

SENATE CHAMBER

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE STATE OF VERMONT

Offered by: Senator Benning

Subject: Elections; Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Treasurer;
majority; runoff election

PROPOSAL 2

Sec. 1. PURPOSE

This proposal would amend the Constitution of the State of Vermont to provide that if a candidate for the office of Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or Treasurer does not receive the required majority vote in the general election, then instead of the General Assembly electing that officer, a runoff election between the two candidates receiving the greatest number of votes cast shall be held on the first Tuesday in December to determine the winner.

Sec. 2. Section 47 of Chapter II of the Vermont Constitution is amended to read:

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

The voters of each town shall, on the day of election for choosing Representatives to attend the General Assembly, bring in their votes for Governor, with the name fairly written, to the Constable, who shall seal them up, and write on them, Votes for Governor, and deliver them to the

Representatives chosen to attend the General Assembly; and at the opening of the General Assembly, there shall be a committee appointed out of the Senate and House of Representatives, who, after being duly sworn to the faithful discharge of their trust, shall proceed to receive, sort, and count the votes for Governor, and declare the person who has the major part of the votes, to be Governor for the two years ensuing. The Lieutenant-Governor and the Treasurer shall be chosen in the manner above directed.

The votes for Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, and Treasurer, of the State, shall be sorted and counted, and the result declared, by a committee appointed by the Senate and House of Representatives.

If, at any time, there shall be no election, of Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or Treasurer, of the State, ~~the Senate and House of Representatives shall by a joint ballot, elect to fill the office, not filled as aforesaid, one of the three candidates for such office (if there be so many) for whom the greatest number of votes shall have been returned~~ a runoff election shall be held on the first Tuesday of December between the two candidates receiving the greatest number of votes. The runoff election shall be held as prescribed by the General Assembly.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

The amendment set forth in Sec. 2 shall become a part of the Constitution of the State of Vermont on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November

2018 when ratified and adopted by the people of this State in accordance with the provisions of 17 V.S.A. chapter 32.