
By Mrs. Starr of Belmont, petition of Janet K. Starr for a legislative amendment to the Constitution providing a four year term for members of the Senate. Constitutional Law.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Seven.

PROPOSAL FOR A LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION
PROVIDING A FOUR YEAR TERM FOR MEMBERS OF THE SENATE.

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

8 ARTICLE OF AMENDMENT.

9 Article LXIV of the Amendments of the Constitution, as
10 most recently amended by Article LXXXII of said amend-
11 ments, is hereby annulled, and the following is adopted in
12 place thereof:—

13 Article LXIV. *Section 1.* The governor, lieutenant gov-
14 ernor, secretary, treasurer and receiver general, attorney
15 general, auditor and senators shall be elected quadrennially
16 and councillors and representatives shall be elected bien-
17 nially. The terms of governor and lieutenant governor shall
18 begin at noon on the Thursday next following the first
19 Wednesday in January in the year succeeding their election
20 and shall end at noon on the Thursday next following the
21 first Wednesday in January in the fifth year following their
22 election. If the governor elect shall have died before qualifica-
23 tion of the lieutenant governor elect, the lieutenant governor

24 elect shall upon qualification become governor. If both the
25 governor elect and lieutenant governor elect shall have died,
26 both said offices shall be declared vacant and the provisions
27 of Article LV shall apply. The terms of secretary, treasurer
28 and receiver general, attorney general and auditor shall begin
29 with the third Wednesday in January in the year succeeding
30 their election and shall extend to the third Wednesday in
31 January in the fifth year following their election, and until
32 their successors are chosen and qualified. The terms of the
33 councillors shall begin at noon on the Thursday next follow-
34 ing the first Wednesday in January in the year succeeding
35 their election and shall end at noon on the Thursday next
36 after the first Wednesday in January in the third year
37 following their election. The terms of senators shall begin
38 with the first Wednesday in January in the year succeeding
39 their election, and shall extend to the first Wednesday in
40 January in the fifth year following their election, except as
41 hereinafter provided, and until their successors are chosen
42 and qualified. The terms of representatives shall begin with
43 the first Wednesday in January in the year succeeding their
44 election and shall extend to the first Wednesday in January in
45 the third year following their election, and until their succes-
46 sors have been chosen and qualified.

47 *Section 2.* Anything in the foregoing to the contrary
48 notwithstanding, the governor shall, with the advice of
49 council, provide a plan, to be filed with the clerk of the senate
50 no later than the first Wednesday in December in the year
51 this article is approved by the voters, for the election, at the
52 first election to which this article applies, of half the total
53 number of senators to be elected for terms beginning with the
54 first Wednesday in January in the year succeeding their
55 election and extending to the first Wednesday in January in
56 the third year following their election, their successors to be
57 chosen at the state election next following their election, and
58 for four year terms as hereinbefore provided. Unless the plan
59 of the governor is negatived within sixty days by the senate,
60 it shall take effect.

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

63 *Section 4.* The first election to which this article shall apply
64 shall be held on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in
65 November in the year nineteen hundred and seventy-four.
66 Thereafter elections for the choice of governor, lieutenant
67 governor, secretary, treasurer and receiver general, attorney
68 general and auditor shall be held quadrennially on the
69 Tuesday next after the first Monday in November. Elections
70 for the choice of successors to the seats of senators whose
71 terms shall expire in the year next following, and for repre-
72 sentatives shall be held biennially thereafter on the Tuesday
73 next after the first Monday in November.

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