

STATE CONSTITUTIONS

Table 1.1
GENERAL INFORMATION ON STATE CONSTITUTIONS
(As of January 1, 2011)

State or other jurisdiction	Number of constitutions*	Dates of adoption	Effective date of present constitution	Estimated length (number of words)	Number of amendments	
					Submitted to voters	Adopted
Alabama.....	6	1819, 1861, 1865, 1868, 1875, 1901	Nov. 28, 1901	367,000 (a)(b)	1,179	854 (c)
Alaska.....	1	1956	Jan. 3, 1959	13,479	42	29
Arizona.....	1	1911	Feb. 14, 1912	47,306	266	147
Arkansas.....	5	1836, 1861, 1864, 1868, 1874	Oct. 30, 1874	59,120	196	98 (d)
California.....	2	1849, 1879	July 4, 1879	67,048	891	525
Colorado.....	1	1876	Aug. 1, 1876	66,140	336	155
Connecticut.....	4	1818 (f), 1965	Dec. 30, 1965	16,401	31	30
Delaware.....	4	1776, 1792, 1831, 1897	June 10, 1897	25,445	(e)	141
Florida.....	6	1839, 1861, 1865, 1868, 1886, 1968	Jan. 7, 1969	56,705	154	118
Georgia.....	10	1777, 1789, 1798, 1861, 1865, 1868, 1877, 1945, 1976, 1982	July 1, 1983	41,684	94 (g)	71 (g)
Hawaii.....	1 (h)	1950	Aug. 21, 1959	21,498	131	110
Idaho.....	1	1889	July 3, 1890	24,626	210	123
Illinois.....	4	1818, 1848, 1870, 1970	July 1, 1971	16,401	18	12
Indiana.....	2	1816, 1851	Nov. 1, 1851	11,476	79	47
Iowa.....	2	1846, 1857	Sept. 3, 1857	11,089	59	54 (i)
Kansas.....	1	1859	Jan. 29, 1861	14,097	125	95 (i)
Kentucky.....	4	1792, 1799, 1850, 1891	Sept. 28, 1891	27,234	75	41
Louisiana.....	11	1812, 1845, 1852, 1861, 1864, 1868, 1879, 1898, 1913, 1921, 1974	Jan. 1, 1975	69,876	233	164
Maine.....	1	1819	March 15, 1820	16,313	204	171 (j)
Maryland.....	4	1776, 1851, 1864, 1867	Oct. 5, 1867	43,198	261	225 (k)
Massachusetts.....	1	1780	Oct. 25, 1780	45,283 (l)	148	120
Michigan.....	4	1835, 1850, 1908, 1963	Jan. 1, 1964	31,010	68	30
Minnesota.....	1	1857	May 11, 1858	11,734	215	120
Mississippi.....	4	1817, 1832, 1869, 1890	Nov. 1, 1890	26,229	158	123
Missouri.....	4	1820, 1865, 1875, 1945	March 30, 1945	69,394	175	114
Montana.....	2	1889, 1972	July 1, 1973	12,790	56	31
Nebraska.....	2	1866, 1875	Oct. 12, 1875	34,934	350 (m)	228 (m)
Nevada.....	1	1864	Oct. 31, 1864	37,418	232	136 (i)
New Hampshire.....	2	1776, 1784	June 2, 1784	13,060	287 (n)	145
New Jersey.....	3	1776, 1844, 1947	Jan. 1, 1948	26,360	79	44
New Mexico.....	1	1911	Jan. 6, 1912	33,198	293 (y)	160 (y)
New York.....	4	1777, 1822, 1846, 1894	Jan. 1, 1895	44,397	295	220
North Carolina.....	3	1776, 1868, 1970	July 1, 1971	17,177	43	35
North Dakota.....	1	1889	Nov. 2, 1889	18,746	265	150 (o)
Ohio.....	2	1802, 1851	Sept. 1, 1851	52,995	284	171
Oklahoma.....	1	1907	Nov. 16, 1907	81,666	354 (p)	187 (p)
Oregon.....	1	1857	Feb. 14, 1859	49,016	490 (q)	249 (q)
Pennsylvania.....	5	1776, 1790, 1838, 1873, 1968 (r)	1968 (r)	26,078	36 (r)	30 (r)
Rhode Island.....	3	1842 (f), 1986 (s)	Dec. 4, 1986	11,407	12 (s)	10 (s)
South Carolina.....	7	1776, 1778, 1790, 1861, 1865, 1868, 1895	Jan. 1, 1896	27,421	686 (t)	497 (t)
South Dakota.....	1	1889	Nov. 2, 1889	27,774	229	215
Tennessee.....	3	1796, 1835, 1870	Feb. 23, 1870	13,960	62	39
Texas.....	5 (u)	1845, 1861, 1866, 1869, 1876	Feb. 15, 1876	86,936	642 (v)	467
Utah.....	1	1895	Jan. 4, 1896	17,849	167	115
Vermont.....	3	1777, 1786, 1793	July 9, 1793	8,565	212	54
Virginia.....	6	1776, 1830, 1851, 1869, 1902, 1970	July 1, 1971	21,899	54	46
Washington.....	1	1889	Nov. 11, 1889	32,578	176	103
West Virginia.....	2	1863, 1872	April 9, 1872	33,324	121	71
Wisconsin.....	1	1848	May 29, 1848	15,102	194	145 (i)
Wyoming.....	1	1889	July 10, 1890	26,349	125	98
American Samoa.....	2	1960, 1967	July 1, 1967	6,000	15	7
No. Mariana Islands....	1	1977	Jan. 9, 1978	11,000	60	56 (w)(x)
Puerto Rico.....	1	1952	July 25, 1952	9,281	6	6

See footnotes at end of table.

GENERAL INFORMATION ON STATE CONSTITUTIONS—Continued
(As of January 1, 2011)

Source: John Dinan and The Council of State Governments, February 2011, with research assistance from Bradley Harper.

*The constitutions referred to in this table include those Civil War documents customarily listed by the individual states.

Key:

(a) The Alabama constitution includes numerous local amendments that apply to only one county. An estimated 70 percent of all amendments are local. A 1982 amendment provides that after proposal by the legislature to which special procedures apply, only a local vote (with exceptions) is necessary to add them to the constitution.

(b) An estimate based on prior word counts and recent amendments.

(c) The total number of Alabama amendments includes one that is commonly overlooked.

(d) Eight of the approved amendments have been superseded and are not printed in the current edition of the constitution. The total adopted does not include five amendments proposed and adopted since statehood.

(e) Proposed amendments are not submitted to the voters in Delaware.

(f) Colonial charters with some alterations served as the first constitutions in Connecticut (1638, 1662) and in Rhode Island (1663).

(g) The Georgia constitution requires amendments to be of “general and uniform application throughout the state,” thus eliminating local amendments that accounted for most of the amendments before 1982.

(h) As a kingdom and republic, Hawaii had five constitutions.

(i) The figure includes amendments approved by the voters and later nullified by the state supreme court in Iowa (three), Kansas (one), Nevada (six) and Wisconsin (two).

(j) The figure does not include one amendment approved by the voters in 1967 that is inoperative until implemented by legislation.

(k) Two sets of identical amendments were on the ballot and adopted in the 1992 Maryland election. The four amendments are counted as two in the table.

(l) The printed constitution includes many provisions that have been annulled.

(m) The 1998 and 2000 Nebraska ballots allowed the voters to vote separately on “parts” of propositions. In 1998, 10 of 18 separate propositions were adopted; in 2000, 6 of 9.

(n) The constitution of 1784 was extensively revised in 1792. Figure shows proposals and adoptions since the constitution was adopted in 1784.

(o) The figures do not include submission and approval of the constitution of 1889 itself and of Article XX; these are constitutional questions included in some counts of constitutional amendments and would add two to the figure in each column.

(p) The figures include five amendments submitted to and approved by the voters which were, by decisions of the Oklahoma or U.S. Supreme Courts, rendered inoperative or ruled invalid, unconstitutional, or illegally submitted.

(q) One Oregon amendment on the 2000 ballot was not counted as approved because canvassing was enjoined by the courts.

(r) Certain sections of the constitution were revised by the limited convention of 1967–68. Amendments proposed and adopted are since 1968.

(s) Following approval of the eight amendments and a “rewrite” of the Rhode Island Constitution in 1986, the constitution has been called the 1986 Constitution. Amendments since 1986 total twelve proposed and ten adopted. Otherwise, the total is 110 proposals and 62 adopted.

(t) In 1981 approximately two-thirds of 626 proposed and four-fifths of the adopted amendments were local. Since then the amendments have been statewide propositions.

(u) The Constitution of the Republic of Texas preceded five state constitutions.

(v) The number of proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution excludes three proposed by the legislature but not placed on the ballot.

(w) By 1992, 49 amendments had been proposed and 47 adopted. Since then, one was proposed but rejected in 1994, all three proposals were ratified in 1996 and in 1998, of two proposals one was adopted.

(x) The total excludes one amendment ruled void by a federal district court.

(y) The total excludes one amendment approved by voters in November 2008 but later declared invalid on single subject grounds by the state supreme court.