

Office of the Vermont Secretary of State
Vermont State Archives

1999: Proposal 2

Subject: Election by Plurality Vote

PROPOSAL 2

Sec. 1. PURPOSE

This proposal would amend the Vermont Constitution to provide for election of the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, and Treasurer by plurality vote.

Sec. 2. Section 47 of Chapter II of the Vermont Constitution is amended to read:

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

The freemen of each town shall, on the day of election for choosing Representatives to attend the General Assembly, bring in their votes for Governor, with his 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~~* greatest number of votes, to be Governor for the two years ensuing. The Lieutenant-Governor and the Treasurer shall be chosen in the manner above directed.

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, by the freemen, 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 by the freemen 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. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

Once ratified and adopted by the people of this state in accordance with the provisions of chapter 32 of Title 17, the provisions of this amendment shall become a part of the Constitution as of the first Tuesday next after the first Monday of November 2004.