

THE STATE OF ALASKA. We the people of Alaska, grateful to God and to those who founded our nation and pioneered this great land, in order to secure and transmit to succeeding generations our heritage of political, civil, and religious liberty within the Union of States, do ordain and establish this constitution for the State of Alaska. ARTICLE I. Declaration of Rights Section 1. Inherent Rights. This constitution is dedicated to the principles that all persons have a natural right to life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness, and the enjoyment of the rewards of their own industry; that all persons are equal and entitled to equal rights, opportunities, and protection under the law; and that all persons have corresponding obligations to the people and to the State. Section 2. Source of Government. All political power is inherent in the people. All government originates with the people, is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the people as a whole. Section 3. Civil Rights. No person is to be denied the enjoyment of any civil or political right because of race, color, creed, or national origin. The legislature shall implement this section. Section 4. Freedom of Religion. No law shall be made respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. Section 5. Freedom of Speech. Every person may freely speak, write, and publish on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of that right. Section 6. Assembly; Petition. The right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government shall never be abridged. Section 7. Due Process. No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law. The right of all persons to fair and just treatment in the course of legislative and executive investigations shall not be infringed. Section 8. Grand Jury. No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the armed forces in time of war or public danger. Indictment may be waived by the accused. In that case the prosecution shall be by information. The grand jury shall consist of at least twelve citizens, a majority of whom concurring may return an indictment. The power of grand juries to investigate and make recommendations concerning the public welfare or safety shall never be suspended. Section 9. Jeopardy and Self-Incrimination. No person shall be put in jeopardy twice for the same offense. No person shall be compelled in any criminal proceeding to be a witness against himself. Section 10. Treason. Treason against the State consists only in levying war against it, or in adhering to its enemies, giving them aid and comfort. No person shall be convicted of treason, unless on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or on confession in open court. Section 11. Rights of Accused. In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall have the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of twelve, except that the legislature may provide for a jury of not more than twelve nor less than six in courts not of record. The accused is entitled to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be released on bail, except for capital offenses when the proof is evident or the presumption great; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense. Section 12. Criminal Administration. Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted. Penal administration shall be based on the principle of reformation and the need for protecting the public. Section 13. Habeas Corpus. The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in cases of rebellion or actual or imminent invasion, the public safety requires it. Section 14. Searches and Seizures. The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses and other property, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated. No warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized. Section 15. Prohibited State Action. No bill of attainder or ex post facto law shall be passed. No law impairing the obligation of contracts, and no law making any irrevocable grant of special privileges or immunities shall be passed. No conviction shall work corruption of blood or forfeiture of estate. Section 16. Civil Suits; Trial by Jury. In civil cases where the amount in controversy exceeds two hundred fifty dollars, the right of trial by a jury of twelve is preserved to the same extent as it existed at common law. The legislature may provide for a verdict by not less than three-fourths of the jury and, in courts not of record, may provide for a jury of not less than six or more than twelve. Section 17. Imprisonment for Debt. There shall be no imprisonment for debt. This section does not prohibit civil arrest of absconding debtors. Section 18. Eminent Domain. Private property shall not be taken or damaged for public use without just compensation. Section 19. Right to Keep and Bear Arms. A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. Section 20. Quartering Soldiers. No member of the armed forces shall in time of peace be quartered in any house without the consent of the owner or occupant, or in time of war except as prescribed by law. The military shall be in strict subordination to the civil power. Section 21. Construction. The enumeration of rights in this constitution shall not impair or deny others retained by the people. Article II The Legislature Section 1. Legislative Power; Membership. The legislative power of the State is vested in a legislature consisting of a senate with a membership of twenty and a house of representatives with a membership of forty. Section 2. Members' Qualifications. A member of the legislature shall be at least twenty-five years of age and a representative at least twenty-one years of age. Section 3. Election and Terms. Legislators shall be elected at general elections. Their terms begin on the fourth Monday of the January following election unless otherwise provided by law. The term of representatives shall be two years, and the term of senators, four years. One-half of the senators shall be elected every two years. Section 4. Vacancies. A vacancy in the legislature shall be filled for the unexpired term as provided by law. If no provision is made, the governor shall fill the vacancy by appointment. Section 5. Disqualifications. No legislator may hold any other office or position of profit under the United States or the State. During the term for which elected and for one year thereafter, no legislator may be nominated, elected, or appointed to any other office or position of profit which is of governor, secretary of state, or member of Congress. This section shall not apply to employment by or election to a constitutional convention. Section 6. Members attending, going to, or returning from legislative sessions are not subject to civil process and are privileged from arrest except for felony or breach of the peace. Section 7. Salary and Expenses. Legislators shall receive annual salaries. They may receive a per diem allowance for expenses while in session and are entitled to travel expenses going to and from sessions. Presiding officers may receive additional compensation. Section 8. Regular Sessions. The legislature shall convene in regular session each year on the fourth Monday in January, but the month and day may be changed by law. Section 9. Special Sessions. Special sessions may be called by the governor or by vote of two-thirds of the legislators. The vote may be conducted by the legislative council or as prescribed by law. A special session is limited to thirty days. Section 10. Adjournment. Neither house may adjourn or recess for longer than three days unless the other concurs. Section 11. Interim Committees. There shall be a legislative council, and the legislature may establish other interim committees. The council and the members may receive an allowance for expenses while performing their duties. Section 12. Rules. The houses of each legislature shall keep a journal of its proceedings. Section 13. Form of Bills. Every bill shall be introduced in the house of representatives. The subject of each bill shall be expressed in the title. The enacting clause shall be: "Be it enacted by the legislature that..." Section 14. Passage of Bills. Bills for appropriation shall be passed in three readings in each house on three separate days, except in cases of emergency. Section 15. Veto. The governor may veto bills passed by the legislature. He may, by veto, strike or reduce items in appropriation bills. He shall return any vetoed bill, with a statement of his objections, to the house for reconsideration. The house may reconsider the vetoed bill or item. Bills to raise revenue and appropriation bills or items, although vetoed, become law if the governor neither signs nor vetoes it within fifteen days, Sundays excepted, after its delivery to him. If the legislature is not in session and the governor vetoes a bill, it shall become law after its delivery to him. If the legislature is not in session and the governor vetoes a bill, it shall become law after its delivery to him. Section 16. Effect of Veto. Laws passed by the legislature become effective ninety days after enactment. The legislature may, by concurrent resolution, override a veto. Section 17. Impeachment. The governor, judges, and other officers may be impeached by the legislature. Impeachment shall originate in the house of representatives. A majority of two-thirds of the members of the house is required for a judgment of impeachment. Section 18. Impeachment Proceedings. The house of representatives shall have the sole power of impeachment. The house shall select a committee to investigate the charges. The committee shall report to the house. The house shall then vote on the charges. Section 19. Impeachment of Judges. Judges may be impeached by the house of representatives. A majority of two-thirds of the members of the house is required for a judgment of impeachment. Section 20. Impeachment of the Governor. The governor may be impeached by the house of representatives. A majority of two-thirds of the members of the house is required for a judgment of impeachment. Section 21. Impeachment of the Secretary of State. The secretary of state may be impeached by the house of representatives. A majority of two-thirds of the members of the house is required for a judgment of impeachment. Section 22. Impeachment of the Attorney General. The attorney general may be impeached by the house of representatives. A majority of two-thirds of the members of the house is required for a judgment of impeachment. Section 23. Impeachment of the Auditor General. The auditor general may be impeached by the house of representatives. A majority of two-thirds of the members of the house is required for a judgment of impeachment. Section 24. Impeachment of the Commissioner of Public Safety. The commissioner of public safety may be impeached by the house of representatives. A majority of two-thirds of the members of the house is required for a judgment of impeachment. Section 25. Impeachment of the Commissioner of Social Services. The commissioner of social services may be impeached by the house of representatives. A majority of two-thirds of the members of the house is required for a judgment of impeachment. Section 26. Impeachment of the Commissioner of Health and Social Services. The commissioner of health and social services may be impeached by the house of representatives. A majority of two-thirds of the members of the house is required for a judgment of impeachment. Section 27. Impeachment of the Commissioner of Education. The commissioner of education may be impeached by the house of representatives. A majority of two-thirds of the members of the house is required for a judgment of impeachment. Section 28. Impeachment of the Commissioner of Labor. The commissioner of labor may be impeached by the house of representatives. A majority of two-thirds of the members of the house is required for a judgment of impeachment. Section 29. Impeachment of the Commissioner of Agriculture. The commissioner of agriculture may be impeached by the house of representatives. A majority of two-thirds of the members of the house is required for a judgment of impeachment. Section 30. Impeachment of the Commissioner of Fish and Game. The commissioner of fish and game may be impeached by the house of representatives. A majority of two-thirds of the members of the house is required for a judgment of impeachment. Section 31. Impeachment of the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation. The commissioner of parks and recreation may be impeached by the house of representatives. 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