

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

[The Nevada constitution was framed by a convention of delegates chosen by the people. The convention met at Carson City on July 4, 1864, and adjourned on July 28 of the same year. On the 1st Wednesday of September 1864, the constitution was approved by the vote of the people of the Territory of Nevada, and on October 31, 1864, President Lincoln proclaimed that the State of Nevada was admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the original states.

The literal text of the original, signed copy of the constitution filed in the office of the secretary of state has been retained, unless it has been repealed or superseded by amendment. Where the original text has been amended or where a new provision has been added to the original constitution, the source of the amendment or addition is indicated in the source note immediately following the text of the amended or new section. Leadlines for sections have been supplied by the Legislative Counsel of the State of Nevada.]

[PRELIMINARY ACTION.]

WHEREAS,

The Act of Congress Approved March Twenty First A.D. Eighteen Hundred and Sixty Four “To enable the People of the Territory of Nevada to form a Constitution and State Government and for the admission of such State into the Union on an equal footing with the Original States,” requires that the Members of the Convention for framing said Constitution shall, after Organization, on behalf of the people of said Territory, adopt the Constitution of the United States. — Therefore, Be it Resolved,

That the Members of this Convention, elected by the Authority of the aforesaid enabling Act of Congress, Assembled in Carson City the Capital of said Territory of Nevada, and immediately subsequent to its Organization, do adopt, on behalf of the people of said Territory the Constitution of the United States[.]

ORDINANCE

Slavery prohibited; freedom of religious worship; disclaimer of public lands. [Effective until the date Congress consents to amendment or a legal determination is made that such consent is not necessary.] In obedience to the requirements of an act of the Congress of the United States, approved March twenty-first, A.D. eighteen hundred and sixty-four, to enable the people of Nevada to form a constitution and state government, this convention, elected and convened in obedience to said enabling act, do ordain as follows, and this ordinance shall be irrevocable, without the consent of the United States and the people of the State of Nevada:

First. That there shall be in this state neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, otherwise than in the punishment for crimes, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted.

Second. That perfect toleration of religious sentiment shall be secured, and no inhabitant of said state shall ever be molested, in person or property, on account of his or her mode of religious worship.

Third. That the people inhabiting said territory do agree and declare, that they forever disclaim all right and title to the unappropriated public lands lying within said territory, and that the same shall be and remain at the sole and entire disposition of the United States; and that lands belonging to citizens of the United States, residing without the said state, shall never be taxed higher than the land belonging to the residents thereof; and that no taxes shall be imposed by said state on lands or property therein belonging to, or which may hereafter be purchased by, the United States, unless otherwise provided by the congress of the United States.

[Amended in 1956. Proposed and passed by the 1953 legislature; agreed to and passed by the 1955 legislature; approved and ratified by the people at the 1956 general election. See: Statutes of Nevada [1953, p. 718](#); Statutes of Nevada [1955, p. 926](#).]

Slavery prohibited; freedom of religious worship; taxation of certain property. [Effective on the date Congress consents to amendment or a legal determination is made that such consent is not necessary.] In obedience to the requirements of an act of the Congress of the United States, approved March twenty-first, A.D. eighteen hundred and sixty-four, to enable the people of Nevada to form a constitution and state government, this convention, elected and convened in obedience to said enabling act, do ordain as follows, and this ordinance shall be irrevocable, without the consent of the United States and the people of the State of Nevada:

First. That there shall be in this state neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, otherwise than in the punishment for crimes, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted.

Second. That perfect toleration of religious sentiment shall be secured, and no inhabitant of said state shall ever be molested, in person or property, on account of his or her mode of religious worship.

Third. That the people inhabiting said territory do agree and declare, that lands belonging to citizens of the United States, residing without the said state, shall never be taxed higher than the land belonging to the residents thereof; and that no taxes shall be imposed by said state on lands or property therein belonging to, or which may hereafter be purchased by, the United States, unless otherwise provided by the Congress of the United States.

[Amended in 1956 and 1996. The first amendment was proposed and passed by the 1953 legislature; agreed to and passed by the 1955 legislature; approved and ratified by the people at the 1956 general election. See: Statutes of Nevada [1953, p. 718](#); Statutes of Nevada [1955, p. 926](#). The second amendment was proposed and passed by the 1993 legislature; agreed to and passed by the 1995 legislature; and approved and ratified by the people at the 1996 general election, effective on the date Congress consents to amendment or a legal determination is made that such consent is not necessary. See: Statutes of Nevada [1993, p. 3136](#); Statutes of Nevada [1995, p. 2917](#).]

PREAMBLE.

We the people of the State of Nevada Grateful to Almighty God for our freedom in order to secure its blessings, insure domestic tranquility, and form a more perfect Government, do establish this CONSTITUTION.

[Preliminary Action.]

Ordinance.

Preamble.

Article.	<u>1.</u>	Declaration of Rights.
	<u>2.</u>	Right of Suffrage.
	<u>3.</u>	Distribution of Powers.
	<u>4.</u>	Legislative Department.
	<u>5.</u>	Executive Department.
	<u>6.</u>	Judicial Department.
	<u>7.</u>	Impeachment and Removal From Office.
	<u>8.</u>	Municipal and Other Corporations.
	<u>9.</u>	Finance and State Debt.
	<u>10.</u>	Taxation.
	<u>11.</u>	Education.
	<u>12.</u>	Militia.
	<u>13.</u>	Public Institutions.
	<u>14.</u>	Boundary.
	<u>15.</u>	Miscellaneous Provisions.
	<u>16.</u>	Amendments.
	<u>17.</u>	Schedule.
	<u>XVIII.</u>	[Right of Suffrage.] Repealed in 1992.
	<u>19.</u>	Initiative and Referendum.

[Election Ordinance.]

ARTICLE. 5. - Executive Department.

SEC.	<u>1.</u>	Supreme executive power vested in governor.
	<u>2.</u>	Election and term of governor.
	<u>3.</u>	Eligibility; qualifications; number of terms.
	<u>4.</u>	Returns of general election transmitted to secretary of state; canvass by supreme court; declaration of election.
	<u>5.</u>	Governor is commander in chief of state military forces.
	<u>6.</u>	Transaction of executive business; reports of executive officers.
	<u>7.</u>	Responsibility for execution of laws.
	<u>8.</u>	Vacancies filled by governor.
	<u>9.</u>	Special sessions of Legislature: Authority of Governor; limitations on business and duration; void actions.
	<u>10.</u>	Governor's message.
	<u>11.</u>	Adjournment of legislature by governor.
	<u>12.</u>	Person holding federal office ineligible for office of governor.
	<u>13.</u>	Pardons, reprieves and commutations of sentence; remission of fines and forfeitures.
	<u>14.</u>	Remission of fines and forfeitures; commutations and pardons; suspension of sentence; probation. [Effective through November 23, 2020, and after that date unless the provisions of Senate Joint Resolution No. 1 (2017) are approved and ratified by the voters at the 2020 General Election.]

- [14.](#) State Board of Pardons Commissioners; remission of fines and forfeitures; commutations and pardons; suspension of sentence; probation. [Effective November 24, 2020, if the provisions of Senate Joint Resolution No. 1 (2017) are approved and ratified by the voters at the 2020 General Election.]
- [15.](#) The Great Seal.
- [16.](#) Grants and commissions: Signatures and seal.
- [17.](#) Election, term, qualifications and duties of Lieutenant Governor; President of Senate; President Pro-tempore of Senate to act as Governor in certain circumstances.
- [18.](#) Vacancy in office of governor; duties to devolve upon lieutenant governor.
- [19.](#) Other state officers: Election and term of office; eligibility for office.
- [20.](#) Secretary of State: Duties.
- [21.](#) Board of state prison commissioners; board of examiners; examination of claims.
- [22.](#) Duties of certain state officers.

Sec: 20. Secretary of State: Duties. The Secretary of State shall keep a true record of the Official Acts of the Legislative and Executive Departments of the Government, and shall when required, lay the same and all matters relative thereto, before either branch of the Legislature. (Emphasis added).