

THE STATE CONSTITUTION OF MICHIGAN. PREAMBLE We, the people of the State of Michigan, grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of freedom, and earnestly desiring to secure these blessings undiminished to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this constitution. ARTICLE I Declaration of Rights Sec. 1. All political power is inherent in the people. Government is instituted for their equal benefit, security and protection. Sec. 2. No person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws; nor shall any person be denied the enjoyment of his civil or political rights or be discriminated against in the exercise thereof because of religion, race, color or national origin. The legislature shall implement this section by appropriate legislation. Sec. 3. The people have the right peaceably to assemble, to consult for the common good, to instruct their representatives and to petition the government for redress of grievances. Sec. 4. Every person shall be at liberty to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience. No person shall be compelled to attend, or, against his consent, to contribute to the erection or support of any place of religious worship, or to pay tithes, taxes or other rates for the support of any religious institution. No money shall be drawn from the treasury for the support of any religious institution or for the support of any religious or theological or religious seminary. Sec. 5. Every person shall have the right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures. Sec. 6. Every person shall have the right to keep and bear arms for the defense of himself and the state. Sec. 7. The military shall in all cases and at all times be in strict subordination to the civil power. Sec. 8. No soldier shall, in time of peace, be quartered in any house without the consent of the owner or occupant, nor in time of war, except in a manner prescribed by law. Sec. 9. Neither slavery, nor involuntary servitude unless for the punishment of crime, shall ever be tolerated in this state. Sec. 10. No bill of attainder, ex post facto law or law impairing the obligation of contract shall be enacted. Sec. 11. The person, houses, papers and possessions of every person shall be secure from unreasonable searches and seizures. No warrant to search any place or to seize any person or things shall issue without describing them, nor without probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation. The provision of this section shall not be construed to bar from evidence in any criminal proceeding any narcotic drug, firearm, bomb, explosive or any other dangerous weapon, seized by a peace officer outside the curtilage of any dwelling house in this state. Sec. 12. The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall be secured. Sec. 13. A person shall not be held to answer for a crime unless by indictment or information returned by a grand jury. Sec. 14. The right of trial by jury shall remain, but shall be waived in all civil cases as may be directed by the court. Sec. 15. No person shall be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy. All persons shall, before conviction, be bailable by sufficient surety to ensure their appearance at trial. Sec. 16. No person shall be imprisoned for debt. Sec. 17. No person shall be imprisoned for debt. Sec. 18. No person shall be rendered incompetent to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty or property, without due process of law. The right of all individuals, firms, corporations and voluntary associations to fair and just treatment in the course of legislative and executive investigations and hearings shall not be infringed. Sec. 19. No person shall be rendered incompetent to be a witness on account of his opinions on matters of religious belief. Sec. 20. In all prosecutions for libels the truth may be given in evidence to the jury; and, if it appears to the jury that the matter charged as libelous is true and was published with good motives and for justifiable ends, the accused shall be acquitted. Sec. 21. No person shall be imprisoned for debt arising out of or founded on contract, express or implied, except in cases of fraud or breach of trust. Sec. 22. Treason against the state shall consist 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 upon the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act or on confession in open court. Sec. 23. The enumeration in this constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people. ARTICLE II Legislative Branch Sec. 1. The legislative power of the State of Michigan is vested in the senate and house of representatives. Sec. 2. The senate shall consist of 38 members to be elected from single member districts at the same election as the governor. Sec. 3. The house of representatives shall consist of 90 members to be elected from single member districts at the same election as the governor. Sec. 4. The legislature shall enact laws to regulate the time, place and manner of all nominations and elections, except as otherwise provided in this constitution or in the constitution and laws of the United States. The legislature shall enact laws to preserve the purity of elections, to preserve the secrecy of the ballot, to guard against abuses of the elective franchise, and to provide for a system of voter registration and absentee voting. No law shall be enacted which permits a candidate in any partisan primary or partisan election to have a ballot designation except when required for identification of candidates for the same office who have the same or similar surnames. Sec. 5. Except for special elections to fill vacancies, or as otherwise provided in this constitution, all elections for national, state, county and township offices shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in each even-numbered year or on such other date as members of the congress of the United States are regularly elected. Sec. 6. Whenever any question is required to be submitted by a political subdivision to the electors for the increase of the ad valorem tax rate limitation imposed by Section 6 of the Michigan Tax Code for a period of more than three years, or for the issue of bonds, only electors in, and who have property assessed for any ad valorem taxes, in, any part of the district or territory to be affected by the result of such election or elections may vote. Sec. 7. No person shall be eligible to serve as a member of a board of canvassers. A majority of any board of canvassers shall not be composed of members of the same political party. Sec. 8. Laws shall be enacted to provide for the recall of all elective officers except judges of courts of record upon petition of electors equal in number to 25 percent of the number of persons voting in the last preceding election for the office of governor in the electoral district of the officer sought to be recalled. The sufficiency of any statement or reasons or grounds procedurally required shall be a political rather than a judicial question. Sec. 9. The power of referendum does not extend to acts making appropriations for state institutions or to meet deficiencies in state funds and must be invoked in the manner prescribed by law within 90 days following the final adjournment of the legislative session at which the law was enacted. To invoke the initiative or the power of referendum, petitions signed by a number of registered electors, not less than eight percent for initiative and five percent for referendum of the total vote cast for all candidates for governor at the last preceding general election at which a governor was elected shall be required. No law as to which the power of referendum properly has been invoked shall be effective thereafter unless approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon at the next general election. Any law proposed by initiative petition shall be either enacted or rejected by the legislature without change or amendment within 40 session days from the date of its passage by the legislature. If any law proposed by initiative petition is rejected by the legislature, the power of initiative shall not be exhausted. Sec. 10. The power of initiative shall not be exhausted. Sec. 11. The power of initiative shall not be exhausted. Sec. 12. 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