
By Mr. Cramer, petition of Robert P. Cramer for a legislative amendment to the Constitution providing four year terms for the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Secretary, Treasurer and Receiver-General, Attorney General and Auditor of the Commonwealth. Constitutional Law.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Nine.

PROPOSAL FOR A LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDING FOUR-YEAR TERMS FOR THE GOVERNOR, LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR, SECRETARY, TREASURER AND RECEIVER-GENERAL, ATTORNEY GENERAL AND AUDITOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

A majority of all the members elected to the Senate and House of Representatives, in joint session, hereby declares it to be expedient to alter the Constitution by the adoption of the following Article of Amendment, to the end that it may become a part of the Constitution [if similarly agreed to in a joint session of the next General Court and approved by the people at the state election next following]:

ARTICLE OF AMENDMENT.

Article LXIV of the amendments of the Constitution, as amended by Article LXXX of said amendments, is hereby annulled, and the following is adopted in place thereof: —

ARTICLE LXIV. *Section 1.* The governor, lieutenant-governor, secretary, treasurer and receiver-general, attorney general and auditor shall be elected quadrennially and councillors, senators and representatives shall be elected biennially. The terms of the governor and lieutenant-governor shall begin at noon on the Thursday next following the first Wednesday in January succeeding their election and shall end at noon on the Thursday next following the first Wednesday in January in the fifth year following their election. If the governor elect shall have died before the qualification of the lieutenant-governor elect, the lieutenant-governor elect

upon qualification shall become governor. If both the governor elect and the lieutenant-governor elect shall have died both said offices shall be deemed to be vacant and the provisions of Article LV of the amendments to the constitution shall apply. The terms of the secretary, the treasurer and receiver-general, attorney general and auditor shall begin with the third Wednesday in January succeeding their election and shall extend to the third Wednesday in January in the fifth year following their election and until their successors are chosen and qualified. The terms of the councillors shall begin at noon on the Thursday next following the first Wednesday in January succeeding their election and shall end at noon on the Thursday next following the first Wednesday in January in the third year following their election. The terms of senators and representatives shall begin with the first Wednesday in January succeeding their election, and shall extend to the first Wednesday in January in the third year following their election and until their successors are chosen and qualified.

Section 2. No person shall be eligible to election to the office of treasurer and receiver-general for more than two successive terms.

Section 3. The general court shall assemble every year on the first Wednesday in January.

Section 4. The first election to which this article shall apply shall be held on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November in the year nineteen hundred and sixty-four. Thereafter, elections for the choice of a governor, lieutenant-governor, secretary, treasurer and receiver-general, attorney general and an auditor shall be held quadriennially on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November and elections for the choice of councillors, senators and representatives shall be held biennially on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November.