

WE the People of the States of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina, and Georgia, do ordain, declare and establish the following Constitution for the Government of Ourselves and our Posterity.

A R T I C L E I.

The stile of this Government shall be, "The United States of America."

II.

The Government shall consist of supreme legislative, executive and judicial powers.

III.

The legislative power shall be vested in a Congress, to consist of two separate and distinct bodies of men, a House of Representatives, and a Senate; each of which shall, in all cases, have a negative on the other. The Legislature shall meet on the first Monday in December in every year.

* The Legislature shall meet at least once in every year and that meeting shall be on the first Monday in December unless a different day shall be appointed by Law.

IV.

Sec. 1. The Members of the House of Representatives shall be chosen every second year, by the people of the several States comprehended within this Union. The qualifications of the electors shall be the same, from time to time, as those of the electors in the several States, of the most numerous branch of their own legislatures.

Sec. 2. Every Member of the House of Representatives shall be of the age of twenty-five years at least; shall have been a citizen ^{of} the United States for at least ~~seven~~ ^{seven} years before his election; and shall be, at the time of his election, ~~a~~ ^{an} inhabitant of the State in which he shall be chosen.

Sec. 3. The House of Representatives shall, at its first formation, and until the number of citizens and inhabitants shall be taken in the manner herein after described, consist of sixty-five Members, of whom three shall be chosen in New-Hampshire, eight in Massachusetts, one in Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, five in Connecticut, six in New-York, four in New-Jersey, eight in Pennsylvania, one in Delaware, six in Maryland, ten in Virginia, five in North-Carolina, five in South-Carolina, and three in Georgia.

Sec. 4. As the proportions of numbers in the different States will alter from time to time; as some of the States may hereafter be divided; as others may be enlarged by addition of territory; as two or more States may be united; as new States will be erected within the limits of the United States, the Legislature shall, in each of these cases, regulate the number of representatives by the number of inhabitants, according to the ~~proportion~~ ^{proportion} the rate of one for every forty thousand. *Provided that every State shall have at least one Representative.*

could be
disputed by
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or
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Sec. 5. All bills for raising or appropriating money, and for fixing the salaries of the officers of government, shall originate in the House of Representatives, and shall not be altered or amended by the Senate. No money shall be drawn from the public Treasury, but in pursuance of appropriations that shall originate in the House of Representatives.

Sec. 6. The House of Representatives shall have the sole power of impeachment. It shall choose its Speaker and other officers.

Sec. 7. Vacancies in the House of Representatives shall be supplied by writs of election from the executive authority of the State, in the representation from which they shall happen.

V.

vacancies happening by refusal to accept re-ignation or otherwise may be supplied by the legislature of the state in the representation of which such vacancies shall happen, or by the Executive thereof until the next meeting of the legislature.

of the State in the representation of which the vacancies shall happen.

to be supplied in consequence of

V.

Sec. 1. The Senate of the United States shall be chosen by the Legislatures of the several States. Each Legislature shall chuse two members. Vacancies may be supplied by the Executive until the next meeting of the Legislature. Each member shall have one vote.

Sec. 2. The Senators shall be chosen for six years; but immediately after the first election they shall be divided, by lot, into three classes, as nearly as may be, numbered one, two and three. The seats of the members of the first class shall be vacated at the expiration of the second year, of the second class at the expiration of the fourth year, of the third class at the expiration of the sixth year, so that a third part of the members may be chosen every second year.

Sec. 3. Every member of the Senate shall be of the age of thirty years at least; shall have been a citizen of the United States for at least ~~seven~~ years before his election; and shall be, at the time of his election, a resident of the State for which he shall be chosen.

agreed - Sec. 4. The Senate shall chuse its own President and other officers.

VI.

agreed } Sec. 1. The times and places and the manner of holding the elections of the members of each House shall be prescribed by the Legislature of each State; but ^{respectively in each of the provisions made at} their provisions concerning them may, at any time, be altered by the Legislature of the United States.

disagreed to } Sec. 2. The Legislature of the United States shall have authority to establish such uniform qualifications of the members of each house, with regard to property, as to the said Legislature shall seem expedient.

and may be authorized to compel the attendance of absent members in such manner and under such penalties as each House may provide. Sec. 3. In each House a majority of the members shall constitute a quorum to do business; but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day.

agreed Sec. 4. Each House shall be the judge of the elections, returns and qualifications of its own members.

agreed } Sec. 5. Freedom of speech and debate in the Legislature shall not be impeached or questioned in any court or place out of the Legislature; and the members of each House shall, in all cases, except treason, felony and breach of the peace, be privileged from arrest during their attendance at Congress, and in going to and returning from it.

agreed } Sec. 6. Each House may determine the rules of its proceedings; may punish its members for disorderly behaviour; and may expel a member.

agreed } Sec. 7. The House of Representatives, and the Senate, ~~when it shall be acting in a legislative capacity~~, shall keep a journal of their proceedings, and shall, from time to time, publish them: and the yeas and nays of the members of each House, on any question, shall, at the desire of one-fifth part of the members present, be entered on the journal. ^{except such parts hereof as in their judgment require secrecy.}

During the absence of the Legislature. *agreed* } Sec. 8. Neither House, without the consent of the other, shall adjourn for more than three days nor to any other place than that at which the two Houses are sitting.

Aug. 14. Proposed till the persons of the Senators that have been decided on } Sec. 9. The members of each House shall be ineligible to, and incapable of holding any office under the authority of the United States, during the time for which they shall respectively be elected: and the members of the Senate shall be ineligible to, and incapable of holding any such office for one year afterwards.

Sec.

Sect. 10. The members of each House shall receive a compensation for their services, to be ascertained and paid by the State, in which they shall be chosen. *to be paid out of the treasury of the United States; to be ascertained by law.*

Sect. 11. The enacting style of the laws of the United States shall be, "Be it enacted, and it is hereby enacted by the House of Representatives, and by the Senate of the United States, in Congress assembled."

Sect. 12. Each House shall possess the right of originating bills, except in the cases beforementioned.

Sect. 13. Every bill, which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a law, be presented to the President of the United States, for his revision: if, upon such revision, he approve of it, he shall signify his approbation by signing it: But if, upon such revision, it shall appear to him improper for being passed into a law, he shall return it, together with his objections against it, to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the objections at large on their Journal, and proceed to reconsider the bill. But if, after such reconsideration, ~~two thirds~~ ^{three fourths} of that House shall, notwithstanding the objections of the President, agree to pass it, it shall, together with his objections, be sent to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and, if approved by ~~two thirds~~ ^{three fourths} of the other House also, it shall become a law. But, in all such cases, the votes of both Houses shall be determined by Yeas and Nays; and the names of the persons voting for or against the bill shall be entered in the Journal of each House respectively. If any bill shall not be returned by the President within ~~seven~~ ^{ten} days after it shall have been presented to him, it shall be a law, unless the Legislature, by their adjournment, prevent its return; in which case it shall not be a law.

Sect. 1. The Legislature of the United States shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises; To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several States; To establish an uniform rule of naturalization throughout the United States; To coin money; To regulate the value of foreign coin; To fix the standard of weights and measures; To establish post-offices; To borrow money, and emit bills on the credit of the United States; To appoint a Treasurer by ballot; To constitute tribunals inferior to the supreme court; To make rules concerning captures on land and water; To ~~define and punish~~ ^{define and punish} piracies and felonies committed on the high seas; and ~~to punish~~ ^{to punish} counterfeiting the coin of the United States, and ~~all~~ ^{all} offences against the law of nations; To subdue a rebellion in any State, on the application of its Legislature, or without; To ~~make~~ ^{make} war; To raise armies; To build and equip fleets; To ~~provide and call forth~~ ^{provide and call forth} the militia, ~~to execute the laws of the Union, suppress insurrections, and repel invasions;~~ ^{to execute the laws of the Union, suppress insurrections, and repel invasions;} And to make all laws that shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested, by this Constitution, in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

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And to make all laws that shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested, by this Constitution, in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

Sect. 2. Treason ~~against the United States~~ ^{against the United States} shall consist only in levying war against the United States, ~~or adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort.~~ ^{or adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort.} The Legislature of the United States shall have power to declare the punishment of treason. No person shall be convicted

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Aug. 13 - postponed

agreed

14. Section. Every order, resolution or vote, to which the concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary (except on a question of adjournment, and in the cases herein after mentioned) shall be presented to the President for his revision; and, before the same shall have force, shall be approved by him, or, being disapproved by him, shall be re-passed by the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the rules and limitations, prescribed in the case of a Bill.

disagreed

17

*Postponed
agreed
23rd Aug
agreed*

agreed

To make laws for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia, and for governing such part of them as may be employed in the service of the United States - reserving to the States respectively, the appointment of the Officers, and the authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by the United States. To establish uniform laws on the subject of Bankruptcies

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* Non. had in regulation of commerce...
by Congress...
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boards...
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uniform throughout the States.

[4] or correct in copy? to the same or act

agreed -

victed of treason, unless on the testimony of two witnesses. No attainder of treason shall work corruption of blood, nor forfeiture, except during the life of the person attainted.

Agreed.

Sec. 3. The proportions of direct taxation shall be regulated by the whole number of ~~white~~ free citizens and inhabitants, of every age, sex and condition, including those bound to servitude for a term of years, and three fifths of all other persons not comprehended in the foregoing description, (except Indians not paying taxes) which number shall, within ~~the~~ years after the first meeting of the Legislature, and within the term of every ten years afterwards, be taken in such manner as the said Legislature shall direct.

Referred to a Committee.

Sec. 4. No tax or duty shall be laid by the Legislature on articles exported from any State; ~~the duty on such persons as the several States shall think proper to impose shall not exceed 10 cents for each person.~~ ~~the duty on such persons as the several States shall think proper to impose shall not exceed 10 cents for each person.~~ *
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Struck out Aug. 29th

Sec. 5. No capitation tax shall be laid, unless in proportion to the census herein before directed to be taken. - agreed

agreed -

Sec. 6. No navigation act shall be passed without the assent of two-thirds of the members present in each House.

Sec. 7. The United States shall not grant any title of nobility.

Agreed.

This Constitution & the laws of the United States made in pursuance ~~of~~ ^{VIII} ~~of~~ ^{it} shall be the supreme law of the several States, and of their citizens and inhabitants; and the judges in the several States shall be bound thereby in their decisions; any thing in the constitutions or laws of the several States to the contrary notwithstanding.

Disposed.

VIII
Sec. 1. The Senate of the United States shall have power to make treaties, and to appoint ambassadors, and judges of the supreme court.

Struck out

Sec. 2. In all disputes and controversies now subsisting, or that may hereafter subsist between two or more States, respecting jurisdiction or territory, the Senate shall possess the following powers. Whenever the Legislature, or the Executive authority, or the lawful agent of any State, in controversy with another, shall, by memorial to the Senate, state the matter in question, and apply for a hearing; notice of such memorial and application shall be given, by order of the Senate, to the Legislature or the Executive Authority of the other State in controversy. The Senate shall also assign a day for the appearance of the parties, by their agents, before that House. The agents shall be directed to appoint, by joint consent, commissioners or judges to constitute a court for hearing and determining the matter in question. But if the agents cannot agree, the Senate shall name three persons out of each of the several States, and from the list of such persons each party shall alternately strike out one, until the number shall be reduced to thirteen; and from that number not less than seven nor more than nine names, as the Senate shall direct, shall, in their preference, be drawn out by lot; and the persons, whose names shall be so drawn, or any five of them shall be commissioners or judges to hear and finally determine the controversy; provided a majority of the judges, who shall hear the cause, agree in the determination. If either party shall neglect to attend at the day assigned, without shewing sufficient reasons for not attending, or, being present, shall refuse to strike, the Senate shall proceed to nominate three persons out of each State, and the clerk of the Senate shall strike in behalf of the party absent or refusing. If any of the parties shall refuse to submit to the authority of such court; or shall not appear to prosecute or defend their claim

or cause, the court shall nevertheless proceed to pronounce judgment. The judgment shall be final and conclusive. The proceedings shall be transmitted to the President of the Senate, and shall be lodged among the public records for the security of the parties concerned. Every commissioner shall, before he fit in judgment, take an oath, to be administered by one of the judges of the supreme or superior court of the State where the cause shall be tried, "well and truly to hear and determine the matter in question, according to the best of his judgment, without favour, affection, or hope of reward."

Stricken out

Sec. 3. All controversies concerning lands claimed under different grants of two or more States, whose jurisdictions, as they respect such lands, shall have been decided or adjusted subsequent to such grants, or any of them, shall, on application to the Senate, be finally determined, as near as may be, in the same manner as is before prescribed for deciding controversies between different States.

Stricken out.

X.

Sec. 1. The Executive Power of the United States shall be vested in a single person. His title shall be, "The President of the United States of America;" and his title shall be, "His Excellency." [He shall be elected by ballot by the Legislature. He shall hold his office during the term of seven years; but shall not be elected a second time.

+ to which election a majority of the votes of the members present shall be required

joint

Sec. 2. He shall, from time to time, give information to the Legislature of the State of the Union: ~~he may~~ ^{add} recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary, and expedient: he may convene them on extraordinary occasions. In case of disagreement between the two Houses, with regard to the time of adjournment, he may adjourn them to such time as he think proper: he shall take care that the laws of the United States be duly and faithfully executed: he shall commission all the officers of the United States; and shall appoint ~~in~~ ^{to} all cases not otherwise provided for by this constitution. He shall receive Ambassadors, ~~and other public Ministers and Consuls.~~

Agreed

shall

He shall have power to grant reprieves and pardons; but his pardon shall not be pleadable in bar of an impeachment. He shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States. He shall, at stated times, receive for his services, a compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during his continuance in office. Before he shall enter on the duties of his department, he shall take the following Oath or Affirmation, "I solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States of America." He shall be removed from his office on impeachment by the House of Representatives, and conviction in the Supreme Court, of treason, bribery, or corruption. In case of his removal as aforesaid, death, resignation, or disability to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the President of the Senate shall exercise those powers and duties until another President of the United States be chosen, or until the disability of the President be removed.

Part taken & app. 27

XI

Sec. 1. The Judicial Power of the United States shall be vested in one Supreme Court, and in such Inferior Courts as shall, when necessary, from time to time, be constituted by the Legislature of the United States.

app. 27

both in law & equity

Sec. 2. The Judges of the Supreme Court, and of the Inferior courts, shall hold their offices during good behaviour. They shall, at stated times, receive for their services, a compensation, which shall not be diminished during their continuance in office.

Sec. 3. The Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court shall extend to all cases arising under laws ~~passed by the Legislature~~ ^{Judicial Power} of the United States; to all cases affecting Ambassadors, other Public Ministers and Consuls; ~~to the trial of~~ ^{both in Law & equity} impeachment

This clause part of.

peachments of Officers of the United States; to all cases of Admiralty and Maritime Jurisdiction; to Controversies between two or more States (such as shall regard Territory or Jurisdiction) between a State and citizens of another State, between citizens of different States, and between a State or the citizens thereof and foreign States, citizens or subjects. In cases of Impeachment, cases affecting Ambassadors, other Public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be party, this jurisdiction shall be original. In all the other cases beforementioned it shall be appellate, with such exceptions and under such regulations as the Legislature shall make. The Legislature may assign any part of the jurisdiction abovementioned (except the trial of the President of the United States) in the manner and under the limitations which it shall think proper, to such Inferior Courts as it shall constitute from time to time.

This clause part of.

The Sup. Ct.

Sec. 4. The trial of all crimes (except in cases of impeachment) shall be by jury and such trial shall be held in the state where the said crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any state, then the trial shall be at such place or places as the Legislature may direct. - The privilege of the writ of Habeas corpus shall not be suspended: unless where in cases of rebellion or insurrection the public safety may require it.

Sec. 4. The trial of all criminal offences (except in cases of impeachments) shall be in the State where they shall be committed; and shall be by jury.

Sec. 5. Judgment, in cases of Impeachment, shall not extend further than to removal from office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honour, trust or profit under the United States. But the party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to indictment, trial, judgment and punishment, according to law.

agreed.

agreed

XII. No State shall coin money; nor grant letters of marque and reprisal; nor enter into any treaty, alliance, or confederation; nor grant any title of nobility.

agreed.

XIII. No State, without the consent of the Legislature of the United States, shall emit bills of credit, or make any thing but specie a tender in payment of debts; lay imposts or duties on imports; nor keep troops or ships of war in time of peace; nor enter into any agreement or compact with another State, or with any foreign power; nor engage in any war, unless it shall be actually invaded by enemies, or the danger of invasion be so imminent, as not to admit of a delay, until the Legislature of the United States can be consulted.

agreed.

XIII. The citizens of each State shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of citizens in the several States.

agreed.

XIV. Any person charged with treason, felony, or high misdemeanor in any State, who shall flee from justice, and shall be found in any other State, shall, on demand of the Executive Power of the State from which he fled, be delivered up and removed to the State having jurisdiction of the offence.

any person bound to service or labor in any of the United States shall escape into another State, he or she shall not be discharged from such service or labor in consequence of any regulations relative to the State to which they escape, but shall be delivered up to the State to which they are bound, and credit referred to the Com. of Genl. & Assg. of the U.S. as ordered Sep. 3.

Full faith shall be given in each State to the acts of the Legislatures, and to the records and judicial proceedings of the courts and magistrates of every other State; and the Legislature may by general laws prescribe the manner in which such acts, records, and proceedings shall be proved and the effect thereof.

XVII

New States may be admitted by the Legislature into this Union, but no New State shall be formed or erected within the jurisdiction of any of the present States without the consent of the Legislature of such State as well as of the General Legislature. Nor shall any State be formed by the junction of two or more States, or parts thereof without the consent of the Legislatures of such States as well as of the Legislature of the United States.

XVII. New States lawfully constituted or established within the limits of the United States may be admitted, by the Legislature, into this government; but to such admission the consent of two thirds of the Members present in each House shall be necessary. If a new State shall arise within the limits of any of the present States, the consent of the Legislatures of such States shall be also necessary to its admission. If the admission be consented to, the new State shall be admitted on the same terms with the original States. But the Legislature may make conditions with the new States concerning the public debt, which shall be binding.

XVII.

[7]

XVIII

agreed - { The United States shall guaranty to each State a Republican form of government; and shall protect each State against ~~foreign~~ ^{executive} invasions, and, on the application of its Legislature, against domestic violence.

XVIII

agreed - { On the application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the States in the Union, for an amendment of this Constitution, the Legislature of the United States shall call a Convention for that purpose.

XIX.

agreed - { The Members of the Legislatures, and the executive and judicial officers of the United States, and of the several States, shall be bound by oath to support this Constitution. ^{confirmation}

XXI

Agreed. { The ratification of the Conventions of ~~nine~~ ^{nine} States shall be sufficient for organizing this Constitution. ^{between the said States.}

XXII

This Constitution shall be laid before the United States in Congress assembled, ~~for their approval~~; and it is the opinion of this Convention that it should be afterwards submitted to a Convention chosen in each State, under the recommendation of its Legislature, in order to receive the ratification of such Convention.

XXIII

To introduce this government, it is the opinion of this Convention, that each assenting Convention should notify its assent and ratification to the United States in Congress assembled; that Congress, after receiving the assent and ratification of the Conventions of ~~nine~~ ^{nine} States, should appoint and publish a day, as early as may be, and appoint a place for commencing proceedings under this Constitution; that after such publication, the Legislatures of the several States should elect Members of the Senate, and direct the election of Members of the House of Representatives; and that the Members of the Legislature should meet at the time and place assigned by Congress, and should, as soon as may be, after their meeting, ~~elect the President of the United States,~~ proceed to execute this Constitution.

Printed Draught of the
Constitution, received
from the President of the United
States, March 19. 1796, by
Timothy Pickens
Sec. of State.