

Preamble

We the people

of Florida

do hereby

of Florida grateful to Almighty God for our freedom, in order to secure its

best interests, insuring domestic tranquillity; maintaining public order; per-

securing political rights to all. do establish this Constitution

Article I

Section 1
Boundaries

shall follow, Commencing at the mouth of the River Perdido, from thence
North Boundary Line of the State of Alabama, and the thirty
Chattahoochee River, then down the middle of said River to its
mouth to the head of the St. Mary's River; then down the middle
of said River to the Gulf Stream; thence
Southwardly along the Coast to the edge of the Gulf Stream; thence
Northwardly to and including the Portugas Islands
three leagues from the main land; thence Northwestwardly three leagues from the
River; thence to the place of beginning.

Article 2

Section 1
Seat of Government

shall be permanent at the City of Tallahassee in the County of Leon

The Seat of

XV No person shall be imprisoned for debt except in case of fraud

XVI No bill of attainder or ex post facto law or law impairing the obligations of contracts shall ever be passed

XVII Foreigners who are or who may hereafter become bona fide residents of the State shall enjoy the same rights in respect to the possession enjoyment and inheritance of property as native born citizens

XVIII No involuntary servitude unless for the punishment of crime shall ever be tolerated in this State

XIX The right of the people to be secure in their persons papers and effects against unreasonable seizures and searches shall not be violated. Warrants shall not be issued without just cause supported by oath or affirmation particularly describing the place or places to be searched and the persons or things to be seized

XX No person shall be held a slave or obliged to perform any labor except in consequence of a judgment of a court of law. No person shall be held a slave or obliged to perform any labor except in consequence of a judgment of a court of law. No person shall be held a slave or obliged to perform any labor except in consequence of a judgment of a court of law.

XXI The American Union, the people thereof, a part of the American Nation and any attempt from whatever quarter to sever said Nation shall be resisted with the whole power of the State

XXII The right to bear arms in defense of themselves and of the lawful authority of the State shall not be infringed

XXIII No law shall be passed respecting an establishment of religion or by law to incorporate any church sect or mode of worship

XXIV No rights shall be construed to impair or deny others retained by the people

Article 3

Distribution of Powers



II The powers of the Government of the State of Florida shall be divided into three Departments Legislative Executive and Judicial and no person properly belonging to one of the Departments shall exercise any functions appertaining to either of the others except in those cases expressly provided for by this Constitution

Article 4

Legislative Department

II The Legislative Department of this State shall be vested in a Senate and Assembly which shall be designated "The Legislature" and the sessions thereof shall be held at the seat of Government of the State

III The Legislature shall hold its first session on the second Monday of June A.D. 1868 and thereafter on the first Monday of January commencing in the year A.D. 1869 The Governor may adjourn the Legislature

III The Senators shall be chosen biennially those of the first Legislature on the first Monday Tuesday thereafter on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November commencing

to serve for the term of four years at the same time and place as members of the Assembly provided that the first election shall be held in the Senatorial districts designated by even numbers shall vacate their seats and thereafter all Senators shall be elected for the term of four years so that one half of the whole

shall be chosen by the Electors of the State who shall be duly qualified Electors in the respective Counties and districts who

VII Each House shall by its own rules and qualifications elections and returns of its own members choose its own officers except the President of the Senate determine the rules of its proceedings and may punish its members for disorderly conduct

Article 5

Executive Department

I The Supreme Executive power of the State shall be vested in a Chief Magistrate who shall be styled the Governor of Florida

II The Governor shall be elected by the qualified electors at the time and places of voting for the Members of the Legislature and shall hold his office for four years from the time of his election. Provided that the term of the first Governor elected under this Constitution shall be from the opening of the first session of the Legislature of A.D. 1873 and until his successor shall take the oath of office as prescribed for all State officers

III No person shall be eligible for the office of Governor who is not a qualified elector and who has not been nine years a citizen of the State of Florida next preceeding the time of his election

IV The Governor shall have the command and control of the military forces of the State except when they shall be called into the service of the United States

V The Governor may require information from the officers of the Government civil and military and may require information from the heads of the Executive Department upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices

VI He shall see that the laws are faithfully executed

VII When any office of the Government shall become vacant and no mode is provided by this Constitution or by the laws of the State for filling such vacancy the Governor shall have the power to fill such vacancy by granting a commission which shall expire at the next meeting of the Legislature

XIX The Governor shall appoint by and with the consent of the Senate in each County and Assessor of taxes and Collector of revenue whose duties shall be prescribed by law and who shall hold their offices for two years and be subject to removal upon the recommendation of the Governor and consent of the Senate - The Governor shall appoint in each county a county Treasurer, county Surveyor Superintendent of Common Schools and five county Commissioners each of whom shall hold his office for two years and the duties of each shall be prescribed by law - Such officers shall be subject to removal by the Governor when in his judgment the public welfare will be advanced there provided No officer shall be removed except for wilful neglect of duty or a violation of the criminal laws or for incompetency

XX Cabinet shall be a Board of Commissioners of State Institutions which Board shall be appointed in such manner as shall be prescribed by law

XXI The Governor shall have power in case of insurrection or rebellion to suspend the writ of habeas corpus within the State

Article 6

Judicial Department.

XXII The powers of the State shall be vested in a Supreme Court, Circuit Courts, County Courts

XXIII The name of the State shall be "The State of Florida" and all prosecutions shall be conducted in the name of the same

XXIV The Supreme Court shall consist of a Chief Justice and two associate Justices, who shall hold their offices for four years and shall be appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate

XXV The majority of the Justices of the Supreme Court shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business. The Supreme Court shall hold three terms each year at the Supreme Court room at the seat of Government.

Administrative Department

II There shall be a Cabinet of administrative officers consisting of a Secretary of State Attorney General Comptroller Treasurer Surveyor General Superintendent of Public Instruction Adjutant General and Commissioner of Immigration who shall assist the Governor in the performance of his duties

III The Secretary of State shall keep the records of official acts of the Legislature and Executive Department of the Government and shall be required to lay the same and all matters relative thereto before either branch of the Legislature of the Great State of New York

IV The Secretary of State shall be the legal adviser of the Governor and of each of the Cabinet Officers and shall perform such other duties as may be provided by law He shall be reported for the Supreme Court

V The Treasurer shall keep and disburse the public moneys and shall be required to lay an account of his receipts and disbursements before the Legislature in such manner as may be provided by law

VI The Surveyor General shall have the administrative supervision of all matters pertaining to the Public Lands under such regulations as may be prescribed by law

VII The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall have the administrative supervision of all matters pertaining to the supervision of the schools devoted to educational purposes and the Libraries belonging to the State - He shall organize a Historical Bureau for the purposes of accumulating such matter as may be necessary for compiling and perfecting the history of the State He shall also establish a Bureau of Natural Productions

VIII The Adjutant General shall under the orders of the Governor have the administrative supervision of the militia and of the State Prison and of the Quarantine the Coast in such manner as shall be provided by law

IX The Commissioner of Immigration shall organize a Bureau of Immigration for the purposes of furnishing of information and for the encouragement of Immigration - The office of Commissioner of Immigration shall expire at the end of

Any School district neglecting to establish and maintain for at least three months in such year such school or schools, as may be provided by law for such district shall forfeit its portion of the Common School Fund during such neglect.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction Secretary of State and Attorney General shall constitute a body corporate to be known as the Board of Education of Florida The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall be President thereof The duties of the Board of Education shall be prescribed by the Legislature

Article

Public Institutions

It shall be the duty of the Legislature to support and such other benevolent institutions as the public good may require supported by the State in such a manner as may be fixed by law Provision may be made for the maintenance of a House of Refuge for juvenile offenders and the Legislature shall provide in the manner fixed by law for common vagrants and those who may have claims upon the pity & sympathy of society

Article

Militia

All inhabitants of the State between the ages of eighteen and forty five years who are citizens of the United States and have declared their intentions to become citizens thereof shall constitute the Militia of the State but persons of any color or opinion shall be exempt from military duty except upon such conditions as may be provided by law

It shall be the duty of the Legislature to provide by law for organizing and disciplining the Militia of the State for the encouragement of the militia, the safe keeping of the Public Arms and for a guard for the State Prison

The Adjutant General shall have the grade of Major General The Governor by and with the consent of the Senate shall appoint two Major Generals and four Brigadier Generals of Militia they shall take rank according to the

Homestead

Section I. A Homestead, to the extent of One Hundred and sixty acres of Land, or the half of one acre within the limits of any incorporated city or town, owned by the head of a family residing in this State, together with One Thousand Dollars worth of personal property and the improvements on the real estate, shall be exempted from forced sale under any process of law, and the real estate shall not be alienable without the joint consent of husband and wife, when that relation exists. But no property shall be exempt from sale for taxes, or the payment of obligations contracted for the purchase of said premises, or for the erection of improvements thereon. The exemption herein provided for in a city or town shall not extend to more improvements than the owner.

Section II. Notwithstanding the exemption provided for in section one of this article, there shall be and remain exempt from sale by any legal process in this State, such property as he or she may select to the amount of One thousand Dollars, and such property in cases where the debt was contracted, liability incurred, or judgment obtained before the tenth day of January, 1875. The provisions herein contained shall be so construed as to exempt any property from sale for the payment of taxes, or for the payment of taxes or labor.

Section III. The provisions of this article shall accrue to the heirs of the party having enjoyed, or taken the benefit of the exemption provided for in section one of this article, shall apply to all debts, except as specified in said section, here, no and was contracted, or liability incurred.

Article

Census and Apportionment.

The Legislature shall, in the year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy Five, and every tenth year thereafter, cause an enumeration to be made of all the inhabitants of the State, and thereafter to proceed to apportion the representation among the different Counties, one Representative at large, and one additional to every four qualified voters. No County shall be entitled to more than four Representatives. The Legislature shall also after every such enumeration, proceed to fix by law the number of Senators, which shall constitute the Senate of Florida, and which shall never be less than one half of the whole number of the Assembly. When any District shall be composed of two or more Counties, the Counties of which such District shall not be entirely separated by any County belonging to another District, the Counties shall remain as now organized, unless changed by a two thirds vote of the Legislature.

Article

Suffrage and Eligibility

Section 1. Every male person of the age of twenty one years, and upwards, of whatever race or color, who shall, at the time of offering to vote, be a citizen of the United States, and who shall have declared his intention to become such in conformity to the laws of the United States, and who shall have resided and had his habitation, domicile home and place of permanent abode in Florida for one year, and in the County for six months next pre-

date of their Commissions The Officers and soldiers of the State Militia when uniformed shall wear the uniform prescribed for the U.S Army

IV The Governor shall have power to call out the Militia to preserve the Public peace to execute the laws of the State to suppress insurrection or repel invasion

Article

Schedule

The Constitution and resolutions hereof shall be subject to the revision and amendment by any Convention of the people and all acts and resolutions of the Legislature of the State inconsistent with the Constitution and Statutes of the United States and the Statutes thereof and with the position of this State as one of the States of the United States of America shall be void and of no effect.

All laws, acts, ordinances, resolutions, decrees, orders, judgments, decrees, and all official acts of the Civil Officers of the State not inconsistent with the Constitution and Statutes of the United States or with this Constitution or with any ordinance or resolution adopted by this Convention shall be and are not by this Constitution annulled and are in force and shall be considered and shall remain in force until they shall be repealed by the Legislature of the State or this Convention.

All laws, acts, ordinances, resolutions, decrees, orders, judgments, decrees, and all official acts of the Civil Officers of the State not inconsistent with the Constitution and Statutes of the United States or with this Constitution shall be valid. All writs, acts, orders, judgments, decrees, and all official acts of the Civil Officers of the State where actual service was made on the defendant. All orders and proceedings of the Judges of Probate and of Executors and Trustees provided they were in conformity with the laws then in force and did not conflict with the Constitution and laws of the United States and this Constitution shall be valid. The sales of the property of the deceased shall not prevent the widow from claiming said property in kind in whose hands the same may be found when the same were made for the purpose of paying the debts of the deceased and where other than lawful money of the United States was obtained for the purchase of said property Nothing here contained shall be so construed as to make any one who as an officer of a Court or who acted under the authority of any Court individually liable provided they acted strictly in accordance with what was then considered the law of the State and not conflicting with the Constitution and laws of the United States. All fines

Article

Miscellaneous

Section I Any person debarred from holding office in the State of Florida by the third section of the fourteenth Article of the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States which is as follows "No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress or Elector of President or President or hold any office civil or military under the United States or under any State, who having previously taken an oath as a member of Congress or as an Officer of the United States or as a member of any State Legislature or as an Executive or Judicial Officer of any State to support the Constitution of the United States shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same or given aid or comfort thereto. But Congress may by a vote of two thirds remove such disability" is hereby debarred from holding office. However such disability shall be removed from any person by the Congress of the United States. And no such person shall be restored in all respects to the rights of citizenship as herein provided for elections.

Section II Any person elected to office by the Legislature of this State or any person elected by the people or appointed to office by the Governor or any officer of the State under the provisions of the Constitution adopted by the Convention of the year AD 1865 shall not be empowered to hold such office after the same position or office shall have expired under the provisions of this Constitution. Provided that all officers holding office under the provisions of this Constitution on the fifth day of October AD 1865 and not provided for in this Constitution shall continue to hold office until the first day of January following and not provided for in this Constitution shall continue to hold office until the Governor shall by his proclamation declare such offices vacant.

The Judicial Courts shall be as follows, the first Judicial Circuit shall be composed of the Counties of Duval, Alachua, and Jackson, the second Judicial Circuit shall be composed of the Counties of Santa Fe, Leon, Wakulla and Jefferson, the third Judicial Circuit shall be composed of the Counties of Madison, Taylor and Columbia, the fourth Judicial Circuit shall be composed of the Counties of Nassau, Duval, Baker, Bradford and Columbia, the fifth Judicial Circuit shall be composed of the Counties of Putnam, Alachua, Levy, Marion and Sumpter, the sixth Judicial Circuit shall be composed of the Counties of Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Polk and Monroe, the seventh Judicial Circuit shall be composed of the Counties of Volusia, Brevard, Orange and Lake.

Section III The salary of the Governor of the State shall be Five thousand Dollars per annum that of the Chief Justice shall be Four thousand Five hundred Dollars that of each Associate Justice shall be Three thousand Dollars that of each Judge of the Circuit Court shall be Three thousand Five hundred Dollars that of the Lieutenant Governor shall be Two thousand five hundred Dollars that of each Cabinet Officer shall be Three thousand

Escambia County, the second of Santa Rosa and Walton, the third of Jackson, the fourth of Holmes and Washington, the fifth of Calhoun and Franklin, the sixth of Gadsden, the seventh of Liberty and Wakulla, the eighth of Leon, the ninth of Jefferson, the tenth of Madison, the eleventh of Hamilton and Suwannee, the twelfth of Lafayette and Taylor, the thirteenth of Alachua and Levy, the fourteenth of Columbia, the fifteenth of Bradford and Clay, the sixteenth of Baker and Nassau, the seventeenth of Saint Johns and Putnam, the eighteenth of Duval, the nineteenth of Marion, the twentieth of Volusia and Orange, the twenty first of Brevard and DeWald, the twenty second of Hillsborough and Hernando, the twenty third of Sumpter and Polk, the twenty fourth of Manatee and Monroe, and each Senatorial District shall be entitled to one Senator

Section XXX No person shall ever be appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court, or Circuit Court, who is not twenty five years of age and a practising attorney at law

Section XXXI The Great Seal of the State shall as soon as convenient be a State Emblem having the design of the Great Seal of the State impressed upon it

Article

Amendments

Section I An amendment or amendments to this Constitution may be proposed in either branch of the Legislature, and if the same shall be agreed upon by a two thirds vote of all the members elected to each of the two Houses, the same shall be referred to the Legislature at the next session, and if at that session a two thirds vote of all the members elected to each House shall be in favor of the same, it shall be the duty of the Legislature to submit such proposed amendment or amendments to the people at such time as the Legislature may prescribe, and if the people shall approve and ratify such amendment or amendments by a majority vote, the same shall become a part of the Constitution

Section II Whenever a majority of the members elected to each of the two Houses shall determine that it is necessary to cause a revision of this entire Constitution, they shall cause a resolution to that effect to be published in their respective journals with the year and day thereof, and referred to the Legislature at the next session, and if at that session a majority of all of the members elected to each House shall be in favor of such choice, the Legislature shall recommend to the electors of the next election for members of the Legislature to vote for or against a Convention, and if a majority of the electors voting at such election shall have voted in favor of calling a Convention, the Legislature shall at its next session provide by law for a Convention to be held within six months after the passage of such resolution, and such Convention shall consist of a number of members not less than both branches of the Legislature. In determining what is a majority of the electors voting at such election, reference shall be had to the highest number of votes cast at such election for the candidates for any office or position

Done in open Convention. In Witness Whereof, We the undersigned, President of said Convention, and Delegates present representing the People of the State of Florida, do hereby sign our names this the twenty fifth day of February Anno Domini Eighteen Hundred and Eighty Eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the thirty second year, and the Secretary of said Convention, doth countersign the same.

*Countersigned by
Sherman Coe*

*Noradio Jenkins Esq.
President
John W. Butler
George J. Alden
Egmont M. Rowley
John L. Campbell
Poland T. Rombauer
W. K. Coe*

*W. J. ...
L. ...
E. ...
H. ...
M. P. Powell
A. ...
K. Meacham*

*A. B. Croover
Autumn ...*

B. M. ...

Samuel J. Pease

Olbridge S. Ware

Jonathan C. Gibbs

*Jesse A. Goss
Mason Chandler
Hogey*

J. W. Childs

*C. B. ...
John ...*

*Thos. ...
Charles ...*

*Cepha ...
W. ...*

*...
...
...
...*

Ordinance

As it ordained by the People of Florida in Convention assembled. That the Ordinance adapted by the Convention of the People assembled on the 10th day of January A.D. 1861. and known as the Ordinance of Secession, is hereby declared null and void from the beginning and of no effect.

Passed in open Convention February 21st A.D. 1868.

Secretary

Veraki Dennis
President

An Ordinance for the Relief of the People of Florida

Be it ordained by the People of Florida in Convention assembled, That from and after the passage of this Ordinance it shall not be lawful for any Sheriff or other Officer of the State to sell under execution or other legal process in the State, any property real or personal, and any sale so made shall be null and void: That the collection of all Taxes, State, County and Municipal shall be suspended: That all persons now in confinement for the non-payment of taxes shall be forthwith released, and any State Officer refusing to release such persons now in confinement, shall be guilty of felony and be subject to legal process and punishment therefor: That all Constitutional Provisions, Ordinances, Statutes or parts of Acts, and all the Laws of the State existing with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby suspended. But nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed so as to prevent the return of property to its rightful owner upon legal process, provided that this Ordinance or any provision hereof shall not prevent the collection of debts due, or to become due, by any person, Field or other laborer: That the Legislature shall be empowered to alter and amend this Ordinance in its discretion.

Done in special Convention January 21st A. D. 1868

Slown

Wendell Phillips Jr.
President

An Ordinance

I Be it ordained by the people of the State of Florida in Convention assembled That the Governor elected under this Constitution is authorized and directed to employ three men learned in the law and familiar with its practice to make a complete and accurate Digest of all the laws in Florida in force of a general nature embracing the Territorial and State laws inclusive of the acts of the Legislature as to the work being submitted to the Governor as hereafter provided in this Ordinance Such Digest shall be in the form and upon the plan of Bright's Digest of the Statutes of the United States and shall be in the form of the United States and of the State

II Such Digest shall be directed to be prepared by Leslie St. Thompson containing the laws of England now in force in the State and if such work shall be found of sufficient value the said Board shall correct or amend the same as may be deemed proper

III The Board shall also be directed to prepare reports of the Supreme Court of the State since its organization to prepare a full index of the opinions of said Court with such notes as may be deemed necessary together with the reports of the Justices of the State and their respective amendments under which the opinions reported were made

IV Said Board shall be directed to prepare a digest of the local and private acts and resolutions still in force

V Said Board shall be directed to prepare a digest defining the rules and power of said Courts the mode and limitation of punishment all forms necessary for the use of said Courts and in any manner necessary for the complete exercise of the jurisdiction thereof whether in Criminal Civil or Probate capacity

VI Said Board shall be directed to prepare a digest of the Justices of the Peace setting forth their power and jurisdiction and defining their duties under the provisions of the Constitution and acts of the Legislature also all forms necessary for the complete exercise of their jurisdiction

VII In the Digests the general law shall be prepared in plain and concise language all useless verbiage or superfluous matter and all that has a tendency to mystify and obscure the true meaning of any act or section thereof shall be omitted and the Digests shall be provided with marginal notes and references and with a suitable index

When the Digests shall have been completed they or it shall be submitted by the Governor to the Justices of the Supreme Court by whom they shall be reviewed and if necessary amendments shall be made and the same shall be printed and bound in separate volumes of practice respectively unless they are afterwards repealed or altered by the Legislature

It is the duty of the Governor to make the necessary contracts for the publication of the aforesaid works Of the Digest of the laws there shall be printed and bound five hundred copies of the Digest of the local and private acts and resolutions five hundred of the Code of Practice of County Courts five hundred and of the code of the Justices of the Peace five hundred

It is the duty of the Governor to provide the necessary means for the compensation of the members of the aforesaid Board and for defraying all expenses of publication and for the purchase of books and papers as may be deemed proper and necessary to the officers of the State and several Counties and for exchange with other States

XI The aforesaid works until disposition of the Legislature shall remain in the custody of the State Librarian

XII The aforesaid works shall be compiled in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution Except in those cases where there are express provisions to the contrary

Passed in open Convention February 21st AD 1868

Secretary

President

An Ordinance in relation to certain suits judgments &c. in the civil courts of this State

Be it ordained by the people of the State of Florida in Convention assembled That all suits heretofore commenced in any of the civil Courts of this State during the war between the United States and the so called Confederate States and any and all judgments orders or decrees of said Courts rendered or entered up against any person or persons any one of whom at the commencement of said suit or during the pendency thereof was beyond the reach and jurisdiction of said Courts by reason of the war between the United States and the so called Confederate States hereby declared to be null and void and of no effect whatever and all writs executions and sales for the same also hereby declared void - Provided that nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to prevent persons from commencing their suits anew

Passed in open Convention February 21st A.D. 1868.

Harri Jenkins Jr.
President

Ordinance

To provide the means of defraying the expenses of this Convention

Be it ordained by the People of Florida in Convention assembled, That this Convention does hereby levy and assess a Tax of one fifth of one per cent on all the taxable property of this State for the purpose of defraying the expenses of this Convention and the compensation of its Officers and members thereof, and it shall be the duty of the Tax Collector in the several Counties in this State to collect the tax assessed on or before the first day of January A.D. 1869. and to pay the same to the Treasurer of the State in connection thereof, and the Tax Collector shall collect the same in accordance with the laws of this State relating to the collection of State Taxes.

Be it further ordained That the Comptroller shall issue to the Tax Collectors all necessary orders for the collection of the same which orders shall be binding upon said Tax Collectors.

Be it further ordained That the Tax Collectors shall receive the same per cent as they are now allowed by law for collecting the State Taxes.

Be it further ordained That the Governor of this State is hereby empowered and authorized to issue Bonds in such sums as he may deem expedient payable upon the first day of March A.D. 1869. in such sums not exceeding in amount Thirty Thousand Dollars, which shall be redeemed out of the Tax when collected, and the Financial Agent for the purpose of defraying the expenses of this Convention is hereby empowered to dispose of the said Bonds, and to pay from the proceeds thereof into the Treasury of this State, and to deposit the balance if any in any bank or banks to be audited by the Finance Committee, and deposit the balance if any in any bank or banks to be audited by the Finance Committee.

Be it further ordained That the Governor of the State of Florida, is hereby requested authorized and directed to issue Certificates of Indebtedness to the full amount of Ten Thousand Dollars, which Certificates of Indebtedness shall be levied under the Ordinance, and all State dues. Such Certificates shall bear the impress and seal of the State and shall be in such amounts as the Governor may deem expedient.

Passed in open Convention February 21st A. D. 1868.

Thomas G. Bennett
Secretary

Wendell Phillips
President

An Ordinance

To provide for the repeal of unequal Taxation.

Whereas, The General Assembly of the Provisional Government of Florida, passed an act entitled "An Act Concerning Schools for Freedmen" on the 16th day of January 1866, whereby a tax of one dollar each is assessed and levied upon all male persons of color between the ages of one year and fifty five, and the proceeds of which are denominated a Common School Fund for the Education of Freedmen. Whereas, The said tax is unequally, discriminatingly and injuriously levied and collected, has failed to produce any benefit to those for whom it was claimed to have been enacted, and is imposed in violation of public and impartial justice, and of the natural and political equality which is now the inalienable franchise and birthright of every citizen of the State, without regard to color or condition. Therefore, Be it ordained by the People of Florida in Convention assembled, That so much of said act as assesses and levies of one dollar each upon all male persons of color between the ages of one and fifty five be, and the same is hereby stopped and prohibited. Witness my hand and seal in open Convention February 22^d A.D. 1868

Wm. H. Armstrong
Secretary

Wm. A. Gilchrist
President

An Ordinance
To Provide for the Protection and Purity of Elections.

It is ordained by the People of Florida in Convention assembled, That no person shall give, or offer to give, directly or indirectly, any bribe, present, or reward, or any private benefit, or promise of such benefit whatever, to induce any voter to refrain from casting his vote, or to prevent him in any way from voting, or to procure or attempt to procure any person to vote for any particular candidate or candidates, at any election in this State, and the person so giving, or offering to give, and the person receiving, the same, or any person who gives, or causes to be given, an illegal vote, knowing it to be such, at any election in this State, shall on conviction in a Court of Law be fined five hundred dollars for each offence, or be imprisoned not exceeding six months; and either party to such unlawful bargain or agreement may sue and commence prosecution, and appear in defence against the other, and thereby absolve himself from all penalty in said case. And no person shall intimidate in any way, or cause any elector on account of the manner in which he may have voted, or be expected to vote, or on account of his residence or place of holding, any election, or in the name or political affiliation of any candidate, at any election in this State, or be imprisoned for not less than one year, or be fined not less than five hundred dollars for each offence, and the Legislature shall have power at any time to change, amend or repeal this Ordinance.

And be it further ordained, That the Secretary of this Convention immediately furnish fifty printed copies of this Ordinance to the Sheriff of each County throughout his County for four weeks previous to the next election.
in open Convention February 22nd 1868.

Horatio Austin, Jr.
President

An Ordinance abolishing County Criminal Courts.

Be it ordained by the People of Florida in Convention assembled, That from and after the passage of this Ordinance the County Criminal Courts of this State shall be abolished, and all fees, costs and charges of every kind whatsoever, due or to become due to any Justice of the Peace, Constable, Clerk of Circuit Court or of the County Criminal Court, Sheriff, or any officer of this State for services issuing warrants, arresting accused, preparing docket and papers, confining prisoners or for any service whatever, in and about said County Court, shall be declared illegal and void, and fully satisfied and extinguished and it shall not be lawful for any Board of Supervisors, Municipality of this State, or any Treasurer, State or County, to allow or pay out any money or moneys for such services, nor shall any allowance not to exceed the actual cost of the provisions, shall be allowed for the feeding of accused defendants, and prisoners, or for the maintenance of said County Courts, and nothing shall be so construed as to deprive Judges, and Visitors of their fees.

Be it further ordained, That all fines, penalties and disabilities ordered, entered up or created in said County Criminal Courts are hereby rescinded and removed, and all persons found guilty in said County Criminal Courts are hereby pardoned and released, and all judgments, orders, decrees, and unsatisfied, originating or created in said Courts are hereby declared null, void (and) unenforceable.

Be it further ordained, That all cases now pending in said Court shall be transferred to the Circuit Court, and the officer transferring the same shall be allowed the regular fees now allowed for such services.

Passed in open Convention February 24th 1868

Horatio Searles, Jr.
President

Ordinance

Be it ordained by the People of Florida in Convention assembled, That it shall be the duty of the first Governor
elected under this Constitution, to appoint a Committee of not less than three persons to inquire into the condition, liabilities
and assets of the State of Florida, and as to the liability of the State of Florida, or of the United States, as
security for the bonds of said Union.

Passed in open Convention February 24th 1868.

W. B. Hunt
Secy

Nordio Lewis Jr.
President.