

November 28, 1976

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CHANGES FOR STYLE, CONSISTENCY  
AND CLARITY RECOMMENDED BY THE  
CONSULTANTS

ARTICLE XVIII: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Section 1: Proposal of Amendments. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by constitutional convention, legislative initiative or popular initiative.

Section 2: Constitutional Convention. (a) The legislature, by an the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of each house, may submit to the qualified voters the question, "Shall there be a constitutional convention to propose amendments to the Constitution?" Such This question shall be submitted to the voters at a regular general election no later than seven years after ratification the effective date of the Constitution and thereafter in as the discretion of the legislature provided by law. An act of the legislature under this subsection may not be vetoed by the governor.

(b) ~~The people by~~ An initiative petition may ~~direct the legislature to~~ submit to the voters the question, "Shall there be a constitutional convention to propose amendments to the Constitution?" The petition shall be signed by at least twenty-five percent of the persons qualified to vote in the Commonwealth or at least by seventy-five percent of the persons qualified to vote in any senatorial district. ~~three-fourths of the voters~~

~~of any municipality registered at the time of the preceding general election. The attorney general shall certify the filing of the petition and cause the question to~~ An initiative petition shall be filed with the attorney general for certification that the requirements of this subsection have been met. An initiative petition certified by the attorney general shall be submitted to the voters at the next regular general election provided that the certification held at least thirty days from the date the petition is filed. occurs at least thirty days before the election.

(c) ~~If the question of holding a convention is approved by~~ If two-thirds of the votes cast are affirmative on the question of holding a convention, the legislature at the session following approval shall provide for the convene a convention promptly.

(d) The number of delegates to the convention shall be equal to the number of members of the ~~most populous~~ larger house of the legislature. The delegates to the convention shall be elected on a nonpartisan basis.

~~(e) No call for a constitutional convention pursuant to this section shall be subject to a veto by the governor.~~

Section 3: Legislative Initiative. The legislature by an the affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members of each house present and voting may propose amendments to this Constitution. ~~No~~ A proposed amendment shall may not embrace the

subject matter of more than one article of the Constitution.  
An act of the legislature under this section may not be  
vetoed by the governor.

Section 4: Popular Initiative. (a) The people may propose constitutional amendments by initiative. An initiative petitions including shall contain the full text of the proposed amendment. The petition shall be signed by qualified-voters-equal-in-number-to-at-least-fifty-percent of-the-number-of-voters-registered-at-the-time-of-the-preceding regular-general-election, including at least fifty percent of the persons qualified to vote in the Commonwealth and at least twenty-five percent of the voters-so-registered-in-each municipality persons qualified to vote in each senatorial district. Such A petition shall be filed with the attorney general no-later-than-180-days-prior-to-the-next-regular general-election for certification that the requirements of this subsection have been met.

(b) An-amendment-proposed-by-popular-initiative  
An initiative petition certified by the attorney general shall be submitted to each house of the legislature. If the proposal is agreed-to approved by the affirmative vote of a majority vote of <sup>the</sup> members of each house of the legislature, the proposed amendment shall be submitted for ratification in the same manner as an amendments proposed by ~~the~~ legislature legislative initiative. The proposed amendment shall be

submitted for ratification to the voters at the next regular general election with or without legislative approval.

Section 5: Ratification of Amendments. (a) A proposed amendment to this Constitution shall be submitted to the qualified voters for ratification at the next regular general election/ *held at least sixty days after the amendment is proposed.*

(b) An amendment proposed by legislative initiative shall be approved if it receives an the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast. An amendment proposed by constitutional convention or by popular initiative shall become effective if approved by a majority of the votes cast and at least two-thirds of the votes cast in each of two ~~of-the-three-municipalities~~ senatorial districts.

~~(c) -- No proposal for amendment of the Constitution shall be subject to a veto by the governor.~~