



# Constitution of the State of San Andreas

Enacted in 2021 by the San Andreas General Assembly  
And the voters of the State of San Andreas  
through referendums.

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As Amended in November 2024

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>PREAMBLE.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>ARTICLE I: GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES.....</b>	<b>5</b>
SECTION 1: PURPOSE.....	5
SECTION 2: ESTABLISHMENT OF TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION.....	5
SECTION 3: BOUNDARIES.....	5
<b>ARTICLE II: BILL OF RIGHTS.....</b>	<b>6</b>
SECTION 1: FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY, SPEECH, AND RELIGION.....	6
SECTION 2: INALIENABLE RIGHTS.....	6
SECTION 3: VESTMENT OF POLITICAL POWER.....	6
SECTION 4: FREEDOM OF ELECTIONS.....	6
SECTION 5: DUE PROCESS OF LAW.....	6
SECTION 6: SEARCHES AND SEIZURES.....	7
SECTION 7: CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENTS.....	7
SECTION 8: NONDISCRIMINATION.....	7
SECTION 9: SAME-SEX MARRIAGE.....	7
SECTION 10: ABORTION.....	7
SECTION 11: PRIVACY.....	7
SECTION 12: ASSET FORFEITURE.....	8
SECTION 13: MILITIAS.....	8
SECTION 14: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.....	8
<b>ARTICLE III: SEPARATION OF POWERS &amp; JUDICIAL REVIEW.....</b>	<b>9</b>
SECTION 1: CHECKS AND BALANCES.....	9
<b>ARTICLE IV: EXECUTIVE BRANCH.....</b>	<b>10</b>
SECTION 1: OFFICE AND TERM.....	10
SECTION 2: QUALIFICATIONS.....	10
SECTION 3: POWERS AND DUTIES.....	10
SECTION 4: LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR.....	10
SECTION 5: CABINET.....	10
<b>ARTICLE V: LEGISLATIVE BRANCH.....</b>	<b>11</b>
SECTION 1: LEGISLATIVE POWER.....	11
SECTION 2: COMPOSITION.....	11
SECTION 3: ADDITIONAL DUTIES.....	11
SECTION 4: QUALIFICATIONS.....	11
SECTION 5: ELECTIONS.....	11
SECTION 6: IMPEACHMENTS.....	11

SECTION 7: QUORUM.....	12
SECTION 8: LEGISLATIVE SESSION.....	12
SECTION 9: REPRESENTATION.....	12
<b>ARTICLE VI: JUDICIARY.....</b>	<b>14</b>
SECTION 1: JUDICIAL POWER.....	14
SECTION 2: SUPREME COURT.....	14
SECTION 3: SUPERIOR COURTS.....	14
SECTION 4: TRIAL COURTS.....	14
SECTION 5: JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION.....	14
SECTION 6: COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE.....	15
SECTION 7: STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR.....	15
<b>ARTICLE VII: ELECTIONS AND VOTING.....</b>	<b>16</b>
SECTION 1: SUFFRAGE.....	16
SECTION 2: SECRECY.....	16
SECTION 3: GENERAL ELECTIONS.....	16
SECTION 4: REFERENDUMS.....	16
SECTION 5: RECALL FROM OFFICE.....	16
<b>ARTICLE VIII: STATE OFFICERS.....</b>	<b>17</b>
SECTION 1: ATTORNEY GENERAL.....	17
SECTION 2: DISTRICT ATTORNEY.....	17
SECTION 3: BOARD OF REGENTS.....	17
SECTION 4: SECRETARY OF STATE.....	17
SECTION 5: STATE TREASURER.....	17
<b>ARTICLE IX: EDUCATION.....</b>	<b>18</b>
SECTION 1: COMPULSORY EDUCATION.....	18
SECTION 2: ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS.....	18
SECTION 3: INDIVIDUAL BOARD OF EDUCATION.....	18
SECTION 4: NO STATE INTERFERENCE.....	18
SECTION 5: SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE.....	18
SECTION 6: STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.....	18
<b>ARTICLE X: REVENUE.....</b>	<b>20</b>
SECTION 1: AUTHORITY TO TAX.....	20
SECTION 2: PUBLIC FUNDS.....	20
SECTION 3: STATE DEBT.....	20
SECTION 4: BUDGET.....	20
SECTION 5: EXEMPTIONS.....	20
SECTION 6: REGULATION.....	20

**ARTICLE XI: COUNTIES.....21**  
SECTION 1: PURPOSE..... 21  
SECTION 2: COUNTY OFFICERS.....21  
SECTION 3: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.....22  
SECTION 4: HOME RULE..... 22  
SECTION 5: COUNTY FINANCES..... 22  
SECTION 6: GENERAL POWERS.....22  
SECTION 7: ETHICS..... 22  
SECTION 8: COUNTY BUDGETS.....22  
**ARTICLE XII: MUNICIPALITIES.....23**  
SECTION 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS..... 23  
SECTION 2: AUTHORITY TO TAX..... 23  
SECTION 3: MUNICIPAL OFFICERS.....23  
**ARTICLE XIII: CHARTER CITIES.....24**  
SECTION 1: PROVISIONS..... 24  
SECTION 2: ADOPTION.....24  
SECTION 3: POWERS OF THE CHARTER.....24  
SECTION 4: DEFINITIONS..... 24  
**ARTICLE XIV: ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS..... 25**  
SECTION 1: NO COMPENSATION FOR PUBLIC OFFICE.....25  
SECTION 2: THE RIGHT TO PROPOSE AN AMENDMENT..... 25

# PREAMBLE

We the People of the State of San Andreas, with profound reverence for the supreme ruler of the universe, in order to form a more independent and perfect government; establish justice; insure tranquility; provide for the common defense; promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and the prosperity, do ordain and establish this constitution for “the State of San Andreas”

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*Adopted at the San Andreas Constitutional Convention this twenty-first day of August, Two Thousand and Twenty One.*

*Isabel R. Payne, Governor*

*Betty Brinkerhoff, President of the Senate*

*Ashley Arnold, Speaker of the House of Representatives*

*Joshua Martinelli, Chief Supreme Court Justice*



# ARTICLE I: GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES

## SECTION 1: PURPOSE

This Article serves to formally define the geographical limits of the State of San Andreas. Within these defined boundaries, all inhabitants and the territory itself shall be subject to, and governed by, the provisions of this Constitution, thereby asserting the State's sovereign authority.

## SECTION 2: ESTABLISHMENT OF TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION

The intent of this Article is to precisely delineate the geographical confines of the State of San Andreas. Such defined boundaries shall constitute the exclusive territorial jurisdiction of the State, and all individuals and entities situated therein shall be subject to the supreme authority and provisions of this Constitution.

## SECTION 3: BOUNDARIES

The geographical boundaries of the State of San Andreas are hereby defined as the following, with all courses and distances being measured with reference to the San Andreas Principal Meridian.

### COURSE ONE:

Beginning at the point of intersection of the thirty-seventh (37th) degree of north latitude and the one hundred and ninth (109th) degree of longitude west of Greenwich, being the southwesternmost corner of the State; thence proceeding due North along said one hundred and ninth (109th) degree of longitude, approximately two hundred and eighty-one (281) miles, to the point of intersection with the forty-first (41st) degree of north latitude, being the northwesternmost corner of the State.

### COURSE TWO:

Thence East along said forty-first (41st) degree of north latitude, approximately three hundred and eighty (380) miles, to the point of intersection with the one hundred and second (102nd) degree of longitude west of Greenwich, being the northeasternmost corner of the State.

### COURSE THREE:

Thence South along said one hundred and second (102nd) degree of longitude, approximately two hundred and eighty-one (281) miles, to the point of intersection with the thirty-seventh (37th) degree of north latitude, being the southeasternmost corner of the State.

### COURSE FOUR:

Thence West along said thirty-seventh (37th) degree of north latitude, approximately three hundred and eighty (380) miles, to the point of beginning.

The said boundary lines shall be officially demarcated and surveyed as provided by law.

# ARTICLE II: BILL OF RIGHTS

## SECTION 1: FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY, SPEECH, AND RELIGION

The rights of the people to peaceably assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances shall not be infringed. Every person shall be free to speak, write, or publish their sentiments on any subject, being responsible for the abuse of that right. No law shall be made respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; nor shall any preference be given by law to any religious denomination or mode of worship.

## SECTION 2: INALIENABLE RIGHTS

All persons are born equally free and independent, and have certain natural, inherent, and inalienable rights, among which are the enjoyment and defense of life and liberty, the acquiring, possessing, and protecting of property, and the pursuit of safety and happiness.

## SECTION 3: VESTMENT OF POLITICAL POWER

All political power is vested in and derived from the people; all government, of right, originates from the people, is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the whole. The people of this State have the sole and exclusive right of governing themselves as a free, sovereign, and independent State; and to alter or abolish their constitution and form of government whenever they may deem it necessary for their safety and happiness.

## SECTION 4: FREEDOM OF ELECTIONS

Every citizen of the State of San Andreas who has attained the age of eighteen years shall have the right to vote in all public elections. The right of suffrage shall be protected from infringement and shall not be denied or abridged on account of race, color, sex, or previous condition of servitude. The legislature shall secure the purity of elections by law and shall guard against the abuse of the electoral process.

## SECTION 5: DUE PROCESS OF LAW

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall have the right to a speedy public trial, and to a jury trial. The accused shall also have the right to be heard by self and counsel, and to have the right to demand the nature and cause of the accusation against them, and to have a copy thereof; to meet the witnesses face to face, and to have compulsory process to compel the attendance of witnesses in their behalf. No person shall be compelled to testify against themselves in any criminal case, nor shall any person be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law.

## SECTION 6: SEARCHES AND SEIZURES

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and possessions against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated. A warrant may not be issued except upon probable cause, supported by a sworn statement, and specifically describing the place to be searched and the persons or items to be seized. This protection shall extend to any communication, data, or electronic record.

## SECTION 7: CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENTS

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor shall excessive fines be imposed. The infliction of cruel and unusual punishments is hereby prohibited. No person shall be imprisoned for a failure to pay a debt unless said debt arose from a fraudulent act or a breach of trust, as provided for by law.

## SECTION 8: NONDISCRIMINATION

The State of San Andreas shall not deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws. No law shall be passed which discriminates against any person on account of gender, race, religion, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability status, or political affiliation. This provision shall apply to the enjoyment of all civil, political, and human rights.

## SECTION 9: SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

The right of a person to enter into the institution of marriage shall not be abridged or denied on account of sex, gender, gender identity, race, or sexual orientation. All laws respecting marriage shall apply equally to all persons, and the State shall give full faith and credit to all marriages validly contracted under its laws or the laws of any other jurisdiction.

## SECTION 10: ABORTION

The right of an individual to privacy extends to decisions concerning their reproductive health. The State of San Andreas shall not interfere with an individual's right to choose whether to continue a pregnancy. In cases of rape or incest, the State shall provide and fund all necessary abortion services.

## SECTION 11: PRIVACY

The right of the people to be secure against governmental and corporate intrusion into their private affairs is inviolable. No entity, public or private, shall collect, sell, or disclose the personal information of any individual without their explicit consent, unless a valid warrant has been issued upon probable cause in a manner prescribed by law. All healthcare and educational documents are considered confidential and shall not be released by any government or corporate entity without the explicit consent of the individual to whom they belong. This provision does not apply to disclosures required by a lawful warrant issued upon probable cause.



## SECTION 12: ASSET FORFEITURE

The State of San Andreas shall not exercise the power of civil asset forfeiture. The government may not seize or forfeit a person's property unless and until the owner is first convicted of a crime, and such property is proven to have been directly used in the commission of said crime.

## SECTION 13: MILITIAS

A well-regulated militia is essential for the security of a free State, and shall remain at all times under the strict control of the civil authority. The right of the people to keep and bear arms for their defense shall not be infringed. No militia or armed body in the service of the State shall be employed to coerce, threaten, or otherwise violate the rights of the people of this State who are acting in a law-abiding manner.

## SECTION 14: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The government of the State of San Andreas shall be transparent and accountable to its citizens. The right of the people to be informed of the actions, proceedings, and deliberations of the State and its political subdivisions is hereby declared to be a fundamental and essential right. This right shall include, but not be limited to, the right of access to public records, the right to attend public meetings, and the right to information regarding the official conduct of public officers. The legislature shall provide for such reasonable exceptions as may be deemed necessary, but such exceptions shall be narrowly construed in favor of the public's right to know.

# ARTICLE III: SEPARATION OF POWERS & JUDICIAL REVIEW

## SECTION 1: CHECKS AND BALANCES

To prevent the consolidation of power in any single department, this Constitution establishes a system of checks and balances. Each department of government shall have specific powers to restrain the others from the unwarranted exercise of constitutional authority. The Legislative Department shall have the power to override a veto by the Executive and may impeach and remove from office members of the Executive and Judicial Departments. The Executive Department shall have the power to veto legislative acts and shall appoint, with the consent of the Legislative Department, members of the Judicial Department. The Judicial Department shall exercise the power of judicial review, enabling it to declare acts of the Legislative and Executive Departments to be in violation of this Constitution.

# ARTICLE IV: EXECUTIVE BRANCH

## SECTION 1: OFFICE AND TERM

The supreme executive power of the State of San Andreas shall be vested in a Governor. The Governor shall be elected by the qualified voters of the State for a term of four years. The Governor shall serve until a successor is duly elected and qualified, and shall be eligible for re-election to a maximum of two consecutive terms.

## SECTION 2: QUALIFICATIONS

To be eligible for the office of Governor, a person must be a citizen of the United States, a resident of the State of San Andreas for at least five years preceding the election, and have attained the age of thirty years.

## SECTION 3: POWERS AND DUTIES

The Governor shall be the Commander-in-Chief of the military forces of the State, except when they shall be called into the service of the United States Military. The Governor shall have the power to grant reprieves, commutations, and pardons for all offenses after conviction, except in cases of treason or impeachment. It shall be the Governor's duty to see that the laws are faithfully executed.

## SECTION 4: LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

There shall be a Lieutenant Governor, who shall be elected at the same time and for the same term as the Governor. The Lieutenant Governor shall possess the same qualifications as the Governor. The Lieutenant Governor shall be the first in line of succession to the office of Governor in the case of the Governor's death, resignation, removal from office, or inability to discharge the powers and duties of said office. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Governor, the Lieutenant Governor shall become Governor for the remainder of the term.

## SECTION 5: CABINET

The Governor shall establish a Cabinet, which shall serve as a principal advisory body. The Cabinet shall consist of the heads of the state departments, as well as such other officers as the Governor may designate. These state officers shall be nominated by the Governor and confirmed by a vote of no less than fifty-five percent (55%) of the Senate. The Cabinet's role is to advise the Governor on matters related to the duties of their respective offices and to assist in the faithful execution of the laws.

# ARTICLE V: LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

## SECTION 1: LEGISLATIVE POWER

The legislative power of the State of San Andreas shall be vested in a Legislature, which shall consist of a Senate and an Assembly. This power shall extend to all matters necessary for the peace, safety, and welfare of the State and its inhabitants. The Legislature is empowered to make all laws not inconsistent with this Constitution or the Constitution of the United States of America.

## SECTION 2: COMPOSITION

The Senate shall be composed of a number of members, each of whom shall be elected from a Senatorial District. The Assembly shall be composed of a number of members, each of whom shall be elected from an Assembly District. The number of Senators and Assembly members, and the manner of their election, shall be prescribed by this constitution.

## SECTION 3: ADDITIONAL DUTIES

In addition to its general law-making authority, the Legislature shall have the following specific powers: To levy and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises. To appropriate funds for the expenses of the government and to provide for the public debt, To establish a uniform system of public schools, To define crimes and provide for their punishment, To establish all courts and tribunals inferior to the Supreme Court, To impeach and remove from office all State officers for malfeasance or misfeasance in office, To organize and provide for the State Militia, and to propose amendments to this Constitution.

## SECTION 4: QUALIFICATIONS

An Assembly member must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age and a resident of the State of San Andreas for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the election. A Senator must be at least forty-five (45) years of age and a resident of the State of San Andreas for at least ten (10) years immediately preceding the election.

## SECTION 5: ELECTIONS

Members of the Legislature shall be elected by the qualified electors of their respective districts. Assembly members shall be elected to a term of two (2) years and shall not be subject to term limits. Senators shall be elected to a term of six (6) years and shall be limited to a maximum of three (3) consecutive terms.

## SECTION 6: IMPEACHMENTS

The Legislature shall have the sole power of impeachment. An impeachment may be initiated by a motion introduced by two members of the Assembly and co-sponsored by a Senator. A bill of impeachment must be passed by a vote of

no less than fifty-five percent (55%) of the Assembly. Upon passage, the bill shall be transmitted to the Senate, which shall have the sole power to try all impeachments. The grounds for impeachment shall include, but not be limited to, wrongdoing, corruption, bribery, upon a criminal conviction or indictment, or other unethical behavior. A conviction on impeachment requires the concurrence of no less than sixty-five percent (65%) of the entire Senate. A judgment in cases of impeachment shall not extend further than removal from office and disqualification from holding any office of honor, trust, or profit under the State of San Andreas.

## SECTION 7: QUORUM

A majority of the members of each chamber of the Legislature shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. A smaller number may adjourn from day to day and may compel the attendance of absent members in such manner and under such penalties as each chamber may provide. A quorum shall not be called into order unless three-fourths (3/4) of that legislative body are present.

## SECTION 8: LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Legislature shall convene for its regular session no later than the fourth Monday of January each year. The regular session must conclude no later than the second to last day of December of that same year.

## SECTION 9: REPRESENTATION

(a) The Senate shall be constituted as a chamber of equal representation. Each senatorial district within the State shall be entitled to the election of two Senators, without regard to population. Senators shall be chosen by the qualified electors of their respective districts in a manner prescribed by law, and such representation shall remain fixed to ensure that all districts, irrespective of size, shall enjoy equal standing within the upper chamber of the General Assembly.

(b) The House of Representatives shall be constituted as a chamber of proportional representation. One Representative shall be elected for every five thousand (5,000) inhabitants residing within an assembly district, as determined by the most recent census authorized by law. Each district shall be drawn in a contiguous and compact manner, and the apportionment of representatives shall reflect, as nearly as practicable, the principle of one person, one vote, so that the will of the people may be fairly expressed in the lower chamber of the General Assembly.

(c) The number of Representatives in the House shall be recalculated and adjusted every ten (10) years, coinciding with the completion of the decennial census, in order to account for changes in population and to preserve the equitable distribution of representation. Such reapportionment shall be conducted in the year following the census, and the revised composition of the House shall take effect with the subsequent coordinated election in an odd-number year.

(d) The boundaries of legislative districts may be redrawn in September preceding the coordinated election to be held in November of each odd-numbered year. Redistricting shall be carried out in accordance with the principles of fairness, population equality, and respect for established political subdivisions, except as otherwise required by law or this Constitution.

(e) The total membership of the General Assembly, composed of both Senators and Representatives, shall not exceed two hundred fifty-five (255) members for a period of ten (10) years from the date of enactment of this amendment. Upon the expiration of such period, the Legislature may provide for additional membership, provided that any expansion shall remain consistent with the principles of equal and proportional representation as herein established.

(f) Upon ratification of this amendment by the people at the general election of November 2024, the provisions of this Section shall take effect immediately for all purposes of legislative representation and apportionment. The first reapportionment of the House of Representatives pursuant to this Section shall occur in September of the year 2027, prior to the coordinated election of that year, and shall be conducted using the most recent census data available. Such apportionment shall remain in effect until revised in accordance with subsection (c). All Senators and Representatives elected under prior constitutional provisions shall continue to serve the remainder of their terms, after which successors shall be chosen in conformity with the requirements of this Section.

# ARTICLE VI: JUDICIARY

## SECTION 1: JUDICIAL POWER

The judicial power of the State of San Andreas shall be vested in a Supreme Court, and in such inferior courts as the Legislature may from time to time ordain and establish. The judicial power shall extend to all cases in law and equity arising under this Constitution and the laws of this State.

## SECTION 2: SUPREME COURT

- (a) The Supreme Court shall have original jurisdiction in all cases concerning public officials and in cases where the State is a party. It shall have appellate jurisdiction over all other cases as may be prescribed by law. The Supreme Court shall also have general superintending control over all inferior courts.
- (b) The Supreme Court shall be composed of fifteen (15) justices, who shall be elected from the citizenry of the State of San Andreas. Justices of the Supreme Court will serve a single term of eight (8) years. A justice of the Supreme Court shall be at least fifty (50) years of age and must have been licensed to practice law in the State of San Andreas for at least ten (10) years immediately preceding their election.

## SECTION 3: SUPERIOR COURTS

The Superior Courts shall serve as the first court of appeals. The Superior Courts shall have original jurisdiction over all felony cases and appellate jurisdiction over decisions made in the local or county courts, as may be prescribed by law. The Superior Courts shall also have jurisdiction over multiple counties within their respective judicial districts. Judges serving on the Superior Court shall be appointed by a Judicial Nominating Commission and may serve for a term not to exceed six (6) years. At the conclusion of their term, a judge may be re-appointed or replaced.

## SECTION 4: TRIAL COURTS

The County Trial Courts shall have original jurisdiction over nearly all categories of civil and criminal cases, including felony criminal cases, equity cases, domestic relations cases, and all civil cases. The County Trial Court shall be the first to hear any case within its jurisdiction. Judges on the County Trial Courts shall be appointed by the Judicial Nominating Commission and may serve for a term not to exceed four (4) years. At the conclusion of their term, a judge may be re-appointed or replaced.

## SECTION 5: JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION

There shall be a Judicial Nominating Commission to assist in the selection and appointment of judges and justices for the courts of this State. The Commission shall review all applications from qualified candidates and shall select the most suitable individuals for available judicial positions.

The Commission shall be composed of twenty (20) members, who shall be elected by the qualified voters of the State of San Andreas. A member of the Commission must be a civilian, be at least forty-five (45) years of age, and a resident of the State of San Andreas for at least ten (10) years immediately preceding the election. The members shall serve a term of two (2) years and may serve for a maximum of two (2) consecutive terms.

## SECTION 6: COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE

There shall be a Commission on Judicial Discipline responsible for protecting the public from improper judicial conduct and for preserving the integrity of the judicial process. The Commission shall investigate complaints of judicial misconduct or disability and shall provide for the fair and expeditious disposition of such matters. The Commission shall be composed of twenty (20) attorneys from around the State. A member of the Commission must have been licensed to practice law in the State of San Andreas for at least five (5) years prior to their election. Members shall be elected to a term of four (4) years and may serve for a maximum of sixteen (16) years in total.

## SECTION 7: STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

There shall be a State Court Administrator to assist in the administration of the Judicial Branch and its officers. The Administrator shall ensure that the judiciary remains fair, impartial, and courteous to all citizens. The State Court Administrator shall be nominated by the Governor and confirmed by the Legislature. The incumbent must be a licensed attorney with the State of San Andreas and shall be responsible for upholding the values of Integrity, Discipline, and Transparency. The Administrator shall be bound to maintain exemplary model behavior before nomination and while in office.



# ARTICLE VII: ELECTIONS AND VOTING

## SECTION 1: SUFFRAGE

Every citizen of the State of San Andreas who has attained the age of eighteen (18) years, and who is a resident of this State, shall be qualified to vote in all public elections. The Legislature shall have the power to enact laws to provide for voter registration.

## SECTION 2: SECRECY

All elections by the people shall be by secret ballot. The Legislature shall have the power to pass laws to protect the integrity of the ballot box and to secure the secrecy of the vote from all forms of intimidation and coercion.

## SECTION 3: GENERAL ELECTIONS

General elections shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November in each even-numbered year. The Legislature shall provide by law for the time, place, and manner of holding all elections not otherwise provided for in this Constitution.

## SECTION 4: REFERENDUMS

The Legislature may initiate a referendum for a constitutional or statutory amendment. A referendum shall be initiated for any proposed amendment or revision to this Constitution, as well as for any changes regarding elections, taxes, education, or matters related to the state treasury. A referendum shall be voted upon by the citizenry during the November general election. All referendums must be finalized for the ballot no later than one calendar month prior to the election. A constitutional amendment must receive an in-favor vote of at least fifty-five percent (55%) of the voters to be passed. A statutory amendment must receive a simple majority vote of at least fifty percent (50%) to be passed.

## SECTION 5: RECALL FROM OFFICE

A citizen of the State of San Andreas may initiate a petition to recall a state, county, or city elected official. The petition must receive signatures from no less than thirty percent (30%) of the qualified voters within the jurisdiction or district that the elected official serves. Upon verification of the required signatures, the power shall be vested in the State Legislature to initiate a referendum for recall. The measure must receive at least fifty-three percent (53%) of in-favor votes within the respective jurisdiction or district for the official to be removed from office. If the Secretary of State is to be recalled, it shall be the responsibility of the Governor to appoint a nonpartisan member to review the petition signatures and initiate the recall referendum.

# ARTICLE VIII: STATE OFFICERS

## SECTION 1: ATTORNEY GENERAL

The Attorney General shall be the chief legal officer and legal adviser for the State of San Andreas. It shall be the Attorney General's duty to prosecute and defend all suits and proceedings to which the State is a party, and to perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law. The Attorney General shall be elected by the qualified voters of the State for a term of four years and shall be eligible for re-election to a maximum of two consecutive terms.

## SECTION 2: DISTRICT ATTORNEY

The District Attorney shall be the chief prosecuting officer for the State of San Andreas within their respective jurisdiction or district. The District Attorney shall be elected by the qualified voters of the jurisdiction they serve. To be eligible for the office of District Attorney, a person must be at least thirty-five (35) years of age, a resident of the jurisdiction or district for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the election, and must be a licensed attorney with the State of San Andreas. The powers and duties of the District Attorney shall be prescribed by law.

## SECTION 3: BOARD OF REGENTS

The Board of Regents shall have the general supervision and control of all public universities and higher education institutions in the State of San Andreas. The powers and duties of the Board of Regents, including the number of members and the manner of their selection, shall be prescribed by law.

## SECTION 4: SECRETARY OF STATE

The Secretary of State shall be the chief elections officer of the State and shall oversee all public elections. The Secretary of State shall be the keeper of the Great Seal of the State of San Andreas and shall authenticate all official documents. The Secretary of State shall be elected by the qualified voters of the State for a term of four years and shall be eligible for re-election to a maximum of two consecutive terms.

## SECTION 5: STATE TREASURER

The State Treasurer shall be the chief financial officer of the State of San Andreas. It shall be the State Treasurer's duty to receive and keep all public funds of the State, to disburse the same upon warrants drawn by law, and to keep an accurate account of all receipts and expenditures. The State Treasurer shall be elected by the qualified voters of the State for a term of four years and shall be eligible for re-election to a maximum of two consecutive terms.

# ARTICLE IX: EDUCATION

## SECTION 1: COMPULSORY EDUCATION

All children of the State of San Andreas between the ages of six (6) and eighteen (18) years shall be required to attend a public, private, or home school that provides instruction in the subjects prescribed by law. The Legislature shall have the power to enact laws to enforce this provision and to provide for such exceptions as may be deemed necessary.

## SECTION 2: ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A general and uniform system of free public education shall be provided for all children of the State of San Andreas. The Legislature shall establish, maintain, and support a system of public schools sufficient for the instruction of all children within the State.

## SECTION 3: INDIVIDUAL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Individual school districts shall be governed by an elected school board. The local school board shall have the authority to manage and control all public schools within its district, consistent with the laws of the State of San Andreas and the policies set forth by the State Board of Education. The Legislature shall provide by law for the powers, duties, and election of members to individual school boards.

## SECTION 4: NO STATE INTERFERENCE

The State of San Andreas shall not compel any school district to use or adopt certain textbooks, reading materials, or curricula for educational courses. The selection of such materials shall be vested in the individual school boards, which shall have the sole authority to determine the content of educational instruction within their respective districts. The Legislature may, however, establish minimum standards for a thorough and efficient education.

## SECTION 5: SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

The State of San Andreas shall not establish a religion, nor shall it create or enforce any official language. The public education system shall remain separate from religious institutions. No student attending a public school shall be compelled to be taught religious beliefs or participate in religious instruction. Religious freedom, as outlined in Article II, shall be preserved for all students and faculty.

## SECTION 6: STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

(a) There shall be established a State Board of Education, which shall serve as the governing authority of the San Andreas Department of Education and shall oversee the administration and operation of all public schools within the State.

(b) The State Board of Education shall be composed of five (5) members. Members shall be elected by the qualified electors of the State through the system of district boundaries as prescribed by the Legislature, but shall serve at-large in representing the interests of the entire State.

(c) Each member of the State Board of Education shall serve a term of four (4) years and may serve no more than two (2) consecutive terms.

(d) To be eligible for election, a member of the State Board of Education must have attained the age of fifty (50) years and must have been a resident of the State of San Andreas for at least ten (10) years immediately preceding the election.

(e) The State Board of Education shall exercise general supervision over the San Andreas Department of Education and shall establish statewide policies and standards governing the management, curriculum, accountability, and operation of all public schools within the State. The Board shall have such additional powers and duties as may be prescribed by this Constitution or by law.

# ARTICLE X: REVENUE

## SECTION 1: AUTHORITY TO TAX

The Legislature shall have the power to levy and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises for public purposes. All taxes shall be uniform upon the same class of subjects within the territorial limits of the authority levying the tax.

## SECTION 2: PUBLIC FUNDS

All money received by the State shall be paid into the State Treasury and shall not be drawn except in consequence of appropriations made by law. An accurate statement of the receipts and expenditures of all public money shall be published from time to time, as shall be prescribed by law.

## SECTION 3: STATE DEBT

The State shall not contract any debt, except to meet casual deficits or failures in revenues, or for expenses not otherwise provided for; and the aggregate amount of such indebtedness shall not at any time exceed a certain amount, as shall be prescribed by law. The State may, however, contract debt for a public purpose, with the approval of a majority of the qualified voters of the State in a general election.

## SECTION 4: BUDGET

The State of San Andreas shall operate on a fiscal year. The Legislature shall have the responsibility to adopt a balanced budget for each fiscal year, ensuring that projected revenues are sufficient to cover planned expenditures. The State Treasurer shall be responsible for keeping an accurate record of all revenues and expenditures, which shall be subject to audit. All public funds must be used exclusively for the public good and for the purposes for which they were appropriated by law. No public funds shall be used for private benefit, except as provided for by law.

## SECTION 5: EXEMPTIONS

The Legislature shall have the power to enact laws exempting property from taxation for public, religious, charitable, or educational purposes. Any such exemptions shall be strictly construed and shall not be granted for the private gain of any person or corporation.

## SECTION 6: REGULATION

The State of San Andreas shall provide for citizen oversight of all State financial matters. The Legislature shall establish an independent body, to review all State and local budgets, expenditures, and fiscal reports. This body shall have the power to subpoena records and to publish its findings, ensuring transparency and accountability in the use of all public funds.

# ARTICLE XI: COUNTIES

## SECTION 1: PURPOSE

The State of San Andreas shall be divided into counties for the purpose of local government. Each county shall be a body corporate and politic, with such powers and duties as shall be prescribed by law. The Legislature shall establish a uniform system of county governments throughout the State.

## SECTION 2: COUNTY OFFICERS

Each county shall elect a Board of Commissioners, who shall be the legislative and executive body of the county government. Each county shall also elect a County Assessor, a County Clerk, a County Sheriff, a County Surveyor, and a County Treasurer, whose duties shall be prescribed by law. The following elected officials shall be responsible for the administration of their respective offices within each county. All county officials must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age, a resident of the county (or district if serving on the Board) for at least two (2) years immediately preceding the election, and are subject to a four (4) year term with a maximum of two (2) consecutive terms.

- (a) **COUNTY ASSESSOR:** The County Assessor shall be responsible for the valuation and assessment of all real and taxable personal property within the county. The Assessor shall maintain a comprehensive inventory of all such property and shall establish its fair market value for the purpose of taxation. This duty is fundamental to ensuring that all property owners contribute equitably to the support of county government and public services.
- (b) **COUNTY CLERK:** The County Clerk shall serve as the chief elections officer for all county-level elections, with the duty to ensure the integrity, fairness, and transparency of the electoral process. The Clerk is also the custodian of all public records and documents for the county, including but not limited to, vital records, property deeds, marriage licenses, and court filings. This role is essential for maintaining a permanent record of the county's official acts and the legal rights of its citizens.
- (c) **COUNTY SHERIFF:** The County Sheriff shall be the chief law enforcement officer of the county. The Sheriff shall have the power and the duty to enforce all state and county laws, to preserve the peace, and to suppress all riots, insurrections, and breaches of the peace. The Sheriff shall also be responsible for the security and protection of the courts and for the operation and maintenance of the county jail. This office is critical for the safety and order of the community.
- (d) **COUNTY SURVEYOR:** The County Surveyor shall be responsible for all official surveying and mapping activities within the county. This includes the establishment and verification of all public and private land boundaries, the review of all subdivision plats, and the maintenance of all related records. The Surveyor's role is crucial for ensuring the accurate and legal description of all land within the county.
- (e) **COUNTY TREASURER:** The County Treasurer shall be the custodian of all public funds belonging to the county. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the receipt, safekeeping, and disbursement of all county moneys in accordance with the law and the appropriations made by the Board of County Commissioners. The Treasurer's duties are vital for the fiscal health and stability of the county government.

## SECTION 3: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Board of Supervisors, as provided for in Section 2 of this Article, shall be known as the Board of County Commissioners. The composition of the Board shall be determined by the population of the respective county, as follows: For counties with a population of less than ten thousand (10,000) people, the Board shall have three (3) members. For counties with a population of ten thousand (10,000) or more, the Board shall have five (5) members. For counties with a population of eighteen thousand (18,000) or more, the Board shall have seven (7) members. All County Commissioners shall be elected for a term of four (4) years and may serve for a maximum of two (2) consecutive terms.

## SECTION 4: HOME RULE

The Legislature may, by law, grant counties the power of Home Rule, enabling them to draft and adopt their own charters. Such charters shall provide for the governance of county affairs and shall not be in conflict with the laws or Constitution of the State of San Andreas.

## SECTION 5: COUNTY FINANCES

Counties shall have the power to levy and collect taxes, fees, and assessments for public purposes as may be prescribed by law. They may incur debt, but only in a manner and amount authorized by the Legislature. All county funds shall be managed and accounted for in a transparent manner, and a public report of all receipts and expenditures shall be published annually.

## SECTION 6: GENERAL POWERS

The counties of the State shall exercise such powers as are necessary to provide for the peace, safety, and general welfare of their inhabitants. These powers may include, but are not limited to, law enforcement, public health and sanitation, the maintenance of roads and public works, and the provision of social services.

## SECTION 7: ETHICS

No county officer or employee shall have a direct or indirect financial interest in any contract, transaction, or business with the county in which they serve. The Legislature shall enact laws to prevent and punish all forms of conflicts of interest and to ensure the ethical conduct of all county officers.

## SECTION 8: COUNTY BUDGETS

The Board of County Commissioners shall be responsible for adopting a budget for the subsequent fiscal year. The annual budget shall be adopted no later than October 1st of the year immediately preceding the fiscal year to which it applies. All public records of county receipts and expenditures for a given calendar year shall be made public on the last Thursday of December of that same year.

# ARTICLE XII: MUNICIPALITIES

## SECTION 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS

The Legislature shall provide by general law for the incorporation, organization, and powers of municipalities. Municipalities shall be bodies corporate and politic, with such powers as are necessary to provide for the peace, safety, and general welfare of their inhabitants.

## SECTION 2: AUTHORITY TO TAX

Municipalities shall have the power to levy and collect taxes, fees, and assessments for municipal purposes, as shall be prescribed by law. All municipal funds shall be managed and accounted for in a transparent manner, with all expenditures being made for the public good.

## SECTION 3: MUNICIPAL OFFICERS

Each municipality shall have a governing body, such as a city council or board of aldermen, and such other officers as shall be necessary for the administration of its affairs. The manner of election, terms of office, and duties of all municipal officers shall be prescribed by law.

- (a) **MAYOR:** Each municipality shall have a chief executive officer, to be known as the Mayor. The Mayor shall be the head of the municipal government and shall be responsible for the administration of its affairs. The Mayor shall have the power to veto ordinances passed by the municipal governing body, and such other duties as may be prescribed by law. To be eligible to serve as Mayor, a person must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age and a registered voter within the jurisdiction or municipality they represent for at least two (2) years immediately preceding the election. The members shall be subject to a four (4) year term and may serve a maximum of two (2) terms.
- (b) **CITY COUNCIL:** Each municipality shall have a legislative body, to be known as the City Council, Board of Aldermen, or other such name as prescribed by law. The City Council shall be responsible for enacting all ordinances, resolutions, and local laws necessary for the governance of the municipality. The members of the City Council shall be elected by the qualified voters of the municipality. To be eligible to serve on the City Council, a person must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age and a registered voter within the jurisdiction or district they represent for at least two (2) years immediately preceding the election. The members shall be subject to a four (4) year term and may serve a maximum of two (2) terms.



# ARTICLE XIII: CHARTER CITIES

## SECTION 1: PROVISIONS

The Legislature shall provide by general law for the incorporation of cities and towns. The Legislature may also provide by law for the adoption of a charter by any municipality, thereby making it a Charter City. A Charter City shall have the power to govern itself in municipal affairs, subject only to the limitations of this Constitution and the general laws of the State.

## SECTION 2: ADOPTION

A municipality may propose to adopt a charter. A charter shall be proposed by a Charter Commission, whose members are elected by the qualified voters of the municipality. The proposed charter must then be approved by a majority vote of the qualified voters of the municipality in a special or general election.

## SECTION 3: POWERS OF THE CHARTER

A Charter City shall have all powers of municipal government and shall have the right to organize its own government and to enact and enforce local ordinances. The powers of a Charter City shall be liberally construed in favor of its autonomy in municipal affairs. A Charter City shall not have the power to enact any ordinance that is in conflict with the laws or Constitution of the State of San Andreas.

## SECTION 4: DEFINITIONS

A Charter City is distinguished from a general law municipality by its possession of the power of home rule concerning matters of local concern. A general law municipality's authority is strictly limited to powers expressly granted by the State Legislature or this Constitution, whereas a Charter City may organize its own government and legislate on local affairs as it deems appropriate, provided such actions do not conflict with the Constitution of this State or with general laws of statewide concern. This provision grants Charter Cities a superior degree of autonomy in matters of local governance, including municipal finance, elections, and the regulation of local public works.

# ARTICLE XIV: ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS

## SECTION 1: NO COMPENSATION FOR PUBLIC OFFICE

No elected official in the State of San Andreas, at the state, county, or municipal level, shall receive compensation, salary, or stipend for holding public office. This provision is intended to ensure that public service is undertaken for the benefit of the citizenry and not for personal financial gain. The Legislature may, however, provide for the reimbursement of reasonable expenses incurred by officials in the performance of their duties.

## SECTION 2: THE RIGHT TO PROPOSE AN AMENDMENT

(a) The people of the State of San Andreas reserve to themselves the power to propose amendments to this Constitution through the process of initiative petition, independent of the General Assembly.

(b) An initiative petition to propose a constitutional amendment shall contain the full text of the proposed amendment and shall be signed by a number of qualified electors equal to at least ten percent (10%) of the total electorate in the State of San Andreas, or thirty percent (30%) of the total electorate within a defined legislative district.

(c) Petitions shall be filed with the Secretary of State no later than two (2) months prior to the next general or coordinated election. The Secretary of State shall prescribe by law the form, verification, and submission of such petitions and shall certify valid petitions for placement on the ballot.

(d) Upon certification, the proposed amendment shall be submitted to the people at the next general or coordinated election. The amendment shall become part of this Constitution if approved by at least fifty-five percent (55%) of the qualified electors voting thereon, as prescribed by Article VII, Section 4.

(e) No initiative amendment shall contain more than one subject, and the subject of the amendment shall be clearly expressed in its title. The Supreme Court of San Andreas shall have original jurisdiction to determine compliance with this provision prior to the referendum date of the first day of October before the general or coordinated election in November.

(f) An amendment proposed by citizen initiative shall not be subject to gubernatorial veto and shall take effect immediately upon proclamation of the vote by the Governor, unless the amendment provides otherwise.