John Dickinson

The CONSTITUTION and FORM of GOVERNMENT proposed for the Consideration of the Delegates of Maryland.

1. THAT the legislature consist of three distinct branches, a governor, a senate, and a house of delegates, who shall be stiled the General Assembly of Maryland.

2. That the house of delegates shall be chosen in the following manner: All freemen in this state, above twenty-one years of age, having a freehold therein of not less than fifty acres of land, and actually residing in the county in which he offers to vote; or having not less than forty pounds sterling property in the state, and having resided in the county in which he offers to vote, one whole year next preceding the election, shall, on the first Monday of October 1779, and on the same day in every third year for ever thereafter, at the place appointed for holding the county courts, elect viva voce, by a majority of votes, four delegates for their respective counties, of the most wise, sensible, and discreet of the people, residents in the state one whole year next preceding the election, above twenty-one years of age, and having in the state a freehold in lands or tenements, above the value of pounds sterling.

3. That the sheriff of each county shall be judge of the election, and may adjourn from day to day, omitting Sunday if necessary, till the same be finished, and shall make his return thereof, under his hand, to the chancellor of this state for the time being.

4. That all persons, qualified by the charter of the city of Annapolis to vote for burgesses, shall, on the same first Monday of October 1779, and on the same day in every third year for ever thereafter, elect viva voce, by a majority of votes, two delegates, qualified agreeable to the said charter; that the mayor, recorder, and aldermen, of the said city, or any three of them, be judges of the election, appoint the place in the said city for holding the same, and may adjourn from day to day as aforesaid, and shall make return thereof as aforesaid.

5. That all persons, inhabitants of Baltimore-Town, and having the same qualifications as electors in the county, shall, on