

CONSTITUTION OF North Carolina As Adopted by the late State Convention.

PREAMBLE. We the people of the State of North Carolina, grateful to Almighty God, the Sovereign Ruler of Nations...

ARTICLE I. DECLARATION OF RIGHTS.

That the great, general and essential principles of liberty and free government may be recognized and established, and that the relations of this State to the Union and government of the United States...

Section 1. That we hold it to be self-evident that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights...

Section 2. That all political power is vested in, and derived from the people; all government of right originates from the people...

Section 3. That the people of this State have the inherent, sole and exclusive right of regulating the internal government of this State...

Section 4. That this State shall ever remain a member of the American Union; that the people thereof are part of the American nation...

Section 5. That every citizen of this State owes paramount allegiance to the Constitution and Government of the United States...

Section 6. To maintain the honor and good faith of the State untarnished, the public debt, regularly contracted before and since the rebellion...

Section 7. No man or set of men are entitled to exclusive or separate emoluments or privileges from the community...

Section 8. The Legislative, Executive and Supreme Judicial powers of the government ought to be forever separate and distinct from each other.

Section 9. All power of suspending laws, or the execution of laws, by any authority, without the consent of the representatives of the people...

Section 10. In all criminal prosecutions, every man has the right to be informed of the accusation against him and to confront the accusers...

Section 11. In all elections, every man has the right to be informed of the accusation against him and to confront the accusers...

Section 12. No person shall be put to answer any criminal charge until he has been allowed, but by indictment, presentment, or impeachment...

Section 13. No person shall be convicted of any crime but by the unanimous verdict of a jury of good and lawful men in open court...

Section 14. Excessive bail should not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel or unusual punishments inflicted.

Section 15. General warrants, whereby any officer or messenger may be authorized to search for suspected places, without evidence of the act committed...

Section 16. Excessive bail should not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel or unusual punishments inflicted.

Section 17. There shall be no imprisonment for debt in this State except in cases of fraud.

Section 18. No person ought to be taken, imprisoned or disseized of his freehold, liberties or privileges, or outlawed, or exiled, or in any manner deprived of his life, liberty, or property...

Section 19. Every person restrained of his liberty, is entitled to remedy to inquire into the lawfulness thereof, and to remove the same, if unlawful...

Section 20. In all controversies at law respecting property, the trial by jury in civil cases shall be preserved as it is at the date of the adoption of this Constitution...

Section 21. The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended.

Section 22. As political rights and privileges are not dependent upon or modified by property, therefore no property qualification ought to effect the right to vote or hold office.

Section 23. The people of this State ought not to be taxed, or made subject to the payment of any impost or duty, without the consent of themselves, or their representatives in General Assembly freely given.

Section 24. A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed...

Section 25. The people have a right to assemble together to consult for their common good, to instruct their representatives, and to apply to the Legislature for redress of grievances.

Section 26. All men have a natural and unalienable right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own consciences...

in two distinct branches, both dependent on the people, to wit: a Senate and House of Representatives. Section 2. The Senate and House of Representatives shall meet annually on the third Monday in November...

- 1st District—Perquimans, Chowan, Pasquotank, Currituck, Gates and Camden, shall elect 2 Senators. 2nd District—Martin, Washington and Tyrrell, one Senator. 3rd District—Beaufort and Hyde, one Senator. 4th District—Northampton, one Senator.

Section 27. The terms of office for Senators and members of the House of Representatives shall commence at the time of their election; and the term of office shall be prescribed by law...

Section 28. Upon motion made and seconded in either House, by one-fifth of the members present, the yeas and nays on any question shall be taken and entered upon the journals.

Section 29. The election for members of the General Assembly shall be held for the respective districts, counties, and cities, at the place where they are now held, or may be directed hereafter to be held...

Section 30. The Executive Department shall consist of a Governor (in whom shall be vested the supreme executive power of the State) a Lieutenant Governor, a Secretary of State, an Auditor, a Treasurer, a Superintendent of Public Works, a Commissioner of Public Instruction and Attorney General...

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Section 32. The House of Representatives shall choose their own Speaker and other officers. Section 21. The Lieutenant Governor shall preside in the Senate, but shall have no vote, unless it may be equally divided.

Section 23. The style of the acts shall be: 'The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact'. Section 24. All bills and resolutions of a legislative nature shall pass into laws, and shall be signed by the presiding officers of both Houses.

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Section 14. The Secretary of State, Auditor, Treasurer, Superintendent of Public Works and Superintendent of Public Instruction shall constitute ex officio the Council of the State, who shall advise the Governor in the execution of his office...

Section 15. The officers mentioned in this Article shall at stated periods, receive for their services a compensation to be established by law which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the term for which they shall have been elected...

Section 16. There shall be a seal of the State, which shall be kept by the Governor, and used by him as occasion may require, and shall be called 'the Great Seal of the State'...

Section 17. There shall be established in the office of the Secretary of State a Bureau of Statistics, Agriculture and Immigration, under such regulations as the General Assembly may provide.

Section 18. The laws of North Carolina, not repugnant to the Constitution and laws of the United States, shall be in force until lawfully altered.

Section 19. The General Assembly shall provide for the establishment of special courts, for the trial of misdemeanors, in cities and towns, where the same may be necessary.

Section 20. The Clerk of the Supreme Court shall be appointed by the Court and shall hold his office for eight years.

Section 21. A Clerk of the Superior Court for each county shall be elected by the qualified voters thereof, in the manner and in the time prescribed by law...

Section 22. The General Assembly may provide by law that the Judges of the Superior Courts, instead of being elected by the voters of the whole State, be elected by the voters of the counties in which they respectively reside.

Section 23. The Superior Courts shall be, at all times, open for the transaction of all business within their jurisdiction, except the trial of issues of fact requiring a jury.

Section 24. A solicitor shall be elected for each judicial district by the qualified voters thereof, as is prescribed for members of the General Assembly...

Section 25. In each county a Sheriff and Coroner shall be elected by the qualified voters thereof as is prescribed for members of the General Assembly...

Section 26. In each township there shall be a biennially elected, by the qualified voters thereof, a Clerk and two Justices of the Peace...

Section 27. The County Officers first elected under the provisions of this article shall enter upon their duties ten days after the approval of this Constitution by the Congress of the United States...

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Section 31. Corporations may be formed under general laws, but shall not be created by special act, except for the purpose of carrying out the objects of the corporations...

Section 32. The General Assembly shall, by appropriate legislation and by adequate taxation, provide for the prompt and regular payment of the interest on the Public Debt...

Section 33. The taxes levied by the commissioners of the several counties, for county purposes, shall be levied in like manner with the State taxes...

Section 34. Every act of the General Assembly, levying a tax, shall state the special object to which it is to be applied, and it shall be applied to no other purpose.