

THE CONSTITUTION AND FORM OF GOVERNMENT

The CONSTITUTION and FORM of GOVERNMENT agreed to by the Delegates of Maryland in free and full Convention assembled.

1. That the legislature consist of two distinct branches, a senate, and a house of delegates, which shall be stiled the General Assembly of Maryland.

2. That the house of delegates shall be chosen in the following manner: All freemen above twenty-one years of age, having a freehold of fifty acres of land in the county in which they offer to vote, and residing therein, and all freemen having property in this State above the value of thirty pounds current money, and having resided in the county in which they offer to vote one whole year next preceding the election, shall have a right of suffrage in the election of delegates for such county; and all freemen so qualified shall, on the first Monday of October seventeen hundred and seventy-seven, and on the same day in every year thereafter, assemble in the counties in which they are respectively qualified to vote, at the court-house in the said counties, or at such other place as the legislature shall direct, and when assembled they shall proceed to elect, *viva voce*, four delegates for their respective counties, of the most wise, sensible, and discreet of the people, residents in the county where they are to be chosen one whole year next preceding the election, above twenty-one years of age, and having in the State real or personal property above the value of five hundred pounds current money, and upon the final casting of the polls the four persons who shall appear to have the greatest number of legal votes, shall be declared and returned duly elected for their respective county.

3. That the sheriff of each county, or in case of sickness, his deputy, (summoning two justices of the county, who are required to attend for the preservation of the peace) shall be judge of the election, and may adjourn from day to day, if necessary, till the same be finished, so that the whole election shall be concluded in four days; and shall make his return thereof, under his hand, to the chancellor of this State for the time being.

4. That all persons, qualified by the charter of the city of Annapolis to vote for burgesses, shall, on the same first Monday of October seventeen hundred and seventy-seven, and on the same day in every year for ever thereafter, elect *viva voce*, by a majority of votes, two delegates, qualified agreeable to the said charter; that the mayor, recorder, and eldermen, of the said city, or any three of them, be judges of the election, appoint the place in the said city for holding the same, and may adjourn from day to day as aforesaid, and shall make return thereof as aforesaid; but the inhabitants of the said city shall not be entitled to vote for delegates for Anne-Arundel county, unless they have a freehold of fifty acres of land in the county, distinct from the city.

5. That all persons, inhabitants of Baltimore town, and having the same qualifications as electors in the county, shall, on the same first Monday of October seventeen hundred and seventy-seven, and on the same day in every year for ever thereafter, at such place in the said town as the judges shall appoint, elect *viva voce*, by a majority of votes, two delegates, qualified as aforesaid; but if the said inhabitants of the town shall so decrease, as that the num-