

**Art. 2.** That the people of this State ought to have the sole and exclusive right of regulating the internal government and police thereof.

**Art. 3.** That the inhabitants of Maryland are entitled to the common law of England, and the trial by jury according to the course of that law and to the benefit of such of the English statutes as existed at the time of their first emigration, and which by experience have been found applicable to their local and other circumstances, and of such others as have been since made in England or Great Britain, and have been introduced, used and practiced by the courts of law or equity, and also to all acts of assembly in force on the first Monday of November, 1850, except such as may have since expired, or may be altered by acts of this Convention, or this Declaration of Rights, subject, nevertheless, to the revision of, and amendment or repeal by the Legislature of this State, and the inhabitants of Maryland are also entitled to all property derived to them from or under the charter granted by His Majesty, Charles the First, to Cæcilius Calvert, Baron of Baltimore.

**Art. 4.** That all persons invested with the Legislative or Executive powers of Government, are the trustees of the public, and as such, accountable for their conduct; wherefore, whenever the ends of Government are perverted, and public liberty manifestly endangered, and all other means of redress are ineffectual, the people may, and of right ought to reform the old or establish a new government; the doctrine of non-resistance against arbitrary power and oppression is absurd, slavish and destructive of the good and happiness of mankind.

**Art. 5.** That the right of the people to participate in the Legislature is the best security of liberty, and the foundation of all free government, for this purpose elections ought to be free and frequent, and every free white male citizen having the qualifications prescribed by the Constitution, ought to have the right of suffrage.

**Art. 6.** That the legislative, executive and judicial powers of Government ought to be forever separate and distinct from each other.

**Art. 7.** That no power of suspending laws, or the execution of laws, unless by or derived from the Legislature, ought to be exercised or allowed.

**Art. 8.** That freedom of speech and debates, or proceedings in the Legislature, ought not to be impeached in any court of judicature.

**Art. 9.** That Annapolis be the place for the meeting of the Legislature; and the Legislature ought not to be convened or held at any other place but from evident necessity.

**Art. 10.** That for the redress of grievances, and for amending, strengthening and preserving the laws, the Legislature ought to be frequently convened.

**Art. 11.** That every man hath a right to petition the Legislature for the redress of grievances in a peaceable and orderly manner.

**Art. 12.** That no aid, charge, tax, burthen, fee or fees, ought to be set, rated or levied, under any pretence, without the consent of the Legislature.

**Art. 13.** That paupers ought not to be assessed for the support of Government, but every other person in this State, or person holding property therein, ought to contribute his proportion of public taxes, for the support of Government, according to his actual worth in real or personal property; yet fines, duties or taxes may properly and justly be imposed or laid, on persons or property, with a political view, for the good government and benefit of the community.

**Art. 14.** That sanguinary laws ought to be avoided, as far as is consistent with the safety of the State; and no law to inflict cruel and unusual pains and penalties ought to be made, in any case, or at any time hereafter.

**Art. 15.** That retrospective laws, punishing acts committed before the existence of such laws, and by them only declared criminal, are oppressive, unjust and incompatible with liberty, wherefore, no *ex post facto* law ought to be made.

**Art. 16.** That no law to attain particular persons of treason or felony, ought to be made in any case, or at any time hereafter.

**Art. 17.** That every free man, for any injury done to him in his person or property, ought to have remedy by the course of the law of the land, and ought to have justice and right, freely without sale, fully without any denial, and speedily without delay, according to the law of the land.

**Art. 18.** That the trial of facts where they arise, is one of the greatest securities of the lives, liberties and estate of the people.

**Art. 19.** That in all criminal prosecutions, every man hath a right to be informed of the accusation against him; to have a copy of the indictment or charge, in due time (if required) to prepare for his defence; to be allowed counsel, to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have process for his witnesses; to examine the witnesses for and against him on oath; and to a speedy trial by an impartial jury, without whose unanimous consent he ought not to be found guilty.

**Art. 20.** That no man ought to be compelled to give evidence against himself in a court of common law, or in any other court, but in such cases as have been usually practised in this State or may hereafter be directed by the Legislature.

**Art. 21.** That no freeman ought to be taken or imprisoned, or disseized of his freehold, liberties or privileges, or outlawed, or exiled, or in any manner destroyed, or deprived of his life, liberty or property, but by the judgment of his peers, or by the law of the land.

**Art. 22.** That excessive bail ought not to be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel or unusual punishment inflicted by the courts of law.

**Art. 23.** That all warrants, without oath, or affirmation, to search suspected places, or to seize any person or property, are grievous and oppressive; and all general warrants to search suspected places, or to apprehend suspected persons, without naming or describing the place, or the person in special, are illegal and ought not to be granted.