

PREAMBLE.

We, the people of the State of North-Carolina; grateful
2 to Almighty God, the Sovereign Ruler of Nations, for the
3 preservation of the American Union, and the existence of
4 our civil, political, and religious liberties, and acknowl-
5 edging our dependence upon Him for the continuance of
6 those blessings to us and our posterity, do, for the more
7 certain security thereof, and for the better government of
8 this State, ordain and establish this Constitution :

*adopt God's laws until
we can frame better*

ARTICLE I.

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS.

That the general, great, and essential principles of lib-
2 erty and free government may be recognized and es-
3 tablished, and that the relations of this State to the Union
4 and government of the United States, and those of the
5 people of the State to the rest of the American people,
6 may be defined and declared

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*That the essential principles of liberty and
free government may be set forth, the rights and
duties of the citizens to the state, and of the state to the
United States*

SECTION 1. That we hold it to be self-evident, that all
2 men are endowed by their Creator with certain inaliena-
3 ble rights, among which are life, liberty, the enjoy-
4 ment of the fruits of their own labor, and the pursuit of
5 happiness.

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1800
SEC. 2. That all political power is vested in and de-
2 rived from the people; that all government of right orig-
3 inates from the people, is founded upon their will only,
4 and is instituted solely for the benefit of the whole.

SEC. 3. That the people of this State have the inherent,
2 sole, and exclusive right of regulating the internal govern-
3 ment and police thereof, and of altering and abolishing
4 their Constitution and form of government, whenever it
5 may be necessary to their safety and happiness; but every
6 such right should be exercised in pursuance of law, and
7 consistently with the Constitution of the United

SEC. 4. That this State shall ever remain a member of
2 the American Union; that the people thereof are part
3 the American nation; that there is no right on the part
4 of this State to secede, and that all attempts, from what-
5 ever source or upon whatever pretext, to dissolve said
6 Union, or to sever said nation, ought to be resisted with
7 the whole power of the State.

SEC. 5. That every citizen of this State owes para-
2 mount allegiance to the Constitution and government of
3 the United States, and that no law or ordinance of the
4 State, in contravention or subversion thereof, can have
5 any binding force.

790
1868

SEC. 6. To maintain the honor and good faith of the
2 State untarnished, the public debt regularly contracted
3 before and since the rebellion) shall be regarded as invio-
4 lable and never questioned; but the State shall never as-
5 sume or pay any debt or obligation, express or implied,
6 incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the
7 United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation
8 of any slave.

*Under the provisions of
this Constitution*

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SEC 7. No man or set of men are entitled to exclusive
2 or separate emoluments or privileges from the community
3 but in consideration of public services.

SEC 8. The legislative, executive, and supreme judicial
2 powers of government ought to be forever separate and
3 distinct from each other.

SEC 9. All power of suspending laws, or the execution
2 of laws, by any authority, without the consent of the rep-
3 resentatives of the people, is injurious to their rights, and
4 ought not to be exercised.

SEC 10. All elections ought to be free.

SEC 11. In all criminal prosecutions, every man has a
2 right to be informed of the accusation against him, and to

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Sec. 9. All power of suspending laws, or the execution,
2 of laws, by any authority, without the consent of the rep-
3 resentatives of the people, is injurious to their rights, and
4 ought not to be exercised.

Sec. 10. All elections ought to be free.

Sec. 11. In all criminal prosecutions, every man has a
2 right to be informed of the accusation against him, and to
3 confront the accusers and witnesses with other testimony,
4 and to have counsel for his defence, and shall not be com-
5 pelled to give evidence against himself.

*nor be compelled to pay
costs or jail fees, or ~~costs~~
~~successor necessary~~ neces-
sary witness fees of the de-
fender, unless found guilty.*

Sec. 12. No person shall be put to answer any criminal
2 charge, except as hereinafter allowed, but by indictment,
3 presentment, or impeachment.

Sec. 13. No person shall be convicted of any crime, but
2 by the unanimous verdict of a jury of good and lawful
3 men, in open court. The Legislature may, however, pro-
4 vide other modes of trial for petty misdemeanors, with
5 the right of appeal.

Sec. 14. Excessive bail should not be required, nor ex-
2 cessive fines imposed, nor cruel, nor unusual punishments
3 inflicted.

SEC. 15. General warrants, whereby any officer or mes-
2senger may be commanded to search suspected places
3 without evidence of the fact committed, or to seize any
4 person or persons not named, whose offence is not particu-
5 larly described and supported by evidence, are dangerous
6 to liberty, and ought not to be granted.

SEC. 16. No person ought to be taken, imprisoned, or
2 dis seized of his freehold, liberties, or privileges, or out-
3 lawed, or exiled, or in any manner destroyed, or deprived
4 his life, liberty, or property, but by the law of the land.

SEC. 17. Every person, restrained of his liberty, is enti-
2 tled to a remedy to inquire into the lawfulness thereof, and
3 to remove the same, if unlawful, and such remedy ought
4 not to be denied or delayed.

SEC. 18. In all controversies at law respecting property,
2 the ancient mode of trial by jury is one of the best securities

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790
1868

SEC. 21. The people of this State ought not to be taxed
2 or made subject to the payment of any impost or duty,
3 without the consent of themselves, or their representatives
4 in General Assembly, freely given.

SEC. 22. The people have a right to bear arms for the
2 defence of the State; and, as standing armies in time of
3 peace are dangerous to liberty, they ought not to be kept
4 up; and the military should be kept under strict subordina-
5 tion to, and governed by, the civil power.

SEC. 23. The people have a right to assemble together
2 to consult for their common good, to instruct their repre-
3 sentatives, and to apply to the legislature for redress of
4 grievances.

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SEC. 24. All men have a natural and inalienable right
2 to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their
3 own consciences; that no human authority can, in any
4 case, whatever, control or interfere with the rights of con-
5 science.

SEC. 25. For redress of grievances, and for amending
2 and strengthening the laws, elections ought to be often
3 held.

SEC. 26. A frequent recurrence to fundamental princi-
2 ples is absolutely necessary to preserve the blessings of
3 liberty.

SEC. 27. No hereditary emoluments, privileges, or hon-
2 ors, ought to be granted or conferred in this State.

SEC. 28. Perpetuities and monopolies are contrary to
2 the genius of a free State, and ought not to be allowed.

SEC. 29. Retrospective laws, punishing facts committed
2 before the existence of such laws, and by them only de-

3 clared criminal, are oppressive, unjust, and incompatible
4 with liberty; wherefore, no *ex post facto* law ought to be
5 made.

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3 clared criminal, are oppressive, unjust, and incompatible
4 with liberty; wherefore, no *ex post facto* law ought to be
5 made.

SEC. 30. Slavery and involuntary servitude otherwise
2 than for crimes, whereof the parties shall have been duly
3 convicted, shall be, and is hereby forever prohibited within
4 this State.

SEC. 31. The limits and boundaries of the State shall be
2 and remain as they now are.

SEC. 32. All courts shall be open, and every person, for
2 an injury done him in his lands, goods, person or reputa-
3 tion, shall have remedy by due course of law, and right
4 and justice administered without sale, denial or delay.

SEC. 33. No soldier shall, in time of peace, be quartered
2 in any house without the consent of the owner; nor in
3 time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

SEC. 34. This enumeration of rights shall not be con-
2 strued to impair or deny others retained by the people, and
3 all powers not herein delegated, remain with the people.

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