

By Mr. Volterra of Attleboro, petition of Max Volterra for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to the election of certain state officers, terms of office, and assembly of the General Court. The Judiciary.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

PROPOSAL FOR A LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION  
RELATIVE TO THE ELECTION OF CERTAIN STATE OFFICERS, TERMS OF  
OFFICE, AND ASSEMBLY OF THE GENERAL COURT.

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 a  
5 part of the Constitution [if similarly agreed to in a joint session of  
6 the next General Court and approved by the people at the state  
7 election next following]:

**ARTICLE OF AMENDMENT.**

1 SECTION 1. The governor, lieutenant-governor, secretary,  
2 treasurer and receiver-general, attorney-general, auditor and  
3 senators shall be elected quadrennially and councillors and  
4 representatives shall be elected biennially. The terms of the  
5 governor and lieutenant-governor shall begin at noon on the  
6 Thursday next following the first Wednesday in January  
7 succeeding their election and shall end at noon on the Thursday  
8 next following the first Wednesday in January in the fifth year  
9 following their election. If the governor elect shall have died  
10 before the qualification of the lieutenant-governor elect, the  
11 lieutenant-governor elect upon qualification shall become  
12 governor. If both the governor elect and the lieutenant-governor  
13 elect shall have died both said offices shall be deemed to be vacant  
14 and the provisions of Article LV of the Amendments to the  
15 Constitution shall apply. The terms of the secretary, treasurer and  
16 receiver-general, attorney-general, and auditor shall begin with

17 the third Wednesday in January succeeding their election and  
18 shall extend to the third Wednesday in January in the fifth year  
19 following their election and until their successors are chosen and  
20 qualified. The terms of the councillors shall begin at noon on the  
21 Thursday next following the first Wednesday in January  
22 succeeding their election and shall end at noon on the Thursday  
23 next following the first Wednesday in January in the third year  
24 following their election. The terms of senators shall begin with the  
25 first Wednesday in January succeeding their election and shall  
26 extend to the first Wednesday in January in the fifth year  
27 following their election and until their successors are chosen and  
28 qualified. The terms of representatives shall begin with the first  
29 Wednesday in January succeeding their election and shall extend  
30 to the first Wednesday in January in the third year following their  
31 election and until their successors are chosen and qualified.

1 SECTION 2. The General Court shall assemble every year on  
2 the first Wednesday in January.

1 SECTION 3. The first election to which this article shall apply  
2 shall be held on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in  
3 November in the year nineteen hundred and eighty two, and  
4 thereafter elections for the choice of a governor, lieutenant-  
5 governor, secretary, treasurer and receiver-general, attorney-  
6 general, auditor, and senators shall be held quadrennially on the  
7 Tuesday next after the first Monday in November and elections  
8 for the choice of councillors and representatives shall be held  
9 biennially on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in  
10 November.