THE STATE CONSTITUTION OF WEST VIRGINIA. ARTICLE I RELATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES 1. The State of West Virginia is, and shall remain, one of the United States of America. The Constitution of the United States of America, and the laws and treaties made in pursuance thereof, shall be the supreme law of the land. 2. The government of the United States is a government of enumerated powers, and all powers not delegated to it, nor inhibited to the States, are reserved to the States or to the people thereof. Among the powers so reserved to the States is the exclusive regulation of their own internal government and police; and it is the high and solemn duty of the several departments of government, created by this Constitution, to guard and protect the people of this State from all encroachments upon the rights so reserved. 3. The provisions of the Constitution of the United States, and of this State, are operative alike in a period of war as in time of peace, and any departure therefrom, or violation thereof, under the plea of necessity, or any other plea, is subversive of good government, and tends to anarchy and despotism. 4. For the election of representatives to Congress, the State shall be divided into districts, corresponding in number with the representatives to which it may be entitled; which districts shall be formed of contiguous counties, and be compact. Each district shall contain, as nearly as may be, an equal number of population, to be determined according to the rule prescribed in the Constitution of the United States. ARTICLE II THE STATE 1. The territory of the following counties, formerly parts of the, Commonwealth of Virginia, shall constitute and form the State of West Virginia, viz.: The counties of Barbour, Berkeley, Boone, Braxton, Brooke, Cabell, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Fayette, Gilmer, Grant, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Hancock, Hardy, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Kanawha, Lewis, Lincoln, Logan, Marion, Marshall, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mineral, Monongalia, Monroe, Morgan, Nicholas, Ohio, Pendleton, Pleasants, Pocahontas, Preston, Putnam, Raleigh, Randolph, Ritchie, Roane, Summers, Taylor, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, Wayne, Webster, Wetzel, Wirt, Wood and Wyoming. The State of West Virginia includes the bed, bank and shores of the Ohio river, and so much of the Big Sandy river as was formerly included in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and all territorial rights and property in and jurisdiction over the same heretofore reserved by and vested in the Commonwealth of Virginia, are vested in and shall hereafter be exercised by the State of West Virginia; and such parts of the said beds, banks, and shores, as lie opposite, and adjoining the several counties of this State shall form parts of said several counties respectively. 2. The powers of government reside in all the citizens of the State and can be rightfully exercised only in accordance with their will and appointment. 3: All persons residing in this State, born, or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, shall be citizens of this State. 4. Every citizen shall be entitled to equal representation in the government, and, in all apportionments of representation, equality of numbers of those entitled thereto, shall as far as practicable, be preserved. 5. No distinction shall be made between resident aliens and citizens, as to the acquisition, tenure, disposition or descent of property. 6.. 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 on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or on confession in open court. Treason shall be punished, according to the character of the acts committed, by the infliction of one, or more of the penalties, of death, imprisonment or fine, as may be prescribed by law. 7. The present seal of the State with its motto, " Montani Semper Liberi," shall be the great seal of the State of West Virginia, and shall be kept by the Secretary of State, to be used by him officially, as directed by law. 8. Writs, grants and commissions, issued under the authority of this State shall run in the name of, and official bonds shall be made payable to the State of West Virginia. Indictments shall conclude, "Against the peace and dignity of the State." ARTICLE III BILL OF RIGHTS 1. All men are, by nature, equally free and independents, and have certain inherent rights, of which, when they enter into a state of society, they cannot, by any compact, deprive or divest their posterity, namely; the enjoyment of life and liberty, with the means of acquiring and possessing property, and of. pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety. 2. All power is vested in, and consequently derived from, the people. Magistrates are their trustees and servants, and at all times amenable to them. 3. Government is instituted for the common benefit, protection and security of the people, nation or community. Of all its various forms that is the best, which is capable of producing the greatest degree of happiness and safety, and is most effectually secured against the danger of maladministration; and when any government shall be found inadequate or contrary to these purposes, a majority of the community has an indubitable, inalienable, and indefeasible right to reform, alter or abolish it in such a manner as shall be judged most conducive to the public weal. 4. The privilege of a writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended. No person shall be held to answer for treason, felony or other crime not cognizable by a justice, unless on presentment or indictment of a grand jury. No bill of attainder, ex-post facto law, or law impairing the obligation of a contract, shall be passed. 5. Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishment inflicted. Penalties shall be proportioned to the character and degree of the offense. No person shall be transported out of or forced to leave the State for any offense committed within the same; nor shall any person, in any criminal case, be compelled to be a witness against himself, or be twice put in jeopardy of life or liberty for the same offense. 6. The right of citizens to be secure in their houses, persons, papers and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated. No warrant shall issue except upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, particularly describing the place to be searched, or the person or thing to be seized. 7. No law abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, shall be passed; but the Legislature may by suitable penalties, restrain the publication or sale of obscene books, papers or pictures, and provide for the punishment of libel, and defamation of character, and for the recovery in civil actions, by the aggrieved party, of suitable damages for such libel, or defamation. 8. In prosecutions, and civil suits for libel, the truth may be given in evidence; and if it shall appear to the jury that the matter charged as libelous, is true, and was published with good motives, and for justifiable ends, the verdict shall be for the defendant. 9. Private property shall not be taken or damaged for public use, without just compensation; nor shall the same be taken by any company, incorporated for the purpose of internal improvements, until just compensation shall have been paid or secured to be paid, to the owner; and when private property shall be taken, or damaged, for public use, or for the use of such corporations, the compensation to the owner shall be ascertained in such manner, as may be prescribed by general law; Provided, that when required by either of the parties, such compensation shall be ascertained by an impartial jury of twelve freeholders. 10. No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law, and the judgment of his peers. 11. Political tests requiring persons, as a pre-requisite to the enjoyment of their civil and political rights, to purge themselves by their own oaths, of past alleged offences, are repugnant to the principles of free government, and are cruel and oppressive. No religious or political test oath shall be required as a pre-requisite or qualification to vote, serve as a juror, sue, plead, appeal, or pursue any profession or employment. Nor shall any person be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without the judgment of his peers. 12. Standing armies in time of peace, should be avoided as dangerous to liberty. The military shall be subordinate to the civil power; and no citizen, unless engaged in the military service of the State, shall be tried or punished by any military court, for any offense that is cognizable by the civil courts of the State. 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 to be prescribed by law. 13. In suits at common law, where the value in controversy, exclusive of interest and costs, exceeds twenty dollars, the right of trial by a jury of twelve men, if required by either party, shall be preserved; except that in appeals from judgments of justices, a jury of a less number may be authorized by law; but in trials of civil cases before a justice no jury shall be allowed. No fact tried by a jury shall in any case, be otherwise reexamined than according to the rules of common law. 14. Trials of crimes, and of misdemeanors, unless herein otherwise provided, shall be by a jury of twelve men, public, without unreasonable delay, and in the county where the alleged offence was committed, unless upon petition of the accused and for good cause shown, it is removed to some other county. In all such trials, the accused shall be fully and plainly informed of the character and cause of the accusation, and be confronted with the witnesses against him, and shall have the assistance of counsel, and a reasonable time to prepare for his defense; and there shall be awarded to him compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor. 15. No man shall be compelled to frequent or support any religious worship, place or ministry whatsoever; nor shall any man be enforced, restrained, molested or burthened, in his body or goods, or otherwise suffer, on account of his religious opinions or belief, but all men shall be free to profess, and by argument, to maintain their opinions in matters of religion; and the same shall, in no wise, affect, diminish or enlarge their civil capacities; and the legislature shall not prescribe any religious test whatever, or confer any peculiar privileges or advantages on any sect or denomination, or pass any law requiring or authorizing any religious society, or the people of any district within this State, to levy on themselves, or others, any tax for the erection or repair of any house for public worship, or for the support of any church or ministry, but it shall be left free for every person to select his religious instructor, and to make for his support, such private contract as he shall please. 16. The right of the people to assemble in a peaceable manner, to consult for the common good, to instruct their representatives, or to apply for redress of grievances, shall be held inviolate. 17 . The courts of this State shall be open, and every person, for an injury done to him, in his person, property or reputation, shall have remedy by due course of law; and justice shall be administered without sale, denial or delay. 18. No conviction shall work corruption of blood or forfeiture of estate. 19. No hereditary emoluments, honors, or privileges shall ever be granted or conferred in this State. 20. Free government and the blessings of liberty can be preserved to any people only by a firm adherence to justice, moderation, temperance, frugality and virtue, and by a frequent recurrence to fundamental principles. ARTICLE IV ELECTIONS AND OFFICERS 1. The male citizens of the State shall be entitled to vote at all elections held within the counties in which they respectively reside; but no person who is a minor, or of unsound mind, or a pauper, or who is under conviction of treason, felony, or bribery in an election, or who has not been a resident of the State for one year, and of the county in which he offers to vote, sixty days next. preceding such offer, shall be permitted to vote while such disability continues, but no person in the military, naval or marine service of the United States shall be deemed a resident of this State by reason of being stationed therein. 2. In all elections by the people, the mode of voting shall be by ballot; but the voter shall be left free to vote by either open, sealed or secret ballot, as he may elect. 3. No voter, during the continuance of an election at which he is entitled to vote, or during the time necessary and convenient for going to and returning from the same, shall be subject to arrest upon civil process, or be compelled to attend any court, or judicial proceeding, as suitor, juror or witness; or to work upon the public roads; or, except in time of war or public danger, to render military service. 4. No person, except citizens entitled to vote, shall be elected or appointed to any State, county or municipal office; but the Governor and Judges must have attained the thirty, and the Attorney General and Senators the age of twenty-five years, at the beginning of their respective terms of service; and must have been citizens of the State for five years next preceding their election or appointment, or be citizens at the time this Constitution goes into operation. 5. Every person elected or appointed to any office, before proceeding to exercise the authority, or discharge the duties thereof, shall make oath or affirmation that he will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this State and that he will faithfully discharge the duties of his said office to the best of his skill and judgment, and no other oath, declaration, or test shall be required as a qualification, unless herein otherwise provided. 6. All officers elected or appointed under this Constitution, may, unless in cases herein otherwise provided for, be removed from office, for official misconduct, incompetence, neglect of duty, or immorality, in such manner as may be prescribed by general laws, and unless so removed they shall continue to discharge the duties of their respective offices until their successors are elected, or appointed and qualified. 7. The general elections of State and county officers, and of members of the legislature, shall be held on the second Tuesday of October, until otherwise provided by law. The terms of such officers not elected, or appointed to fill a vacancy, shall, unless herein otherwise provided, begin, on the first day of January, and of the members of the legislature, on the first day of November next succeeding their election. Elections to fill vacancies shall be for the unexpired term. When vacancies occur prior to any general election, they shall be filled by appointments in such manner as may be prescribed herein, or by general law, which appointments shall expire at such time after the next general election as the person so elected to fill such vacancy shall be qualified. 8. The legislature, in cases not provided for in this Constitution, shall prescribe, by general laws, the terms of office, powers, duties and compensation of all public officers and agents, and the manner in which they shall be elected, appointed and removed. 9. Any officer of the State may be impeached for mal-administration, corruption, incompetency, gross immorality, neglect of duty, or any high crime or misdemeanor. The House of Delegates shall have the sole power of impeachment. The Senate shall have the sole power to try impeachments, and no person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two-thirds of the members elected thereto. When sitting as a court of impeachment, the President of the Supreme Court of Appeals, or if from any cause it be improper for him to act, then any other judge of that court, to be designated by it, shall preside; and the Senators shall be on oath or affirmation to do justice according to law and evidence. Judgment in cases of impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from office, and disqualification to hold any office of honor, trust, or profit, under the State; but the party convicted shall be liable to indictment, trial, judgment and punishment, according to law. The Senate may sit during the recess of the Legislature, for the trial of impeachments. 10. Any citizen of this State, who shall, after the adoption of this Constitution, either in, or out of the State, fight a duel with deadly weapons, or send or accept a challenge to fight a duel, or be aiding or abetting in the same, shall be disqualified to hold any office of honor, trust or profit in this State. 11. The Legislature shall prescribe the manner of conducting and making returns of elections, and of determining the qualification of persons offering to vote, or fraud in any manner, upon the ballot. 12.No person elected to any office of honor, trust or profit under the State, Executive and Judicial Departments shall be eligible to the Legislature; nor shall any person be eligible to the Legislature, except the Governor, who may be a member of the Senate, shall be composed of twenty-four members, and the House of Delegates of sixty-five members, subject to be increased according to the provisions hereinafter contained. 3 . Senators shall be elected for the term of four years and Delegates for the term of two years. The Senators from every district being assigned to each class; and of these classes, the first to be designated by lot in such manner as the Senate may determine, shall be elected biennially. 4. For the election of Senators, the State shall be divided into twelve Senatorial districts, as hereinafter provided. Every district shall elect two Senators, but where the district is composed of more than one county, the census shall determine the number of Senators to be elected by each district. 5. Until the Senatorial District, so far is may be necessary to make them conform to the foregoing provision. 5. Until the Senatorial District; Marshall, Wetzel and Marion, the second; Ritchie, Doddridge, Brooke and Ohio shall constitute the first Senatorial District; Marshall, Wetzel and Marion, the second; Ritchie, Doddridge, Jackson, Mason, Putnam and Roane, the fifth; Kanawha, Clay, Nicholas, Braxton and Webster, the sixth, Cabell, Wayne, Summers, Pocahontas, Fayette and Raleigh, the eighth; Lewis, Randolph, Upshur, Barbour, Taylor and Tucker the ninth; Preston and Monongalia, the tenth; Hampshire, Mineral, Hardy, Grant and Pendleton, the eleventh; Berkeley, Morgan and Jefferson the twelfth. 6. For the election of Delegates, every county containing a population of not less than three-fifths of the ratio of representation for the House of Delegates, shall, at each apportionment, be attached to some contiguous county or counties, to form a Delegate District. 7. After every census the Delegates shall be apportioned as follows: The ratio of representation for the House of Delegates shall be ascertained by dividing the whole population of the State by the number of which the House is to consist and rejecting the fraction of a unit, if any, resulting from such division. Dividing the population of every Delegate District, and of every county not, included in a Delegate District, by the ratio thus ascertained, there shall be assigned to each a number of Delegates equal to the quotient obtained by this division, excluding, the fractional remainder. The additional Delegates necessary to make up the number of which the House is to consist, shall then be assigned to those Delegate Districts, and counties not included in a Delegate District, which would otherwise have the largest fractions unrepresented; but every Delegate District and county not included in a Delegate District shall be entitled to at least one Delegate. 8. Until a new apportionment shall be declared, the counties of Pleasants and Wood shall form the first Delegate District, and elect three Delegates; Ritchie and Calhoun the second, and elect two Delegates; Barbour, Harrison and Taylor the third, and elect one Delegate; Randolph and Tucker the fourth, and elect one Delegate; Nicholas, Clay and Webster the fifth, and elect one Delegate; McDowell and Wyoming the sixth, and elect one Delegate. 9. Until a new apportionment shall be declared the apportionment of Delegates to the counties not included in Delegate Districts, and to Barbour, Harrison and Taylor counties, embraced in such Districts, shall be as follows: To Barbour, Bootie, Braxton, Brooke, Cabell, Doddridge, Fayette, Hampshire, Hancock, Jackson, Lewis, Logan, Greenbrier, Monroe, Mercer, Mineral, Morgan, Grant, Hardy, Lincoln, Pendleton, Putnam, Roane, Gilmer, Taylor, Tyler, Upshur, Wayne, Wetzel, Wirt, Pocahontas, Summers and Raleigh counties, one Delegate each. To Berkeley, Harrison, Jefferson, Marion, Marshall, Mason, Monongalia and Preston counties two Delegates each. To Kanawha county, three Delegates. To Ohio county, four Delegates. 10. The arrangement of the Senatorial and Delegate Districts, and apportionment of Delegates, shall hereafter be declared by law, as soon as possible after each succeeding census, take effect in the year next succeeding the census, and shall be alter by authority of the United States. When so declared they shall apply to the first general election for members of the Legislature, to be thereafter held, and shall continue in force unchanged, until such Districts shall be altered and Delegates apportioned, tinder the succeeding census. 11. Additional territory may be admitted into, and become part of this State, with the consent of the Legislature and a majority of the qualified voters of the State, voting on the question. And in such case provision shall be made by law for the representation thereof in the Senate and House of Delegates, in conformity with the principles set forth in this Constitution. And the number of members of which each house of the Legislature is to consist, shall thereafter be increased by the representation assigned to such additional territory. 12. No person shall be a Senator or Delegate who has not for one year next preceding his election, been a resident within the District or county from which he is elected; and if a Senator or Delegate remove from the District or county for which he was elected, his seat shall be thereby vacated. 13. No person holding a lucrative office under this State, the United States, or any foreign government; no member of Congress; no person who is a salaried officer of any railroad company, or who is sheriff, constable, clerk of any court of record, shall be eligible to a seat in the Legislature. 14. No person who has been, or hereafter shall be convicted of bribery, perjury, or other infamous crime, shall be eligible to a seat in the Legislature. No person who may have collected or been entrusted with public money, whether State, county, township, district, or other municipal organization, shall be eligible to the Legislature, or to any office of honor, trust or profit in this State until he shall have duly accounted for and paid over such money according to law. 15. No Senator or Delegate, during the term for which he shall have been elected, shall be elected or appointed to any civil office of profit under this State, which has been created, or the emoluments of which have been increased during such term, except offices to be filled by election by the people. Nor shall any member of the Legislature be interested, directly or indirectly, in any contract with the State, or any county thereof, authorized by any law passed during the term for which he shall have been elected. 16. Members of the Legislature, before they enter upon their duties, shall take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the State, of West Virginia, and faithfully discharge the duties of Senator (or Delegate) according to the best of my ability;"and they shall also take this further oath, to-wit: "I will not accept or receive, directly or indirectly, any money or other valuable thing, from any corporation, company, or person, for any vote or influence I may give or withhold, as Senator or Delegate), or any bill, resolution or appropriation, or for any act I may do or perform as Senator (or Delegate)." These oaths shall be administered in the hall of the house to which the member is elected, by a Judge of the Supreme Court of Appeals, or of a Circuit Court, or by any other person authorized by law to administer an oath; and the Secretary of State shall record and file said oaths subscribed by each member; and no other oath or declaration shall be required as a qualification. Any member who shall refuse to take the oath herein prescribed, shall forfeit his seat; and any member who shall be convicted of having violated the oath last above required to be taken, shall forfeit his seat and be disqualified thereafter from holding any office of profit and trust in this State. 17. Members of the Legislature shall, in all cases except treason, felony, and breach of the peace, be privileged from arrest during the session, and for ten days before and after the same; and for words spoken in debate, or any report, motion or proposition made in either house, a member shall not be questioned in any other place. 18. The Legislature shall assemble at the seat of Government biennially and not oftener, unless convened by the Governor. The first session of the Legislature, after the adoption of this Constitution, shall commence on the third Tuesday of November, 1872, and the regular biennial session of the Legislature shall commence on the second Wednesday of January, 1875, and every two years thereafter, on the same day. 19. The Governor may convene the Legislature by proclamation whenever, in his opinion, the public safety or welfare shall require it. It shall be his duty to convene it, on application in writing, of three-fifths of the members elected to each House. 20. The seat of Government shall be at Charleston, until otherwise provided by law. 21. The Governor may convene the Legislature at another place, when, in his opinion, it can not safely assemble at the seat of Government, and the Legislature may, when in session, adjourn to some other place, when in its opinion, the public safety or welfare, or the safety of the members, or their health shall require it. 22. No session of the Legislature, after the first, shall continue longer than forty-five days, without the concurrence of two-thirds of the members elected to each House. 23. Neither House shall, during the session, adjourn for more than three days, without the consent of the other. Nor shall either, without such consent, adjourn, to any other place than that in which the Legislature is sitting. 24. A majority of the members elected to each House of the Legislature, shall constitute a quorum. But a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and shall be authorized to compel the attendance of absent members, as each House may provide. Each House shall determine the rules of its proceedings, and for the judge of the elections, returns and qualifications of its own members. The Senate shall choose, from its own body, a President; and the House of Delegates, from its own body, a Speaker. Each House shall appoint its own officers, and remove them at pleasure. The oldest Delegate present shall call the House to order, at the opening of each new house of Delegates, and preside over it until the Speaker thereof shall have been chosen, and have taken his seat. The oldest member of the Senate present at the commencement of each regular session thereof, shall call the Senate -to order, and preside over the same until a President of the Senate shall have been chosen and have taken his seat. 25. Each House may punish its own members for disorderly behavior, and with the concurrence of two-thirds of the members elected thereto, expel a member, but not twice for the same offence. 26. Each House shall have power to provide for its own safety, and the undisturbed transaction of its business, and may punish by imprisonment, any person not a member, for disrespectful behavior in its presence; for obstructing any of its proceedings, or of its officers in the discharge of his duties, or for any assault, threat or abuse of a member, for words spoken in debate. But such imprisonment shall not extend beyond the termination of the session, and shall not prevent the punishment of any offence, by the ordinary course of law. 27. Laws shall be enacted and enforced, by suitable provisions and penalties requiring sheriffs, and all other officers, whether State, county, district or municipal, who shall collect or receive, or whose official duty it is, or shall be, to collect, receive, hold or pay out any money belonging to, or which is, or shall be, for the use of the State or of any county, district, or municipal corporation, to make annual account and settlement therefor. Such settlement, when made, shall be subject to exceptions, and take such direction, and have only such force and effect, as may be provided by law; but in all cases, such settlement shall be recorded, and be open to the examination of the people at such convenient place or places as may be appointed by law. 28. Bills and resolutions may originate in either House, but may be passed, amended or rejected by the other. 29. No bill shall become a law until it has been fully and distinctly read, on three different days, in each House, unless, in case of urgency, by a vote of four-fifths of the members present, taken by yeas and nays on each bill, this rule be dispensed with; Provided, in all cases, that an engrossed bill shall be fully and distinctly read in each House. 30. No act hereafter passed shall embrace more than one object, and that shall be expressed in the title. But if any object shall be embraced in an act which is not so expressed, the act shall be void only as to so much thereof as shall not be expressed, and no law shall be revived, or amended, by reference to its title only; but the law revived, or the section amended, shall be inserted at large, in the new act. And no act of the Legislature, except such as may be passed at the first session under this Constitution, shall take effect until the expiration of ninety days after its passage, unless the Legislature shall by a vote of two-thirds of the members elected to each House, taken by yeas and nays, otherwise direct. 31. When a bill or joint resolution passed by one House, shall be amended by the other, the question on agreeing to the bill, or joint resolution, as amended, shall be a am voted on, by yeas and nays, in the the House by which it was originally passed, and the result entered upon its journals; in all such cases the affirmative vote of a majority of all the members elected to such House shall be necessary. 32. Whenever the words, "a majority of the members elected to either House of the Legislature," or words of like import, are used in this Constitution, they shall be construed to mean a majority of the whole number of members to which each House is, at the time, entitled, under the apportionment of representation, established by the provisions of this Constitution. 33. The members of the Legislature shall receive for their services the sum of four dollars per day and ten cents for each mile traveled in going to and returning from the seat of government by the most direct route. The Speaker of the House of Delegates and the President of the Senate, shall each receive an additional compensation of two dollars per day for each day they shall act as presiding officers. No other allowance or emolument than that by this section provided shall directly or indirectly be made or paid to the members of either House for postage, stationery, newspapers, or any other purpose whatever. 34. The Legislature shall provide by law that the fuel, stationery and printing paper, furnished for the use of the State; the copying, printing, binding and distributing the laws and journals; and all other printing ordered by the Legislature, shall be let by contract to the lowest responsible bidder, bidding under a maximum price to be fixed by the Legislature; and no member or officer thereof, or officer of the State, shall be interested, directly or indirectly, in such contract, but all such contracts shall be subject to the approval of the Governor, and in case of his disapproval of any such contract, there shall be a reletting of the same in the manner prescribed by law. 35. The State of West Virginia shall never be made defendant in any court of law or equity. 36. The Legislature shall have no power to authorize lotteries or gift enterprises for any purpose, and shall pass laws to prohibit the sale of lottery or gift enterprise tickets in this State. 37. No law shall be passed after the election of any public officer, which shall operate to extend the term of his office. 38. No extra compensation shall be granted or allowed to any public officer, agent, servant or contractor, after the services shall have been rendered or the contract made; nor shall any Legislature authorize the payment of any claim or part thereof, hereafter created against the State, under any agreement or contract made, without express authority of law; and all such unauthorized agreements shall be null and void. Nor shall the salary of any public officer be increased or diminished during his term of office, nor shall any such officer, or his or their sureties be released from any debt or liability due the State; Provided, the Legislature may make appropriations for expenditures hereafter incurred in suppressing insurrection, or repelling invasion. 39. The Legislature shall not pass local or special laws in any of the following enumerated cases; that is to say or: Granting divorces; Laying out, opening, altering and working roads or highways: Vacating roads, town plats, streets, alleys and public grounds; Locating or changing county seats; Regulating or changing county or district affairs; Providing for the sale of church property, or property held for charitable uses;Regulating the practice in courts of justice; Incorporating cities, towns or villages, or amending the charter of any city, town or village, containing a population of less than two thousand; Summoning or impaneling grand or petit juries; The opening or conducting of any election, or designating the place of voting; The sale and mortgage of real estate belonging to minors, or others tinder disability Chartering, licensing, or establishing ferries or toll bridges; Remitting fines, penalties or forfeitures; Changing the laws of descent; Regulating the rates of interest; Authorizing deeds to be made for land sold for taxes; Releasing taxes; Releasing title to forfeited lands. The Legislature shall provide, by general laws, for the foregoing and all other cases for which provision can be made; and in no case shall a special act be passed, where a general law would be proper, and can be made applicable to the case, nor in any other case in which the courts have jurisdiction, and are competent to give the relief asked for. 40. The Legislature shall not confer upon any court, or judge, the power of appointment to office, further than the same is herein provided for. 41. Each House shall keep a journal of its proceedings, and cause the same to be published from time to time, and all bills and joint resolutions shall be described therein, as well by their title as their number, and the ayes and nays on any question, if called for by one-tenth of those present, shall be entered on the journal. 42. Bills making appropriations for the pay of members and officers of the Legislature, and for salaries for the officers of the Government, shall contain no provision on any other subject. 43. The Legislature shall never authorize or establish any board or court of registration of voters. 44. In all elections to office which may hereafter take place in the Legislature, or in any county, or municipal body, the vote shall be viva voce, and be entered on its journals. 45. It shall be the duty of the Legislature, at its first session after the adoption of this Constitution, to provide, by law, for the punishment by imprisonment in the penitentiary, of any person who shall bribe or attempt to bribe, any executive or judicial officer of this State, or any member of the Legislature in order to influence him, in the performance of any of his official or public duties; and also to provide by law for the punishment by imprisonment in the penitentiary of any of said officers, or any member of the Legislature, who shall demand, or receive, from any corporation, company or person, any money, testimonial, or other valuable thing, for the per- formance of his official or public duties, or for refusing or failing to perform the same, or for any vote or influence a member of the Legislature may give or withhold as such member, and also to provide by law for compelling any person, so bribing or attempting to bribe, or so demanding or receiving a bribe, fee, reward, or testimonial, to testify against any person or persons, who may have committed any of said offences; Provided, That any person so compelled to testify, shall be exempted from trial and punishment for the offense of which he may have been guilty, and concerning which he is compelled to testify; and any person convicted of any of the offences specified in this section shall, as a part of the punishment thereof, be forever disqualified from holding any office or position of honor, trust, or profit in this State. 46. Laws may be passed regulating or prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors within the limits of this State. 47. No charter of incorporation shall be granted to any church or religious denomination. Provision may be made by general laws for securing the title to church property, and for the sale and transfer thereof, so that it shall be held, used, or transferred for the purpose of such church or religious denomination. 48. Any husband or parent, residing in this State, or the infant children of deceased parents, may hold a homestead of the value of one thousand dollars and personal property to the value of two hundred dollars, exempt from forced sale subject to such regulations as shall be prescribed by law. Provided, That such homestead exemption shall in no wise affect debts or liabilities existing at the time of the adoption of this Constitution; and provided further, That no property shall be exempt from sale for taxes due thereon, or for the payment of purchase money due upon said property, or for debts contracted for the erection of improvements thereon. 49. The Legislature shall pass such laws as may be necessary to protect the property of married women from the debts, liabilities and contr