

2007 – 2008: Proposal 1
Subject: General Assembly; organizational session

PROPOSAL 1

Sec. 1. PURPOSE

This proposal would amend the Constitution of the State of Vermont to provide for an organizational session of the Vermont General Assembly on the first Wednesday in December following each general election for the exclusive purposes of organization, swearing in of members, and selection of officers.

Sec. 2. Section 7 of Chapter II of the Vermont Constitution is amended to read:

§ 7. [ORGANIZATIONAL AND BIENNIAL SESSIONS]

On the first Wednesday in December following each general election, the General Assembly shall meet for an organizational session for the exclusive purposes of organization, swearing in of members, and selection of officers.

The General Assembly shall meet biennially, for the commencement of a biennial session, on the first Wednesday next after the first Monday of January, beginning in A.D. 1915.

Sec. 3. Section 17 of Chapter II of the Vermont Constitution is amended to read:

§ 17. [OATH OF SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES]

The Representatives ~~having met on the day appointed by law for the commencement of a biennial session of the General Assembly, and chosen their Speaker~~, and the Senators ~~having met~~, shall, before they proceed to business, take and subscribe the following ~~oath, in addition to the oath prescribed in the foregoing section~~ oaths:
You do solemnly swear (or affirm) that you did not at the time of your election to this body, and that you do not now, hold any office of profit or trust under the authority of Congress. So help you God. (Or in case of an affirmation) Under the pains and penalties of perjury. The words "office of profit or trust under the authority of Congress" shall be construed to mean any office created directly or indirectly by Congress, and for which emolument is provided from the Treasury of the United States, other than that of a member of the

commissioned or enlisted personnel in the reserve components of the armed forces of the United States while not on extended active duty.

You do solemnly swear (or affirm) that as a member of this Assembly, you will not propose, or assent to, any bill, vote, or resolution, which shall appear to you injurious to the people, nor do or consent to any act or thing whatever, that shall have a tendency to lessen or abridge their rights and privileges, as declared by the Constitution of this State; but will, in all things, conduct yourself as a faithful, honest Representative and guardian of the people, according to the best of your judgment and ability. So help you God. (Or in the case of an affirmation) Under the pains and penalties of perjury.

You do solemnly swear (or affirm) that you will be true and faithful to the State of Vermont, and that you will not, directly or indirectly, do any act or thing injurious to the Constitution or Government thereof. So help you God. (Or in case of an affirmation) Under the pains and penalties of perjury.

Sec. 4. Section 46 of Chapter II of the Vermont Constitution is amended to read:

§ 46. [TERMS OF SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES]

The term of office of Senators and Representatives shall be two years, commencing on the first Wednesday next after the first Monday of January in December following their election.

Sec. 5. REPEAL

Chapter II § 16 of the Vermont Constitution (oath for members of the House of Representatives) is repealed.

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE; TRANSITION

This proposal of amendment shall take effect from the date of its approval by a majority vote of the voters of the state. The term of office of senators and representatives elected in the general election in November 2010 shall terminate on the first Tuesday of December 2002, and the term of office of senators and representatives elected in the general election in November 2012 shall convene on the first Wednesday in December 2012.