

THE STATE CONSTITUTION OF WYOMING. PREAMBLE We, the People of the State of Wyoming, grateful to God for our civil, political and religious liberties, and desiring to secure them to ourselves and perpetuate them to our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution. ARTICLE No. I DECLARATION OF RIGHTS SECTION 1. All power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority, and instituted for their peace, safety and happiness; for the advancements of these ends they have at all times an inalienable and indefeasible right to alter, reform or abolish the government in such manner as they may think proper. SEC. 2. In their inherent right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, all members of the human race are equal. SEC. 3. Since equality in the enjoyment of natural and civil rights is only made sure through political equality, the laws of this State affecting the political rights and privileges of its citizens shall be without distinction of race, color, sex, or any circumstance or condition whatsoever other than individual incompetency or unworthiness, duly ascertained by a court of competent jurisdiction. SEC. 4. The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated, and no warrant shall issue but upon probable cause, supported by affidavit, particularly describing the place to be searched or the person or thing to be seized. SEC. 5. No person shall be imprisoned for debt except in cases of fraud. SEC. 6. No person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law. SEC. 7. Absolute, arbitrary power over the lives, liberty and property of freemen exists nowhere in a republic, not even in the largest majority. SEC. 8. All courts shall be open and every person for an injury done to person, property or reputation, shall have a remedy by course of law. SEC. 9. The right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and shall not be less than twelve men, and in civil cases, except in cases of contract, may be waived by the parties in open court. SEC. 10. In all criminal prosecutions the accused shall have the right to defend in person and by counsel, to demand the nature and cause of the accusation, to have a copy thereof, to be confronted with the witnesses against him, to have compulsory process served for obtaining witnesses and to have a speedy trial by an impartial jury of the county or district in which the offense is alleged to have been committed. SEC. 11. No person shall be compelled to testify against himself in any criminal case, nor shall any person be twice put, in jeopardy for the same offense. If the jury disagree, or if the judgment be reversed for error in law, the accused shall not be deemed to have been in jeopardy. SEC. 12. No person shall be detained as a witness in any criminal prosecution longer than may be necessary to take his testimony or deposition, nor be confined in any room where criminals are imprisoned. SEC. 13. Until otherwise provided by law, no person shall, for a felony, be proceeded against criminally, otherwise than by indictment, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia when in actual service in time of war or public danger. SEC. 14. All persons shall be bailable by sufficient sureties, except for capital offenses when the proof is evident or the presumption great. Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor shall cruel or unusual punishment be inflicted. SEC. 15. The penal code shall be framed on the humane principles of reformation and prevention. SEC. 16. No person arrested and confined in jail shall be treated with unnecessary rigor. The erection of safe and comfortable prisons, and inspection of prisons, and the humane treatment of prisoners shall be provided for. SEC. 17. The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended unless, when in case of rebellion or invasion, the public safety may require it. SEC. 18. The free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship without discrimination or preference shall be forever guaranteed in this State, and no person shall be rendered incompetent to hold any office of trust or profit, or to serve as a witness or juror, because of his opinion on any matter of religious belief whatever; but the liberty of conscience hereby secured shall not be so construed as to excuse acts of licentiousness or justify practices inconsistent with the peace or safety of the State. SEC. 19. No money of the State shall ever be given or appropriated to any sectarian or religious society or institution. SEC. 20. Every person may freely speak, write and publish on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of the right; and in all trials for libel, both civil and criminal, the truth, when published with good intention and justifiable ends, shall be a sufficient defense, the jury, having the right to determine the facts and the law, under direction of the court. SEC. 21. The right of petition, and of the people peaceably to assemble to consult for the common good, to make known their opinions, shall never be denied or abridged. SEC. 22. The rights of labor shall have just protection in law, and no law shall be passed to interfere with them. SEC. 23. The right of citizens to opportunities for education should have practical recognition. The Legislature shall suitably encourage means and agencies calculated to advance the sciences and liberal arts. SEC. 24. The right of citizens to the enjoyment of the fruits of scientific discovery and invention shall be secured. SEC. 25. The right of citizens to participate in the management of the industrial welfare of the State. SEC. 26. The right of citizens to participate in the management of the industrial welfare of the State. SEC. 27. The right of citizens to participate in the management of the industrial welfare of the State. SEC. 28. No tax shall be imposed without the consent of the people or their authorized representatives. All taxation shall be equal and uniform. SEC. 29. No distinction shall ever be made by law between resident aliens and citizens, except as to the possession, taxation, enjoyment and descent of property. SEC. 30. Perpetuities and monopolies are contrary to the genius of a free state and shall not be allowed. Corporations being creatures of the state, endowed for the public good with a portion of its sovereign powers, must be subject to its control. SEC. 31. Water being essential to industrial prosperity, of limited amount, and easy of diversion from its natural channels, its control must be in the hands of the people, and no person shall be privileged to appropriate it to his private use, except as to the possession, taxation, enjoyment and descent of property. SEC. 32. Private property shall not be taken for private use unless by consent of the owner, except for private ways of necessity, and for reservoirs, drains, flumes, or ditches on or across the lands of others for agricultural, mining, milling, domestic or sanitary purposes, nor in any case without due compensation. SEC. 33. Private property shall not be taken or damaged for the use of the State, except as to the possession, taxation, enjoyment and descent of property. SEC. 34. All laws of a general nature shall have a uniform operation. SEC. 35. No tax upon contract law, nor any law impairing the obligation of contracts, shall ever be made. SEC. 36. The enumeration of the rights herein shall not be construed to deny, impair, or disregard those retained by the people. SEC. 37. The State of Wyoming is an inseparable part of the United States of America, and the Constitution of the United States is the supreme law of the land. II DISTRIBUTION OF POWERS SECTION 1. The powers of the government of this State are divided into three distinct departments: the legislative, executive and judicial, and no person shall exercise the powers of more than one of them. SEC. 2. The legislative power shall be vested in a senate and house of representatives. SEC. 3. Each county shall constitute a senatorial and representative district, except as in this constitution expressly directed or permitted. ARTICLE No. III LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT SECTION 1. The legislative power shall be vested in a senate and house of representatives which shall be designated "The Legislature of the State of Wyoming." SEC. 2. Senators shall be elected for the term of four (4) years and representatives for the term of two (2) years. The senators elected at the first election shall be divided into two classes as nearly equal as may be. The seats of senators of the first class shall be vacated at the expiration of the first two years, and of the second class at the expiration of two years. No person shall be a senator who has not attained the age of twenty-five years, or a representative who has not attained the age of twenty-one years, and who is not a citizen of the United States and of this State and who has not, for at least twelve months next preceding his election resided within the county or district in which he was elected. SEC. 3. Each county shall constitute a senatorial and representative district, except as in this constitution expressly directed or permitted. ARTICLE No. III LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT SECTION 1. 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