

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Government Operations to which was referred a
3 proposed amendment to the Constitution of the State of Vermont entitled
4 “Proposal 1” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and
5 recommends that the proposal be amended by striking out the proposal in its
6 entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 PROPOSAL 1

8 Sec. 1. PURPOSE

9 This proposal would amend the Constitution of the State of Vermont to
10 allow the General Assembly to establish by law qualifications for individuals
11 to be elected to and hold certain county offices and to be removed from office
12 for failure to meet or to maintain those qualifications. Further, this proposal
13 would abolish the office of High Bailiff.

14 Sec. 2. Section 50 of Chapter II of the Vermont Constitution is amended to
15 read:

16 § 50. ELECTION OF ASSISTANT JUDGES, SHERIFFS, AND STATE’S
17 ATTORNEYS

18 The Assistant Judges shall be elected by the voters of their respective
19 districts as established by law. Their judicial functions shall be established by
20 law. Their term of office shall be four years and shall commence on the first
21 day of February next after their election. The General Assembly may establish

1 by law qualifications for the election to and holding of such office and
2 procedures for removal from such office for failure to meet or to maintain the
3 required qualifications.

4 Sheriffs shall be elected by the voters of their respective districts as
5 established by law. Their term of office shall be four years and shall
6 commence on the first day of February next after their election. The General
7 Assembly may establish by law qualifications for the election to and holding of
8 such office and procedures for removal from such office for failure to meet or
9 to maintain the required qualifications.

10 State’s Attorneys shall be elected by the voters of their respective districts
11 as established by law. Their term of office shall be four years and shall
12 commence on the first day of February next after their election. The General
13 Assembly may establish by law qualifications for the election to and holding of
14 such office and procedures for removal from such office for failure to meet or
15 to maintain the required qualifications.

16 Sec. 3. Section 51 of Chapter II of the Vermont Constitution is amended to
17 read:

18 § 51. ELECTION OF JUDGES OF PROBATE

19 Judges of Probate shall be elected by the voters of their respective districts
20 as established by law. The General Assembly may establish by law
21 qualifications for the election to and holding of such office and procedures for

1 removal from such office for failure to meet or to maintain the required
2 qualifications. Their term of office shall be four years and shall commence on
3 the first day of February next after their election.

4 Sec. 4. Section 43 of Chapter II of the Vermont Constitution is amended to
5 read:

6 The Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Treasurer, Secretary of State, Auditor
7 of Accounts, Senators, Town Representatives, Assistant Judges of the County
8 Court, Sheriffs, ~~High Bailiffs~~, State’s Attorneys, Judges of Probate and Justices
9 of the Peace, shall be elected biennially on the first Tuesday next after the first
10 Monday of November, beginning in A.D. 1914.

11 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

12 The amendments set forth in Secs. 2 through 4 shall become a part of the
13 Constitution of the State of Vermont on the first Tuesday after the first
14 Monday of November 2026 when ratified and adopted by the people of this
15 State in accordance with the provisions of 17 V.S.A. chapter 32.

16
17

18 (Committee vote: _____)

19 _____

20 Senator _____

21 FOR THE COMMITTEE