election of . . . . .	11	5
Time of. . . . .	6	8
Eligibility restricted to two terms in succession (Repealed by Amendment 22). . . . .	11	7
Fees		
Accountability for . . . . .	11	5
Use of, a felony . . . . .	11	14
Partisan elective, vacancies, how filled. . . . .	2	15
Public money, use of, felonious. . . . .	11	14
Recall of (See Recall of officers)		
Salaries. . . . .	11	5,8
Succession of duties, in emergency, temporary, legislature. . . . .	2	42

	Art.	Sec.
Term of office not to be extended . . . . .	11	8
Term, power of legislature to prescribe. . . . .	11	5
Territorial, how long to hold office . . . . .	27	14
Vacancies, how filled. . . . .	11	6
Vacancies, partisan elective offices, how filled. . . . .	2	15
<b>County seat</b>		
Change or location by special act prohibited. . . . .	2	28(18)
Continuity of government, enemy attack . . . . .	2	42
Removal, proceedings for . . . . .	11	2
<b>County treasurer</b>		
Election, compensation, duties and accountability, legislature to provide . . . . .	11	5
<b>Court commissioners</b>		
Appointment and powers . . . . .	4	23
Exempted from prohibition against compensation by fees . . . . .	4	13
<b>Court of appeals</b>		
Administration and procedure. . . . .	4	30
Authorized . . . . .	4	30
Conflicts with other constitutional provisions. . . . .	4	30
Judges . . . . .	4	30
Jurisdiction. . . . .	4	30
Review of superior court actions. . . . .	4	30
<b>Courts</b>		
Inferior, legislature to provide. . . . .	4	1
Jurisdiction and powers to be prescribed. . . . .	4	12
Judicial power vested in specified courts . . . . .	4	1
Officers to be salaried, exceptions . . . . .	4	13
Of record		
Defined. . . . .	4	11
Judges not to practice law . . . . .	4	19
Temporary performance of judicial duties. . . . .	4	2(a)
(See District courts; Inferior courts; Justice of Peace; Municipal courts; Probate courts; Superior court; Supreme court)		
<b>Credit</b>		
Agricultural promotional activities, use of commodity assessments . . . . .	8	11
Energy, water, or stormwater or sewer services loans for conservation . . . . .	8	10
Of county or municipal corporations not to be given or loaned, exceptions . . . . .	8	7
Of state not to be given or loaned . . . . .	8	5
	12	9
Port district promotional activities . . . . .	8	8

	Art.	Sec.
State building authority . . . . .	8	9
<b>Crimes</b>		
Accused not required to criminate self . . . . .	1	9
Except in case of bribery or corrupt solicitation . . . . .	2	30
Conviction shall not work corruption of blood . . . . .	1	15
Cruel punishment prohibited . . . . .	1	14
Ex post facto laws not to be passed . . . . .	1	23
Infamous, conviction as bar to voting . . . . .	6	3
Persons charged with to be bailable . . . . .	1	20
Prosecution may be by information . . . . .	1	25
In name of state . . . . .	4	27
(See Criminal actions)		
<b>Criminal actions</b>		
Advance payment of money to secure rights of accused prohibited . . . . .	1	22
Appeal, right of accused . . . . .	1	22
Appearance by accused in person or counsel . . . . .	1	22
Double jeopardy, prohibition against . . . . .	1	9
Evidence, accused not required to incriminate self . . . . .	1	9
<b>Jurisdiction</b>		
Appellate of supreme court . . . . .	4	4
Of offenses committed on public conveyances . . . . .	1	22
Original of superior court . . . . .	4	6
Limitation by special act prohibited . . . . .	2	28(17)
Process, style of . . . . .	4	27
Prosecution by information allowed . . . . .	1	25
In name of state . . . . .	4	27
On change from territorial to state government . . . . .	27	5
Rights of accused . . . . .	1	22
(See Actions; Crimes)		
<b>Cruel punishment</b>		
Not to be inflicted . . . . .	1	14
<b>Damage</b>		
To private property for public or private use to be compensated . . . . .	1	16
<b>Dangerous employments</b>		
Protection to persons engaged in . . . . .	2	35
<b>Death</b>		
Succession to office upon death or disability of governor . . . . .	3	10
<b>Debate</b>		
Members of legislature not liable for words spoken . . . . .	2	17



	Art.	Sec.
<b>Debts</b>		
Corporate, fictitious increase void . . . . .	12	6
Liability of stockholders . . . . .	12	4, 11
Due territory to inure to state . . . . .	27	3
Imprisonment for, prohibited, exception . . . . .	1	17
Municipal corporations, limitation on . . . . .	8	6
Release by special act prohibited . . . . .	2	28(10)
State building authority . . . . .	8	9
Limitation . . . . .	8	1(g)
State, power to contract . . . . .	8	1-3
In case of invasion, insurrection, etc. . . . .	8	2
Limitation on power . . . . .	8	1, 3
Territorial, assumed by state . . . . .	26	3
(See City; County indebtedness; Indebtedness of corporations; State indebtedness)		
<b>Decisions</b>		
Superior court judge, within what time . . . . .	4	20
Supreme court, in writing and grounds stated . . . . .	4	2
Publication, free to anyone . . . . .	4	21
Reporter for, appointment . . . . .	4	18
<b>Declaration of rights</b>		
Statement in Constitution . . . . .	1	1-32
<b>Deeds</b>		
Validation by special law prohibited . . . . .	2	28(9)
<b>Defects and omissions in law</b>		
Report to governor by supreme judges . . . . .	4	25
To supreme by superior judges . . . . .	4	25
<b>Defense</b>		
Of officer removed on charges . . . . .	4	9
Right of accused in criminal actions . . . . .	1	22
<b>Deficits in revenue</b>		
State may contract debts to meet . . . . .	8	1
Tax may be levied to pay . . . . .	7	8
<b>Delinquency in office (See Corruption in office)</b>		
<b>Deposits</b>		
Bank officers liable for, when . . . . .	12	12
Public moneys with treasurer required . . . . .	11	15
<b>Depot</b>		
Jurisdiction of public offense committed at . . . . .	1	22
<b>Developmentally Disabled</b>		
Trust funds, investments . . . . .	29	1

	Art.	Sec.
<b>Disability</b>		
Property of person under, cannot be affected by special laws. . . . .	2	28(4)
<b>Disapproval of bills</b>		
By governor. . . . .	3	12
Initiative measure . . . . .	2	1
<b>Discipline</b>		
Of state militia, legislature to prescribe . . . . .	10	2
<b>Disclaimer</b>		
State's title to patented lands . . . . .	17	2
Unappropriated public and Indian lands . . . . .	26	2
<b>Discrimination</b>		
By common carrier prohibited . . . . .	12	15, 18
By telegraph and telephone companies in handling messages prohibited. . . . .	12	19
Education to be provided all children . . . . .	9	1
In favor of foreign corporations, prohibited . . . . .	12	7
Railroad		
Prohibited from favoring one express company . . . . .	12	21
Prohibited from favoring one telegraph company. . . . .	12	19
<b>Disorderly behavior</b>		
Each house may punish for . . . . .	2	9
<b>Disqualification</b>		
On conviction for bribery or corrupt solicitation . . . . .	2	30
On impeachment . . . . .	5	2
<b>District courts</b>		
Equity jurisdiction . . . . .	4	6
Transfer of causes from territorial to superior court . . . . .	27	8
<b>District officers</b>		
Duties, term, compensation, legislature to prescribe . . . . .	11	5
Election		
Biennial . . . . .	6	8
Legislature to provide for. . . . .	11	5
Time of. . . . .	6	8
Recall of. . . . .	1	33, 34
Road district, vacancy . . . . .	11	6
Territorial, to hold office until when . . . . .	27	14
Official bonds unaffected by change in government. . . . .	27	14
<b>Ditches</b>		
Taking of private property for. . . . .	1	16

	Art.	Sec.
<b>Divorce</b>		
Jurisdiction of superior court . . . . .	4	6
Legislature not to grant . . . . .	2	24
(See Annulment of marriage)		
<b>Docks</b>		
Legislature may authorize lease of harbor areas, limitations . . . . .	15	2
(See Area reserved; Harbors)		
<b>Double jeopardy</b>		
Prohibition against . . . . .	1	9
<b>Drains</b>		
Taking of private property for . . . . .	1	16
<b>Drugs and medicines</b>		
Legislature to regulate sale . . . . .	20	2
<b>Due process of law</b>		
Life, liberty, property not to be taken without . . . . .	1	3
<b>Earnings</b>		
Combinations by common carriers to share, prohibited (Repealed by Amendment 67) . . . . .	12	14
<b>Education</b>		
Higher education permanent funds . . . . .	16	6
No distinction on account of race, color or sex . . . . .	9	1
Provision for, to be made by state . . . . .	9	1
Sale of lands for purposes of . . . . .	9	3
(See Common schools; Public schools)		
<b>Effective date</b>		
Of bills, etc. . . . .	2	41
Of Constitution . . . . .	27	16
<b>Elections</b>		
Ballot required, form . . . . .	6	6
Civil interference prohibited . . . . .	1	19
Constitution		
Amendment of, submission to vote . . . . .	23	1
Calling convention to revise . . . . .	23	2
Revision, submission of instrument . . . . .	23	3
Vote on adoption of first, under territorial laws . . . . .	27	15
Contest for office of superior judge (first election) . . . . .	27	12
County home-rule charter . . . . .	11	4
County seat, removal of . . . . .	11	2
Criminals, insane persons, idiots excluded		
from elective franchise . . . . .	6	3
Electors (See Electors)		

	Art.	Sec.
Executive officers, elections of . . . . .	3	1
First election according to territorial laws. . . . .	27	15
Of representative to congress		
(Repealed by Amendment 74) . . . . .	27	13
Free, equal and undisturbed. . . . .	1	19
Freeholders to frame city charter . . . . .	11	10
Incompetent persons, disqualification. . . . .	6	3
Increasing municipal indebtedness . . . . .	8	6
Initiative measures (See Initiative and referendum)		
Judges		
Of court of appeals. . . . .	4	30
Of superior court . . . . .	4	5, 29
Of supreme court . . . . .	4	3
Legislative, to be viva voce. . . . .	2	27
Legislature		
Each house judge of its own . . . . .	2	8
Representatives . . . . .	2	4, 5
Senators . . . . .	2	6
Mentally incompetent persons . . . . .	6	3
Military interference prohibited . . . . .	1	19
Officers		
Not regulated by Constitution, legislature to		
provide for . . . . .	27	11
Under Constitution, time of first . . . . .	27	7
Presidential elections, voter's residence . . . . .	6	1A
Privilege of voters from arrest at. . . . .	6	5
Qualifications of voters (See Voters)		
Recall of officers (See Recall of officers)		
Referendum (See Initiative and referendum)		
Registration law to be enacted. . . . .	6	7
School, women may be accorded franchise		
(Stricken by Amendment 5). . . . .	6	2
Seat of government, determination . . . . .	14	1
Secrecy of ballot required . . . . .	6	6
State officers, executive		
Certificates of election to be given . . . . .	3	4
Contests, legislature to decide . . . . .	3	4
Equal vote, legislature to choose . . . . .	3	4
Returns to secretary of state. . . . .	3	4
Declaration of result. . . . .	3	4
Supreme court judges . . . . .	4	3
Superior court judges. . . . .	4	5, 29
Time of, for state, county and district officers. . . . .	6	8
Vacancy in office of governor, election to fill. . . . .	3	10
Voter qualifications . . . . .	6	1
(See Vote; Voter)		

	Art.	Sec.
<b>Elective franchise</b>		
Denial on account of sex prohibited in school elections (Stricken by Amendment 5) . . . . .	6	2
Idiots, insane persons and convicted felons excluded from . . . . .	6	3
Presidential elections, voter's residence . . . . .	6	1A
(See Elections; Electors; Voter)		
<b>Electors</b>		
Exempt from military duty, when . . . . .	6	5
Privilege from arrest at election, except . . . . .	6	5
Qualifications of voters (See Voter)		
Residence not lost in certain cases . . . . .	6	4
Secrecy in voting, legislature to secure. . . . .	6	6
<b>Eligibility</b>		
Judges of supreme and superior courts, qualifications . . . . .	4	17
Ineligible to other than judicial offices . . . . .	4	15
Members of legislature		
Ineligible to offices created by them . . . . .	2	13
Qualifications . . . . .	2	7
State officers, qualifications. . . . .	3	25
Voters (See Elections; Voter)		
<b>Emergency clause</b>		
Act non-referrable . . . . .	2	1(b)
<b>Emergency, national</b>		
(See Invasion and attack)		
<b>Eminent domain</b>		
Compensation required . . . . .	1	16
Corporate property and franchises subject to . . . . .	12	10
Judicial question, use for which property taken is . . . . .	1	16
Jury to ascertain compensation, waiver. . . . .	1	16
Private use, taking of property for prohibited, exceptions . . . . .	1	16
Reclamation of land is public use . . . . .	1	16
Rights-of-way to be compensated for. . . . .	1	16
Settlement of land is public use. . . . .	1	16
Telegraph and telephone companies granted right . . . . .	12	19
Ways of necessity, taking of private property for private use. . . . .	1	16
<b>Emoluments, privileges and powers</b>		
Hereditary, prohibited . . . . .	1	28
<b>Employments dangerous to life</b>		
Legislature to protect persons in . . . . .	2	35
<b>Enacting clause</b>		
Of statutes . . . . .	2	18
Initiated acts. . . . .	2	1(d)

	Art.	Sec.
<b>Enemy attack, emergency due to</b> (See Invasion and attack)		
<b>Energy, water, or stormwater or sewer services conservation</b>		
Loaning of credit for structures or equipment . . . . .	8	10
<b>Enumeration of rights</b>		
Not to deny others reserved . . . . .	1	30
<b>Equal rights</b>		
Not to be denied because of sex . . . . .	31	1,2
<b>Equal suffrage</b> . . . . .	6	1
<b>Equity</b>		
Appellate jurisdiction of supreme court . . . . .	4	4
Original jurisdiction of superior court . . . . .	4	6
<b>Evidence</b>		
Contested election (first election) for superior judge, manner of taking . . . . .	27	12
Criminating, person not compelled to give against himself .	1	9
Except in bribery cases . . . . .	2	30
Treason, what necessary for conviction . . . . .	1	27
(See Testimony)		
<b>Excessive bail and fines</b>		
Not to be imposed . . . . .	1	14
<b>Exclusive legislation</b>		
Congress has over certain lands of United States . . . . .	25	1
Subject to state's right to serve process . . . . .	25	1
Over unallotted Indian lands . . . . .	26	2
<b>Exclusive privileges</b>		
Of unorganized corporations, invalid, when . . . . .	12	2
Prohibited . . . . .	1	12
<b>Excursion and commutation tickets</b>		
Carrier may grant special rates . . . . .	12	15
<b>Execution</b>		
Private property not to be taken for public debt . . . . .	11	13
Rolling stock of railroad liable to . . . . .	12	17
<b>Executive department</b>		
Consists of certain officers . . . . .	3	1
Election of officers of . . . . .	3	1
Records of to be kept by secretary of state . . . . .	3	17
<b>Executive power</b>		
Supreme, vested in governor . . . . .	3	2
(See Governor)		

	Art.	Sec.
<b>Exemptions</b>		
Homestead, from forced sale. . . . .	19	1
Military duty, to whom . . . . .	10	6
Taxation, what property free from. . . . .	7	1
Indian lands exempt, when . . . . .	26	2
Lands and property of United States . . . . .	26	2
Retired persons. . . . .	7	10
<b>Existing rights</b>		
Change in government not to affect . . . . .	27	1
<b>Expenses</b>		
Constitutional convention to be provided for . . . . .	27	19
State may contract debts to meet. . . . .	8	1
<b>Ex post facto law</b>		
Passage prohibited. . . . .	1	23
<b>Express companies</b>		
Railroads to grant equal terms to all . . . . .	12	21
<b>Expulsion of members</b>		
Powers of each house . . . . .	2	9
Restrictions on. . . . .	2	9
<b>Extension of time for collection of taxes</b>		
Special legislation prohibited. . . . .	2	28(5)
<b>Extinguishment of debts</b>		
Special legislation prohibited. . . . .	2	28(10)
<b>Extra compensation</b>		
Prohibited to public officers, etc. . . . .	2	25
<b>Extra session</b>		
Legislature, when to be convened. . . . .	3	7
<b>Factories</b>		
Employees to be protected . . . . .	2	35
<b>Fares and freights (See Railroad companies)</b>		
<b>Farms</b>		
Taxation based on actual use. . . . .	7	11
<b>Federal officers</b>		
Not eligible to legislature . . . . .	2	14
<b>Fees</b>		
Accountability of county and local officers for. . . . .	11	5
Accused in criminal cases as required to advance . . . . .	1	22
Certain used exclusively for highway purposes . . . . .	2	40
Judicial officers prohibited from receiving . . . . .	4	13
Justices of the peace not to receive, when. . . . .	4	10

	Art.	Sec.
<b>Felony</b>		
Original jurisdiction of superior court . . . . .	4	6
Use of public money by officer . . . . .	11	14
<b>Ferries</b>		
Authorization by special legislation forbidden . . . . .	2	28(3)
<b>Fictitious issue</b>		
Of stock or indebtedness void . . . . .	12	6
<b>Fines</b>		
Accrued to territory inure to state . . . . .	27	3
Excessive, not to be imposed . . . . .	1	14
Governor has power to remit . . . . .	3	11
Must report remissions to legislature . . . . .	3	11
Remission by special act prohibited . . . . .	2	28(14)
<b>Fiscal statement</b>		
Annual publication required . . . . .	7	7
<b>Flumes</b>		
Taking of private property for . . . . .	1	16
<b>Forcible entry and detainer</b>		
Appellate jurisdiction of supreme court . . . . .	4	4
Original jurisdiction of superior court . . . . .	4	6
<b>Foreign corporations</b>		
Not to be favored . . . . .	12	7
<b>Foreign officers</b>		
Not eligible to legislature . . . . .	2	14
<b>Forfeiture</b>		
Accrued to territory inures to state . . . . .	27	3
Corporate charter or franchise, no remission . . . . .	12	3
Estate, conviction not to work . . . . .	1	15
Franchise, for combination in restraint of trade . . . . .	12	22
Governor has power to remit . . . . .	3	11
Must report remissions to legislature . . . . .	3	11
Judicial office, absence causes . . . . .	4	8
Remission by special act prohibited . . . . .	2	28(14)
<b>Forts, dockyards, etc.</b>		
Congress to have exclusive control . . . . .	25	1
<b>Forty mill limitation (Stricken by Amendment 14)</b> . . . . .	7	2
<b>Franchise</b>		
Alienation or lease not to relieve liability . . . . .	12	8
Corporate, creation by special act forbidden . . . . .	12	1
Extension by legislature prohibited . . . . .	12	3
Forfeiture for unlawful combinations . . . . .	12	22



	Art.	Sec.
Forfeiture not to be remitted . . . . .	12	3
Invalid, if unorganized, when . . . . .	12	2
Irrevocable grant prohibited . . . . .	1	8
Liability not relieved by lease, etc. . . . .	12	8
Subject to eminent domain . . . . .	12	10
Taxation, state not to surrender (Stricken by Amendment 14). . . . .	7	4
(See Corporations; Elections)		
<b>Freedom of conscience</b>		
Guaranteed in matters of religious belief . . . . .	1	11
(See Religion)		
<b>Freedom of speech and press</b>		
Guaranteed to every person. . . . .	1	5
Legislators not liable for words in debate. . . . .	2	17
<b>Free passes</b>		
Grant of, to state officers prohibited . . . . .	12	20
Public officers forbidden to accept . . . . .	2	39
<b>Freight rates</b>		
Regulation by legislature authorized. . . . .	12	18
<b>Fundamental principles</b>		
Frequent recurrence to, essential. . . . .	1	32
<b>Funds</b> (See Appropriations; Common school construction fund; Common school fund; Higher education permanent funds; Highway fund; Industrial insurance trust fund; Public money; School fund)		
<b>Government</b>		
Change of		
Completion of pending actions. . . . .	27	5,8
Continuance of existing laws and rights. . . . .	27	1,2
Emergency, continuance of government, legislative power . . . . .	2	42
Perpetuity of, what essential . . . . .	1	32
Purposes of . . . . .	1	1
Source of powers. . . . .	1	1
<b>Governor</b>		
Appointment of regents, etc., of state institutions. . . . .	13	1
Approval of laws . . . . .	3	12
Assignment of superior judge to other county. . . . .	4	5,7
Attorney general, succession to governorship . . . . .	3	10
Auditor, succession to governorship . . . . .	3	10
Commander-in-chief of state militia . . . . .	3	8
Commissioner of public lands, succession to governorship . . . . .	3	10
Commissions issued by state, signed by . . . . .	3	15

	Art.	Sec.
Election of . . . . .	3	1
Election to fill vacancy in office . . . . .	3	10
Execution of laws . . . . .	3	5
Extension of leave of absence of judicial officer . . . . .	4	8
Extra session of legislature, power to convene . . . . .	3	7
Failure of person regularly elected to qualify, succession on . . . . .	3	10
Impeachment . . . . .	5	1,2
Information in writing may be required from state officers . . . . .	3	5
Laws, may call militia to execute . . . . .	10	2
Lieutenant governor, succession of to office . . . . .	3	10
Messages to legislature . . . . .	3	6
Militia officers commissioned by . . . . .	10	2
Pardoning power vested in . . . . .	3	9
Report to legislature of pardons, etc., granted . . . . .	3	11
Restrictions prescribed by law . . . . .	3	9
Records kept at seat of government . . . . .	3	24
Remission of fines and forfeitures . . . . .	3	11
Report to legislature with reasons . . . . .	3	11
Removal or disability, who to act . . . . .	3	10
Residence at seat of government . . . . .	3	24
Salary (See Salaries)		
Secretary of state as succeeding to office . . . . .	3	10
Special session of legislature, power to convene . . . . .	2	12
Succession in case of vacancy . . . . .	3	10
Superintendent of public instruction, succession to governorship . . . . .	3	10
Supreme executive power vested in . . . . .	3	2
Term of office . . . . .	3	2
Treasurer, succession to governorship . . . . .	3	10
Vacancies		
In certain state offices, filled by . . . . .	3	13
In legislature, filled by, when . . . . .	2	15
In superior court, filled by . . . . .	4	5
In supreme court, filled by . . . . .	4	3
Vacancy in office of . . . . .	3	10
Succession, enemy attack . . . . .	2	42
Veto of bill or sections and return with objections . . . . .	3	12
Measures initiated by or referred to the people . . . . .	2	1(d)
<b>Grand jury</b>		
Summoned only on order of superior court . . . . .	1	26
<b>Granted lands</b>		
Sale of . . . . .	16	1-4
(See Lands; Public lands)		

	Art.	Sec.
<b>Habeas corpus</b>		
Jurisdiction		
Original and appellate of supreme court . . . . .	4	4
Original of superior court. . . . .	4	6
Suspension of writ prohibited, except. . . . .	1	13
Writs		
Issuance and service on nonjudicial days . . . . .	4	6
Judges of supreme court may issue . . . . .	4	4
Returnable before whom . . . . .	4	4
<b>Harbors</b>		
Area to be reserved for landings, etc. . . . .	15	1
Commission to establish harbor lines . . . . .	15	1
Restrictions on sale by state of lands or rights . . . . .	15	1
(See Area reserved; Docks; Wharves)		
<b>Head of family</b>		
Power of legislature to exempt property of from taxation . .	7	1
<b>Health (See Public health)</b>		
<b>Heir at law</b>		
Not to be determined by special law . . . . .	2	28(1)
<b>High crimes or misdemeanors</b>		
Impeachment of public officers for. . . . .	5	2
<b>High schools</b>		
Included in public school system . . . . .	9	2
<b>Higher education permanent funds</b>		
Investment . . . . .	16	6
<b>Highway fund . . . . .</b>	2	40
<b>Highways</b>		
Opening or altering by special legislation prohibited, exceptions. . . . .	2	28(2)
(See Streets and roads)		
<b>Holiday</b>		
(See Legal holiday)		
<b>Home</b>		
Privacy of, guaranteed. . . . .	1	7
Soldiers not to be quartered in, except . . . . .	1	31
<b>Home-rule charter</b>		
Counties authorized to frame . . . . .	11	4
For combined city-county . . . . .	11	16
<b>Homestead</b>		
Exemption from forced sale . . . . .	19	1

	Art.	Sec.
<b>House of representatives</b>		
Elections, biennial after 1890 . . . . .	2	5
Legislative authority vested in . . . . .	2	1
Members, how and when chosen . . . . .	2	4,5
Number of representatives. . . . .	2	2
Powers		
Impeachment, sole power vested in. . . . .	5	1
Legislative, vested in . . . . .	2	1
Quorum of house . . . . .	2	8
Redistricting . . . . .	2	43
Vacancy, how filled . . . . .	2	15
(See Legislature; Representatives)		
<b>Immigration</b>		
Bureau of, established . . . . .	2	34
<b>Immunities</b>		
Electors privileged from arrest at elections. . . . .	6	5
Equal to all citizens and corporations . . . . .	1	12
Imprisonment for debt prohibited, except. . . . .	1	17
Irrevocable grant of, prohibited. . . . .	1	8
Loss or damage to property prohibited without just compensation . . . . .	1	16
Members of legislature		
Privileged from arrest, exceptions . . . . .	2	16
Privileged from service of civil process, when . . . . .	2	16
Salaries for legislators, elected state officials, and judges, referendum petition . . . . .	28	1
Militia privileged from arrest at muster, except . . . . .	10	5
Soldiers not to be quartered in homes, except. . . . .	1	31
Special grant of, prohibited . . . . .	1	12
Twice in jeopardy, accused not to be put . . . . .	1	9
<b>Impeachment</b>		
House of representatives has sole power . . . . .	5	1
Officers liable to . . . . .	5	2
Judgment effects removal and disqualification for office. . . . .	5	2
Liability to criminal prosecution . . . . .	5	2
Trial by senate . . . . .	5	1
Chief justice presides, when . . . . .	5	1
(See Recall of officers)		
<b>Imposts</b>		
Appellate jurisdiction of supreme court . . . . .	4	4
Original jurisdiction of superior court. . . . .	4	6
<b>Imprisonment for debt</b>		
Prohibited, except in case of absconding debtors . . . . .	1	17

	Art.	Sec.
<b>Incompetency in office</b>		
Officers removable by legislature for, conditions . . . . .	4	9
<b>Indebtedness of corporations</b>		
Fictitious increase void . . . . .	12	6
Liability of stockholders . . . . .	12	4
In bank, insurance and joint stock companies . . . . .	12	11
Relief from		
By lease or alienation of franchise prohibited . . . . .	12	8
By special legislation prohibited . . . . .	2	28(10)
(See Corporations)		
<b>Indian lands</b>		
Disclaimed by state of title . . . . .	26	2
Subject to jurisdiction of United States . . . . .	26	2
Taxation of, when state may impose . . . . .	26	2
Exemption from . . . . .	26	2
<b>Indians</b>		
Exempt from property taxation, when . . . . .	26	2
Excluded from enumeration of inhabitants (Repealed by Amendment 74) . . . . .	2	3
<b>Indictment</b>		
Prosecutions of offenses by . . . . .	1	25
Right of accused to copy of . . . . .	1	22
<b>Individual rights</b>		
Government to protect and maintain . . . . .	1	1
Secured by recurrence to fundamental principles . . . . .	1	32
<b>Individual security</b>		
Private affairs not to be disturbed . . . . .	1	7
<b>Industrial development</b>		
Nonrecourse revenue bonds . . . . .	32	1
Port districts . . . . .	8	8
<b>Industrial insurance trust fund</b>		
Investments of . . . . .	29	1
<b>Infamous crimes</b>		
Persons convicted of, excluded from elective franchise . . . . .	6	3
<b>Infants</b> (See Children; Minors)		
<b>Inferior courts</b>		
Appeal lies to superior court . . . . .	4	6
Jurisdiction and powers, legislature to prescribe . . . . .	4	12
Legislature to provide . . . . .	4	1
<b>Information</b>		
Offenses may be prosecuted by . . . . .	1	25

	Art.	Sec.
<b>Initiative and referendum</b>		
Amendment of acts approved by the people		
(Superseded by Amendment 26) . . . . .	2	1(c)
(Amendment 26) . . . . .	2	41
Amendment of measure submitted to legislature . . . . .	2	1(a)
Ballot where conflicting measures are submitted		
to the people . . . . .	2	1(a)
Certification of petitions . . . . .	2	1(a)
Change or amendment of initiative measure,		
prohibition against (Superseded by Amendment 26) . . . . .	2	1(c)
(Amendment 26) . . . . .	2	41
Conflicting measures . . . . .	2	1(a)
Effective date of acts or bills subject to referendum		
(Superseded by Amendment 26) . . . . .	2	1(c)
(Amendment 26) . . . . .	2	41
Effective date of measure after approval on		
submission to the people . . . . .	2	1(d)
Election at which proposed measure is submitted to voter . . . . .	2	1(a)
Election for amendment or repeal of bills approved		
by electors (Superseded by Amendment 26) . . . . .	2	1(c)
(Amendment 26) . . . . .	2	41
Exceptions from power of referendum . . . . .	2	1(b)
Extent of power of referendum . . . . .	2	1(b)
Filing petition. . . . .	2	1(a)
Legislature, referendum through action of . . . . .	2	1(b)
Lotteries, sixty percent vote required . . . . .	2	24
Majority vote as required for approval of		
measure submitted . . . . .	2	1(d)
Member of legislature as retaining right to		
introduce measure. . . . .	2	1(d)
Number of votes required to approve measure . . . . .	2	1(d)
Part of bill, effect of filing referendum petition against. . . . .	2	1(d)
Percentage of voters required on referendum petition. . . . .	2	1(b)
Percentage of voters required to propose measures		
by petition. . . . .	2	1(a)
Petition, referendum on . . . . .	2	1(b)
	2	1(d)
Petition to propose measures . . . . .	2	1(a)
	2	1(d)
Precedence of initiative measures over other bills. . . . .	2	1(a)
Proposal of different measure by legislature . . . . .	2	1(a)
Publication of measures referred to the people . . . . .	2	1(e)
Regular election, reference of measures at . . . . .	2	1(d)
Rejection of initiative measure by legislature . . . . .	2	1(a)
Repeal of bill approved (Superseded by Amendment 26) . . . . .	2	1(c)
(Amendment 26) . . . . .	2	41

	Art.	Sec.
Reservation by the people of the power of initiative. . . . .	2	1(a)
Reservation of power in the people. . . . .	2	1
Reservation of power of referendum. . . . .	2	1(b)
Salaries for legislators, elected state officials, and judges, referendum petition. . . . .	28	1
Secretary of state, certification of results of initiative to legislature . . . . .	2	1(a)
Secretary of state, filing referendum petition with . . . . .	2	1(d)
Secretary of state, initiative petition filed with . . . . .	2	1(a)
Self-executing, amendment as. . . . .	2	1(d)
Signatures required . . . . .	2	1(a)
Special election, reference of measures to people at. . . . .	2	1(d)
Special indebtedness, how authorized. . . . .	8	3
Style of bill proposed by initiative petition. . . . .	2	1(d)
Time for filing referendum petition against measure passed by legislature . . . . .	2	1(d)
Veto power of governor not extended to initiatives or referendums . . . . .	2	1(d)
<b>Injunction</b>		
Issuance and service on nonjudicial days . . . . .	4	6
Equity jurisdiction of superior and district court . . . . .	4	6
Original jurisdiction of superior court. . . . .	4	6
<b>Insane person</b>		
Excluded from elective franchise . . . . .	6	3
<b>Insolvency</b>		
Appellate jurisdiction of supreme court . . . . .	4	4
Original jurisdiction of superior court. . . . .	4	6
Receipt of bank deposits, liability of officers . . . . .	12	12
<b>Instruments</b>		
Validation by special act prohibited. . . . .	2	28(9)
Insurance companies		
Liability of stockholders . . . . .	12	11
<b>Interest</b>		
Application of school fund interest. . . . .	9	3
On certain state debts to be provided for. . . . .	8	1
Private interest in bills to be disclosed by legislators. . . . .	2	30
Regulation by special law prohibited. . . . .	2	28(13)
<b>Intoxicating liquors (See Prohibition)</b>		
<b>Invalid instruments</b>		
Validation by special act prohibited. . . . .	2	28(9)

	Art.	Sec.
<b>Invasion and attack</b>		
Government continuity, legislative authority . . . . .	2	42
State may contract debts above limit to repel . . . . .	8	2
Suspension of habeas corpus allowed . . . . .	1	13
<b>Investment</b>		
Higher education permanent funds . . . . .	16	6
Industrial insurance trust fund . . . . .	29	1
Public pension and retirement funds . . . . .	29	1
School funds . . . . .	9	3
	16	5
<b>Irrigation</b>		
Use of waters for, deemed public use . . . . .	21	1
<b>Jeopardy</b>		
No person to be twice put in for same offense . . . . .	1	9
<b>Joint senatorial or representative district</b>		
Filling of vacancy . . . . .	2	15
<b>Joint stock companies</b>		
Combinations in restraint of trade forbidden . . . . .	12	22
Liability of stockholders . . . . .	12	11
Term "corporation" includes . . . . .	12	5
<b>Journal</b>		
Each house to keep . . . . .	2	11
Entry of ayes and noes		
On demand of one-sixth . . . . .	2	21
On introduction of bills later than ten days before close of session . . . . .	2	36
On nominations of officers for state institutions . . . . .	13	1
On passage of bill . . . . .	2	22
On passage of emergency clause (Stricken by Amendment 7) . . . . .	2	31
On proposed constitutional amendments . . . . .	23	1
Publication of, except portions requiring secrecy . . . . .	2	11
Votes		
On elections by legislature entered . . . . .	2	27
On removal of judges, etc., entered . . . . .	4	9
<b>Judge pro tempore</b>		
In superior court, provision for . . . . .	4	2(a), 7
Temporary judicial duties in supreme court . . . . .	4	2(a)
<b>Judges</b>		
Absence from state vacates office . . . . .	4	8
Except where governor extends leave of absence . . . . .	4	8
Not to charge juries as to matters of fact . . . . .	4	16
But to declare the law . . . . .	4	16



	Art.	Sec.
Practice of law prohibited . . . . .	4	19
Removal by supreme court . . . . .	4	31
Removal from office by legislature . . . . .	4	9
Retirement . . . . .	4	3(a)
Retirement by supreme court . . . . .	4	31
Salaries may be increased . . . . .	30	1
Salaries payable quarterly . . . . .	4	14
(See Judges of court of appeals; Judges pro tempore; Judges of superior court; Judges of supreme court)		
<b>Judges of court of appeals . . . . .</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Judges of superior court</b>		
Court commissioners, appointment of . . . . .	4	23
Decisions within ninety days after submission . . . . .	4	20
Disqualified unless admitted to practice in state . . . . .	4	17
Each judge invested with powers of all . . . . .	4	5
May sit in any county . . . . .	4	5
Elections of . . . . .	4	5, 29
First election . . . . .	27	12
Ineligible to other than judicial office . . . . .	4	15
Not to charge juries as to matters of fact . . . . .	4	16
But to declare the law . . . . .	4	16
Oath of office prescribed for . . . . .	4	28
Other superior court, duties in . . . . .	4	2(a)
Practice of law prohibited . . . . .	4	19
Pro tempore judge . . . . .	4	2(a), 7
Recall, judges not subject to . . . . .	1	33, 34
Removal by supreme court . . . . .	4	31
Report defects in law to supreme court . . . . .	4	25
Retirement . . . . .	4	3(a)
Rules of court, shall establish . . . . .	4	24
Salaries (See Salaries)		
Apportionment of . . . . .	4	13
Increase in salary . . . . .	30	1
Sessions of court may be held in any county on request . . . . .	4	7
Supreme court duty, performance upon request . . . . .	4	2(a)
Term of office and when begins . . . . .	4	5
Temporary judicial duties . . . . .	4	2(a)
Writs may be issued by . . . . .	4	6
(See Judges; Superior court)		
<b>Judges of supreme court</b>		
Chief justice, how determined . . . . .	4	3
Clerk to be appointed by . . . . .	4	22
Disqualified, unless admitted to practice in state . . . . .	4	17
Election of . . . . .	4	3

	Art.	Sec.
Ineligible to other than judicial office . . . . .	4	15
Issuance of writs authorized . . . . .	4	4
Oath of office prescribed . . . . .	4	28
Practice of law prohibited . . . . .	4	19
Recall, judges not subject to . . . . .	1	33, 34
Removal by supreme court . . . . .	4	31
Reporter, appointment of . . . . .	4	18
Reports of defects in laws to governor . . . . .	4	25
Retirement . . . . .	4	3(a)
Salaries (See Salaries)		
Increase in salary . . . . .	30	1
Payment . . . . .	4	13
Temporary judicial duties, power to authorize . . . . .	4	2(a)
Term of office . . . . .	4	3
Vacancies, how filled . . . . .	4	3
(See Judges; Supreme court)		
<b>Judgment</b>		
Belonging to territory inures to state . . . . .	27	4
Extent of, on impeachment . . . . .	5	2
Of one judge of superior court to be of same force as of all . . . . .	4	5
Of superior court to be given within ninety days after submission, except . . . . .	4	20
<b>Judicial administration</b>		
Must be open and without delay . . . . .	1	10
Temporary performance of judicial duties . . . . .	4	2(a)
<b>Judicial conduct, commission on</b> . . . . .	4	31
<b>Judicial decisions</b>		
Of Supreme court		
All decisions to be in writing and grounds stated . . . . .	4	2
Concurrence by majority of court necessary . . . . .	4	2
Publication required . . . . .	4	21
Free to anyone . . . . .	4	21
Reporter for, to be appointed . . . . .	4	18
<b>Judicial officers</b>		
Absence forfeits office, when . . . . .	4	8
Compensation by fees prohibited, except . . . . .	4	13
Impeachment, liable to, exceptions . . . . .	5	2
Oath of office prescribed . . . . .	4	28
Recall, not subject to . . . . .	1	33, 34
Removal by legislature . . . . .	4	9
Removal by supreme court . . . . .	4	31
(See Court commissioners; Judges; Judges of supreme and superior courts; Justice of peace)		

	Art.	Sec.
<b>Judicial power</b>		
Vested in what courts. . . . .	4	1
<b>Judicial qualifications commission</b>		
(See Commission on judicial conduct)		
<b>Judicial question</b>		
Public use in eminent domain. . . . .	1	16
<b>Jurisdiction</b>		
Court of appeals. . . . .	4	30
Equity. . . . .	4	6
Inferior courts, legislature to prescribe . . . . .	4	12
Justice of peace, as legislature may fix . . . . .	4	10
Not to trench on courts of record. . . . .	4	10
Of offenses committed on public conveyances. . . . .	1	22
Superior court . . . . .	4	6
Supreme court . . . . .	4	4
United States over reserved lands . . . . .	25	1
(See Criminal action)		
<b>Juror</b>		
Number necessary for verdict . . . . .	1	21
Religious beliefs not grounds of incompetency . . . . .	1	11
<b>Jury</b>		
Charging, duty of judge. . . . .	4	16
Criminal action, right of accused in . . . . .	1	22
Eminent domain proceedings . . . . .	1	16
Number in courts not of record. . . . .	1	21
Right of trial by remains inviolate. . . . .	1	21
Waiver in civil cases may be had. . . . .	1	21
Verdict by less than twelve may be authorized. . . . .	1	21
(See Grand jury; Juror)		
<b>Justice</b>		
Administration must be open and without delay . . . . .	1	10
<b>Justice of peace</b>		
Appeal lies to superior court . . . . .	4	6
Cannot be made court of record . . . . .	4	11
Duties to be prescribed by legislature. . . . .	4	10
Fees prohibited, when . . . . .	4	10
Jurisdiction, legislature to determine . . . . .	4	10
Not to trench on courts of record. . . . .	4	10
Number, legislature to determine . . . . .	4	10
Police justice in cities may be chosen from . . . . .	4	10
Salary. . . . .	4	10
Increase . . . . .	30	1

	Art.	Sec.
Unsalaries, excepted from prohibition against compensation by fees . . . . .	4	13
Vacancy in office, how filled . . . . .	11	6
Vested with judicial power . . . . .	4	1
(See Judicial officers)		
<b>Land commissioner</b> (See Commissioner of public lands)		
<b>Lands</b>		
Alien ownership prohibited, exceptions (Repealed by Amendment 42) . . . . .	2	33
Granted lands, restrictions on sale . . . . .	16	1
For educational purposes, sale of . . . . .	16	2,3
Plat of state lands in cities required before sale . . . . .	16	4
Limit on amount offered in one parcel . . . . .	16	4
Quantity of state land that may be sold in one parcel . . . . .	16	4
Reclamation, public use in taking for . . . . .	1	16
Restrictions on selling school lands . . . . .	16	2,3
Settlement, public use in taking property for . . . . .	1	16
Taxation . . . . .	7	
Of Indians lands . . . . .	26	2
Of lands of nonresidents . . . . .	26	2
Of United States, none to be imposed . . . . .	26	2
Timber and stone on state lands may be sold, how . . . . .	16	3
<b>Law of the land</b>		
Constitution of United States is supreme . . . . .	1	2
<b>Laws</b>		
Bills of attainder prohibited . . . . .	1	23
Corporations, statutory regulations may be amended or repealed . . . . .	12	1
Defects and omissions to be reported annually . . . . .	4	25
Effective date (Stricken by Amendment 7) . . . . .	2	31
(Superseded by Amendment 26) . . . . .	2	1(c)
(Amendment 26) . . . . .	2	41
Enacting clause . . . . .	2	18
Initiative measure . . . . .	2	1(d)
Ex post facto, prohibited . . . . .	1	23
Governor's approval, presentation for . . . . .	3	12
Passage over veto . . . . .	3	12
Without approval, how becomes effective . . . . .	3	12
Impairing obligation of contracts prohibited . . . . .	1	23
Initiative measures (See Initiative and referendum)		
Legislative enactments to be by bill . . . . .	2	18
Requisites on final passage of bill . . . . .	2	22
Special legislation prohibited in certain cases . . . . .	2	28

	Art.	Sec.
State debt authorized for some single work, conditions . . . . .	8	3
Territorial, to remain in force until altered, except . . . . .	27	2
(See Acts; Bill; Statutes)		
<b>Lease</b>		
Of corporate franchise not to relieve from liability . . . . .	12	8
Of harbor areas for building wharves, limitations . . . . .	15	2
State building authority, by . . . . .	8	9
<b>Legal holiday</b>		
Superior courts not open . . . . .	4	6
Writs that may be issued and served on . . . . .	4	6
<b>Legislature</b>		
<i>Composition and Organization</i>		
Absentees, less than a quorum may compel their attendance. . . . .	2	8
Adjournment, restrictions on. . . . .	2	11
Apportionment of members . . . . .	22	1, 2
Reapportionment after each census . . . . .	2	43
Authority generally . . . . .	2	1
Bribery of members, how punished . . . . .	2	30
Committees . . . . .	2	12
Compensation and mileage of members (Partially repealed by Amendments 20 and 54). . . . .	2	23
Consists of senate and house of representatives . . . . .	2	1
Constitution, departure from during emergency due to enemy attack . . . . .	2	42
Contempts punishable by each house . . . . .	2	9
Convening in extra session at call of governor. . . . .	3	7
Convening in extra session by legislature. . . . .	2	12
Corrupt solicitation of members . . . . .	2	30
Disorderly behavior punishable by each house. . . . .	2	9
Election of members, each house judge of . . . . .	2	8
Eligible to membership, who are. . . . .	2	7
Expulsion of member requires two-thirds vote. . . . .	2	9
Journal, each house to keep and publish . . . . .	2	11
<b>Members</b>		
From what civil offices excluded. . . . .	2	13
Not liable for words spoken in debate . . . . .	2	17
Private interest in bill to be disclosed . . . . .	2	30
<b>Privilege</b>		
From arrest, except. . . . .	2	16
From civil process, when. . . . .	2	16
Number of members . . . . .	2	2
Office accepted under United States vacates seat . . . . .	2	14

	Art.	Sec.
<i>Officers</i>		
Each house to elect its own . . . . .	2	10
Federal and foreign, ineligible to membership . . . . .	2	14
Quorum, majority to constitute . . . . .	2	8
Reapportionment after each census . . . . .	2	43
Records, secretary of state to keep . . . . .	3	17
Redistricting . . . . .	2	43
Rules of proceedings, each house to determine . . . . .	2	9
<i>Sessions</i>		
Must be open, exceptions . . . . .	2	11
Regular . . . . .	2	12
Special . . . . .	2	12
Time of meeting . . . . .	2	12
Vacancies, how filled . . . . .	2	15
Vote on elections to be viva voce . . . . .	2	27
None when member has private interest in bill . . . . .	2	30
<i>Duties</i>		
Accountability of county and local officers to be provided for . . . . .	11	5
Accounting for state receipts and expenditures to be prescribed . . . . .	7	7
Appropriation for expenses of constitutional convention to be made . . . . .	27	19
Bureau of statistics to be established . . . . .	2	34
Cities, incorporation by general laws to be provided . . . . .	11	10
Classification of counties, for purpose of prescribing compensation . . . . .	11	5
Combinations affecting prices, etc., punishment to be provided . . . . .	12	22
Commissioner of public lands, duties and compensation to be provided . . . . .	3	23
<i>Compensation</i>		
Of county and local officers to be regulated . . . . .	11	5
Of officers, change during term (See Salaries)		
Congressional districts, state to be divided into (Repealed by Amendment 74) . . . . .	27	13
Contested elections of state officers to be decided by . . . . .	3	4
Convict labor to be provided for . . . . .	2	29
County government, system of, to be established . . . . .	11	4
Court of appeals, as to . . . . .	4	30
Divorces not to be granted by . . . . .	2	24
Drugs and medicines, sale to be regulated . . . . .	20	2
<i>Elections</i>		
Certificates of, to be given certain state officers . . . . .	3	4

	Art.	Sec.
Election of necessary county officers, duty to provide for . . . . .	11	5
President, voting for, implementation . . . . .	6	1A
Qualifications of voters to be regulated (Amended by Amendment 63) . . . . .	6	1
Employees in dangerous employments to be protected by law . . . . .	2	35
Governmental continuity during emergency periods, to provide for . . . . .	2	42
Harbor lines, commission to establish, to be appointed . . .	15	1
Health, board of, to be established . . . . .	20	1
Homesteads to be protected from forced sale . . . . .	19	1
Initiative measures (See Initiative and referendum)		
Judicial qualifications commissioners, terms and compensation to be provided . . . . .	4	31
Justice of peace, number, powers and duties to be prescribed . . . . .	4	10
Lease of harbor areas for wharves to be provided . . . . .	15	2
Medicine and surgery, practice of, to be regulated . . . . .	20	2
Militia, organization and discipline to be provided for . . .	10	2
Officers of counties, townships, precincts, and districts		
Duties, elections, and terms of office to be prescribed . . .	11	5
Classification of counties by population in enumerating duties of county officers . . . . .	11	5
Officers not provided for in Constitution, legislature to provide for election and terms . . . . .	27	11
Passes		
Grant of to public officers to be prevented . . . . .	12	20
Use by public officers to be prohibited . . . . .	2	39
Port district promotional activities . . . . .	8	8
Private interest in bill, members to declare . . . . .	2	30
Public arms, safekeeping and protection required . . . . .	10	4
Public school system to be established . . . . .	9	2
Publication of opinions of supreme court to be provided for . . . . .	4	21
Recall of public officers (See Recall of officers)		
Redistricting plan and commission . . . . .	2	43
Referendum (See Initiative and referendum)		
Registration law to be enacted . . . . .	6	7
Salaries of county officers and certain constables to be fixed . . . . .	11	5
Sale of school and university lands, confirmation to be made . . . . .	16	2
School funds, investment . . . . .	9	3
	16	5

	Art.	Sec.
Seat of government, choice of location to be provided for . . . . .	14	1
Soldiers' home, maintenance to be provided . . . . .	10	3
Suits against state, manner of bringing, to be directed . . . . .	2	26
<i>Taxation</i>		
Corporate property to be under general law (Stricken by Amendment 14) . . . . .	7	3
Deficiencies and expenses to be met by . . . . .	7	8
Exemption of limited amount of personalty . . . . .	7	1
Retired persons exemption, implementation. . . . .	7	10
Uniform on same class of property . . . . .	7	1
Telegraph and telephone regulations to be provided. . . . .	12	19
Vital statistics, bureau of, to be established . . . . .	20	1
Voting, method to be provided by . . . . .	6	6
<i>Enactment of Laws</i>		
Act, how revised or amended . . . . .	2	37
Amendment of bill. . . . .	2	38
Bill to contain but one subject. . . . .	2	19
Emergency, national-Government continuity authorizing special legislation . . . . .	2	42
Enacting clause . . . . .	2	18
Initiative and referendum measures (See Initiative and referendum)		
Laws to be enacted by bill. . . . .	2	18
Take effect, when (Stricken by Amendment 7). . . . .	2	31
Presiding officer of each house to sign bills . . . . .	2	32
Rules for signing bills may be prescribed. . . . .	2	32
Style of laws . . . . .	2	18
Title of bill to disclose object . . . . .	2	19
Veto of bill, and passage over . . . . .	3	12
When bills must be introduced, exceptions. . . . .	2	36
Yeas and nays, entry on journal required, when . . . . .	2	21, 22
<i>Powers</i>		
Abolition of certain state offices permitted . . . . .	3	25
Appropriation of public funds (See Appropriations)		
Banking corporations, power to limit liability of . . . . .	12	11
Chaplain for penal and reformatory institutions may be employed . . . . .	1	11
Charters of corporations cannot be extended . . . . .	12	3
Clerk of supreme court, election may be provided for . . . . .	4	22
<i>Constitution</i>		
Amendment may be proposed in either house. . . . .	23	1
Departure from during emergency due to enemy attack . . . . .	2	42
Revision, convention for may be agreed on . . . . .	23	2
Corporate property and franchises may be taken for public use . . . . .	12	10



	Art.	Sec.
Corporations, regulation of . . . . .	12	1
Courts of record, power to establish . . . . .	4	11
Divorces not to be granted by . . . . .	2	24
Duties of county officer, power to prescribe . . . . .	11	5
Elective franchise may be granted to women in school elections (Stricken by Amendment 5) . . . . .	6	2
Emergency, authorizing special powers during periods of . .	2	42
Exemptions from taxation, power to provide (See Taxation)		
Extra compensation to officers for past services prohibited .	2	25
Fees of county officers, power to provide accountability for . . . . .	11	5
Forfeitures of corporate franchises may be declared for unlawful combinations . . . . .	12	22
Remission of, prohibited . . . . .	12	3
Harbor areas, building on, may be provided for by general law . . . . .	15	2
Inferior courts May be provided . . . . .	4	1
Powers of, shall be prescribed . . . . .	4	12
Irrevocable privilege or franchise, power to grant denied . .	1	8
Jury, number for panel and for verdict may be fixed at less than twelve . . . . .	1	21
Lotteries, may authorize by 60% vote. . . . .	2	24
Municipal corporations may be vested with power to make local improvements . . . . .	7	9
Nonrecourse revenue bonds, authorization . . . . .	32	1
Number of judges of supreme court may be increased. . . . .	4	2
Private or special laws prohibited . . . . .	2	28
Public corporations not to be created by special act . . . . .	11	10
Public funds, power to provide for accounting as to. . . . .	11	5
Railroad commission may be established . . . . .	12	18
Rates for freights and passengers Discrimination may be prevented . . . . .	12	18
Maximum, may be established . . . . .	12	18
Removal of judges, attorney general, and prosecuting attorneys . . . . .	4	9
Reservation of power in people (See Initiative and referendum)		
Retirement age of judges, power to fix, limitations. . . . .	4	3(a)
Salaries of judges (See Salaries)		
Salaries of state officers (See Salaries)		
School fund (common) may be enlarged . . . . .	9	3
Seat of government cannot be changed by . . . . .	14	1

	Art.	Sec.
Senate and house of representatives, legislative		
authority vested in . . . . .	2	1
Separate departments of supreme court may be provided . .	4	2
Sex equality, power to enforce . . . . .	31	1,2
Sheriff, providing for election of. . . . .	11	5
Special sessions . . . . .	2	12
State building authority may be provided. . . . .	8	9
Supreme court judges, number may be increased. . . . .	4	2
<b>Taxation</b>		
Corporate authorities may be vested with power		
by general laws . . . . .	11	12
Exemption of limited personal property . . . . .	7	1
Levy to meet fiscal deficiencies . . . . .	7	8
Local cannot be imposed by . . . . .	11	12
Special assessment for local improvements, power		
may be vested in corporate authorities . . . . .	7	9
Terms of county officers, powers to prescribe . . . . .	11	5
Vetoed bills, convening extraordinary session		
to reconsider. . . . .	3	12
Voters, authority to define manner of ascertaining		
qualifications (Amended by Amendment 63) . . . . .	6	1
(See House of representatives; Initiative and referendum; Senate)		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Corporate, not relieved by alienation or lease of franchise.	12	8
Extinguishment by special legislation prohibited . . . . .	2	28(10)
Territorial assumed by state. . . . .	26	3
<b>Liberty</b>		
Deprivation of without due process of law forbidden. . . . .	1	3
<b>Licentious acts</b>		
Guarantee of freedom of conscience in matters of		
religious worship does not justify . . . . .	1	11
<b>Lieutenant governor</b>		
Acts as governor, when . . . . .	3	10
Deciding vote, in case of tie in senate. . . . .	2	10
Election of . . . . .	3	1
Impeachment of. . . . .	5	1,2
Office may be abolished by legislature. . . . .	3	25
Presiding officer of senate . . . . .	3	16
In absence, who presides . . . . .	2	10
Salary of (See Salaries)		
Succession to office of governor . . . . .	3	10
Term of office . . . . .	3	3

	Art.	Sec.
<b>Life</b>		
Deprivation of without due process of law prohibited . . . . .	1	3
<b>Limitation of actions</b>		
Special legislation prohibited. . . . .	2	28(17)
<b>Limitation on levies. . . . .</b>	7	2
<b>Limiting production</b>		
Combination for, prohibited . . . . .	12	22
<b>Literacy</b>		
Qualification of voters (Amended by Amendment 63). . . . .	6	1
<b>Loans</b>		
Prohibition against loan of school fund to private persons or corporations (Amended by Amendment 44). . . . .	16	5
State may borrow to meet debts . . . . .	8	1
<b>Local improvements</b>		
Authority of cities to levy special taxes for. . . . .	7	9
<b>Local officers</b>		
Eligible to legislature. . . . .	2	14
<b>Lotteries</b>		
Prohibited, except . . . . .	2	24
<b>Majority</b>		
Necessary in impeachment . . . . .	5	1
Passage of bills requires . . . . .	2	22
Petition for division of county requires. . . . .	11	3
Quorum of each house constituted by. . . . .	2	8
Special act to declare a person of age prohibited. . . . .	2	28(11)
<b>Malfeasance</b>		
Officers liable to impeachment for . . . . .	5	2
Recall for . . . . .	1	33, 34
Removal by law, if not subject to impeachment. . . . .	5	3
<b>Mandamus</b>		
Original and appellate jurisdiction of supreme court . . . . .	4	4
Original jurisdiction of superior court. . . . .	4	6
<b>Mandatory</b>		
Constitutional provisions are. . . . .	1	29
<b>Manufacturing purposes</b>		
Use of waters for, deemed public use . . . . .	21	1
<b>Medicine</b>		
Practice and sale, legislature to regulate . . . . .	20	2
<b>Men</b>		
Equal rights and responsibility . . . . .	31	1, 2

	Art.	Sec.
<b>Mental Incompetency</b>		
Exclusion from voting . . . . .	6	3
<b>Messages</b>		
Governor to communicate with legislature by . . . . .	3	6
<b>Mileage</b>		
Members of legislature entitled to (Partially repealed by Amendment 20) . . . . .	2	23
<b>Military</b>		
Duty not to be required on election day, except . . . . .	6	5
Not to interfere with elections . . . . .	1	19
Subordinate to civil power . . . . .	1	18
(See Army; Militia)		
<b>Militia</b>		
Citizens subject to duty in . . . . .	10	1
Who exempt . . . . .	10	1
Exemption to persons having conscientious scruples . . . . .	10	6
Governor to be commander-in-chief . . . . .	3	8
Governor's power to call forth . . . . .	10	2
Members entitled to admission to soldiers' home, when . . . . .	10	3
Officer of		
Election and appointment . . . . .	10	2
Eligible to legislature, when . . . . .	2	14
Organization and discipline . . . . .	10	2
Privilege from arrest, when . . . . .	10	5
(See Arms; Army; Military)		
<b>Mines</b>		
Protection of employees, laws to be passed . . . . .	2	35
Yield tax or au valorem tax authorized . . . . .	7	1
<b>Mining purposes</b>		
Use of water for, deemed public use . . . . .	21	1
<b>Minors</b>		
Property of, not to be affected by special laws . . . . .	2	28(4),(11)
(See Children; Majority)		
<b>Misdemeanors</b>		
Original jurisdiction of superior court . . . . .	4	6
<b>Money</b>		
Corporations etc. not to issue anything but lawful money of United States . . . . .	12	11
Disbursement from state treasury . . . . .	8	4
Public officers to deposit with treasurer . . . . .	11	15
State Taxes payable in . . . . .	7	6
Using public money by officer a felony . . . . .	11	14
(See Public money)		

	Art.	Sec.
<b>Monopolies</b>		
Forbidden . . . . .	12	22
Forfeiture of franchise and property may be declared . . . . .	12	22
Penalties to be provided by law. . . . .	12	22
<b>Motor vehicles</b>		
License fees and excise taxes to be placed in special fund. . . . .	2	40
<b>Municipal corporations</b>		
Appropriation of right-of-way. . . . .	1	16
Cities of 10,000 or over may frame own charter . . . . .	11	10
Combined city-county. . . . .	11	16
Corporate stock or bonds not to be owned by. . . . .	8	7
Credit or money not to be loaned, exceptions. . . . .	8	7
Debts		
Expenditures for port district promotional activities. . . . .	8	8
Release by special law prohibited . . . . .	2	28(10)
Improvements, power to make by special taxation		
or assessment . . . . .	7	9
Indebtedness, limitations on . . . . .	8	6
Local affairs controlled by. . . . .	11	11
Organization to be under general laws . . . . .	11	10
Police and sanitary regulations enforced by . . . . .	11	11
Private property not to be taken for debt of . . . . .	11	13
Public money to be deposited with treasurer . . . . .	11	15
Salary of officers (Partially repealed by Amendment 54). . . . .	11	8
(Amendment 54) . . . . .	30	1
Seals of . . . . .	27	9
Special act to create or amend charter prohibited . . . . .	2	28(8)
Streets, power to extend over tide lands . . . . .	15	3
Taxation		
Assessment and levy, power of . . . . .	7	9
Exemption of municipal property from taxation. . . . .	7	1
Imposition for local purposes prohibited to legislature. . . . .	11	12
Local power to assess and levy, where . . . . .	11	12
Term of officers not to be extended. . . . .	11	8
Use of public money by official, a felony. . . . .	11	14
(See City; Municipal courts; Municipal fines; Towns and villages)		
<b>Municipal courts</b>		
Legislature may provide for . . . . .	4	1
<b>Municipal fines</b>		
Appellate jurisdiction of supreme court . . . . .	4	4
Original jurisdiction of superior court. . . . .	4	6
<b>Municipal indebtedness</b>		
Limitations and restrictions on . . . . .	8	6

	Art.	Sec.
(See City; Towns and villages)		
<b>Names</b>		
Change of, by special legislation prohibited . . . . .	2	28(1)
<b>Naturalization</b>		
Power of, vested in superior court. . . . .	4	6
<b>Navigable waters</b>		
Harbor lines, commission to be established to locate. . . . .	15	1
Ownership of state in beds and shores asserted . . . . .	17	1
<b>New county</b>		
Formation by special act not prohibited . . . . .	2	28(18)
Restrictions on. . . . .	11	3
<b>Nonjudicial days</b>		
Certain writs may be issued and served on. . . . .	4	6
Superior courts not open on. . . . .	4	6
Supreme court need not be open on . . . . .	4	2
<b>Nonrecourse revenue bonds</b>		
Industrial development projects . . . . .	32	1
<b>Nonresidents</b>		
Taxation of lands of citizens of United States. . . . .	26	2
<b>Normal schools</b>		
Included in public school system . . . . .	9	2
<b>Nuisance, action to abate</b>		
Appellate jurisdiction of supreme court . . . . .	4	4
Original jurisdiction of superior court. . . . .	4	6
<b>Oath of office</b>		
Prescribed for judges. . . . .	4	28
Recall for violation of. . . . .	1	33, 34
<b>Oaths</b>		
Mode of administering . . . . .	1	6
Of judges . . . . .	4	28
Of senators in impeachment trials. . . . .	5	1
<b>Obligation of contracts</b>		
Not to be impaired by legislation . . . . .	1	23
<b>Offenses</b>		
Bailable, except. . . . .	1	20
Existing, to be prosecuted in name of state. . . . .	27	5
Impeachment of public officers for . . . . .	5	2
Jeopardy, twice in, for same offense, forbidden . . . . .	1	9
Prosecution by information or indictment. . . . .	1	25
Rights of accused. . . . .	1	22
Trial by jury, right of. . . . .	1	21

	Art.	Sec.
<b>Office</b>		
Acceptance of, under United States or foreign power		
vacates seat in legislature, exceptions . . . . .	2	14
Bribery, a disqualification for . . . . .	2	30
Disqualification of legislators for certain civil offices . . . . .	2	13
Ineligibility for legislature of persons holding		
certain offices . . . . .	2	14
Judge, open to whom. . . . .	4	15, 17
Legislature may abolish certain offices. . . . .	3	25
Religious qualification not to be required. . . . .	1	11
Removal of judges, etc. by joint resolution of legislature . . . . .	4	9
Removal of judges or justices by supreme court . . . . .	4	31
Vacancy in, how filled . . . . .	3	13
<b>Officers</b>		
Abolition of certain state offices authorized . . . . .	3	25
Accountability for fees and money collected . . . . .	11	5
Compensation, change during term (See Compensation)		
Corrupt solicitation of, prohibited. . . . .	2	30
County officer ineligible for more than two terms		
(Repealed by Amendment 22) . . . . .	11	7
County, township, precinct, and district election and		
compensation to be regulated by legislature . . . . .	11	5
Election of		
First, under Constitution . . . . .	27	7
When no provision in Constitution . . . . .	27	11
Extra compensation prohibited . . . . .	2	25
Guilty of felony, when uses public money . . . . .	11	14
Impeachment of. . . . .	5	2
Legislative, each house to elect. . . . .	2	10
Local, may be members of legislature . . . . .	2	14
Militia		
Appointment or election of . . . . .	10	2
Without salary eligible to legislature. . . . .	2	14
Passes, use or acceptance by, forbidden . . . . .	2	39
Public moneys to be deposited with treasurer. . . . .	11	15
Recall (See Recall of officers). . . . .	1	33
Removable by law, when not impeachable. . . . .	5	3
Salary, change, during term (See Salaries)		
Territorial and United States, how long to hold . . . . .	27	6, 14
Transportation passes		
Issuance to, prohibited . . . . .	12	20
Use of, prohibited. . . . .	2	39
Trustees of state institutions, appointment . . . . .	13	1
(See Appointment; County officers; District officers;		
Governor; Lieutenant governor; Precinct officers;		
Recall of officers; Salaries; State officers; Term of office)		

	Art.	Sec.
<b>Official acts</b>		
Validation by special laws prohibited . . . . .	2	28(12)
<b>Omissions</b>		
In laws, annual report by judges . . . . .	4	25
<b>Open space lands</b>		
Taxation based on actual use . . . . .	7	11
<b>Opinions</b>		
Of supreme court, publication . . . . .	4	21
<b>Original jurisdiction</b>		
Superior court . . . . .	4	6
Supreme court . . . . .	4	4
<b>Ownership of lands</b>		
Prohibited to aliens, except (Repealed by Amendment 42) . . . . .	2	33
<b>Pardoning power</b>		
Governor vested with, subject to restrictions . . . . .	3	9
Report to legislature of pardons granted . . . . .	3	11
<b>Partnership (See Copartnerships)</b>		
<b>Pass</b>		
Grant of, to public officers, prohibited . . . . .	12	20
Use of, by public officers, prohibited . . . . .	2	39
<b>Passenger tariffs</b>		
Abuses and extortions to be prohibited . . . . .	12	18
Regulation by legislature authorized . . . . .	12	18
<b>Penal institutions</b>		
State support . . . . .	13	1
<b>Penalties</b>		
Accrued to territory, inure to state . . . . .	27	3
Incurred, not affected by change in government . . . . .	27	5
Remission by special act prohibited . . . . .	2	28(14)
Violation of provisions against monopolies . . . . .	12	22
<b>Penitentiary</b>		
Chaplain, right to employ . . . . .	1	11
<b>Pension funds, public</b>		
Investment of . . . . .	29	1
Pension increase not extra compensation . . . . .	2	25
<b>People</b>		
Political power inherent in . . . . .	1	1
Public lands held in trust for . . . . .	16	1
Reservation of powers by . . . . .	2	1



	Art.	Sec.
Right		
Of petition and peaceful assemblage . . . . .	1	4
To religious liberty . . . . .	1	11
To security in home . . . . .	1	7
Rights retained not affected by grants in Constitution . . . . .	1	30
Toleration of religious sentiment secured to . . . . .	26	1
<b>Permanent school fund</b>		
Investment of . . . . .	9	3
	16	5
(See Common school fund; Common school construction fund; School fund)		
<b>Personal property</b>		
Appellate jurisdiction of supreme court . . . . .	4	4
Power of legislature to exempt from taxation, limitations . . . . .	7	1
Rolling stock of railroad is . . . . .	12	7
<b>Persons</b>		
Convicted of infamous crimes, excluded from elective franchise . . . . .	6	3
School funds not to be loaned to (Amended by Amendment 44) . . . . .	16	5
<b>Persons under disability</b>		
Sale or mortgage of property forbidden to be authorized by special law . . . . .	2	28(4)
<b>Petition</b>		
Right of, not to be abridged . . . . .	1	4
(See Initiative and referendum; Recall of officers)		
<b>Police justice</b>		
Justice of peace may be made . . . . .	4	10
<b>Police power</b>		
Counties, cities, towns, townships may exercise . . . . .	11	11
<b>Political power</b>		
Inherent in people . . . . .	1	1
<b>Pooling</b>		
By common carriers prohibited (Repealed by Amendment 67) . . . . .	2	4
(See Combinations)		
<b>Popular government</b> (See Initiative and referendum)		
<b>Population</b>		
Classification of counties by . . . . .	11	5
<b>Port districts</b>		
Bonds, nonrecourse revenue for industrial development projects . . . . .	32	1

	Art.	Sec.
Excepted from levy limitation . . . . .	7	2
Promotional activities . . . . .	8	8
<b>Postmaster</b>		
Eligible to legislature, when . . . . .	2	14
<b>Powers</b>		
Executive, vested in governor . . . . .	3	2
Initiative and referendum (See Initiative and referendum)		
Judicial, where vested . . . . .	4	1
Legislative		
During emergency periods caused by enemy attack . . . . .	2	42
Where vested . . . . .	2	1
Pardoning, where vested . . . . .	3	9
<b>Precinct officers</b>		
Election, duties, terms, and compensation to be provided for by legislature . . . . .	11	5
Official bonds unaffected by change in government . . . . .	27	14
Territorial, hold office until when . . . . .	27	14
Vacancies, how filled . . . . .	11	6
<b>President of senate</b>		
Lieutenant governor shall be . . . . .	3	16
Temporary presiding officer, when chosen . . . . .	2	10
<b>Press</b>		
Liberty of, secured . . . . .	1	5
<b>Prices</b>		
Combination to fix, prohibited . . . . .	12	22
<b>Private affairs</b>		
Disturbance of, prohibited . . . . .	1	7
<b>Private corporations</b> (See Corporations)		
<b>Private legislation</b>		
Prohibited in enumerated cases . . . . .	2	28
<b>Private property</b>		
Not to be taken for public debts . . . . .	11	13
Taking for public or private use . . . . .	1	16
(See Eminent domain)		
<b>Privilege</b>		
Irrevocable grant of, prohibited . . . . .	1	8
Legislative members not subject to arrest or civil process, when . . . . .	2	16
Militia not to be arrested, when . . . . .	10	5
Voters privileged from arrest at election, except . . . . .	6	5

	Art.	Sec.
<b>Privileges</b>		
Equal to all citizens and corporations . . . . .	1	12
Hereditary, grant of, by state prohibited . . . . .	1	28
Special, prohibited. . . . .	1	12
<b>Probate courts</b>		
Transfer from territorial to superior court. . . . .	27	10
<b>Probate matters</b>		
Appellate jurisdiction of supreme court . . . . .	4	4
Original jurisdiction of superior court. . . . .	4	6
Transfer of jurisdiction from territorial probate court. . . . .	27	10
<b>Process</b>		
Authority of superior court extends throughout state. . . . .	4	6
Legislators privileged from, when . . . . .	2	16
State courts may have served on lands of United States. . . . .	25	1
Style of. . . . .	4	27
Territorial to be valid. . . . .	27	1
<b>Proclamation of president</b>		
State Constitution to go into effect upon. . . . .	27	16
<b>Prohibition</b>		
Appellate and revisory jurisdiction of supreme court. . . . .	4	4
Original jurisdiction of superior court. . . . .	4	6
Sale of liquors, separate article (rejected). . . . .	27	17
Writs of, may be issued and served on nonjudicial days . . . . .	4	6
<b>Property</b>		
Corporate, subject to eminent domain . . . . .	12	10
Deprivation without due process of law prohibited . . . . .	1	3
Private, not to be taken to pay public debts . . . . .	11	13
Taking for private use prohibited, exceptions. . . . .	1	16
Territorial, to vest in state . . . . .	27	4
(See Personal property; Taxation)		
<b>Prosecuting attorney</b>		
Election, duties, term, compensation, legislature to provide for . . . . .	11	5
Removal from office by legislature. . . . .	4	9
<b>Prosecutions</b>		
Commenced before statehood, how conducted. . . . .	27	5
Conducted in name of state . . . . .	4	27
May be by information or indictment . . . . .	1	25
Unaffected by change in government . . . . .	27	5
(See Criminal actions)		
<b>Protection</b>		
Life, liberty and property entitled to . . . . .	1	3

	Art.	Sec.
Persons engaged in dangerous employments, provisions for . . . . .	2	35
Public arms, provision for safekeeping. . . . .	10	4
<b>Public arms</b>		
Protection and safekeeping to be provided . . . . .	10	4
<b>Publication</b>		
Amendments proposed to Constitution. . . . .	23	1
Liberty of, guaranteed . . . . .	1	5
Of measures referred to the people . . . . .	2	1(e)
Opinions of supreme court . . . . .	4	21
Receipts and expenditures of public money . . . . .	7	7
<b>Public corporations</b> (See Municipal corporations)		
<b>Public debts</b>		
Private property not to be taken in payment of. . . . .	11	13
<b>Public employment</b>		
Religious qualification not to be required. . . . .	1	11
<b>Public funds</b>		
Legislature to provide for accounting. . . . .	11	5
Private use of by officers felonious . . . . .	11	14
(See Appropriations; Investments; Industrial insurance trust fund; Public pension funds; School funds)		
<b>Public health</b>		
Exception from power of referendum of bills affecting . . . . .	2	1(b)
Laws regulating deleterious occupations to be passed . . . . .	2	35
State board of, shall be created . . . . .	20	1
<b>Public indebtedness</b>		
Municipal, limit of. . . . .	8	6
State building authority. . . . .	8	9
State, limit of. . . . .	8	1
Exceptions to . . . . .	8	2,3
Territorial, assumed by state . . . . .	26	3
(See City; County indebtedness; State indebtedness; Towns and villages)		
<b>Public institutions</b>		
Exception from power of referendum of bills affecting . . . . .	2	1(b)
State support . . . . .	13	1
<b>Public lands</b>		
Disclaimer by state of title to unappropriated. . . . .	26	2
Granted to state held in trust for people . . . . .	16	1
Sale only for full market value . . . . .	16	1
Unappropriated to be subject to control of United States. . . . .	26	2
(See Commissioner of public lands; Granted lands; Lands; School lands)		

	Art.	Sec.
<b>Public money</b>		
Accountability of public officers . . . . .	11	5
Appropriation for religious worship prohibited . . . . .	1	11
Deposit with treasurer required . . . . .	11	15
Energy, water, or stormwater or sewer services loans for conservation . . . . .	8	10
Statement of receipts and expenditures to be published annually . . . . .	7	7
Using or making a profit out of, a felony . . . . .	11	14
(See Money)		
<b>Public office</b>		
Religious qualification not to be required . . . . .	1	11
<b>Public officer</b>		
Change of compensation during term (See Compensation)		
Religious qualifications, prohibition against . . . . .	1	11
(See Officers)		
<b>Public pension funds</b>		
Investment of . . . . .	29	1
Pension increase not extra compensation . . . . .	2	25
<b>Public property</b>		
Not to be applied to religious worship . . . . .	1	11
<b>Public safety</b>		
Exception from power of referendum of bills affecting . . . . .	2	1(b)
Ground for suspension of habeas corpus . . . . .	1	13
<b>Public schools</b>		
Establishment and maintenance guaranteed . . . . .	26	4
Free from sectarian control . . . . .	9	4
	26	4
Open to all children of state . . . . .	9	1
	26	4
Superintendent of public instruction to have supervision . . . . .	3	22
System to be established by state . . . . .	9	2
Including what . . . . .	9	2
(See Common schools; Education; High schools; Normal schools; Technical schools)		
<b>Public use</b>		
Of state waters . . . . .	21	1
Taking of private property for . . . . .	1	16
(See Eminent domain)		
<b>Public utility districts</b>		
Excepted from levy limitation . . . . .	7	2

	Art.	Sec.
<b>Punishment</b>		
Bribery and corrupt solicitation, how punished . . . . .	2	30
Cruel, not to be inflicted . . . . .	1	14
<b>Qualifications</b>		
Judges of supreme and superior courts . . . . .	4	17
Members of legislature . . . . .	2	7
Each house to be judge of . . . . .	2	8
Religious, not to be required for public office . . . . .	1	11
State officers . . . . .	3	25
Voters, of (See Voter)		
<b>Quo warranto</b>		
Appellate and original jurisdiction of supreme court . . . . .	4	4
Original jurisdiction of superior court. . . . .	4	6
<b>Quorum</b>		
Legislature		
Majority of each house to constitute . . . . .	2	8
Less number may adjourn and compel attendance . . . . .	2	8
Supreme court, majority of judges necessary . . . . .	4	2
<b>Race</b>		
Discrimination in education on account of, prohibited. . . . .	9	1
<b>Railroad and transportation commission</b>		
May be established by legislature . . . . .	12	18
<b>Railroad companies</b>		
Charges to any point not to exceed those to more distant station . . . . .	12	15
Combinations to regulate production or transportation of commodities prohibited . . . . .	12	22
Sharing earnings forbidden (Repealed by Amendment 67) . . . . .	12	14
Commission to control may be established. . . . .	12	18
Common carriers, subject to legislative control . . . . .	12	13
Connection at state line with foreign railroads authorized .	12	13
Consolidation with competing lines prohibited . . . . .	12	16
Delay in receipt and transportation of connecting cars forbidden . . . . .	12	13
Discrimination		
Between telegraph companies forbidden. . . . .	12	19
In charges between persons and places prohibited . . . . .	12	15
Excursion and commutation tickets may be granted . . . . .	12	15
Express companies to be allowed equal terms . . . . .	12	21
Extortion and discrimination in rates to be prevented . . . . .	12	18
Grant of passes to public officers forbidden . . . . .	12	20

	Art.	Sec.
Intersecting, crossing or connecting with other railroads authorized . . . . .	12	13
Maximum rates of fare and freight may be established by law . . . . .	12	18
Passes		
Acceptance and use by public officers unlawful . . . . .	2	39
Issuance of, prohibited . . . . .	12	20
Rolling stock subject to taxation and execution sale . . . . .	12	17
Telegraph and telephone companies to be allowed to use right-of-way . . . . .	12	19
Transfer of cars, when shall form connections for . . . . .	12	13
(See Common carriers)		
<b>Railway cars</b>		
Jurisdiction of public offense committed on . . . . .	1	22
<b>Ratification</b>		
Constitutional amendments . . . . .	23	1
Revision of Constitution . . . . .	23	3
<b>Real property</b>		
Appellate jurisdiction of supreme court . . . . .	4	4
Original jurisdiction of superior court . . . . .	4	6
Retired persons tax exemption . . . . .	7	10
Taxation based on actual use . . . . .	7	11
<b>Rebellion or invasion</b>		
Suspension of writ of habeas corpus . . . . .	1	13
(See also Invasion and attack)		
<b>Recall of officers</b>		
Grounds for . . . . .	1	33
Legislature, duty to pass necessary laws to carry out recall provisions . . . . .	1	34
Officers subject to . . . . .	1	33
Percent of voters required for . . . . .	1	34
Petition for, content and filing requirements . . . . .	1	33
Special election on petition for . . . . .	1	33
<b>Receipts and expenditures</b>		
Account of, to be published . . . . .	7	7
<b>Reclamation</b>		
Taking property for is public use . . . . .	1	16
<b>Recognizances</b>		
Territorial inure to state . . . . .	27	4
Valid and unaffected by change in government . . . . .	27	4
<b>Records</b>		
Continuity of government in emergency periods due to enemy attack . . . . .	2	42

	Art.	Sec.
Of legislature and executive department, secretary of state to keep . . . . .	3	17
Of state officers to be kept at capital . . . . .	3	24
Of territorial courts, transferred to superior courts . . . . .	27	8
<b>Redistricting</b>		
Commission . . . . .	2	43
Legislature's approval . . . . .	2	43
Plan . . . . .	2	43
Referendum (See Initiative and referendum)		
<b>Reforestation</b>		
Yield tax or au valorem tax authorized . . . . .	7	1
<b>Regents</b>		
Appointment for state institutions . . . . .	13	1
<b>Registration law</b>		
Compliance with by elector necessary . . . . .	6	7
Enactment by legislature required, when . . . . .	6	7
Power of legislature to provide for punishment for illegal registration (Amended by Amendment 63) . . . . .	6	1
<b>Release of debt or obligation</b>		
Special legislation prohibited . . . . .	2	28(10)
<b>Religion</b>		
Appropriations of public funds for religious purposes prohibited . . . . .	1	11
Chaplain of state penitentiary, right to employ . . . . .	1	11
Freedom of conscience guaranteed . . . . .	1	11
Juror not incompetent because of . . . . .	1	11
No person to be molested on account of . . . . .	1	11
	26	1
Public office, religious qualification prohibited . . . . .	1	11
Toleration in, secured . . . . .	26	1
Witness not incompetent because of . . . . .	1	11
<b>Removal from office</b>		
Commission on judicial conduct, recommendations . . . . .	4	31
Impeachment . . . . .	5	1
Joint resolution of legislature for removal . . . . .	4	9
Judges and justices, by supreme court . . . . .	4	31
Officers liable to impeachment . . . . .	5	2
Officers not liable to impeachment, how removed . . . . .	5	3
Of governor, who to act . . . . .	3	10
(See Recall of officers)		
<b>Reporter of supreme court</b> . . . . .	4	18



	Art.	Sec.
<b>Reports</b>		
Decisions of supreme court . . . . .	4	21
Defects and omissions in the laws . . . . .	4	25
<b>Representative districts</b>		
Apportionment among counties . . . . .	22	2
Vacancies, how filled . . . . .	2	15
<b>Representatives</b>		
Apportionment among counties . . . . .	22	2
Compensation and mileage . . . . .	2	23
	28	1
Election of . . . . .	2	4,5
Number of . . . . .	2	2
Privilege		
From arrest, except . . . . .	2	16
From civil process, when . . . . .	2	16
Qualifications of . . . . .	2	7
Reapportionment after each census . . . . .	2	43
Term of office . . . . .	2	4,5
Vacancy in office, how filled . . . . .	2	15
(See House of representatives; Recall of officers)		
<b>Reprives</b>		
Report of, by governor to legislature . . . . .	3	11
<b>Residence</b>		
Not affected by certain absences, for purposes		
of voting and eligibility to office . . . . .	6	4
Qualifications for voters . . . . .	6	1,1A
Retired persons tax exemption for . . . . .	7	10
State officers, where . . . . .	3	24
<b>Residential energy conservation</b>		
Loan of credit . . . . .	8	10
<b>Retirement</b>		
Funds, investment of . . . . .	29	1
Judges of supreme, superior courts . . . . .	4	3(a)
Public officers, increase in pension not		
extra compensation . . . . .	2	25
Retired persons tax exemption . . . . .	7	10
<b>Revenue and taxation</b>		
Corporate property subject same as individual		
(Stricken by Amendment 14). . . . .	7	3
Exemptions from taxation (See Taxation)		
Retired persons property tax exemption . . . . .	7	10
Uniform and equal rate required . . . . .	7	1
(See Taxation)		

	Art.	Sec.
<b>Review, writ of</b>		
Appellate and revisory jurisdiction of supreme court. . . . .	4	4
Original jurisdiction of superior court. . . . .	4	6
<b>Revision of Constitution</b>		
Convention for. . . . .	23	2
<b>Right of petition</b>		
Not to be abridged. . . . .	1	4
<b>Right-of-way</b>		
Appropriation of property for. . . . .	1	16
(See Eminent domain)		
<b>Right to assemble</b>		
Not to be abridged. . . . .	1	4
<b>Right to bear arms</b>		
Not to be impaired. . . . .	1	24
Restriction on employment of armed men by private persons. . . . .	1	24
<b>Rights</b>		
Declaration of. . . . .	1	1-2
Enumerated, not to affect others retained. . . . .	1	30
Not affected by change in government. . . . .	27	1
Reservation of rights in people (See Initiative and referendum)		
<b>Road district</b>		
Vacancy in office, how filled. . . . .	11	6
Roads (See Highways; State roads; Streets and roads)		
<b>Rolling stock</b>		
Personal property, subject to taxation and execution sale. . . . .	12	17
<b>Rules of court</b>		
Assignment of business of superior court under. . . . .	4	5
Court of appeals, governing. . . . .	4	30
Judges of superior courts to establish. . . . .	4	24
<b>Rules of proceedings</b>		
Each house to determine. . . . .	2	9
<b>Salaries</b>		
Change in, during term of public officer (Partially repealed by Amendment 54). . . . .	2	25
	3	25
	4	13
	11	8
	28	1
(Amendment 54). . . . .	30	1

	Art.	Sec.
Clerk of supreme court . . . . .	4	22
County, township, precinct, and district officers . . . . .	11	5, 8
Establishment . . . . .	28	1
Independent commission to set . . . . .	28	1
Judges of supreme and superior courts (partially superseded by Amendment 78) . . . . .	4	13, 14
Justice of peace in certain cities . . . . .	4	10
Referendum by people when changed . . . . .	28	1
Reporter of supreme court . . . . .	4	18
State officers (Amendment 20) (Amendment 78) . . . . .	28	1
Attorney general (Partially superseded by Amendment 78) . . . . .	3	21
Auditor (Partially superseded by Amendment 78) . . . . .	3	20
Commissioner of public lands . . . . .	3	23
Governor (Partially superseded by Amendment 78) . . . . .	3	14
Legislature, members of (Partially superseded by Amendment 78) . . . . .	2	23
Lieutenant governor (Partially superseded by Amendment 78) . . . . .	3	16
Secretary of state (Partially superseded by Amendment 78) . . . . .	3	17
Superintendent of public instruction (Partially superseded by Amendment 78) . . . . .	3	22
Treasurer (Partially superseded by Amendment 78) . . . . .	3	19
<b>Sanitary regulations</b>		
County, city, and town may enforce . . . . .	11	11
<b>School district</b>		
Exemption of property from taxation . . . . .	7	1
Indebtedness, limitations on . . . . .	8	6
<b>School elections</b>		
Women may be permitted to vote (Stricken by Amendment 5) . . . . .	6	2
<b>School fund</b>		
Applied exclusively to common schools . . . . .	9	2
Apportionment by special act forbidden . . . . .	2	28(7)
Bonds, investment in (Amendment 1)		
Enlargement of . . . . .	9	3
Interest to be applied to current expenses . . . . .	9	3
Investment . . . . .	16	5
Loans to private persons or corporations forbidden (Amended by Amendment 44) . . . . .	16	5
Losses from, assumed by state . . . . .	9	5
Sources from which derived . . . . .	9	3
(See Common school construction fund; Common school fund; Permanent school fund)		

	Art.	Sec.
<b>School lands</b>		
Sale, manner of . . . . .	16	2-4
<b>Schools</b>		
Maintained by public funds to be free from sectarian control . . . . .	9	4
Public school system, what included in . . . . .	9	2
(See Common schools; Education; High schools; Normal schools; Public schools)		
<b>Seal</b>		
Commissions to be sealed . . . . .	3	15
Of state, design of . . . . .	18	1
Custodian, secretary of state to be . . . . .	3	18
Of superior courts, design of . . . . .	27	9
Of territorial court, county and municipal officers, to be seals under state . . . . .	27	8,9
<b>Seat of government</b>		
Continuity of government in emergency periods due to enemy attack . . . . .	2	42
Documents, storage . . . . .	3	24
Election for, under territorial law . . . . .	27	15
Form of ballot . . . . .	27	18
Location, how determined . . . . .	14	1
Officers residence . . . . .	3	24
Permanent location, how changed . . . . .	14	2
Provision for determination if no choice at first election . .	14	1
Temporary, to be located where . . . . .	14	1
<b>Secrecy</b>		
In legislative proceedings . . . . .	2	11
Of ballot, to be secured at elections . . . . .	6	6
<b>Secretary of state</b>		
Attests commissions issued by state . . . . .	3	15
Bureau of statistics, etc., to be established in office of . . . .	2	34
Delivery of election returns for executive officers . . . . .	3	4
Duties . . . . .	3	17
Election of . . . . .	3	1
Initiative measures, filing petitions . . . . .	2	1(a)
Records to be kept at seat of government . . . . .	3	24
Referendum petition filed with . . . . .	2	1(d)
Residence to be maintained at seat of government . . . . .	3	24
Salary (See Salaries)		
Seal of state to be kept by . . . . .	3	18
Submitting measures to the people pending enactment of specific legislation respecting initiative and referendum . .	2	1(d)
Succession to office of governor . . . . .	3	10
Term of office . . . . .	3	3

	Art.	Sec.
<b>Sectarian control</b>		
Public schools to be free from . . . . .	9	4
	26	4
<b>Security</b>		
Of individual rights, what is essential . . . . .	1	32
Of person in private affairs and home . . . . .	1	7
<b>Senate</b>		
Consent to certain appointments by governor . . . . .	13	1
Impeachments tried by . . . . .	5	1
Conviction requires two-thirds vote . . . . .	5	1
Legislative authority vested in . . . . .	2	1
Number of senators . . . . .	2	2
Presiding officer in absence of lieutenant governor . . . . .	2	10
Quorum, majority to constitute . . . . .	2	8
Redistricting . . . . .	2	43
(See Legislature; Senators)		
<b>Senatorial districts</b>		
Apportionment among counties . . . . .	22	1
Convenient and contiguous territory required . . . . .	2	6
Numbering to be consecutive . . . . .	2	6
Representative districts not to be divided . . . . .	2	6
Vacancy in office, how filled . . . . .	2	15
<b>Senators</b>		
Allotment of . . . . .	2	6
Apportionment . . . . .	22	1
Compensation and mileage . . . . .	2	23
. . . . .	28	1
Elections . . . . .	2	6
Impeachments tried by . . . . .	5	1
Number . . . . .	2	2
Privilege		
From arrest, except . . . . .	2	16
From civil process, when . . . . .	2	16
Qualifications . . . . .	2	7
Redistricting . . . . .	2	43
Recall . . . . .	1	33, 34
Term of office . . . . .	2	6
Vacancy in office, how filled . . . . .	2	15
<b>Separate articles</b>		
Submission for adoption or rejection . . . . .	27	17
Form of ballot . . . . .	27	18
Prohibition (rejected) . . . . .	27	17
Woman suffrage (rejected) . . . . .	27	17

	Art.	Sec.
<b>Sessions, legislative</b>		
Duration . . . . .	2	12
Must be open, exceptions . . . . .	2	11
Regular . . . . .	2	12
Special . . . . .	2	12
Vetoed bills, extraordinary session to reconsider . . . . .	3	12
<b>Settlement of land</b>		
Taking of property for is public use . . . . .	1	16
<b>Sewers</b>		
City or town may contract debt for, limitations . . . . .	8	6
<b>Sex</b>		
Denial of franchise on account of, legislature may provide against in school elections (Stricken by Amendment 5) . . . . .	6	2
Discrimination in education on account of, prohibited. . . . .	9	1
Equal rights . . . . .	31	1,2
Sex qualifications for voting abolished (Amendment 63) . . . . .	6	1
<b>Sheriffs</b>		
Election, duties, terms, etc., to be provided for by legislature . . . . .	11	5
<b>Shores and beds of navigable waters</b>		
Assertion of state ownership . . . . .	17	1
Disclaimer by state where patented, exception. . . . .	17	2
<b>Soldiers</b>		
Nonresident, excluded from enumeration of state inhabitants . . . . .	2	43
Quartering in private house forbidden, exceptions. . . . .	1	31
<b>Soldiers' home</b>		
Admission granted to certain state militiamen, Union soldiers, sailors, and marines . . . . .	10	3
Maintenance by state to be provided for . . . . .	10	3
<b>Special election</b>		
Recall of public officers, election on petition for . . . . .	1	33,34
Reference of measures to people at. . . . .	2	1(d)
<b>Special legislation</b>		
Prohibited in enumerated cases. . . . .	2	28
<b>Special privileges</b>		
Grant of, prohibited . . . . .	1	12
Invalid, when . . . . .	12	2
<b>Special taxation</b>		
For local improvements authorized. . . . .	7	9

	Art.	Sec.
<b>Speech</b>		
Liberty of, guaranteed . . . . .	1	5
<b>Speedy trial</b>		
Right of accused . . . . .	1	22
<b>Standing army</b>		
Not to be kept in time of peace . . . . .	1	31
<b>State</b>		
Boundaries . . . . .	24	1
Building authority . . . . .	8	9
Cession to United States of exclusive legislation		
over certain lands . . . . .	25	1
Reservation of right to serve process . . . . .	25	1
Compact with United States . . . . .	26	1-4
Congressional districts, division into		
(Repealed by Amendment 74) . . . . .	27	13
Continuity of government in emergency periods		
due to enemy attack . . . . .	2	42
Convict labor not to be let out by contract . . . . .	2	29
Corporations, ownership of stock in or loaning		
credit to, prohibited . . . . .	12	9
Credit not to be loaned . . . . .	8	5
	12	9
Criminal prosecutions continued in name of		
state on change of government . . . . .	27	5
Debts, fines, penalties, and forfeitures, accrued		
to territory inure to state. . . . .	27	3
Debts		
Limitation on power . . . . .	8	1-3
Money raised, how applied . . . . .	8	1
Power to contract . . . . .	8	1-3
Disclaimer of title to federal and Indian lands . . . . .	26	2
Division into senatorial and representative districts . . . . .	22	1-2
Education, duty to provide for all children . . . . .	9	1
Harbors, restriction on sale of lands or rights in . . . . .	15	1
Indian lands, when taxable . . . . .	26	2
Lands granted to, held in trust for people . . . . .	16	1
Ownership of beds and shores of navigable		
waters asserted . . . . .	17	1
Public schools, assumption of duty of establishing . . . . .	26	4
State institutions to be supported . . . . .	13	1
Suits against the state. . . . .	2	26
Taxation, state property exempt from . . . . .	7	1
Territory		
Debts and liabilities of, assumption by . . . . .	26	3
Property of, passes to state. . . . .	27	4

	Art.	Sec.
Timber and stone on state lands, sale of . . . . .	16	3
Title in lands patented by United States disclaimed by . . .	17	2
Validation by special law of void official acts against the state not prohibited. . . . .	2	28(12)
<b>State auditor</b> (See Auditor)		
<b>State board of health</b>		
Legislature to establish . . . . .	20	1
<b>State building authority</b>		
Authorized . . . . .	8	9
<b>State capital</b>		
Location, how made . . . . .	14	1
Change of, method . . . . .	14	2
(See Seat of government)		
<b>State courts</b>		
Jurisdiction of actions in territorial courts to be assumed by . . . . .	27	5, 8, 10
<b>State indebtedness</b>		
Annual expenses and state debt to be met by taxation (Amended by Amendment 14). . . . .	7	1
Limit of aggregate debt . . . . .	8	1
Increase allowed to repel invasion . . . . .	8	2
Also for single work or object, after submission to vote. . .	8	3
Losses in permanent school fund assumed as state debt. . . .	9	5
State building authority . . . . .	8	9
State may contract debts to meet. . . . .	8	1
<b>State institutions</b>		
Chaplains . . . . .	1	11
Officers appointed by governor, with advice of senate. . . .	13	1
Support by state required. . . . .	13	1
<b>State land commissioner</b> (See Commissioner of public lands)		
<b>State lands</b> (See Lands; Public lands)		
<b>State militia</b> (See Militia)		
<b>State officers</b>		
Abolition of certain offices, power granted legislature. . . . .	3	25
Compensation, change during term (See Salaries)		
Duties of, temporary succession to during emergency . . . . .	2	42
Elections		
Contested, legislature to decide . . . . .	3	4
First under Constitution, how and when . . . . .	27	7
Quadrennial . . . . .	6	8
Ties to be settled by legislature . . . . .	3	4
Time of. . . . .	6	8



	Art.	Sec.
Governor may require information from . . . . .	3	5
Impeachment, who liable to . . . . .	5	2
Information to be furnished to governor in writing by . . . . .	3	5
Passes, acceptance and use prohibited . . . . .	12	20
	2	39
Qualifications . . . . .	3	25
Records, to be kept at seat of government . . . . .	3	24
Removal of those not subject to impeachment . . . . .	5	3
Residence of certain, at state capital . . . . .	3	24
Salaries (See Salaries)		
Terms . . . . .	3	3
(See Officers; Public officers)		
<b>State offices</b>		
Abolition of certain, permitted . . . . .	3	25
Eligibility to . . . . .	3	25
<b>State reformatories</b>		
Chaplain, employment of . . . . .	1	11
<b>State roads</b>		
Opening by special law prohibited, except . . . . .	2	28(2)
<b>State school tax</b>		
Applied exclusively to common schools . . . . .	9	2
<b>State seal</b>		
Description and custody . . . . .	3	18
<b>State taxes</b> (See Taxation)		
<b>State treasurer</b> (See Treasurer)		
<b>Statement of receipts and expenditures</b>		
Annual publication required . . . . .	7	7
<b>Statistics</b>		
Bureau of, established . . . . .	2	34
<b>Statutes</b>		
Enacting clause, style of . . . . .	2	18
When take effect (Stricken by Amendment 7) . . . . .	2	31
(See Acts; Bill; Laws)		
<b>Stockholders</b>		
Consent necessary to increase corporate stock . . . . .	12	6
Joinder as parties defendant in actions		
against corporation . . . . .	12	4
Liability for corporate debts . . . . .	12	4
In banking, insurance and joint stock companies . . . . .	12	11
(See Corporations; Stock of corporations)		

	Art.	Sec.
<b>Stock of corporations</b>		
Counties, cities, etc., not to own, except . . . . .	8	7
Fictitious increase void . . . . .	12	6
Increase allowed only under general law . . . . .	12	6
With consent of majority of stockholders . . . . .	12	6
Issued only to bona fide holders . . . . .	12	6
(See Corporations; Stockholders)		
<b>Stone</b>		
Sale from state lands authorized . . . . .	16	3
<b>Streets and roads</b>		
Extension over tide lands permitted . . . . .	15	3
Opening or altering under special laws prohibited, exceptions . . . . .	2	28(2)
(See Highways)		
<b>Students</b>		
Absence does not affect right to vote . . . . .	6	4
<b>Subpoena</b>		
Accused in criminal action has right to compel attendance of witnesses . . . . .	1	22
<b>Suffrage</b>		
Denial on account of sex, legislature may provide against in school elections (Stricken by Amendment 5) . . . . .	6	2
Exercise of right to be free, equal and undisturbed . . . . .	1	19
Qualifications of voters (See Voter)		
<b>Suits against state</b>		
Legislature to direct . . . . .	2	26
<b>Superintendent of public instruction</b>		
Duties . . . . .	3	22
Election of . . . . .	3	1
Records to be kept at seat of government . . . . .	3	24
Salary (See Salaries)		
Succession to office of governor . . . . .	3	10
Term of office . . . . .	3	3
<b>Superior court</b>		
Actions, review of . . . . .	4	30
Assignment of judges by supreme court . . . . .	4	2(a)
Assignment of judges by governor . . . . .	4	5
Clerk . . . . .	4	26
Court commissioners, appointed . . . . .	4	23
Court of record . . . . .	4	11
Decisions of causes to be made within ninety days . . . . .	4	20
Election and districts . . . . .	4	5, 29
First, contests to be determined how . . . . .	27	12

	Art.	Sec.
Eligibility to . . . . .	4	17
Equity jurisdiction . . . . .	4	6
Grand jury summoned only on order of judge . . . . .	1	26
Judges		
Each, where more than one, invested with powers of all . . . . .	4	5
Election of . . . . .	4	5, 29
Number and distribution . . . . .	4	5
Pro tempore, when authorized . . . . .	4	7
Retirement . . . . .	4	3(a)
Sits in any county, when . . . . .	4	7
Supreme court duty, performance upon request . . . . .	4	2(a)
Term of office . . . . .	4	5
Judicial power, vested in . . . . .	4	1
Jurisdiction, original and appellate . . . . .	4	6
Naturalization, power of . . . . .	4	6
Open, except on nonjudicial days . . . . .	4	6
Other court, perform duties in . . . . .	4	2(a)
Probate courts, appellate jurisdiction over . . . . .	27	10
Process extends to all parts of state . . . . .	4	6
Report to supreme court defects in laws . . . . .	4	25
Retirement of judges . . . . .	4	3(a)
Review by court of appeals or supreme court . . . . .	4	30
Rules of practice, shall establish . . . . .	4	24
Salary (See Salaries)		
Seal . . . . .	27	9
Sessions and distribution of business . . . . .	4	5
Territorial causes and records pass to . . . . .	27	5, 8
Vacancies, governor to fill . . . . .	4	5
Writs, power to issue . . . . .	4	6
(See Judges of superior court)		
<b>Supreme court</b>		
Assignment of superior court judges by . . . . .	4	2(a)
Chief justice, how determined . . . . .	4	3
Clerk to be appointed . . . . .	4	22
Court of appeals, rules governing . . . . .	4	30
Court of record . . . . .	4	11
Decisions to be in writing and state grounds . . . . .	4	2
Departments of court may be provided . . . . .	4	2
Election of judges . . . . .	4	3
Eligibility to office . . . . .	4	17
Judges		
Court to consist of five . . . . .	4	2
Number may be increased . . . . .	4	2
Retirement . . . . .	4	3(a)
Salary (See Salaries)		
Term of office . . . . .	4	3

	Art.	Sec.
Judicial power vested in . . . . .	4	1
Jurisdiction, original and appellate . . . . .	4	4
Open except on nonjudicial days . . . . .	4	2
Opinions to be published. . . . .	4	21
Power to censure, remove, etc., judges and justices . . . . .	4	31
Power to issue writs. . . . .	4	4
Quorum, majority of judges to form and pronounce decisions. . . . .	4	2
Report of defects in laws to be made to governor. . . . .	4	25
Reporter to be appointed . . . . .	4	18
Retirement of judges . . . . .	4	3(a)
Review of superior court actions. . . . .	4	30
Seal . . . . .	27	9
Sessions to be held where . . . . .	4	3
Temporary judicial duties in . . . . .	4	2(a)
Territorial supreme court, when jurisdiction over causes passes to state court . . . . .	27	8
Vacancies, how filled. . . . .	4	3
(See Judges of supreme court)		
<b>Supreme court clerk</b> . . . . .	4	22
<b>Supreme court reporter</b> . . . . .	4	18
<b>Supreme law</b>		
Constitution of United States is. . . . .	1	2
<b>Surgery</b>		
Practice of, to be regulated by law . . . . .	20	2
<b>Swamp and overflowed lands</b>		
Disclaimer by state of title to patented . . . . .	17	2
<b>Taxation</b>		
Au valorem tax on mines and reforested lands. . . . .	7	1
Agricultural lands, actual use . . . . .	7	11
Assessment or collection by special laws prohibited. . . . .	2	28(5)
Budget stabilization account . . . . .	7	12
Cities, power, to assess and collect local taxes . . . . .	11	12
Counties, power to assess and collect local . . . . .	11	12
Deficiencies, state tax may be levied for. . . . .	7	8
Exemptions allowed for certain property. . . . .	7	1
Indian lands, when . . . . .	26	2
Public property exemption . . . . .	7	1
Real property, retired persons. . . . .	7	10
United States lands, when . . . . .	7	1
	26	2
Farms, actual use . . . . .	7	11
Federal agencies and property may be taxed, when . . . . .	7	3

	Art.	Sec.
Gasoline (certain) taxes limited to highway purposes only . . . . .	2	40
Head of family exemption. . . . .	7	1
Indian lands, patented, how taxed . . . . .	26	2
Intangible property . . . . .	7	1
Jurisdiction		
Appellate, of supreme court. . . . .	4	4
Original, of superior court . . . . .	4	6
Law imposing tax must state object . . . . .	7	5
Legislative power to provide for exemption. . . . .	7	1
Levy only in pursuance of law . . . . .	7	5
Proceeds applied only to object stated. . . . .	7	5
Property subject to . . . . .	7	1
Local, legislature no power to impose . . . . .	11	12
Mines and mineral resources, yield tax or au valorem tax on . . . . .	7	1
Municipal corporations		
Authority to assess and collect taxes . . . . .	7	9
Power to assess and collect local taxes . . . . .	11	12
Nonresidents, lands of, how taxed . . . . .	26	2
Open space lands, actual use. . . . .	7	11
Power of taxation. . . . .	7	1
Property subject to. . . . .	7	1,2
Property tax limited to 1 per cent of true and fair value . . . . .	7	2
Public purposes, taxation limited to . . . . .	7	1
Real estate, uniformity of taxation of . . . . .	7	1
Real property, retired persons exemption . . . . .	7	10
Rolling stock of railroads subject to . . . . .	12	17
Special assessments for local improvements . . . . .	7	9
Standing timber, actual use . . . . .	7	11
State purposes		
Payable into treasury in money only . . . . .	7	6
Taxes for, no commutation of county's proportionate share. . . . .	11	9
Surrender of state's power to tax corporate property prohibited (Stricken by Amendment 14). . . . .	7	4
Taxable property, defined . . . . .	7	1
Taxing district, defined . . . . .	7	2
Timberlands, actual use. . . . .	7	11
Towns, power to assess and collect local taxes. . . . .	11	12
Uniformity required. . . . .	7	1,9
Yield tax authorized for mines and reforested land . . . . .	7	1
(See Revenue and taxation)		

**Technical schools**

Included in public school system . . . . .	9	2
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	Art.	Sec.
<b>Telegraph and telephone companies</b>		
Common carriers . . . . .	12	19
Construction of lines authorized . . . . .	12	19
Delay and discrimination in handling messages prohibited . . . . .	12	19
Eminent domain, right extended to . . . . .	12	19
Railroads to grant like facilities to all companies . . . . .	12	19
Rights-of-way, railroads must allow use for construction of lines . . . . .	12	19
<b>Tenure of office</b>		
County officers ineligible for more than two terms in succession (Repealed by Amendment 22) . . . . .	11	7
Extension of term not to be granted to county and local officers . . . . .	11	8
In office at adoption of Constitution, how long to hold . . .	27	14
State treasurer ineligible for succeeding term (Amended by Amendment 31) . . . . .	3	25
(See Recall of officers; Term of office)		
<b>Term of office</b>		
Attorney general . . . . .	3	3
Auditor of state . . . . .	3	3
Commencement of term . . . . .	3	4
Of first officers elected under Constitution . . . . .	27	16
Commissioner of public lands . . . . .	3	3
Compensation increase during term . . . . .	30	1
County, district, precinct and township officers . . . . .	11	5
Governor . . . . .	3	2
Judges of supreme court . . . . .	4	3
Of superior court . . . . .	4	5
Lieutenant governor . . . . .	3	3
Officers not provided for in Constitution, legislature to fix . . . . .	27	11
Representatives . . . . .	2	4, 5
Secretary of state . . . . .	3	3
Senators . . . . .	2	6
Superintendent of public instruction . . . . .	3	3
Treasurer of state . . . . .	3	3
(See Recall of officers; Tenure of office)		
<b>Territory</b>		
Accrued debts, fines, etc., inure to state . . . . .	27	3
Bonds and recognizances given to, pass to state . . . . .	27	4
Courts of, continue until when . . . . .	27	8
Causes transferred to state courts . . . . .	27	5, 8
Debts of, assumed by state . . . . .	26	3

	Art.	Sec.
Existing counties to be subdivisions of state. . . . .	11	1
Existing rights, suits, etc., change in form		
of government not to affect . . . . .	27	1
Laws to remain in force, conditions . . . . .	27	2
Except those granting tide lands . . . . .	27	2
Liabilities, assumption of, by state . . . . .	26	3
Officers to hold until superseded by state officers . . . . .	27	6
Process to be valid. . . . .	27	1
Property of, to vest in state . . . . .	27	4
<b>Testimony</b>		
Accused not required to testify against himself . . . . .	1	9
Except in case of bribery or corrupt solicitation . . . . .	2	30
Right of accused to testify. . . . .	1	22
Treason, what necessary for conviction . . . . .	1	27
Weight of, not affected by religious belief . . . . .	1	11
(See Evidence)		
<b>Tide lands</b>		
Ownership by state asserted . . . . .	17	1
Streets may be extended over, by municipal corporations . . . . .	15	3
Title to lands patented disclaimed by state . . . . .	17	2
Vested rights may be asserted in courts. . . . .	17	1
<b>Tide waters</b>		
Control and regulation within harbor areas. . . . .	15	1-3
<b>Timber</b>		
Sale from state lands authorized, how. . . . .	16	3
Sale, proceeds to common school construction fund . . . . .	9	3
Taxation based on actual use. . . . .	7	11
<b>Timberlands</b>		
Reforestation lands, yield tax . . . . .	7	1
Sale of, when valid . . . . .	16	3
Taxation based on actual use. . . . .	7	11
<b>Time</b>		
Petition for initiative measures, time for filing . . . . .	2	1(a)
Referendum petition, time for filing . . . . .	2	1(d)
<b>Title</b>		
Assertion by state in tide lands . . . . .	17	1
Disclaimer by state to patented lands . . . . .	17	2
<b>Tolerance</b>		
Secured in matters of religious sentiment. . . . .	26	1
<b>Toll</b>		
Appellate jurisdiction of supreme court . . . . .	4	4
Original jurisdiction of superior court. . . . .	4	6

	Art.	Sec.
<b>Towns and villages</b>		
Amendment of charter by special act prohibited . . . . .	2	28(8)
Bonds, nonrecourse revenue for industrial development projects . . . . .	32	1
Corporate stock or bonds not to be owned by . . . . .	8	7
Credit not to be loaned, except . . . . .	8	7
Indebtedness, limitations on . . . . .	8	6
Moneys to be deposited with treasurer . . . . .	11	15
Use of, by official, a felony . . . . .	11	14
Officers		
Salaries of, change during term (Partially repealed by Amendment 54) . . . . .	11	8
(Amendment 54) . . . . .	30	1
Term not to be extended. . . . .	11	8
Organization under general laws required . . . . .	11	10
Police and sanitary regulations may be enforced . . . . .	11	11
Taxation		
Local, legislature not to impose . . . . .	11	12
Power of . . . . .	11	12
Special assessments for local improvements authorized. . . . .	7	9
(See Municipal corporations; Municipal courts; Municipal fines)		
<b>Townships</b>		
County may adopt township form of organization by majority vote . . . . .	11	4
Local affairs to be managed under general laws . . . . .	11	4
Officers, election, duties, terms, compensation to be prescribed by legislature . . . . .	11	5
Police and sanitary regulations, power to enforce . . . . .	11	11
Term of office not to be extended . . . . .	11	8
Vacancies in office, how filled. . . . .	11	6
(See Towns and villages)		
<b>Trains</b>		
Jurisdiction of public offense committed on . . . . .	1	22
<b>Transportation companies</b>		
Commission to regulate may be established . . . . .	12	18
Common carriers, subject to legislative control . . . . .	12	13
Discrimination in charges prohibited . . . . .	12	15
Excursion and commutation tickets may be issued . . . . .	12	15
Legislature may regulate rates. . . . .	12	18
Passes not to be granted public officers. . . . .	12	20
Pooling earnings prohibited (Repealed by Amendment 67) . . . . .	12	14
(See Railroad companies)		



	Art.	Sec.
<b>Treason</b>		
Acts constituting . . . . .	1	27
Evidence necessary for conviction . . . . .	1	27
<b>Treasurer</b>		
Duties . . . . .	3	19
Election of . . . . .	3	1
Ineligibility for succeeding term (Amended by Amendment 31) . . . . .	3	25
Records to be kept at seat of government . . . . .	3	24
Residence must be at seat of government . . . . .	3	24
Salary (See Salaries)		
Succession to governorship . . . . .	3	10
Term of office . . . . .	3	3
<b>Treasury</b>		
Moneys collected by municipal officers to be paid into . . . . .	11	15
Paid out of state, when and how . . . . .	8	4
State taxes to be paid into . . . . .	7	6
<b>Trial by jury</b>		
Criminal action, right of accused in . . . . .	1	22
Number of jurors in courts not of record . . . . .	1	21
Right of, remains inviolate . . . . .	1	21
Waiver in civil cases . . . . .	1	21
Verdict by less than twelve may be authorized in civil cases . . . . .	1	21
<b>Trustees</b>		
Appointment for state institutions . . . . .	13	1
<b>Trusts</b>		
Forfeiture of property and franchise may be declared for . . . . .	12	22
Prohibited under penalty . . . . .	12	22
<b>Twice in jeopardy</b>		
Not to be subjected to for same offense . . . . .	1	9
<b>Uniformity</b>		
In system of county government to be provided for . . . . .	11	4
In taxation, required . . . . .	7	1,9
<b>United States</b>		
Compact of state with . . . . .	26	1-4
Consent of, necessary for disposing of certain lands . . . . .	16	1
Constitution is supreme law of land . . . . .	1	2
Exclusive jurisdiction over certain lands . . . . .	25	1
Officers for territory hold until superseded by state . . . . .	27	6
Office under, acceptance vacates seat in legislature . . . . .	2	14
President, qualifications to vote for . . . . .	6	1A

	Art.	Sec.
Taxation of agencies and property permitted, when . . . . .	7	3
Taxation of lands of, not to be imposed . . . . .	26	2
Title to unappropriated lands remains in. . . . .	26	2
(See Congress; Federal officers; Forts; Dockyards, etc; Indian lands)		
<b>Vacancies in office</b>		
Township, precinct and road district filled by county commissioners . . . . .	11	6
Continuity of government in periods of emergency due to enemy attack . . . . .	2	42
County partisan elective offices. . . . .	2	15
Governor . . . . .	3	10
Judges of supreme and superior courts . . . . .	4	3,5
Legislature . . . . .	2	15
Partisan county elective office. . . . .	2	15
State, filled by governor until next election . . . . .	3	13
<b>Validating acts</b>		
Relating to deeds, etc., by special laws, prohibited. . . . .	2	28(9)
<b>Validity of statute</b>		
Appellate jurisdiction of supreme court . . . . .	4	4
<b>Verdict</b>		
Number of jurors may be less than twelve in civil cases . . .	1	21
<b>Vested rights</b>		
In tide lands, protected . . . . .	17	1
<b>Veto</b>		
Governor's power of . . . . .	3	12
Measures initiated by or referred to the people . . . . .	2	1(d)
Passage over . . . . .	3	12
<b>Victims of crimes</b>		
Rights. . . . .	1	35
<b>Village</b> (See Towns and villages)		
<b>Vital statistics</b>		
Bureau of, to be created. . . . .	20	1
<b>Vote</b>		
By ballot on all elections. . . . .	6	6
First election to be under territorial law . . . . .	27	15
Legislative elections to be viva voce. . . . .	2	27
Legislature to provide method. . . . .	6	6
Persons not entitled to . . . . .	6	3
President, for . . . . .	6	1A
Registration a prerequisite, when . . . . .	7	7

	Art.	Sec.
School elections, women may be given right (Stricken by Amendment 5) . . . . .	6	2
Superior court judge, for . . . . .	4	29
Temporary residence of certain persons not to affect right . .	6	4
(See Elections; Electors; Initiative and referendum; Voter)		
<b>Voter</b>		
Absence for certain reasons not to affect rights as . . . . .	6	4
Age. . . . .	6	1
Basis for ascertaining number of voters required on referendum petition . . . . .	2	1(d)
Citizenship qualification . . . . .	6	1
Exempt from military duty on election day, except . . . . .	6	5
Females as qualified (Amendment 5)		
Incompetent persons, disqualification. . . . .	6	3
Majority vote required for approval of measures submitted to popular vote . . . . .	2	1(d)
Percentage of voters required on referendum petition . . . . .	2	1(a)
Percentage of voters required to propose initiative measures . . . . .	2	1(a)
Presidential elections, qualifications . . . . .	6	1A
Privilege from arrest at election, except . . . . .	6	5
Qualifications. . . . .	6	1
Recall of public officer, percentage of voters required for . .	1	33, 34
Registration . . . . .	6	7
Residence qualification . . . . .	6	1
(See Elective franchise; Electors; Initiative and referendum)		
<b>Voter's pamphlet</b>		
Distribution . . . . .	2	1(e)
<b>Waiver</b>		
Of jury trial for ascertaining compensation for eminent domain . . . . .	1	16
<b>Water and water rights</b>		
Appropriation for irrigation, etc., declared a public use . . .	21	1
Loaning of credit for water, energy, or stormwater or sewer services conservation . . . . .	8	10
Municipal corporations, indebtedness for, limitations . . . . .	8	6
Restrictions on sale by state . . . . .	15	1
<b>Ways of necessity</b>		
Taking of private property for . . . . .	1	16
(See Eminent domain)		
<b>Wharves</b>		
Harbor areas to be leased for, limitations . . . . .	15	2
(See Area reserved; Harbors; Navigable waters)		

	Art.	Sec.
<b>Wills</b>		
Validation by special law prohibited . . . . .	2	28(9)
<b>Witness</b>		
Accused as having right to confront . . . . .	1	22
Crimination of self in bribery cases compulsory . . . . .	2	30
Not compelled to testify against himself. . . . .	1	9
Number necessary for conviction in treason. . . . .	1	27
Religious belief not ground of incompetency. . . . .	1	11
(See Testimony)		
<b>Woman suffrage</b>		
Adoption of (Amendment 5)		
Denial in school elections may be provided against (Stricken by Amendment 5). . . . .	6	2
Separate article submitted (rejected). . . . .	27	17
<b>Women</b>		
Equal rights . . . . .	31	1,2
<b>Worship</b>		
Freedom guaranteed . . . . .	1	11
<b>Writs</b>		
Issuance and service on nonjudicial days . . . . .	4	6
Issuance by supreme court . . . . .	4	4
Issuance by superior court. . . . .	4	6
(See Habeas corpus)		
<b>Yeas and nays</b>		
Allowing introduction of bills within ten days of adjournment. . . . .	2	36
Entered on journal upon demand of members . . . . .	2	21
Taken on final passage of bills . . . . .	2	22
On passage of emergency clauses (Stricken by Amendment 7). . . . .	2	31
(See Ayes and noes)		

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# Sources of the Washington State Constitution

## Preface

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Washington has had two constitutional conventions. The first one convened at Walla Walla in June, 1878. It was a very small body composed of only fifteen men, but representative of the Territory's best intellect. Their labors continued over a period of forty days and produced a draft of a proposed constitution unequaled by that of any state. While the proceedings of this convention were never printed, they can be found in the columns of the Walla Walla Bulletin for that month and the original draft may be found in the office of the Secretary of State. The proceedings have been reprinted with notes by Dean John T. Condon and Professor Edmund Meany of the University of Washington. When presented to Congress, this constitution was rejected and statehood postponed for another eleven years.

Just prior to the convening on July 4th of the Constitutional Convention of 1889, Mr. W. Lair Hill, a prominent attorney both of Oregon and California, code writer of Oregon, former editor of the Portland, Oregon, Oregonian, a new resident of Seattle and soon to be the compiler of Washington's first state code, prepared, at the request of the Oregonian, the draft of a model state constitution. Copies were placed on the desks of the members of the Constitutional Convention of 1889 and were used as the working basis upon which to build the constitution for the new state of Washington. While it is difficult to measure the extent of its influence, it is evident that it was not small.

This second constitutional convention met in Olympia pursuant to an enabling act passed by Congress on February 22, 1889. It was in session until August 22, 1889. The membership of the convention consisted of seventy-five delegates chosen by the people of the Territory of Washington at an election held May 14, 1889, under Section 3 of the Enabling Act. They represented twenty-four nativities, partly as follows: Missouri 10, Ohio 8, New York 7, Illinois 7, Maine 6, Pennsylvania 4, Kentucky 4, Indiana 3, Michigan 3, Tennessee 2, and North Carolina, Massachusetts, Washington, Wisconsin, Connecticut, Iowa, Nebraska, and California each 1.

Judge John P. Hoyt was chosen as its president. The personnel of the convention included many very distinguished citizens including three future justices of the supreme court, a future governor, a future United States Senator, several future superior court judges. By occupations there were 22 lawyers, 15 farmers, 6 physicians, 5 merchants, 5 bankers, 4 stockmen, 3 teachers, 4 millmen and loggers, 1 preacher, 1 surveyor, 1 fisherman, and 1 engineer. Their average age was 45 years.

The constitution presented by these delegates was ratified by the people at an election held on October 1, 1889, and on November 11, 1889, in accordance with Section 8 of the Enabling Act, the President of the United States proclaimed the admission of the State of Washington into the Union.

## **Comparative Study of Articles**

The Constitution of Washington was the result of a study of the constitutions of many states. The constitutions of Oregon and California influenced it the most; but a considerable number of its sections show similar and identical language taken from the constitutions of Wisconsin, Missouri, Colorado, and Indiana. A lesser number of sections show the influence of the constitutions of Illinois, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Ohio. Altogether provisions from twenty-three state constitutions were copied into the final draft.

The influence of the Hill model draft was extensive. Much of this draft came from Oregon, which in turn had been taken heavily from the constitution of Indiana. In addition to Oregon, Mr. Hill borrowed from California and Wisconsin. It is probable that the members of the constitutional convention used the Hill draft as a basis of their study and modified its provisions as they progressed

with the work. The proposed Constitution of 1878 was of much aid to them also. Even Mr. Hill copied from it in the preparation of his model draft.

A study of the various sections of the Constitution of Washington as finally adopted shows somewhat the following conclusions:

<b>State Constitution or Proposed Draft</b>	<b>Identical Section</b>	<b>Similar Section</b>
Hill .....	51	46
California .....	45	45
Oregon.....	23	37
Wisconsin.....	27	17
Proposed 1878.....	19	30
Indiana.....	7	10
Colorado.....	8	15
Missouri .....	3	18
Illinois .....	6	14
Pennsylvania .....	7	6
Texas .....	2	7
United States .....	7	17
Ohio.....	1	7

It should be noted, however, that there must be an overlapping of sections between states, as for example, certain sections as finally drafted might be the identical language of Hill, California, and Oregon; or a similarity of language of sections taken from Oregon, Indiana, and Wisconsin. The table clearly shows the relative influence of the constitutions and proposed drafts which are the sources of its provisions.

## Summary of Articles

### Article

- I Based largely on Oregon, which, in turn, was based on Indiana. Hill based his text of this article on Oregon.
- II Taken largely from California and Wisconsin.
- III Borrowed from Hill, and the Proposed Constitution of 1878.
- IV Borrowed from Hill, which, in turn, was borrowed from California.
- V Taken from Colorado.
- VI-X Taken from various jurisdictions.
- XI Influenced largely by California and Missouri.
- XII Borrowed heavily from California.
- XIII Taken from Colo. Const.; prop. Const. of 1878 [Identical in Part.] Ohio Const.
- XIV-XV Taken from Hill with some changes.
- XVI Various jurisdictions.
- XVII Hill, Enabling Act, and Proposed Constitution of 1876.
- XVIII Original.
- XIX California.
- XX Texas.
- XXI California, Colorado, and Hill.
- XXII Oregon, Kansas, Hill.
- XXIII California, Oregon, Hill, Proposed Constitution of 1878.
- XXIV Original.
- XXV Enabling Act and United States Constitution.
- XXVI Enabling Act.
- XXVII Proposed Constitution of 1878.
- XXVIII 20th Amendment to State Constitution.

Titles not consistent: XVII, Hill listed first. XXI, Hill listed last-no "and."  
XXII, Hill listed last following "and."



## **Comparisons to Washington Constitution of 1889**

This comparison is with earlier constitutions of other states containing similar or identical provisions to the Washington Constitution.

### **Article I - Declaration of Rights**

#### **Section 1 - Political Power**

Hill's Proposed Const., 1 Art. I, Sec. 1;                      In substance.  
Oregon Const. 1857, Art. I, Sec. 1:  
See also Declaration of Independence.

<sup>1</sup>Subsequent references to Hill refer to Hill's Proposed Code.

#### **Section 2 - Supreme Law**

Hill, Art. I, Sec. 2;    Identical in part.  
U.S. Const., Art. VI, Sec. 2.

#### **Section 3 - Due Process of Law**

U.S. Const., Amend. V    Identical.<sup>3</sup>  
Ore. Const. 1857, Art. I, Sec. 10                              In substance.  
(Hill, Art. I, Sec. 8, identical with Ore.).

<sup>3</sup>Identical - The word identical is used to denote the exact phraseology in whole or in part.

#### **Section 4 - Right of Petition**

U.S. Const. Amend.<sup>1</sup>    Identical.

#### **Section 5 - Free Speech Guaranteed**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. I, Sec. 8.                              Almost identical  
Ore. Const. 1857, Art. I, Sec. 8                              Similar.<sup>2</sup>  
(Ind. Const. 1851, Art. I, Sec. 9, and Hill,  
Art. I, Sec. 5, identical with Ore.).

<sup>2</sup>Similar - The word similar is used to denote either a partial resemblance or sameness in all essential parts.

#### **Section 6 - Oaths**

Ore. Const. 1857, Art. I, Sec. 7                              Identical.  
(Ind. Const. 1851, Art. I, Sec. 8: and  
Hill, Art. I, Sec. 4: identical with Ore.).



### Section 14 - Excessive Bail

U.S. Const., Amend. VIII.

Identical except for omission of word "unusual."

Ore. Const. 1857, Art. I, Sec. 16  
(Hill, Art. I, Sec. 16, identical with Ore.).

Similar. Ore. adds "but all penalties shall be proportioned to the offense. In all criminal cases whatever, the jury shall have the right to determine the law, and the facts under the direction of the court as to the law, and the right of new trial, as in civil cases."

### Section 15 - No Corruption of Blood, nor Forfeiture of Estate

Ore. Const. 1857, Art. I, Sec. 25  
(Hill, Art. I, Sec. 17; Ind. Const. 1851, Art. I, Sec. 30, identical with Ore.).

Identical except that Wash. uses "nor" in place of "or."

U.S. Const. Art. III, Sec. 2.

Similar.

### Section 16 - Taking of Private Property for Public Use

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. I, Sec. 14;  
Ala. Const. 1867, Art. I, Sec. 25.  
9th Amend. changes this slightly.

Similar.

### Section 17 - No Imprisonment for Debt

Ore. Const. 1857, Art. I, Sec. 19.

Identical except that Ore. adds word "fraud."

Hill, Art. I, Sec. 20.

Identical except that Hill adds word "debt."

### Section 18 - Military Subordinate to Civil Power

Ore. Const. 1857, Art. I, Sec. 27  
(Ind. Const. 1851, Art. I, Sec. 33, identical with Ore.).

Identical.

### Section 19 - Elections to be Free and Open

Ore. Const. 1857, Art. II, Sec. 1  
(Ind. Const. 1851, Art. II, Sec. 1, identical with Ore.).

Identical except that Ore. Const. omits everything after the first clause.

### Section 20 - Right to Bail

Ore. Const. 1857, Art. I, Sec. 14  
(Hill, Art. I, Sec. 14; Ind. Const. 1851, Art. I, Sec. 17, identical with Ore.).

Similar.

### Section 21 - Right to Jury Trial

Ore. Const. 1857, Art. I, Sec. 18; Hill, Art. I, Sec. 9; Cal. Const. 1879, Art. I, Sec. 7; Nev. Const. 1864, Art. I, Sec. 3.	Similar.
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### Section 22 - Right of Defense and Appeal

Ore. Const. 1857, Art. I, Sec. 11 (Hill, Art. I, Sec. 11; Ind. Const. 1851, Art. I, Sec. 13, identical with Ore.); U.S. Const. Amendment VI. 10th Amend. changes this slightly.	Similar.
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### Section 23 - Ex Post Facto

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. I, Sec. 16 (Hill, Art. I, Sec. 23, identical with Cal.).	Identical.
Ore. Const. 1857, Art. I, Sec. 21.	Similar.
U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 10.	Identical.
Ind. Const. 1851, Art. I, Sec. 23.	Identical except that Indiana omits clause relative to Bills of Attainder.

### Section 24 - Right to Bear Arms

U.S. Const., Amend. II; Ore. Const. 1857, Art. I, Sec. 27; Hill, Art. I, Sec. 28.	Similar in part.
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### Section 25 - Prosecution by Information

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. I, Sec. 8 (Hill, Art. I, Sec. 10, almost identical with Cal.).	Similar.
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### Section 26 - Grand Jury

.....	Probably original.
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### Section 27 - Treason Against State

Ore. Const. 1857, Art. I, Sec. 24 (Hill, Art. I, Sec. 26; Ind. Const. 1851, Art. I, Secs. 28, 29 identical with Ore.).	Identical except that Wash. adds an additional conjunction "or."
U.S. Const. Art. I, Sec. 3.	Identical.

### Section 28 - No Hereditary Privilege to be Granted

Ore. Const. 1857, Art. I, Sec. 29 (Ind. Const. 1851, Art. I, Sec. 35 identical). Cf. U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 9.	Similar in substance.
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**Section 29 - Provisions Mandatory**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. I, Sec. 22.

Identical except that Cal. adds word "prohibitory."

**Section 30 - Reserved rights; Rule of Construction**

U.S. Const., Amendment IX.

Identical except that U.S. Const. adds words "or disparage."

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. I, Sec. 23;  
Ore. Const. 1857, Art. I, Sec. 25  
(Iowa Const. 1846, Sec. 24;  
Hill, Art. I, Sec. 31, identical).

Similar.

**Section 31 - Standing Army**

Ore. Const. 1857, Art. I, Sec. 29  
(Hill, Art. I, Sec. 18; U.S. Const. Amend.  
III, identical with Ore.).

Identical except that Wash. adds the first clause not found in the others.

**Section 32 - Fundamental Principles Essential to Security**

Wis. Const. 1848, Art. I, Sec. 22; N.H.  
Const. 1792, Sec. 38; Ill. Const. 1870,  
Art. II, Sec. 20.

Similar.

**Section 33 - Recall**

8th Amendment (New Section).

**Section 34 - Per Cent Required**

8th Amendment (New Section).

**Article II - Legislative Department**

**Section 1 - Legislature**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. IV, Sec. 1;  
Hill, Art. IV, Sec. 1;  
Mich. Const. 1850, Art. IV, Sec. 3.

Similar. Wash. places enacting a clause in a separate section.

7th Amend. adds Initiative and Referendum.

**Section 2 - Limited Membership**

Wis. Const. 1848, Art. IV, Sec. 2.

Similar.

**Section 3 - State Census**

<sup>4</sup> Wash. Const. 1878, Art. IV, Sec. 3.	Identical except for last three words "in active service."
Wis. Const. 1848, Art. IV, Sec. 3; N.Y. Const. 1846, Art. IV, Sec. 4; Ore. Const. 1857, Art. IV, Sec. 5; Mo. Const. 1875, Art. IV, Sec. 3; Cal. Const. 1879, Art. IV, Sec. 3.	Similar.
Mich. Const., 1850, Art. IV, Sec. 3; Neb. Const. 1875, Art. III, Sec. 2.	Very Similar.
<sup>4</sup> Washington Constitution 1878, proposed only.	

**Section 4 - First Election of Representatives**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. IV, Sec. 3.	Similar.
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**Tenure of Office**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. IV, Sec. 3.	Similar.
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**Section 5 - Second and Subsequent Elections**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. IV, Sec. 3.	Almost identical with Washington.
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**Section 6 - Election State Senators**

Wis. Const. 1848, Art. IV, Sec. 5, as amended 1881.	Similar.
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**Section 7 - Eligibility**

Wis. Const. 1848, Art. IV, Sec. 6.	Similar except as to requirement of being a citizen of U.S.
Hill, Art. IV, Sec. 8.	Contains the requirement that member must be a citizen of U.S.

**Section 8 - Election Returns**

Wis. Const. 1848, Art. IV, Sec. 7.	Identical.
Cal. Const. 1879, Art. IV, Sec. 7; U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 5.	Similar.

**Quorum**

Wis. Const. 1848, Art. IV, Sec. 7; Cal. Const. 1879, Art. IV, Sec. 8.	Identical.
U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 5.	Similar.

**Section 9 - Rules**

Wis. Const. 1848, Art. IV, Sec. 8.	Identical except Wis. reads "cause" instead of "offense."
Cal. Const. 1879, Art. IV, Sec. 9.	Similar in part.
U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 5.	Very Similar.

**Section 10 - Officers of Each House**

Wis. Const. 1848, Art. IV, Sec. 9.	Identical except that Wash. adds provision giving the Lieutenant Governor a vote in case of a tie. Language of Wash. Const. is also transposed from that of the Wis. Const.
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**Section 11 - Journal**

Wis. Const. 1848, Art. IV, Sec. 10.	Identical.
U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 5.	Similar.

**Adjournment**

Wis. Const. 1848, Art. IV, Sec. 10; Cal. Const. 1879, Art. IV, Sec. 14; U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 5.	Identical.
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**Section 12 - Meetings of Legislature**

Wis. Const. 1848, Art. IV, Sec. 11; Cal. Const. 1879, Art. IV, Sec. 3; Ore. Const. 1857, Art. IV, Sec. 10.	Similar.
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**Limit of Session 60 Days**

Nev. Const. 1864, Art. IV, Sec. 29.	Identical although several states have provisions from 45-50 days.
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**Section 13 - Legislators Ineligible for Other State Offices**

Wis. Const. 1848, Art. IV, Sec. 12.	Identical except for transposition of word "shall."
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**Section 14 - Who Are Ineligible to Membership in Legislature**

Wis. Const. 1848, Art. IV, Sec. 13.	Identical down to the proviso except for phrase "or any other power."
Cal. Const. 1879, Art. IV, Sec. 2; U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 6.	Similar proviso.

**Section 15 - Vacancies**

Wis. Const. 1848, Art. IV, Sec. 14. Identical.  
 13th Amendment changes this slightly.

**Section 16 - Immunity from Arrest**

Wis. Const. 1848, Art. IV, Sec. 15. Identical except for transposition of words.  
 U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 6. Similar.

**Section 17 - Free Speech**

Wis. Const. 1848, Art. IV, Sec. 16. Identical.

**Section 18 - Style of Laws**

Wash. Const. 1878, Art. VI, Sec. 1. Identical.  
 Wis. Const. 1848, Art. IV, Sec. 17. Similar.

**No Law to be Enacted Except by Bill**

Ore. Const. 1857, Art. IV, Sec. 1; Identical.  
 Cal. Const. 1879, Art. IV, Sec. 15;  
 Wis. Const. 1848, Art. IV, Sec. 17.  
 (Cal. Const. 1879, Art. IV,  
 Sec. 15, and Wis. Const.  
 1848, Art. IV, Sec. 17,  
 identical with Ore.)

**Section 19 - Only One Subject in Bill**

Wis. Const. 1848, Art. IV, Sec. 18; Similar.  
 Cal. Const. 1879, Art. IV, Sec. 24.

**Section 20 - Either House May Amend**

Wis. Const. 1848, Art. IV, Sec. 19 Identical except Wash. uses  
 (Wash. Const. 1878, Art. VI, Sec. 21, "in" where Wis. uses "by."  
 identical).

**Section 21 - Yeas and Nays**

Wis. Const. 1848, Art. IV, Sec. 20. Identical except that Wis.  
 adds the phrase "on any  
 question."  
 U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 5. Similar.

**Section 22 - Yeas and Nays in Passage of Bill**

Wash. Const. 1878, Art. VI, Sec. 16; Cal. Similar.  
 Const. 1879, Art. IV, Sec. 15.  
 Penn. Const. 1873, Art. III, Sec. 4. Identical.



**Section 23 - Compensation of Members**

Wis. Const. 1848, Art. IV, Sec. 21. Identical except as amount per diem (Wis. is \$2.50; Wash. is \$5.00)

**Section 24 - Lottery**

Wis. Const. 1848, Art. IV, Sec. 24. Identical except that Const. 1878 adds "the sale of lottery tickets shall be prohibited by law."

**Divorce**

Wash. Const. 1878, Art. VI, Sec. 22. Identical.

**Section 25 - Extra Compensation Forbidden**

Wis. Const. 1848, Art. IV, Sec. 26. Identical.

**Section 26 - Suit Against State**

Wis. Const. 1848, Art. IV, Sec. 27. Identical.  
(Wash. Const. 1878, Art. VI, Sec. 30, identical with Wis.).

**Section 27 - Viva Voce Votes**

Wis. Const. 1848, Art. IV, Sec. 30. Identical except that Wis. inserts phrase "to be made."  
(Wash. Const. 1878, Art. VI, Sec. 32, identical with Wis.).

**Section 28 - Certain Private Laws Forbidden**

**1**

Wis. Const. 1848, Amend. Art. IV, Sec. 31, Cl. I (1871). Identical.

**2**

Same, Cl. 2. Identical except that Wash. adds phrase "shall have been."

**3**

Same, Cl. 3. Identical except that Wis. inserts words "across streams at points."

**4**

Same, Cl. 4. Identical.

	<b>5</b>	
Same, Cl. 6.		Identical.
	<b>6</b>	
Same, Cl. 7.		Identical except that Wis. inserts words "except to cities."
	<b>7</b>	
Same, Cl. 8.		Identical.
	<b>8</b>	
Same, Cl. 9.		Identical.
	<b>9</b>	
Cal. Const. 1879, Art. IV, Sec. 25, Cl. 14.		Identical.
	<b>10</b>	
Same, Cl. 16. (Hill, Art. IV, Sec. 28, Cl. 16, identical with Cal.)		Identical.
	<b>11</b>	
Same, Cl. 17. (Hill, Art. IV, Sec. 28, Cl. 17, identical with Cal.)		Identical.
	<b>12</b>	
Same, Cl. 18. (Hill, Art. IV, Sec. 28, Cl. 18, identical with Cal.)		Identical.
	<b>13</b>	
Same, Cl. 23. (Wash. Const. 1878, Art. VI, Sec. 17, Cl. 13, identical with Cal.)		Identical.
	<b>14</b>	
Same, Cl. 26. (Hill, Art. IV, Sec. 28, Cl. 25; Wash. Const. 1878, Art. VI, Sec. 17, Cl. 17, identical with Cal.)		Identical.

**15**

Same, Cl. 27. Identical.  
 (Hill, Art. IV, Sec. 28, Cl. 26; Wash.  
 Const. 1878, Art. VI, Sec. 17, Cl. 12,  
 identical with Cal.)

**16**

Same, Cl. 31. Identical except that Wash.  
 (Hill, Art. IV, Sec. 28, identical with omits word "legitimation."  
 Cal.)

**17**

Same, Cl. 32. Identical.  
 (Hill, Art. IV, Sec. 28, Cl. 30, identical  
 with Cal.)

**18**

Same, Cl. 21. Similar.  
 (Hill, Art. IV, Sec. 28, Cl. 20, identical  
 with Cal.)

Wis. Const. 1848, Amend. Art. IV, Sec. 31, Cl. 5 (1871). Very similar. However nei-  
 ther of the above contain  
 the Wash. proviso relative  
 to creation of new counties.

**Section 29 - Labor of Convicts**

Ill. Const. 1870 (Amendment of 1886). Similar.

**Section 30 - Corrupt Solicitation**

Penn. Const. 1873, Art. III, Secs. 31, 32. Identical.

**Members Shall Not Vote in Certain Cases**

Penn. Const., 1873, Art. III, Sec. 33 Identical.  
 (Wash. Const. 1878, Art. VI, Sec. 29,  
 identical with Penn.)

**Section 31 - Laws Take Effect When**

Texas Const. 1876, Art. III, Sec. 39. Identical except that Wash.  
 has omitted a few words.

Ore. Const. 1857, Art. IV, Sec. 28; Colo. Similar.  
 Const. 1876, Art. V, Sec. 19  
 (Wash. Const. 1878, Art. VI, Sec. 14,  
 identical with Colo.);  
 Hill, Art. IV, Sec. 27.  
 Repealed by the 7th Amendment.

**Section 32 - Presiding Officers to Sign Bill**

Wash. Const. 1878, Art. VI, Sec. 18; Similar.  
Hill, Art. IV, Sec. 25.

**Section 33 - Alien Ownership of Lands**

Ore. Const. 1857, Art. XV, Sec. 8. Similar in part.

**Section 34 - Bureau of Statistics**

Ohio Const. 1851, Art. XV, Sec. 8. Similar.

**Section 35 - Laws Relating to Mines, Factories**

Ill. Const. 1870, Art. IV, Sec. 29; Ohio Similar.  
Const. 1851, Art. II, Sec. 35; Ark. Const.  
1874, Art. XIX, Sec. 18; Colo. Const.  
1876, Art. XVI, Sec. 2.

**Section 36 - Introduction of Bills Limited**

Colo. Const. 1876, Art. V, Sec. 19; Md. Similar.  
Const. 1867, Art. III, Sec. 27; Minn.  
Const. 1857, Art. IV, Sec. 1; Neb. Const.  
1875, Art. III, Sec. 4.

**Section 37 - Amending Laws**

Ore. Const. 1857, Art. IV, Sec. 22 Identical except that Wash.  
(Hill, Art. IV, Sec. 22, identical with Ore.). omits words "and pub-  
lished."  
Wash. Const. 1878, Art. VI, Sec. 17. Similar.

**Section 38 - Amendment to Bill**

Colo. Const. 1876, Art. V, Sec. 17. Similar.

**Section 39 - Passes Forbidden**

Penn. Const. 1873, Art. XVII, Sec. 8. Similar.  
Cal. Const. 1879, Art. XII, Sec. 19. See Wash. Const. 1889, Art.  
XII, Sec. 20, for another  
similar section. In most  
states such a provision  
appears under article on  
corporations.

## Article III - The Executive

### Section 1 - Executive Department Consists of Whom

Hill, Art. V, Sec. 1; Wash. Const. 1878, Art. IX, Sec. 1; Colo. Const. 1876, Art. IV, Sec. 1.	Very similar; except that Wash. adds "other officers."
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### Section 2 - Governor

Ore. Const. 1857, Art. V, Sec. 1; Wash. Const. 1878, Art. VII, Sec. 1; Hill, Art. V, Sec. 4.	Similar; Wash. drops the limitations on number of terms of office.
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### Section 3 - Other Officers

Hill, Art. V, Sec. 2; Wash. Const. 1878, Art. IX, Sec. 1; Ore. Const. 1857, Art. VI, Sec. 1; Wis. Const. 1848, Art. VI, Sec. 1; Cal. Const. 1879, Art. V, Sec. 17.	Similar. Most constitutions provide for these officers. Some place them under an article entitled administrative dept. The details vary greatly.
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### Section 4 - Returns on Election of Executive Officers

Hill, Art. V, Sec. 3.	Identical.
Ore. Const. 1857, Art. V, Sec. 4; Wash. Const. 1878, Art. VII, Sec. 3.	Similar.

### Certificate of Election

Hill, Art. V, Sec. 3; Ore. Const. 1857, Art. V, Sec. 6; Wash. Const. 1878, Art. VII, Sec. 3 (similar in form).	Identical except that Wash. applies the authority to all "officers."
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### Section 5 - Duties of Governor

Hill, Art. V, Sec. 4.	Identical except that Wash. substitutes "State" for "executive department."
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### Section 6 - Message

Hill, Art. V, Sec. 5.	Identical.
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### Section 7 - May Convene Extraordinary Sessions

Hill, Art. V, Sec. 6.	Identical except for slight change of words.
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### Section 8 - Commander-in-Chief

Hill, Art. V, Sec. 8.	Identical.
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**Section 9 - Pardoning Power**

Hill, Art. V, Sec. 9.	Identical.
Wash. Const. 1878, Art. VIII, Sec. 5.	Similar.

**Section 10 - Lieutenant-Governor Shall Act as Governor, When**

Wash. Const. 1878, Art. VII, Sec. 6; Hill, Art. V, Sec. 12. Repealed by the 6th Amendment.	Similar, although they do not provide for lieutenant-governor. The idea of the office of the lieutenant-governor probably came from Cal. or Wis.
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**Section 11 - Governor May Remit Fines, Etc.**

Ore. Const. 1857, Art. V, Sec. 14 (Hill, Art. V, Sec. 14, identical with Ore.).	Identical.
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**Section 12 - Duties of Governor in Regard to Enactment of Laws**

Hill, Art. V, Sec. 15.	Identical except for slight changes in minor words.
Ore. Const. 1857, Art. V, Sec. 15; Cal. Const. 1879, Art. IV, Sec. 16; Wis. Const. 1848, Art. V, Sec. 10; Wash. Const. 1878, Art. VII, Sec. 7.	Similar.

**Veto of Individual Sections**

Hill, Art. V, Sec. 15.	Almost identical; Ore. did not add this clause until 1920.
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**Section 13 - Vacancies Filled by Appointment**

Hill, Art. V, Sec. 16.	Identical.
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**Section 14 - Salary of Governor**

Varies in all constitutions which specifically provide the amount of the salary.

**Section 15 - Governor Shall Issue All Commissions**

Ore. Const. 1857, Art. V, Sec. 8 (Hill, Art. V, Sec. 18; Ind. Const. 1851, Art. XV, Sec. 6, identical with Ore.).	Identical.
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**Section 16 - Duty of Lieutenant Governor to Preside Over Senate**

Cal Const. 1879, Art. V, Sec. 15;                      Similar in this extent only.  
Wis. Const. 1848, Art. V, Sec. 8.

**Section 17 - Duties of Secretary of State**

Hill, Art. V, Sec. 19;                                      Identical except that Wash.  
Cal. Const. 1879, Art. V, Sec. 18.                      drops the word "fair" from  
the Hill Constitution and  
the word "correct" from the  
Cal. Const.

Ore. Const. 1857, Art. VI, Sec. 2.                      Similar.

**Section 18 - Shall Keep State Seal**

Ore. Const. 1857, Art. VI, Sec. 3                      Identical.  
(Hill, Art. V, Sec. 20, identical with Ore.).

**Section 19 - Duties of State Treasurer**

Ore. Const. 1857, Art. VI, Sec. 4                      Identical.  
(Hill, Art. V, Sec. 21, identical with  
Ore.).

Wash. Const. 1878, Art. IX, Sec. 3.                      Similar.

**Section 20 - Duties of State Auditor**

Hill, Art. V, Sec. 22.                                      Identical.

**Section 21 - Duties of Attorney General**

Hill, Art. V, Sec. 23.                                      Identical except that Wash.  
uses "state officers" instead  
of naming them separately.

**Section 22 - Duties of Superintendent of Public Instruction**

Wash. Const. 1878, Art. IX, Sec. 3.                      Similar in part.

**Section 23 - Duties of Land Commissioner**

.....    Seems to be original.

**Section 24 - Certain Offices to be Kept at Capital**

Hill, Art. V, Sec. 24.                                      Almost identical.

Ore. Const. 1857, Art. VI, Sec. 5;                      Similar.  
Wash. Const. 1878, Art. IX, Sec. 1.

**Section 25 - Eligibility to State Office**

Wis. Const. 1848, Art. V, Sec. 2;	Similar in part.
Ill. Const. 1870, Art. VII, Sec. 6;	
Colo. Const. 1876, Art. VII, Sec. 6.	

**Treasurer Ineligible for Second Term**

Wash. Const. 1878, Art. IX, Sec. 4;	Similar.
Neb. Const. 1875, Art. V, Sec. 3.	

**Certain Offices May be Abolished**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. V, Sec. 19.	Similar with regard to surveyor-general.
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**Article IV - The Judiciary****Section 1 - Supreme Court, Inferior Courts**

Hill, Art. VI, Sec. 1.	Identical except that Wash. drops words "in any incor- porated city."
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**Section 2 - Supreme Court Consists of Whom**

Hill, Art. VI, Sec. 2;	Similar in part.
Wash. Const. 1878, Art. VIII, Sec. 4.	Identical.

**Separate Departments**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. VI, Sec. 2.	Similar in part.
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**Section 3 - Supreme Court Election**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. VI, Sec. 3;	Portions identical; portions similar; portions probably original.
Hill, Art. VI, Sec. 3.	

**Section 4 - Jurisdiction Supreme Court**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. VI, Sec. 4;	Portions identical; portions similar; portions probably original.
Hill, Art. VI, Sec. 4.	

**Section 5 - Superior Courts - Sessions - Tenure**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. VI, Sec. 6;	Portions identical; portions similar; portions probably original. (Portions now ob- solete due to statutes.)
Hill, Art. VI, Sec. 5.	

**Section 6 - Jurisdiction of Superior Courts**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. VI, Sec. 5 (Hill, Art. VI, Sec. 6, identical with Cal.).	Identical except for a few word changes.
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**Section 7 - Judges May Hold Court in Any County**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. VI, Sec. 8                      Identical.  
(Hill, Art. VI, Sec. 7, identical with Cal.).

**Pro Tempore Judges**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. VI, Sec. 8.                      Identical except that Wash.  
requires selection of pro  
tempore judge to be ap-  
proved by court.

**Section 8 - Leave of Absence of Judges**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. VI, Sec. 9                      Identical with the excep-  
(Hill, Art. VI, Sec. 8, identical with Cal.).              tion of the proviso, which  
seems to be original.

**Section 9 - Removal of Judges**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. VII, Sec. 10;                      Similar.  
Hill, Art. VI, Sec. 8;  
Wis. Const. 1848, Art. VII, Sec. 13.

**Section 10 - Justice of Peace**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. VI, Sec. 11;                      Similar.  
Hill, Art. VI, Sec. 8.

**Section 11 - Courts of Record**

Hill, Art. VI, Sec. 11.                                      Identical except for slight  
change.

**Section 12 - Jurisdiction of Inferior Courts**

Hill, Art. VI, Sec. 12.                                      Identical.  
Cal. Const. 1879, Art. VI, Sec. 13.                      Similar.

**Section 13 - Compensation of Judicial Officers**

Hill, Art. VI, Sec. 13.                                      Identical except for slight  
change.  
Cal. Const. 1879, Art. VI, Sec. 15.                      Similar in part.

**Section 14 - Salaries of Judges**

Amounts vary in most state  
constitutions where fixed  
by the Constitution itself.

**Section 15 - Judges Ineligible to Any Other Office**

Hill, Art. VI, Sec. 14.                                      Identical.  
Cal. Const. 1879, Art. VI, Sec. 18.                      Similar.

**Section 16 - Charge to Jury**

Hill, Art. VI, Sec. 15.	Identical except that Wash. adds words "or comment on."
Cal. Const. 1879, Art. VI, Sec. 19.	Similar.

**Section 17 - Eligibility to Judgeship**

Hill, Art. VI, Sec. 18.	Identical.
Cal. Const. 1879, Art. VI, Sec. 23.	Similar.

**Section 18 - Reporter for Supreme Court**

Hill, Art. VI, Sec. 16.	Identical.
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**Section 19 - Judges Shall Not Practice Law**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. VI, Sec. 22 (Hill, Art. VI, Sec. 17, identical with Cal.).	Identical.
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**Section 20 - Decision of Judges Superior Court, Limit of Time**

Hill, Art. VI, Sec. 19.	Identical.
Md. Const. 1867, Art. IV, Sec. 23.	Similar.

**Section 21 - Publication of Opinion, Supreme Court**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. VI, Sec. 16 (Hill, Art. VI, Sec. 26, identical with Cal.).	Identical except that Wash. omits phrase "as it may deem expedient."
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**Section 22 - Clerk Supreme Court**

Hill, Art. VI, Sec. 20.	Identical except Wash. adds "by salary only."
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**Section 23 - Court Commissioner**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. VII, Sec. 14; Wis. Const. 1848, Art. VII, Sec. 23; Minn. Const. 1857, Art. VI, Sec. 15.	Similar.
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**Section 24 - Rules of Courts**

.....	Seems to be original.
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**Section 25 - Superior Judges to Report to Supreme Court Judges**

Colo. Const. 1876, Art. VI, Sec. 27; Ill. Const. 1870, Art. VI, Sec. 31.	Similar.
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### **Section 26 - Clerk Superior Court**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. VI, Sec. 14                      Similar.  
(Hill, Art. VI, Sec. 21, identical with Cal.).

### **Section 27 - Style of Process**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. VI, Sec. 20.                      Identical.

### **Section 28 - Oaths of Judges**

Hill, Art. VI, Sec. 27;                                      Similar.  
Ore. Const. 1857, Art. VI, Sec. 21.

## **Article V - Impeachment**

### **Section 1 - Proceedings**

Colo. Const. 1876, Art. V, Sec. 1;                      Identical.  
Nev. Const. 1864, Art. VII, Sec. 1.

### **Section 2 - Impeachable Offenses**

Colo. Const. 1876, Art. V, Sec. 2;                      Identical except for a slight  
Nev. Const. 1864, Art. VII, Sec. 2.                      word change.  
U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 3.                              Similar.

### **Section 3 - Removable from Office**

Colo. Const. 1876, Art. V, Sec. 3.                      Identical.

## **Article VI - Elections and Elective Rights**

### **Section 1 - Qualification of Electors**

Colo. Const. 1876, Art. VII, Sec. 1;                      Similar.  
Wis. Const. 1848, Art. III, Sec. 1;  
Ore. Const. 1857, Art. II, Sec. 1;  
Mo. Const. 1875, Art. VIII, Sec. 2.  
(Amendment 5th supersedes Amendment  
2nd and adds last sentence - "woman  
suffrage.")

### **Section 2 - In School Elections**

Colo. Const. 1876, Art. VII, Sec. 1.                      Similar.  
(Repealed by 5th Amendment.)

### **Section 3 - Certain Persons Not Electors**

Wis. Const. 1848, Art. III, Sec. 2;                      Similar.  
Ore. Const. 1857, Art. II, Sec. 3.

**Section 4 - Residence Not Gained or Lost by Military Service**

Colo. Const. 1876, Art. VII, Sec. 4; Identical except that Wash.  
Penn. Const. 1873, Art. VIII, Sec. 13; adds last sentence.  
Nev. Const. 1864, Art. II, Sec. 2.

**In Navigation**

Mo. Const. 1875, Art. VIII, Sec. 7; Identical.  
Penn. Const. 1873, Art. VIII, Sec. 13;  
Nev. Const. 1864, Art. II, Sec. 2.

**Section 5 - Immunity from Arrest**

Mo. Const. 1875, Art. VIII, Sec. 4; Identical except for slight  
Colo. Const. 1876, Art. VII, Sec. 5; transposition of words.  
Ore. Const. 1857, Art. II, Sec. 13. Wash. adds last sentence.

**Military Service on Day of Election**

Ore. Const. 1857, Art. II, Sec. 13; Identical.  
Neb. Const. 1875, Art. VII, Sec. 5.

**Section 6 - Election by Ballot**

..... Nearly all states provide for  
this form of election.

**Preservation of Secrecy**

..... This provision is in most  
constitutions under various  
forms of language.

**Section 7 - Registration**

Wis. Const. 1848, Amend. Art. I, Sec. 4 Similar.  
(1882);  
Wash. Const. 1878, Art. IV, Sec. 9.  
Hill, Art. II, Sec. 4. Hill added this clause in view  
of decision of Ore. Sup.  
Court following that of  
Wis. that a specific con-  
stitutional provision was  
necessary to authorize a  
registration law. See Wis.  
amendment above men-  
tioned.

**Section 8 - First Election**

..... Many states have provisions  
of this kind. Naturally, they  
vary greatly. Colo. and  
Hill, similar in part.

## Article VII - Revenue and Taxation

**Note:** It is evident that the Committee on Revenue and Taxation studied very carefully the constitutions of many states as is shown by the fact that they have borrowed a sentence from one state and a part of a sentence from some other state. It will be impossible to show where they secured some provisions, such as that (Sec. 2) requiring the assessment to be according to "the value of the property in money." It is also difficult to understand why they did not choose a plan of classification for property, or to define property, or to provide for taxation of intangibles, when so many states' constitutions presented such examples and when other states preparing constitutions at the same time chose them.

### Section 1 - All Property Taxed According to Value

Tex. Const. 1876, Art. VII, Sec. 1; Cal.                      Similar in parts.  
Const. 1879, Art. XIII, Sec. 1; .....  
Wash. Const. 1878, Art. XII, Sec. 1; .....  
Ore. Const. 1857, Art. IX, Sec. 2;  
Kan. Const. 1857, Art. XI, Sec. 2.

### Section 2 - Uniform and Equal Rate of Taxation

Ore. Const. 1857, Art. IX, Sec. 1;                      Similar in parts.  
Ill. Const. 1870, Art. IX, Sec. 1;  
Ind. Const. 1851, Art. IX, Sec. 1;  
Kan. Const. 1857, Art. XI, Sec. 2;  
Colo. Const. 1876, Art. X, Sec. 4.  
(3rd Amendment included as the last proviso of this section, \$300 personal property exemption.)

### Section 3 - Assessment of Corporation Property

Colo. Const. 1876, Art. X, Sec. 10;                      Similar.  
(Wash. Const. 1878, Art. XII, Sec. 6,  
identical with Colo.).

### Section 4 - Same

Tex. Const. 1876, Art. VIII, Sec. 4.                      Identical.  
Ga. Const. 1877, Art. VII, Sec. 5;                      Similar.  
Colo. Const. 1876, Art. X, Sec. 9;  
(Wash. Const. 1878, Art. XII, Sec. 5;  
identical with Colo.).  
(14th Amendment repeals Secs. 1-4 and substitutes single Sec. 1.)

**Section 5 - No Tax Except in Pursuance of Law**

Ore. Const. 1857, Art. IX, Sec. 3 (Hill, Art. VII, Sec. 3, identical with Ore.).	Identical.
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**Section 6 - All Taxes to be Paid in Money**

.....	Original.
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**Section 7 - Statement of Receipts and Expenditures**

Ore. Const. 1857, Art. IX, Sec. 5 (Ind. Const. 1851, Art. X, Sec. 4; Hill, Art. VII, Sec. 5, identical with Ore.).	Identical.
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**Section 8 - Deficiencies Provided For**

Wis. Const. 1848, Art. VIII, Sec. 5; Ore. Const. 1857, Art. IX, Sec. 6; Hill, Art. VII, Sec. 6.	Identical.
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**Section 9 - Cities May Have Special Taxes**

Ill. Const. 1870, Art. IX, Sec. 9.	Identical except for slight word change.
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**Article VIII - State, County and Municipal Indebtedness****Section 1 - State Indebtedness Limited**

Ia. Const. 1857, Art. VII, Sec. 2.	Identical except for slight word change.
Hill, Art. VII, Sec. 8.	Similar.

**Section 2 - Exceptions to Limitation**

Ia. Const. 1857, Art. VII, Sec. 4.	Identical except for slight word change.
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**Section 3 - Special Provision for Incurring Indebtedness**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. XVI, Sec. 1.	Identical except for slight word change.
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**Section 4 - Appropriations**

Wash. Const. 1878, Art. XII, Sec. 7; Hill, Art. VII, Sec. 4. (11th Amendment changes this section slightly.)	Similar in part. Most constitutions contain this provision. The remainder of the Wash. section seems to be original.
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**Section 5 - Credit of State Shall Not be Pledged**

- Ia. Const. 1879, Art. VII, Sec. 1. Identical except that Wash. adds the word "comparing."
- Wash. Const. 1878, Art. XII, Sec. 9. Similar.

**Section 6 - Limit of Indebtedness of Counties, Cities or School Districts**

- III. Const. 1878, Art. IX, Sec. 12. Similar. This section was inserted to help Seattle following the big fire of 1889.

**Section 7 - Counties Shall Not Aid Corporations**

- Ore. Const. 1857, Art. XI, Sec. 9; Hill, Art. XI, Sec. 6; Wash. Const. 1878, Art. XII, Sec. 9; New York, Const. Amend., Art. VII, Sec. 11 (1874). Similar in parts.

**Article IX - Education**

**Section 1 - Education of Children**

- ..... Original.

**Section 2 - Uniform System**

- Ore. Const. 1857, Art. VIII, Sec. 3. Similar. Many states have a provision similar to this.

**Includes What; Support of**

- Cal. Const. 1879, Art. IX, Sec. 6. Very similar.

**Section 3 - Common School Fund**

- Ore. Const. 1857, Art. VIII, Sec. 2; Hill, Art. VIII, Sec. 3; Wash. Const. 1878, Art. XI, Sec. 4. Similar.

**Section 4 - School to be Non-sectarian**

- Hill, Art. VIII, Sec. 1. Identical.

**Section 5 - Losses to Permanent School Fund**

- Wash. Const. 1878, Art. XI, Sec. 3. Similar in substance.

## Article X - Militia

### Section 1 - Military Duty; Who Are Liable to

Ore. Const. 1857, Art. X, Sec. 1 (Hill, Art. IX, Sec. 1, identical with Ore.); Colo. Const. 1876, Art. XVII, Sec. 1.	Similar. This provision in varying forms is common to many constitutions.
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### Section 2 - Organization of Militia

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. VIII, Sec. 1.	Identical.
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### Section 3 - Soldiers' Home

.....	Seems to be original, although Texas has a provision, the substance of which is similar. Several states admitted at about the time or subsequent to Wash. have similar provisions to this.
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### Section 4 - Arms

Ohio Const. 1851, Art. IX, Sec. 5.	Identical.
Mo. Const. 1875, Art XIII, Sec. 7; Colo. Const. 1876, Art. XVII, Sec. 4.	Similar.

### Section 5 - Immunity from Arrest

Ill. Const. 1870, Art. XII, Sec. 4; Ala. Const. 1867, Art. XI, Sec. 5.	Very similar.
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### Section 6 - Exemption from Military Duty

Colo. Const. 1876, Art. XVII, Sec. 5; Ill. Const. 1870, Art. XII, Sec. 6.	Identical.
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## Article XI - County, City and Township Organization

### Section 1 - County Organization Recognized

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. XI, Sec. 1 (Hill, Art. XI, Sec. 1, identical with Cal.).	Similar.
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### Section 2 - Removal of County Seats

Ill. Const. 1870, Art. X, Sec. 4; Mo. Const. 1875, Art. IX, Sec. 2; Cal. Const. 1879, Art. XI, Sec. 2.	Very similar.
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**Section 3 - Organization of New Counties**

- Ill. Const. 1870, Art. X, Sec. 1. Identical except for number of inhabitants.
- Cal. Const. 1879, Art. XI, Sec. 3; Mo. Const. 1875, Art. IX, Secs. 3 and 4. Similar.

**Territory Stricken from County**

- Ill. Const. 1870, Art. X, Sec. 3. Identical. Cal., Tex., Md., and Ark. have similar provisions.
- Mo. Const. 1875, Art. IX, Sec. 3. Similar.

**Change of Boundaries**

- Ill. Const. 1870, Art. X, Sec. 3. Identical.
- Cal. Const. 1879, Art. XI, Sec. 3; Mo. Const. 1875, Art. IX, Sec. 3. Similar.

**Section 4 - System of County Government**

- Cal. Const. 1879, Art. XI, Sec. 4. Identical.
- Ill. Const. 1870, Art. X, Sec. 5; Mo. Const. 1875, Art. IX, Sec. 8. Similar.

**Section 5 - County Officers, Compensation of**

- Cal. Const. 1879, Art. XI, Sec. 5. Identical except for slight word change.  
(12th Amendment changed this section slightly.)

**Section 6 - Vacancies**

- Mo. Const. 1875, Art. IX, Sec. 11. Similar.

**Section 7 - Ineligibility for More Than Two Terms**

- Ill. Const. 1870, Art. X, Sec. 8; Mo. Const. 1875, Art. IX, Sec. 11. Similar in substance.

**Section 8 - Salaries**

- Cal. Const. 1879, Art. XI, Sec. 9. Identical in part; remainder original.

**Section 9 - All Counties Liable for State Taxes**

- Cal. Const. 1879, Art. XI, Sec. 10. Identical except that Wash. omits "city, town or other public or municipal corporation."

### **Section 10 - Municipal Corporations Not Created by Special Law**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. XI, Sec. 6.	Identical down to sentence beginning "Any city containing 20,000 etc."
Cal. Const. 1879, Art. XI, Sec. 8; Mo. Const. 1875, Art. IX, Sec. 16.	Similar for balance of the section.

### **Section 11 - Privileges of Cities**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. XI, Sec. 11.	Identical except for slight word change.
Hill, Art. XI, Sec. 7.	Similar.

### **Section 12 - Local Taxation; Government by General Laws**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. XI, Sec. 12.	Identical.
Hill, Art. XI, Sec. 8.	Similar.

### **Section 13 - Private Property Not Liable for Public Debt**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. XI, Sec. 15.	Identical except that Wash. adds an exception.
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### **Section 14 - Unlawful Use of Public Money**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. XI, Sec. 17.	Identical.
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### **Section 15 - All Public Money Deposited with Treasurer**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. XI, Sec. 16.	Identical.
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## **Article XII - Corporations Other Than Municipal**

### **Section 1 - Not Created by Special Laws**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. XII, Sec. 1; Wash. Const. 1878, Art. XIII, Sec. 1.	Similar.
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### **Section 2 - Corporation Must Have Bona Fide Organization**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. XII, Sec. 6.	Identical.
Penn. Const. 1873, Art. XVI, Sec. 1.	Identical except for slight word change.
Wash. Const. 1878, Art. XIII, Sec. 1.	Similar.

**Section 3 - Legislature Shall Not Extend Franchise**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. XIII, Sec. 7.                      Identical.

Penn. Const. 1873, Art. XVI, Sec. 2.                      Similar.

**Section 4 - Limiting of Stockholders**

Ore. Const. 1857, Art. XI, Sec. 3;                      Similar.

Ohio Const. 1851, Art. XIII, Sec. 3 (Ala.

Const. 1876, Art. XIII, Sec. 8, identical  
with Ohio).

**Section 5 - Corporations Construed to Include What**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. XIII, Sec. 4;                      Identical.

N.Y. Const. 1846, Art. VIII, Sec. 3.

**Section 6 - Corporation Stock Fictitious Issues Void**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. XIII, Sec. 11;                      Similar.

Penn. Const. 1873, Art. XVI, Sec. 7.

**Section 7 - All Corporations to be Treated Equally**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. XIII, Sec. 15.                      Identical.

Hill, Art. X, Sec. 6.    Similar.

**Section 8 - Leasing or Alienation of Franchise**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. XIII, Sec. 10.                      Identical except for first few  
words.

**Section 9 - State Shall Not Loan Credit**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. XIII, Sec. 13.                      Identical.

**Section 10 - Eminent Domain, State May Exercise Right**

Ark. Const. 1874, Art. XVII, Sec. 9.                      Identical.

Penn. Const. 1873, Art. XVI, Sec. 3                      Identical except for slight  
(Cal. Const. 1879, Art. XIII, Sec. 8, iden-                      word change.  
tical with Penn.);

Colo. Const. 1876, Art. XV, Sec. 8;

Mo. Const. 1875, Art. XII, Sec. 4;

Neb. Const. 1875, Art. XI, Sec. 6;

Ill. Const. 1870, Art. XI, Sec. 14.

### **Section 11 - Corporations and Individuals Shall Not Issue Money**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. XII, Secs. 3 and 5;      Similar.  
 Ia. Const. 1857, Art. VIII, Sec. 9  
 (Neb. Const. 1875, Art. XI, Sec. 7, identical with Ia.).

### **Section 12 - Insolvent Banks Shall Not Receive Deposits**

Mo. Const. 1875, Art. XII, Sec. 17              Similar.  
 (La. Const. 1879, Art. 241, identical with Mo.).

### **Section 13 - Common Carriers, Rights and Duties**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. XII, Sec. 27;              Similar.  
 Penn. Const. 1873, Art. XVII, Sec. 1;  
 Mo. Const. 1875, Art. XII, Sec. 13.

### **Section 14 - Certain Combinations Forbidden**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. XII, Sec. 20.              Identical.

### **Section 15 - Discrimination in Rates Forbidden**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. XII, Sec. 21.              Identical.  
 Penn. Const. 1873, Art. XVII, Sec. 7              Similar in part.  
 (Mo. Const. 1875, Art. XII, Sec. 23, identical with Penn.).

### **Section 16 - Shall Not Consolidate**

Ill. Const. 1870, Art. XI, Sec. 11;              Similar in part.  
 Penn. Const. 1873, Art. XVII, Sec. 4  
 (Mo. Const. 1875, Art. XII, Sec. 17, identical with Penn.);  
 Wash. Const. 1878, Art. XIII, Sec. 3;  
 Tex. Const. 1876, Art. X, Sec. 5.

### **Section 17 - Rolling Stock, Personal Property**

Ark. Const. 1874, Art. XVII, Sec. 11;              Very similar.  
 Ill. Const. 1870, Art. XI, Sec. 10  
 (Mo. Const. 1875, Art. XII, Sec. 16, identical with Ill.);  
 Neb. Const. 1875, Art. XI, Sec. 2;  
 Tex. Const. 1876, Art. X, Sec. 4.

**Section 18 - Regulation of Fares and Freight**

Ill. Const. 1870, Art. XI, Sec. 15; Similar.  
Ark. Const. 1874, Art. XVII, Sec. 10;  
Tex. Const. 1876, Art. X, Sec. 2.

**Railroad Commission**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. XII, Sec. 22. Similar in substance.

**Section 19 - Telegraph and Telephone Companies**

Colo. Const. 1876, Art. XV, Sec. 13; Similar in part; probably for  
Penn. Const. 1873, Art. XVI, Sec. 12. most part original.

**Section 20 - Free Passes**

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. XII, Sec. 19; Identical in part.  
Penn. Const. 1873, Art. XVII, Sec. 8.

**Section 21 - Railroads Shall Not Discriminate Against Express Companies**

..... Probably original, although many states with constitutions subsequent to Wash. constitution have included them.

Section 22 - Trusts and Monopolies

..... Probably original, See above note.

**Article XIII - State Institutions**

**Section 1 - Educational, Reformatory and Penal Institutions**

Colo. Const. 1876, Art. VIII, Sec. 1; Identical in part.  
Wash. Const. 1878, Art. XIV, Sec. 1.

Ohio Const. 1851, Art. VII, Secs. 1, 2. Similar.

**Section 2 - How Changed**

Hill, Art. XV, Sec. 2; Similar.  
Ore. Const. 1857, Art. XIV, Sec. 3.

**Section 3 - Capitol Building**

Hill, Art. XV, Sec. 3. Similar.

## Article XV - Harbors and Waters

### Section 1 - Harbor Line Commission

Hill, Art. XII, Sec. 1. Probably original for most  
(This section amended by the 15th Amend- part  
ment.)

Section 2 - Leasing of Sites for Wharves

Hill, Art. XII, Sec. 4. Probably original.

### Section 3 Municipal Corporations May Extend Streets Over Tide Lands

Hill, Art. XII, Sec. 4. Probably original.

## Article XVI - School and Granted Lands

### Section 1 - Shall Not be Sold at Less Than Market Value

Hill, Art. XII, Sec. 1. Identical.

### Section 2 - Lands for Educational Purposes Sold to Highest Bidder

Wash. Enabling Act, Sec. 11; Art. XI, Sec. 10; Similar in substance.  
Minn. Const. 1857, Art. VIII, Sec. 2.

### Section 3 - Subdivision of

..... Probably original.

### Section 4 - Investment of Funds

Minn. Const. 1857, Art. VIII, Secs. 2, 6; Similar.  
Mo. Const. 1875, Art. XI, Sec. 9;  
Tex. Const. 1876, Art. VII, Secs. 4, 11.

### Section 5 - Investment of School Funds

A new section added by this amendment.

## Article XVII - Tide Lands

### Section 1 - Claim of State

Plea of Mr. Hill in connection with his pro- See decision in case of Hin-  
posed article IX is probably responsible man v. Warren, 6 Ore. 408.  
for this article.

**Section 2 - Ownership Disclaimed to Certain Lands**

Wash. Enabling Act, Sec. 17.	Enabling Act substitutes other lands in lieu of "Swamp and overflowed lands."
Wash. Const. 1878, Art. XV, Sec. 10.	This section disclaims the effect of above decision of <i>Hinman v. Warren</i> .

**Article XVIII - State Seal**

Section 1 - Design of .....	Original.
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**Article XIX**

Section 1 - Homestead	
Cal. Const. 1879, Art. XVII, Sec. 1.	Identical.

**Article XX - Public Health and Vital Statistics**

Section 1 - Board of Health	
Tex. Const. 1876, Art. XVI, Sec. 32.	Similar.
Section 2 - Practice of Medicine	
Tex. Const. 1876, Art. XVI, Sec. 31.	Similar.
Article XXI - Water and Water Rights	
Section 1 - Water Rights	
Cal. Const. 1879, Art. XIV, Sec. 1; Colo. Const. 1876, Art. XVI, Sec. 5.	Similar.
Hill Const. Art. XVI, Sec. 9.	Similar in part.

**Article XXII - Legislative Apportionment**

**Section 1 - First Apportionment Senatorial District**

Hill, Art. Schedule, Sec. 16; Kan. Const. 1859, Art. X, Sec. 3; Ore. Const. 1859, Art. XVIII, Sec. 5.	A number of state constitutions contain somewhat similar provisions.
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**Section 2 - First Apportionment Representative District**

Hill, Art. Schedule, Sec. 16;

Kan. Const. 1859, Art. X, Sec. 3;

Ore. Const. 1859, Art. XVIII, Sec. 5.

Similar. Portion now obsolete by statute.

**Article XXIII - Amendments**

**Section 1 - State Constitution, How Amended**

Wash. Const. 1878, Art. XVI, Sec. 1.

Identical except Wash. requires publication.

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. XVIII, Sec. 1;

Hill, Const. Art. XVIII, Sec. 1.

Similar.

Ore. Const. 1857, Art. XVII, Sec. 1

(Ind. Const. 1851, Art. XVI, Sec. 1, almost identical to Ore.).

Numerous state constitutions contain provisions similar in varying detail.

**Section 2 - Convention to Amend, How Called**

Wash. Const. 1878, Art. XVI, Sec. 2.

Identical.

Cal. Const. 1879, Art. XVIII, Sec. 2.

Similar.

**Section 3 - Voters Must Ratify**

Wash. Const. 1878, Art. XVI, Sec. 3.

Identical.

**Article XXIV - Boundaries**

**Section 1 - Boundaries Defined**

.....

This is a customary provision and naturally varies in each state.

**Article XXV - Jurisdiction**

**Section 1 - U.S. to Have Certain Jurisdiction**

Wash. Enabling Act, Sec. 4, Par. 2;

U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8, Par. 17.

In substance.



## **Article XXVI - Compact with the United States**

### **Section 1 - Religious Toleration**

Wash. Enabling Act, Sec. 4, Par. 1.                      Identical.

### **Section 2 - Rights to Appropriated Public Lands Disclaimed**

Wash. Enabling Act, Sec. 4, Par. 2.                      Identical.

### **Section 3 - Debts of Territory Assumed**

Wash. Enabling Act, Sec. 4, Par. 3.                      Identical.

### **Section 4 - System of Public Schools Guaranteed**

Wash. Enabling Act, Sec. 4, Par. 4.                      Identical.

## **Article XXVII - Schedule**

### **Section 1 - Existing Rights Preserved**

Schedule, Wash. Const. 1878, Sec. 1.                      Similar.

### **Section 2 - Laws of Territory Valid**

Schedule, Wash. Const. 1878, Sec. 2.                      Identical except Wash. Const.  
1889 adds proviso.

### **Section 3 - Debts of Territory Valid**

Schedule, Wash. Const. 1878, Sec. 3.                      Identical.

### **Section 4 - Recognizances of Territory Valid**

Schedule, Wash. Const. 1878, Sec. 4.                      Identical.

### **Section 5 - Penal Actions**

Schedule, Wash. Const. 1878, Sec. 4.                      Identical.

### **Section 6 - Public Officers**

Schedule, Wash. Const. 1878, Sec. 5.                      Identical.

Hill, Art. XVI, Sec. 12.                                      Similar.

### **Section 7 - First Election of Officers**

Wash. Enabling Act, Sec. 24.                              Similar in substance.

**Section 8 - Courts, Transfer of Cases**

Schedule, Wash. Const. 1878, Sec. 6. Identical except for slight word change.

**Section 9 - Court Seals**

Schedule, Wash. Const. 1878, Sec. 8. Identical except for slight word change.

**Section 10 - Probate Court Transferred to Superior Court**

Schedule, Wash. Const. 1878, Sec. 9. Identical except for slight word change.

**Section 11 - Election of Officers Not Otherwise Provided for**

Schedule, Wash. Const. 1878, Sec. 10. Identical.

**Section 12 - Contests at First Election**

Schedule, Wash. Const. 1878, Sec. 11. Identical except for slight word change.

**Section 13 - Representatives in Congress**

Schedule, Wash. Const. 1878, Sec. 13. Identical.

**Section 14 - District, County Precinct Officers Hold Office Until 1891**

Schedule, Wash. Const. 1878, Sec. 5. Similar.

**Section 15 - Election to Adopt Constitution**

Enabling Act, Sec. 8. Similar.

**Section 16 - State Constitution, in Effect When**

Enabling Act, Sec. 8. Similar.

**Section 17 - Separate Articles Submitted**

Schedule, Wash. Const. 1878, Sec. 20. Similar.

**Section 18 - Form of Ballot**

Separate Articles Wash. Const. 1878, Arts. 1, 3 (Arts. 2 and 4 are new). Similar.

**Section 19 - Appropriation Authorized to Pay any Deficiency**

..... Original.

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**The Senate**  
**Sixty-sixth Legislature**  
**Olympia**  
**2019 – 2020**

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**Senate Officers**  
**Senate Caucus Leaders**  
**Permanent Rules of the Senate**  
**Index to Senate Rules**  
**Forms of Motions**  
**Order of Business**  
**Membership of Senate Standing Committees**  
**Member Assignments to Senate Standing Committees**  
**Senate Roster**

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**Officers:**

Cyrus Habib, Lieutenant Governor  
President of the Senate

Karen Keiser  
President Pro Tempore

Steve Conway  
Vice President Pro Tempore

Brad Hendrickson  
Secretary of the Senate

Sarah Bannister  
Deputy Secretary of the Senate

# Senate Leaders

## 2019 – 2020

### Majority Leadership

President Pro Tempore . . . . .	Karen Keiser
Vice President Pro Tempore . . . . .	Steve Conway
Majority Leader . . . . .	Andy Billig
Majority Caucus Chair . . . . .	John McCoy
Majority Floor Leader . . . . .	Marko Liias
Majority Whip . . . . .	Mark Mullet
Majority Deputy Leader . . . . .	Manka Dhingra
Majority Deputy Leader . . . . .	Rebecca Saldaña
Majority Caucus Vice Chair . . . . .	Bob Hasegawa
Majority Assistant Floor Leader . . . . .	Patty Kuderer
Majority Assistant Whip . . . . .	Claire Wilson

### Republican Leadership

Republican Leader . . . . .	Mark Schoesler
Republican Caucus Chair . . . . .	Randi Becker
Republican Floor Leader . . . . .	Shelly Short
Republican Whip . . . . .	Ann Rivers
Republican Deputy Leader . . . . .	Sharon Brown
Republican Caucus Vice Chair . . . . .	Judy Warnick
Republican Deputy Floor Leader . . . . .	Brad Hawkins
Republican Deputy Whip . . . . .	Barbara Bailey

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# Permanent Rules of the Senate

Engrossed Senate Resolution No. 8601, 2019

## Sixty-sixth Legislature 2019

### Section I - Officers-Members-Employees

- Rule 1 Duties of the President
- Rule 2 President Pro Tempore
- Rule 3 Secretary of the Senate
- Rule 4 Sergeant at Arms
- Rule 5 Subordinate Officers
- Rule 6 Employees
- Rule 7 Conduct of Members and Officers

### Section II - Operations and Management

- Rule 8 Facilities and Operations
- Rule 9 Use of Senate Chambers
- Rule 10 Admission to the Senate
- Rule 11 Printing of Bills
- Rule 12 Furnishing Full File of Bills
- Rule 13 Regulation of Lobbyists
- Rule 14 Security Management

### Section III - Rules and Order

- Rule 15 Time of Convening
- Rule 16 Quorum
- Rule 17 Order of Business
- Rule 18 Special Order
- Rule 19 Unfinished Business
- Rule 20 Motions and Senate Floor Resolutions (How Presented)
- Rule 21 Precedence of Motions
- Rule 22 Voting
- Rule 23 Announcement of Vote
- Rule 24 Call of the Senate
- Rule 25 One Subject in a Bill
- Rule 26 No Amendment by Mere Reference to Title of Act
- Rule 27 Reading of Papers
- Rule 28 Comparing Enrolled and Engrossed Bills

**Section IV - Parliamentary Procedure**

- Rule 29 Rules of Debate
- Rule 30 Recognition by the President
- Rule 31 Call for Division of a Question
- Rule 32 Point of Order- Decision Appealable
- Rule 33 Question of Privilege
- Rule 34 Protests
- Rule 35 Adoption and Suspension of Rules
- Rule 36 Previous Question
- Rule 37 Reconsideration
- Rule 38 Motion to adjourn
- Rule 39 Yeas and Nays- When Must be Taken
- Rule 40 Reed's Parliamentary Rules

**Section V - Committees**

- Rule 41 Committees- Appointment and Confirmation
- Rule 42 Subcommittees
- Rule 43 Subpoena Power
- Rule 44 Duties of Committees
- Rule 45 Committee Rules
- Rule 46 Committee Meetings During Sessions
- Rule 47 Reading of Reports
- Rule 48 Recalling Bills from Committees
- Rule 49 Bills Referred to Rules Committee
- Rule 50 Rules Committee
- Rule 51 Employment Committee
- Rule 52 Committee of the Whole
- Rule 53 Appropriation Budget Bills

**Section VI - Bills, Resolutions, Memorials and Gubernatorial  
Appointments**

- Rule 54 Definitions
- Rule 55 Prefiling
- Rule 56 Introduction of Bills
- Rule 57 Amendatory Bills
- Rule 58 Joint Resolutions and Memorials
- Rule 59 Senate Concurrent Resolutions
- Rule 60 Committee Bills
- Rule 61 Committee Reference
- Rule 62 Reading of Bills
- Rule 63 First Reading

- Rule 64 Second Reading/Amendments  
Rule 65 Third Reading  
Rule 66 Scope and Object of Bill Not to be Changed  
Rule 67 Matters Related to Disagreement Between the Senate and House  
Rule 68 Bills Committed for Special Amendment  
Rule 69 Confirmation of Gubernatorial Appointees

## Section I

### Officers-Members-Employees

#### Duties of the President

**Rule 1.** 1. The president shall take the chair and call the senate to order precisely at the hour appointed for meeting, and, if a quorum be present, shall cause the journal of the preceding day to be read. (See also Art. 3, Sec. 16, State Constitution.)

2. The president shall preserve order and decorum, and in case of any disturbance or disorderly conduct within the chamber, legislative area, legislative offices or buildings, and legislative hearing and meeting rooms, shall order the sergeant at arms to suppress the same, and may order the arrest of any person creating any disturbance within the senate chamber. Cellular phone use within the senate chamber during floor session and within a hearing room during a committee hearing must be respectful to the members and the public and the phone must be kept in silent mode within the senate chamber during floor session and within a hearing room during a committee hearing.

3. The president shall have charge of and see that all officers and employees perform their respective duties, and shall have general control of the senate chamber and wings. (See also Art. 2, Sec. 10, State Constitution.)

4. The president may speak to points of order in preference to members, arising from the president's seat for that purpose, and shall decide all questions of order subject to an appeal to the senate by any member, on which appeal no member shall speak more than once without leave of the senate.

5. The president shall, in open session, sign all acts, addresses and joint resolutions. The president shall sign all writs, warrants and subpoenas issued by order of the senate, all of which shall be

attested by the secretary. (See also Art. 2, Sec. 32, State Constitution.)

6. The president shall appoint all conference, special, joint and hereinafter named standing committees on the part of the senate. The appointment of the conference, special, joint and standing committees shall be confirmed by the senate. In the event the senate refuses to confirm any conference, special, joint or standing committee or committees, such committee or committees shall be elected by the senate.

7. The president shall, on each day, announce to the senate the business in order, and no business shall be taken up or considered until the order to which it belongs shall be declared.

8. The president shall decide and announce the result of any vote taken.

9. When a vote of the senate is equally divided, the lieutenant governor, when presiding, shall have the deciding vote as provided for in the state Constitution. (See also Art. 2, Sec. 10 and 22, State Constitution.)

### **President Pro Tempore**

**Rule 2.** 1. Upon the organization of the senate the members shall elect one of their number as president pro tempore who shall have all the powers and authority and who shall discharge all the duties of lieutenant governor acting as president when the secretary of the senate receives notice that the lieutenant governor is unable to preside or is unable to confirm the lieutenant governor's availability within a reasonable time. The president pro tempore shall serve as the vice chair of the committee on rules. The senate shall also elect a vice president pro tempore who will serve in the absence of the lieutenant governor and the president pro tempore. (See Art. 2, Sec. 10, State Constitution.)

2. In the absence of the president pro tempore, and vice president pro tempore, or with their consent, the president shall have the right to name any senator to perform the duties of the chair, but such substitution shall not extend beyond an adjournment, nor authorize the senator so substituted to sign any documents requiring the signature of the president.

3. A "majority caucus" is a caucus whose members constitute a majority of the senate and may include members from different political caucuses. The establishment of a majority caucus is evi-



denced by a majority of the members of the senate demonstrating the intent to caucus together and to lead the senate. Those members not part of the majority caucus constitute the minority caucus or caucuses.

### **Secretary of the Senate**

**Rule 3.** 1. The senate shall elect a secretary, who shall appoint a deputy secretary, both of whom shall be officers of the senate and shall perform the usual duties pertaining to their offices, and they shall hold office until their successors have been elected or appointed.

2. The secretary is the Personnel Officer of the senate and shall appoint, subject to the approval of the senate, all other senate employees and the hours of duty and assignments of all senate employees shall be under the secretary's directions and instructions and they may be dismissed at the secretary's discretion.

3. The secretary of the senate, prior to the convening of the next regular session, shall prepare the office to receive bills which the holdover members and members-elect may desire to prefile commencing with the first Monday in December preceding any regular session or twenty days prior to any special session of the legislature.

### **Sergeant at Arms**

**Rule 4.** 1. The director of senate security shall perform the functions of the sergeant at arms for the senate.

2. The sergeant at arms shall not admit to the floor of the senate during the time the senate is not convened any person other than specifically requested by a senator, the president, or the secretary of the senate, in writing or when personally accompanied by a senator.

### **Subordinate Officers**

**Rule 5.** The subordinate officers of the senate shall perform such duties as usually pertain to their respective positions in legislative bodies under the direction of the president, and such other duties as the senate may impose upon them. Under no circumstances shall the compensation of any employee be increased for past services. (See also Art. 2, Sec. 25, State Constitution.)

### **Employees**

**Rule 6.** 1. No senate employee shall lobby in favor of or against any matter under consideration.

2. Senate employees are governed by joint rules and chapters 42.17 (the Public Disclosure Act) and 42.52 RCW (the Ethics in Public Service Act).

### **Conduct of Members and Officers**

**Rule 7.** 1. Indecorous conduct, boisterous or unbecoming language will not be permitted in the senate at any time. Food is prohibited within the senate chamber during floor session. Cellular phone use within the senate chamber during floor session and within a hearing room during a committee hearing must be respectful to the members and the public and the phone must be kept in silent mode within the senate chamber during floor session and within a hearing room during a committee hearing.

2. In cases of breach of decorum or propriety, any senator, officer or other person shall be liable to such censure or punishment as the senate may deem proper, and if any senator be called to order for offensive or indecorous language or conduct, the person calling the senator to order shall report the language excepted to which shall be taken down or noted at the secretary's desk. No member shall be held to answer for any language used upon the floor of the senate if business has intervened before exception to the language was thus taken and noted.

3. If any senator in speaking, or otherwise, transgresses the rules of the senate, the president shall, or any senator may, call that senator to order, and a senator so called to order shall resume the senator's seat and not proceed without leave of the senate, which leave, if granted, shall be upon motion "that the senator be allowed to proceed in order," when, if carried, the senator shall speak to the question under consideration.

4. No senator shall be absent from the senate without leave, except in case of accident or sickness, and if any senator or officer shall be absent the senator's per diem shall not be allowed or paid, and no senator or officer shall obtain leave of absence or be excused from attendance without the consent of a majority of the members present.

5. Members of the senate are subject to the senate's policy on appropriate workplace conduct. Conduct in violation of the policy may result in disciplinary action.

6. In the event of a motion or resolution to censure or punish, or any procedural motion thereto involving a senator, that senator shall not vote thereon. The senator shall be allowed to answer to such motion or resolution. An election or vote by the senate on a motion to censure or punish a senator shall require the vote of a majority of all senators elected or appointed to the senate. A vote to expel a member shall require a two-thirds concurrence of all members elected or appointed to the senate. All votes shall be taken by yeas and nays and the votes shall be entered upon the journal. (See also Art. 2, Sec. 9, State Constitution.)

## Section II

# Operations and Management

### Facilities and Operations

**Rule 8.** 1. After the election of new caucus leadership at the beginning of the first regular session during a legislative biennium or anytime during the legislative biennium that a different caucus becomes the majority caucus, the majority caucus shall designate four members and the minority caucus shall designate three members to serve on the facilities and operations committee. Each caucus may also designate an alternate. The chair of the majority caucus shall be the chair of the facilities and operations committee. If a different caucus becomes the majority caucus anytime during the legislative biennium, the operation of the senate shall transfer to the newly designated members after the leadership of the new majority caucus is determined.

2. All necessary expenses of the senate incurred during the session shall be signed for by the secretary and approved by a majority of the committee on facilities and operations. The committee on facilities and operations shall carefully consider all items of expenditure ordered or contracted on the part of the senate, and report upon the same prior to the voucher being signed by the secretary of the senate authorizing the payment thereof. The committee on facilities and operations shall issue postage only as follows:

- (a) To elected or appointed members of the senate in an amount sufficient to allow performance of their legislative duties.
- (b) To the secretary of the senate in an amount sufficient to carry out the business of the senate.

3. The facilities and operations committee is authorized to adopt respectful workplace policies.

### **Use of Senate Chambers**

**Rule 9.** The senate chamber and its facilities shall not be used for any but legislative business, except by permission of the senate while in session, or by the facilities and operations committee when not in session.

### **Admission to the Senate**

**Rule 10.** The sergeant at arms shall admit only the following individuals to the floor and adjacent areas of the senate for the period of time beginning one-half hour before convening and ending when the senate has adjourned or recessed for an hour or more:

The governor and/or designees,  
 Members of the house of representatives,  
 State elected officials,  
 Officers and authorized employees of the legislature,  
 Honored guests being presented to the senate,  
 Former members of the senate who are not registered lobbyists pursuant to chapter 42.17 RCW,  
 Representatives of the press,  
 Persons specifically requested by a senator to the president in writing or only as long as accompanied by a senator.

### **Printing of Bills**

**Rule 11.** The number of bills printed and reprinted shall be at the discretion of the secretary of the senate, with the approval of the facilities and operations committee.

### **Furnishing Full File of Bills**

**Rule 12.** Persons, firms, corporations and organizations within the state, desirous of receiving copies of all printed senate bills, shall make application therefor to the secretary of the senate. The bill clerk shall send copies of all printed senate bills to such persons,

firms, corporations and organizations as may be ordered by the secretary of the senate. The secretary of the senate is authorized to recoup costs.

### **Regulation of Lobbyists**

**Rule 13.** All persons who engage in lobbying of any kind as defined in chapter 42.17 RCW are subject to the senate's policy on appropriate workplace conduct. Conduct that constitutes prohibited conduct under the policy may result in restrictions, including, but not limited to, prohibitions on unaccompanied movement within the senate.

Any person registered as a lobbyist pursuant to chapter 42.17 RCW who intervenes in or attempts to influence any personnel decision of the senate regarding any employee may suffer an immediate revocation of all privileges before the senate or such other privileges and for such time as may be deemed appropriate by the senate committee on rules. This restriction shall not prohibit a registered lobbyist from making written recommendations for staff positions.

### **Security Management**

**Rule 14.** The sergeant at arms shall develop security procedures to protect the senate, including its members, staff, and the visiting public.

## **Section III Rules and Order**

### **Time of Convening**

**Rule 15.** The senate shall convene at 10:00 a.m. each working day, unless adjourned to a different hour. The senate shall adjourn not later than 10:00 p.m. of each working day. The senate shall recess ninety minutes for lunch each working day. When reconvening on the same day the senate shall recess ninety minutes for dinner each working evening. This rule may be suspended by a majority.

### **Quorum**

**Rule 16.** A majority of all members elected or appointed to the senate shall be necessary to constitute a quorum to do business. Less than a quorum may adjourn from day to day until a quorum can be had. (See Art. 2, Sec. 8, State Constitution.)

### **Order of Business**

**Rule 17.** After the roll is called and journal read and approved, business shall be disposed of in the following order:

- FIRST. Reports of standing committees and standing subcommittees.
- SECOND. Reports of select committees.
- THIRD. Messages from the governor and other state officers.
- FOURTH. Messages from the house of representatives.
- FIFTH. Introduction, first reading and reference of bills, joint memorials, joint resolutions and concurrent resolutions.
- SIXTH. Second reading of bills.
- SEVENTH. Third reading of bills.
- EIGHTH. Presentation of petitions, memorials and floor resolutions.
- NINTH. Presentation of motions.

The order of business established by this rule may be changed and any order of business already dealt with may be reverted or advanced to by a majority vote of those present.

All questions relating to the priority of business shall be decided without debate.

Messages from the governor, other state officers, and from the house of representatives may be considered at any time with the consent of the senate.

### **Special Order**

**Rule 18.** The president shall call the senate to order at the hour fixed for the consideration of a special order, and announce that the special order is before the senate, which shall then be considered unless it is postponed by a majority vote of the members present, and any business before the senate at the time of the announcement of the special order shall take its regular position in the order of

business, except that if a cutoff established by concurrent resolution occurs during the special order, the senate may complete the measure that was before the senate when consideration of the special order was commenced.

### **Unfinished Business**

**Rule 19.** The unfinished business at the preceding adjournment shall have preference over all other matters, excepting special orders, and no motion or any other business shall be received without special leave of the senate until the former is disposed of.

### **Motions and Senate Floor Resolutions (How Presented)**

**Rule 20.** 1. No motion shall be entertained or debated until announced by the president and every motion shall be deemed to have been seconded. It shall be reduced to writing and read by the secretary, if desired by the president or any senator, before it shall be debated, and by the consent of the senate may be withdrawn before amendment or action.

2. The senate shall consider no more than one floor resolution per day in session: Provided, That this rule shall not apply to floor resolutions essential to the operation of the senate; and further provided, that there shall be no limit on the number of floor resolutions considered on senate pro forma session days. Senate floor resolutions shall be acted upon in the same manner as motions. All senate floor resolutions shall be on the secretary's desk at least twenty-four hours prior to consideration. Members' names shall be added to the resolution only if the member signs the resolution, except by unanimous consent of the senate. Members shall have until thirty minutes after the senate is convened the following day the senate is in a regular or pro forma session to add or remove their names to the floor resolution. A motion may be made to close the period for signatures at an earlier time.

### **Precedence of Motions**

**Rule 21.** When a motion has been made and stated by the chair the following motions are in order, in the rank named:

#### **Privileged Motions**

Adjourn, recess, or go at ease

Reconsider  
 Demand for call of the senate  
 Demand for roll call  
 Demand for division  
 Question of privilege  
 Orders of the day

### **Incidental Motions**

Points of order and appeal  
 Method of consideration  
 Suspend the rules  
 Reading papers  
 Withdraw a motion  
 Division of a question

### **Subsidiary Motions**

1st Rank: To lay on the table  
 2nd Rank: For the previous question  
 3rd Rank: To postpone to a day certain  
             To commit or recommit  
             To postpone indefinitely  
 4th Rank: To amend

No motion to postpone to a day certain, to commit, or to postpone indefinitely, being decided, shall again be allowed on the same day and at the same stage of the proceedings, and when a question has been postponed indefinitely it shall not again be introduced during the session.

A motion to lay an amendment on the table shall not carry the main question with it unless so specified in the motion to table.

At no time shall the senate entertain a Question of Consideration.

### **Voting**

**Rule 22.** 1. In all cases of election by the senate, the votes shall be taken by yeas and nays, and no senator or other person shall remain by the secretary's desk while the roll is being called or the votes are being counted. No senator shall be allowed to vote except when within the bar of the senate, or upon any question upon which he or she is in any way personally or directly interested, nor be allowed to explain a vote or discuss the question while the yeas and nays



are being called, nor change a vote after the result has been announced. (See also Art. 2, Secs. 27 and 30, State Constitution.)

2. A member not voting by reason of personal or direct interest, or by reason of an excused absence, may explain the reason for not voting by a brief statement not to exceed fifty words in the journal.

3. The yeas and nays shall be taken when called for by one-sixth of all the senators present, and every senator within the bar of the senate shall vote unless excused by the unanimous vote of the members present, except as provided for in Senate Rule 7, subsection 4, and the votes shall be entered upon the journal. (See also Art. 2, Sec. 21, State Constitution.)

When once begun the roll call may not be interrupted for any purpose other than to move a call of the senate. (See also Senate Rule 24.)

4. A senator having been absent during roll call may ask to have his or her name called. Such a request must be made before the result of the roll call has been announced by the president.

5. The passage of a bill or action on a question is lost by a tie vote, but when a vote of the senate is equally divided, the lieutenant governor, when presiding, shall have the deciding vote on questions as provided for in the state Constitution. (See also Art. 2, Secs. 10 and 22, State Constitution.)

6. The order of the names on the roll call shall be alphabetical by last name.

7. All votes in a committee or subcommittee shall be recorded, and the record shall be preserved as prescribed by the secretary of the senate. One-sixth of the committee may demand an oral roll call.

8. If a member of the majority is going to be absent due to a health matter or other emergency, then a member of the minority may publicly announce on the floor of the senate that he or she will cast votes as he or she believes the absent member would have voted in order to avoid results that would only occur because of the unanticipated absence.

### **Announcement of Vote**

**Rule 23.** The announcement of all votes shall be made by the president.

### **Call of the Senate**

**Rule 24.** Although a roll call is in progress, a call of the senate may be moved by three senators, and if carried by a majority of all present the secretary shall call the roll, after which the names of the absentees shall again be called. The doors shall then be locked and the sergeant at arms directed to take into custody all who may be absent without leave, and all the senators so taken into custody shall be presented at the bar of the senate for such action as the senate may deem proper.

### **One Subject in a Bill**

**Rule 25.** No bill shall embrace more than one subject and that shall be expressed in the title. (See also Art. 2, Sec. 19, State Constitution.)

### **No Amendment by Mere Reference to Title of Act**

**Rule 26.** No act shall ever be revised or amended by mere reference to its title, but the act revised or the section amended shall be set forth at full length. (See also Art. 2, Sec. 37, State Constitution.)

### **Reading of Papers**

**Rule 27.** When the reading of any paper is called for, and is objected to by any senator, it shall be determined by a vote of the senate, without debate.

Any and all copies of reproductions of newspaper or magazine editorials, articles or cartoons or publications or material of any nature distributed to senators' desks must bear the name of at least one senator granting permission for the distribution. This shall not apply to materials normally distributed by the secretary of the senate or the majority or minority caucuses.

### **Comparing Enrolled and Engrossed Bills**

**Rule 28.** Any senator shall have the right to compare an enrolled bill with the engrossed bill and may note any objections in the Journal.

## **Section IV**

### **Parliamentary Procedure**

#### **Rules of Debate**

**Rule 29.** When any senator is about to speak in debate, or submit any matter to the senate, the senator shall rise, and standing in place, respectfully request recognition by the President, and when recognized shall, in a courteous manner, speak to the question under debate, avoiding personalities; provided that a senator may refer to another member using the title “Senator” and the surname of the other member. No senator shall impeach the motives of any other member or speak more than twice (except for explanation) during the consideration of any one question, on the same day or a second time without leave, when others who have not spoken desire the floor, but incidental and subsidiary questions arising during the debate shall not be considered the same question. A majority of the members present may further limit the number of times a member may speak on any question and may limit the length of time a member may speak but, unless a demand for the previous question has been sustained, a member shall not be denied the right to speak at least once on each question, nor shall a member be limited to less than two minutes on each question. In any event, the senator who presents the motion may open and close debate on the question.

#### **Recognition by the President**

**Rule 30.** When two or more senators rise at the same time to address the chair, the president shall name the one who shall speak first, giving preference, when practicable, to the mover or introducer of the subject under consideration. (See also Reed’s Rule 214.)

#### **Call for Division of a Question**

**Rule 31.** Any senator may call for a division of a question, which shall be divided if it embraces subjects so distinct that one being taken away a substantive proposition shall remain for the decision of the senate; but a motion to strike out and insert shall not be divided.

### **Point of Order - Decision Appealable**

**Rule 32.** 1. Every decision of points of order by the president shall be subject to appeal by any senator, and discussion of a question of order shall be allowed. In all cases of appeal the question shall be: "Shall the decision of the president stand as the judgment of the senate?"

2. When a member appeals the decision of the presiding officer, the presiding officer may not preside over the appeal.

3. An appeal from the decision of the presiding officer is timely if brought before the body on the day the decision was made unless the decision affected a measure that is no longer in possession of the senate.

### **Question of Privilege**

**Rule 33.** Any senator may rise to a question of privilege and explain a personal matter by leave of the president, but shall not discuss any pending question in such explanations, nor shall any question of personal privilege permit any senator to introduce any person or persons in the galleries. The president upon notice received may acknowledge the presence of any distinguished person or persons.

A question of privilege shall involve only subject matter which affects the particular senator personally and in a manner unique and peculiar to that senator.

### **Protests**

**Rule 34.** Any senator or senators may protest against the action of the senate upon any question. Such protest may be entered upon the journal if it does not exceed 200 words. The senator protesting shall file the protest with the secretary of the senate within 48 hours following the action protested.

### **Adoption and Suspension of Rules**

**Rule 35.** 1. The permanent senate rules adopted at the first regular session during a legislative biennium shall govern any session subsequently convened during the same legislative biennium. Adoption of permanent rules may be by majority of the senate without

notice and a majority of the senate may change a permanent rule without notice at the beginning of any session, as determined pursuant to Article 2, Section 12 of the State Constitution. No permanent rule or order of the senate shall be rescinded or changed without a majority vote of the members of the senate, and one day's notice of the motion.

2. A permanent rule or order may be temporarily suspended for a special purpose by a vote of two-thirds of the members present unless otherwise specified herein. When the suspension of a rule is called, and after due notice from the president no objection is offered, the president may announce the rule suspended, and the senate may proceed accordingly. Motion for suspension of the rules shall not be debatable, except, the mover of the motion may briefly explain the purpose of the motion and at the discretion of the president a rebuttal may be allowed.

3. For the purposes of this rule, one day's notice means written notice is provided to all members of the Senate by 5:00 p.m. the day prior to the amendment to the permanent rules being offered and the notice must include, at a minimum, a description of the change to be offered.

### **Previous Question**

**Rule 36.** The previous question shall not be put unless demanded by three senators, and it shall then be in this form: "Shall the main question be now put?" When sustained by a majority of senators present it shall preclude all debate, except the senator who presents the motion may open and close debate on the question and the vote shall be immediately taken on the question or questions pending before the senate, and all incidental question or questions of order arising after the motion is made shall be decided whether on appeal or otherwise without debate.

### **Reconsideration**

**Rule 37.** 1. After the final vote on any measure, before the adjournment of that day's session, any member who voted with the prevailing side may give notice of reconsideration unless a motion to immediately transmit the measure to the house has been decided in the affirmative. Such motion to reconsider shall be in order only under the order of motions of the day immediately following the

day upon which such notice of reconsideration is given, and may be made by any member who voted with the prevailing side.

2. A motion to reconsider shall have precedence over every other motion, except a motion to adjourn; and when the senate adjourns while a motion to reconsider is pending or before passing the order of motions, the right to move a reconsideration shall continue to the next day of sitting. On and after the tenth day prior to adjournment sine die of any session, as determined pursuant to Article 2, Section 12, or concurrent resolution, or in the event that the measure is subject to a senate rule or resolution or a joint rule or concurrent resolution, which would preclude consideration on the next day of sitting a motion to reconsider shall only be in order on the same day upon which notice of reconsideration is given and may be made at any time that day. Motions to reconsider a vote upon amendments to any pending question may be made and decided at once.

### **Motion to Adjourn**

**Rule 38.** Except when under call of the senate, a motion to adjourn shall always be in order. The name of the senator moving to adjourn and the time when the motion was made shall be entered upon the journal.

### **Yeas and Nays - When Must be Taken**

**Rule 39.** The yeas and nays shall be taken when called for by one-sixth of all the senators present, and every senator within the bar of the senate shall vote unless excused by the unanimous vote of the members present, and the votes shall be entered upon the journal. (See also Art. 2, Sec. 21, State Constitution.)

When once begun the roll call may not be interrupted for any purpose other than to move a call of the senate. (See also Senate Rules 22 and 24.)

### **Reed's Parliamentary Rules**

**Rule 40.** The rules of parliamentary practice as contained in Reed's Parliamentary Rules shall govern the senate in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the rules and orders of this senate and the joint rules of this senate and the house of representatives.

## Section V Committees

### Committees - Appointment and Confirmation

**Rule 41.** The president shall appoint all conference, special, joint and standing committees and standing subcommittees on the part of the senate. The appointment of the conference, special, joint and standing committees and standing subcommittees shall be confirmed by the senate.

In the event the senate shall refuse to confirm any conference, special, joint or standing committee or standing subcommittee, such committee or standing subcommittee shall be elected by the senate.

The following standing committees shall constitute the standing committees of the senate:

<b>Standing Committee</b>	<b>Total Membership</b>
1. Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks. . . . .	7
2. Early Learning & K-12 Education. . . . .	11
3. Environment, Energy, & Technology. . . . .	15
4. Financial Institutions, Economic Development & Trade. . . . .	7
5. Health & Long-Term Care. . . . .	11
6. Higher Education & Workforce Development. . . . .	7
7. Housing Stability & Affordability . . . . .	7
8. Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation. . . . .	7
9. Labor & Commerce. . . . .	7
10. Law & Justice . . . . .	7
11. Local Government . . . . .	5
12. Rules . . . . .	16 (plus the Lieutenant Governor)
13. State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections. . . . .	7
14. Transportation . . . . .	15
15. Ways & Means. . . . .	24

The following constitutes a standing subcommittee of the senate:

1. Behavioral Health Subcommittee  
     to Health & Long-Term Care. . . . . 5

### **Subcommittees**

**Rule 42.** 1. A standing subcommittee has authority to hold work sessions and public hearings and take executive action on measures referred to it by the relevant standing committee. The committee requirements in Senate Rules 44 through 49 apply equally to standing subcommittees created under Senate Rule 41.

2. In addition to standing subcommittees created under Senate Rule 41, committee chairs may create subcommittees of the standing committee and designate subcommittee chairs thereof to study subjects within the jurisdiction of the standing committee. These subcommittees do not have executive action authority and are not considered standing subcommittees for purpose of senate rules. The committee chair shall approve the use of committee staff and equipment assigned to the subcommittee. Subcommittee activities shall further be subject to facilities and operations committee approval to the same extent as are the actions of the standing committee from which they derive their authority.

### **Subpoena Power**

**Rule 43.** Any of the above referenced committees, including subcommittees thereof, or any special committees created by the senate, may have the powers of subpoena, the power to administer oaths, and the power to issue commissions for the examination of witnesses in accordance with the provisions of chapter 44.16 RCW. The committee chair shall file with the committee on rules, prior to issuance of any process, a statement of purpose setting forth the name or names of those subject to process. The rules committee shall consider every proposed issuance of process at a meeting of the rules committee immediately following the filing of the statement with the committee. The process shall not be issued prior to consideration by the rules committee. The process shall be limited to the named individuals and the committee on rules may overrule the service on an individual so named.

### **Duties of Committees**

**Rule 44.** The several committees shall fully consider measures referred to them.

The committees shall acquaint themselves with the interest of the state specially represented by the committee, and from time to time present such bills and reports as in their judgment will



advance the interests and promote the welfare of the people of the state: PROVIDED, That no executive action on bills may be taken during an interim.

### **Committee Rules**

**Rule 45.** 1. At least five days' notice shall be given of all public hearings held by any committee other than the rules committee. Such notice shall contain the date, time and place of such hearing together with the title and number of each bill, or identification of the subject matter, to be considered at such hearing. By a majority vote of the committee members present at any committee meeting such notice may be dispensed with. The reason for such action shall be set forth in a written statement preserved in the records of the meeting.

2. No committee may hold a public hearing during a regular or extraordinary session on a proposal identified as a draft unless the draft has been made available to the public at least twenty-four hours prior to the hearing. This rule does not apply during the five days prior to any cutoff established by concurrent resolution nor does it apply to any measure exempted from the resolution.

3. During its consideration of or vote on any bill, resolution or memorial, the deliberations of any committee or subcommittee of the senate shall be open to the public. In case of any disturbance or disorderly conduct at any such deliberations, the chair shall order the sergeant at arms to suppress the same and may order the meeting closed to any person or persons creating such disturbance.

4. No committee shall amend a measure, adopt a substitute bill, or vote upon any measure or appointment absent a quorum. A committee may conduct a hearing absent a quorum. A majority of any committee shall constitute a quorum and committees shall be considered to have a quorum present unless the question is raised. Any question as to quorum not raised at the time of the committee action is deemed waived.

5. Bills reported to the senate from a standing committee must have a majority report, which shall be prepared upon a printed standing committee report form; shall be adopted at a regularly or specially called meeting during a legislative session and shall be signed by a majority of the committee; and shall carry only one of the following recommendations:

- a. Do pass;
- b. Do pass as amended;
- c. That a substitute bill be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass; or
- d. Without recommendation.

In addition to one of the above-listed recommendations, a report may also recommend that a bill be referred to another committee.

6. A majority report of a committee must carry the signatures of a majority of the members of the committee. In the event a committee has a quorum pursuant to subsection 4 of this rule, subject to the limitation of subsection 12 of this rule, a majority of the members present may act on a measure, subject to obtaining the signatures of a majority of the members of the committee on the majority report.

7. Any measure, appointment, substitute bill, or amendment still within a committee's possession before it has been reported out to the full senate may be reconsidered to correct an error, change language, or otherwise accurately reflect the will of the committee in its majority and minority reports to the full senate. Any such reconsideration may be made at any time, by any member of the committee, provided that the committee has not yet reported the measure, appointment, substitute bill, or amendment out to the full senate. Any such reconsideration made after a vote has been taken or signatures obtained will require a new vote and signature sheet. Any measure which does not receive a majority vote of the members present may be reconsidered at that meeting and may again be considered upon motion of any committee member if one day's notice of said motion is provided to all committee members. For purposes of this rule, a committee is deemed to have reported a measure, appointment, substitute bill, or amendment out when it has delivered its majority and minority reports to the senate workroom. After such delivery, the committee no longer has possession of the measure, appointment, substitute bill, or amendment and no further committee action, including reconsideration, may be taken.

8. Any member of the committee not concurring in the majority report may sign a minority report containing a recommendation of "do not pass" or "without recommendation," which shall be signed by those members of the committee subscribing thereto, and submitted with the majority report. Unless the signatory of a minority report expressly indicates a "do not pass" recommendation, the

member's vote shall be deemed to be "without recommendation." In every case where a majority report form is circulated for signature, a minority report form shall also be circulated.

9. When a committee reports a substitute for an original bill with the recommendation that the substitute bill do pass, it shall be in order to read the substitute bill the first time and have the same ordered printed.

A motion for the substitution of the substitute bill for the original bill shall not be in order until the committee on rules places the original bill on the second reading calendar.

10. No vote in any committee shall be taken by secret ballot nor shall any committee have a policy of secrecy as to any vote on action taken in such committee.

11. All reports of standing committees must be on the secretary's desk one hour prior to convening of the session in order to be read at said session. During any special session of the legislature, this rule may be suspended by a majority vote.

12. When a standing committee is operated by cochair, the committee may not vote upon any measure or appointment without the consent of each cochair.

13. When a standing committee has a standing subcommittee established under Senate Rule 41, the chair of the committee may rerefer any measures referred to the committee to the standing subcommittee with the consent of the ranking member of the committee or, in the event of a dispute between the chair and ranking member, referral may occur with a majority vote of the committee.

### **Committee Meetings During Sessions**

**Rule 46.** No committee shall sit during the daily session of the senate unless by special leave.

No committee shall sit during any scheduled caucus.

### **Reading of Reports**

**Rule 47.** The majority report, and minority report, if there be one, together with the names of the signers thereof, shall be read by the secretary, unless the reading be dispensed with by the senate, and all committee reports shall be spread upon the journal.

### **Recalling Bills from Committees**

**Rule 48.** Any standing committee or standing subcommittee of the senate may be relieved of further consideration of any bill, regardless of prior action of the committee, by a majority vote of the senators elected or appointed. The senate may then make such orderly disposition of the bill as they may direct by a majority vote of the members of the senate.

### **Bills Referred to Rules Committee**

**Rule 49.** All bills reported by a committee to the senate shall then be referred to the committee on rules for second reading without action on the report unless otherwise ordered by the senate. (See also Senate Rules 63 and 64.)

### **Rules Committee**

**Rule 50.** The lieutenant governor shall be a voting member and the chair of the committee on rules. The president pro tempore shall be a voting member and the vice chair of the committee on rules. The committee on rules shall have charge of the daily second and third reading calendar of the senate and shall direct the secretary of the senate the order in which the bills shall be considered by the senate and the committee on rules shall have the authority to directly refer any bill before them to any other standing committee. Such referral shall be reported out to the senate on the next day's business.

The order of consideration of bills on the second or third reading calendar will be set by the floor leader of the majority caucus. A majority of members present may vote to change the order.

The calendar, except in emergent situations, as determined by the committee on rules, shall be on the desks and in the offices of the senators each day and shall cover the bills for consideration on the next following day.

### **Employment Committee**

**Rule 51.** The employment committee for committee staff shall consist of six members, three from the majority party and three from the minority party. The chair shall be appointed by the majority leader. All decisions shall be determined by majority vote. The committee shall operate within staffing, budget levels and guide-

lines as authorized and adopted by the facilities and operations committee.

### **Committee of the Whole**

**Rule 52.** At no time shall the senate sit as a committee of the whole.

The senate may at any time, by the vote of the majority of the members present, sit as a body for the purpose of taking testimony on any measure before the senate.

### **Appropriation Budget Bills**

**Rule 53.** No biennial or supplemental omnibus operating budget, omnibus capital budget, or omnibus transportation budget bill may be acted upon in second reading until twenty-four hours after the bill has been placed on the second reading calendar by the rules committee. This rule does not apply to conference committee reports of biennial or supplemental omnibus budget bills, which are governed by joint rules. This rule may be suspended with a majority vote of those present within three days of sine die. The rules committee shall establish by separate motion the time at which a bill has been placed on the second reading calendar for purposes of this rule.

## **Section VI**

# **Bills, Resolutions, Memorials and Gubernatorial Appointments**

### **Definitions**

**Rule 54.** “Measure” means a bill, joint memorial, joint resolution, or concurrent resolution.

“Bill” when used alone means bill, joint memorial, joint resolution, or concurrent resolution.

“Majority” shall mean a majority of those members present unless otherwise stated.

### **Prefiling**

**Rule 55.** Holdover members and members-elect to the senate may prefile bills with the secretary of the senate on any day commenc-

ing with the first Monday in December preceding any session year; or twenty days prior to any special session of the legislature. Such bills will be printed, distributed and prepared for introduction on the first legislative day. No bill, joint memorial or joint resolution shall be prefiled by title and/or preamble only. (See also Senate Rule 3, Sub. 3.)

### **Introduction of Bills**

**Rule 56.** All bills, joint resolutions, and joint memorials introduced shall be endorsed with a statement of the title and the name of the member introducing the same. Any member desiring to introduce a bill, joint resolution, or joint memorial shall file the same with the secretary of the senate by noon of the day before the convening of the session at which said bill, joint resolution, or joint memorial is to be introduced.

Provided that a vote has not been taken on final passage of a bill, joint resolution, or joint memorial, a member may add his or her name as a cosponsor until 2:00 p.m. of the day of its introduction. For any bill, joint resolution, or joint memorial that has been prefiled for a regular session, a member has until 2:00 p.m. of the day following introduction to add his or her name as a cosponsor.

To be considered during a regular session, a bill must be introduced at least ten days before final adjournment of the legislature, unless the legislature directs otherwise by a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, said vote to be taken by yeas and nays and entered upon the journal. The time limitation for introduction of bills shall not apply to substitute bills reported by standing committees for bills pending before such committees and general appropriation and revenue bills. (See also Art. 2, Sec. 36, State Constitution.)

### **Amendatory Bills**

**Rule 57.** Bills introduced in the senate intended to amend existing statutes shall have the words which are amendatory to such existing statutes underlined. Any matter to be deleted from the existing statutes shall be indicated by setting such matter forth in full, enclosed by double parentheses, and such deleted matter shall be lined out with hyphens. No bill shall be printed or acted upon until the provisions of this rule shall have been complied with.

Sections added by amendatory bill to an existing act, or chapter of the official code, need not be underlined but shall be designated "NEW SECTION" in upper case type and such designation shall be underlined. New enactments need not be underlined.

When statutes are being repealed, the Revised Code of Washington section number to be repealed, the section caption and the session law history, from the most current to the original, shall be cited.

### **Joint Resolutions and Memorials**

**Rule 58.** Joint resolutions and joint memorials, up to the signing thereof by the president of the senate, shall be subject to the rules governing the course of bills.

### **Senate Concurrent Resolutions**

**Rule 59.** Concurrent resolutions shall be subject to the rules governing the course of bills and may be adopted without a roll call. Concurrent resolutions authorizing investigations and authorizing the expenditure or allocation of any money must be adopted by roll call and the yeas and nays recorded in the journal. Concurrent resolutions are subject to final passage on the day of the first reading without regard to Senate Rules 62, 63, and 64.

### **Committee Bills**

**Rule 60.** Committee bills introduced by a standing committee during a legislative session may be filed with the secretary of the senate and introduced, and the signature of each member of the committee shall be endorsed upon the cover of the original bill.

Committee bills shall be read the first time by title, ordered printed, and referred to the committee on rules for second reading.

### **Committee Reference**

**Rule 61.** When a motion is made to refer a subject, and different committees are proposed, the question shall be taken in the following order:

- FIRST: A standing committee.
- SECOND: A select committee.

### **Reading of Bills**

**Rule 62.** Every bill shall be read on three separate days unless the senate deems it expedient to suspend this rule. On and after the tenth day preceding adjournment sine die of any session, or three days prior to any cut-off date for consideration of bills, as determined pursuant to Article 2, Section 12 of the Constitution or concurrent resolution, or during any special session of the legislature, this rule may be suspended by a majority vote. (See also Senate Rules 59 and 64.)

### **First Reading**

**Rule 63.** The first reading of a bill shall be by title only, unless a majority of the members present demand a reading in full.

After the first reading, bills shall be referred to an appropriate committee pursuant to Senate Rule 61.

Upon being reported back by committee, pursuant to Senate Rule 49, all bills shall be referred to the committee on rules for second reading, unless otherwise ordered by the senate.

A bill shall be reported back by the committee chair upon written petition therefor signed by a majority of its members. The petition shall designate the recommendation as provided in Senate Rule 45, Sub. 5.

No committee chair shall exercise a pocket veto of any bill.

Should there be a two-thirds majority report of the committee membership against the bill, a vote shall be immediately ordered for the indefinite postponement of the bill.

### **Second Reading/Amendments**

**Rule 64.** Upon second reading, the bill shall be read section by section, in full, and be subject to amendment.

Any member may, if sustained by three members, remove a bill from the consent calendar as constituted by the committee on rules. A bill removed from the consent calendar shall take its place as the last bill on the second reading calendar.

No amendment shall be considered by the senate until it shall have been sent to the secretary's desk in writing and read by the secretary.

All amendments adopted on the second reading shall then be securely fastened to the original bill.



All amendments rejected by the senate shall be spread upon the journal, and the journal shall show the disposition of all amendments.

When no further amendments shall be offered, the president shall declare the bill has passed its second reading, and shall be referred to the committee on rules for third reading.

### **Third Reading**

**Rule 65.** Bills on third reading shall be read in full by sections, and no amendment shall be entertained.

When a bill shall pass, it shall be certified to by the secretary, together with the vote upon final passage, noting the day of its passage thereon.

The vote must be taken by yeas and nays, the names of the senators voting for and against the same to be entered upon the journal and the majority of the members elected to the senate must be recorded thereon as voting in its favor to secure its passage by the senate.

### **Scope and Object of Bill Not to be Changed**

**Rule 66.** No amendment to any bill shall be allowed which shall change the scope and object of the bill. (See also Art. 2, Sec. 38, State Constitution.) Substitute bills shall be considered amendments for the purposes of this rule. A point of order raising the question of scope and object may be raised at any time during consideration of an amendment prior to voting on the amendment. A proposed amendment to an unamended title-only bill shall be within the scope and object of the bill if the subject of the amendment fits within the language in the title.

### **Matters Related to Disagreement Between the Senate and House**

**Rule 67.** When there is a disagreement between the senate and house on a measure before the senate, the senate may act upon the measure with the following motions which have priority in the following order:

To concur  
To non-concur  
To recede  
To insist  
To adhere

These motions are in order as to any single amendment or to a series of amendments. (See Reed's Rules 247 through 254.)

A senate bill, passed by the house with amendment or amendments which shall change the scope and object of the bill, upon being received in the senate, shall be referred to an appropriate committee and shall take the same course as for original bills, unless a motion to ask the house to recede, to insist or to adhere is made prior to the measure being referred to committee.

### **Bills Committed for Special Amendment**

**Rule 68.** A bill may be committed with or without special instructions to amend at any time before taking the final vote.

### **Confirmation of Gubernatorial Appointees**

**Rule 69.** When the names of appointees to state offices are transmitted to the secretary of the senate for senate confirmation, the communication from the governor shall be recorded and referred to the appropriate standing committee.

The standing committee, or subcommittee, pursuant to Senate Rule 42, shall require each appointee referred to the committee for consideration to complete the standard questionnaire to be used to ascertain the appointee's general background and qualifications. The committee may also require the appointee to complete a supplemental questionnaire related specifically to the qualifications for the position to which he has been appointed.

Any hearing on a gubernatorial appointment, held by the standing committee, or subcommittees, pursuant to Senate Rule 42, shall be a public hearing. The appointee may be required to appear before the committee on request. When appearing, the appointee shall be required to testify under oath or affirmation. The chair of the committee or the presiding member shall administer the oath or affirmation in accordance with RCW 44.16. (See also Article 2, Sec. 6 of the State Constitution.)

Nothing in this rule shall be construed to prevent a standing committee, or subcommittee, pursuant to Senate Rule 42, upon a two-thirds vote of its members, from holding executive sessions when considering an appointment.

When the committee on rules presents the report of the standing committee before the senate, the question shall be the confirmation of the name proposed, and the roll shall then be called and the yeas and nays entered upon the journal. In the event a message is received from the governor requesting return of an appointment or appointments to the office of the governor prior to confirmation, the senate shall vote upon the governor's request and the appointment or appointments shall be returned to the governor if the request is approved by a majority of the members elected or appointed. (Article 13 of the State Constitution.)

# Index to Senate Rules

	<b>Rule No.</b>
<b>Absence</b>	
During roll call . . . . .	22(4)
Explanation for journal. . . . .	22(2)
From session. . . . .	7(4)
Officers . . . . .	7(4)
Without leave . . . . .	7(4)
<b>Absentees</b>	
Call of Senate . . . . .	24
Excused by majority. . . . .	7(4)
<b>Acts</b>	
Amendment procedure . . . . .	26
Signed by president in open session. . . . .	1(5)
<b>Adjournment</b>	
Motion, when in order . . . . .	38
Quorum, less than may adjourn . . . . .	16
Time of day. . . . .	15
Precedence of motion. . . . .	21
<b>Admission</b>	
Senate floor, when in session . . . . .	10
Senate floor, when not in session . . . . .	4(2)
<b>Amendments</b>	
Amendatory words underlined . . . . .	57
Existing statutes words lined out . . . . .	57
House, disagreement between, procedure . . . . .	67
Motions in order . . . . .	67
New sections. . . . .	57
Precedence of motion. . . . .	21
Reading required . . . . .	64
Reconsideration, when . . . . .	37(2)
Rejected, disposition . . . . .	64
Scope and object. . . . .	66, 67
Special, commitment . . . . .	68
Tabled amendments do not carry main question . . . . .	21
When not allowed. . . . .	26, 66

Written, to be considered . . . . .	64
<b>Announcements</b>	
Business, order of . . . . .	1(7), 17, 18
Vote, result . . . . .	1(8)
<b>Appeal</b>	
Points of order . . . . .	32
President's decision . . . . .	1(4), 32
<b>Appointments</b>	
Committees . . . . .	1(6), 41
Employees . . . . .	3(2), 51
Employment committee, chair . . . . .	51
Gubernatorial, confirmation . . . . .	69
Officers . . . . .	3(1)
<b>Appropriate Workplace</b>	
Members, Officers . . . . .	7(5)
Lobbyists . . . . .	13
<b>Arrest</b>	
Person causing disturbance. . . . .	1(2)
<b>Bills</b>	
Advanced on calendar, how . . . . .	50
Amendatory words, underlined . . . . .	57
Amendments, scope . . . . .	66
Appropriation . . . . .	53
Committed, when . . . . .	68
Committee of the whole, shall not sit. . . . .	52
Committee, introduction requirements. . . . .	60
Committee, recalling from . . . . .	48
Committee, to second reading . . . . .	60
Committee reports, majority. . . . .	45(5-7), 47
Committee reports, minority . . . . .	45(7, 8), 47
Compare enrolled with engrossed . . . . .	28
Concurrent resolutions . . . . .	59
Concurrent resolutions, defined . . . . .	54
Debate. . . . .	29
Defined . . . . .	54
File, how obtained . . . . .	12
First reading . . . . .	63
Introduction, procedure . . . . .	56

Introduction, time limitation . . . . .	56
Joint memorials, defined . . . . .	54
Joint memorials, rules governing . . . . .	58
Joint resolutions, defined . . . . .	54
Joint resolutions, rules governing . . . . .	58
Mailing . . . . .	12
New sections . . . . .	57
Number to be printed . . . . .	11
Omission shown in double parentheses, lined out . . . . .	57
Prefiling . . . . .	3(3), 55
Printing . . . . .	11
Reading . . . . .	62
Recalling from committee . . . . .	48
Referred to committee . . . . .	44, 49
Report of standing committee, how . . . . .	45(5)
Rules committee, referred to . . . . .	49
Scope, not changeable . . . . .	66
Second reading, amendments . . . . .	64
Signed in open session . . . . .	1(5)
Subject, committee reference, vote . . . . .	61
Subject, one only . . . . .	25
Substitute, motion, when in order . . . . .	45(9)
Substitute, time for introduction . . . . .	45(9)
Third reading . . . . .	65
Tie vote, effect . . . . .	1(9), 22(5)

### **Breach of Decorum** (See Decorum)

### **Business**

Announcement . . . . .	1(7)
Changes in order . . . . .	17, 50
Priority . . . . .	17
Unfinished . . . . .	19

### **Calendar**

Rules committee in charge of . . . . .	50
--	----

### **Call for Division**

Precedence of motion . . . . .	21
Procedure . . . . .	31

**Call of the Senate**

Precedence of motion . . . . .	21
Procedure . . . . .	24

**Censure**

Senators . . . . .	7(6)
--------------------	------

**Committees** (See also Rules Committee; Standing Committees)

Appointment, by president . . . . .	1(6), 41
Bills referred to . . . . .	44, 49
Confirmation, by whom, when . . . . .	41
Conference . . . . .	41
Duties . . . . .	44
Elected, when . . . . .	1(6), 41
Employment . . . . .	51
Facilities and Operations . . . . .	8
Gubernatorial appointments referred . . . . .	69
Meetings, draft proposal . . . . .	45(2)
Meetings, during session . . . . .	46
Meetings, notice requirement . . . . .	45(1)
Meetings, open . . . . .	45(3)
Quorum . . . . .	45(4)
Recalling bills from . . . . .	48
Reference/referral order . . . . .	61
Report . . . . .	45(5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11)
Rules . . . . .	50
Secret vote prohibited . . . . .	45(10)
Standing committees list . . . . .	41
Standing subcommittees list . . . . .	41
Subcommittees, creation . . . . .	42
Subpoena power . . . . .	43

**Committee of the Whole**

Shall not sit . . . . .	52
-------------------------	----

**Committee Reports**

Action on . . . . .	45(5)
Gubernatorial appointees, confirmation . . . . .	69
Majority and minority . . . . .	45(5-8)
Secretary's desk . . . . .	45(11)

<b>Concurrent Resolutions</b>	
Method of voting on . . . . .	59
Rules governing . . . . .	59
<b>Confirmation</b>	
Committee appointees . . . . .	41
Gubernatorial appointees . . . . .	69
Subcommittee appointees . . . . .	41
<b>Consideration, Question of</b>	
Shall not be entertained . . . . .	21
<b>Convene</b>	
Time of day . . . . .	15
<b>Cutoff Resolution</b>	
Cutoff time applied to special order of business . . . . .	18
<b>Debate</b>	
Opening and closing . . . . .	29
Rules . . . . .	29
Two minute rule . . . . .	29
<b>Decorum</b>	
Breach, punishment . . . . .	7(2, 6)
Enforcement . . . . .	7
In committee . . . . .	45(3)
Indecorous conduct prohibited . . . . .	7(1)
Preserved by president . . . . .	1(2)
<b>Differences Between Senate and House</b>	
Motions, order of . . . . .	67
<b>Division</b>	
Call for . . . . .	31
Precedence of motion . . . . .	21
<b>Duties</b>	
Committees . . . . .	44
Deputy secretary of the senate . . . . .	3(1)
Employees . . . . .	1(3), 6
Facilities and operations committee . . . . .	8(2)
President . . . . .	1
President pro tempore . . . . .	2
Secretary of the senate . . . . .	3



Sergeant at arms . . . . .	4
Subordinate officers . . . . .	5
<b>Election</b>	
President pro tempore. . . . .	2(1)
President pro tempore, vice . . . . .	2(1)
Roll call . . . . .	22
Secretary of the senate . . . . .	3(1)
<b>Election by Roll Call</b>	
Procedure . . . . .	22(1)
<b>Employees</b>	
Appointed by secretary. . . . .	3(2)
Disclosure of gifts, etc. . . . .	13
Duties . . . . .	1(3)
Gratuities prohibited. . . . .	6(2)
Lobbying, prohibited . . . . .	6(1)
Personnel officer. . . . .	3(2)
<b>Employment Committee</b>	
Alternates . . . . .	8(1)
Chair appointed . . . . .	51
Number of members. . . . .	51
Respectful Workplace. . . . .	8(3)
Staff director appointed . . . . .	51
<b>Expenses</b>	
Approval. . . . .	8(2)
Postage . . . . .	8(2)
Signature. . . . .	8(2)
<b>Facilities and Operations Committee</b>	
Bills, printing . . . . .	11
Chamber, use . . . . .	9
Expenses, approval. . . . .	8(2)
Postage, issuance . . . . .	8(2)
<b>File of Bills</b>	
How obtained . . . . .	12
<b>First Reading of Bills</b>	
Procedure . . . . .	63

**Floor Resolutions**

Procedure . . . . .20(2)

**Gubernatorial Appointments**

Procedure . . . . . 69

**Indefinite Postponement**

Provision. . . . . 21

**Introduction of Bills (See also Bills)**

Committee bills . . . . . 60

Substitute bills by committee . . . . .45(9)

Time for . . . . . 56

**Joint Memorials**

Defined . . . . . 54

Rules governing . . . . . 58

**Joint Resolutions**

Defined . . . . . 54

Rules governing . . . . . 58

**Journal**

Adjournment, time recorded. . . . . 38

Committee reports, reading . . . . . 47

Protests, entry . . . . . 28, 34

Reading, when . . . . . 17

Rejected amendments to be shown. . . . . 64

Statement for not voting. . . . .22(2)

Yeas and nays, entered . . . . .22(3)

**Language**

Lay on table, amendments . . . . . 21

Offensive or indecorous . . . . .7(1)

**Lobbying**

Employees, prohibited . . . . .6(1)

**Lobbyists**

Disclosure of gifts . . . . . 13

Gifts defined. . . . . 13

Registration, regulation and noncompliance . . . . . 13

**Materials**

Distribution to members, Senate chamber . . . . . 27

Limitation of distribution . . . . . 12

**Members**

Absence . . . . .	7(4)
Absence, roll call . . . . .	22(4)
Appeal, question of order, . . . . .	1(4), 32
Call of senate . . . . .	24
Conduct, decorum. . . . .	7
Debate, rules, opening, closing, limits . . . . .	29
Disclosure of gifts . . . . .	13
Division of question . . . . .	31
Protest, entry in journal . . . . .	34
Question of privilege . . . . .	21, 33
Quorum. . . . .	16
Recognition, order . . . . .	30
Voting, excused from when . . . . .	22(2)

**Memorials** (See Joint Memorials)**Messages**

Governor, from . . . . .	17
Gubernatorial appointments . . . . .	69
House, from . . . . .	17
State officers, from . . . . .	17
When considered . . . . .	17

**Motions**

Adjournment, time and mover of, to be recorded in journal . .	38
Adjournment, when in order. . . . .	38
Amendments, lay on table . . . . .	21
Call for division, procedure . . . . .	31
Disagreements, priority of order. . . . .	67
Entertained, when. . . . .	20(1)
Incidental motions . . . . .	21
Ninth order of business. . . . .	17
One day notice, permanent rule change . . . . .	35(1)
Personal privilege . . . . .	21, 33
Postponement, indefinite, when in order . . . . .	21
Postponement, to a day certain. . . . .	21
Precedence, during debate . . . . .	21
Previous question . . . . .	21, 36
Privileged motions . . . . .	21
Reconsideration, precedence . . . . .	37(2)
Reconsideration, procedure . . . . .	37(1)

Senate resolutions . . . . .	20(2)
Subsidiary motions . . . . .	21
Suspension of the rules when debatable . . . . .	35(2)
Withdrawn, how . . . . .	20(1)
Written, when . . . . .	20(1)
<b>Motion to Adjourn</b>	
Journal entry . . . . .	38
When in order . . . . .	38
<b>Officers</b>	
Absence . . . . .	7(4)
Duties, president's responsibility . . . . .	1(3)
Subordinate . . . . .	5
<b>Omissions (See Bills)</b>	
<b>Opening and Closing Debate (See Debate)</b>	
<b>Order</b>	
Appeal on question . . . . .	1(4)
Preserved by president . . . . .	1(2)
Senate called to, when . . . . .	15
Special . . . . .	18
<b>Order of Business</b>	
Announcement, president . . . . .	1(7)
Changes . . . . .	17, 50
Priority of business . . . . .	17
Special order . . . . .	18
Specified . . . . .	17
Unfinished . . . . .	19
<b>Parliamentary Rules</b>	
Reed's . . . . .	40
<b>Per Diem</b>	
Absence without leave, nonpayment, exceptions . . . . .	7(4)
Payment . . . . .	8(2)

**Personal Privilege**

Precedence of motion . . . . .	21
Procedure . . . . .	33

**Points of Order**

Decision appealable . . . . .	32
Precedence of motion . . . . .	21

**Postage**

Issuance . . . . .	8(2)
--------------------	------

**Precedence of Motions**

Ranked . . . . .	21
------------------	----

**Prefiling (See also Bills)**

Bills . . . . .	3(3), 55
-----------------	----------

**President**

Acts, addresses, joint resolutions, signature . . . . .	1(5)
Announcement of votes . . . . .	23
Business in order . . . . .	1(7)
Casts vote, when . . . . .	1(9)
Chamber, lobby control . . . . .	1(3)
Committees, appointment . . . . .	1(6), 41
Convenes Senate, when . . . . .	1(1), 15
Duties . . . . .	1
Officers, employees, clerks, duties, responsibility . . . . .	1(3)
Order and decorum, preserves . . . . .	1(2)
Order of recognition . . . . .	30
Points of order, determination . . . . .	1(4)
Recognition by, preference . . . . .	30
Senator, call to chair . . . . .	2(2)
Vote announcement . . . . .	1(8)
Vote, Senate equally divided . . . . .	1(9), 22(5)
Writs, warrants and subpoenas, signature . . . . .	1(5)

**President Pro Tempore**

Elected by senate . . . . .	2(1)
Powers, authority . . . . .	2(1)
Temporary president, when selected . . . . .	2(2)
Vice president, pro tempore . . . . .	2(1)

**Previous Question**

Precedence of motion . . . . .	21
When put . . . . .	36

**Printing**

Bills . . . . .	11
Prefiled bills . . . . .	55

**Priority of Business (See Order of Business)****Protest**

Filing limitation . . . . .	34
Journal entry . . . . .	34
Limitation . . . . .	34

**Question**

Division of . . . . .	31
Precedence of motion . . . . .	21

**Question of Privilege**

Precedence of motion . . . . .	21
Provisions . . . . .	33

**Quorum**

Committees . . . . .	45(4)
Defined . . . . .	16

**Reading**

Bills . . . . .	62-65
Committee reports . . . . .	47
Papers, objection, procedure . . . . .	27
Publications, distribution . . . . .	27

**Reconsideration**

How taken . . . . .	37
Motion . . . . .	37
Notice . . . . .	37
Precedence of motion . . . . .	21, 37
When in order . . . . .	37

**Reference**

Bills from committees . . . . .	45(5-11), 48
Bills to rules committee . . . . .	49

**Reports**

Action on . . . . .	47
Committee . . . . .	45(5)
Majority and minority . . . . .	45(5-8), 47
Secretary's desk . . . . .	45(11)

**Resolutions, Concurrent** (See Concurrent Resolutions)**Resolutions, Floor** (See Floor Resolutions)**Resolutions, Joint** (See Joint Resolutions)**Roll Call**

Absence during . . . . .	22(4)
Absent, name call request . . . . .	22(4)
Call of the Senate . . . . .	24
Demand for . . . . .	22(3)
Interruption . . . . .	22(3)
Order of names . . . . .	22(6)
Precedence of motion . . . . .	21

**Rules** (See also Suspension of Rules)

Adoption of . . . . .	35
Bills, referred . . . . .	49
Calendar order . . . . .	50
Committee of the whole, shall not sit . . . . .	52
Concurrent resolutions . . . . .	54, 59
Debate . . . . .	29
Floor resolutions . . . . .	20(2)
Joint memorials . . . . .	54, 58
Joint resolutions . . . . .	54, 58
Lieutenant governor, chairman and voting member . . . . .	50
Permanent, adoption . . . . .	35(1)
Previous question . . . . .	36
Protests . . . . .	34
Quorum . . . . .	16
Reconsideration, precedence . . . . .	37(2)
Reconsideration, procedure . . . . .	37(1)
Reed's parliamentary . . . . .	40
Suspension, not debatable . . . . .	35(2)
Suspension, procedure . . . . .	35(2)
Transgression, speaking . . . . .	7(3)

**Rules Committee**

Appointees, method of confirmation . . . . .	1(6), 41
Bill file, requests . . . . .	12
Calendar, 2nd, 3rd reading . . . . .	50
Lobbying privilege . . . . .	13
Membership of . . . . .	41, 50
Votes recorded . . . . .	22(7)

**Rules of Debate (See also Rules)**

Procedure . . . . .	29
---------------------	----

**Second Reading of Bills**

Amendments . . . . .	64
Changes in order of bills on second reading calendar . . . . .	50
Order of business . . . . .	17, 50

**Secrecy**

Committee voting prohibited . . . . .	45(10)
---------------------------------------	--------

**Secretary of the Senate**

Bills, file requests . . . . .	12
Bills, prefiling . . . . .	3(3), 55
Bills, printing . . . . .	11
Committee reports . . . . .	45(11)
Committee votes, recorded, retained . . . . .	22(7), 50
Duties . . . . .	3(1)
Election . . . . .	3(1)
Employees, appointment, dismissal . . . . .	3(2)
May dismiss employees . . . . .	3(2)

**Security**

Management of . . . . .	4(1), 14
-------------------------	----------

**Senate Chamber**

Use . . . . .	9
---------------	---

**Sergeant At Arms**

Admission to the senate . . . . .	10
Call of the Senate . . . . .	24
Preserve order . . . . .	1(2), 45(3)
Responsibilities . . . . .	4(1), 10
Security management . . . . .	14

**Speaking**

Rules, transgression . . . . .	7(3)
--------------------------------	------



**Special Order**

- Consideration, postponement . . . . . 18
- Preference over other business . . . . . 19

**Standing Committees**

- Bills, introduced, requirements. . . . . 60
- Bills, recalling from committees . . . . . 48
- Bills, referred to rules. . . . . 49
- Bills, reported out, procedure. . . . . 45(5)
- Duties . . . . . 44
- List . . . . . 41
- Subcommittees, creation. . . . . 42
- Subcommittees, list . . . . . 41
- Subpoena power . . . . . 43
- Vote, recording . . . . . 22(7)

**Subject**

- Bills, amendment restrictions. . . . . 66
- Bills, only one. . . . . 25

**Subordinate Officers**

- Duties . . . . . 5

**Subpoena Power**

- Committees. . . . . 43

**Substitute Bills**

- Committee report on. . . . . 45(9)
- Introduction . . . . . 45(9)
- Motion to substitute, when. . . . . 45(9)

**Supplies**

- Purchase . . . . . 8(2)

**Suspension of Rules (See also Rules)**

- Bills, reading . . . . . 62
- Members, vote . . . . . 35(1)
- Motion to suspend not debatable . . . . . 35(2)
- Table, amendments. . . . . 21

**Temporary President**

- Election. . . . . 2(1)
- Duties . . . . . 2(1)

**Third Reading of Bills**

- Changes in order of bills on third reading calendar . . . . . 50
- Procedure . . . . . 65
- Order of business . . . . . 50

**Tie Vote**

- Effect on bills and question . . . . . 1(9)
- President has deciding vote, when . . . . . 1(9), 22(5)

**Time**

- Introduction of bills, filing period . . . . . 56
- Prefiled bills, filing period . . . . . 3(3), 55

**Title**

- Subject of bills expressed in . . . . . 25

**Unfinished Business**

- Preference . . . . . 19

**Vote**

- Announcement, by president . . . . . 1(8), 23
- Demand for . . . . . 22(3), 39
- Entered in journal . . . . . 22(3), 39
- President's, when case . . . . . 1(9), 22(5), 50
- Reading of papers, objection to . . . . . 27
- Rules committee, recorded . . . . . 22(7)
- Standing committee, recording . . . . . 22(7)
- Third reading, yeas and nays . . . . . 65
- Tie, effect on bills and questions . . . . . 1(9), 22(5)

**Voting** (See also Roll Call; Yeas and Nays)

- Absence, excused . . . . . 22(2)
- Absence, roll call . . . . . 22(4)
- Call of the Senate . . . . . 24
- Censure . . . . . 7(6)
- Secret, prohibited . . . . . 45(10)

**Yeas and Nays**

- Bills, third reading . . . . . 65
- Demand for, entered in journal . . . . . 22(3), 39
- Elections, all cases . . . . . 22(1)
- Tie vote . . . . . 1(9), 22(5)
- When taken . . . . . 22(3), 39

## Forms of Motion

### To Advance a Bill From First Reading

Mr. President ★ ★ ★ ★ I move that the rules be suspended, that Senate Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ (*Memorial, Joint or Concurrent Resolution*) be advanced to second reading.

### To Substitute a Substitute Bill

Mr. President ★ ★ ★ ★ I move that Substitute Senate Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ be substituted for Senate Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ and that Substitute Senate Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ be placed on today's second reading calendar.

### To Advance a Bill From Second Reading

Mr. President ★ ★ ★ ★ I move that the rules be suspended, that Senate Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ be advanced to third reading, the second reading considered the third, and that the bill be placed on final passage.

### To Adopt an Amendment

Mr. President ★ ★ ★ ★ I move that the amendment be adopted. (or) I move that the amendment to the amendment be adopted. (or) I move that the committee amendment to Section \_\_\_\_\_, line(s) \_\_\_\_\_ be adopted.

### To Return A Bill To Second Reading

Mr. President ★ ★ ★ ★ I move that the rules be suspended, and that Senate Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ be returned to second reading for the purpose of amendment.

### To Change the Order of Business

Mr. President ★ ★ ★ ★ I move that the Senate advance to the ninth order of business for the purpose of making a motion. (or) I move that the Senate revert to the first order of business for the purpose of receiving a standing committee report. (or) I move that the Senate advance to the sixth order of business to consider the calendar of the day. (*These motions are not a suspension of the rules, but merely a change in the order of one rule. Therefore, a majority vote of those present will carry the motion.*)

### Floor Resolution

Mr. President ★ ★ ★ ★ I move that Senate Floor Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_ be adopted. (*After the President places the motion on adoption, the merits of the resolution can be discussed. A floor resolution is only read once before consideration and adoption.*)

## Order of Business

- First.** Reports of standing committees.
- Second.** Reports of select committees.
- Third.** Messages from the Governor and other state officers.
- Fourth.** Messages from the House of Representatives.
- Fifth.** Introduction, first reading and referrals for bills, memorials, joint resolutions and concurrent resolutions.
- Sixth.** Second reading of bills.
- Seventh.** Third reading of bills.
- Eighth.** Presentation of petitions, memorials and floor resolutions.
- Ninth.** Presentation of motions.

### Privileged Motions

Adjourn or Recess

Reconsider

Demand for Call of the Senate

Demand for Roll Call

Demand for Division

Question of Privilege

Orders of the Day

### Incidental Motions

Points of Order and Appeal

Method of Consideration

Suspend the Rules

Reading Papers

Withdraw a Motion

Division of a Question

### Subsidiary Motions

1st Rank: To lay on the table

2nd Rank: For the previous question

3rd Rank: To postpone to a day certain

To commit or recommit

To postpone indefinitely

4th Rank: To amend

# Membership of Senate Standing Committees

## 2019

**Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks (7)** – Van De Wege, Chair; Salomon, Vice Chair; \*Warnick; Honeyford; McCoy; Rolfes; Short

**Behavioral Health Subcommittee to Health & Long Term Care (5)** – Dhingra, Chair; \*Wagoner; Darneille; Frockt; O'Ban

**Early Learning & K-12 Education (11)** – Wellman, Chair; Wilson, C., Vice Chair; \*Hawkins; Holy; Hunt; McCoy; Mullet; Padden; Pedersen; Salomon; Wagoner

**Environment, Energy & Technology (14)** – Carlyle, Chair; Palumbo, Vice Chair; \*Ericksen; \*\*\*\*\*Sheldon; \*\*\*\*\*Fortunato; Billig; Brown; Das; Hobbs; Liias; McCoy; Nguyen; Rivers; Short; Wellman

**Financial Institutions, Economic Development & Trade (7)** – Mullet, Chair; Hasegawa, Vice Chair; \*Wilson, L.; Braun; Das; Ericksen; Hobbs

**Health & Long Term Care (11)** – Cleveland, Chair; Randall, Vice Chair; \*O'Ban; Bailey; Becker; Conway; Dhingra; Frockt; Keiser; Rivers; Van De Wege

**Higher Education & Workforce Development (7)** – Palumbo, Chair; Randall, Vice Chair; \*Holy; Brown; Ericksen; Liias; Wellman

**Housing Stability & Affordability (7)** – Kuderer, Chair; Das, Vice Chair; \*Zeiger; Darneille; Fortunato; Saldaña; Warnick

**Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation (7)** – Darneille, Chair; Nguyen, Vice Chair; \*Walsh; Cleveland; O'Ban; Wilson, C.; Zeiger

**Labor & Commerce (7)** – Keiser, Chair; Conway, Vice Chair; \*King; Braun; Saldaña; Walsh; Wellman

**Law & Justice (7)** – Pedersen, Chair; Dhingra, Vice Chair; \*Padden; Holy; Kuderer; Salomon; Wilson, L.

**Local Government (5)** – Takko, Chair; Salomon, Vice Chair; \*Short; Honeyford; Lovelett

**Rules (17)** – Habib, Chair; Keiser, Vice Chair; \*Schoesler; Becker; Billig; Carlyle; Cleveland; Hasegawa; King; Kuderer; Liias; McCoy; Nguyen; Pedersen; Rivers; Sheldon; Short

**State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections (7)** – Hunt, Chair; Kuderer, Vice Chair; \*Zeiger; Bailey; Hasegawa; Hawkins; Takko

**Transportation (14)** – Hobbs, Chair; Saldaña, Vice Chair; \*King; \*\*Sheldon; Cleveland; Das; Fortunato; Lovelett; Nguyen; O’Ban; Padden; Randall; Takko; Wilson, C.; Zeiger

**Ways & Means (24)** – Rolfes, Chair; Frockt, Vice Chair, Operating, Capital Lead; Mullet, Capital Budget Cabinet; \*\*\*\*Honeyford; \*Braun; \*\*\*Brown; Bailey; Becker; Billig; Carlyle; Conway; Darneille; Hasegawa; Hunt; Keiser; Liias; Palumbo; Pedersen; Rivers; Schoesler; Van De Wege; Wagoner; Warnick; Wilson, L.

\* Ranking Member

\*\* Asst. Ranking Member

\*\*\* Asst. Ranking Member, Operating

\*\*\*\* Asst. Ranking Member, Capital

\*\*\*\*\* Asst. Ranking Member, Environment

\*\*\*\*\* Asst. Ranking Member, Energy & Technology

The Lt. Governor is a voting member of the Rules Committee.

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# Member Assignments to Senate Standing Committees

## 2019

**Bailey, Barbara** - Health & Long Term Care; State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections; Ways & Means

**Becker, Randi** - Health & Long Term Care; Rules; Ways & Means

**Billig, Andy** - Environment, Energy & Technology; Rules; Ways & Means

**Braun, John E.** - \*Ways & Means; Financial Institutions, Economic Development & Trade; Labor & Commerce

**Brown, Sharon** - \*\*\*Ways & Means; Environment, Energy & Technology; Higher Education & Workforce Development

**Carlyle, Reuven** - Environment, Energy & Technology, Chair; Rules; Ways & Means

**Cleveland, Annette** - Health & Long Term Care, Chair; Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation; Rules; Transportation

**Conway, Steve** - Labor & Commerce, Vice Chair; Health & Long Term Care; Ways & Means

**Darneille, Jeannie** - Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation, Chair; Behavioral Health Subcommittee to Health & Long Term Care; Housing Stability & Affordability; Ways & Means

**Das, Mona** - Housing Stability & Affordability, Vice Chair; Environment, Energy & Technology; Financial Institutions, Economic Development & Trade; Transportation

**Dhingra, Manka** - Behavioral Health Subcommittee to Health & Long Term Care, Chair; Law & Justice, Vice Chair; Health & Long Term Care

**Ericksen, Doug** - \*Environment, Energy & Technology; Financial Institutions, Economic Development & Trade; Higher Education & Workforce Development

**Fortunato, Phil** - \*\*\*\*\*Environment, Energy & Technology; Housing Stability & Affordability; Transportation

**Frocht, David** - Ways & Means, Vice Chair, Operating, Capitol Lead; Behavioral Health Subcommittee to Health & Long Term Care; Health & Long Term Care

**Hasegawa, Bob** - Financial Institutions, Economic Development & Trade, Vice Chair; Rules; State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections; Ways & Means

**Hawkins, Brad** - \*Early Learning & K-12 Education; State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections

**Hobbs, Steve** - Transportation, Chair; Environment, Energy & Technology; Financial Institutions, Economic Development & Trade

**Holy, Jeff** - \*Higher Education & Workforce Development; Early Learning & K-12 Education; Law & Justice

**Honeyford, Jim** - \*\*\*\*Ways & Means; Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks; Local Government

**Hunt, Sam** - State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections, Chair; Early Learning & K-12 Education; Ways & Means

**Keiser, Karen** - Labor & Commerce, Chair; Rules, Vice Chair; Health & Long Term Care; Ways & Means

**King, Curtis** - \*Labor & Commerce; \*Transportation; Rules

**Kuderer, Patty** - Housing Stability & Affordability, Chair; State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections, Vice Chair; Law & Justice; Rules

**Liias, Marko** - Environment, Energy & Technology; Higher Education & Workforce Development; Rules; Ways & Means

**Lovelett, Liz** - Local Government; Transportation

**McCoy, John** - Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks; Early Learning & K-12 Education; Environment, Energy & Technology; Rules

**Mullet, Mark** - Financial Institutions, Economic Development & Trade, Chair; Ways & Means, Capital Budget Cabinet; Early Learning & K-12 Education

**Nguyen, Joe** - Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation, Vice Chair; Environment, Energy & Technology; Rules; Transportation



**O'Ban, Steve** - \*Health & Long Term Care; Behavioral Health Subcommittee to Health & Long Term Care; Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation; Transportation

**Padden, Mike** - \*Law & Justice; Early Learning & K-12 Education; Transportation

**Palumbo, Guy** - Higher Education & Workforce Development, Chair; Environment, Energy & Technology, Vice Chair; Ways & Means

**Pedersen, Jamie** - Law & Justice, Chair; Early Learning & K-12 Education; Rules; Ways & Means

**Randall, Emily** - Health & Long Term Care, Vice Chair; Higher Education & Workforce Development, Vice Chair; Transportation

**Rivers, Ann** - Environment, Energy & Technology; Health & Long Term Care; Rules; Ways & Means

**Rolfes, Christine** - Ways & Means, Chair; Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks

**Saldaña, Rebecca** - Transportation, Vice Chair; Housing Stability & Affordability; Labor & Commerce

**Salomon, Jesse** - Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks, Vice Chair; Local Government, Vice Chair; Early Learning & K-12 Education; Law & Justice

**Schoesler, Mark G.** - \* Rules; Ways & Means

**Sheldon, Timothy** - \*\*Transportation; \*\*\*\*\*Environment, Energy & Technology; Rules

**Short, Shelly** - \*Local Government; Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks; Environment, Energy & Technology; Rules

**Takko, Dean** - Local Government, Chair; State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections; Transportation

**Van De Wege, Kevin** - Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks, Chair; Health & Long Term Care; Ways & Means

**Wagoner, Keith** - \*Behavioral Health Subcommittee to Health & Long Term Care; Early Learning & K-12 Education; Ways & Means

**Walsh, Maureen** - \*Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation; Labor & Commerce

**Warnick, Judy** - \*Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks; Housing Stability & Affordability; Ways & Means

**Wellman, Lisa** - Early Learning & K-12 Education, Chair; Environment, Energy & Technology; Higher Education & Workforce Development; Labor & Commerce

**Wilson, Claire** - Early Learning & K-12 Education, Vice Chair; Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation; Transportation

**Wilson, Lynda** - \*Financial Institutions, Economic Development & Trade; Law & Justice; Ways & Means

**Zeiger, Hans** - \*Housing Stability & Affordability; \*State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections; Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation; Transportation

\* Ranking Member

\*\* Asst. Ranking Member

\*\*\* Asst. Ranking Member, Operating

\*\*\*\* Asst. Ranking Member, Capital

\*\*\*\*\* Asst. Ranking Member, Environment

\*\*\*\*\* Asst. Ranking Member, Energy & Technology

The Lt. Governor is a voting member of the Rules Committee.

## 2019 – 2020 Senate Roster Sixty-sixth Legislature

Cyrus Habib, President

Brad Hendrickson, Secretary

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Dis</b>	<b>Pol</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Mailing Address</b>	<b>Birthyear Birthplace</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Previous Yrs Served House</b>	<b>Senate</b>
Bailey, Barbara	10	R	Island, Skagit (P), Snohomish (P)	PO Box 40410 Olympia, WA 98504	Missouri	Mgmt / Training Consultant	2003-2012	2013-
Becker, Randi	2	R	Pierce (P), Thurston (P)	PO Box 40402 Olympia, WA 98504	1948 - Tacoma, WA	Retired Medical Practice Admin		2009-
Billig, Andy	3	D	Spokane (P)	PO Box 40403 Olympia, WA 98504	1968 - New York	Baseball Executive	2011-2012	2013-
Braun, John	20	R	Clark (P), Cowlitz (P), Lewis (P), Thurston (P)	PO Box 40420 Olympia, WA 98504	1967 - Columbus, Ohio	President of Braun Northwest		2013-
Brown, Sharon	8	R	Benton (P)	PO Box 40408 Olympia, WA 98504		Attorney		Appt. 1/28/2013
Carlyle, Reuven	36	D	King (P)	PO Box 40436 Olympia, WA 98504	1965	Software Entrepreneur	2009-2015	2016-
Cleveland, Annette	49	D	Clark (P)	PO Box 40449 Olympia, WA 98504	1962 - Vancouver	Federal Government Affairs Director		2013-
Conway, Steve	29	D	Pierce (P)	PO Box 40429 Olympia, WA 98504	Oregon	Retired, Labor Relations	Appt. 1/26/1993, 1994-2010	2011-

## 2019 – 2020 Senate Roster - continued

492

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Dis</b>	<b>Pol</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Mailing Address</b>	<b>Birthyear Birthplace</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Previous Yrs Served House</b>	<b>Senate</b>
Darneille, Jeannie	27	D	Pierce (P)	PO Box 40427 Olympia, WA 98504	1949 - Fairbanks, AK	Senator	2001-2012	2013-
Das, Mona	47	D	King (P)	PO Box 40447 Olympia, WA 98504	1971 - India	Loan Officer		2019-
Dhingra, Manka	45	D	King (P)	PO Box 40445 Olympia, WA 98504	State Senator, Prosecutor			2018-
Ericksen, Doug	42	R	Whatcom (P)	PO Box 40442 Olympia, WA 98504	1969 - Bellingham, WA		1999-2010	2011-
Fortunato, Phil	31	R	King (P), Pierce (P)	PO Box 40431 Olympia, WA 98504		Environmental Consultant	1999-2001	Sworn in 1/7/2017
Frocht, David	46	D	King (P)	PO Box 40446 Olympia, WA 98504		Attorney	1/10/2011- 11/14/2011	Sworn in 11/14/2011
Hasegawa, Bob	11	D	King (P)	PO Box 40411 Olympia, WA 98504	Washington	Operating Engineer	2005-2012	2013-
Hawkins, Brad	12	R	Chelan, Douglas, Grant (P), Okanogan (P)	PO Box 40412 Olympia, WA 98504			2013-2016	2017-
Hobbs, Steve	44	D	Snohomish (P)	PO Box 40444 Olympia, WA 98504	1970 - Everett, WA	Major, WA National Guard		2007-

**2019 – 2020 Senate Roster** - continued

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Dis</b>	<b>Pol</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Mailing Address</b>	<b>Birthyear Birthplace</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Previous Yrs Served House</b>	<b>Senate</b>
Holy, Jeff	6	R	Spokane (P)	PO Box 40406 Olympia, WA 98504		Attorney	2013-2019	2019-
Honeyford, Jim	15	R	Yakima (P)	PO Box 40415 Olympia, WA 98504	Oregon	Retired Farmer/Retired Educator	1995-1998	1999-
Hunt, Sam	22	D	Thurston (P)	PO Box 40422 Olympia, WA 98504	1942 - Billings, MT	Senator	2001-2016	2017-
Keiser, Karen	33	D	King (P)	PO Box 40433 Olympia, WA 98504	1947 - Sioux City, IA	Ret'd Communications Dir.	1996-2001	Appt. 12/10/2001
King, Curtis	14	R	Clark (P), Klickitat, Skamania, Yakima (P)	PO Box 40414 Olympia, WA 98504	1946 - Yakima, WA	Former Business Owner		Sworn in 11/29/2007
Kuderer, Patty	48	D	King (P)	PO Box 40448 Olympia, WA 98504	1958 - Minneapolis, MN	Attorney	Appt. 9/28/2015, 2016	Appt. 1/5/2017
Liias, Marko	21	D	Snohomish (P)	PO Box 40421 Olympia, WA 98504	1981 - Edmonds, WA	Professor	2008-2014	Appt. 1/21/2014
Lovelett, Liz	40	D	San Juan, Skagit (P), Whatcom (P)	PO Box 40440 Olympia, WA 98504	1980 - Seattle	Council Member, Anacortes, Self, Anacortes School District		Sworn in 2/5/2019

## 2019 – 2020 Senate Roster - continued

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Dis</b>	<b>Pol</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Mailing Address</b>	<b>Birthyear Birthplace</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Previous Yrs Served House</b>	<b>Senate</b>
McCoy, John	38	D	Snohomish (P)	PO Box 40438 Olympia, WA 98504	1943 - Tulalip, WA	Legislator	2003-2013	Appt. 11/27/2013
Mullet, Mark	5	D	King (P)	PO Box 40405 Olympia, WA 98504	1972 - Seattle, WA	Small Business Owner		Sworn in 11/30/2012
Nguyen, Joe	34	D	King (P)	PO Box 40434 Olympia, WA 98504	1983 – Seattle, WA	Program Manager		2019-
O'Ban, Steve	28	R	Pierce (P)	PO Box 40428 Olympia, WA 98504	1961 - California	Attorney	1/14/13-6/4/13	Appt. 6/5/2013
Padden, Mike	4	R	Spokane (P)	PO Box 40404 Olympia, WA 98504		Attorney	1981-1995	Sworn in 11/29/2011
Palumbo, Guy	1	D	King (P), Snohomish (P)	PO Box 40401 Olympia, WA 98504	1973 - Bronx, NY	Small Business Owner		2017-
Pedersen, Jamie	43	D	King (P)	PO Box 40443 Olympia, WA 98504	1968 - Puyallup, WA	Lawyer	2007-2013	Appt. 12/16/2013
Randall, Emily	26	D	Kitsap (P), Pierce (P)	PO Box 40426 Olympia, WA 98504	1985 - Bremerton	State Senator		2019-
Rivers, Ann	18	R	Clark (P)	PO Box 40418 Olympia, WA 98504		Public Affairs Consultant	2011-2012	Appt. 6/25/2012

**2019 – 2020 Senate Roster** - continued

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Dis</b>	<b>Pol</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Mailing Address</b>	<b>Birthyear Birthplace</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Previous Yrs Served House</b>	<b>Senate</b>
Rolfes, Christine	23	D	Kitsap (P)	PO Box 40423 Olympia, WA 98504	1967 - North Tarrytown, NY	Senator	2007-2011	Appt. 7/20/2011
Saldaña, Rebecca	37	D	King (P)	PO Box 40437 Olympia, WA 98504	Seattle, WA	Non-Profit Consultant		Sworn in 12/12/2016
Salomon, Jesse	32	D	King (P), Snohomish (P)	PO Box 40432 Olympia, WA 98504	1976	Attorney		2019-
Schoesler, Mark	9	R	Adams, Asotin, Franklin (P), Garfield, Spokane (P), Whitman	PO Box 40409 Olympia, WA 98504	1957 - Ritzville, WA	Self-Employed Farmer	1993-2004	2005-
Sheldon, Tim	35	D	Kitsap (P), Mason, Thurston (P)	PO Box 40435 Olympia, WA 98504	1947 - Shelton, WA	Tree Farmer	1991-1997	Sworn in 12/5/1997
Short, Shelly	7	R	Ferry, Okanogan (P), Pend Oreille, Spokane (P), Stevens	PO Box 40407 Olympia, WA 98504	1962 - Washington	Legislator	2009-2016	Appt. 1/31/2017
Takko, Dean	19	D	Cowlitz (P), Grays Harbor (P), Lewis (P), Pacific, Wahkiakum	PO Box 40419 Olympia, WA 98504	1950 - Ilwaco, WA	Legislator	Appt. 12/21/2004, 2005-2015	Appt. 10/22/2015
Van De Wege, Kevin	24	D	Clallam, Grays Harbor (P), Jefferson	PO Box 40424 Olympia, WA 98504	1974 - Seattle, WA	Firefighter/Paramedic	2007-2016	2017-

## 2019 – 2020 Senate Roster - continued

496

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Dis</b>	<b>Pol</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Mailing Address</b>	<b>Birthyear Birthplace</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Previous Yrs Served House</b>	<b>Senate</b>
Wagoner, Keith	39	R	King (P), Skagit (P), Snohomish (P)	PO Box 40439 Olympia, WA 98504	1961 – Rockledge, FL	Retired United States Navy		Appt. 1/3/2018
Walsh, Maureen	16	R	Benton (P), Columbia, Franklin (P), Walla Walla	PO Box 40416 Olympia, WA 98504	1960 - Cincinnati, OH	Legislator	2005-2016	2017-
Warnick, Judy	13	R	Grant (P), Kittitas, Lincoln, Yakima (P)	PO Box 40413 Olympia, WA 98504	1950 - Spokane, WA	Collection Agency	2007-2014	2015-
Wellman, Lisa	41	D	King (P)	PO Box 40441 Olympia, WA 98504	New York, NY	Business Consultant		2017-
Wilson, Claire	30	D	King (P), Pierce (P)	PO Box 40430 Olympia, WA 98504	1956 – Ellensburg	Education		2019-
Wilson, Lynda	17	R	Clark (P)	PO Box 40417 Olympia, WA 98504	1958 - Spokane, WA	Manufacturer	2015-2016	2017-
Zeiger, Hans	25	R	Pierce (P)	PO Box 40425 Olympia, WA 98504	1985 - Tacoma, WA	Author	2011-2016	Sworn in 1/3/2017



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# **The House of Representatives**

## **Sixty-sixth Legislature**

### **Olympia**

#### **2019 – 2020**

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**House Officers**

**House Leaders**

**Votes Necessary on House Action**

**Permanent Rules of the House**

**Index to House Rules**

**House Forms of Motion**

**Membership of House Standing Committees**

**Member Assignments to House Standing Committees**

**House Roster**

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#### **Officers:**

Frank Chopp

Speaker of the House

John Lovick

Speaker Pro Tempore of the House

Tina Orwall

Deputy Speaker Pro Tempore of the House

Bernard Dean

Chief Clerk, House

Nona Snell

Deputy Chief Clerk, House

# House Leaders

## 2019 – 2020

### Democratic Leadership

Speaker . . . . .	Frank Chopp
Speaker Pro Tempore . . . . .	John Lovick
Deputy Speaker Pro Tempore . . . . .	Tina Orwall
Majority Leader . . . . .	Pat Sullivan
Majority Caucus Chair . . . . .	Eric Pettigrew
Majority Whip . . . . .	Marcus Riccelli
Majority Floor Leader . . . . .	Monica Jurado Stonier
Deputy Majority Leader . . . . .	Larry Springer
Majority Caucus Vice Chair . . . . .	Lillian Ortiz-Self
Deputy Majority Whip . . . . .	Mike Chapman
Deputy Majority Whip . . . . .	Kristine Reeves
Deputy Majority Floor Leader . . . . .	Christine Kilduff
Assistant Majority Whip . . . . .	Jared Mead
Assistant Majority Whip . . . . .	Bill Ramos

### Republican Leadership

Minority Leader . . . . .	J. T. Wilcox
Deputy Minority Leader . . . . .	Joel Kretz
Minority Caucus Chair . . . . .	Paul Harris
Minority Whip . . . . .	Dan Griffey
Minority Floor Leader . . . . .	Jacquelin Maycumber
Minority Caucus Vice Chair . . . . .	Gina Mosbrucker
Deputy Minority Whip . . . . .	Bill Jenkin
Assistant Minority Floor Leader . . . . .	Morgan Irwin
Assistant Minority Floor Leader . . . . .	Drew MacEwen
Assistant Minority Whip . . . . .	Kelly Chambers
Assistant Minority Whip . . . . .	Jenny Graham

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## Votes Necessary on House Action

### **Actions requiring constitutional majority (50 votes)**

1. To pass bills. (Const., Art. II, Sec. 22 and House Rule 12 (C))
2. To ratify Constitutional Amendment of Federal Government.
3. To excuse absent members under Call of the House. (House Rule 21(C))
4. To impeach. (Const., Art. V, Sec. 1)
5. To change any standing rule or order. (On one day's notice) (House Rule 31)
6. To constitute a quorum (Const., Art. II, Sec. 8; House Rule 13(B))
7. To order bill out of Rules Committee and place on Calendar (House Rule 14(C)(2)) or to relieve a Committee of a bill and place on Calendar. (House Rule 24(D)(2))

### **Actions requiring a majority of members present.**

1. To amend legislative measures. (House Rule 11)
2. To change hour of meeting and adjournment. (House Rule 13)
3. To adjourn, to lay on the table, to postpone indefinitely, to postpone to a day certain. (House Rule 15)
4. To decide case of member called to order. (House Rule 17(J))
5. To advance a bill reading when five or fewer days remain before a session must end by law, or when four or fewer days remain before a bill must be reported from the House under a cut-off resolution. (House Rule 10)
6. To excuse a member from voting. (House Rule 19)
7. To reconsider. (House Rule 20)
8. To allow reading of a paper after objection is raised. (House Rule 17(C))
9. To transmit measure immediately to Senate.
10. To demand a bill be read in full on third reading. (House Rule 10(D))

**Actions requiring two-thirds vote of members present.**

1. To order previous question.(House Rule 18)
2. To temporarily suspend any House rule.(House Rule 31)
3. For bills on the suspension calendar, to adopt the committee recommendations and advance the bill to third reading.(House Rule 10(E))

**Actions requiring eight members or more.**

1. To demand call of the House in the absence of a quorum. (House Rule 13(B))

**Actions requiring one-sixth of members present.**

1. To demand a recorded roll call on any motion or to demand an oral roll call on final passage.(Const., Art. II, Sec. 21 and House Rule 19(F))
2. To demand call of the House.(House Rule 21)

**Actions requiring two-thirds vote of members elected to the House (66 votes).**

1. To expel a member.(Const., Art. II, Sec. 9)

**Actions requiring constitutional majority of members elected to the House (50 votes), and also a constitutional majority of all members elected to the Senate (25 votes).**

1. To abolish the office of the Lieutenant Governor, State Auditor, or Commissioner of Public Lands. (Const., Art. III, Sec. 25)

**Actions requiring majority present of both houses.**

1. To adjourn for more than three days.(Const., Art. II, Sec. 11)

**Actions requiring two-thirds vote of members elected to the House (66 votes), and also two-thirds vote of members elected to the Senate (33 votes).**

1. To amend an initiative within two years of enactment by people.(Const., Art. II, Sec. 41)
2. To consider a bill introduced during the last ten days of a regular session.(Const., Art. II, Sec. 36)
3. To convene a special session (Const., Art. II, Sec. 12 and Const., Art. III, Sec. 12)
4. To call a constitutional convention.(Const., Art. XXIII, Sec. 2)
5. To propose a constitutional amendment.(Const., Art. XXIII, Sec. 1)

**Action requiring two-thirds vote of the members present in both houses.**

1. To pass a measure over the veto of the Governor.(Const., Art. III, Sec. 12)

**Actions requiring three-fourths vote of all members elected to both houses.**

1. To remove judicial officers, Attorney General, or prosecuting attorney. (Const., Art. IV, Sec. 9)

# Permanent Rules of the House of Representatives

## Sixty-sixth Legislature 2019 – 2020

### House Rule No.

- Rule 1 Definitions
- Rule 2 Chief Clerk to Call to Order
- Rule 3 Election of Officers
- Rule 4 Powers and Duties of the Speaker
- Rule 5 Chief Clerk
- Rule 6 Duties of Employees
- Rule 7 Admission to the House
- Rule 8 Absentees and Courtesy
- Rule 9 Bills, Memorials and Resolutions - Introductions
- Rule 10 Reading of Bills
- Rule 11 Amendments
- Rule 12 Final Passage
- Rule 13 Hour of Meeting, Roll Call and Quorum
- Rule 14 Daily Calendar and Order of Business
- Rule 15 Motions
- Rule 16 Members Right to Debate
- Rule 17 Rules of Debate
- Rule 18 Ending of Debate - Previous Question
- Rule 19 Voting
- Rule 20 Reconsideration
- Rule 21 Call of the House
- Rule 22 Appeal from Decision of Chair
- Rule 23 Standing Committees
- Rule 24 Duties of Committees
- Rule 25 Standing Committees - Expenses - Subpoena Power
- Rule 26 Vetoed Bills
- Rule 27 Suspension of Compensation
- Rule 28 Smoking
- Rule 29 Liquor
- Rule 30 Parliamentary Rules
- Rule 31 Standing Rules Amendment
- Rule 32 Rules to Apply for Assembly
- Rule 33 Legislative Mailings

### **Definitions**

**Rule 1.** “Absent” means an unexcused failure to attend.

“Term” means the two-year term during which the members as a body may act.

“Session” means a constitutional gathering of the house in accordance with Article II § 12 of the state Constitution.

“Committee” means any standing, conference, joint, or select committee as so designated by rule or resolution.

“Fiscal committee” means the appropriations, capital budget, finance, and transportation committees.

“Bill” means bill, joint memorial, joint resolution, or concurrent resolution unless the context indicates otherwise.

### **Chief Clerk to Call to Order**

**Rule 2.** It shall be the duty of the chief clerk of the previous term to call the house to order and to conduct the proceedings until a speaker is chosen.

### **Election of Officers**

**Rule 3.** The house shall elect the following officers at the commencement of each term: Its presiding officer, who shall be styled speaker of the house; a speaker pro tempore, who shall serve in absence or in case of the inability of the speaker; a deputy speaker pro tempore, who shall serve in absence or in case of the inability of the speaker and speaker pro tempore; and a chief clerk of the house. Such officers shall hold office during all sessions until the convening of the succeeding term: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That any of these offices may be declared vacant by the vote of a constitutional majority of the house, the members voting viva voce and their votes shall be entered on the journal. If any office is declared vacant, the house shall fill such vacant office as hereinafter provided. In all elections by the house a constitutional majority shall be required, the members shall vote viva voce and their votes shall be entered on the journal. (Art. II § 27)

### **Powers and Duties of the Speaker**

**Rule 4.** The speaker shall have the following powers and duties:

- (A) The speaker shall take the chair and call the house to order precisely at the hour appointed for meeting and if a quorum be present, shall cause the journal of the preceding day to be read and shall proceed with the order of business.
- (B) The speaker shall preserve order and decorum, and in case of any disturbance or disorderly conduct within the chamber or legislative area, shall order the sergeant at arms to suppress the same and may order the sergeant at arms to remove any person creating any disturbance within the house chamber or legislative area.
- (C) The speaker may speak to points of order in preference to other members, arising from the seat for that purpose, and shall decide all questions of order subject to an appeal to the house by any member, on which appeal no member shall speak more than once without leave of the house.
- (D) The speaker shall sign all bills in open session. (Art. II § 32)
- (E) The speaker shall sign all writs, warrants, and subpoenas issued by order of the house, all of which shall be attested to by the chief clerk.
- (F) The speaker shall have the right to name any member to perform the duties of the chair, but such substitution shall neither extend beyond adjournment nor authorize the representative so substituted to sign any documents requiring the signature of the speaker.
- (G) The speaker, in open session, shall appoint committee chairs as selected by the majority party caucus, and shall appoint members to committees in the same ratio as the membership of the respective parties of the house, unless otherwise provided by law or house rules.
- (H) The speaker shall serve as chair of the rules committee.
- (I) The speaker shall have charge of and see that all officers, attaches, and clerks perform their respective duties.
- (J) The speaker pro tempore shall exercise the duties, powers, and prerogatives of the speaker in the event of the speaker's death, illness, removal, or inability to act until the speaker's successor shall be elected.



### **Chief Clerk**

**Rule 5.** The chief clerk shall perform the usual duties pertaining to the office, and shall hold office until a successor has been elected.

The chief clerk shall employ, subject to the approval of the speaker, all other house employees; the hours of duty and assignments of all house employees shall be under the chief clerk's directions and instructions, and they may be dismissed by the chief clerk with the approval of the speaker. The speaker shall sign and the chief clerk shall countersign all payrolls and vouchers for all expenses of the house and appropriately transmit the same. In the event of the chief clerk's death, illness, removal, or inability to act, the speaker may appoint an acting chief clerk who shall exercise the duties and powers of the chief clerk until the chief clerk's successor shall be elected.

### **Duties of Employees**

**Rule 6.** Employees of the house shall perform such duties as are assigned to them by the chief clerk. Under no circumstances shall the compensation of any employee be increased for past services. No house employee shall seek to influence the passage or rejection of proposed legislation.

### **Admission to the House**

**Rule 7.** It shall be the general policy of the house to keep the chamber clear as follows:

(A) The sergeant at arms shall admit only the following individuals to the wings and adjacent areas of the house chamber for the period of time beginning one-half hour prior to convening and ending one-half hour following the adjournment of the house's daily session:

The governor or designees, or both;

Members of the senate;

State elected officials;

Officers and authorized employees of the legislature;

Former members of the house who are not advocating any pending or proposed legislation;

Representatives of the press;

Other persons with the consent of the speaker.

- (B) Only members of the house, pages, sergeants at arms, and clerks are permitted on the floor while the house is in session.
- (C) Lobbying in the house chamber or in any committee room or lounge room is prohibited when the house or committee is in session unless expressly permitted by the house or committee. Anyone violating this rule will forfeit his or her right to be admitted to the house chamber or any of its committee rooms.

### **Absentees and Courtesy**

**Rule 8.** No member shall be absent from the service of the house without leave from the speaker. When the house is in session, only the speaker shall recognize visitors and former members.

### **Bills, Memorials and Resolutions - Introductions**

**Rule 9.** Any member desiring to introduce a bill shall file the same with the chief clerk. Bills filed by 10:00 a.m. shall be introduced at the next daily session, in the order filed: PROVIDED, That if such introduction is within the last ten days of a regular session, it cannot be considered without a direct vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all the members elected to each house with such vote recorded and entered upon the journal. (Art. II § 36)

Any returning member or member-elect may prefile a bill with the chief clerk commencing the first Monday in December preceding any regular session or twenty (20) days before any special session. Prefiled bills shall be introduced on the first legislative day.

All bills shall be endorsed with a statement of the title and the name of the member or members introducing the same. The chief clerk shall attach to all bills a substantial cover bearing the title and sponsors and shall number each bill in the order filed. All bills shall be printed unless otherwise ordered by the house.

Any bill introduced at any session during the term shall be eligible for action at all subsequent sessions during the term.

No house bill may be introduced that is identical to any other pending house bill.

### **Reading of Bills**

**Rule 10.** Every bill shall be read on three separate days: PROVIDED, That this rule may be temporarily suspended at any time by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present; and that on and after the fifth day prior to the day of adjournment sine die of any session, as determined pursuant to Article II, Section 12 of the state Constitution or concurrent resolution, or on and after the third day prior to the day a bill must be reported from the house as established by concurrent resolution, this rule may be suspended by a majority vote.

A bill may be returned to second reading for the purpose of amendment by a suspension of the rules: PROVIDED, That on and after the fifth day prior to the day of adjournment sine die of any session, as determined pursuant to Article II, section 12 of the state Constitution or concurrent resolution, or on and after the third day prior to the day a bill must be reported from the house as established by concurrent resolution, this rule may be suspended and a bill returned to second reading for the purpose of amendment by a majority vote.

(A) **FIRST READING.** The first reading of a bill shall be by title only, unless a majority of the members present demand a reading in full.

After the first reading the bill shall be referred to an appropriate committee.

Upon being reported out of committee, all bills shall be referred to the rules committee, unless otherwise ordered by the house.

The rules committee may, by majority vote, refer any bill in its possession to a committee for further consideration. Such referral shall be reported to the house and entered in the journal under the fifth order of business.

(B) **SECOND READING.** Upon second reading, the bill number and short title and the last line of the bill shall be read unless a majority of the members present shall demand its reading in full. The bill shall be subject to amendment section by section. No amendment shall be considered by the house until it has been sent to the chief clerk's desk in writing, distributed to the desk of each member, and read by the clerk. All amendments

adopted during second reading shall be securely fastened to the original bill. All amendments rejected by the house shall be passed to the minute clerk, and the journal shall show the disposition of such amendments.

When no further amendments shall be offered, the speaker shall declare the bill has passed its second reading.

- (C) **SUBSTITUTE BILLS.** When a committee reports a substitute for an original bill with the recommendation that the substitute bill do pass, it shall be in order to read the substitute the first time and have the same printed. A motion for the substitution shall not be in order until the second reading of the original bill.
- (D) **THIRD READING.** Only the last line of bills shall be read on third reading unless a majority of the members present demand a reading in full. No amendments to a bill shall be received on third reading but it may be referred or recommitted for the purpose of amendment.
- (E) **SUSPENSION CALENDAR.** Bills may be placed on the second reading suspension calendar by the rules committee if at least two minority party members of the rules committee join in such motion. Bills on the second reading suspension calendar shall not be subject to amendment or substitution except as recommended in the committee report. When a bill is before the house on the suspension calendar, the question shall be to adopt the committee recommendations and advance the bill to third reading. If the question fails to receive a two-thirds vote of the members present, the bill shall be referred to the rules committee for second reading.
- (F) **HOUSE RESOLUTIONS.** House resolutions shall be filed with the chief clerk who shall transmit them to the rules committee. If a rules committee meeting is not scheduled to occur prior to a time necessitated by the purpose of a house resolution, the majority leader and minority leader by agreement may waive transmission to the rules committee to permit consideration of the resolution by the house. The rules committee may adopt house resolutions by a sixty percent majority vote of its entire membership or may, by a majority vote of its members, place them on the motions calendar for consideration by the house. House resolutions are not subject to debate, except for resolu-

tions necessary for the operation of the house, and resolutions commemorating Children's Day, Day of Remembrance, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, National Guard Day, and President's Day.

- (G) **CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS.** Reading of concurrent resolutions may be advanced by majority vote.

### **Amendments**

**Rule 11.** The right of any member to offer amendments to proposed legislation shall not be limited except as provided in Rule 10(E) and as follows:

- (A) **AMENDMENTS TO BE OFFERED IN PROPER FORM.** The chief clerk shall establish the proper form for amendments and all amendments offered shall bear the name of the member who offers the same, as well as the number and section of the bill to be amended.
- (B) **COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS.** When a bill is before the house on second reading, amendments adopted by committees and recommended to the house shall be acted upon by the house before any amendments that may be offered from the floor.
- (C) **SENATE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILLS.** A house bill, passed by the senate with amendment or amendments which shall change the scope and object of the bill, upon being received in the house, shall be referred to the appropriate committee and shall take the same course as for original bills unless a motion not to concur is adopted prior to the bill being referred to committee.
- (D) **AMENDMENTS TO BE GERMANE.** No motion or proposition on a subject different from that under consideration shall be admitted under color of amendment; and no bill or resolution shall at any time be amended by annexing thereto or incorporating therein any other bill or resolution pending before the house.
- (E) **SCOPE AND OBJECT NOT TO BE CHANGED.** No amendment to any bill shall be allowed which shall change the scope and object of the bill. This objection may be raised at any time an amendment is under consideration. The speaker may allow the person raising the objection and the mover of the amend-

ment to provide brief arguments as to the merits of the objection. (Art. II § 38)

- (F) **NO AMENDMENT BY REFERENCE.** No act shall ever be revised or amended without being set forth at full length. (Art. II § 37)
- (G) **TITLE AMENDMENTS.** The subject matter portion of a bill title shall not be amended in committee or on second reading. Changes to that part of the title after the subject matter statement shall either be presented with the text amendment or be incorporated by the chief clerk in the engrossing process.

### **Final Passage**

**Rule 12.** Rules relating to bills on final passage are as follows:

- (A) **BUDGET BILLS.** No final passage vote may be taken on an operating budget, transportation budget, or capital budget bill until twenty-four (24) hours after the bill is placed on the third reading calendar. The twenty-four (24) hour requirement does not apply to conference reports, which are governed by Joint Rule 20, or to bills placed on the third reading calendar by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present.
- (B) **RECOMMITMENT BEFORE FINAL PASSAGE.** A bill may be recommitted at any time before its final passage.
- (C) **FINAL PASSAGE.** No bill shall become a law unless on its final passage the vote be taken by yeas and nays, the names of the members voting for and against the same be entered on the journal of each house, and a majority of the members elected to each house be recorded thereon as voting in its favor. (Art. II § 22)
- (D) **BILLS PASSED - CERTIFICATION.** When a bill passes, it shall be certified to by the chief clerk, said certification to show the date of its passage together with the vote thereon.

### **Hour of Meeting, Roll Call and Quorum**

**Rule 13.** (A) **HOUR OF MEETING.** The speaker shall call the house to order each day of sitting at 10:00 A.M., unless the house shall have adjourned to some other hour.

(B) **ROLL CALL AND QUORUM.** Before proceeding with business, the roll of the members shall be called and the names of those absent or excused shall be entered on the journal. A majority of all the members elected must be present to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. In the absence of a quorum, seven members with the speaker, or eight members in the speaker's absence, having chosen a speaker pro tempore, shall be authorized to demand a call of the house and may compel the attendance of absent members in the manner provided in Rule 21(B). For the purpose of determining if a quorum be present, the speaker shall count all members present, whether voting or not. (Art. II § 8)

(C) The house shall adjourn not later than 10:00 P.M. of each working day. This rule may be suspended by a majority vote.

### **Daily Calendar and Order of Business**

**Rule 14.** The rules relating to the daily calendar and order of business are as follows:

(A) **DAILY CALENDAR.** Business of the house shall be disposed of in the following order:

- First:* Roll call, presentation of colors, prayer, and approval of the journal of the preceding day.
- Second:* Introduction of visiting dignitaries.
- Third:* Messages from the senate, governor, and other state officials.
- Fourth:* Introduction and first reading of bills, memorials, joint resolutions, and concurrent resolutions.
- Fifth:* Committee reports.
- Sixth:* Second reading of bills.
- Seventh:* Third reading of bills.
- Eighth:* Floor resolutions and motions.
- Ninth:* Presentation of petitions, memorials, and remonstrances addressed to the Legislature.
- Tenth:* Introduction of visitors and other business to be considered.
- Eleventh:* Announcements.

- (B) UNFINISHED BUSINESS. The unfinished business at which the house was engaged preceding adjournment shall not be taken up until reached in regular order, unless the previous question on such unfinished business has been ordered prior to said adjournment.
- (C) EXCEPTIONS. Exceptions to the order of business are as follows:
- (1) The order of business may be changed by a majority vote of those present.
  - (2) By motion under the eighth order of business, a bill in the rules committee may be placed on the calendar by the affirmative vote of a majority of all members of the house.
  - (3) House resolutions and messages from the senate, governor, or other state officials may be read at any time.

### **Motions**

**Rule 15.** Rules relating to motions are as follows:

- (A) MOTIONS TO BE ENTERTAINED OR DEBATED. No motion shall be entertained or debated until announced by the speaker and every motion shall be deemed to have been seconded. A motion shall be reduced to writing and read by the clerk, if desired by the speaker or any member, before it shall be debated and by the consent of the house may be withdrawn before amendment or action.
- (B) MOTIONS IN ORDER DURING DEBATE. When a motion has been made and seconded and stated by the chair, the following motions are in order, in the rank named:
- (1) Privileged motions:
    - Adjourn
    - Adjourn to a time certain
    - Recess to a time certain
    - Reconsider
    - Demand for division
    - Question of privilege
    - Orders of the day



(2) Subsidiary motions:

First rank:	Question of consideration
Second rank:	To lay on the table
Third rank:	For the previous question
Fourth rank:	To postpone to a day certain To commit or recommit To postpone indefinitely
Fifth rank:	To amend

(3) Incidental motions:

- Points of order and appeal
- Method of consideration
- Suspension of the rules
- Reading papers
- Withdraw a motion
- Division of a question

(C) THE EFFECT OF POSTPONEMENT - MOTIONS TO POSTPONE OR COMMIT. Once decided, no motion to postpone to a day certain, to commit, or to postpone indefinitely shall again be allowed on the same day and at the same stage of the proceedings. When a question has been postponed indefinitely, it shall not again be introduced during the session. The motion to postpone indefinitely may be made at any stage of the bill except when on first reading.

(D) MOTIONS DECIDED WITHOUT DEBATE. A motion to adjourn, to recess, to lay on the table and to call for the previous question shall be decided without debate.

All incidental motions shall be decided without debate, except that members may speak to points of order and appeal as provided in Rule 22.

Motions to adopt house resolutions shall be decided without debate, except as provided in Rule 10(F).

A motion for suspension of the rules shall not be debatable except that the mover of the motion may briefly explain the purpose of the motion and one member may briefly state the opposition to the motion.

(E) MOTION TO ADJOURN. A motion to adjourn shall always be in order, except when the house is voting or is working under the call of the house; but this rule shall not authorize any

member to move for adjournment when another member has the floor.

### **Members Right to Debate**

**Rule 16.** The methods by which a member may exercise his or her right to debate are as follows:

- (A) **RECOGNITION OF MEMBER.** When any member desires to speak in debate or deliver any matter to the house, the member shall rise and respectfully address the speaker and pause until recognized.
- (B) **ORDER OF SPEAKING.** When two or more members arise at once, the speaker shall name the one who is to speak.
- (C) **LIMITATION OF DEBATE.** No member shall speak longer than ten (10) minutes without consent of the house: **PROVIDED,** That on and after the fifth day prior to the day of adjournment sine die of any session, as determined pursuant to Article II, Section 12 of the state Constitution or concurrent resolution, or on and after the third day prior to the day any bill must be reported from the house as established by concurrent resolution, no member shall speak more than three (3) minutes without the consent of the house. No member shall speak more than twice on the same question without leave of the house: **PROVIDED,** That the chair of the committee or the mover of the question may close debate if it is consistent with Rule 18 (Previous Question).

### **Rules of Debate**

**Rule 17.** The rules for debate in the house are as follows:

- (A) **QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE.** Any member may rise to a question of privilege and explain a personal matter, by leave of the speaker, but the member shall not discuss any pending question in such explanations.
- (B) **WITHDRAWAL OF MOTION, BILL, ETC.** After a motion is stated by the speaker or a bill, memorial, resolution, petition, or remonstrance is read by the clerk, it shall be deemed to be in possession of the house, but may be withdrawn by consent of the house at any time before decision or amendment.

- (C) **READING OF A PAPER.** When the reading of any paper is called for and is objected to by any member, it shall be determined by a vote of the house.
- (D) **DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS.** Any materials of any nature distributed to the members' desks on the floor shall be subject to approval by the speaker and shall bear the name of at least one member granting permission for the distribution. This shall not apply to materials normally distributed by the chief clerk.
- (E) **ORDER OF QUESTIONS.** All questions, whether in committee or in the house, shall be propounded in the order in which they are named except that in filling blanks, the largest sum and the longest time shall be put first.
- (F) **DIVISION OF POINTS OF DEBATE.** Any member may call for a division of a question which shall be divided if it embraces subjects so distinct that one being taken away a substantive proposition shall remain for the decision of the house; but a motion to strike out and to insert shall not be divided. The rejection of a motion to strike out and to insert one proposition shall not prevent a motion to strike out and to insert a different proposition.
- (G) **DECORUM OF MEMBERS.** While the speaker is putting the question, no member shall walk across or out of the house; nor when a member is speaking shall any member entertain private discourse or pass between the speaking member and the rostrum.
- (H) **REMARKS CONFINED.** A member shall confine all remarks to the question under debate and avoid personalities. No member shall impugn the motive of any member's vote or argument.
- (I) **EXCEPTION TO WORDS SPOKEN IN DEBATE.** If any member be called to order for words spoken in debate, the person calling the member to order shall repeat the words excepted to and they shall be taken down in writing at the clerk's table. No member shall be held in answer or be subject to the censure of the house for words spoken in debate if any other member has spoken before exception to them shall have been taken.

(J) **TRANSGRESSION OF RULES - APPEAL.** If any member, in speaking or otherwise, transgresses the rules of the house the speaker shall, or any member may, call the member to order, in which case the member so called to order shall immediately sit down unless permitted to explain; and the house shall, if appealed to, decide the case without debate; if there be no appeal, the decision of the chair shall prevail.

If the decision be in favor of the member called to order, the member shall be at liberty to proceed; if otherwise, and the case shall require it, the member shall be liable to the censure of the house.

### **Ending of Debate - Previous Question**

**Rule 18.** The previous question may be ordered by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present on all recognized motions or amendments which are debatable.

The previous question is not debatable and cannot be amended.

The previous question shall be put in this form: "Representative \_\_\_\_\_ demands the previous question. As many as are in favor of ordering the previous question will say 'Aye'; as many as are opposed will say 'No'."

The results of the motion are as follows: If determined in the negative, the consideration goes on as if the motion had never been made; if decided in the affirmative it shall have the effect of cutting off all debate and bringing the house to a direct vote upon the motion or amendment on which it has been ordered: **PROVIDED HOWEVER,** That when a bill is on final passage or when the motion to postpone indefinitely is pending, one of the sponsors of the bill or the chair of the committee may have the privilege of closing debate after the previous question has been ordered.

If an adjournment is had after the previous question is ordered, the motion or proposition on which the previous question was ordered shall be put to the house immediately following the approval of the journal on the next working day, thus making the main question privileged over all other business, whether new or unfinished.

### **Voting**

**Rule 19. (A) PUTTING OF QUESTION.** The speaker shall put the question in the following form: “The question before the house is (state the question). As many as are in favor say ‘Aye’; and after the affirmative vote is expressed, “as many as are opposed say ‘No’.”

**(B) ALL MEMBERS TO VOTE.** Every member who was in the house when the question was put shall vote unless, for special reasons, excused by the house.

All motions to excuse a member shall be made before the house divides or before the call for yeas and nays is commenced; and any member requesting to be excused from voting may make a brief and verbal statement of the reasons for making such request, and the question shall then be taken without further debate.

Upon a division and count of the house on the question, only members at their desks within the bar of the house shall be counted.

**(C) CHANGE OF VOTE.** When the electric roll call machine is used, no member shall be allowed to vote or change a vote after the speaker has locked the roll call machine. When an oral roll call is taken, no member shall be allowed to vote or change a vote after the result has been announced.

**(D) PRIVATE INTEREST.** No member shall vote on any question which affects that member privately and particularly. A member who has a private interest in any bill or measure proposed or pending before the legislature shall disclose the fact to the house of which he is a member, and shall not vote thereon. (Art. II § 30)

**(E) INTERRUPTION OF ROLL CALL.** Once begun, the roll call may not be interrupted. No member or other person shall visit or remain at the clerk’s desk while the yeas and nays are being called.

**(F) YEAS AND NAYS - RECORDED VOTES.** Upon the final passage of any bill, the vote shall be taken by yeas and nays and shall be recorded by the electric voting system: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That an oral roll call shall be ordered

when demanded by one-sixth (1/6) of the members present.  
(Art. II § 21)

The speaker may vote last when the yeas and nays are called.

When the vote is by electric voting machine or by oral roll call on any question, it shall be entered upon the journal of the house. A recorded vote may be compelled by one-sixth (1/6) of the members present. A request for a recorded vote must be made before the vote is commenced.

- (G) TIE VOTE, QUESTION LOSES. In case of an equal division, the question shall be lost.
- (H) DIVISION. If the speaker is in doubt, or if division is called for by any member, the house shall divide.
- (I) STATEMENT FOR JOURNAL. A member whose recorded vote does not accurately reflect his or her intent may submit a written statement for the journal clarifying their intent to vote aye or nay. The statement must be submitted to the chief clerk on the same day the vote is taken. A member who is excused for one or more days of recorded votes may submit a written statement for the journal explaining the reason for his or her absence. The statement may not exceed fifty words and must be submitted to the chief clerk on the same day the member returns.

### **Reconsideration**

**Rule 20.** Notice of a motion for reconsideration on the final passage of bills shall be made on the day the vote to be reconsidered was taken and before the house has voted to transmit the bill to the senate.

Reconsideration of the votes on the final passage of bills must be taken on the next working day after such vote was taken: PROVIDED, That on and after the fifth day prior to the day of adjournment sine die of any session, as determined pursuant to Article II, Section 12 of the state Constitution, or concurrent resolution, or on and after the third day prior to the day a bill must be reported from the house as established by concurrent resolution, then reconsideration of votes on the final passage of bills must be taken on the same day as the original vote was taken.

A motion to reconsider an amendment may be made at any time the bill remains on second reading.

Any member who voted on the prevailing side may move for reconsideration or give notice thereof.

A motion to reconsider can be decided only once when decided in the negative.

When a motion to reconsider has been carried, its effect shall be to place the original question before the house in the exact position it occupied before it was voted upon.

### **Call of the House**

**Rule 21.** One-sixth (1/6) of the members present may demand a call of the house at any time before the house has divided or the voting has commenced by yeas and nays.

(A) **DOORS TO BE CLOSED.** When call of the house has been ordered, the sergeant at arms shall close and lock the doors, and no member shall be allowed to leave the chamber: **PROVIDED,** That the rules committee shall be allowed to meet, upon request of the speaker, while the house stands at ease: **AND PROVIDED FURTHER,** That the speaker may permit members to use such portions of the fourth floor as may be properly secured.

(B) **SERGEANT AT ARMS TO BRING IN THE ABSENTEES.** The clerk shall immediately call a roll of the members and note the absentees, whose names shall be read and entered upon the journal in such manner as to show who are excused and who are absent without leave.

The clerk shall furnish the sergeant at arms with a list of those who are absent without leave, and the sergeant at arms shall proceed to bring in such absentees; but arrests of members for absence shall not be made unless ordered by a majority of the members present.

(C) **HOUSE UNDER CALL.** While the house is under a call, no business shall be transacted except to receive and act on the report of the sergeant at arms; and no other motion shall be in order except a motion to proceed with business under the call of the house, a motion to excuse absentees, or a motion to dispense with the call of the house. The motion to proceed with

business under the call of the house and the motion to excuse absent members shall not be adopted unless a majority of the members elected vote in favor thereof. The motion to dispense with the call of the house may be adopted by a majority of the members present.

### **Appeal from Decision of Chair**

**Rule 22.** The decision of the chair may be appealed from by any member, on which appeal no member shall speak more than once unless by leave of the house. In all cases of appeal, the question shall be: "Shall the decision of the chair stand as the judgment of the house?"

### **Standing Committees**

**Rule 23.** The standing committees of the house and the number of members that shall serve on each committee shall be as follows:

1. Appropriations . . . . .	33
2. Capital Budget . . . . .	23
3. Civil Rights & Judiciary . . . . .	15
4. College & Workforce Development . . . . .	17
5. Commerce & Gaming . . . . .	11
6. Consumer Protection & Business . . . . .	13
7. Education . . . . .	19
8. Environment & Energy . . . . .	11
9. Finance . . . . .	13
10. Health Care & Wellness . . . . .	15
11. Housing, Community Development & Veterans . . . . .	9
12. Human Services & Early Learning . . . . .	13
13. Innovation, Technology & Economic Development . . . . .	9
14. Labor & Workplace Standards . . . . .	7
15. Local Government . . . . .	7
16. Public Safety . . . . .	11
17. Rules . . . . .	25
18. Rural Development, Agriculture & Natural Resources . . . . .	15
19. State Government & Tribal Relations . . . . .	9
20. Transportation . . . . .	31

Committee members shall be selected by each party's caucus. The majority party caucus shall select all committee chairs.



### **Duties of Committees**

**Rule 24.** House committees shall operate as follows:

- (A) **NOTICE OF COMMITTEE MEETING.** The chief clerk shall make public the time, place and subjects to be discussed at committee meetings. All public hearings held by committees shall be scheduled at least five (5) days in advance and shall be given adequate publicity: **PROVIDED,** That when less than eight (8) days remain for action on a bill, the Speaker may authorize a reduction of the five-day notice period when required by the circumstances, including but not limited to the time remaining for action on the bill, the nature of the subject, and the number of prior hearings on the subject.
- (B) **COMMITTEE QUORUM.** A majority of any committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
- (C) **SESSION MEETINGS.** No committee shall sit while the house is in session without special leave of the speaker.
- (D) **DUTIES OF STANDING COMMITTEES.**

- (1) Only such bills as are included on the written notice of a committee meeting may be considered at that meeting except upon the vote of a majority of the entire membership of the committee to consider another bill.
- (2) A majority recommendation of a committee must be signed by a majority of the entire membership of the committee in a regularly called meeting before a bill, memorial, or resolution may be reported out: **PROVIDED,** That by motion under the eighth order of business, a majority of the members elected to the house may relieve a committee of a bill and place it on the second reading calendar.

Majority recommendations of a committee can only be “do pass,” “do pass as amended,” or that “the substitute bill be substituted therefor and that the substitute bill do pass.”

- (3) Members of the committee not concurring in the majority report may prepare a written minority report containing a recommendation of “do not pass” or “without recommendation,” which shall be signed by those members of

the committee subscribing thereto, and submitted with the majority report.

- (4) All committee reports shall be spread upon the journal. The journal of the house shall contain an exact copy of all committee reports, together with the names of the members signing such reports.
- (5) Every vote to report a bill out of committee shall be taken by the yeas and nays, and the names of the members voting for and against, as well as the names of members absent, shall be recorded on the committee report. Any member may call for a recorded vote, which shall include the names of absent members, on any substantive question before the committee. A copy of all recorded committee votes shall be kept by the chief clerk and shall be available for public inspection.
- (6) All bills having a direct appropriation shall be referred to the appropriate fiscal committee before their final passage.
- (7) No standing committee shall vote by secret written ballot on any issue.
- (8) During its consideration of or vote on any bill, resolution, or memorial, the deliberations of any standing committee of the house of representatives shall be open to the public.
- (9) A standing committee to which a bill was originally referred shall, prior to voting the bill out of committee, consider whether the bill authorizes rule-making powers or requires the exercise of rule-making powers and, if so, consider:
  - (a) The nature of the new rule-making powers; and
  - (b) To which agencies the new rule-making powers would be delegated and which agencies, if any, may have related rule-making powers.
- (10) Standing committee subcommittees established in Rule 23 have the same powers and duties as standing committees.
- (11) Insofar as practicable, testimony in public hearings should be balanced between those in support of and in

opposition to proposed legislation, with consideration given to providing an opportunity for members of the public to testify within available time.

### **Standing Committees - Expenses - Subpoena Power**

**Rule 25.** Regardless of whether the legislature is in session, members of the house may receive from moneys appropriated for the legislature, reimbursement for necessary travel expenses, and payments in lieu of subsistence and lodging for conducting official business of the house.

The standing committees of the house may have the powers of subpoena, the power to administer oaths, and the power to issue commissions for the examination of witnesses in accordance with the provisions of chapter 44.16 RCW. Before a standing committee of the house may issue any process, the committee chairperson shall submit for approval of the executive rules committee a statement of purpose setting forth the name or names of those subject to process. The process shall not be issued prior to approval by the executive rules committee. The process shall be limited to the named individuals.

### **Vetoed Bills**

**Rule 26.** Veto messages of the governor shall be read in the house and entered upon the journal. It shall then be in order to proceed to reconsider the bill, refer it, lay it on the table, or postpone its consideration to a day certain.

The merits of the bill may be debated before the vote is taken, but the vote on a vetoed bill cannot be reconsidered.

In case of a bill containing several sections or items, one or more of which has been objected to by the governor, each section or item so objected to shall be voted upon separately by the house. Action by the house upon all vetoed bills shall be endorsed upon the bill and certified by the speaker.

Vetoed bills originating in the house, which have not been passed notwithstanding the veto of the governor, shall remain in the custody of the officers of the house until the close of the term, after which they shall be filed with the secretary of state.

### **Suspension of Compensation**

**Rule 27.** (1) Any member of the house of representatives convicted and sentenced for any felony punishable by death or by imprisonment in a Washington state penal institution shall, as of the time of sentencing, be denied the legislative salary for future service and be denied per diem, compensation for expenses, office space facilities, and assistance. Any member convicted of a felony and sentenced therefor under any federal law or the law of any other state shall, as of the time of sentencing, be similarly denied such salary, per diem, expenses, facilities, and assistance if either (a) such crime would also constitute a crime punishable under the laws of Washington by death or by imprisonment in a state penal institution, or (b) the conduct resulting in the conviction and sentencing would also constitute a crime punishable under the laws of Washington by death or by imprisonment in a state penal institution.

- (2) At any time, the house may vote by a constitutional majority to restore the salary, per diem, expenses, facilities, and assistance denied a member under subsection (1). If the conviction of a member is reversed, then the salary, per diem, and expense amounts denied the member since sentencing shall be forthwith paid, and the member shall thereafter have the rights and privileges of other members.

### **Smoking**

**Rule 28.** Smoking of cigarettes, pipes, or cigars shall not be permitted at any public meeting of any committee of the house of representatives or within House facilities.

“No smoking” signs shall be posted so as to give notice of this rule.

### **Liquor**

**Rule 29.** The House of Representatives shall strictly adhere to the liquor laws of the state of Washington, including provisions relating to banquet and special occasion permits. The proper permits must always be obtained before consumption of liquor in any house facility.

### **Parliamentary Rules**

**Rule 30.** The rules of parliamentary practice comprised in Reed's Parliamentary Rules shall govern all cases in which they are not inconsistent with the standing rules and orders of the house.

### **Standing Rules Amendment**

**Rule 31.** Any standing rule may be rescinded or changed by a majority vote of the members elected: PROVIDED, That the proposed change or changes be submitted at least one day in advance in writing to the members together with notice of the consideration thereof. Any standing rule may be suspended temporarily by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present except as provided in Rule 10.

### **Rules to Apply for Assembly**

**Rule 32.** The permanent house rules adopted at the beginning of the term are to govern all acts of the house during the course of the term unless amended or repealed.

### **Legislative Publications**

**Rule 33.** The House of Representatives directs the house executive rules committee to adopt procedures and guidelines to ensure that all legislative publications at public expense are for legitimate legislative purposes.

## Index to House Rules

### Absentees

Attendance, compelling . . . . .	13(B)
Call of the House . . . . .	21
Members to be present unless excused. . . . .	8

### Adjournment

Debate prohibited . . . . .	15(D)
Motion, when in order . . . . .	15(E)
Previous question made prior to . . . . .	18
Time for . . . . .	13(C)

<b>Admission to the House . . . . .</b>	<b>7</b>
---	----------

<b>Advancement on Calendar. . . . .</b>	<b>10</b>
---	-----------

### Amendments

Adopted, fastened to bill. . . . .	10(B)
By reference to statute . . . . .	11(F)
Committee . . . . .	11(B)
Form . . . . .	11(A)
Generally . . . . .	11
Germane . . . . .	11(D)
Incorporating another bill. . . . .	11(D)
Rejected . . . . .	10(B)
Scope and object not changed . . . . .	11(E)
Senate, to House bills . . . . .	11(C)
Strike out and insert, not divided . . . . .	17(F)
Suspension calendar . . . . .	10(E)
Third reading . . . . .	10(D)
Title. . . . .	11(G)
When in order. . . . .	10(B), 10(E), 11(B)

<b>Appeal from Decision of Chair . . . . .</b>	<b>4(C), 15(D), 22</b>
--	------------------------

### Appointments

Committees. . . . .	4(G), 23
---------------------	----------

<b>Appropriations - Referral to fiscal committee . . . . .</b>	<b>24(D-6)</b>
--	----------------

**Bills**

Amendments (see Amendments)	
Carry over to later sessions. . . . .	9
Definition . . . . .	1
Final passage . . . . .	12
Introductions. . . . .	9
Prefiled . . . . .	9
Reading. . . . .	10
Recommitment . . . . .	12(B)
Substitute . . . . .	10(C)
Vote for those introduced in last 10 days of session. . . . .	9

<b>Bumping Bill</b> . . . . .	10
-------------------------------	----

**Business**

Exceptions to order of . . . . .	14(C)
Order of . . . . .	14(A)
Unfinished business, when taken up. . . . .	14(B), 18

**Calendar**

Advancement on. . . . .	10
Generally . . . . .	14
Suspension calendar. . . . .	10(E)

<b>Call of the House</b> . . . . .	21
------------------------------------	----

<b>Call to Order</b> . . . . .	2, 13(A)
--------------------------------	----------

<b>Censure of Member</b> . . . . .	17(I)
------------------------------------	-------

<b>Certification of Bills Passed</b> . . . . .	12(D)
--	-------

**Chief Clerk**

Attestation of Speaker's signature . . . . .	4(E)
Bills filed with and numbered by . . . . .	9
Call to order . . . . .	2
Duties and term of office . . . . .	5
Election. . . . .	3

**Committee**

Amendments. . . . .	11(B)
Appointment. . . . .	4(G), 23
Bills referred to. . . . .	10(A)

**Committee** *(continued)*

Bills, substitution, procedure . . . . .	10(C)
Definition . . . . .	1
Duties . . . . .	24
Fiscal . . . . .	24(D-6), 1
List of . . . . .	23
Meetings - hearings and notices . . . . .	24(A)
Membership, how determined . . . . .	4(G), 23
Open to the public . . . . .	24(D-8)
Quorum . . . . .	24(B)
Relieving of a bill . . . . .	24(D-2)
Reports . . . . .	24(D)
Sit, cannot during session . . . . .	24(C)
Subpoena power . . . . .	25
Voting . . . . .	24(D-5)

**Compensation**

Expenses and per diem . . . . .	25
Suspension of . . . . .	27

**Concurrent Resolutions** . . . . . 1, 9, 10(G)**Consideration** - Method of and question of . . . . . 15**Debate**

Appeal from decision . . . . .	4(C), 22
Closing . . . . .	16(C), 18
Decorum during . . . . .	16, 17(G)
Division of . . . . .	17(F)
Generally . . . . .	16, 17
Limits . . . . .	16(C)
Motion to end/previous question . . . . .	18
Motions decided without debate . . . . .	15(D)
Obtaining floor . . . . .	16(A)
Vetoed bills . . . . .	26

**Decorum of members** . . . . . 17**Distribution of Materials** . . . . . 17(D)**Division**

Of House . . . . .	19(H)
Of questions . . . . .	17(F)



---

<b>Election of House Officers</b> .....	3
<b>Electric Roll Call</b> .....	19(F)
<b>Employees</b>	
Duties, lobbying prohibited .....	6
<b>Exception</b>	
To order of business .....	14(C)
To words .....	17(I)
<b>Final Passage</b> .....	12
<b>First Reading (Introduction)</b> .....	10(A), 14(A)
<b>Former Member</b>	
Admission to House .....	7
Recognition .....	8
<b>House Resolutions</b> .....	10(F), 14(C)
<b>Incidental Motions</b>	
List .....	15(B)
When debatable .....	15(D)
<b>Introduction of Bills</b> .....	9
<b>Journal</b>	
Amendments .....	10(B)
Committee reports .....	24(D)
Election of officers .....	3
Recorded votes .....	19(F)
Referrals .....	10
<b>Liquor</b>	
Consumption in House facility .....	29
<b>Lobbying</b>	
Employees prohibited .....	6
Where prohibited .....	7(C)
<b>Meeting</b>	
Committee .....	24(A), 24(C)
Time of .....	13(A)

<b>Memorials</b> .....	1, 9
<b>Messages Received</b> .....	14(A), 14(C)
<b>Motions</b>	
Adjourn. ....	15(E)
Excuse a member .....	19(B), 21(C)
Forms of .....	15
Generally .....	15
Postponement .....	15(C)
Rank .....	15(B)
Seconding .....	15(A)
Under call of the House .....	21(C)
Withdrawal .....	15(A), 17(B)
Without debate .....	15(D)
<b>Notice</b>	
Amendments .....	10(B)
Committee meetings .....	24(A)
Reconsideration .....	20
Rules revision .....	31
<b>Officers</b>	
Appointment, removal and term .....	3
Duties .....	4, 5
<b>Order</b>	
Of business .....	14
Of questions .....	17(E)
Of speaking .....	16(B)
<b>Paper - Reading of</b> .....	17(C)
<b>Parliamentary Rules - Reed's</b> .....	30
<b>Points of Order</b>	
Debate .....	15(D), 22
Decided by Speaker .....	4(C)
Rank .....	15(B)

---

<b>Postponement - Motion, when made and effect of . . . . .</b>	15(C)
<b>Prefiling Bills . . . . .</b>	9
<b>Previous Question</b>	
Debate not allowed. . . . .	15(D), 18
Generally . . . . .	18
Unfinished business . . . . .	14(B)
<b>Printing of Bills . . . . .</b>	9, 10(C)
<b>Privilege - Question of . . . . .</b>	17(A)
<b>Privileged Motions</b>	
List . . . . .	15(B)
When debatable . . . . .	15(D)
<b>Public Meetings and Hearings by Committee . . . . .</b>	24
<b>Question</b>	
Division of . . . . .	17(F)
Of privilege. . . . .	17(A)
Order of . . . . .	17(E)
Previous . . . . .	18
<b>Quorum</b>	
Committees. . . . .	24(B)
Necessary to conduct business . . . . .	4(A), 13(B)
<b>Rank of Motions . . . . .</b>	15(B)
<b>Reading</b>	
Of bills . . . . .	10
Of paper . . . . .	17(C)
<b>Recess</b>	
Debate prohibited. . . . .	15(D)
Rank of motion. . . . .	15(B)
<b>Recognition by Speaker</b>	
Members. . . . .	16(A)
Visitors . . . . .	8
<b>Recommitment of Bill . . . . .</b>	10(D), 12(B)

<b>Reconsideration</b> . . . . .	20
<b>Reed's Rules</b> . . . . .	30
<b>Referral to Committee</b> . . . . .	10(A)
<b>Relieving Committee of a Bill</b> . . . . .	14(C), 24(D-2)
<b>Resolutions</b> . . . . .	9,10
<b>Roll Call</b>	
Calling for . . . . .	19(F)
No interruption . . . . .	19(E)
<b>Rules</b>	
Amendment or repeal . . . . .	31
Effective time . . . . .	32
Parliamentary - Reed's . . . . .	30
Suspension . . . . .	10
Transgression of . . . . .	17(J)
<b>Rules Committee</b>	
House resolutions . . . . .	10(F)
Pulling from to place on calendar . . . . .	14(C)
Referral of bill . . . . .	10(A)
Under call of the House . . . . .	21(A)
<b>Scope and Object</b>	
Amendments . . . . .	11(E)
Senate amendments . . . . .	11(C)
<b>Second Reading</b> . . . . .	10(B)
<b>Senate Amendments to House Bills</b> . . . . .	11(C)
<b>Sergeant At Arms</b>	
Call of the House . . . . .	21(B)
Suppress disorder . . . . .	4(B)
<b>Session - Defined</b> . . . . .	1
<b>Smoking - Regulation of</b> . . . . .	28

---

<b>Speaker</b>	
Election . . . . .	3
Powers and duties . . . . .	4
Votes last on oral roll call . . . . .	19(F)
<b>Speaker Pro Tem</b>	
Election . . . . .	3
Duties . . . . .	4
<b>Standing Rules Amendment</b> . . . . .	31
<b>Subpoenas</b>	
Speaker to sign . . . . .	4(E)
Issuance . . . . .	25
<b>Subsidiary Motions</b>	
Rank . . . . .	15(B)
When debatable . . . . .	15(D)
<b>Substitute Bills</b> . . . . .	10(C)
<b>Suspension Calendar</b> . . . . .	10(E)
<b>Suspension of Compensation</b> . . . . .	27
<b>Suspension of Rules</b>	
Debate . . . . .	15(D)
Reading of bills . . . . .	10
<b>Table Motion</b>	
Debate prohibited . . . . .	15(D)
Rank . . . . .	15(B)
<b>Third Reading</b> . . . . .	10(D)
<b>Transgression of Rules</b> . . . . .	17(J)
<b>Unfinished Business</b> . . . . .	14(B)
<b>Vetoed Bills</b> . . . . .	26

**Vote**

Bills introduced in last 10 days . . . . .	9
Call of the House . . . . .	21
Change of . . . . .	19(C)
Committees. . . . .	24(D-5)
Division . . . . .	19(H)
Elections . . . . .	3
Electric & oral, when ordered . . . . .	19(F)
Excusing members . . . . .	19(B), 21(C)
Final passage . . . . .	12(C)
Method - Yeas and nays . . . . .	19(F)
Oral roll call, how demanded . . . . .	19(F)
Previous question . . . . .	18
Private interest . . . . .	19(D)
Reading of paper. . . . .	17(C)
Secret ballot prohibited. . . . .	24(D-7)
Speaker votes last on oral roll call . . . . .	19(F)
Ties . . . . .	19(G)
Vetoed bills. . . . .	26

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# House Forms of Motions

## Foreword

### For the convenience of the members

Parliamentary rules are designed solely for the uniform, orderly and expeditious conduct of deliberative bodies. The parliamentary system is necessary to avoid confusion and chaos — a system which will permit an assemblage to accomplish in the best possible manner the work for which it has been called. In conducting the business of the House of Representatives, we have first, the Rules of the House which provide generally for organization and for the quick transaction of business necessary to a short session. Secondly, we have *Reed's Parliamentary Rules* which apply to all parliamentary questions not covered specifically by the House Rules.

Parliamentary procedure to many is a maze of intricate and entangling motions and the new member usually approaches the problem with apprehension, and occasionally, with an inferiority due to inexperience that requires time and study to overcome.

To assist the new members and to refresh the memories of the re-elected members, there follows a summary of the more commonly used motions, including the proper wording of these. A careful study of and frequent reference to this summary should enable the new members to “feel at home” on the floor and in the committee rooms of our distinguished House of Representatives.

## Motions From the Floor

A member must rise and wait until recognized by the Speaker. Parliamentary practice DOES NOT permit a member to make a motion or to speak until given the floor by the presiding officer. Therefore, a motion is not in possession of the House and cannot be acted upon unless the maker has been recognized.

The following are examples of the proper form of motions and inquiries from the floor:

### To Dispense With the Reading of the Journal

Madam/Mr. Speaker: \* \* \* \* I move that further reading of the journal be dispensed with, and that the journal of the preceding day's business be ordered approved.

**To Adopt a Floor Resolution**

Madam/Mr. Speaker: \* \* \* I move that the resolution be adopted.

**Personal Privilege**

Madam/Mr. Speaker: \* \* \* I rise to a point of personal privilege.

**Point of Order**

Madam/Mr. Speaker: \* \* \* I rise to a point of order.

**Question of Consideration**

Madam/Mr. Speaker: \* \* \* On that (motion, bill, resolution or amendment) I raise the Question of consideration.

*Note:* This question is not debatable. Sec. 110 - Reed's.

**Parliamentary Inquiry**

Madam/Mr. Speaker: \* \* \* I rise to a parliamentary inquiry. (What is the rule that governs this situation? What is the order of business? Under what order of business may I make a motion? Is the Representative from \_\_\_\_\_ speaking on the motion before the House? or, Are the remarks of the representative germane to the motion before the House? etc.)

**Point of Information**

Madam/Mr. Speaker: \* \* \* I rise to a point of information. (What are we voting on? What is the motion before the House? etc.)

**To Ask a Member a Question**

Madam/Mr. Speaker: \* \* \* Will the Representative from \_\_\_\_\_ yield to a question?

**To Divide the Question**

Madam/Mr. Speaker: \* \* \* I move that the question be divided: e.g. that the authorization of the special committee be acted on first, and that the expenditures authorized be acted on secondly.



### **To Adopt a Committee Report**

Madam/Mr. Speaker: \* \* \* \* I move that the report of the committee on \_\_\_\_\_, on House Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_, be adopted.

### **To Order the Previous Question**

Madam/Mr. Speaker: \* \* \* \* I move that the previous question be ordered.

*Note:* This motion is not debatable. A two-thirds vote of members present is required to order the previous question. If adopted, debate is closed except as provided in House Rule 18.

*Note:* This question is not debatable. Sec. 110 - Reed's.

### **To Demand a Roll Call on Any Motion**

Madam/Mr. Speaker: \* \* \* \* I demand (an electric or oral) roll call on the motion.

*Note:* The Speaker will then ask if the demand is sustained, and if one-sixth of the members present rise, the demand will have been sustained.

### **To Indefinitely Postpone**

Madam/Mr. Speaker: \* \* \* \* I move that House Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ be indefinitely postponed.

*Note:* This motion opens the whole question to debate. Once a bill, memorial, joint or concurrent resolution has been indefinitely postponed, it can never again be acted on during the session.

### **To Lay On the Table**

Madam/Mr. Speaker: \* \* \* \* I move that (the motion, the bill, the amendment) be laid on the table.

*Note 1:* This motion is not debatable. However, when a bill or proposition is laid on the table, the matter is only temporarily disposed of and under the proper order of business, a motion to take from the table may be made at any time.

*Note 2:* A motion to lay an amendment on the table carries the main question with it.

### **To Change the Order of Business**

Madam/Mr. Speaker: \* \* \* \* I move that the House revert to the eighth order of business for the purpose of making a motion; or I move that the House revert to the fifth order of business for the

purpose of receiving a standing committee report; or, I move that the House advance to the sixth order of business to consider second reading of bills.

*Note:* A majority vote of those present will carry the motion. House Rule 14(c).

### **To Appeal a Decision of the Speaker**

Madam/Mr. Speaker: \* \* \* I appeal from the decision of the Speaker.

*Note:* All appeals are debatable EXCEPT an appeal after a member is called to order, which is decided without debate.

### **To Demand A Call of the House**

Madam/Mr. Speaker: \* \* \* I demand a Call of the House.

*Note:* The Speaker will then ask if the demand is sustained. If one-sixth of the members present rise, the demand is sustained and the Speaker will order the Sergeant at Arms to lock the doors. The Clerk will call the roll and the Sergeant at Arms will be instructed to bring in the absent members.

### **To Proceed With Business Under the Call**

Madam/Mr. Speaker: \* \* \* I move that the House proceed with business under the Call of the House; or, I move that the absent members be excused and that the House proceed with business under the Call of the House; or, I move that Representative(s) \_\_\_\_\_ be excused and that the House proceed with business under the call of the House.

### **To Dispense With the Call of the House**

Madam/Mr. Speaker: \* \* \* I move that further proceedings under the Call of the House be dispensed with.

*Note:* A motion to recess or to adjourn is never in order when the House is operating under a Call of the House.

### **To Advance a Bill to Second Reading**

Madam/Mr. Speaker: \* \* \* I move that the rules be suspended, that House Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ be advanced to second reading, and read the second time in full.

*Note:* A motion to suspend the rules requires a two-thirds vote of those present to carry, except as provided in House Rule 10.

### **To Substitute a Bill**

Madam/Mr. Speaker: \* \* \* \* I move that Substitute House Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ be Substituted for House Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ and that Substitute House Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ take its place on today's second reading calendar.

### **To Advance a Bill to Third Reading**

Madam/Mr. Speaker: \* \* \* \* I move that the rules be suspended, that House Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ be advanced to third reading, the second reading considered the third, and that the bill be placed on final passage.

*Note:* When this motion is carried, the bill is on final passage and the merits of the bill are open to debate. If this motion is not carried, the bill automatically goes to the Rules Committee to be placed on the third reading calendar at a later date. A motion to suspend the rules requires a two-thirds vote of those present to carry, except as provided in House Rule 10.

### **To Adopt a Bill on the Suspension Calendar**

Madam/Mr. Speaker: \* \* \* \* I move that the committee recommendations be adopted and House Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ be advanced to third reading.

*Note:* When this motion is carried, the bill is on final passage and the merits of the bill are open to debate. If this motion is not carried, the bill automatically goes to the Rules Committee to be placed on the second reading calendar at a later date. This motion requires a two-thirds vote of those present to carry.

### **To Adopt an Amendment**

Madam/Mr. Speaker: \* \* \* \* I move that the amendment be adopted; or, I move that the amendment to the amendment be adopted; or, I move that the committee amendment to Section 2, lines 10 and 11 be adopted.

### **To Return a Bill to Second Reading**

Madam/Mr. Speaker: \* \* \* \* I move that the rules be suspended and that House Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ be returned to second reading for the purpose of amendment.

*Note:* A motion to suspend the rules requires a two-thirds vote of those present to carry, except as provided in House Rule 10.

### **To Pass a Vetoed Bill**

Madam/Mr. Speaker: \* \* \* \* I move that House Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ do pass the House, notwithstanding the veto of the Governor.

*Note:* To pass a bill over the veto of the Governor, a two-thirds vote of the members present is required. State Constitution.

### **To Sustain a Veto**

Madam/Mr. Speaker: \* \* \* \* I move that vetoed House Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ be indefinitely postponed; or, be laid on the table; or, be referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_.

### **To Reconsider a Vote**

Madam/Mr. Speaker: \* \* \* \* I move that the House (immediately) reconsider the vote by which House Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ (amendment or motion) passed/failed.

*Note 1: AMENDMENTS* A motion to reconsider an amendment may be made at any time the bill remains on second reading. (House Rule 20.)

*Note 2: FINAL PASSAGE* Notice of a motion for reconsideration of final passage must be made on the day the vote was taken, and the motion to reconsider must be taken up on the next working day (except at the end of session or before a cut-off as provided in House Rule 20).

### **To Serve Notice of Reconsideration**

Madam/Mr. Speaker: \* \* \* \* I serve notice of a motion for reconsideration of House Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ on the next working day.

# Membership of House Standing Committees

## 2019 – 2020

**Appropriations (33)** -- Ormsby, Chair (D); Robinson, 1st Vice Chair (D); Bergquist, 2nd Vice Chair (D); \*Stokesbary; \*\*MacEwen; \*\*Rude; Caldier; Chandler; Cody; Dolan; Dye; Fitzgibbon; Hansen; Hoff; Hudgins; Jinkins; Kraft; Macri; Mosbrucker; Pettigrew; Pollet; Ryu; Schmick; Senn; Springer; Stanford; Steele; Sullivan; Sutherland; Tarleton; Tharinger; Volz; Ybarra

**Capital Budget (23)** -- Tharinger, Chair (D); Doglio, Vice Chair (D); Peterson, Vice Chair (D); \*DeBolt; \*\*Smith; \*\*Steele; Callan; Corry; Davis; Dye; Eslick; Gildon; Irwin; Jenkin; Leavitt; Lekanoff; Maycumber; Morgan; Riccelli; Santos; Sells; Stonier; Walsh

**Civil Rights & Judiciary (15)** -- Jinkins, Chair (D); Thai, Vice Chair (D); \*Irwin; \*\*Dufault; Goodman; Graham; Hansen; Kilduff; Kirby; Klippert; Orwall; Shea; Valdez; Walen; Ybarra

**College & Workforce Development (17)** -- Hansen, Chair (D); Entenman, Vice Chair (D); Leavitt, Vice Chair (D); \*Van Werven; \*\*Gildon; \*\*Graham; Bergquist; Kraft; Mead; Paul; Pollet; Ramos; Rude; Sells; Slatter; Sutherland; Young

**Commerce & Gaming (11)** -- Stanford, Chair (D); Reeves, Vice Chair (D); \*MacEwen; \*\*Chambers; Blake; Jenkin; Kirby; Kloba; Morgan; Vick; Young

**Consumer Protection & Business (13)** -- Kirby, Chair (D); Reeves, Vice Chair (D); \*Vick; \*\*Hoff; Barkis; Blake; Dufault; Ryu; Santos; Stanford; Volz; Walen; Ybarra

**Education (19)** -- Santos, Chair (D); Dolan, Vice Chair (D); Paul, Vice Chair (D); \*Steele; \*\*McCaslin; \*\*Volz; Bergquist; Caldier; Callan; Corry; Harris; Kilduff; Kraft; Ortiz-Self; Rude; Stonier; Thai; Valdez; Ybarra

**Environment & Energy (11)** -- Fitzgibbon, Chair (D); Lekanoff, Vice Chair (D); \*Shea; \*\*Dye; Boehnke; DeBolt; Doglio; Fey; Mead; Peterson; Shewmake

**Finance (13)** -- Tarleton, Chair (D); Walen, Vice Chair (D); \*Orcutt; \*\*Young; Chapman; Frame; Macri; Morris; Orwall; Springer; Stokesbary; Vick; Wylie

**Health Care & Wellness (15)** -- Cody, Chair (D); Macri, Vice Chair (D); \*Schmick; \*\*Caldier; Chambers; Davis; DeBolt; Harris; Jinkins; Maycumber; Riccelli; Robinson; Stonier; Thai; Tharinger

**Housing, Community Development & Veterans (9)** -- Ryu, Chair (D); Morgan, Vice Chair (D); \*Jenkin; \*\*Gildon; Barkis; Entenman; Frame; Leavitt; Reeves

**Human Services & Early Learning (13)** -- Senn, Chair (D); Callan, Vice Chair (D); Frame, Vice Chair (D); \*Dent; \*\*Eslick; \*\*McCaslin; Corry; Goodman; Griffey; Kilduff; Klippert; Lovick; Ortiz-Self

**Innovation, Technology & Economic Development (9)** -- Hudgins, Chair (D); Kloba, Vice Chair (D); \*Smith; \*\*Boehnke; Morris; Slatter; Tarleton; Van Werven; Wylie

**Labor & Workplace Standards (7)** -- Sells, Chair (D); Chapman, Vice Chair (D); \*Mosbrucker; \*\*Chandler; Gregerson; Hoff; Ormsby

**Local Government (7)** -- Pollet, Chair (D); Peterson, Vice Chair (D); \*Kraft; \*\*Griffey; Appleton; Goehner; Senn

**Public Safety (11)** -- Goodman, Chair (D); Davis, Vice Chair (D); \*Klippert; \*\*Sutherland; Appleton; Graham; Griffey; Lovick; Orwall; Pellicciotti; Pettigrew

**Rules (25)** -- Chopp, Chair (D); Bergquist; Chambers; Chapman; Corry; Davis; Frame; Gildon; Harris; Kilduff; Kretz; Lovick; Maycumber; Ortiz-Self; Orwall; Pettigrew; Riccelli; Rude; Springer; Stonier; Sullivan; Sutherland; Volz; Wilcox; Wylie

**Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources (15)** -- Blake, Chair (D); Shewmake, Vice Chair (D); \*Chandler; \*\*Dent; Chapman; Dye; Fitzgibbon; Kretz; Lekanoff; Orcutt; Pettigrew; Ramos; Schmick; Springer; Walsh

**State Government & Tribal Relations (9)** -- Gregerson, Chair (D); Pellicciotti, Vice Chair (D); \*Walsh; \*\*Goehner; Appleton; Dolan; Hudgins; Mosbrucker; Smith

**Transportation (31)** -- Fey, Chair (D); Wylie, 1st Vice Chair (D); Slatter, 2nd Vice Chair (D); Valdez, 2nd Vice Chair (D); \*Barkis; \*\*Walsh; \*\*Young; Boehnke; Chambers; Chapman; Dent; Doglio; Dufault; Entenman; Eslick; Goehner; Gregerson; Irwin; Kloba; Lovick; McCaslin; Mead; Orcutt; Ortiz-Self; Paul; Pellicciotti; Ramos; Riccelli; Shea; Shewmake; Van Werven

\* denotes Ranking Minority Member

\*\* denotes Assistant Ranking Minority Member

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# Member Assignments to House Standing Committees

## 2019 – 2020

**Appleton, Sherry** – Local Government; Public Safety; State Government & Tribal Relations

**Barkis, Andrew** – \*Transportation; Consumer Protection & Business; Housing, Community Development & Veterans

**Bergquist, Steve** – Appropriations, 2nd Vice Chair; College & Workforce Development; Education; Rules

**Blake, Brian** – Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources, Chair; Commerce & Gaming; Consumer Protection & Business

**Boehnke, Matt** – \*\*Innovation, Technology & Economic Development; Environment & Energy; Transportation

**Caldier, Michelle** – \*\*Health Care & Wellness; Appropriations; Education

**Callan, Lisa** – Human Services & Early Learning, Vice Chair; Capital Budget; Education

**Chambers, Kelly** – \*\*Commerce & Gaming; Health Care & Wellness; Rules; Transportation

**Chandler, Bruce** – \*Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources; \*\*Labor & Workplace Standards; Appropriations

**Chapman, Mike** – Labor & Workplace Standards, Vice Chair; Finance; Rules; Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources; Transportation

**Chopp, Frank** – Rules, Chair

**Cody, Eileen** – Health Care & Wellness, Chair; Appropriations

**Corry, Chris** – Capital Budget; Education; Human Services & Early Learning; Rules

**Davis, Lauren** – Public Safety, Vice Chair; Capital Budget; Health Care & Wellness; Rules

**DeBolt, Richard** – \*Capital Budget; Environment & Energy; Health Care & Wellness

**Dent, Tom** – \*Human Services & Early Learning; \*\*Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources; Transportation

**Doglio, Beth** – Capital Budget, Vice Chair; Environment & Energy; Transportation

**Dolan, Laurie** – Education, Vice Chair; Appropriations; State Government & Tribal Relations

**Dufault, Jeremie** – \*\*Civil Rights & Judiciary; Consumer Protection & Business; Transportation

**Dye, Mary** – \*\*Environment & Energy; Appropriations; Capital Budget; Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources

**Entenman, Debra** – College & Workforce Development, Vice Chair; Housing, Community Development & Veterans; Transportation

**Eslick, Carolyn** – \*\*Human Services & Early Learning; Capital Budget; Transportation

**Fey, Jake** – Transportation, Chair; Environment & Energy

**Fitzgibbon, Joe** – Environment & Energy, Chair; Appropriations; Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources

**Frame, Noel** – Human Services & Early Learning, Vice Chair; Finance; Housing, Community Development & Veterans; Rules

**Gildon, Chris** – \*\*College & Workforce Development; \*\*Housing, Community Development & Veterans; Capital Budget; Rules

**Goehner, Keith** – \*\*State Government & Tribal Relations; Local Government; Transportation

**Goodman, Roger** – Public Safety, Chair; Civil Rights & Judiciary; Human Services & Early Learning

**Graham, Jenny** – \*\*College & Workforce Development; Civil Rights & Judiciary; Public Safety

**Gregerson, Mia** – State Government & Tribal Relations, Chair; Labor & Workplace Standards; Transportation

**Griffey, Dan** – \*\*Local Government; Human Services & Early Learning; Public Safety

**Hansen, Drew** – College & Workforce Development, Chair; Appropriations; Civil Rights & Judiciary

**Harris, Paul** – Education; Health Care & Wellness; Rules

**Hoff, Larry** – \*\*Consumer Protection & Business; Appropriations; Labor & Workplace Standards

**Hudgins, Zack** – Innovation, Technology & Economic Development, Chair; Appropriations; State Government & Tribal Relations

**Irwin, Morgan** – \*Civil Rights & Judiciary; Capital Budget; Transportation



**Jenkin, Bill** – \*Housing, Community Development & Veterans; Capital Budget; Commerce & Gaming

**Jenkins, Laurie** – Civil Rights & Judiciary, Chair; Appropriations; Health Care & Wellness

**Kilduff, Christine** – Civil Rights & Judiciary; Education; Human Services & Early Learning; Rules

**Kirby, Steve** – Consumer Protection & Business, Chair; Civil Rights & Judiciary; Commerce & Gaming

**Klippert, Brad** – \*Public Safety; Civil Rights & Judiciary; Human Services & Early Learning

**Kloba, Shelley** – Innovation, Technology & Economic Development, Vice Chair; Commerce & Gaming; Transportation

**Kraft, Vicki** – \*Local Government; Appropriations; College & Workforce Development; Education

**Kretz, Joel** – Rules; Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources

**Leavitt, Mari** – College & Workforce Development, Vice Chair; Capital Budget; Housing, Community Development & Veterans

**Lekanoff, Debra** – Environment & Energy, Vice Chair; Capital Budget; Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources

**Lovick, John** – Human Services & Early Learning; Public Safety; Rules; Transportation

**MacEwen, Drew** – \*Commerce & Gaming; \*\*Appropriations

**Macri, Nicole** – Health Care & Wellness, Vice Chair; Appropriations; Finance

**Maycumber, Jacquelin** – Capital Budget; Health Care & Wellness; Rules

**McCaslin, Bob** – \*\*Education; \*\*Human Services & Early Learning; Transportation

**Mead, Jared** – College & Workforce Development; Environment & Energy; Transportation

**Morgan, Melanie** – Housing, Community Development & Veterans, Vice Chair; Capital Budget; Commerce & Gaming

**Morris, Jeff** – Finance; Innovation, Technology & Economic Development

**Mosbrucker, Gina** – \*Labor & Workplace Standards; Appropriations; State Government & Tribal Relations

**Orcutt, Ed** – \*Finance; Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources; Transportation

**Ormsby, Timm** – Appropriations, Chair; Labor & Workplace Standards

**Ortiz-Self, Lillian** – Education; Human Services & Early Learning; Rules; Transportation

**Orwall, Tina** – Civil Rights & Judiciary; Finance; Public Safety; Rules

**Paul, Dave** – Education, Vice Chair; College & Workforce Development; Transportation

**Pellicciotti, Mike** – State Government & Tribal Relations, Vice Chair; Public Safety; Transportation

**Peterson, Strom** – Capital Budget, Vice Chair; Local Government, Vice Chair; Environment & Energy

**Pettigrew, Eric** – Appropriations; Public Safety; Rules; Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources

**Pollet, Gerry** – Local Government, Chair; Appropriations; College & Workforce Development

**Ramos, Bill** – College & Workforce Development; Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources; Transportation

**Reeves, Kristine** – Commerce & Gaming, Vice Chair; Consumer Protection & Business, Vice Chair; Housing, Community Development & Veterans

**Riccelli, Marcus** – Capital Budget; Health Care & Wellness; Rules; Transportation

**Robinson, June** – Appropriations, 1st Vice Chair; Health Care & Wellness

**Rude, Skyler** – \*\*Appropriations; College & Workforce Development; Education; Rules

**Ryu, Cindy** – Housing, Community Development & Veterans, Chair; Appropriations; Consumer Protection & Business

**Santos, Sharon Tomiko** – Education, Chair; Capital Budget; Consumer Protection & Business

**Schmick, Joe** – \*Health Care & Wellness; Appropriations; Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources

**Sells, Mike** – Labor & Workplace Standards, Chair; Capital Budget; College & Workforce Development

**Senn, Tana** – Human Services & Early Learning, Chair; Appropriations; Local Government

**Shea, Matt** – \*Environment & Energy; Civil Rights & Judiciary; Transportation

**Shewmake, Sharon** – Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources, Vice Chair; Environment & Energy; Transportation

**Slatter, Vandana** – Transportation, 2nd Vice Chair; College & Workforce Development; Innovation, Technology & Economic Development

**Smith, Norma** – \*Innovation, Technology & Economic Development; \*\*Capital Budget; State Government & Tribal Relations

**Springer, Larry** – Appropriations; Finance; Rules; Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources

**Stanford, Derek** – Commerce & Gaming, Chair; Appropriations; Consumer Protection & Business

**Steele, Mike** – \*Education; \*\*Capital Budget; Appropriations

**Stokesbary, Drew** – \*Appropriations; Finance

**Stonier, Monica Jurado** – Capital Budget; Education; Health Care & Wellness; Rules

**Sullivan, Pat** – Appropriations; Rules

**Sutherland, Robert** – \*\*Public Safety; Appropriations; College & Workforce Development; Rules

**Tarleton, Gael** – Finance, Chair; Appropriations; Innovation, Technology & Economic Development

**Thai, My-Linh** – Civil Rights & Judiciary, Vice Chair; Education; Health Care & Wellness

**Tharinger, Steve** – Capital Budget, Chair; Appropriations; Health Care & Wellness

**Valdez, Javier** – Transportation, 2nd Vice Chair; Civil Rights & Judiciary; Education

**Van Werven, Luanne** – \*College & Workforce Development; Innovation, Technology & Economic Development; Transportation

**Vick, Brandon** – \*Consumer Protection & Business; Commerce & Gaming; Finance

**Volz, Mike** – \*\*Education; Appropriations; Consumer Protection & Business; Rules

**Walen, Amy** – Finance, Vice Chair; Civil Rights & Judiciary; Consumer Protection & Business

**Walsh, Jim** – \*State Government & Tribal Relations; \*\*Transportation; Capital Budget; Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources

**Wilcox, J.T.** – Rules

**Wylie, Sharon** – Transportation, 1st Vice Chair; Finance; Innovation, Technology & Economic Development; Rules

**Ybarra, Alex** – Appropriations; Civil Rights & Judiciary; Consumer Protection & Business; Education

**Young, Jesse** – \*\*Finance; \*\*Transportation; College & Workforce Development; Commerce & Gaming

\* denotes Ranking Minority Member

\*\* denotes Assistant Ranking Minority Member

## 2019 – 2020 House Roster Sixty-sixth Legislature

Frank Chopp, Speaker

Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Dis</b>	<b>Pol</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Mailing Address</b>	<b>Birthyear Birthplace</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Previous Yrs Served</b>
Appleton, Sherry	23	D	Kitsap (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1942 - Rhode Island	Legislator	2005-2018
Barkis, Andrew	2	R	Pierce (P), Thurston (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1968 - Washington	Business Owner	Appt. 2/16/2016, 2017-2018
Bergquist, Steve	11	D	King (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1979 - Washington	Teacher	2013-2018
Blake, Brian	19	D	Cowlitz (P), Grays Harbor (P), Lewis (P), Pacific, Wahkiakum	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1960 - Washington	Env. Specialist, Logger	Appt. 12/17/2002, 2003-2018
Boehnke, Matt	8	R	Benton (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1968 - Santa Maria, CA	College Professor	
Caldier, Michelle	26	R	Kitsap (P), Pierce (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1976 - Washington	Dentist	1/12/15-2018
Callan, Lisa	5	D	King (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	Arizona	Legislator	

## 2019 – 2020 House Roster - continued

550

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Dis</b>	<b>Pol</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Mailing Address</b>	<b>Birthyear Birthplace</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Previous Yrs Served</b>
Chambers, Kelly	25	R	Pierce (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	Washington	Small Business Owner	
Chandler, Bruce	15	R	Yakima (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1952 - Washington	Orchardist	1999-2018
Chapman, Mike	24	D	Clallam, Grays Harbor (P), Jefferson	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1963 - Washington	State Representative	1/9/17-2018
Chopp, Frank	43	D	King (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1953 - Bremerton, Washington	Community Service	1995-2018
Cody, Eileen	34	D	King (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98544	1954 - Iowa	Registered Nurse	Appt. 6/2/1994, 1995-2018
Corry, Chris	14	R	Clark (P), Klickitat, Skamania, Yakima (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1982 - CA	Insurance	
Davis, Lauren	32	D	King (P), Snohomish (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1986 -	Nonprofit Exec	
DeBolt, Richard	20	R	Clark (P), Cowlitz (P), Lewis (P), Thurston (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1965 - Washington	External Relations	1997-2018
Dent, Tom	13	R	Grant (P), Kittitas, Lincoln, Yakima (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1950 - Idaho	Pilot / Rancher	2015-2018

**2019 – 2020 House Roster** - continued

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Dis</b>	<b>Pol</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Mailing Address</b>	<b>Birthyear Birthplace</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Previous Yrs Served</b>
Doglio, Beth	22	D	Thurston (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1965 - Illinois	Campaign Director	2017-2018
Dolan, Laurie	22	D	Thurston (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1952 - Washington	Retired Educator	2017-2018
Dufault, Jeremie	15	R	Yakima (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1978 - Yakima, WA	Real Estate/Military Lawyer	
Dye, Mary	9	R	Adams, Asotin, Franklin (P), Garfield, Spokane (P), Whitman	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1961 - Idaho	Farmer	Appt. 5/8/2015, 2018
Entenman, Debra	47	D	King (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1961 - Seattle, WA	Legislator	
Eslick, Carolyn	39	R	King (P), Skagit (P), Snohomish (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1950 - Portland, OR	Business Owner	9/20/2017- 2018
Fey, Jake	27	D	Pierce (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1949 - Port Angeles, Washington	Director, WSU Energy Program	2013-2018
Fitzgibbon, Joe	34	D	King (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1986 - Washington	Legislator	2010-2018
Frame, Noel	36	D	King (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	Vancouver, Washington	Comm Dev. and Planning Consult	Appt. 1/7/2016- 2018

## 2019 – 2020 House Roster - continued

552

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Dis</b>	<b>Pol</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Mailing Address</b>	<b>Birthyear Birthplace</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Previous Yrs Served</b>
Gildon, Chris	25	R	Pierce (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	Odessa, TX	Commercial RE Broker	
Goehner, Keith	12	R	Chelan, Douglas, Grant (P), Okanogan (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1952 - Leavenworth, Washington	Orchardist	
Goodman, Roger	45	D	King (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1961 - Rhode Island	Attorney	2007-2018
Graham, Jenny	6	R	Spokane (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1965 - Long Beach, CA	Small Business Owner	
Gregerson, Mia	33	D	King (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1972 - Taiwan	Legislator	Appt. 12/16/2013, 2014-2018
Griffey, Dan	35	R	Kitsap (P), Mason, Thurston (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1970 - Washington	Fire Fighter	2015-2018
Hansen, Drew	23	D	Kitsap (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504			Appt. 9/19/2011, 2012-2018
Harris, Paul	17	R	Clark (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1953 - Oregon	Sls/Mktg, PR, Business Owner	2011-2018



**2019 – 2020 House Roster** - continued

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Dis</b>	<b>Pol</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Mailing Address</b>	<b>Birthyear Birthplace</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Previous Yrs Served</b>
Hoff, Larry	18	R	Clark (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1951 - Bismark, ND	Retired/Financial Svcs	
Hudgins, Zack	11	D	King (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1968 - Texas	High Technology Manager	Appt. 12/09/2002, 2003-2018
Irwin, Morgan	31	R	King (P), Pierce (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1983 - Seattle	Police Officer	1/9/17-2018
Jenkin, Bill	16	R	Benton (P), Columbia, Franklin (P), Walla Walla	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1956 - California	Winemaker	2017-2018
Jinkins, Laurie	27	D	Pierce (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1964 - Iowa	Public Health Official	2011-2018
Kilduff, Christine	28	D	Pierce (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	New York	Attorney	2015-2018
Kirby, Steve	29	D	Pierce (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	Washington	Legislator	2001-2018
Klippert, Brad	8	R	Benton (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1957 - Washington	Legislator, Deputy, COL	2009-2018
Kloba, Shelley	1	D	King (P), Snohomish (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504		Massage Therapist	2017-2018

2019 – 2020 House Roster - continued

Name of Member	Dis	Pol	County	Mailing Address	Birthyear Birthplace	Occupation	Previous Yrs Served
Kraft, Vicki	17	R	Clark (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1969 -		2017-2018
Kretz, Joel	7	R	Ferry, Okanogan (P), Pend Oreille, Spokane (P), Stevens	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1957 - Washington	Rancher/Logger	2005-2018
Leavitt, Mari	28	D	Pierce (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1968 - North Carolina	Legislator	
Lekanoff, Debra	40	D	San Juan, Skagit (P), Whatcom (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1971 - Alaska	Gov't Affairs	
Lovick, John	44	D	Snohomish (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1951 - Shreveport LA	Retired Trooper	1999-2007 2016-2018
MacEwen, Drew	35	R	Kitsap (P), Mason, Thurston (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1973 - Minnesota	Investment Advisor	2013-2018
Macri, Nicole	43	D	King (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1973 - New York	Housing & Services Director	2017-2018
Maycumber, Jacquelin	7	R	Ferry, Okanogan (P), Pend Oreille, Spokane (P), Stevens	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504			2017-2018
McCaslin, Bob	4	R	Spokane (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1957 - Washington	Public School Teacher	2015-2018

**2019 – 2020 House Roster** - continued

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Dis</b>	<b>Pol</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Mailing Address</b>	<b>Birthyear Birthplace</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Previous Yrs Served</b>
Mead, Jared	44	D	Snohomish (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1991 - Kirkland, Washington	Legislator	
Morgan, Melanie	29	D	Pierce (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504			
Morris, Jeff	40	D	San Juan, Skagit (P), Whatcom (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1964 - Anacortes, Washington	Owner - Energy Horizon Corp.	1997-2018
Mosbrucker, Gina	14	R	Clark (P), Klickitat, Skamania, Yakima (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	Washington	Legislator/Entrepreneur	2015-2018
Orcutt, Ed	20	R	Clark (P), Cowlitz (P), Lewis (P), Thurston (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1963 - Maine	Consulting Forester	Appt. 1/4/2002, 2003-2018
Ormsby, Timm	3	D	Spokane (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1959 - Washington	Cement Mason	Appt. 9/30/2003, 2004-2018
Ortiz-Self, Lillian	21	D	Snohomish (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1960 - New York	School/Mental Health Counselor	Appt. 1/21/2014, 2015-2018
Orwall, Tina	33	D	King (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1965 - Florida	Strategic Planner	2009-2018

## 2019 – 2020 House Roster - continued

556

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Dis</b>	<b>Pol</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Mailing Address</b>	<b>Birthyear Birthplace</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Previous Yrs Served</b>
Paul, Dave	10	D	Island, Skagit (P), Snohomish (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1968 - Washington	Education Admin	
Pellicciotti, Mike	30	D	King (P), Pierce (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504		Prosecuting Attorney	2017-2018
Peterson, Strom	21	D	Snohomish (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	New Mexico	Small Business Owner	2015-2018
Pettigrew, Eric	37	D	King (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1960 - California	Dir of Bus. Dev. Reg/ BluShield	2003-2018
Pollet, Gerry	46	D	King (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1958 - New York	UW Faculty/NonProfit Dir/ Attny	Appt. 12/5/2011, 2012-2018
Ramos, Bill	5	D	King (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504			
Reeves, Kristine	30	D	King (P), Pierce (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1981 - Washington	Economic Developer	2017-2018
Riccelli, Marcus	3	D	Spokane (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1978 - Washington	Project Manager	2013-2018

**2019 – 2020 House Roster** - continued

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Dis</b>	<b>Pol</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Mailing Address</b>	<b>Birthyear Birthplace</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Previous Yrs Served</b>
Robinson, June	38	D	Snohomish (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1959 - Pennsylvania	Public Health Manager	Appt. 12/16/2013, 2014-2018
Rude, Skyler	16	R	Benton (P), Columbia, Franklin (P), Walla Walla	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1986 - Walla Walla	Legislator	
Ryu, Cindy	32	D	King (P), Snohomish (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	Korea	Commercial/Retail Space Mgmt	2011-2018
Santos, Sharon Tomiko	37	D	King (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1961 - California	Legislator	1999-2018
Schmick, Joe	9	R	Adams, Asotin, Franklin (P), Garfield, Spokane (P), Whitman	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	Washington	Former Farmer/Small Bus Ownr	Appt. 11/26/2007, 2008-2018
Sells, Mike	38	D	Snohomish (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1945 - Washington	Retired Teacher	2005-2018
Senn, Tana	41	D	King (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1971 - Illinois	Legislator	Appt. 9/9/2013, 2014-2018
Shea, Matt	4	R	Spokane (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1974 - Washington	Attorney	2009-2018
Shewmake, Sharon	42	D	Whatcom (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	Sarasota, FL	Economics Professor	

2019 – 2020 House Roster - continued

Name of Member	Dis	Pol	County	Mailing Address	Birthyear Birthplace	Occupation	Previous Yrs Served
Slatter, Vandana	48	D	King (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504			1/5/17-2018
Smith, Norma	10	R	Island, Skagit (P), Snohomish (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	Florida	Communications	Appt. 1/8/2008, 2009-2018
Springer, Larry	45	D	King (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1947 - Washington	Retail Store Owner	2005-2018
Stanford, Derek	1	D	King (P), Snohomish (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504		Data Science	2011-2018
Steele, Mike	12	R	Chelan, Douglas, Grant (P), Okanogan (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1982 - Chelan	Exec Dir Lake Chelan Chamber	2017-2018
Stokesbary, Drew	31	R	King (P), Pierce (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1985 - Washington	Attorney	2015-2018
Stonier, Monica Jurado	49	D	Clark (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1976 -	Teacher	2013-2014, 2017-2018
Sullivan, Pat	47	D	King (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1962 - Minnesota	Legislator	2005-2018
Sutherland, Robert	39	R	King (P), Skagit (P), Snohomish (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504		Retired Biochemist	

**2019 – 2020 House Roster** - continued

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Dis</b>	<b>Pol</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Mailing Address</b>	<b>Birthyear Birthplace</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Previous Yrs Served</b>
Tarleton, Gael	36	D	King (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1959 - Massachusetts	Legislator	2013-2018
Thai, My-Linh	41	D	King (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1968 - Việt Nam		
Tharinger, Steve	24	D	Clallam, Grays Harbor (P), Jefferson	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1949 - Wisconsin	Representative	2011-2018
Valdez, Javier	46	D	King (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	Moses Lake, Washington		6/12/17-2018
Van Werven, Luanne	42	R	Whatcom (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1957 - Washington	Legislator	2015-2018
Vick, Brandon	18	R	Clark (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1984 - California	Landscape Contractor	12/6/12-2018
Volz, Mike	6	R	Spokane (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504			2017-2018
Walen, Amy	48	D	King (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1967 - Portland, OR	CFO	
Walsh, Jim	19	R	Cowlitz (P), Grays Harbor (P), Lewis (P), Pacific, Wahkiakum	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1964 -	Publisher	2017-2018

2019 – 2020 House Roster - continued

Name of Member	Dis Pol County	Mailing Address	Birthyear Birthplace	Occupation	Previous Yrs Served
Wilcox, J.T.	2 R Pierce (P), Thurston (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1962 - Washington	Farming	2011-2018
Wylie, Sharon	49 D Clark (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1949 - Louisiana	Consultant	Appt. 4/13/2011, 2012-2018
Ybarra, Alex	13 R Grant (P), Kittitas, Lincoln, Yakima (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1961 -		
Young, Jesse	26 R Kitsap (P), Pierce (P)	PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	1976 - Idaho	Software Engineer	Appt. 1/17/2014, 2015-2018



## United States Executive

### **President Donald J. Trump** (term expires 2021)

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

Washington, DC 20500

Phone: .....(202) 456-1414

Web: [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)

### **Vice President Michael R. Pence** (term expires 2021)

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

Washington, DC 20500

Phone: .....(202) 456-1414

Web: [www.whitehouse.gov/administration/vice-president-pence](http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/vice-president-pence)

## Congressional Officials

### United States Senators

Congressional Switchboard: .....(202) 224-3121

### **Maria Cantwell, U.S. Senator (D) Seattle**

(term expires January 2025)

e-mail: available only via web site

Web: [www.cantwell.senate.gov](http://www.cantwell.senate.gov)

Washington State Toll Free Number: .....(888) 648-7328

#### **Washington, DC Office:**

511 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

Phone: .....(202) 224-3441

Fax: .....(202) 228-0514

#### **Seattle Office:**

915 Second Ave., Suite 3206

Seattle, WA 98174

Phone: .....(206) 220-6400

Fax: .....(206) 220-6404

**Spokane Office:**

920 W. Riverside, Suite 697

Spokane, WA 99201

Phone: .....(509) 353-2507

Fax: .....(509) 353-2547

**Vancouver Office:**

1313 Officers' Row

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Fax: .....(360) 696-7844

**Richland Office:**

825 Jadwin Ave., Suite 206

Richland, WA 99352

Phone: .....(509) 946-8106

Fax: .....(509) 946-6937

**Tacoma Office:**

950 Pacific Ave., Suite 615

Tacoma, WA 98402

Phone: .....(253) 572-2281

Fax : .....(253) 572-5879

**Everett Office:**

2930 Wetmore Ave., Suite 9B

Everett, WA 98201

Phone: .....(425) 303-0114

Fax: .....(425) 303-8351

**Patty Murray, U.S. Senator (D) Seattle**

(term expires January 2023)

e-mail: available only via web site

Web: <https://murray.senate.gov>

Washington State Toll Free Number: .....(866) 481-9186

**Washington, DC Office:**

154 Russell Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

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Fax: .....(202) 224-0238

**Seattle Office:**

2988 Jackson Federal Building

915 Second Ave.

Seattle, WA 98174

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Fax: .....(206) 553-0891

**Tacoma Office:**

950 Pacific Ave., Suite 650

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Fax: .....(253) 572-9488

**Spokane Office:**

10 North Post St., Suite 600

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Phone: .....(509) 624-9515

Fax: .....(509) 624-9561

**Vancouver Office:**

The Marshall House

1323 Officers' Row

Vancouver, WA 98661

Phone: .....(360) 696-7797

Fax: .....(360) 696-7798

**Yakima Office:**

402 E. Yakima Ave., Suite 420

Yakima, WA 98901

Phone: .....(509) 453-7462

Fax: .....(509) 453-7731

**Everett Office:**

2930 Wetmore Ave., Suite 9D

Everett, WA 98201

Phone: .....(425) 259-6515

Fax: .....(425) 259-7152

## United States Representatives

### Suzan DelBene, 1st District – U.S. Representative (D)

#### Bainbridge Island

(term expires January 2021)

Web: <https://delbene.house.gov/>

#### Washington DC Office:

2330 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

Phone: .....(202) 225-6311

Fax: .....(202) 226-1606

#### Bothell Office:

Canyon Park Business Center

22121 17th Ave. SE, Building E, Suite 220

Bothell, WA 98021

Phone: .....(425) 485-0085

Fax: .....(425) 485-0083

#### Mount Vernon Office:

204 W. Montgomery St.

Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Phone: .....(360) 416-7879

Fax : .....(425) 485-0083

### Rick Larsen, 2nd District – U.S. Representative (D) Arlington

(term expires January 2021)

Web: [https://larsen.house.gov](https://larsen.house.gov/)

Washington State Toll Free Number: .....(800) 562-1385

#### Washington DC Office:

2113 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

Phone: .....(202) 225-2605

Fax: .....(202) 225-4420

#### Bellingham Office:

119 N. Commercial St., Suite 275

Bellingham, WA 98225

Phone: .....(360) 733-4500

**Everett Office:**

Wall St. Building  
2930 Wetmore Ave., Suite 9F  
Everett, WA 98201

Phone: .....(425) 252-3188

Fax: .....(425) 252-6606

**Jaime Herrera Beutler, 3rd District – U.S. Representative (R)****Vancouver**

(term expires January 2021)

Web: <https://herrerabeutler.house.gov>

**Washington DC Office:**

2352 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Phone: ..... (202) 225-3536

Fax: .....(202) 225-3478

**Vancouver Office:**

O.O. Hower House (Officers' Row)

750 Anderson St., Suite B

Vancouver, WA 98661

Phone: .....(360) 695-6292

Fax: .....(360) 695-6197

**Chehalis Office:**

*Not a mailing address*

Chehalis City Hall Building

350 N. Market Blvd.

Chehalis, WA 98532

Hours: Tuesdays from 11:30am-1pm

**Dan Newhouse, 4th District – U.S. Representative (R) Sunnyside**

(term expires January 2021)

Web: <https://newhouse.house.gov>

**Washington DC Office:**

1414 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Phone: .....(202) 225-5816

Fax: .....(202) 225-3251

**Yakima Office:**

402 E Yakima Ave., Suite 445

Yakima, WA 98901

Phone: .....(509) 452-3243

Fax: .....(509) 452-3438

**Tri-Cities Office:**

3100 George Washington Way, Suite 130

Richland, WA 99354

Phone: .....(509) 713-7374

Fax: .....(509) 713-7377

**North District: Okanogan And Douglas Counties**

P.O. Box 823

Twisp, WA 98856

Phone: ..... (509) 433-7760

**Cathy McMorris Rodgers, 5th District – U.S. Representative (R)****Spokane**

(term expires January 2021)

Web: <https://mcmorris.house.gov>**Washington DC Office:**

1035 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

Phone: .....(202) 225-2006

Fax: .....(202) 225-3392

**Spokane Office:**

10 North Post St., Suite 625

Spokane, WA 99201

Phone: .....(509) 353-2374

**Colville Office:**

555 South Main St.

Colville, WA 99114

Phone: .....(509) 684-3481

**Walla Walla Office:**

26 E. Main St., Suite 2

Walla Walla, WA 99362

Phone: .....(509) 529-9358

**Derek Kilmer, 6th District – U.S. Representative (D) Tacoma**

(term expires January 2021)

Web: <https://kilmer.house.gov>

**Washington DC Office:**

1410 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

Phone: .....(202) 225-5916

**Tacoma Office:**

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Tacoma, WA 98402

Phone: .....(253) 272-3515

**Bremerton Office:**

345 6th St., Suite 500

Bremerton, WA 98337

Phone: .....(360) 373-9725

**Port Angeles Office:**

332 E 5th St.

Port Angeles, WA 98362

Phone: .....(360) 797-3623

**Pramila Jayapal, 7th District – U.S. Representative (D) Seattle**

(term expires January 2021)

Web: <https://jayapal.house.gov>

**Washington DC Office:**

319 Cannon House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

Phone: .....(202) 225-3106

Fax: .....(202) 225-6197

**Seattle Office:**

1904 3rd Ave., Suite 510

Seattle, WA 98101

Phone: .....(206) 674-0040

**Kim Schrier, 8th District – U.S. Representative (D) Bellevue**

(term expires January 2021)

Web: <https://schrier.house.gov/>**Washington DC Office:**

1123 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

Phone: .....(202) 225-7761

**Issaquah Office:**

1445 NW Mall St., Suite 4

Issaquah, WA 98027

Phone: ..... (425) 657-1001

**Adam Smith, 9th District – U.S. Representative (D) Federal Way**

(term expires January 2021)

Web: <https://adamsmith.house.gov>

Washington State Toll Free Number: ..... (888) SMITH09

**Washington DC Office:**

2264 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

Phone: .....(202) 225-8901

**Renton Office:**

101 Evergreen Building

15 S. Grady Way

Renton, WA 98057

Phone: .....(425) 793-5180

Fax: .....(425) 793-5181



**Denny Heck, 10th District – U.S. Representatives (D) Olympia**

(term expires January 2021)

Web: <https://dennyheck.house.gov>

**Washington DC Office:**

2452 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

Phone: .....(202) 225-9740

**Thurston and Mason County Office:**

420 College St. SE, Suite 3000

Lacey, WA 98503

Phone: .....(360) 459-8514

**Pierce County Office:**

6000 Main St. SW, Suite 3B

Lakewood, WA 98499

Phone: .....(253) 533-8332

## Washington State Officials

**State Information** .....(800) 321-2808

Voter Information Hotline: .....(800) 448-4881

Washington State home page: ..... [www.access.wa.gov](http://www.access.wa.gov)

**Governor Jay Inslee**

200 Legislative Building

PO Box 40002

Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Phone: .....(360) 902-4111

TTY: ..... 711 or 1-800-833-6388

Web: [www.governor.wa.gov](http://www.governor.wa.gov)

**Lieutenant Governor Cyrus Habib**

220 Legislative Building

PO Box 40400

Olympia, WA 98504-0400

Phone: .....(360) 786-7700

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Web: [www.ltgov.wa.gov](http://www.ltgov.wa.gov)E-mail: [ltgov@ltgov.wa.gov](mailto:ltgov@ltgov.wa.gov)**Secretary of State Kim Wyman**

250 Legislative Building

PO Box 40220

Olympia, WA 98504-0220

Phone: .....(360) 902-4151

Web: [www.sos.wa.gov](http://www.sos.wa.gov)E-mail: [mail@sos.wa.gov](mailto:mail@sos.wa.gov)**Treasurer Duane A. Davidson**

230 Legislative Building

PO Box 40200

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Fax: .....(360) 902-9037

TTY: ..... 711

Web: [www.tre.wa.gov](http://www.tre.wa.gov)E-mail: [watreas@tre.wa.gov](mailto:watreas@tre.wa.gov)**Auditor Pat McCarthy**

Insurance Building, Suite 200

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Olympia, WA 98504-0021

Phone: .....(360) 902 0370

TDD Relay: .....(800) 833-6388

Web: [www.sao.wa.gov](http://www.sao.wa.gov)E-mail: [auditor@sao.wa.gov](mailto:auditor@sao.wa.gov)

**Attorney General Bob Ferguson**

Highway/Licenses Building

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Washington State Relay Services: .....(800) 833-6388

Web: [www.atg.wa.gov](http://www.atg.wa.gov)

E-mail: [www.atg.wa.gov/contactus.aspx](http://www.atg.wa.gov/contactus.aspx)

**Superintendent of Public Instruction Chris Reykdal**

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E-mail: [info@K12.wa.us](mailto:info@K12.wa.us)

**Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler**

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**Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz**

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Fax: .....(360) 902-1775

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E-mail: [cpl@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:cpl@dnr.wa.gov)

# Nonpartisan Judiciary

## Supreme Court

	<i>Term Expires</i>
Chief Justice Mary E. Fairhurst . . . . .	January 2021
Associate Chief Justice Charles W. Johnson . . . . .	January 2021
Justice Barbara A. Madsen . . . . .	January 2023
Justice Susan J. Owens . . . . .	January 2025
Justice Debra L. Stephens . . . . .	January 2021
Justice Charlie K. Wiggins . . . . .	January 2023
Justice Steven C. González . . . . .	January 2025
Justice Sheryl Gordon McCloud . . . . .	January 2025
Justice Mary Yu . . . . .	January 2023

Washington State Supreme Court

Temple of Justice

415 12th Ave. SW

PO Box 40929

Olympia, WA 98504-0929

Phone: . . . . .(360) 357-2077

Clerk, Susan L. Carlson

Deputy Clerk, Erin L. Lennon

Administrator for the Courts, Dawn Marie Rubio

Supreme Court Commissioner, Michael E. Johnston

Reporter of Decisions, Sam Thompson

State Law Librarian, Robert Mead

## Court of Appeals

### Division I – Seattle

One Union Square

600 University St

Seattle, WA 98101-1176

Clerks Office: . . . . .(206) 464-7750

	<i>Term Expires</i>
Judge Marlin J. Appelwick, Chief Judge . . . . .	January 2025
Judge Beth M Andrus . . . . .	January 2025
Judge Stephen J. Dwyer . . . . .	January 2023
Judge John H. Chun . . . . .	January 2025
Judge Cecily C. Hazelrigg-Hernandez . . . . .	January 2025

Judge Lori Kay Smith. . . . .	January 2025
Judge David S. Mann, Acting Chief Judge . . . . .	January 2025
Judge J. Robert Leach. . . . .	January 2021
Judge Ann Schindler . . . . .	January 2021
Judge James Verellen . . . . .	January 2022

### **Division II – Tacoma**

950 Broadway

Suite 300 MS TB-06

Tacoma, WA 98402-4454

General Information: . . . . .(253) 593-2970

*Term Expires*

Judge Thomas Bjorgen. . . . .	January 2025
Judge Jill Johanson. . . . .	January 2023
Judge Linda CJ Lee, Acting Chief Judge . . . . .	January 2025
Chief Judge Bradley A. Maxa . . . . .	January 2023
Judge Rich Melnick . . . . .	January 2025
Judge Lisa L. Sutton. . . . .	January 2021
Judge Lisa Worswick . . . . .	January 2021

### **Division III – Spokane**

500 N Cedar St

Spokane, WA 99201-1905

General Information: . . . . .(509) 456-3082

*Term Expires*

Judge Kevin M. Korsmo . . . . .	January 2021
Judge Robert Lawrence-Berrey, Chief Judge. . . . .	January 2025
Judge Laurel H. Siddoway, Presiding Chief Judge	January 2025
Judge George B. Fearing . . . . .	January 2023
Judge Rebecca L. Pennell, Acting Chief Judge . . .	January 2023