

SENATE CHAMBER

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION  
OF THE STATE OF VERMONT

Offered by: Senators Ashe, Balint, Brock, Campion, Collamore, Hardy,

Ingram, Sears, Sirotkin, Starr, and Westman

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

PROPOSAL 1

Sec. 1. PURPOSE

(a) This proposal would amend the Constitution of the State of Vermont to provide the Governor with a four-year term of office, beginning in the year 2024.

(b) This proposal would also amend Chapter II, Section 43 of the Vermont Constitution to clarify that Assistant Judges, Sheriffs, States Attorneys, and Judges of Probate—who 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, shall be elected every four years on the first Tuesday next after the first Monday of November, beginning in A.D. 2024.

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. 2022.

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~~ 2022.

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 the 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 2022 when ratified and adopted by the people of this State in accordance with the provisions of 17 V.S.A. chapter 32.