

Headnotes	Present Constitution	Constitution of 1867	Constitution of 1864
<p>Debt Authorization: General Assembly; requirements and limitations; Board of Public Works; public defense.</p>	<p>Sec. 34. No debt shall be hereafter contracted by the General Assembly unless such debt shall be authorized by a Law providing for the collection of an annual tax, or taxes, sufficient to pay the interest on such debt as it falls due, and also to discharge the principal thereof within fifteen years from the time of contracting the same; and the taxes laid for this purpose shall not be repealed or applied to any other object until the said debt and interest thereon shall be fully discharged. The credit of the State shall not in any manner be given, or loaned to, or in aid of any individual, association or corporation; nor shall the General Assembly have the power in any mode to involve the State in the construction of Works of Internal Improvement, nor in granting any aid thereto, which shall involve the faith or credit of the State; nor make any appropriation therefor, except in aid of the construction of Works of Internal Improvement in the counties of St. Mary's, Charles and Calvert, which have had no direct advantage from such Works as have been heretofore aided by the State; and provided, that such aid, advances or appropriations shall not exceed in the aggregate the sum of five hundred thousand dollars. And they shall not use or appropriate the proceeds of the Internal Improvement</p>	<p>Sec. 34. No debt shall be hereafter contracted by the General Assembly, unless such debt shall be authorized by a Law, providing for the collection of an annual tax, or taxes, sufficient to pay the interest on such debt, as it falls due; and also, to discharge the principal thereof, within fifteen years from the time of contracting the same; and the taxes, laid for this purpose, shall not be repealed, or applied to any other object, until the said debt, and interest thereon, shall be fully discharged. The credit of the State shall not in any manner be given, or loaned to, or in aid of any individual, association, or corporation; nor shall the General Assembly have the power, in any mode, to involve the State in the construction of Works of Internal Improvement, nor in granting any aid thereto, which shall involve the faith, or credit of the State; nor make any appropriation therefor, except in aid of the construction of Works of Internal Improvement, in the counties of Saint Mary's, Charles and Calvert, which have had no direct advantage, from such Works, as have been heretofore aided by the State; and provided, that such aid, advances, or appropriations shall not exceed in the aggregate the sum of five hundred thousand dollars. And they shall not use, or appropriate the proceeds of the Internal</p>	<p>general laws providing for the cases enumerated in this section, and for all other cases where a general law can be made applicable.</p> <p>Sec. 33. No debt shall be hereafter contracted by the General Assembly, unless such debt shall be authorized by a law providing for the collection of an annual tax or taxes sufficient to pay the interest on such debt as it falls due, and also to discharge the principal thereof within fifteen years from the time of contracting the same, and the taxes laid for this purpose shall not be repealed or applied to any other object until the said debt and interest thereon shall be fully discharged. The credit of the State shall not, in any manner, be given or loaned to, or in aid of any individual, association or corporation, nor shall the General Assembly have the power in any mode to involve the State in the construction of works of internal improvement, nor in any enterprise which shall involve the faith or credit of the State, nor make any appropriations therefor. And they shall not use or appropriate the proceeds of the internal improvement companies, or of the State tax now levied, or which may hereafter be levied, to pay off the public debt, to any other purpose until the interest and debt are fully paid, or the sinking fund shall be equal to the amount of the outstanding debt; but the General Assembly may, without laying a tax, borrow an amount never to exceed fifty thousand dollars, to meet temporary defi-</p>

Constitution of 1851	Constitution of 1776	Amendments to 1776 Constitution
<p>Sec. 22. No debt shall hereafter be contracted by the Legislature, unless such debt shall be authorized by a law providing for the collection of an annual tax or taxes sufficient to pay the interest on such debt as it falls due, and also to discharge the principal thereof within fifteen years from the time of contracting the same, and the taxes laid for this purpose shall not be repealed or applied to any other object until the said debt and the interest thereon shall be fully discharged, and the amount of debts so contracted and remaining unpaid shall never exceed one hundred thousand dollars. The credit of the State shall not, in any manner, be given or loaned to or in aid of any individual, association or corporation, nor shall the General Assembly have the power, in any mode, to involve the State in the construction of works of internal improvement, or in any enterprise which shall involve the faith or credit of the State, or make any appropriations therefor. And they shall not use or appropriate the proceeds of the internal improvement companies, or of the State Tax now levied, or which may hereafter be levied, to pay off the public debt, to any other purpose, until the interest and debt are fully paid, or the sinking fund shall be equal to the amount of the outstanding debt; but the Legislature</p>		<p>Proposed by Act of 1840, chapter 55. Ratified 1841.</p> <p>It shall not be lawful for the legislature of this State to authorize any loans upon the credit of this State which are not redeemable at the pleasure of the State until the proposed loans are sanctioned by an act passed at the Session of the General Assembly next succeeding that at which they are proposed and passed, so that the opinion of the people of the State may be expressed thereon.</p>