

THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

PREAMBLE.

We, the people, grateful to Almighty God for our freedom, do ordain and establish the following declaration of rights, frame of government, and constitution of the State of Nebraska.

ARTICLE I.

BILL OF RIGHTS.

SECTION 1. All persons are by nature free and independent, and have certain inalienable rights; among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. To secure these rights, and the protection of property governments are instituted among people, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

SEC. 2. There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in this State, otherwise than for punishment of crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted.

SEC. 3. No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law.

SEC. 4. All persons have a natural and inalienable right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own consciences. No person shall be compelled to attend, erect or support any place of worship against his consent, and no preference shall be given by law to any religious society, nor shall any interference with the rights of conscience be permitted. No religious test shall be required as a qualification for office, nor shall any person be incompetent to be a witness on account of his religious belief; but nothing herein shall be construed to dispense with oaths and affirmations. Religion, morality and knowledge however, being essential to good government, it shall be the duty of the legislature to pass suitable laws to protect every religious denomination in the peaceful enjoyment of its own mode of public worship, and to encourage schools and the means of instruction.

SEC. 5. Every person may freely speak, write and publish on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of that liberty; and in all trials for libel, both civil and criminal, the truth, when published with good motives, and for justifiable ends, shall be a sufficient defense.

SEC. 6. The right of trial by jury shall remain inviolate, but the legislature may authorize trial by a jury of a less number than twelve men in courts inferior to the district court.

SEC. 7. The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated; and no warrant shall issue but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the person or thing to be seized.

SEC. 8. The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended, unless, in case of rebellion or invasion, the public safety requires it, and then only in such manner as shall be prescribed by law.

SEC. 9. All persons shall be bailable by sufficient sureties, except for treason and murder where the proof is evident or the presumption great. Excessive bail shall not be required, nor shall excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

SEC. 10. No person shall be held to answer for a criminal offense, except in cases in which the punishment is by fine, or imprisonment, or both, or in the penitentiary, in case of impeachment, and in cases arising in the army or navy, or in the militia when in actual service in time of war or public danger, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury. *Provided*, That the legislature may provide for holding persons to answer for criminal offenses on information of a public prosecutor; and may by law abolish, limit, change, amend or otherwise regulate the grand jury system.

SEC. 11. In all criminal prosecutions the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury of the county or district in which the offense is alleged to have been committed.

SEC. 12. No person shall be compelled, in any criminal case, to give evidence against himself, or to be twice put in jeopardy for the same offense.

SEC. 13. All courts shall be open, and every person, for any injury done him in his lands, goods, person, or reputation, shall have a remedy by due course of law, and justice administered without denial or delay.

SEC. 14. Treason against the State shall consist only in levying war against the State, or in adhering to its enemies, giving them aid and comfort. No person shall be convicted of treason unless on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or on confession in open court.

SEC. 15. The right of the people to be proportioned to the nature of the offense, and no conviction shall work corruption of blood or forfeiture of estate; nor shall any person be transported out of the State for any offense committed within the State.

SEC. 16. No bill of attainder, *ex post facto* law, or law impairing the obligation of contracts, or making any irrevocable grant of special privileges or immunities, shall be passed.

SEC. 17. The military shall be in strict subordination to the civil power.

SEC. 18. No soldier shall, in time of peace, be quartered in any house without the consent of the owner; nor in time of war, except in the manner prescribed by law.

SEC. 19. The right of the people peaceably to assemble to consult for the common good, and to petition the government, or any department thereof, shall never be abridged.

SEC. 20. No person shall be imprisoned for debt in any civil action on mesne or final process, unless in cases of fraud.

SEC. 21. The property of no person shall be taken or damaged for public use without just compensation therefor.

SEC. 22. All elections shall be free; and there shall be no hindrance or impediment to the right of a qualified voter to exercise the elective franchise.

SEC. 23. The right of every citizen to a writ of right in all cases of felony; and in capital cases shall operate as a supersedeas to stay the execution of the sentence of death, until the further order of the supreme court in the premises.

SEC. 24. The right to be heard in all civil cases in the court of last resort, by appeal, error, or otherwise, shall not be denied.

SEC. 25. No distinction shall ever be made by law between resident aliens and citizens in reference to the possession, enjoyment or descent of property.

SEC. 26. This enumeration of rights shall not be construed to impair or deny others retained by the people, and all powers not herein delegated remain with the people.

ARTICLE II.

DISTRIBUTION OF POWERS.

SECTION 1. The powers of the government of this State are divided into three distinct departments—the legislative, executive, and judicial, and no person or collection of persons, being one of these departments, shall exercise any power properly belonging to either of the others, except as hereinafter expressly directed or permitted.

ARTICLE III.

LEGISLATIVE.

SECTION 1. The legislative authority is vested in a Senate and House of Representatives.

SEC. 2. The Legislature shall provide by law for an enumeration of the inhabitants of the State in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-five, and every ten years thereafter, and at its first regular session after each enumeration, and also after each enumeration made by the authority of the United States, but no more than once in any year. The Legislature shall apportion the Senators and Representatives according to the number of inhabitants, excluding Indians not taxed, and soldiers and officers of the United States army and navy.

SEC. 3. The House of Representatives shall consist of eighty-four members, and the Senate shall consist of thirty members, until the year of eighteen hundred and eighty, after which time the number of members of each house shall be regulated by law. But the number of Representatives shall never exceed one hundred, and the number of Senators thirty-three. The sessions of the Legislature shall be biennial, except as otherwise provided in this constitution.

SEC. 4. The terms of office of members of the Legislature shall be two years, and they shall each receive for their services one dollar for each day's attendance during the session, and ten cents for every mile they shall travel in going to and returning from the place of meeting of the Legislature on the most usual route; *Provided*, however, that they shall not receive more than one dollar for each day of any one session; and neither members of the Legislature nor employees shall receive any pay or perquisites other than their per diem and mileage.

SEC. 5. No person shall be eligible to the office of Senator, or member of the House of Representatives, who shall not be an elector and have resided within the district from which he is elected for the term of one year next before his election, unless he shall have been absent on the public business of the United States, or of this State. And no person elected as aforesaid shall hold his office after he shall have removed from such district.

SEC. 6. No person holding office under the authority of the United States, or any lucrative office under the authority of this State, shall be eligible to, or have a seat in the Legislature, but this provision shall not extend to precinct or township officers, Justices of the Peace, Notaries Public, or officers of the militia, nor shall any person interested in a contract with, or an unadjusted claim, against the State, shall hold a seat in the Legislature.

SEC. 7. The session of the Legislature shall commence at 12 o'clock, noon, on the first Tuesday in January, in the year next ensuing the election of members thereof, and at no other time, unless as provided by this Constitution. A majority of the members elected to each House shall constitute a quorum; each House shall determine the rules of its proceedings, and be the judge of the election, returns, and qualifications of its members, shall choose its own officers, and the Senate shall choose a temporary president to preside when the Lieutenant-Governor shall not attend as president, or shall act as Governor. The Secretary of State shall call the House of Representatives to order at the opening of each new Legislature, and preside over it until a temporary presiding officer thereof shall have been chosen, and shall have taken his seat. No member shall be expelled by either House, except by a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to that House, and no member shall be twice expelled for the same offense. Each House may punish by imprisonment any person who is a member thereof who is guilty of disrespect to the House by disorderly or contemptuous behavior in its presence, but no such imprisonment shall extend beyond twenty-four hours at one time, unless the person shall persist in such disorderly or contemptuous behavior.

SEC. 8. Each House shall keep a journal of its proceedings and publish them (except such parts as may require secrecy), and the yeas and nays of the members on any question, shall, at the desire of any two members, be entered on the journal. All votes in either House shall be *in voce*. The doors of each House, and of Committee of the Whole shall be open, unless when the business shall be such as ought to be kept secret. Neither House shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days.

SEC. 9. Any bill may originate in either House of the Legislature, except bills appropriating money, which shall originate only in the House of Representatives, and all bills passed by one House, may be amended by the other.

SEC. 10. The enacting clause of a law shall be, "Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Nebraska," and no law shall be enacted except by bill. No bill shall be passed unless by assent of a majority of all the members elected to each House of the Legislature, and the question upon final passage shall be taken immediately upon its last reading, and the yeas and nays shall be entered upon the journal.

SEC. 11. Every bill and concurrent resolution shall be read at large on three different days in each House, and the bill and all amendments thereto shall be printed before the vote is taken upon its final passage. No bill shall contain more than one subject, and the same shall be clearly expressed in its title. And no law shall be amended unless the new act contain the sections or sections so amended and the section or sections so amended shall be repealed. The presiding officer of each House shall sign in the presence of the House over which he presides, while the same is in session and capable of transacting business, all bills and concurrent resolutions passed by the Legislature, and the Auditor shall, within sixty days after the adjournment of each session of the Legislature, prepare and publish a full statement of all moneys expended at such session, specifying the amount of each item, and to whom and for what paid.

SEC. 12. No member of the Legislature shall be liable in any civil or criminal action whatever for words spoken in debate.

SEC. 13. No act shall take effect until three calendar months after the adjournment of the session at which it passed, unless in case of emergency, it be so provided in the preamble or body of the act, the Legislature shall, by a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each House, otherwise direct. All laws shall be published in book form within sixty days after the adjournment of each session, and distributed among the several counties in such manner as the Legislature may provide.

ARTICLE IV.

LEGISLATIVE APPOINTMENT.

Until otherwise provided by law, Senatorial and Representative Districts shall be formed and Senators and Representatives apportioned as follows:

SENATORIAL DISTRICTS.

District No. 1—shall consist of the county of Richardson, and be entitled to two Senators.

District No. 2—shall consist of the county of Nemaha, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 3—shall consist of the county of Otoe, and be entitled to two Senators.

District No. 4—shall consist of the county of Cass, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 5—shall consist of the county of Douglas, and be entitled to two Senators.

District No. 6—shall consist of the counties of Douglas and Sarpy, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 7—shall consist of the county of Washington, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 8—shall consist of the county of Dodge, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 9—shall consist of the county of Cuming, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 10—shall consist of the counties of Burt and Oskaloosa, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 11—shall consist of the counties of Madison, Stanton, Wayne, Pierce, Antelope and Boone, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 12—shall consist of the counties of Dixon, Cedar, Knox, Holt, and the unorganized territory west of Holt, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 13—shall consist of the counties of Hall, Howard, Merrick, Greeley, and the unorganized territory north of Greeley, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 14—shall consist of the counties of Platte and Colfax, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 15—shall consist of the counties of Butler and Polk, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 16—shall consist of the counties of Saunders, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 17—shall consist of the county of Lancaster, and be entitled to two Senators.

District No. 18—shall consist of the counties of Johnson and Pawnee, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 19—shall consist of the counties of Gage and Jefferson, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 20—shall consist of the county of Saline, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 21—shall consist of the county of Seward, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 22—shall consist of the counties of York and Hamilton, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 23—shall consist of the counties of Fillmore and Clay, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 24—shall consist of the counties of Adams, Webster, Nuckolls, and Thayer, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 25—shall consist of the counties of Buffalo, Kearney, Franklin, Harlan, Phelps, Sherman, Valley, and the unorganized territory west of Sherman, Valley, and Senatorial District No. thirteen (13), and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 26—shall consist of the counties of Lincoln, Dawson, Gosper, Furnas, Red Willow, Frontier, Hitchcock, Dunady, Chase, Keith, Cheyenne, and the unorganized territory west of Frontier, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 27—shall consist of the counties of Adams, Webster, Nuckolls, and Thayer, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 28—shall consist of the county of York, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 29—shall consist of the county of Hamilton, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 30—shall consist of the county of Fillmore, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 31—shall consist of the county of Adams, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 32—shall consist of the county of Webster, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 33—shall consist of the county of Adams, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 34—shall consist of the county of Adams, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 35—shall consist of the county of Adams, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 36—shall consist of the county of Adams, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 37—shall consist of the county of Adams, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 38—shall consist of the county of Adams, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 39—shall consist of the county of Adams, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 40—shall consist of the county of Adams, and be entitled to one Representative.

ARTICLE V.

LEGISLATIVE APPOINTMENT.

Until otherwise provided by law, Senatorial and Representative Districts shall be formed and Senators and Representatives apportioned as follows:

SENATORIAL DISTRICTS.

District No. 1—shall consist of the county of Richardson, and be entitled to two Senators.

District No. 2—shall consist of the county of Nemaha, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 3—shall consist of the county of Otoe, and be entitled to two Senators.

District No. 4—shall consist of the county of Cass, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 5—shall consist of the county of Douglas, and be entitled to two Senators.

District No. 6—shall consist of the counties of Douglas and Sarpy, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 7—shall consist of the county of Washington, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 8—shall consist of the county of Dodge, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 9—shall consist of the county of Cuming, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 10—shall consist of the counties of Burt and Oskaloosa, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 11—shall consist of the counties of Madison, Stanton, Wayne, Pierce, Antelope and Boone, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 12—shall consist of the counties of Dixon, Cedar, Knox, Holt, and the unorganized territory west of Holt, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 13—shall consist of the counties of Hall, Howard, Merrick, Greeley, and the unorganized territory north of Greeley, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 14—shall consist of the counties of Platte and Colfax, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 15—shall consist of the counties of Butler and Polk, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 16—shall consist of the counties of Saunders, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 17—shall consist of the county of Lancaster, and be entitled to two Senators.

District No. 18—shall consist of the counties of Johnson and Pawnee, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 19—shall consist of the counties of Gage and Jefferson, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 20—shall consist of the county of Saline, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 21—shall consist of the county of Seward, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 22—shall consist of the counties of York and Hamilton, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 23—shall consist of the counties of Fillmore and Clay, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 24—shall consist of the counties of Adams, Webster, Nuckolls, and Thayer, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 25—shall consist of the counties of Buffalo, Kearney, Franklin, Harlan, Phelps, Sherman, Valley, and the unorganized territory west of Sherman, Valley, and Senatorial District No. thirteen (13), and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 26—shall consist of the counties of Lincoln, Dawson, Gosper, Furnas, Red Willow, Frontier, Hitchcock, Dunady, Chase, Keith, Cheyenne, and the unorganized territory west of Frontier, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 27—shall consist of the counties of Adams, Webster, Nuckolls, and Thayer, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 28—shall consist of the county of York, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 29—shall consist of the county of Hamilton, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 30—shall consist of the county of Fillmore, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 31—shall consist of the county of Adams, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 32—shall consist of the county of Webster, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 33—shall consist of the county of Adams, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 34—shall consist of the county of Adams, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 35—shall consist of the county of Adams, and be entitled to one Representative.

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District No. 37—shall consist of the county of Adams, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 38—shall consist of the county of Adams, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 39—shall consist of the county of Adams, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 40—shall consist of the county of Adams, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 29—shall consist of the county of Hall, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 30—shall consist of the county of Buffalo, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 31—shall consist of the county of Lincoln, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 32—shall consist of the county of Harlan, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 33—shall consist of the counties of Howard and Greeley, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 34—shall consist of the county of Merrick, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 35—shall consist of the county of Polk, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 36—shall consist of the county of Butler, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 37—shall consist of the county of Colfax, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 38—shall consist of the county of Platte, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 39—shall consist of the county of Madison, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 40—shall consist of the county of Cedar, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 41—shall consist of the counties of Burt and Dodge, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 42—shall consist of the counties of Stanton, Wayne, and Pierce, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 43—shall consist of the counties of Knox and Holt, and the unorganized territory west of Holt, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 44—shall consist of the county of Antelope, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 45—shall consist of the counties of Boone, Valley, Sherman, and the unorganized territory west of Sherman and Valley counties, and west of the thirteenth Senatorial District, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 46—shall consist of the counties of Dawson and Frontier, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 47—shall consist of the counties of Franklin and Kearney, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 48—shall consist of the counties of Furnas, Phelps, and Gosper, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 49—shall consist of the counties of Cheyenne, Keith, Dunady, Chase, Hitchcock, Red Willow, and the unorganized territory of this State north of the county of Hitchcock, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 50—shall consist of the counties of Cass and Saunders, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 51—shall consist of the counties of Platte, Colfax, and Butler, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 52—shall consist of the counties of Fillmore and Clay, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 53—shall consist of the counties of Adams, Webster, Nuckolls, and Thayer, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 54—shall consist of the counties of Buffalo, Kearney, Franklin, Harlan, Phelps, Sherman, Valley, and the unorganized territory west of Sherman, Valley, and Senatorial District No. thirteen (13), and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 55—shall consist of the counties of Lincoln, Dawson, Gosper, Furnas, Red Willow, Frontier, Hitchcock, Dunady, Chase, Keith, Cheyenne, and the unorganized territory west of Frontier, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 56—shall consist of the counties of Adams, Webster, Nuckolls, and Thayer, and be entitled to one Senator.

District No. 57—shall consist of the county of York, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 58—shall consist of the county of Hamilton, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 59—shall consist of the county of Fillmore, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 60—shall consist of the county of Adams, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 61—shall consist of the county of Webster, and be entitled to one Representative.

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District No. 71—shall consist of the county of Adams, and be entitled to one Representative.

District No. 72—shall consist of the county of Adams, and be entitled to one Representative.

SEC. 10. The governor shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the senate (expressed by a majority of all the senators elected, voting by yeas and nays), appoint all officers whose offices are established by this constitution, or which may be created by law, and whose appointment or election is not otherwise by law or herein provided for; and no such officer shall be appointed or elected by the legislature.

SEC. 11. In case of a vacancy during the recess of the senate, in any office which is not elective, the governor shall make a temporary appointment until the next meeting of the senate, when he shall nominate some person to fill such office; and any person so nominated, who is confirmed by the senate, (a majority of all the senators elected, concurring by voting yeas and nays), shall hold his office during the remainder of the term, and until his successor shall be appointed and qualified. No person after being rejected by the senate, shall be again nominated for the same office at the same session, unless at request of the senate, or be appointed to the same office during the recess of the legislature.

SEC. 12. The governor shall have power to remove any officer, whom he may appoint, in case of incompetency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance