



Oregon State Archives

Transcribed 1857 Oregon Constitution



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EDITOR’S NOTES

Notes by Charles H. Carey preceding transcription of the 1857 Oregon Constitution

[The engrossed and signed copy of the constitution as adopted by the convention, September 18, 1857, and as approved by the vote of the people of Oregon Territory, November 9, 1857, is carefully preserved in the office of the secretary of state, at Salem Oregon. Perhaps there was period during which it was not safeguarded as the venerable and historic document deserved, for it now bears this endorsement: “Found rolled up and placed in one corner of the vault. Pressed out, arranged and bound, this 8th day of March, 1880. R. P. Earhart, Secretary of State.”

For a period of 45 years, until the adoption of the initiative and referendum amendment of 1902, the constitution as originally adopted remained unchanged. Between 1902 and 1926 a total of 113 proposed constitutional amendments have been voted upon by the people of the state, and of these 54 have been adopted and 59 rejected. Fifty-three were initiated by the people, and 60 were referred to the voters by the legislative assembly.

The original constitution is here set out in full, as taken from the copy in the office of the secretary of state. The amendments are indicated by footnotes, and follow in the order of their adoption, so that the changes can be readily noted.]

Notes:

1. Charles H. Carey, ed., *The Oregon Constitution and Proceedings and Debates of the Constitutional Convention of 1857* (Salem, Oregon: State Printing Department, 1926) 401. (hereafter cited as Carey, *Oregon Constitution*).

PREAMBLE AND ARTICLE I (BILL OF RIGHTS)

PREAMBLE.-

We the people of the State of Oregon to the end that Justice be established, order maintained, and liberty perpetuated, do ordain this constitution.-

ARTICLE I

BILL OF RIGHTS

1.-We declare that all men, when they form a social compact are equal in right: that all power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority, and instituted for their peace, safety, and happiness; and they have at all times a right to alter, reform, or abolish the government in such manner as they may think proper.-

2.-All men shall be secure in the natural right, to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own consciences.-

3.-No law shall in any case whatever control the free exercise, and enjoyment of the religious opinions, or interfere with the rights of conscience.-

4.-No religious test shall be required as a qualification for any of trust or profit.-

5.-No money shall be drawn from the Treasury for the benefit of any religious, or theological institution, nor shall any money be appropriated for the payment of any religious services in either house of the Legislative Assembly.-

6.-No person shall be rendered incompetent as a witness, or juror in consequence of his opinions on matters of religion; nor be questioned in any Court of Justice touching his religious belief to affect the weight of his testimony.-

7.-The mode of administering an oath, or affirmation shall be such as may be most consistent with, and binding upon the conscience of the person to whom such oath or affirmation may be administered.-

8.-No law shall be passed restraining the free expression of opinion, or restricting the right to speak, write, or print freely on any subject whatever; but every person shall be responsible for the abuse of this right.-

9.-No law shall violate the right of the people to be secure in their persons, house, papers, and effects, against unreasonable search, or seizure; and no warrant shall issue but upon probable cause, supported by oath, or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the person or thing to be seized.-

10.-No court shall be secret, but justice shall be administered, openly and without purchase, completely and without delay, and every man shall have remedy by due course of law for injury done him in his person, property, or reputation.-

11.-In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall have the right to public trial by an impartial jury in the county in which the offense shall have been committed; to be heard by himself and counsel; to demand the nature and the cause of the accusation against him, and to have copy thereof; to meet the witnesses face to face, and to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor.-

12.-No person shall be put in jeopardy twice for the same offense, nor be compelled in any criminal prosecution to testify against himself.-

13.-No person arrested, or confined in jail, shall be treated with unnecessary rigor.-

14.-Offenses except murder, and treason, shall be bailable by sufficient sureties. Murder or treason, shall not be bailable, when proof is evident, or the presumption strong.-

15.-Laws for the punishment of crime shall be found on the principles of reformation, and not for vindictive justice.-

16.-Excessive bail shall no be required, nor excessive fines imposed. Cruel and unusual punishment shall not inflicted, but all penalties shall be proportioned to the offense. -In all criminal cases whatever, the jury shall have the right to determine the law, and the facts under the direction of the Court as to the law, and the right of new trial, as in civil cases.-

17.-In all civil cases the right of Trial by Jury shall remain inviolate.-

18.-Private property shall not be taken for public use nor the particular services of any man be demanded without just compensation;-nor except in the case of the state, without such compensation first assessed and tendered.-*

*(amended May 21, 1920 and again amended November 4, 1924, infra.)

19.-There shall be no imprisonment for debt, except in case of fraud or absconding debtors.-

20.-No law shall be passed granting to any citizen or class of citizens privileges, or immunities, which, upon the same terms, shall not equally belong to all citizens.-

21.-No *ex-post facto* law, or law impairing the obligation of contracts shall ever be passes, nor shall any law be passed, the taking effect of which shall be made to depend upon any authority, except as provided in this constitution; provided, that laws locating the Capitol of the State, locating County seats, and submitting town, and corporate acts, and other local, and special laws may take effect, or not, upon a vote of the electors interested.-

22.-The operation of the laws shall never be suspended, except by the authority of the Legislative Assembly.-

23.-The privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus* shall not be suspended unless in a case of rebellion, or invasion the public safety require it.-

24.-Treason against the State shall consist only in levying war against it, or adhering to its enemies, giving them aid or comfort. -No person shall be convicted of treason unless on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or confession in open Court.-

25.-No conviction shall work corrupted of blood, or forfeiture of estate.-

26.-No law shall be passed restraining any of the inhabitants of the State from assembling together in a peaceable manner to consult for their common good; nor from instructing their representatives; nor from applying to the Legislature for redress of grievances.-

27.-The people shall have the right to bear arms for the defense of themselves, and the state, but the Military shall be kept in strict subordination to the civil power.-

28.-No soldier shall, in time of peace, be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, except in the manner prescribed by law.-

29.-No law shall be passed granting any title of Nobility, or conferring hereditary distinctions.-

30.-No law shall be passed prohibiting emigration from the State.-

31.-White foreigners who are, or may hereafter become residents of this State shall enjoy the same rights in respect to the possession, enjoyment, and descent of property as native born citizens. And the Legislative Assembly shall have the power to restrain, and regulate the immigration to this State of persons not qualified to become Citizens of the United States.-

32.-No tax or duty shall be imposed without the consent of the People, or their Representatives in the Legislative Assembly; and all taxation shall be equal and uniform.-*

*(Amended June 4, 1917, infra.)

33.-This enumeration of rights, and privileges shall not be constructed to impair or deny others retained by the people.-*

*(November 3, 1914, two additional sections were added to the Bill of Rights, each numbered section 36. One of these was repealed by the adoption of section 37, May 21, 1920. See these sections, infra.

Also, on November 7, 1916, an additional section 36a was added, infra.

Sections 37 and 38 were added at the election of May 21, 1920, infra.

The anti-slavery provision and the provision against free Negroes were added to the Bill of Rights as unnumbered sections by vote of the people at the time of adoption, in accordance with Article XVIII, Section 4, of the Constitution. They have since been treated as Sections 34 and 35 of Article I. They are in Article XVIII, infra, but Section 35 was repealed November 2, 1926.)

Notes:

1. Carey, *Oregon Constitution*, 401-404.

ARTICLE II TO ARTICLE III (SUFFRAGE AND ELECTIONS, DISTRIBUTION OF POWERS)

ARTICLE II
SUFFRAGE AND ELECTIONS

Section No. 1

All elections shall be free and equal.-

Section No. 2

In all elections, not otherwise provided for, by this Constitution, every white male citizen of the United States, of the age of 21 years, and upwards, who shall have resided in the State during the six months immediately preceding such election; and every white male of foreign birth of the age of 21 years, and upwards, who shall have resided in the United States one year, and shall have resided in this State during six months immediately preceding such election, and shall have declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States one year preceding such election, conformably to the laws of the United States on the subject of naturalization, shall be entitled to vote at all elections authorized by law.-*

*(Amended, November 5, 1912; November 3, 1914; and November 4, 1924, infra.)

Section No.3

No idiot, or insane person, shall be entitled to the privileges of an elector, and the privilege of an elector shall be forfeited by a conviction of any crime which is punishable by imprisonment in the penitentiary.-

Section No. 4

For the purpose of voting, no person shall be deemed to have gained or lost a residence, by reason of his presence or absence while employed in the service of the United States or of this State; nor while engaged in the navigation of the waters of this State, or of the United States, or of the high seas; nor while a student of any Seminary of Learning; nor while kept at any alms house, or other asylum, at public expense; nor while confined in any public prison.-

Section No. 5

No soldier, seamen, or marine in the Army, or Navy of the United States, or of their allies, shall be deemed to have acquired a residence in the state in consequence of having been stationed within the same; nor shall any other soldier, seamen, or marine have the right to vote.-

Section No.6

No Negro, Chinaman, or Mulatto shall have the right of suffrage.-

Section No. 7

Every person shall be disqualified from holding office during the term for which he may have been elected, who shall have given, or offered a bribe, threat or reward to procure his election.-

Section No. 8

The Legislative Assembly shall enact laws to support the privilege of free suffrage, prescribing the manner of regulating and conducting elections, and prohibiting under adequate penalties all undue influence therein, from power, bribery, tumult, and other improper conduct.-

Section No. 9

Every person who shall give or accept a challenge to fight a duel, or who shall knowingly carry to another person such challenge, or who shall agree to go out of the State to fight a duel, shall be ineligible to any office of trust or profit.-

Section No. 10

No person holding a lucrative office, or appointment under the United States, or under this State, shall be eligible to a seat in the Legislative Assembly; nor shall any person hold more than one lucrative office at the same time, except as in this Constitution expressly permitted; provided, that Officers in the Militia, to

which there is attached no annual salary, and the Office of Post Master, where the compensation does not exceed One Hundred Dollars per annum, shall not be deemed lucrative.-

Section No. 11

No person who may hereafter be a collector, or holder of public moneys, shall be eligible to any office of trust or profit, until he shall have accounted for, and paid over according to law, all sums for which he may be liable.-

Section No. 12

In all cases in which it is provided that an office shall not be filled by the same person, more than a certain number of years continuously, an appointment *pro tempore* shall not be reckoned a part of that term.-

Section No. 13

In all cases, except treason, felony, and breach of the peace, electors shall be free from arrest in going to elections, during their attendance there, and in returning from the same; and no elector shall be obliged to do duty in the Militia on any day of election, except in time of war, or public danger.-

Section No. 14

General Elections shall be held on the first Monday of June, biennially.-*

*(Amended June 1, 1908, *infra*. Section 14a added June 4, 1917, *infra*.)

Section No.15

In all Elections by the Legislative Assembly, or by either branch thereof, votes shall be given openly or *viva voc*, and not by ballot, forever; and in all elections by the people, votes shall be given openly, or *viva voce*, until the Legislative Assembly shall otherwise direct.-

Section No. 16

In all elections held by the people, under this Constitution, the person, or persons who shall receive the highest number of votes shall be declared duly elected.-(Amended June 1, 1908, *infra*.)

Section No. 17

All qualified electors shall vote in the election precinct in the County where they may reside, for County Officers, and in any County in the State for State officers, or in any County of a Congressional District in which such electors may reside, for members of Congress.-*

*(An additional section, providing for recall of officers, was added June 1, 1908, as Article II, Section 18, *infra*. It was afterward amended in 1926, *infra*.)

ARTICLE III

DISTRIBUTION OF POWERS

Section No. 1

The powers of the Government shall be divided into three separate departments, the Legislative, the Executive, including the administrative, and the Judicial; and no person charged with official duties under one of these departments, shall exercise any of the functions of another, except as in this Constitution expressly provided.-

Notes:

1. Carey, *Oregon Constitution*, 404-406.

ARTICLE IV (LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT)

ARTICLE IV

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

Section No.1

The legislative authority of the State shall be vested in the Legislative Assembly, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives. - The style of every bill shall be-"Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon," and no law shall be enacted except by bill.-*

*(See the Initiative and Referendum Amendment, June 2, 1902, infra; and the additional Section 1a, added June 4, 1906, infra.)

Section No. 2

The Senate shall consist of sixteen, and the House of Representatives of thirty-four members, which number shall not be increased until the year Eighteen Hundred and Sixty, after which time the Legislative Assembly may increase the number of Senators and Representatives, always keeping as near as may be the same ratio as to the number of Senators, and Representatives; provided that the Senate shall never exceed thirty, and the House of Representatives sixty members.-

Section No. 3

The Senators, and Representatives shall be chosen by the electors of the respective counties, or districts into which the State may, from time to time be divided by law.-

Section No. 4

The Senators shall be elected for the term of four years, and the Representatives for the term of Two years from the day next after their general election: Provided, however, that the Senators elect at the first session of the Legislative Assembly under this Constitution shall be divided by lot into two equal classes, as nearly as may be, and the Seats of the Senators of the first class shall be vacated at the expiration of two years, and those of the second class at the expiration of four years; so that one half as nearly as possible, shall be chosen biennially forever thereafter.- And in case of the increase of the number of Senators, they shall be so annexed by lot to one, or the other of the two classes, as to keep them as nearly equal to possible.-

Section No. 5

The Legislative Assembly shall in the year eighteen hundred, and sixty five, and every ten years, after, cause an enumeration to be made of all the white population of the State.-

Section No. 6The number of Senators and Representatives shall at the session next following an enumeration of the inhabitants by the United States, or this State, be fixed by law, and apportioned among the several counties according to the number of white population in each.- And the ratio of Senators, and Representatives shall be determined by dividing the whole number of white population of such county, or district by such respective ratios; and when a fraction shall result from such division, which shall exceed one half of said ratio, such county, or district—shall be entitled to a member for such fraction; And in case any county shall not have the requisite population to entitle such county to a member, then such county shall be attached to some adjoining county for Senatorial or Representative purposes.-

Section No. 7

A Senatorial district, when more than one county shall constitute the same, shall be composed of contiguous Counties, and no County shall be divided in creating Senatorial districts.-

Section No. 8

No person shall be a Senator, or Representative who at the time of his election is not a citizen of the United States; nor any one who has not been for one year, next preceding his election an inhabitant of the county, or district whence he may be chosen. Senators and Representatives shall be at least twenty one years of age.-

Section No. 9

Senators and Representatives in all cases except for treason, felony, or breaches of peace, shall be privileged from arrest during the session of the Legislative Assembly, and in going to and returning from the same; and shall not subject to any civil processes during the session of the Legislative Assembly, nor during the fifteen days next before the commencement thereof: Nor shall a member for words uttered in debate in either house, be questioned in any other place.-

Section No. 10

The sessions of the Legislative Assembly shall be held biennially at the Capitol of the State commencing on the second Monday of September, in the year eighteen hundred and fifty eight, and on the same day of every second year thereafter, unless a different day shall have been appointed by law.-

Section No. 11

Each house when assembled, shall choose its own officers, judge of the election, qualifications, and returns of its own members: determine its own rules of proceeding, and sit upon its own adjournments; but neither house shall without the concurrence of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other place than that in which it may be sitting.-

Section No. 12

Two thirds of each house shall constitute a quorum to do business, but a smaller number may meet; adjourn from day to day, and compel the attendance of absent members. A quorum being in attendance, if either house fail to effect an organization within the first five days thereafter, the members of the house so failing shall be entitled to no compensation from the end of the said five days until an organization shall have been effected.-

Section No. 13

Each house shall keep a journal of its proceedings. - The yeas and nays on any question, shall at the request of any two members, be entered, together with the names of the members demanding the same, on the journal; provided that on a motion to adjourn it shall require one tenth of the members present to order the yeas, and nays.-

Section No. 14

The doors of each house, and of committees of the whole, shall be kept open, except in such cases as in the opinion of either house may require secrecy.-

Section No. 15

Either house may punish its members for disorderly behavior, and may with the concurrence of two thirds, expel a member; but not a second time for the same cause.-

Section No. 16

Either house, during its session, may punish by imprisonment, any person, not a member, who shall have been guilty of disrespect to the house by disorderly or contemptuous behavior in its presence, but such imprisonment shall not at any time, exceed twenty four hours.-

Section No. 17

Each house shall have all powers necessary for a branch of the Legislative Department, of a free and independent State.-

Section No. 18

Bills may originate in either house, but may be amended, or rejected in the other; except that bills for raising revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives.-

Section No. 19

Every bill shall be read by sections, on three several days, in each house: unless in case of emergency, two thirds of the house, where such bill may be depending, shall by a vote of yeas and nays, deem it expedient to dispense with this rule; but the reading of a bill by sections on its final passage, shall in no case be dispensed with, and the vote on the passage of every bill, or joint resolution shall be taken by yeas, and nays.-

Section No. 20

Every act shall embrace but one subject, and matters properly connected therewith, which subject shall be expressed in the title; But if any subject shall be embraced in an act, which shall not be expressed in the title, such act shall be void only as to so much thereof as shall not be expressed in the title.-

Section No. 21

Every act, and joint resolution shall be plainly worded, avoiding as far as practicable the use of technical terms.-

Section No. 22

No act shall ever be revised, or amended by mere reference to its title, but the act revised, or section amended shall be set forth, and published at full length.-

Section No. 23

The Legislative Assembly shall not pass special or local laws, in any of the following enumerated cases, that is to say:--

Regulating the jurisdiction, and duties of justices of the peace, and of constables;

For the punishment of Crimes, and Misdemeanors:

Regulating the practice in Courts of Justice;

Providing for changing the venue in civil and criminal cases;

Granting divorces;

Changing the names of persons;

For laying, opening, and working on highways, and for the election, or appointment of supervisors;

Vacating roads, town plats, streets, alleys, and public squares;

Summoning and empanelling grand and petit jurors;

For the assessment, and collection of taxes, for state, county, township, or road purposes;

Providing for supporting common schools, and for preservation of school funds;

In relation to interest on money;

Providing for opening and conducting the elections of state, county, and township officers, and designating the places of voting;

Providing for the sale of real estate, belonging to minors, or other persons laboring under legal disabilities, by executors, administrators, guardians, or trustees.-

Section No. 24

Provision may be made by general law, for bringing suit against the State, as to all liabilities originating

after, or existing at the time of the adoption of this Constitution; but no special act authorizing such suit to be brought, or making compensation to any person claiming damages against the State, shall ever be passed.-

Section No. 25

A majority of all the members elected to each House shall be necessary to pass every bill, or Joint Resolution; and all bills, and joint resolutions so passed, shall be signed by the presiding officers of the respective houses.-

Section No. 26

Any member of either house, shall have the right to protest, and have his protest, with his reasons for dissent, entered on the journal.-

Section No. 27

Every Statute shall be a public law, unless otherwise declared in the Statute itself.-

Section No. 28

No act shall take effect, until ninety days from the end of the session at which the same shall have been passed, except in case of emergency; which emergency shall be declared in the preamble, or in the body of the law.-

Section No. 29

The members of the Legislative Assembly shall receive for their services, a sum not exceeding three dollars a day, from the commencement of the session: but with such pay shall not exceed in the aggregate one hundred and twenty dollars for per diem allowance for any one session. - When convened in extra session by the Governor, they shall receive three dollars per day; but no extra session shall continue for a longer period than twenty days. They shall also receive the sum of three dollars for every twenty miles they shall travel in going to and returning from their place of meeting, on the most unusual route.- The presiding officers of the Assembly, shall in virtue of their office receive an additional compensation equal to two thirds of their per diem allowance as members.-

Section No. 30

No Senator or Representative shall, during the time for which he may have been elected, be eligible to any office the election to which is vested in the Legislative Assembly; nor shall be appointed to any civil office of profit which shall have been created or the emoluments of which shall have been increased during such term; but this latter provision shall not be construed to apply to any officer elective by the people.-

Section No. 31

The members of the Legislative Assembly shall before they enter on the duties of their respective offices, take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation; - I do solemnly swear (or affirm as the case may be) that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the State of Oregon, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of Senator (or Representative as the case may be) according to the best of my ability. And such oath may be administered by the Governor, Secretary of State, or a judge of the Supreme Court.-

Notes:

1. Carey, *Oregon Constitution*, 406-412.

ARTICLE V TO ARTICLE VI (EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT)

ARTICLE V EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Section No. 1

The chief executive power of the State, shall be vested in a Governor, who shall hold his office for the term of four years; and no person shall be eligible to such office more than eight, in any period of twelve years.-

Section No. 2

No person except a citizen of the United States, shall be eligible to the office of Governor, nor shall any person be eligible to that office who shall not have attained the age of thirty years, and who shall not have been three years next preceding his election, a resident within this State.-

Section No. 3

No member of congress, or person holding any office under the United States, or under this State, or under any other power shall fill the office of Governor, except as may be otherwise provided in this constitution.-

Section No. 4

The Governor shall be elected by the qualified Electors of the State at the times, and places of choosing members of the Legislative Assembly; and the returns of every election for governor, shall be sealed up, and transmitted to the Secretary of State; directed to the speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall open, and publish them in the presence of both houses of the Legislative Assembly.-

Section No. 5

The person having the highest number of votes for Governor, shall be elected; but in case two or more persons shall have an equal and the highest votes for Governor, the two houses of the Legislative Assembly at the next regular session thereof, shall forthwith by joint vote, proceed to elect one of the said persons Governor.-

Section No.6

Contested elections for Governor shall be determined by the Legislative Assembly in such manner as may be prescribed by law.-

Section No. 7

The official term of the Governor shall be four years; and shall commence at such times as may be prescribed by this constitution, or prescribed by law.-

Section No. 8

In case of the removal of the Governor from office, or of his death, resignation, or inability to discharge the duties of the office, the same shall devolve on the Secretary of State; and in case of the removal from office, death, resignation, or inability both of the Governor, and Secretary of State, the president of the senate shall act as Governor, until the disability be removed, or a Governor be elected.-*

*(Amended, May 21, 1920, infra.)

Section No. 9

The Governor shall be commander in chief of the military and naval forces of this State, and may call out such forces to execute the laws, to suppress insurrection, or to repel invasion.-

Section No. 10

He shall take care that the Laws be faithfully executed.-

Section No. 11

He shall from time to time give to the Legislative Assembly information touching the condition of the State, and recommend such measures as he shall judge to expedient.-

Section No. 12

He may on extraordinary occasions convene the Legislative Assembly by proclamation, and shall state to both houses when assembled, the purpose for which they shall have been convened.-

Section No. 13

He shall transact all necessary business with the officers of government, and may require information in writing from the offices of the Administrative, and Military Departments upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices.-

Section No. 14

He shall have power to grant reprieves, commutations, and pardons, after conviction, for all offenses except treason, subject to such regulations as may provided by law. Upon conviction for treason he shall have power to suspend the execution of the sentence until the case shall be reported to the Legislative Assembly, at its next meeting, when the Legislative Assembly shall either grant or pardon, commute the sentence, direct the execution of the sentence, or grant a farther reprieve.- He shall have power to remit fines, and forfeitures, under such regulations as may be prescribed by law; and shall report to the Legislative Assembly at its next meeting each case of reprieve, communication, or pardon granted, and the reasons for granting the same; and also the names of all persons in whose favor remission of fines, and forfeitures shall have been made, and the several amounts remitted.-

Section No. 15

Every bill which shall have passed the Legislative Assembly, shall, before it becomes a law be presented to the Governor, if he approves he shall sign it; but if not, he shall return it with his objections, to that house in which it shall have originated, which house shall enter the objections at large upon the journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If, after such reconsideration, two thirds of the members present shall agree to pass the bill, it shall be sent, together with the objections to the other house, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two third of the members present, 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 members voting for, or against the bill shall be entered on the journal of each house respectively; if any bill shall not be returned by the Governor within five days, Sundays excepted, after it shall have been presented to him, it shall be a law without his signature, unless the general adjournment shall prevent its return, in which case it shall be a law, unless the Governor, within five days next after the adjournment, Sundays excepted, shall file such bill, with his objections thereto, in the office of the Secretary of State, who shall lay the same before the Legislative Assembly at its next session, in like manner as if it had been returned by the Governor.-*

*(See amendment, section 15b, adopted November 7, 1916, infra; and section 15a, amending article I, Bill of Rights by adding the single item veto, adopted November 7, 1916, infra; and also section 15a, amending article V, Executive Department, relating to single item veto, adopted June 7, 1921, infra.)

Section No. 16

When during a recess of the Legislative Assembly a vacancy shall happen in any office, the appointment to which is vested in the Legislative Assembly; or when, at any time, a vacancy shall have occurred in any other State office, or in the office of judge of any court, the Governor shall fill such vacancy by appointment, which shall expire when a successor shall have been elected, and qualified.*

*(Amended November 2, 1926, infra.)

Section No. 17

He shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies as many as may have occurred in the Legislative Assembly.-

Section No. 18

All commissions shall issue in the name of the State; shall be signed by the Governor, sealed with the seal of the State, and attested by the Secretary of State,-

ARTICLE VI

ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT

Section No. 1

There shall be elected by the qualified electors of the State, at the times and places of choosing members of the Legislative Assembly, a Secretary, and treasury of State, who shall severally hold their offices for the term of four years; but no person shall be eligible to either of said offices more than eight in any period of twelve years.-

Section No. 2

The Secretary of State shall keep a fair record of the official acts of the Legislative Assembly, and Executive Department of the State; and shall when required lay the same, and all matters relative thereto before either branch of the Legislative Assembly. He shall be by virtue of his office, auditor of public accounts, and shall perform such other duties as shall be assigned him by law.-

Section No. 3

There shall be a seal of State, kept by the Secretary of State for Official purposes, which shall be called "The seal of the State of Oregon".-

Section No. 4

The powers, and duties of the Treasurer of the State shall be such as may be prescribed by law.-

Section No. 5

The Governor, and the Secretary, and Treasurer of State shall severally keep the public records, books and papers in any manner relating to their respective offices, at the seat of government, at which place also, the Secretary of State shall reside.-

Section No. 6

There shall be elected in each county, by the qualified electors thereof, at the time of holding general elections, a county clerk, Treasurer, Sheriff, Coroner, and Surveyor, who shall severally hold their offices for the term of two years.-(Amended, November 2, 1920, infra.)

Section No. 7

Such other county, township, precinct, and city officers as may be necessary, shall be elected, or appointed in such manner as may be prescribed by law.-

Section No. 8

No person shall be elected, appointed to a county office, who shall not be an elector of the county; and all county, township, precinct, and city officers shall keep their respective offices at such places therein, and perform such duties as may be prescribed by law.-

Section No. 9

Vacancies in county, township, precinct, and city offices shall be filled in such manner as may be prescribed by law.-

Notes:

1. Carey, *Oregon Constitution*, 412-416.

ARTICLE VII (JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT)

ARTICLE VII

THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT*

*(Article VII was revised and greatly changed by the amendment of the November 8, 1910, *infra*, but some provisions of the original article VII remain. The courts, jurisdiction and judicial system, by the terms of the section 2 of the amendment, are subject to change by provisions of law, except so far as changed by the amendment.)

Section No. 1

The judicial power of the State shall be vested in a Supreme Court, Circuit Courts, and County Courts, which shall be courts of record having general jurisdiction, to be defined, limited, and regulated by law in accordance with this Constitution. - Justices of the peace may also be invested with limited judicial powers, and Municipal Courts may be created to administer the regulations of incorporated towns, and cities.-*

*(Amended, November 8, 1910, *infra*.)

Section No. 2

The Supreme Court shall consist of Four Justices to be chosen in districts by the electors thereof, who shall be citizens of the United States, and who shall have resided in the state at least three years next preceding their election, and after their election to reside in their respective districts: - The number of Justices, and districts may be increased, but shall not exceed five until the white population of the State shall amount to one hundred thousand, and shall never exceed seven; and the boundaries of districts may be changed, but no change of districts, shall have the effect to remove a judge from office, or require him to change his residence without his consent.-*

*(Note—Section 2 of Article VII of the original constitution fixed the number of justices of the supreme court at four, permitting an increase to five when the population of the state would amount to one hundred thousand, but restricting the number to seven in any event. The Legislative Assembly of 1909, chapter 5, enlarged the membership of the Supreme Court to five, which was declared constitutional by decision in *state v. Cochran*, 55 Or. 157; 105 Pac. 884. Section 2 was changed in the scope and phraseology in the substitute Article VII, adopted in November 8, 1910, *infra*, omitting any allusion to limit membership to the Supreme Court, or other Courts. The number of the judges of the Supreme Court was increased to seven by the Chapter 167, laws of 1913.)

Section No. 3

The Judges first chosen under this Constitution shall allot among themselves their terms of office, so that

the terms of one of them shall expire in two years, one in four years, and two in six years, and thereafter, one or more shall be chosen every two years to serve for the term of six years.-*

*(Amended November 8, 1910, infra.)

Section No. 4

Every vacancy in the office of judge of the Supreme Court shall be filled by election for the remainder of the vacant term, unless it would expire at the next election, and until so filled, or when it would so expire, the Governor, shall fill the vacancy by appointment.-*

*(Amended, November 8, 1910, infra. See also amendment of article V, section 16, infra, November 2, 1926.)

Section No. 5

The judge who has the shortest term to serve, or the oldest of several having such shortest term, and not holding by appointment shall be the Chief Justice.-*

*(Amended November 8, 1910, infra.)

Section No. 6

The Supreme Court shall have jurisdiction only to revise the final decisions of the circuit courts, and every cause shall be tried, and every decision shall be made by those judges only, or a majority of them, who did not try the cause, or make the decision in the Circuit Court.-*

*(Amended November 8, 1910, infra.)

Section No. 7

The terms of the Supreme Courts shall be appointed by law: but there shall be one term at the seat of government annually:- And at the close of each term the Judges shall file with the Secretary of State, concise written statements of the decisions made at that term.-*

*(Amended November 8, 1910, infra.)

Section No. 8

The Circuit Courts shall be held twice at least in each year in each county organized for judicial purposes, by one of the Justices of the Supreme Court at times to be appointed by law; and at such other times as may be appointed by the judges severally in pursuance of law.-*

*(Amended November 8, 1910, infra.)

Section No. 9

All judicial power, authority, and jurisdiction not by this Constitution, or laws consistent therewith, exclusively in some other Court shall belong to the Circuit Courts, and they shall have appellate jurisdiction, and supervisory control over the County Courts, and all other inferior Courts, officers, and tribunals.-*

*(Amended November 8, 1910, infra.)

Section No. 10

When the white population of the State shall amount to two hundred thousand the Legislative Assembly, may provide for the election of Supreme, and Circuit Judges, in distinct classes, one of which classes shall consist of three Justices of the Supreme Court, who shall not perform Circuit duty, and the other

class shall consist of the necessary number of circuit judges, who shall hold full terms without allotment, and who shall take the same oath as the Supreme Judges.-*

*(Amended November 8, 1910, infra.)

Section No. 11

There shall be elected in each county for the term of four years a county judge, who shall hold the county court at times to be regulated by law.-*

*(Amended November 8, 1910, infra.)

Section No. 12

The County Court shall have the jurisdiction pertaining to probate Courts, and boards of county commissioners, and such other powers, and duties, and such civil jurisdiction, not exceeding the amount or value of five hundred dollars, and such criminal jurisdiction not extending to death or imprisonment in the penitentiary, as may be prescribed by law.- But the Legislative Assembly may provide for the election of two commissioners to sit with the county judge whilst transacting county business, in any, or all of the counties, or may provide a separate board for transacting such business.-*

*(Amended November 8, 1910, infra.)

Section No.13

The County Judge may grant preliminary injunctions, and such other writs as the Legislative Assembly may authorize him to grant, returnable to the Circuit Court, or otherwise as may be provided by law; and may hear, and decide questions arising upon *habeas corpus*; provided such decision be not against the authority, or proceedings of a court, or judge of equal, or higher jurisdiction. -*

*(Amended November 8, 1910, infra.)

Section No. 14

The counties having less than ten thousand white inhabitants shall be reimbursed wholly or in part for the salary, and expenses of the County Court by fees, percentage, & other equitable taxation, of the business done in said court & in the office of the County Clerk.-*

*(Amended November 8, 1910, infra.)

Section No. 15

A County clerk shall be elected in each County for the term of two years, who shall keep all the public records, books, and papers of the county; record conveyances, and perform the duties of clerk of the circuit, and county courts, and such other duties as may be prescribed by law:- But when ever the number of voters in any county shall exceed twelve hundred, the Legislative Assembly may authorize the election of one person as clerk of the circuit court, one person as clerk of the county court, and one person recorder of conveyances.-*

*(Amended November 8, 1910, infra.)

Section No. 16

A sheriff shall be elected in each county for the term of two years, who shall be the ministerial officer of the circuit, and county courts, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law.-*

*(Amended November 8, 1910, infra.)

Section No. 17

There shall be elected by districts comprised of one, or more counties, a sufficient number of prosecuting attorneys, who shall be the law officers of the state, and of the counties within their respective districts, and shall perform such duties pertaining to the administration of law, and general police as the Legislative Assembly may direct. -*

*(Amended November 8, 1910, infra.)

Section No. 18

The Legislative Assembly shall so provide that the most competent of the permanent citizens of the county shall be chosen for jurors; and out of the whole number in attendance at the court, seven shall be chosen by lot as grand jurors, five of whom must concur to find an indictment: But the Legislative Assembly may modify or abolish grand juries.-*

*(Amended June 1, 1908; again changed by revision of Article VII, November 8, 1910, infra.)

Section No. 19

Public Officers shall not be impeached, but incompetence, corruption, malfeasance, or delinquency in office may be tried in the same manner as criminal offenses, and judgment may be given of dismissal from office, and such further punishment as may have been prescribed by law.-*

*(Amended November 8, 1910, infra, and reenacted.)

Section No. 20

The Governor may remove from office a judge of the Supreme Court, or prosecuting attorney upon the joint resolution of the Legislative Assembly, in which two thirds of the members elected to each house shall concur, for incompetence, corruption, malfeasance, or delinquency in office, or other sufficient cause stated in such resolution.-*

*(Amended November 8, 1910, infra.)

Section No. 21

Every judge of the supreme court before entering upon the duties of his office shall take, subscribe, and transmit to the Secretary of State the following oath.---

I,, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the State of Oregon, and that I will faithfully, and impartially discharge the duties of a judge of the Supreme, and Circuits Courts of said State according to the best of my ability, and that I will not accept any other office, except judicial offices during the term for which I have been elected.-*

*(Amended November 8, 1910, infra.)

Notes:

1. Carey, *Oregon Constitution*, 416-420.

ARTICLE VIII TO ARTICLE IX (EDUCATION AND SCHOOL LANDS, FINANCE)

ARTICLE VIII

EDUCATION AND SCHOOL LANDS

Section No. 1

The Governor shall be superintendent of public instruction, and his powers, and duties in that capacity shall be such as may be prescribed by law; but after the term of five years from the adoption of this Constitution, it shall be competent for the Legislative Assembly to provide by law for the election of a superintendent, to provide for his compensation, and prescribe his powers and duties.-

Section No. 2

The proceeds of all the lands which have been, or hereafter may be granted to this state, for educational purposes (excepting the lands heretofore granted to, and in the establishment of a university) all the moneys, and clear proceeds of all property which may accrue to the state by escheat, or forfeiture, all moneys which may be paid as exemption from military duty, the proceeds of all gifts, devises, and bequests, made by any person to the state for common school purposes, the proceeds of all property of all property granted to the state, when the purposes of such grant shall not be stated, all the proceeds of the five hundred thousand acres of land to which this state is entitled by provisions of an act of congress, entitled "An act to appropriate the proceeds of the sales of the public lands, and to grant preemption rights, approved the fourth of September, 1841", and also the five per centum of the net proceeds of the sales of the public lands, to which this state shall become entitled on her admission into the union (if congress shall consent to such appropriation of the two grants last mentioned) shall be set apart as a separate, and irreducible fund to be called the common school fund, the interest of which together with all other revenues derived from the school lands mentioned in this section shall be exclusively applied to the support, and maintenance of common schools in each school district, and the purchase of suitable libraries, and apparatus therefore.-

Section No. 3

The Legislative Assembly shall provide by law for the establishment of a uniform, and general systems of common schools.-

Section No. 4

Provision shall be made by law for the distribution of the income of the common school fund among the several counties of this state in proportion to the number of children resident therein between the ages, four and twenty years.-

Section No. 5

The Governor, Secretary of State, and State Treasurer shall constitute a board of commissioners for the sale of school, and university lands, and for the investment of the funds arising there from, and their powers, and duties, shall be such as may be prescribed by law. *Provided* that no part of the University funds, or of the interest arising there from shall be expended until the period of ten years from the adoption of this Constitution, unless the same shall be otherwise disposed of by the consent of congress for common school purposes.-

ARTICLE IX

FINANCE

Section No. 1

The Legislative Assembly shall provide by law, for a uniform, and equal rate of assessment and taxation, and shall prescribe such regulations as shall secure a just valuation for taxation of all property, both real, and personal, excepting such only for municipal, educational, literary, scientific, religious, or charitable purposes, as may be specially exempted by law.-*

*(Amended June 4, 1917, *infra*. An additional section was added November 8, 1910, and was again amended November 5, 1912, *infra*. An additional section 1-b was added November 7, 1916, *infra*.)

Section No. 2

The Legislative Assembly shall provide for raising revenue sufficient to defray the expenses of the state for each fiscal year, and also a sufficient sum to pay the interest of the state debt, if there be any.-

Section No. 3

No tax shall be levied except in pursuance of law, and every law, imposing a tax shall state distinctly the object of the same, to which only it shall be applied.-

Section No. 4

No money shall be drawn from the treasury, but in pursuance of appropriations made by law.-

Section No. 5

An accurate statement of the receipts and expenditures of the public money shall be published with the laws of each regular session of the Legislative Assembly.-

Section No. 6

Whenever the expenses, of any fiscal year, shall exceed the income, the Legislative Assembly shall provide for levying a tax, for the ensuing fiscal year, sufficient, with other sources of income, to pay the deficiency, as well as the estimated expense of the ensuing fiscal year.-

Section No. 7

Laws making appropriations, for the salaries of public officers, and other current expenses of the state, shall contain provisions upon no other subject.-

Section No. 8

All stationary required for the use of the state shall be furnished by the lowest responsible bidder, under such regulations as may be prescribed by law. But no state officer, or member of the Legislative Assembly shall be interested in any bid, or contract for furnishing such stationary.-

Notes:

1. Carey, *Oregon Constitution*, 420-422.

ARTICLE X TO ARTICLE XI (MILITIA, CORPORATIONS AND INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS)

ARTICLE X

THE MILITIA

Section No. 1

The Militia of the state shall consist of all able-bodied male citizens between the ages of eighteen and forty five years, except such persons as now are, or hereafter may be exempted by the laws of the United States, or of this state.-

Section No. 2

Persons whose religious tenets, or conscientious scruples forbid them to bear arms shall not be compelled to do so in time of peace, but shall pay an equivalent for personal service.-

Section No. 3

The Governor shall appoint the Adjutant General and other chief officers of the general staff, and his own

staff, and all officers of the line shall be elected by the persons subject to military duty in their respective districts.-

Section No. 4

The Majors General, Brigadiers General, Colonels, or Commandants of Regiments, Battalions, or Squadrons shall severally appoint their staff officers, and the Governor shall commission all officers of the line, and staff ranking as such.-

Section No. 5

The Legislative Assembly shall fix by law, the method of dividing the militia, into divisions, brigades, regiments, battalions, and companies and make all other needful rules, and regulations in such manner as they may deem expedient not incompatible with the constitution, or laws of the United States, or of the constitution of this state, and shall fix the rank of all staff officers.-

ARTICLE XI

CORPORATIONS AND INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS

Section No. 1

The Legislative Assembly shall not have the power to establish, or incorporate any bank or banking company, or moneyed institution whatever nor shall any bank company, or institution exist in the state, with the privilege of making, issuing, or putting in circulation, any bill, check, certificate, promissory note, or other paper, or the paper of any bank company, or person, to circulate as money.-*

*(The semicolon, appearing in the signed constitution (and as sometimes printed), after the word "whatever" in this section, was not in the original draft reported to, and adopted by, the convention, as was decided by the supreme court in 8 Or. 401. This opinion was written by Judge James K. Kelly after examination of the original draft with Judge M.P. Deady. See Deady's diary, Oregon Historical Society.)

Section No. 2

Corporations may be formed under general laws, but shall not be created by special laws, except for municipal purposes; all laws passed, pursuant to this section, may be altered, amended, or repealed, but no so as to impair, or destroy any vested corporate rights.-*

*(Amended November 8, 1910, infra. An additional section was added November 3, 1914, infra.)

Section No. 3

The stockholders of all corporations, and joint stock companies shall be liable for the indebtedness of said corporation to the amount of their stock subscribed, and unpaid, and no more.-*

*(Amended November 5, 1912, infra.)

Section No. 4

No person's property shall be taken by any corporation under authority of law, without compensation being first made, or secured in such manner as may be prescribed by law.-

Section No. 5

Acts of the Legislative Assembly, incorporating towns, and cities, shall restrict their powers of taxation, borrowing money, contracting debts, and loaning their credit.-

Section No. 6

The state shall not subscribe to, or be interested in the stock of any company, association, or corporation.-

Section No. 7

The Legislative Assembly shall not loan the credit of the state, nor in any manner create any debt, or liabilities, which shall singly, or in the aggregate with previous debts, or liabilities, exceed the sum of fifty thousand dollars, except in case of war, or to repel invasion, or suppress insurrection; and every contract of indebtedness, entered into, or assumed, by or on behalf of the state, when all its liabilities, and debts amount to said sum, shall be void, and of no effect.-*

*(Amended November 5, 1912, and again amended May 21, 1920, *infra*. See also exceptions as to Rural Credits, in Article XI a, section 1, adopted November 7, 1916: and as to irrigation and drainage bonds, in Article XI b, adopted June 3, 1919; and as to world war veterans' state aid fund, in article XI c, adopted June 7, 1921, and amended November 4, 1924.)

Section No. 8

The state shall never assume the debts of any county, town, or other corporation whatever, unless such debts shall have been created to repel invasion, suppress insurrection, or defend the state in war.-*

*(See however, the amendment of June 3, 1919. Article XI b, *infra*, relating to interest on irrigation bonds issued by district.)

Section No. 9

No county, city, town, or other municipal corporation, by vote of its citizens or otherwise, shall become a stockholder in any joint stock company, corporation, or association whatever, to raise money for, or loan its credit to, or in aid of any such company, corporation, or association.-*

*(Amended June 4, 1917, *infra*.)

Section No. 10

No county shall create any debts, or liabilities, which shall singly or in the aggregate, exceed the sum of five thousand dollars, except to suppress insurrection, or repel invasion, but the debts of any county at the time this constitution takes effect, shall be disregarded in estimating the sum to which such county is limited.-*

*(Amended 1910, 1912, 1919, 1920, twice in 1922, and three times in 1926, *infra*. See also application of the above section 10 in an additional section 11, added November 7, 1916, to article XI, *infra*. And at the same election a new article, comprising 11 new sections, was adopted. See *infra* 1916, article XI a, Rural credits. An additional amendment article XI b, comprising 13 sections, on state bond payment of irrigation and drainage district bond interest was adopted June 3, 1919, *infra*. See *infra* article XI c, world war Veterans fund, adopted June 7, 1921, again amended November 4, 1924.)

Notes:

1. Carey, *Oregon Constitution*, 422-425.

ARTICLE XII TO ARTICLE XVI (STATE PRINTER, SALARIES, GOVERNMENT SEAT, MISCELLANEOUS, BOUNDARIES)

ARTICLE XII

STATE PRINTER

Section No. 1

There shall be elected by the qualified electors of the state, at the times and places of choosing members

of the Legislative Assembly, a state printer, who shall hold his office for the term of four years. He shall perform all the public printing for the state, which may be provided by law. The rates to be paid to him for such printing shall be fixed by law, and shall neither be increased, nor diminished during the term for which he shall have been elected. He shall give such security for the performance of his duties as the Legislative Assembly may provide.-*

*(Amended June 6, 1904; again amended June 4, 1906, infra.)

ARTICLE XIII

SALARIES

Section No. 1

The Governor shall receive an annual salary of fifteen hundred dollars; the secretary of state shall receive an annual salary of fifteen hundred dollars; the treasurer of state shall receive an annual salary of eight hundred dollars; the judges of the Supreme Court shall each receive an annual salary of two thousand dollars. They shall receive no fees, or perquisites whatever for the performance of any duties connected with their respective offices; and the compensation of officers, if not fixed by the constitution, shall be provided by law.-

ARTICLE XIV

SEAT OF GOVERNMENT

Section No. 1

The Legislative Assembly shall not have power to establish a permanent seat of Government for this state. But at the first regular session after the adoption of this constitution the Legislative Assembly shall provide by law for the submission to the electors, of this state, at the next general election thereafter, the matter of the selection of a place for a permanent seat of government under such law, which shall not receive a majority of all the votes cast on the matter of such selection.-

Section No. 2

No tax shall be levied, or money of the state expended, or debt contracted for the erection of a state house prior to the year eighteen hundred and sixty five.-

Section No. 3

The seat of government when established as provided in section one, shall not be removed for the term of twenty years from the time of such establishment; nor in any other manner than as provided in the first section, of this article, provided that all public institutions of the state hereafter provided for the Legislative Assembly shall be located at the seat of government.-*

*(Amended June 1, 1908, infra.)

ARTICLE XV

MISCELLANEOUS

Section No. 1

All officers, except members of the Legislative Assembly, shall hold their offices until their successors are elected, and qualified.

Section No. 2

When the duration of any office is not provided for by this constitution, it may be declared by law; and if no so declared, such office shall be held during the pleasure of the authority marking the appointment. But the Legislative Assembly shall not create any office, the tenure of which shall be longer than four years.

Section No. 3

Every person elected or appointed to any office under this constitution, shall before entering on the duties thereof, take an oath or affirmation to support the constitution of the United States, and of this state, and also an oath of office.-

Section No. 4

Lotteries, and the sales of Lottery tickets, for any purpose whatever, are prohibited, and the Legislative Assembly shall prevent the same by penal laws.-

Section No. 5

The property and pecuniary rights of every married woman, at the time of marriage or afterwards, acquired by gift, devise, or inheritance shall not be subject to the debts, or contracts of the husband; and laws shall be passed providing for the registration of the wife's separate property.-

Section No. 6

No county shall be reduced to an area of less than four hundred square miles: nor shall any new county be established in this state containing a less area, nor unless such new county shall contain a population of at least twelve hundred inhabitants.-

Section No. 7

No state officers, or members of the Legislative Assembly, shall directly or indirectly receive a fee, or be engaged as counsel, agent, or attorney in the prosecution of any claim against this state.-

Section No. 8

No Chinaman, not a resident of the state at the adoption of this constitution, shall ever hold any real estate, or mining claim, or work any mining claim therein. The Legislative Assembly shall provide by law in the most effectual manner for carrying out the above provisions.-

ARTICLE XVI
BOUNDARIES

In the order that the boundaries of the state may be known and established, it is hereby ordained and declared that the state of Oregon, shall be bounded as follows, to wit: Beginning one marine league at sea, due west from the point where the forty second parallel of North latitude intersects the same; thence northerly at the same distance from the line of the coast, lying west and opposite the state including all islands within the jurisdiction of the United States to a point due west, and opposite the middle of the North ship Channel of the Columbia River: thence easterly to and up the middle channel of said river, and when it is divided by islands, up the middle of the widest channel thereof, and in like manner up the middle of the main channel of the snake river, to the mouth of the Owyhee River; thence due south to the parallel of latitude forty two degrees North: thence west, along said parallel to the place of beginning, including jurisdiction in civil and criminal cases upon the Columbia River, and Snake River, concurrently with states and territories of which those rivers form a boundary in common with this state.- But the Congress of the United States, in providing for the admission of this state into the union, may make the said Northern boundary, conform to the act creating the territory of Washington.-*

*(The Act of Congress of February 14, 1859 appendix d infra, admitting Oregon as a State, having designated the forty sixth parallel of the north latitude as the state boundary from the Columbia river to the "Shoshones" or snake river this line superseded a part of the described boundary outlined in the constitution, and a strip of territory, including the fertile Walla Walla district, was thus excluded from the state. This boundary was surveyed and marked under direction of the general land office in 1863-4. The line was 96 miles and 57 chains in length and was marked at mile intervals for 42 miles east from

Columbia River, and then at irregular intervals over the blue mountains to snake river. The line as so located was a compromise line made necessary by an apparent slight difference in latitude disclosed by the survey. A joint Resolution of Congress of June 10, 1910 36 stat. 881, gives authority to the states of Oregon and Washington to fix their common boundary in the Columbia River and to cede to each other islands which have been in dispute.)

Notes:

1. Carey, *Oregon Constitution*, 425-428.

ARTICLE XVII TO ARTICLE XVIII (AMENDMENTS, SCHEDULE)

ARTICLE XVII AMENDMENTS

Section No. 1

Any amendment, or amendments to this constitution may be proposed in either branch of the of the Legislative Assembly, and if the same shall be agreed to by a majority of all the members elected to each of the two houses such proposed amendment, or amendments shall with the ayes, and nays thereon, be entered on their journals, and referred to the Legislative Assembly to be chosen at the next general election; and if, in the Legislative Assembly so next Chosen, such proposed amendment, or amendments, shall be agreed to by a majority of all the members elected to each house, then it shall be the duty of the Legislative Assembly to submit such amendment, or amendments to the electors of the state, and cause the same to be published without delay, at least four consecutive weeks, in several news papers published in this state, and if a majority of said electors shall ratify the same, such amendment, or amendments, shall become a part of this constitution.-*

*(Amended June 4, 1906, infra.)

Section No. 2

If two ore more amendments shall be submitted in such manner, that the electors shall vote for, or against each of such amendments separately; and while an amendment or amendments, which shall have been agreed upon by one Legislative Assembly, shall be awaiting the action of Legislative Assembly, or of the electors, no additional amendment, or amendments shall be proposed.-*

*(Amended or superseded, June 4, 1906, infra.)

ARTICLE XVIII SCHEDULE

Section No. 1

For the purpose of taking the vote of the electors of the state, for the acceptance or rejection of this constitution, an election shall be held on the second Monday of November, in the year 1857, to be conducted according to existing laws regulating the election of delegates in congress, so far as applicable, except as herein otherwise provided.

Section No. 2

Each elector who offers to vote upon this constitution shall be asked by the judges of election this question: Do you vote for the constitution? Yes or No. And also this question. Do you vote for slavery in Oregon? Yes or No. And also this question. Do you vote for the free Negroes in Oregon? Yes or No. And in the poll books shall be columns headed respectably. "Constitution, yes." "Constitution, no." "Free Negroes, yes." "Free Negroes, no." "Slavery, yes." "Slavery, no."

And the name of the electors shall be entered in the poll books, together with their answers to the said question, under their appropriate heads. The abstracts of the votes transmitted to the secretary of the territory, shall be publicly opened, and canvassed by the government and the secretary, or by either of them in the absence of the other; and the governor, or in his absence the secretary, shall for with issue his proclamation, and publish the same in the several newspapers printed in this state, declaring the result of the said election upon each of said questions.-

Section No. 3

If a majority of all the votes given for, and against the constitution, shall be given for the constitution, then this constitution shall be deemed to be approved, and accepted by the electors of the state, and shall take effect accordingly; and if a majority of such votes shall be given against the constitution, then this constitution shall be deemed to be rejected by the electors of the state, and shall be void.-

Section No. 4

If this constitution shall be accepted by the electors, and a majority of all the votes given for, and against slavery, shall be given for slavery, then the following section shall be added to the Bill of Rights, and shall be part of this constitution: "sec.- "persons lawfully held as slaves in any state, territory, or district of the United States, under the laws thereof, may be brought into this state, and such slaves, and their descendants may be held as slaves within this state, and shall not be emancipated without the consent of their owners." And if a majority of such votes shall be given against slavery, then the foregoing section shall not, but the following sections shall be added to the Bill of Rights, and shall be a part of this constitution. "sec. - There shall be neither slavery, nor involuntary servitude in the states, otherwise than as a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted."-*

*(The anti-slavery clause is counted as section34 of Article I.)

And if a majority of all the votes given for, and against free Negroes, shall be given against free Negroes, then the following section shall be added to the Bill of Rights, and shall be part of this constitution: "Sec. – No free Negro, or Mulatto, not residing in this state at the time of the adoption of this constitution, shall come, reside, or be within this state, or hold any real estate, or make any contracts, or maintain any suit therein; an the Legislative Assembly shall provide by penal laws, for the removal, by public officers, of all such Negroes, and Mulattos, and for their effectual exclusion from the state, and for the punishment of persons who shall bring them into the state, or employ, or harbor them."- (The free Negro clause was repealed, November 3, 1926, infra. It was Section 35 of article I.)

Section No. 5

Until an enumeration of the white inhabitants of the state shall be made, and the senators and representatives apportioned as directed in the constitution, the county of Marion shall have two senators, and four representatives.- Linn two senators, and four representatives. Lane two Senators and three representatives. Clackamas and Wasco, one senator jointly, and Clackamas three representative, and Wasco one representative.- Yamhill one Senator, and two representatives, Polk one Senator, and two representatives, Benton one Senator, and two representatives, Multnomah, one senator, and two representatives, Washington, Columbia, Clatsop and Tillamook one Senator jointly, and Washington one representative, and Washington and Columbia one representative jointly, and Clatsop and Tillamook one representative jointly.- Douglas, one Senator, and two representatives.- Jackson, one Senator, and three representatives. Josephine, one Senator, and one representative.- Umpqua, Coos and Curry, one Senator jointly, and Umpqua one representative, and Coos and Curry one representative jointly. -

Section No. 6

If this constitution shall be ratified, an election shall be held on the first Monday of June, 1858, for the

election of members of the Legislative Assembly, a Representative in Congress, and state and county officers, and the Legislative assembly shall convene at the Capital on the first Monday of July 1858, and proceed to elect two Senators in congress, and make such further provision as may be necessary to the complete organization of a state government.-

Section No. 7

All laws in force in the territory of Oregon when this constitution takes effect, and consistent therewith, shall continue in force until altered, or repealed.-

Section No. 8

All officers of the territory of Oregon, or under its laws, when this constitution takes effect, shall continue in office, until superseded by the State authorities.-

Section No. 9

Crimes and misdemeanors committed against the territory of Oregon shall be punished by the state, as they might have been punished by the territory, if the change of government had not been made.-

Section No. 10

All property and rights of the territory, and of the several counties, subdivisions, and political bodies corporate, of, or in the Territory, including fines, penalties, forfeitures, debts and claims, of whatsoever nature, and recognizance's, obligations, and undertakings to, or for use of the territory, or any county, political corporation, office, or otherwise, to or for the public, shall inure to the state, or remain to the county, local division, corporation, officer, or public, as if the change of government had not been made. And private rights shall not be affected by such change.-

Section No. 11

Until otherwise provided by law, the judicial districts of the state shall be constituted as follows: The counties of Jackson, Josephine, and Douglas, shall constitute the first district. The counties of Umpqua, Coos, Curry, Lane, and Benton, shall constitute the second district.- The counties of Linn, Marion, Polk, Yamhill and Washington, shall constitute the third district.- The counties of Clackamas, Multnomah, Wasco, Columbia, Clatsop, and Tillamook, shall constitute the fourth district.- And the county of Tillamook shall be attached to the county of Clatsop for judicial purposes.-

Notes:

1. Carey, *Oregon Constitution*, 428-431.

SIGNATURES

Done in Convention at Salem the eighteenth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight-hundred and fifty-seven, and of the independence of the United States the eighty-second -

MP Deady Pres.

Signed by 52 of the 60 delegates. See scanned images of 1857 constitution for signatures:

- [Page 1 signatures](#)
- [Page 2 signatures](#)

Notes:

1. Carey, *Oregon Constitution*, 432-433.