

Proposed article for the North Carolina State Constitution. The election for this constitutional amendment took place on August 2, 1900.

Article VI. Suffrage and Eligibility to Office – Qualifications of an Elector.

[Section 1] Every male person born in the United States, and every male person who has been naturalized, 21 years of age and possessing the qualifications set out in this Article shall be entitled to vote at any election by the people in the State, except as herein otherwise provided.

[Sec. 2] He shall have resided in the State of North Carolina for two years, in the county six months and in the precinct, ward or other election district, in which he offers to vote four months next preceding the election: Provided, That removal from one precinct, ward or other election district to another in the same county, shall not operate to deprive any person of the right to vote in a precinct, ward or other election district from which he has removed until four months after such removal. No person who has been convicted, or who has confessed his guilt in open court upon indictment, of any crime, the punishment of which now is, or may thereafter be, imprisonment in the State prison, shall be permitted to vote unless the said person shall be first restored to citizenship in the like manner prescribed by law.

[Sec. 3] Every person offering to vote shall be at the time a legally registered voter as herein prescribed and in the manner hereinafter provided by law, and the General Assembly of North Carolina shall enact general registration laws to carry into effect the provisions of this Article.

[Sec. 4] Every person presenting himself for registration shall be able to read and write any section of the Constitution in the English language; and, before he shall be entitled to vote, he shall have paid, on or before the first day of March of the year in which he proposes to vote, his poll tax, as prescribed by law, for the previous year. Poll taxes shall be a lien only on assessed property, and no process shall issue to enforce the collection of the same except against assessed property.

[Sec. 5] No male person, who was on January 1, 1867, or at any time prior thereto, entitled to vote under the laws of any State in the United States wherein he then resided, and no lineal descendant of any such person; shall be denied the right to register and vote at any election in this State by reason of his failure to possess the educational qualifications prescribed in section 4 of this Article: Provided, He shall have registered in accordance with the terms of this section prior to Dec. 1, 1908.

The General Assembly shall provide for a permanent record of all persons who register under this section on or before November 1, 1908, and all such persons shall be entitled to register and vote at all elections by the people in this State, unless disqualified under section 2 of this Article: Provided such persons shall have paid their poll tax as required by law.

[Sec. 6] All elections by the people shall be by ballot, and all elections by the General Assembly shall be viva voce.

[Sec. 7] Every voter in North Carolina, except as in this Art. Disqualified, shall be eligible to office, but before entering upon the duties of the office he shall take and subscribe the following oath: "I...do solemnly swear or affirm, that I will support the constitution and laws of North Carolina, not inconsistent therewith, and that...I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as...So help me God."

[Sec. 8] The following classes of persons shall be disqualified for office: First, all persons who shall deny the being of Almighty God. Second, all persons who shall have been convicted or confessed their guilt on indictment pending, and whether sentenced or not; or under judgment suspended, of any treason or felony, or any other crime for which the punishment may be imprisonment in the penitentiary; since becoming citizens of the United States, or of corruption and malpractice in office unless such person shall be restored to the rights of citizenship in a manner prescribed by law.

[Sec. 9] That all of the provisions of the Constitution relating to suffrage registration and elections as contained in this act, amending the Constitution, shall go into effect on the first day of July, 1902, if a majority of the qualified voters of the State so declare at the next general election.

Section 2. This amendment shall be submitted at the next general election to the qualified voters of the State in the same manner and under the same rules and regulations as is provided in the law regulating general elections in this State in the same manner and under the same rules and regulations as is provided in the law regulating general elections in this State and in force May 1, 1899, and at said election those persons desiring to vote for such amendment shall cast a written or printed ballot with the words, "For Suffrage Amendment" thereon; and those with a contrary opinion shall cast a written or printed ballot with the words "Against the Amendment" thereon.

Section 3. The said election shall be held and the votes returned, compared, counted and canvassed and the result announced under the same rules and regulations as are in force for returning, comparing, counting and canvassing the votes for members of the General Assembly May 1, 1899, and if a majority of the votes cast are in favor of the said amendment, it shall be the duty of the Governor of the State to certify said amendment under the seal of the State to the Secretary of State, who shall enroll the said amendment so certified among the permanent records of his office.

Section 4. This act shall be in force from and after its ratification.
Ratified the 21st day of February, A.D. 1899
C.A. Reynolds,
President of the Senate.

H.G. Connor,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.