

Headnotes	Present Constitution	Constitution of 1867	Constitution of 1864
Prohibition against slavery; Right of compensation from United States.	Art. 24. That Slavery shall not be re-established in this State; but having been abolished under the policy and authority of the United States, compensation, in consideration thereof, is due from the United States.	Art. 24. That Slavery shall not be re-established in this State; but having been abolished, under the policy and authority of the United States, compensation, in consideration thereof, is due from the United States.	Art. 24. That hereafter, in this State, there shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except in punishment of crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted; and all persons held to service or labor as slaves, are hereby declared free.
Prohibition against excessive bail, fines and cruel punishment.	Art. 25. That excessive bail ought not to be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel or unusual punishment inflicted, by the Courts of Law.	Art. 25. That excessive bail ought not to be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel or unusual punishment inflicted, by the Courts of Law.	Art. 25. That excessive bail ought not to be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel or unusual punishment inflicted by the courts of law.
Prohibition against general warrants and warrants without oath or affirmation.	Art. 26. 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.	Art. 26. 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.	Art. 26. 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.
Conviction not to result in corruption of blood or forfeiture of estate.	Art. 27. That no conviction shall work corruption of blood or forfeiture of estate.	Art. 27. That no conviction shall work corruption of blood or forfeiture of estate.	Art. 27. That no conviction shall work corruption of blood, nor shall there be any forfeiture of the estate of any person for any crime, except treason, and then only on conviction.

Constitution of 1851	Constitution of 1776	Amendments to 1776 Constitution
Art. III, sec. 43. The Legislature shall not pass any law abolishing the relation of master or slave, as it now exists in this State.		Proposed by Act of 1836, chapter 148. Ratified 1837. Sec. 26. The relation of Master and Slave in this State, shall not be abolished, unless a Bill so to abolish the same, shall be passed by a <i>unanimous</i> vote of the members of each branch of the General Assembly, and shall be published at least three months before a new election of Delegates, and shall be confirmed by a <i>unanimous</i> vote of the members of each branch of the General Assembly, at the next regular constitutional session after such new election, <i>nor then</i> without full compensation to the master for the property of which he shall be thereby deprived.
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.	22. That excessive bail ought not to be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel or unusual punishments inflicted by the court 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.	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.	
Art. 24. That no conviction shall work corruption of blood, or forfeiture of estate.	24. That there ought to be no forfeiture, of any part of the estate of any person for any crime, except murder, or treason against the State, and then only on conviction and attainder.	