

By Mr. Driscoll of Northbridge (by request), petition of Rosaire Rajotte for a legislative amendment to the Constitution providing four year terms for Councillors, Senators and Representatives. The Judiciary.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Eight.

PROPOSAL FOR A LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION  
PROVIDING FOUR YEAR TERMS FOR COUNCILLORS, SENATORS AND  
REPRESENTATIVES.

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

8 **ARTICLE OF AMENDMENT.**

9 The Constitution of the Commonwealth is hereby amended by  
10 striking out Article LXIV of the amended articles of the  
11 constitution and inserting in place thereof the following Article.

12 Article LXIV. The governor, lieutenant governor, secretary,  
13 treasurer and receiver-general, attorney-general, auditor,  
14 councillors, senators and representatives shall be elected  
15 quadrennially.

16 The terms of the governor and lieutenant-governor shall begin  
17 at noon on the Thursday next following the first Wednesday in  
18 January succeeding their election and shall end at noon on the  
19 Thursday next following the first Wednesday in January in the  
20 fifth year following their election. If the governor elect shall have  
21 died before the qualification of the lieutenant-governor elect, the  
22 lieutenant-governor elect upon qualification shall become

23 governor. If both the governor elect and the lieutenant-governor  
24 elect shall have died both said offices shall be deemed to be vacant  
25 and the provisions of Article LV of the Amendments to the  
26 Constitution shall apply. The terms of the secretary, treasurer and  
27 receiver-general, attorney-general, and auditor shall begin with  
28 the third Wednesday in January succeeding their election and shall  
29 extend to the third Wednesday in January in the fifth year  
30 following their election and until their successors are chosen and  
31 qualified. The terms of the councillors shall begin at noon on the  
32 Thursday next following the first Wednesday in January  
33 succeeding their election and shall end at noon on the Thursday  
34 next following the first Wednesday in January in the fifth year  
35 following their election. The terms of senators and representatives  
36 shall begin with the first Wednesday in January succeeding their  
37 election and shall extend to the first Wednesday in January in the  
38 fifth year following their election and until their successors are  
39 chosen and qualified.