

and fifty-one, in Howard county, and all those counties in which senators were elected in the year eighteen hundred and forty-six.

**Sec. 6.** Immediately after the Senate shall have convened after the first election under this Constitution, the senators shall be divided, by lot, into two classes, as nearly equal in number as may be—the senators of the first class shall go out of office at the expiration of two years, and senators shall be elected on the first Wednesday of November, eighteen hundred and fifty-three, for the term of four years, to supply their places; so that, after the first election, one-half of the senators may be chosen every second year; provided, that in no case shall any senator be placed in a class which shall entitle him to serve for a longer term than that for which he was elected. In case the number of senators be hereafter increased, such classification of the additional senators shall be made as to preserve as nearly as may be an equal number in each class.

**Sec. 7.** The General Assembly shall meet on the first Wednesday of January, eighteen hundred and fifty-two, on the same day, in the year eighteen hundred and fifty-three, and on the same day in the year eighteen hundred and fifty-four, and on the same day in every second year thereafter, and at no other time unless convened by the proclamation of the Governor.

**Sec. 8.** The General Assembly may continue their first two sessions after the adoption of this Constitution, as long as, in the opinion of the two Houses, the public interests may require it, but all subsequent regular sessions of the General Assembly shall be closed on the tenth day of March next ensuing the time of their commencement, unless the same shall be closed at an earlier day

by the agreement of the two Houses.

**Sec. 9.** No person shall be eligible as a senator or delegate who, at the time of his election, is not a citizen of the United States, and who has not resided at least three years next preceding the day of his election in this State, and the last year thereof in the county or city which he may be chosen to represent, if such county or city shall have been so long established, and if not, then in the county from which, in whole or in part, the same may have been formed; nor shall any person be eligible as a senator unless he shall have attained the age of twenty-five years, nor as a delegate unless he shall have attained the age of twenty-one years at the time of his election.

**Sec. 10.** No member of Congress, or persons holding any civil or military office under the United States, shall be eligible as a senator or delegate; and if any person shall, after his election as a senator or delegate, be elected to Congress, or be appointed to any office, civil or military, under the government of the United States, his acceptance thereof shall vacate his seat.

**Sec. 11.** No Minister or Preacher of the Gospel, of any denomination, and no person holding any civil office of profit or trust under this State, except justices of the peace, shall be eligible as senator or delegate.

**Sec. 12.** Each House shall be judge of the qualifications and elections of its members, subject to the laws of the State—appoint its own officers, determine the rules of its own proceedings, punish a member for disorderly or disrespectful behaviour, and with the consent of two-thirds, expel a member; but no member shall be expelled a second time for the same offence.