

be subject to removal by the said Court for incompetency, neglect of duty, misdemeanor in office, or such other cause or causes as may be prescribed by law.

**PART III.—CIRCUIT COURTS.**

**Sec. 24.** The State shall be divided into thirteen Judicial Circuits, in manner following: The Counties of St. Mary's and Charles shall constitute the First Circuit; the Counties of Anne Arundel and Calvert, the Second; the Counties of Prince George's and Montgomery, the Third; the County of Frederick, the Fourth; the County of Washington, the Fifth; the County of Allegany, the Sixth; the Counties of Carroll and Howard, the Seventh; the County of Baltimore, the Eighth; the Counties of Harford and Cecil, the Ninth; the Counties of Kent and Queen Anne's, the Tenth; the Counties of Talbot and Caroline, the Eleventh; the Counties of Dorchester, Somerset and Worcester, the Twelfth; and the city of Baltimore, the Thirteenth.

**Sec. 25.** One Court shall be held in each county of the State; the said Courts shall be called Circuit Courts for the county in which they may be held, and shall have and exercise 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. 26.** For each Circuit (the Thirteenth excepted) there shall be one Judge, who shall be styled Circuit Judge, who, during his term of office, shall reside in one of the counties composing the Circuit for which he may be elected; the said Judges shall hold a term of their Courts in each of the counties composing their respective Circuits at such times as now are or may hereafter be fixed by law,

such terms to be never less than two in each year in each county; special terms may be held by said Judges in their discretion, whenever the business of their several counties renders such terms necessary.

**Sec. 27.** The present Judges of the Circuit Courts shall continue to act as Judges of the respective Circuit Courts within the Judicial Circuits in which they respectively reside, until the expiration of the term for which they were respectively elected, and until their successors are elected and qualified, viz: the present Judges of the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Sixth and Eighth Judicial Circuits, as organized at the time of the adoption of this Constitution, shall continue to act as Judges respectively of the First, Second, Fourth, Fifth, Ninth and Twelfth Judicial Circuits, as organized under this Constitution; and an election for Judges of the Third, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Tenth and Eleventh Judicial Circuits shall be held on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in the month of November, in the year eighteen hundred and sixty-four.

**Sec. 28.** The salary of each Judge of the Circuit Court shall be twenty-five hundred dollars per annum, payable quarterly, and shall not be increased or diminished during his continuance in office.

**Sec. 29.** There shall be a Clerk of the Circuit Court for each county, who shall be elected by a plurality vote of the qualified voters of said county; he shall hold his office for the term of six years from the time of his election, and until a new election is held and his successor duly qualified; he shall be re-eligible at the end of his term, and shall at any time be subject to removal for willful neglect of duty, or other misdemeanor in office,