

Selection 1: Introduction pt. 1

Whereas Allegiance and Protection are in their nature reciprocal, and the one should of right be refused, when the other is withdrawon, And whereas George the third King of Great Britain, and late Sovereign of the British American Colonies, hath not only withdrawon from them his Protection, but by an Act of the British Legislature, declared the Inhabitants of

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these States, out of the Protection of the British Crown, and all
their Property found upon the high Seas, liable to be seized
and Confiscated to the uses mentioned in the said Act, And
the said George the Third has also sent Fleets and Armies to prosecute
a cruel War against them for the purpose of reducing the Inhabi-
tants of the said Colonies to a State of Object Slavery. In

Selection 2: Introduction pt. 2

ment in many of them hath taken place; And whereas the
Continental Congress having considered the Premises and other
previous Violations, of the rights of the good People of America
have therefore Declared, that the thirteen United Colonies
are of right wholly absolved from all Allegiance to the British
Crown or any other Foreign Jurisdiction whatsoever and that
the said Colonies now are and forever shall be free and
Independant States, Wherefore in our present State in Order

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Selection 3: Introduction pt. 3

Independant States, Wherefore in our present State in Order
to prevent Anarchy and Confusion, it becomes necessary
that a Government should be established in this
State. Therefore we the Representatives of the Freemen
of North Carolina chosen and Assembled in Congress for
the Expreß purpose of framing a Constitution under the
Authority of the People most Conducive to their Happiness
and Prosperity do declare that a Government for this State
shall be established in manner and form following, to wit.

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Selection 4: Sections 1-3

Section the first. That the Legislative Authority shall be vested in two
Distinct Branches, both dependant on the People, to wit, a Senate
and house of Commons

Section 2^d That the senate shall be composed of Representatives
annually chosen by Ballot, one from each County in the State

Section 3^d That the house of Commons shall be composed of Represen-
tatives, annually chosen by Ballot, two for each County, and one for
each of the Towns of Edenton, New Bern, Wilmington Salisbury
Hillsborough and Halifax

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Selection 5: Sections 4-5

Section 4th That the Senate and House of Commons assembled for the purpose of Legislation, shall be denominated the General Assembly

Section 5th That each Member of the Senate, shall have usually resided in the County in which he is chosen for one year immediately preceeding his Election, and for the same time shall have possessed and Continue to Possess in the County which he represents not less than three hundred Acres of Land in Fee

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Selection 6: Section 6

Section 6th That each Member of the House of Commons shall have usually resided in the County, in which he is chosen for one Year immediately preceding his Election for six Months shall have possessed and continue to possess in the County which he Represents not less than one hundred Acres of Land in Fee or for the Term of his own Life

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Selection 7: Sections 7-8

Section 7th That all Freemen of the Age of twenty one Years, who have been Inhabitants of any one County within the State twelve Months immediately preceeding the day of Election and possessed of a Freehold within the same County of Fifty Acres of Land for six Months next before and at the day of Election shall be intitled to Vote for a Member of the Senate

Section 8th That all Freemen of the Age of twenty one Years, who have been Inhabitants of any County within this State twelve Months immediately preceeding the day of any Election, and shall have paid Public Taxes, shall be intitled to Vote for Members of the house of Commons for the County in which he resides.

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Selection 8: Section 9

Section 9th That all persons possessors of a Freehold in any Town in this State having a right of Representation, and also all Freemen who have been Inhabitants of any such Town twelve Months next before and at the day of Election, and shall have paid Public Taxes, shall be intitled to vote for a Member to represent such Town in the House of Commons; Provided always, That this Section shall not intitle any Inhabitant of such Town to vote for Members of the House of Commons for the County in which they may reside, nor any Freeholder in such County who resides without or beyond the Limits of such Town to vote for a Member for said Town

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Selection 9:

Sections

13 & 15

Section 13th That the General Assembly shall by joint Ballot of both Houses appoint Judges of the Supreme Courts of Law and Equity Judges of Admiralty and Attorney General who shall be commissioned by the Governor and hold their Offices during good behavior

Section 15th That the Senate and house of Commons jointly at their first meeting after each Annual Election shall by Ballot Elect a Governor for one year, who shall not be Eligible to that Office longer than three Years in six successive Years. That no person under thirty Years of Age, and who has not been a resident in this State above five Years, and having in the State a Freehold in Lands and Tenements above the value of One thousand Pounds shall be Eligible as Governor

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Selection 10: Sections 17 & 25

Section 17th That there shall be a Seal of this State which ^{shall} be kept by the Governor, and used by him as occasion may require and shall be called the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina and be affixed to all Grants and Commissions

Section 25th That no persons who heretofore have been ~~or~~ or hereafter may be receivers of the Public Monies shall have a Seat in either house of General Assembly or be Eligible to any Office in this State, until such person shall have fully accounted for and paid into the Treasury all sums for which they may be accountable and liable

Selection 11: Section 27

Section 27th That no Officer in the Regular Army or Navy in the Service and pay of the United States of this or any other State nor any Contractor or Agent for supplying such Army or Navy with Cloathing or Provisions shall have a Seat in either the Senate, House of Commons or Council of State or be Eligible there to, and any Member of the Senate House of Commons or Council of State being appointed to and accepting of such Office shall thereby Vacate his Seat

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Selection 12: Sections 31-32

Section 31st That no Clergyman or Preacher of the Gospel of any
Denomination, shall be capable of being a member of either the
Senate house of Commons or Council of State while he
continues in the exercise of the Pastoral Function

Section 32^d That no person who shall deny the being of God
or the truth of the Protestant Religion, or the divine Authority
either of the old or new Testament, or who shall hold Religious
Principles incompatible with the Freedom and safety of the
State, shall be capable of holding any Office or place of
Trust or Profit in the Civil department within this
State

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Selection 13:

Section 34

Section 34 That there shall be no Establishment of any one
Religious Church or Denomination, ^{in this State} in preference to any other
neither shall any Person on any Pretence whatsoever be
compelled to attend any place of Worship contrary to his own
Faith or Judgment, nor be obliged to pay for the purchase of
any Glebe or the Building of any House of Worship or for
the Maintenance of any Minister or Ministry, contrary to
what he believes right, or has voluntarily and personally
engaged to Perform, but all persons shall be at Liberty to
exercise their own Mode of Worship, provided that nothing
herein contained shall be construed to exempt Preachers of
Treasonable or Seditious Discourses from Legal Trial and
Punishment

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Selection 14: Sections 41-42

Section 41st That a School or Schools shall be established by
the Legislature, for the convenient instruction of Youth,
with such salaries to the Masters paid by the Public as may
enable them to instruct at Low Prices: and all useful learning
shall be duly encouraged and promoted in one or more
Universities

Section 42^d That no purchase of Lands shall be made of the Indian
Natives, but on behalf of the Public, by authority of the General
Assembly

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Selection 15: Section 44 & Conclusion

Section 44 That the Declaration of Rights is hereby declared to be
part of the Constitution of this State, and ought never to be
violated on any pretence whatever

177 before prescribed.

December the Eighteenth One Thousand Seven
Hundred and Seventy Six,
Read the third time and Ratified in open Congress.

W. Pennell President