

2003-2004: Proposal 1

Subject: Elections; governor, lieutenant•governor, and treasurer; plurality

PROPOSAL 1

Sec. 1. PURPOSE

This proposal would amend the Vermont Constitution to provide for election of the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, and Treasurer by plurality vote, provided the candidate receive at least 40 percent of the votes cast. If no candidate receives at least 40 percent of the votes, then a runoff election between the two candidates receiving the greatest number of votes cast shall be held on the first Tuesday in December to determine the winner.

Sec. 2. 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 greatest number of the votes, to be Governor for the two years ensuing, provided the person received at least 40 percent of votes cast. 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, 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 a runoff election shall be held between the two candidates receiving the greatest number of votes on the first Tuesday of December following the election. The runoff election shall be held as prescribed by the General Assembly.

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 Vermont Constitution as of the first

Tuesday next after the first Monday of November of the next even-numbered year.