

shall not be construed to refer to any money that has been, or may be deposited with this state by the government of the United States, or to any fund which the state shall hold in trust for any Indian tribe.

Art. 7. The Constitution of this state is amended in the fifth section of the first part of the fourth article, by striking out the words, "a majority of all the," and inserting instead thereof, the words, "the highest number of," and by striking out the words "a majority" where they again occur in the same section, and inserting instead thereof, the words "the highest number;" also in the first amendment to the constitution of this state, by striking out the words "a majority of all the," and inserting instead thereof, the words "the highest number of."

Art. 8. The annual meeting of the legislature shall be on the first Wednesday of January, in each year; and the governor and other state officers elected for the political year commencing on the second Wednesday of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-one, shall hold their offices till the first Wednesday of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two.

CONSTITUTION OF MASSACHUSETTS.

A Constitution, or frame of government, agreed upon by the delegates of the people of Massachusetts Bay, in convention, begun and held at Cambridge, on the first of September, 1779, and continued, by adjournment, to the second of March, 1780.

PREAMBLE.

THE end of the institution, maintenance, and administration of government, is to secure the existence of the body politic, to protect it, and to furnish the individuals who compose it with the power of enjoying, in safety and tranquillity, their natural rights and the blessings of life: and whenever these great objects are not obtained, the people have a right to alter the government, and to take measures necessary for their safety, prosperity, and happiness.

The body politic is formed by a voluntary association of individuals. It is a social compact, by which the whole people covenants with each citizen, and each citizen with the whole people, that all shall be governed by certain laws for the common good. It is the duty of the people, therefore, in framing a constitution of government, to provide for an equitable mode of making laws, as well as for an impartial interpretation and a faithful execution of them; that every man may, at all times, find his security in them.