

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

Offered by: Senator Sirotkin

Subject: Elections; Governor; greatest number of votes; exception; less than 45 percent plurality and less than two percent margin; runoff election; Lieutenant-Governor and Treasurer; greatest number of votes

PROPOSAL 5

Sec. 1. PURPOSE

This proposal would amend the Constitution of the State of Vermont to provide for election of the:

(1) Governor by the greatest number of votes, except that if no candidate for Governor receives at least 45 percent of the votes cast and there is less than a two percent margin between the candidate who received the greatest number of votes and the second-place finisher, then a runoff election between those two candidates shall be held on the first Tuesday in December to determine the winner; and

(2) Lieutenant-Governor and Treasurer by the greatest number of votes.

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~~ greatest number of ~~the~~ votes; to be Governor for the two years ensuing, except that if that person receives less than 45 percent of the total votes cast for the office and the difference between the number of votes cast for that candidate and the second-place finisher is less than two percent of the total votes cast for the office, there shall be no election.

The committee shall declare the persons who have the greatest number of votes for Lieutenant-Governor and the for Treasurer shall be chosen in the manner above directed to be elected for the two years ensuing.

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 amendments 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.