

January, eighteen hundred and fifty-two, on the same day in the year eighteen hundred and fifty-three, and on the same day in the year eighteen hundred and fifty-four, and on the same day in every second year thereafter, and at no other time unless convened by the proclamation of the governor.

§ 8. The general assembly may continue their first two sessions after the adoption of this constitution, as long as, in the opinion of the two houses, the public interests may require it, but all subsequent regular sessions of the general assembly shall be closed on the tenth day of March next ensuing the time of their commencement, unless the same shall be closed at an earlier day by the agreement of the two houses.

§ 9. No person shall be eligible as a senator or delegate who, at the time of his election, is not a citizen of the United States, and who has not resided at least three years next preceding the day of his election in this state, and the last year thereof in the county or city which he may be chosen to represent, if such county or city shall have been so long established, and if not, then in the county from which, in whole or in part, the same may have been formed; nor shall any person be eligible as a senator unless he shall have attained the age of twenty-five years, nor as a delegate unless he shall have attained the age of twenty-one years at the time of his election.

§ 10. No member of congress, or person holding any civil or military office under the United States, shall be eligible as a senator or delegate; and if any person shall, after his election as a senator or delegate, be elected to congress, or be appointed to any office, civil or military, under the government of the United States, his acceptance thereof shall vacate his seat.

§ 11. No minister or preacher of the gospel, of any denomination, and no person holding any civil office of profit or trust under this state, except justices of the peace, shall be eligible as senator or delegate.

§ 12. Each house shall be judge of the qualifications and elections of its members, subject to the laws of the state—appoint its own officers, determine the rules of its own proceedings, punish a member for disorderly or disrespectful behaviour, and with the consent of two-thirds, expel a member; but no member shall be expelled a second time for the same offence.

§ 13. A majority of each house shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and compel the attendance of absent members in such manner and under such penalties as each house may prescribe.

§ 14. The doors of each house and of committees of the whole shall be open, except when the business is such as ought to be kept secret.

§ 15. Each house shall keep a journal of its proceedings, and cause the same to be published. The yeas and nays of members on any question shall, at the call of any five of them, in the house of delegates, or one in the senate, be entered on the journal.

§ 16. Neither house shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days; nor to any other place than that