

numbers to be elected by the respective districts, shall govern themselves by the proportion of the public taxes paid by the said districts; and timely make known, to the inhabitants of the commonwealth, the limits of each district, and the numbers of counsellors and senators to be chosen therein: provided that the number of such districts shall be never less than thirteen; and that no district be so large as to entitle the same to choose more than six senators.

And the several counties in this commonwealth shall, until the general court shall determine it necessary to alter the said districts, be districts for choice of the counsellors and senators, (except that the counties of Dukes county and Nantucket shall form one district for that purpose,) and shall elect the following number for counsellors and senators, viz:

Suffolk.....	six	York.....	two
Essex.....	six	Dukes county and	} ... one
Middlesex.....	five	Nantucket	
Hampshire.....	four	Worcester.....	five
Plymouth.....	three	Cumberland.....	one
Barnstable.....	one	Lincoln.....	one
Bristol.....	three	Berkshire.....	two

2. The senate shall be the first branch of the legislature: and the senators shall be chosen in the following manner, viz: There shall be a meeting on the first Monday in April, annually forever, of the inhabitants of each town in the several counties of this commonwealth; to be called by the selectmen, and warned in due course of law, at least seven days before the first Monday in April, for the purpose of electing persons to be senators and counsellors; and at such meetings every male inhabitant of twenty-one years of age and upwards, having a freehold estate within the commonwealth, of the annual income of three pounds, or any estate of the value of sixty pounds, shall have a right to give in his vote for the senators for the district of which he is an inhabitant. And to remove all doubts concerning the meaning of the word "inhabitant" in this constitution, every person shall be considered as an inhabitant for the purpose of electing and being elected into any office or place within this state in that town, district, or plantation, where he dwelleth or hath his home.

The selectmen of the several towns shall preside at such meetings impartially; and shall receive the votes of all the inhabitants of such towns present and qualified to vote for senators; and shall sort and count them in open town meeting, and in presence of the town clerk, who shall make a fair record, in presence of the selectmen, and in open town meeting, of the name of every person voted for, and of the number of votes against his name; and a fair copy of this record shall be attested by the selectmen and the town clerk, and shall be sealed up, directed to the secretary of the commonwealth for the time being, with a superscription expressing the purport of the contents thereof, and delivered by the town clerk of such towns to the sheriff of the county in which such town lies, thirty days at least before the last Wednesday in May, annually; or it shall be delivered into the secretary's office seventeen days at least before the said last Wednesday in May; and the sheriff of each county shall deliver all such certificates by him received, into the secretary's office, seventeen days before the said last Wednesday in May.

And the inhabitants of plantations unincorporated, qualified as this