

which it may be held. The said Circuit Courts shall have and exercise in the respective counties all the power, authority and jurisdiction, original and appellate, which the present Circuit Courts of this State now have and exercise, or which may hereafter be prescribed by law.

Sec. 20. For each of the said Circuits (excepting the 8th,) there shall be a Chief Judge and two Associate Judges, to be styled Judges of the Circuit Court, to be elected or appointed as herein provided. And no two of said Associate Judges shall at the time of their election or appointment, or during the term for which they may have been elected or appointed, reside in the same county. If two or more persons shall be candidates for Associate Judge in the same county, that one only in said county shall be declared elected who has the highest number of votes in the Circuit. In case any two candidates for Associate Judge residing in the same county, shall have an equal number of votes, greater than any other candidate for Associate Judge in the Circuit, it shall be the duty of the Governor to order a new election for one Associate Judge; but the person residing in any other county of the Circuit, and who has the next highest number of votes shall be declared elected. The said Judges shall hold a term of the Circuit Court in each of the counties composing their respective Circuits, at such time or times as now are, or may hereafter be fixed by law, such terms not to be less than two in each year. One Judge in each of the above Circuits, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business; and the said Judges, or any of them, may hold Special Terms of their Courts, whenever, in their discretion, the business of the several counties renders such terms necessary.

Sec. 21. The Judges of the respective Circuit Courts of this State, and of the Courts of Baltimore City, shall render their decisions in all cases argued before them, or submitted for their judgment, within two months after the same shall have been so argued or submitted.

Sec. 22. The salary of each Chief Judge shall be five thousand dollars, and of each Associate Judge of the Circuit Court, shall be three thousand and five hundred dollars per annum, payable quarterly, and shall not be diminished during his continuance in office.

Sec. 23. There shall be a Clerk of the Circuit Court for each county, who shall be elected by a plurality of the qualified voters of said county, and shall hold his office for six years from the time of his election, and until his successor is elected and qualified, and be re-eligible, subject to be removed for wilful neglect of duty, or other misdemeanor in office, on conviction in a Court of law; in case of a vacancy