

THE CONSTITUTIONAL INDEX

Constitution of the State of Connecticut

Connecticut

Adopted 1965

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Table of Contents

Preamble

Article FIRST — Declaration of Rights

- Section 1 — Equality of rights
- Section 2 — Source of political power
- Section 3 — Right of religious liberty
- Section 4 — Liberty of speech and the press
- Section 5 — Prohibiting laws limiting liberty of speech or press
- Section 6 — Prosecutions for libel; defenses
- Section 7 — Security from searches and seizures
- Section 8 — Due process; rights of victims
- Section 9 — Right of personal liberty
- Section 10 — Right of redress for injuries
- Section 11 — Right of private property
- Section 12 — Writ of habeas corpus
- Section 13 — No attainder
- Section 14 — Right to assemble and petition
- Section 15 — Right to bear arms
- Section 16 — Military power subordinate to civil
- Section 17 — Quartering of soldiers
- Section 18 — No hereditary emoluments
- Section 19 — Trial by jury. Challenging of jurors
- Section 20 — Equal protection. No segregation or discrimination

Article SECOND — Of the Distribution of Powers

Article THIRD — Of the Legislative Department

- Section 1 — Legislative power, in whom vested
- Section 2 — General assembly, when and where held. Adjournment. Reconvened session to consider vetoes
- Section 3 — Senate, number, qualifications
- Section 4 — House of representatives, how constituted
- Section 5 — Congressional and general assembly districts to be consistent with federal standards
- Section 6 — Reapportionment procedure. Reapportionment Committee. Reapportionment Commission
- Section 7 — Canvass and declaration of votes. Return and result to be submitted to both houses

Section 8 — General assembly, election

Section 9 — Counting of votes. Return of votes

Section 10 — Term of office

Section 11 — Dual job ban

Section 12 — Officers. Quorum

Section 13 — Powers of each house

Section 14 — Journal. Yeas and nays

Section 15 — Privilege from arrest. Privilege as to speech or debates

Section 16 — Debates to be public

Section 17 — Salary. Transportation

Section 18 — Limit on state expenditures. Maximum authorized increase; “emergency or extraordinary circumstances”; definitions to be defined by general assembly. Surplus

Section 19 — Special Transportation Fund. Resources of fund to be expended for transportation purposes

Section 20 — Legislation requiring state agency to sell, transfer or dispose of real property or interest in real property

Article FOURTH — Of the Executive Department

Section 1 — State officers, election date

Section 2 — Terms of officers

Section 3 — Governor and lieutenant-governor voted for as unit

Section 4 — Counting of votes. Return of votes. Canvass and declaration of votes. Choice by general assembly, when and how made

Section 5 — Governor. Qualifications

Section 6 — Lieutenant-governor, qualifications

Section 7 — Compensation of governor and lieutenant-governor

Section 8 — Governor to command militia

Section 9 — Governor may require information

Section 10 — Power to adjourn general assembly

Section 11 — Information and recommendations to general assembly

Section 12 — Faithful execution of laws

Section 13 — Reprieves after conviction

Section 14 — Commissions to be in name and by authority of state

Section 15 — Power and duties of governor in relation to bills. Presentation to governor after adjournment. Procedure on veto

Section 16 — Veto of separate items in appropriation bills

Section 17 — Lieutenant-governor, president of senate

Section 18 — Permanent or temporary transfer of governor's authority, powers and duties to lieutenant-governor. Council on gubernatorial incapacity

Section 19 — When president pro tempore to become lieutenant-governor or act as lieutenant-governor

Section 20 — Election of president pro tempore when general assembly in recess

Section 21 — Death or failure to qualify of governor-elect

Section 22 — Treasurer, duties

Section 23 — Secretary, duties

Section 24 — Comptroller, duties

Section 25 — Election of Sheriffs

Section 26 — Accounts of the state to be published

Section 27 — Division of criminal justice. Appointment of state's attorneys by a criminal justice commission

Article FIFTH — Of the Judicial Department

Section 1 — Courts, powers and jurisdiction

Section 2 — Selection, nomination, appointment and removal of judges. Judicial selection commission

Section 3 — Lower court judges, appointment, terms

Section 4 — Probate court judges, election, terms

Section 5 — Justices of the Peace.

Section 6 — Age limitation, exception

Section 7 — Judicial censure, removal or suspension. Judicial Review Council

Article SIXTH — Of the Qualifications of Electors

Section 1 — Qualifications of electors

Section 2 — Determination of qualifications

Section 3 — Forfeiture and restoration of electoral privileges

Section 4 — Free suffrage

Section 5 — Prohibiting the use of a party lever in any state or local election

Section 6 — Privilege of electors from arrest

Section 7 — Absentee voting. In-person early voting

Section 8 — Absentee admission of electors

Section 9 — Removal to another town

Section 10 — Eligibility to office

Section 11 — Pre-registration of seventeen-year-old citizens as electors

Article SEVENTH — Of Religion

Article EIGHTH — Of Education

Section 1 — Free public schools

Section 2 — System of higher education

Section 3 — Charter of Yale College

Section 4 — School fund

Article NINTH — Of Impeachments

Section 1 — Power of impeachment

Section 2 — Trial of impeachments

Section 3 — Liability to impeachments

Section 4 — Treason against the state

Article TENTH — Of Home Rule

Section 1 — Delegation of legislative authority to political subdivisions. Terms of town, city and borough elective officers. Special legislation

Section 2 — Regional governments and compacts

Article ELEVENTH — General Provisions

Section 1 — Official oath. Form

Section 2 — Extra compensation to elected officials and public contractors prohibited; exception

Section 3 — Emergency provision for temporary succession to powers and duties of public offices

Section 4 — Claims against the state

Section 5 — Effect of Constitution on existing corporations, officers, laws

Article TWELFTH — Of Amendments to the Constitution

Article THIRTEENTH — Of Constitutional Conventions

Section 1 — Method of convening by vote of general assembly

Section 2 — Method of convening by vote of electors

Section 3 — Selection of membership, date of convening

Section 4 — Submission of proposals to electors, approval, effective date

Article FOURTEENTH — Of the Effective Date of this Constitution

Preamble

Preamble

The People of Connecticut acknowledging with gratitude, the good providence of God, in having permitted them to enjoy a free government; do, in order more effectually to define, secure, and perpetuate the liberties, rights and privileges which they have derived from their ancestors; hereby, after a careful consideration and revision, ordain and establish the following constitution and form of civil government.

Article FIRST Declaration of Rights

Inalienable rights

Section 1 Equality of rights

All men when they form a social compact, are equal in rights; and no man or set of men are entitled to exclusive public emoluments or privileges from the community.

Vestment of political power

Section 2 Source of political power

All political power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority, and instituted for their benefit; and they have at all times an undeniable and infeasible right to alter their form of government in such manner as they may think expedient.

Religious freedom

Section 3 Right of religious liberty

The exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination, shall forever be free to all persons in the state; provided, that the right hereby declared and established, shall not be so construed as to excuse acts of licentiousness, or to justify practices inconsistent with the peace and safety of the state.

Freedom of speech, expression and press

Section 4 Liberty of speech and the press

Every citizen may freely speak, write and publish his sentiments on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of that liberty.

Freedom of speech, expression and press

Section 5 Prohibiting laws limiting liberty of speech or press

No law shall ever be passed to curtail or restrain the liberty of speech or of the press.

Freedom of speech, expression and press

Section 6 Prosecutions for libel; defenses

In all prosecutions or indictments for libels, the truth may be given in evidence, and the jury shall have the right to determine the law and the facts, under the direction of the court.

Searches and seizures; right to privacy

Section 7 Security from searches and seizures

The people shall be secure in their persons, houses, papers and possessions from unreasonable searches or seizures; and no warrant to search any place, or to seize any person or things, shall issue without describing them as nearly as may be, nor without probable cause supported by oath or affirmation.

Excessive bail, fines, and punishment; criminal justice

Right to bail

Due process of law; rights of accused

Self-incrimination; no privilege to witness

Rights of crime victims

Section 8 Due process; rights of victims

LAST AMENDED 1982

a. In all Criminal prosecutions, the accused shall have a right to be heard by himself and by counsel; to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted by the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process to obtain witnesses in his behalf; to be released on bail upon sufficient security, except in capital offenses, where the proof is evident or the presumption great; and in all prosecutions by information, to a speedy, public trial by an impartial jury. No person shall be compelled to give evidence against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law, nor shall excessive bail be required nor excessive fines imposed. No person shall be held to answer for any crime, punishable by death or life imprisonment, unless upon probable cause shown at a hearing in accordance with procedures prescribed by law, except in the armed forces, or in the militia when in actual service in time of war or public danger.

b. In all criminal prosecutions, a victim, as the general assembly may define by law, shall have the following rights: (1) the right to be treated with fairness and respect throughout the criminal justice process; (2) the right to timely disposition of the case following arrest of the accused, provided no right of the accused is abridged; (3) the right to be reasonably protected from the accused throughout the criminal justice process; (4) the right to notification of court proceedings; (5) the right to attend the trial and all other court proceedings the accused has the right to attend, unless such person is to testify and the court determines that such person's testimony would be materially affected if such person hears other testimony; (6) the right to communicate with the prosecution; (7) the right to object to or support any plea agreement entered into by the accused and the prosecution and to make a statement to the court prior to the acceptance by the court of the plea of guilty or nolo contendere by the accused; (8) the right to make a statement to the court at sentencing; (9) the right to restitution which shall be enforceable in the same manner as any other cause of action or as otherwise provided by law; and (10) the right to information about the arrest, conviction, sentence, imprisonment and release of the accused. The general assembly shall provide by law for the enforcement of this subsection. Nothing in this subsection or in any law enacted pursuant to this subsection shall be construed as creating a basis for vacating a conviction or ground for appellate relief in any criminal case.

Access to courts; remedy for injury

Section 9 Right of personal liberty

No person shall be arrested, detained or punished, except in cases clearly warranted by law.

Access to courts; remedy
for injury

Section 10 Right of redress for injuries

All courts shall be open, and every person, for an injury done to him in his person, property or reputation, shall have remedy by due course of law, and right and justice administered without sale, denial or delay.

Eminent domain; taking
property for public use

Section 11 Right of private property

The property of no person shall be taken for public use, without just compensation therefor.

Habeas corpus

Section 12 Writ of habeas corpus

The privileges of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended, unless, when in case of rebellion or invasion, the public safety may require it; nor in any case, but by the legislature.

Limits on punitive and
retrospective legislation

Section 13 No attainder

No person shall be attainted of treason or felony, by the legislature.

Right to assemble and
petition

Section 14 Right to assemble and petition

The citizens have a right, in a peaceable manner, to assemble for their common good, and to apply to those invested with the powers of government, for redress of grievances, or other proper purposes, by petition, address or remonstrance.

Right to bear arms

Section 15 Right to bear arms

Every citizen has a right to bear arms in defense of himself and the state.

Civil control, standing
armies, and quartering

Section 16 Military power subordinate to civil

The military shall, in all cases, and at all times, be in strict subordination to the civil power.

Civil control, standing
armies, and quartering

Section 17 Quartering of soldiers

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

Perpetuities and hereditary
emoluments

Section 18 No hereditary emoluments

No hereditary emoluments, privileges or honors, shall ever be granted, or conferred in this state.

Right of trial by jury

Section 19 Trial by jury. Challenging of jurors

LAST AMENDED 1972

Trial juries; number

The right of trial by jury shall remain inviolate, the number of such jurors, which shall not be less than six, to be established by law; but no person shall, for a capital offense, be tried by a jury of less than twelve jurors without his consent. In

all civil and criminal actions tried by a jury, the parties shall have the right to challenge jurors peremptorily, the number of such challenges to be established by law. The right to question each juror individually by counsel shall be inviolate.

Equal protection

Section 20 Equal protection. No segregation or discrimination

LAST AMENDED 1984

No person shall be denied the equal protection of the law nor be subjected to segregation or discrimination in the exercise or enjoyment of his or her civil or political rights because of religion, race, color, ancestry, national origin, sex or physical or mental disability.

Article SECOND Of the Distribution of Powers

Distribution of powers

The powers of government shall be divided into three distinct departments, and each of them confided to a separate magistracy, to wit, those which are legislative, to one; those which are executive, to another; and those which are judicial, to another. The legislative department may delegate regulatory authority to the executive department; except that any administrative regulation of any agency of the executive department may be disapproved by the general assembly or a committee thereof in such manner as shall by law be prescribed.

Article THIRD Of the Legislative Department

Legislative power vested

Section 1 Legislative power, in whom vested

The legislative power of the state shall be vested in two distinct houses or branches; the one to be styled the senate, the other the house of representatives, and both together the general assembly. The style of their laws shall be: Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened.

Legislative sessions

Section 2

General assembly, when and where held. Adjournment. Reconvened session to consider vetoes

LAST AMENDED 1970

There shall be a regular session of the general assembly on the Wednesday following the first Monday of January in the odd-numbered years and on the Wednesday following the first Monday of February in the even-numbered years, and at such other times as the general assembly shall judge necessary; but the person administering the office of governor may, on special emergencies, convene the general assembly at any other time. All regular and special sessions of the general assembly shall be held at Hartford, but the person administering the office of governor may, in case of special emergency, convene the assembly at any other place in the state. The general assembly shall adjourn each regular session in the odd-numbered years not later than the first Wednesday after the first Monday in June and in the even-numbered years not later than the first Wednesday after the first Monday in May and shall adjourn each special session upon completion of its business. If any bill passed by any regular or special session or any appropriation item described in Section 16 of Article Fourth has been disapproved by the governor prior to its adjournment, and has not been reconsidered by the assembly, or is so disapproved after such adjournment, the secretary of the state shall reconvene the general assembly on the second Monday after the last day on which the governor is authorized to transmit or has transmitted every bill to the secretary with his objections pursuant to Section 15 of Article Fourth of this constitution, whichever occurs first; provided if such Monday falls on a legal holiday the general assembly shall be reconvened on the next following day. The reconvened session shall be for the sole purpose of reconsidering and, if the assembly so desires, repassing such bills. The general assembly shall adjourn sine die not later than three days following its reconvening. In the even year session the general assembly shall consider no business other than budgetary, revenue and financial matters, bills and resolutions raised by committees of the general assembly and those matters certified in

writing by the speaker of the house of representatives and president pro tempore of the senate to be of an emergency nature.

- Number of senators and representatives
- Qualifications of senators and representatives

Section 3 Senate, number, qualifications

LAST AMENDED 1970

The senate shall consist of not less than thirty and not more than fifty members, each of whom shall have attained the age of eighteen years and be an elector residing in the senatorial district from which he is elected. Each senatorial district shall be contiguous as to territory and shall elect no more than one senator.

- Number of senators and representatives
- Qualifications of senators and representatives

Section 4 House of representatives, how constituted

LAST AMENDED 1970

The house of representatives shall consist of not less than one hundred twenty-five and not more than two hundred twenty-five members, each of whom shall have attained the age of eighteen years and be an elector residing in the assembly district from which he is elected. Each assembly district shall be contiguous as to territory and shall elect no more than one representative. For the purpose of forming assembly districts no town shall be divided except for the purpose of forming assembly districts wholly within the town.

- Apportionment by commission; procedures; standards
- Apportionment of United States congressional districts

Section 5

Congressional and general assembly districts to be consistent with federal standards

LAST AMENDED 1980

The establishment of congressional districts and of districts in the general assembly shall be consistent with federal constitutional standards.

- Apportionment by commission; procedures; standards
- Redistricting commission; certification of district maps
- Judicial review of apportionment and redistricting plans

Section 6

Reapportionment procedure. Reapportionment Committee. Reapportionment Commission

LAST AMENDED 1990

a. The assembly and senatorial districts and congressional districts as now established by law shall continue until the regular session of the general assembly next after the completion of the taking of the next census of the United States. On or before the fifteenth day of February next following the year in which the decennial census of the United States is taken, the general assembly shall appoint a reapportionment committee consisting of four members of the senate, two who shall be designated by the president pro tempore of the senate and two who shall be designated by the minority leader of the senate, and four members of the house of representatives, two who shall be designated by the speaker of the house of representatives and two who shall be designated by the minority leader of the house of representatives, provided there are members of no more than two

political parties in either the senate or the house of representatives. In the event that there are members of more than two political parties in a house of the general assembly, all members of that house belonging to the parties other than that of the president pro tempore of the senate or the speaker of the house of representatives, as the case may be, shall select one of their number, who shall designate two members of the committee in lieu of the designation by the minority leader of that house. Such committee shall advise the general assembly on matters of apportionment. Upon the filing of a report of such committee with the clerk of the house of representatives and the clerk of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives and the president pro tempore of the senate shall, if the general assembly is not in regular session, convene the general assembly in special session for the sole purpose of adopting a plan of districting. Upon the request of the speaker of the house of representatives and the president pro tempore of the senate, the secretary of the state shall give notice of such special session by mailing a true copy of the call of such special session, by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, to each member of the house of representatives and of the senate at his or her address as it appears upon the records of said secretary not less than ten nor more than fifteen days prior to the date of convening of such special session or by causing a true copy of the call to be delivered to each member by a constable, state policeman or indifferent person at least twenty-four hours prior to the time of convening of such special session. Such general assembly shall, upon roll call, by a yea vote of at least two-thirds of the membership of each house, adopt such plan of districting as is necessary to preserve a proper apportionment of representation in accordance with the principles recited in this article. Thereafter the general assembly shall decennially at its next regular session or special session called for the purpose of adopting a plan of districting following the completion of the taking of the census of the United States, upon roll call, by a yea vote of at least two-thirds of the membership of each house, adopt such plan of districting as is necessary in accordance with the provisions of this article.

b. If the general assembly fails to adopt a plan of districting by the fifteenth day of the September next following the year in which the decennial census of the United States is taken, the governor shall forthwith appoint a commission designated by the president pro tempore of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the minority leader of the senate and the minority leader of the house of representatives, each of whom shall designate two members of the commission, provided that there are members of no more than two political parties in either the senate or the house of representatives. In the event that there are members of more than two political parties in a house of the general assembly, all members of that house belonging to the parties other than that of the president pro tempore of the senate or the speaker of the house of representatives,

as the case may be, shall select one of their number, who shall designate two members of the commission in lieu of the designation by the minority leader of that house. The eight members of the commission so designated shall within thirty days select an elector of the state as a ninth member.

c. The commission shall proceed to consider the alteration of districts in accordance with the principles recited in this article and it shall submit a plan of districting to the secretary of the state by the thirtieth day of the November next succeeding the appointment of its members. No plan shall be submitted to the secretary unless it is certified by at least five members of the commission. Upon receiving such plan the secretary shall publish the same forthwith, and, upon publication, such plan of districting shall have the full force of law. If the commission shall fail to submit such a plan by the thirtieth day of November, the secretary of the state shall forthwith so notify the chief justice of the supreme court.

d. Original jurisdiction is vested in the supreme court to be exercised on the petition of any registered voter whereby said court may compel the commission, by mandamus or otherwise, to perform its duty or to correct any error made in its plan of districting, or said court may take such other action to effectuate the purposes of this article, including the establishing of a plan of districting if the commission fails to file its plan of districting by the thirtieth day of November as said court may deem appropriate. Any such petition shall be filed within thirty days of the date specified for any duty or within thirty days after the filing of a plan of districting. The supreme court shall render its decision not later than forty-five days following the filing of such petition or shall file its plan with the secretary of the state not later than the fifteenth day of February next following the time for submission of a plan of districting by the commission. Upon receiving such plan the secretary shall publish the same forthwith, and, upon publication, such plan of districting shall have the full force of the law.

- Rules of proceedings; judge of qualifications; expulsion
- Plurality voting; tie vote
- Canvassing and certification of votes

Section 7

Canvass and declaration of votes. Return and result to be submitted to both houses

The treasurer, secretary of the state, and comptroller shall canvass publicly the votes for senators and representatives. The person in each senatorial district having the greatest number of votes for senator shall be declared to be duly elected for such district, and the person in each assembly district having the greatest number of votes for representative shall be declared to be duly elected for such district. The general assembly shall provide by law the manner in which an equal and the greatest number of votes for two or more persons so voted for for senator or representative shall be resolved. The return of votes, and the result of

the canvass, shall be submitted to the house of representatives and to the senate on the first day of the session of the general assembly. Each house shall be the final judge of the election returns and qualifications of its own members.

Time, place, and other provisions for legislative elections

Legislative vacancies

Section 8 General assembly, election

A general election for members of the general assembly shall be held on the Tuesday after the first Monday of November, biennially, in the even-numbered years. The general assembly shall have power to enact laws regulating and prescribing the order and manner of voting for such members, for filling vacancies in either the house of representatives or the senate, and providing for the election of representatives or senators at some time subsequent to the Tuesday after the first Monday of November in all cases when it shall so happen that the electors in any district shall fail on that day to elect a representative or senator.

Canvassing and certification of votes

Section 9 Counting of votes. Return of votes

At all elections for members of the general assembly the presiding officers in the several towns shall count and declare the votes of the electors in open meeting. The presiding officers shall make and certify duplicate lists of the persons voted for, and of the number of votes for each. One list shall be delivered within three days to the town clerk, and within ten days after such meeting, the other shall be delivered to the secretary of the state.

Terms of members

Section 10 Term of office

The members of the general assembly shall hold their offices from the Wednesday following the first Monday of the January next succeeding their election until the Wednesday after the first Monday of the third January next succeeding their election, and until their successors are duly qualified.

Ineligibility of legislators to other offices

Disqualification from holding legislative office

Section 11 Dual job ban

No member of the general assembly shall, during the term for which he is elected, hold or accept any appointive position or office in the judicial or executive department of the state government, or in the courts of the political subdivisions of the state, or in the government of any county. No member of congress, no person holding any office under the authority of the United States and no person holding any office in the judicial or executive department of the state government or in the government of any county shall be a member of the general assembly during his continuance in such office.

Quorum

Section 12 Officers. Quorum

The house of representatives, when assembled, shall choose a speaker, clerk, and other officers. The senate shall choose a president pro tempore, clerk and other

officers, except the president. A majority of each house shall constitute a quorum to do business; but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and compel the attendance of absent members in such manner and under such penalties as each house may prescribe.

Rules of proceedings; judge of qualifications; expulsion

Section 13 Powers of each house

Each house shall determine the rules of its own proceedings, and punish members for disorderly conduct, and, with the consent of two-thirds, expel a member, but not a second time for the same cause; and shall have all other powers necessary for a branch of the legislature of a free and independent state.

Journal of proceedings

Section 14 Journal. Yeas and nays

Each house shall keep a journal of its proceedings, and publish the same when required by one-fifth of its members, except such parts as in the judgment of a majority require secrecy. The yeas and nays of the members of either house shall, at the desire of one-fifth of those present, be entered on the journals.

Member immunity and freedom of debate

Section 15 Privilege from arrest. Privilege as to speech or debates

The senators and representatives shall, in all cases of civil process, be privileged from arrest, during any session of the general assembly, and for four days before the commencement and after the termination of any session thereof. And for any speech or debate in either house, they shall not be questioned in any other place.

Public sessions

Section 16 Debates to be public

The debates of each house shall be public, except on such occasions as in the opinion of the house may require secrecy.

Compensation of legislators

Section 17 Salary. Transportation

The salary of the members of the general assembly and the transportation expenses of its members in the performance of their legislative duties shall be determined by law.

State balanced budget
State appropriations ceiling
Budget stabilization reserve fund

Section 18

Limit on state expenditures. Maximum authorized increase; “emergency or extraordinary circumstances”; definitions to be defined by general assembly. Surplus

LAST AMENDED 1992

a. The amount of general budget expenditures authorized for any fiscal year shall not exceed the estimated amount of revenue for such fiscal year.

b. The general assembly shall not authorize an increase in general budget expenditures for any fiscal year above the amount of general budget expenditures authorized for the previous fiscal year by a percentage which exceeds the greater of the percentage increase in personal income or the percentage increase in inflation, unless the governor declares an emergency or the existence of extraordinary circumstances and at least three-fifths of the members of each house of the general assembly vote to exceed such limit for the purposes of such emergency or extraordinary circumstances. The general assembly shall by law define “increase in personal income”, “increase in inflation” and “general budget expenditures” for the purposes of this section and may amend such definitions, from time to time, provided general budget expenditures shall not include expenditures for the payment of bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness. The enactment or amendment of such definitions shall require the vote of three-fifths of the members of each house of the general assembly.

c. Any unappropriated surplus shall be used to fund a budget reserve fund or for the reduction of bonded indebtedness; or for any other purpose authorized by at least three-fifths of the members of each house of the general assembly.

Transportation fund

Section 19

Special Transportation Fund. Resources of fund to be expended for transportation purposes

LAST AMENDED 2018

The Special Transportation Fund shall remain a perpetual fund. The general assembly shall direct the resources of said fund solely for transportation purposes, including the payment of debt service on obligations of the state incurred for transportation purposes. Sources of funds, moneys and receipts of the state credited, deposited or transferred to said fund by state law on or after the effective date of this amendment shall be credited, deposited or transferred to the Special Transportation Fund, so long as such sources are authorized by statute to be collected or received by the state, or any officer thereof, and the general assembly shall enact no law authorizing the resources of said fund to be expended other than for transportation purposes.

Legislation requiring state to dispose of real property

Section 20

Legislation requiring state agency to sell, transfer or dispose of real property or interest in real property

LAST AMENDED 2018

a. The general assembly shall not enact any legislation requiring a state agency to sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of any real property or interest in real property that is under the custody or control of such agency to any person or entity other

than another state agency unless a committee of the general assembly has held a public hearing regarding such sale, transfer or disposition of such property or interest and the act of the general assembly requiring such sale, transfer or disposition of real property or interest in real property is limited in subject matter to provisions concerning such sale, transfer or disposition.

b. In the case of real property or an interest in real property that is under the custody or control of the Department of Agriculture or the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, or a successor agency of either department, in addition to complying with the requirements of subsection (a) of this section, any act requiring the sale, transfer or disposition of such property or interest shall pass upon roll call by a ye a vote of at least two-thirds of the total membership of each house.

Article FOURTH Of the Executive Department

Election of governor and lieutenant governor

Date of holding election

Election of principal executive state officers

Executive state officer term

Continuation in office until successors qualify

Election of governor and lieutenant governor

Joint ticket

Canvassing and certification of votes

Contested elections

Plurality voting; tie vote

Section 1 State officers, election date

LAST AMENDED 1970

A general election for governor, lieutenant-governor, secretary of the state, treasurer, comptroller and attorney general shall be held on the Tuesday after the first Monday of November, 1974, and quadrennially thereafter.

Section 2 Terms of officers

LAST AMENDED 1965

Such officers shall hold their respective offices from the Wednesday following the first Monday of the January next succeeding their election until the Wednesday following the first Monday of the fifth January succeeding their election and until their successors are duly qualified.

Section 3 Governor and lieutenant-governor voted for as unit

In the election of governor and lieutenant-governor, voting for such offices shall be as a unit. The name of no candidate for either office, nominated by a political party or by petition, shall appear on the voting machine ballot labels except in conjunction with the name of the candidate for the other office.

Section 4

Counting of votes. Return of votes. Canvass and declaration of votes. Choice by general assembly, when and how made

The votes at the election of state officers shall be counted and declared in open meeting by the presiding officers in the several towns. The presiding officers shall make and certify duplicate lists of the persons voted for, and of the number of votes for each. One list shall be delivered within three days to the town clerk, and within ten days after such meeting, the other shall be delivered to the secretary of the state. The votes so delivered shall be counted, canvassed and declared by the treasurer, secretary, and comptroller, within the month of November. The vote for treasurer shall be counted, canvassed and declared by the secretary and comptroller only; the vote for secretary shall be counted, canvassed and declared by the treasurer and comptroller only; and the vote for comptroller shall be counted, canvassed and declared by the treasurer and secretary only. A fair list of the persons and number of votes given for each, together with the returns of the presiding officers, shall be, by the treasurer, secretary and comptroller, made and laid before the general assembly, then next to be held, on the first day of the session thereof. In the election of governor, lieutenant-governor, secretary, treasurer, comptroller and attorney general, the person found upon the count by the treasurer, secretary and comptroller in the manner herein provided, to be made and announced before December fifteenth of the year of the election, to have

received the greatest number of votes for each of such offices, respectively, shall be elected thereto; provided, if the election of any of them shall be contested as provided by statute, and if such a contest shall proceed to final judgment, the person found by the court to have received the greatest number of votes shall be elected. If two or more persons shall be found upon the count of the treasurer, secretary and comptroller to have received an equal and the greatest number of votes for any of said offices, and the election is not contested, the general assembly on the second day of its session shall hold a joint convention of both houses, at which, without debate, a ballot shall be taken to choose such officer from those persons who received such a vote; and the balloting shall continue on that or subsequent days until one of such persons is chosen by a majority vote of those present and voting. The general assembly shall have power to enact laws regulating and prescribing the order and manner of voting for such officers. The general assembly shall by law prescribe the manner in which all questions concerning the election of a governor or lieutenant-governor shall be determined.

Qualifications of governor and lieutenant governor

Section 5 Governor. Qualifications

The supreme executive power of the state shall be vested in the governor. No person who is not an elector of the state, and who has not arrived at the age of thirty years, shall be eligible.

Qualifications of governor and lieutenant governor

Section 6 Lieutenant-governor, qualifications

The lieutenant-governor shall possess the same qualifications as are herein prescribed for the governor.

Compensation of executive state officers

Limitation on increase of compensation and on extension of terms of office

Section 7 Compensation of governor and lieutenant-governor

The compensations of the governor and lieutenant-governor shall be established by law, and shall not be varied so as to take effect until after an election, which shall next succeed the passage of the law establishing such compensations.

Governor to be commander in chief

Section 8 Governor to command militia

The governor shall be captain general of the militia of the state, except when called into the service of the United States.

Information from officers and inspection

Section 9 Governor may require information

He may require information in writing from the officers in the executive department, on any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices.

Convening and adjourning
the legislature

Section 10 Power to adjourn general assembly

The governor, in case of a disagreement between the two houses of the general assembly, respecting the time of adjournment, may adjourn them to such time as he shall think proper, not beyond the day of the next stated session.

Messages to the legislature

Section 11 Information and recommendations to general assembly

He shall, from time to time, give to the general assembly, information of the state of the government, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall deem expedient.

General duties of governor

Section 12 Faithful execution of laws

He shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed.

Reprieves and pardons

Section 13 Reprieves after conviction

The governor shall have power to grant reprieves after conviction, in all cases except those of impeachment, until the end of the next session of the general assembly, and no longer.

Grants and commissions

Section 14 Commissions to be in name and by authority of state

All commissions shall be in the name and by authority of the state of Connecticut; shall be sealed with the state seal, signed by the governor, and attested by the secretary of the state.

Veto power

Section 15

Bills presented to governor
for approval or veto

Power and duties of governor in relation to bills. Presentation to governor after adjournment. Procedure on veto

Each bill which shall have passed both houses of the general assembly shall be presented to the governor. Bills may be presented to the governor after the adjournment of the general assembly, and the general assembly may prescribe the time and method of performing all ministerial acts necessary or incidental to the administration of this section. If the governor shall approve a bill, he shall sign and transmit it to the secretary of the state, but if he shall disapprove, he shall transmit it to the secretary with his objections, and the secretary shall thereupon return the bill with the governor's objections to the house in which it originated. After the objections shall have been entered on its journal, such house shall proceed to reconsider the bill. If, after such reconsideration, that house shall again pass it, but by the approval of at least two-thirds of its members, it shall be sent with the objections to the other house, which shall also reconsider it. If approved by at least two-thirds of the members of the second house, it shall be a law and be transmitted to the secretary; but in such case the votes of each house shall be determined by yeas and nays and the names of the members voting for and

against the bill shall be entered on the journal of each house respectively. In case the governor shall not transmit the bill to the secretary, either with his approval or with his objections, within five calendar days, Sundays and legal holidays excepted, after the same shall have been presented to him, it shall be a law at the expiration of that period; except that, if the general assembly shall then have adjourned any regular or special session, the bill shall be a law unless the governor shall, within fifteen calendar days after the same has been presented to him, transmit it to the secretary with his objections, in which case it shall not be a law unless such bill is reconsidered and repassed by the general assembly by at least a two-thirds vote of the members of each house of the general assembly at the time of its reconvening.

Line-item veto

Bills presented to governor
for approval or veto

Section 16 Veto of separate items in appropriation bills

The governor shall have power to disapprove of any item or items of any bill making appropriations of money embracing distinct items while at the same time approving the remainder of the bill, and the part or parts of the bill so approved shall become effective and the item or items of appropriations so disapproved shall not take effect unless the same are separately reconsidered and repassed in accordance with the rules and limitations prescribed for the passage of bills over the executive veto. In all cases in which the governor shall exercise the right of disapproval hereby conferred he shall append to the bill at the time of signing it a statement of the item or items disapproved, together with his reasons for such disapproval, and transmit the bill and such appended statement to the secretary of the state. If the general assembly be then in session he shall forthwith cause a copy of such statement to be delivered to the house in which the bill originated for reconsideration of the disapproved items in conformity with the rules prescribed for legislative action in respect to bills which have received executive disapproval.

Lieutenant governor
powers and duties

Lieutenant governor as
president of the Senate

Section 17 Lieutenant-governor, president of senate

The lieutenant-governor shall by virtue of his office, be president of the senate, and have, when in committee of the whole, a right to debate, and when the senate is equally divided, to give the casting vote.

Succession of governor and
lieutenant governor

Governor of unsound mind

Section 18

Permanent or temporary transfer of governor's authority, powers and duties to lieutenant-governor. Council on gubernatorial incapacity

LAST AMENDED 1984

a. In case of the death, resignation, refusal to serve or removal from office of the governor, the lieutenant-governor shall, upon taking the oath of office of

- governor, be governor of the State until another is chosen at the next regular election for governor and is duly qualified.
- b. In case of the impeachment of the governor or of his absence from the State, the lieutenant-governor shall exercise the powers and authority and perform the duties appertaining to the office of governor until, if the governor has been impeached, he is acquitted or, if absent, he has returned.
- c. Whenever the governor transmits to the lieutenant-governor his written declaration that he is unable to exercise the powers and perform the duties of his office, and until the governor transmits to the lieutenant-governor a written declaration to the contrary, the lieutenant-governor shall exercise the powers and authority and perform the duties appertaining to the office of governor as acting governor.
- d. In the absence of a written declaration of incapacity by the governor, whenever the lieutenant-governor or a majority of the members of the Council on Gubernatorial Incapacity transmits to the Council on Gubernatorial Incapacity a written declaration that the governor is unable to exercise the powers and perform the duties of his office, the Council shall convene within forty-eight hours after the receipt of such written declaration to determine if the governor is unable to exercise the powers and perform the duties of his office. If the Council, within fourteen days after it is required to convene, determines by two-thirds vote that the governor is unable to exercise the powers and perform the duties of his office, it shall transmit a written declaration to that effect to the president pro tempore of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives and to the lieutenant-governor and the lieutenant-governor, upon receipt of such declaration, shall exercise the powers and authority and discharge the duties appertaining to the office of the governor as acting governor; otherwise, the governor shall continue to exercise the powers and discharge the duties of his office. Upon receipt by the president pro tempore of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives of such a written declaration from the Council, the General Assembly shall, in accordance with its rules, decide the issue, assembling within forty-eight hours for that purpose if not in session. If the General Assembly, within twenty-one days after receipt of the written declaration or, if the General Assembly is not in session, within twenty-one days after the General Assembly is required to assemble, determines by two-thirds vote of each house that the governor is unable to exercise the powers and discharge the duties of his office, the lieutenant-governor shall continue to exercise the powers and authority and perform the duties appertaining to the office of governor; otherwise, the governor shall resume the powers and duties of his office.
- e. In the absence of a written declaration of incapacity by the governor and in an emergency, when the governor is unable to exercise the powers and perform the

duties of his office and the business of the State requires the immediate exercise of those powers and performance of those duties, the lieutenant-governor shall transmit to the Council on Gubernatorial Incapacity a written declaration to that effect and thereupon shall exercise the powers and authority and discharge the duties appertaining to the office of governor as acting governor. The Council shall convene or the members of the Council shall otherwise communicate with each other collectively within twenty-four hours after the receipt of such written declaration to determine if the governor is unable to exercise the powers and perform the duties of his office. If the Council, within fourteen days after it is required to convene, determines by two-thirds vote that the governor is unable to exercise the powers and perform the duties of his office, it shall transmit a written declaration to that effect to the president pro tempore of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives and to the lieutenant-governor and the lieutenant-governor shall continue to exercise the powers and authority and perform the duties appertaining to the office of governor as acting governor; otherwise, the governor shall resume the powers and duties of his office. Upon receipt by the president pro tempore of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives of such a written declaration from the Council, the General Assembly shall, in accordance with its rules, decide the issue, assembling within forty-eight hours for that purpose if not in session. If the General Assembly, within twenty-one days after receipt of the written declaration or, if the General Assembly is not in session, within twenty-one days after the General Assembly is required to assemble, determines by two-thirds vote of each house that the governor is unable to exercise the powers and discharge the duties of his office, the lieutenant-governor shall continue to exercise the powers and authority and perform the duties appertaining to the office of governor; otherwise, the governor shall resume the powers and duties of his office.

f. Whenever the governor transmits to the president pro tempore of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that no inability exists he shall resume the powers and duties of his office upon the determination by a majority vote of each house of the General Assembly, in accordance with its rules, that he is able to exercise the powers and perform the duties of his office.

g. There shall be a Council on Gubernatorial Incapacity, the membership, procedures and terms of office of the members of which the General Assembly shall establish by law.

h. The Supreme Court shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction to adjudicate disputes or questions arising under this section.

Succession of governor and lieutenant governor

Section 19

When president pro tempore to become lieutenant-governor or act as lieutenant-governor

If the lieutenant-governor succeeds to the office of governor, or if the lieutenant-governor dies, resigns, refuses to serve or is removed from office, the president pro tempore of the senate shall, upon taking the oath of office of lieutenant-governor, be lieutenant-governor of the state until another is chosen at the next regular election for lieutenant-governor and is duly qualified. Within fifteen days of the administration of such oath the senate, if the general assembly is in session, shall elect one of its members president pro tempore. In case of the inability of the lieutenant-governor to exercise the powers and perform the duties of his office or in case of his impeachment or absence from the state, the president pro tempore of the senate shall exercise the powers and authority and perform the duties appertaining to the office of lieutenant-governor until the disability is removed or, if the lieutenant-governor has been impeached, he is acquitted or, if absent, he has returned.

Succession of governor and lieutenant governor

Section 20

Election of president pro tempore when general assembly in recess

If, while the general assembly is not in session, there is a vacancy in the office of president pro tempore of the senate, the secretary of the state shall within fifteen days convene the senate for the purpose of electing one of its members president pro tempore.

Succession of governor and lieutenant governor

Section 21 Death or failure to qualify of governor-elect

If, at the time fixed for the beginning of the term of the governor, the governor-elect shall have died or shall have failed to qualify, the lieutenant-governor-elect, after taking the oath of office of lieutenant-governor, may qualify as governor, and, upon so qualifying, shall become governor. The general assembly may by law provide for the case in which neither the governor-elect nor the lieutenant-governor-elect shall have qualified, by declaring who shall, in such event, act as governor or the manner in which the person who is so to act shall be selected, and such person shall act accordingly until a governor or a lieutenant-governor shall have qualified.

State treasurer powers and duties

Section 22 Treasurer, duties

The treasurer shall receive all monies belonging to the state, and disburse the same only as he may be directed by law. He shall pay no warrant, or order for the disbursement of public money, until the same has been registered in the office of the comptroller.

Secretary of state powers and duties

Section 23 Secretary, duties

The secretary of the state shall have the safe keeping and custody of the public records and documents, and particularly of the acts, resolutions and orders of the general assembly, and record the same; and perform all such duties as shall be prescribed by law. He shall be the keeper of the seal of the state, which shall not be altered.

Comptroller powers and duties

Section 24 Comptroller, duties

The comptroller shall adjust and settle all public accounts and demands, except grants and orders of the general assembly. He shall prescribe the mode of keeping and rendering all public accounts. He shall, ex officio, be one of the auditors of the accounts of the treasurer. The general assembly may assign to him other duties in relation to his office, and to that of the treasurer, and shall prescribe the manner in which his duties shall be performed.

Rendering and publication of accounts

Section 25 Election of Sheriffs

REPEALED 2000

Section 26 Accounts of the state to be published

A statement of all receipts, payments, funds, and debts of the state, shall be published from time to time, in such manner and at such periods, as shall be prescribed by law.

Other state prosecuting attorneys

Section 27

Local prosecuting attorneys; appointment, qualification, term, compensation

Division of criminal justice. Appointment of state's attorneys by a criminal justice commission

LAST AMENDED 1984

There shall be established within the executive department a division of criminal justice which shall be in charge of the investigation and prosecution of all criminal matters. Said division shall include the chief state's attorney, who shall be its administrative head, and the state's attorneys for each judicial district, which districts shall be established by law. The prosecutorial power of the state shall be vested in a chief state's attorney and the state's attorney for each judicial district. The chief state's attorney shall be appointed as prescribed by law. There shall be a commission composed of the chief state's attorney and six members appointed by the governor and confirmed by the General Assembly, two of whom shall be judges of the Superior Court. Said commission shall appoint a state's attorney for each judicial district and such other attorneys as prescribed by law.

Article FIFTH Of the Judicial Department

Vestment of judicial power;
establishment of courts

Section 1 Courts, powers and jurisdiction

LAST AMENDED 1982

The judicial power of the state shall be vested in a supreme court, an appellate court, a superior court, and such lower courts as the general assembly shall, from time to time, ordain and establish. The powers and jurisdiction of these courts shall be defined by law.

Appointment of judges
from nominating
commission nominees

Section 2

Selection, nomination, appointment and removal of judges. Judicial selection commission

Judges of all courts, except those courts to which judges are elected, shall be nominated by the governor exclusively from candidates submitted by the judicial selection commission. The commission shall seek and recommend qualified candidates in such numbers as shall by law be prescribed. Judges so nominated shall be appointed by the general assembly in such manner as shall by law be prescribed. They shall hold their offices for the term of eight years, but may be removed by impeachment. The governor shall also remove them on the address of two-thirds of each house of the general assembly and the supreme court may also remove them as is provided by law.

Terms of judges

Terms of judges

Section 3 Lower court judges, appointment, terms

Judges of the lower courts shall, upon nomination by the governor, be appointed by the general assembly in such manner as shall by law be prescribed, for terms of four years.

Selection of judges by
popular election

Section 4 Probate court judges, election, terms

Judges of probate shall be elected by the electors residing in their respective districts on the Tuesday after the first Monday of November, 1966, and quadrennially thereafter, and shall hold office for four years from and after the Wednesday after the first Monday of the next succeeding January.

Probate court

Terms of judges

Section 5 Justices of the Peace.

REPEALED 1974

Retirement; age limit

Section 6 Age limitation, exception

LAST AMENDED 1974

No judge shall be eligible to hold his office after he shall arrive at the age of seventy years, except that a chief justice or judge of the supreme court, a judge of the superior court, or a judge of the court of common pleas, who has attained the age of seventy years and has become a state referee may exercise, as shall be

prescribed by law, the powers of the superior court or court of common pleas on matters referred to him as a state referee.

- Judicial Conduct and Disability Commission
- Retirement, removal and discipline
- Legislative or executive removal of judges for cause

Section 7 Judicial censure, removal or suspension. Judicial Review Council

LAST AMENDED 1976

In addition to removal by impeachment and removal by the governor on the address of two-thirds of each house of the general assembly, judges of all courts, except those courts to which judges are elected, may, in such manner as shall by law be prescribed, be removed or suspended by the supreme court. The general assembly may establish a judicial review council which may also, in such manner as shall by law be prescribed, censure any such judge or suspend any such judge for a definite period not longer than one year.

Article SIXTH Of the Qualifications of Electors

Qualifications of electors

Section 1 Qualifications of electors

LAST AMENDED 1976

Every citizen of the United States who has attained the age of eighteen years, who is a bona fide resident of the town in which he seeks to be admitted as an elector and who takes such oath, if any, as may be prescribed by law, shall be qualified to be an elector.

Qualifications of electors

Section 2 Determination of qualifications

The qualifications of electors as set forth in Section 1 of this article shall be decided at such times and in such manner as may be prescribed by law.

Disfranchisement

Section 3 Forfeiture and restoration of electoral privileges

LAST AMENDED 1974

The general assembly shall by law prescribe the offenses on conviction of which the right to be an elector and the privileges of an elector shall be forfeited and the conditions on which and methods by which such rights may be restored.

Election laws and purity of elections

Section 4 Free suffrage

Laws shall be made to support the privilege of free suffrage, prescribing the manner of regulating and conducting meetings of the electors, and prohibiting, under adequate penalties, all undue influence therein, from power, bribery, tumult and other improper conduct.

Method of voting

Section 5 Prohibiting the use of a party lever in any state or local election

LAST AMENDED 1986

In all elections of officers of the state, or members of the general assembly, the votes of the electors shall be by ballot, either written or printed, except that voting machines or other mechanical devices for voting may be used in all elections in the state, under such regulations as may be prescribed by law. No voting machine or device used at any state or local election shall be equipped with a straight ticket device. The right of secret voting shall be preserved.

Privilege of electors from arrest

Section 6 Privilege of electors from arrest

At all elections of officers of the state, or members of the general assembly, the electors shall be privileged from arrest, during their attendance upon, and going to, and returning from the same, on any civil process.

Method of voting

Section 7 Absentee voting. In-person early voting

LAST AMENDED 2024

The general assembly may provide by law for voting in the choice of any officer to be elected or upon any question to be voted on at an election by qualified voters of the state who will not appear at the polling place on the day of election.

Method of voting

Section 8 Absentee admission of electors

LAST AMENDED 1992

The general assembly may provide by law for the absentee admission of electors.

Section 9 Removal to another town

REPEALED 1980

Qualifications for public office

Section 10 Eligibility to office

LAST AMENDED 1980

Every elector who has attained the age of eighteen years shall be eligible to any office in the state, but no person who has not attained the age of eighteen shall be eligible therefor, except in cases provided for in this constitution.

Qualifications of electors

Section 11 Pre-registration of seventeen-year-old citizens as electors

LAST AMENDED 2008

Any citizen who will have attained the age of eighteen years on or before the day of a regular election may apply for admission as an elector at such times and in such manner as may be prescribed by law, and, if qualified, shall become an elector on the day of his or her eighteenth birthday. Any citizen who has not yet attained the age of eighteen years but who will have attained the age of eighteen years on or before the day of a regular election, who is otherwise qualified to be an elector and who has applied for admission as an elector in such manner as may be prescribed by law, may vote in any primary election, in such manner as may be prescribed by law, held for such regular election.

Article SEVENTH Of Religion

Religious freedom

It being the right of all men to worship the Supreme Being, the Great Creator and Preserver of the Universe, and to render that worship in a mode consistent with the dictates of their consciences, no person shall by law be compelled to join or support, nor be classed or associated with, any congregation, church or religious association. No preference shall be given by law to any religious society or denomination in the state. Each shall have and enjoy the same and equal powers, rights and privileges, and may support and maintain the ministers or teachers of its society or denomination, and may build and repair houses for public worship.

Article EIGHTH Of Education

Public education system

Section 1 Free public schools

There shall always be free public elementary and secondary schools in the state. The general assembly shall implement this principle by appropriate legislation.

Particular state universities

Particular state university
board of regents; president

Department of higher
education; board of regents

Section 2 System of higher education

The state shall maintain a system of higher education, including The University of Connecticut, which shall be dedicated to excellence in higher education. The general assembly shall determine the size, number, terms and method of appointment of the governing boards of The University of Connecticut and of such constituent units or coordinating bodies in the system as from time to time may be established.

Private university special
considerations

Section 3 Charter of Yale College

The charter of Yale College, as modified by agreement with the corporation thereof, in pursuance of an act of the general assembly, passed in May, 1792, is hereby confirmed.

Permanent state school
fund

Section 4 School fund

The fund, called the SCHOOL FUND, shall remain a perpetual fund, the interest of which shall be inviolably appropriated to the support and encouragement of the public schools throughout the state, and for the equal benefit of all the people thereof. The value and amount of said fund shall be ascertained in such manner as the general assembly may prescribe, published, and recorded in the comptroller's office; and no law shall ever be made, authorizing such fund to be diverted to any other use than the encouragement and support of public schools, among the several school societies, as justice and equity shall require.

Article NINTH Of Impeachments

Impeachment

Section 1 Power of impeachment

The house of representatives shall have the sole power of impeaching.

Trial process

Section 2 Trial of impeachments

All impeachments shall be tried by the senate. When sitting for that purpose, they shall be on oath or affirmation. No person shall be convicted without the concurrence of at least two-thirds of the members present. When the governor is impeached, the chief justice shall preside.

Officers subject to
impeachment; grounds;
judgment

Section 3 Liability to impeachments

The governor, and all other executive and judicial officers, shall be liable to impeachment; but judgments in such cases shall not extend further than to removal from office, and disqualification to hold any office of honor, trust or profit under the state. The party convicted, shall, nevertheless, be liable and subject to indictment, trial and punishment according to law.

Treason

Section 4 Treason against the state

Treason against the state shall consist only in levying war against it, or adhering to its enemies, giving them aid and comfort. No person shall be convicted of treason, unless on the testimony of at least two witnesses to the same overt act, or on confession in open court. No conviction of treason, or attainder, shall work corruption of blood, or forfeiture.

Article TENTH Of Home Rule

Municipal home rule

Section 1

Delegation of legislative authority to political subdivisions. Terms of town, city and borough elective officers. Special legislation

The general assembly shall by general law delegate such legislative authority as from time to time it deems appropriate to towns, cities and boroughs relative to the powers, organization, and form of government of such political subdivisions. The general assembly shall from time to time by general law determine the maximum terms of office of the various town, city and borough elective offices. After July 1, 1969, the general assembly shall enact no special legislation relative to the powers, organization, terms of elective offices or form of government of any single town, city or borough, except as to (a) borrowing power, (b) validating acts, and (c) formation, consolidation or dissolution of any town, city or borough, unless in the delegation of legislative authority by general law the general assembly shall have failed to prescribe the powers necessary to effect the purpose of such special legislation.

Intergovernmental cooperation

Section 2 Regional governments and compacts

The general assembly may prescribe the methods by which towns, cities and boroughs may establish regional governments and the methods by which towns, cities, boroughs and regional governments may enter into compacts. The general assembly shall prescribe the powers, organization, form, and method of dissolution of any government so established.

Article ELEVENTH General Provisions

Broad all-branch oath of public officers

Section 1 Official oath. Form

Members of the general assembly, and all officers, executive and judicial, shall, before they enter on the duties of their respective offices, take the following oath or affirmation, to wit:

You do solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will support the constitution of the United States, and the constitution of the state of Connecticut, so long as you continue a citizen thereof; and that you will faithfully discharge, according to law, the duties of the office of to the best of your abilities. So help you God.

No extra compensation or unauthorized claims

Section 2

Extra compensation to elected officials and public contractors prohibited; exception

LAST AMENDED 1982

Except as provided in this section, neither the state nor any political subdivision of the state shall pay or grant to any elected official of the state or any political subdivision of the state, any compensation greater than the amount of compensation set at the beginning of such official's term of office for the office which such official holds or increase the pay or compensation of any public contractor above the amount specified in the contract. The provisions of this section shall not apply to elected officials in towns in which the legislative body is the town meeting. The compensation of an elected official of a political subdivision of the state whose term of office is four years or more may be increased once after such official has completed two years of his term by the legislative body of such political subdivision. The term "compensation" means, with respect to an elected official, such official's salary, exclusive of reimbursement for necessary expenses or any other benefit to which his office would entitle him.

Continuity of the legislature in emergencies

Section 3

Emergency provision for temporary succession to powers and duties of public offices

In order to insure continuity in operation of state and local governments in a period of emergency resulting from disaster caused by enemy attack, the general assembly shall provide by law for the prompt and temporary succession to the powers and duties of all public offices, the incumbents of which may become unavailable for carrying on their powers and duties.

Sovereign immunity

Section 4 Claims against the state

Claims against the state shall be resolved in such manner as may be provided by law.

Continuance of existing laws

Rights and duties of existing public bodies

Status of present state and local officers

Section 5 Effect of Constitution on existing corporations, officers, laws

The rights and duties of all corporations shall remain as if this constitution had not been adopted; with the exception of such regulations and restrictions as are contained in this constitution. All laws not contrary to, or inconsistent with, the provisions of this constitution shall remain in force, until they shall expire by their own limitation, or shall be altered or repealed by the general assembly, in pursuance of this constitution. The validity of all bonds, debts, contracts, as well of individuals as of bodies corporate, or the state, of all suits, actions, or rights of action, both in law and equity, shall continue as if no change had taken place. All officers filling any office by election or appointment shall continue to exercise the duties thereof, according to their respective commissions or appointments, until their offices shall have been abolished or their successors selected and qualified in accordance with this constitution or the laws enacted pursuant thereto.

Article TWELFTH Of Amendments to the Constitution

- Two-legislature amendment procedure
- One-legislature amendment procedure

Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by any member of the senate or house of representatives. An amendment so proposed, approved upon roll call by a yea vote of at least a majority, but by less than three-fourths, of the total membership of each house, shall be published with the laws which may have been passed at the same session and be continued to the regular session of the general assembly elected at the next general election to be held on the Tuesday after the first Monday of November in an even-numbered year. An amendment so proposed, approved upon roll call by a yea vote of at least three-fourths of the total membership of each house, or any amendment which, having been continued from the previous general assembly, is again approved upon roll call by a yea vote of at least a majority of the total membership of each house, shall, by the secretary of the state, be transmitted to the town clerk in each town in the state, whose duty it shall be to present the same to the electors thereof for their consideration at the next general election to be held on the Tuesday after the first Monday of November in an even-numbered year. If it shall appear, in a manner to be provided by law, that a majority of the electors present and voting on such amendment at such election shall have approved such amendment, the same shall be valid, to all intents and purposes, as a part of this constitution. Electors voting by absentee ballot under the provisions of the statutes shall be considered to be present and voting.

Article THIRTEENTH Of Constitutional Conventions

Legislature calls
Constitutional Convention

Section 1 Method of convening by vote of general assembly

The general assembly may, upon roll call, by a yea vote of at least two-thirds of the total membership of each house, provide for the convening of a constitutional convention to amend or revise the constitution of the state not earlier than ten years from the date of convening any prior convention.

Periodic referendum to call
Constitutional Convention

Section 2 Method of convening by vote of electors

The question “Shall there be a Constitutional Convention to amend or revise the Constitution of the State?” shall be submitted to all the electors of the state at the general election held on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November in the even-numbered year next succeeding the expiration of a period of twenty years from the date of convening of the last convention called to revise or amend the constitution of the state, including the Constitutional Convention of 1965, or next succeeding the expiration of a period of twenty years from the date of submission of such a question to all electors of the state, whichever date shall last occur. If a majority of the electors voting on the question shall signify “yes”, the general assembly shall provide for such convention as provided in Section 3 of this article.

Convention delegates;
election; oath;
compensation

Section 3 Selection of membership, date of convening

In providing for the convening of a constitutional convention to amend or revise the constitution of the state the general assembly shall, upon roll call, by a yea vote of at least two-thirds of the total membership of each house, prescribe by law the manner of selection of the membership of such convention, the date of convening of such convention, which shall be not later than one year from the date of the roll call vote under Section 1 of this article or one year from the date of the election under Section 2 of this article, as the case may be, and the date for final adjournment of such convention.

Ratification; effective date;
conflicting measures

Section 4 Submission of proposals to electors, approval, effective date

Proposals of any constitutional convention to amend or revise the constitution of the state shall be submitted to all the electors of the state not later than two months after final adjournment of the convention, either as a whole or in such parts and with such alternatives as the convention may determine. Any proposal of the convention to amend or revise the constitution of the state submitted to such electors in accordance with this section and approved by a majority of such electors voting on the question shall be valid, to all intents and purposes, as a part of this constitution. Such proposals when so approved shall take effect thirty days after the date of the vote thereon unless otherwise provided in the proposal.

Article FOURTEENTH Of the Effective Date of this Constitution

Effective date of
constitution or amendment

This proposed constitution, submitted by the Constitutional Convention of 1965, shall become the constitution of the state of Connecticut upon approval by the people and proclamation by the governor as provided by law.

Index

↑ Table of Contents

Administration of justice

Access to courts; remedy for injury ①
 Access to courts; remedy for injury ②
 Excessive bail, fines, and punishment; criminal justice
 Habeas corpus
 Limits on punitive and retrospective legislation
 Right to bail

Amendment procedures

One-legislature amendment procedure
 Two-legislature amendment procedure

Budget stabilization reserve funds

Budget stabilization reserve fund

Compensation

Limitation on increase of compensation and on extension of terms of office

Constitutional Convention procedures

Convention delegates; election; oath; compensation
 Legislature calls Constitutional Convention
 Periodic referendum to call Constitutional Convention

Court provisions

Retirement; age limit
 Terms of judges ①
 Terms of judges ②
 Terms of judges ③

Department of Justice

Other state prosecuting attorneys

Due process rights

Due process of law; rights of accused
 Right of trial by jury
 Self-incrimination; no privilege to witness

Elections

Canvassing and certification of votes ①
 Canvassing and certification of votes ②
 Canvassing and certification of votes ③
 Contested elections
 Date of holding election
 Election laws and purity of elections
 Joint ticket
 Method of voting ①
 Method of voting ②
 Method of voting ③
 Plurality voting; tie vote ①
 Plurality voting; tie vote ②

Executive offices

Compensation of executive state officers
 Election of governor and lieutenant governor ①
 Election of governor and lieutenant governor ②
 Election of principal executive state officers
 Executive state officer term
 Qualifications of governor and lieutenant governor ①
 Qualifications of governor and lieutenant governor ②

Final provisions

Continuance of existing laws

General amendment and reform provisions

Ratification; effective date; conflicting measures

Higher education system

Department of higher education; board of regents
 Particular state universities
 Particular state university board of regents; president
 Private university special considerations

Impeachment

Impeachment
Officers subject to impeachment; grounds; judgment
Trial process

Implementation

Inalienable rights
Preamble
Vestment of political power

Judicial power vested

Vestment of judicial power; establishment of courts

Juries

Trial juries; number

Legislative Department

Compensation of legislators
Continuity of the legislature in emergencies
Disqualification from holding legislative office
Ineligibility of legislators to other offices
Journal of proceedings
Legislative sessions
Legislative vacancies
Lieutenant governor as president of the Senate
Member immunity and freedom of debate
Number of senators and representatives ①
Number of senators and representatives ②
Public sessions
Qualifications of senators and representatives ①
Qualifications of senators and representatives ②
Quorum
Rules of proceedings; judge of qualifications; expulsion ①
Rules of proceedings; judge of qualifications; expulsion ②
Terms of members
Time, place, and other provisions for legislative elections

Legislative power vested

Legislative power vested

Legislative powers and limitations

No extra compensation or unauthorized claims

Legislative proceedings

Bills presented to governor for approval or veto ①
Bills presented to governor for approval or veto ②

Local government organization

Municipal home rule

Local prosecuting attorneys, public defenders and notary public

Local prosecuting attorneys; appointment, qualification, term, compensation

Local works

Intergovernmental cooperation

Military and arms

Civil control, standing armies, and quartering ①
Civil control, standing armies, and quartering ②
Right to bear arms

Natural rights

Equal protection
Freedom of speech, expression and press ①
Freedom of speech, expression and press ②
Freedom of speech, expression and press ③
Religious freedom ①
Religious freedom ②

Oath of office

Broad all-branch oath of public officers

Political rights

Right to assemble and petition
Searches and seizures; right to privacy
Treason

Powers and duties of executive state officers

Comptroller powers and duties
Lieutenant governor powers and duties
Secretary of state powers and duties
State treasurer powers and duties

Powers and duties of the governor

Convening and adjourning the legislature
 General duties of governor
 Governor to be commander in chief
 Grants and commissions
 Information from officers and inspection
 Line-item veto
 Messages to the legislature
 Reprieves and pardons
 Veto power

Present public officer transition

Status of present state and local officers

Property rights

Eminent domain; taking property for public use
 Perpetuities and hereditary emoluments

Public education

Public education system

Public school system

Permanent state school fund

Qualifications and disqualifications

Qualifications for public office

Redistricting

Apportionment by commission; procedures; standards ①
 Apportionment by commission; procedures; standards ②
 Apportionment of United States congressional districts
 Judicial review of apportionment and redistricting plans
 Redistricting commission; certification of district maps

Retirement, removal and discipline

Judicial Conduct and Disability Commission
 Legislative or executive removal of judges for cause
 Retirement, removal and discipline

Rights of crime victims

Rights of crime victims

Selection of judges

Appointment of judges from nominating commission nominees
 Selection of judges by popular election

Special legislative provisions

Legislation requiring state to dispose of real property

Special-purpose trust funds

Transportation fund

Specialty trial courts of limited jurisdiction

Probate court

State powers

Distribution of powers
 Sovereign immunity

State revenues and withdrawals

Rendering and publication of accounts
 State appropriations ceiling
 State balanced budget

Suffrage

Disfranchisement
 Privilege of electors from arrest
 Qualifications of electors ①
 Qualifications of electors ②
 Qualifications of electors ③

Term, removal and vacancy

Continuation in office until successors qualify

Transition of government bodies

Rights and duties of existing public bodies

Transition process

Effective date of constitution or amendment

Vacancy

Governor of unsound mind
 Succession of governor and lieutenant governor ①
 Succession of governor and lieutenant governor ②
 Succession of governor and lieutenant governor ③
 Succession of governor and lieutenant governor ④

