

SENATE CHAMBER

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE STATE OF VERMONT

Offered by: Senator Snelling

Subject: Elections; Governor; four-year term of office

PROPOSAL 6

Sec. 1. PURPOSE

This proposal would amend the Constitution of the State of Vermont to provide the Governor with a four-year term of office. It would also amend a provision of the Constitution to clarify that certain constitutional officers that already have a four-year term of office are elected every four years.

Sec. 2. Section 43 of Chapter II of the Vermont Constitution is amended to read:

§ 43. [~~BIENNIAL~~ ELECTIONS]

The Governor, ~~Lieutenant Governor, Treasurer, Secretary of State, Auditor of Accounts, Senators, Town Representatives,~~ Assistant Judges of the County Court, Sheriffs, ~~High Bailiffs,~~ State's Attorneys, and Judges of Probate ~~and Justices of the Peace,~~ shall be elected ~~biennially~~ every four years on the first Tuesday next after the first Monday of November, beginning in A.D. ~~1914~~ 2020. The Lieutenant-Governor, Treasurer, Secretary of State, Auditor of Accounts, Senators, Representatives, High Bailiffs, and Justices of the Peace

shall be elected biennially on the first Tuesday next after the first Monday of November, beginning in A.D. 2020.

Sec. 3. Section 47 of Chapter II of the Vermont Constitution is amended to read:

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

The voters of each town shall, on the day of election for choosing Representatives to attend the General Assembly, bring in 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~~ four years ensuing. The Lieutenant-Governor and the Treasurer shall be chosen in the manner above directed 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.

Sec. 4. Section 48 of Chapter II of the Vermont Constitution is amended to read:

§ 48. [ELECTION OF SECRETARY OF STATE AND AUDITOR OF ACCOUNTS]

The Secretary of State and the Auditor of Accounts shall be elected by the voters of the State upon the same ticket with the ~~Governor,~~ Lieutenant-Governor and Treasurer; and the Legislature shall carry this provision into effect by appropriate legislation.

Sec. 5. Section 49 of Chapter II of the Vermont Constitution is amended to read:

§ 49. [TERM OF GOVERNOR, LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR, AND TREASURER]

The term of office of the Governor shall be four years, and the terms of office of the Lieutenant-Governor and Treasurer of the State, respectively, shall be two years. The terms of these officers shall commence when they shall be chosen and qualified, and shall continue for the duration of their term ~~of two years,~~ or until their successors shall be chosen and qualified, or to the

adjournment of the session of the Legislature at which, by the Constitution and laws, their successors are required to be chosen, and not after such adjournment.

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

The amendments set forth in this proposal 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.