

CONSTITUTION  
OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY.

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PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

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PREAMBLE.

WE, the representatives of the people of the State of Kentucky, in Convention assembled, to secure to all the citizens thereof the enjoyment of the rights of life, liberty, and property, and of pursuing happiness, do ordain and establish this Constitution for its government.

Preamble.

ARTICLE FIRST.

*Concerning the distribution of the powers of Government.*

SECTION 1. The powers of the Government of the State of Kentucky shall be divided into three distinct departments, and each of them be confided to a separate body of magistracy, to-wit: those which are Legislative to one; those which are Executive to another; and those which are Judiciary to another.

Division of the powers of government into three departments.

SECTION 2. No person, or collection of persons, being of one of those departments, shall exercise any power properly belonging to either of the others, except in the instances hereinafter expressly directed or permitted.

Powers to be kept separate.

ARTICLE SECOND.

*Concerning the Legislative Department.*

SECTION 1. The Legislative power shall be vested in a House of Representatives and Senate, which together shall

Of the legislative power.

SECTION 20. That no *ex post facto* law, nor any law impairing contracts, shall be made. *Ex post facto laws.*

SECTION 21. That no person shall be attainted of treason or felony by the General Assembly. *Attainder.*

SECTION 22. That no attainer shall work corruption of blood, nor, except during the life of the offender, forfeiture of estate to the Commonwealth.

SECTION 23. That the estates of such persons as shall destroy their own lives, shall descend or vest as in case of natural death; and if any person shall be killed by casualty, there shall be no forfeiture by reason thereof. *Felo de se and forfeiture.*

SECTION 24. That the citizens have a right, in a peaceable manner, to assemble together for their common good, and to apply to those invested with the powers of government, for redress of grievances, or other proper purposes, by petition, address, or remonstrance. *Right of petition*

SECTION 25. That the rights of the citizens to bear arms in defense of themselves and the State shall not be questioned; but the General Assembly may pass laws to prevent persons from carrying concealed arms. *Right to bear arms.*

SECTION 26. That no standing army shall, in time of peace, be kept up, without the consent of the General Assembly; and the military shall, in all cases, and at all times, be in strict subordination to the civil power. *Standing army.*

SECTION 27. That no soldier shall, in time of peace, be quartered in any house without the consent of the owner; nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law. *Soldiers not to be quartered.*

SECTION 28. That the General Assembly shall not grant any title of nobility, or hereditary distinction, nor create any office, the appointment to which shall be for a longer time than for a term of years. *Nobility, and limitation of office.*

SECTION 29. That emigration from the State shall not be prohibited. *Emigrants.*

SECTION 30. To guard against transgressions of the high powers which we have delegated, we DECLARE, that every thing in this article is excepted out of the general powers of government, and shall forever remain inviolate; and that all laws contrary thereto, or contrary to this Constitution, shall be void. *Exception out of the general powers.*

SCHEDULE.

That no inconvenience may arise from the alterations and amendments made in the Constitution of this Commonwealth, and in order to carry the same into complete operation, it is hereby declared and ordained: