

## Chapter One

# STATE CONSTITUTIONS

*The framework for state governments — includes information on the constitutions, amendment procedures, and constitutional commissions.*



**Table 1.1**  
**GENERAL INFORMATION ON STATE CONSTITUTIONS**  
**(As of January 1, 1996)**

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	220,000 (a)	818 (a)	582 (a)
Alaska .....	1	1956	Jan. 3, 1959	15,988 (b)	34	25
Arizona .....	1	1911	Feb. 14, 1912	28,876	218 (c)	119 (c)
Arkansas .....	5	1836, 1861, 1864, 1868, 1874	Oct. 30, 1874	40,720	171	81 (d)
California .....	2	1849, 1879	July 4, 1879	54,645	823	491
Colorado .....	1	1876	Aug. 1, 1876	45,679	265	128
Connecticut .....	4	1818 (e), 1965	Dec. 30, 1965	9,564	29	28
Delaware .....	4	1776, 1792, 1831, 1897	June 10, 1897	19,000	(f)	127
Florida .....	6	1839, 1861, 1865, 1868, 1886, 1968	Jan. 7, 1969	25,100	97	69
Georgia .....	10	1777, 1789, 1798, 1861, 1865, 1868, 1877, 1945, 1976, 1982	July 1, 1983	25,000	58 (g)	44 (g)
Hawaii .....	1 (h)	1950	Aug. 21, 1959	20,774 (b)	110	86 (i)
Idaho .....	1	1889	July 3, 1890	23,239 (b)	194	114
Illinois .....	4	1818, 1848, 1870, 1970	July 1, 1971	13,700	16	10
Indiana .....	2	1816, 1851	Nov. 1, 1851	10,230 (b)	70	38
Iowa .....	2	1846, 1857	Sept. 3, 1857	13,430 (b)	52	49 (j)
Kansas .....	1	1859	Jan. 29, 1861	11,900	119	91 (j)
Kentucky .....	4	1792, 1799, 1850, 1891	Sept. 28, 1891	27,234 (b)	66	33
Louisiana .....	11	1812, 1845, 1852, 1861, 1864, 1868, 1879, 1898, 1913, 1921, 1974	Jan. 1, 1975	54,112 (b)	112	72
Maine .....	1	1819	March 15, 1820	13,500	194	164 (k)
Maryland .....	4	1776, 1851, 1864, 1867	Oct. 5, 1867	41,349	241	207 (l)
Massachusetts .....	1	1780	Oct. 25, 1780	36,700 (m)	145	117
Michigan .....	4	1835, 1850, 1908, 1963	Jan. 1, 1964	25,246 (b)	54	20
Minnesota .....	1	1857	May 11, 1858	23,700	208	113
Mississippi .....	4	1817, 1832, 1869, 1890	Nov. 1, 1890	23,508	152	119
Missouri .....	4	1820, 1865, 1875, 1945	March 30, 1945	42,000	139	86
Montana .....	2	1889, 1972	July 1, 1973	11,866	38	21
Nebraska .....	2	1866, 1875	Oct. 12, 1875	20,048	294	198
Nevada .....	1	1864	Oct. 31, 1864	20,770	189	115 (j)
New Hampshire .....	2	1776, 1784	June 2, 1784	9,200	280 (n)	143 (n)
New Jersey .....	3	1776, 1844, 1947	Jan. 1, 1948	17,800	60	47
New Mexico .....	1	1911	Jan. 6, 1912	27,200	252	127
New York .....	4	1777, 1822, 1846, 1894	Jan. 1, 1895	51,700	284	215
North Carolina .....	3	1776, 1868, 1970	July 1, 1971	11,000	35	27
North Dakota .....	1	1889	Nov. 2, 1889	20,564	238 (o)	132 (o)
Ohio .....	2	1802, 1851	Sept. 1, 1851	36,900	259	157
Oklahoma .....	1	1907	Nov. 16, 1907	68,800	300 (p)	151 (p)
Oregon .....	1	1857	Feb. 14, 1859	26,090	397	201
Pennsylvania .....	5	1776, 1790, 1838, 1873, 1968 (n)	1968 (n)	21,675	27 (q)	21 (q)
Rhode Island .....	2	1842 (e)	May 2, 1843	19,026 (m)	105	59
South Carolina .....	7	1776, 1778, 1790, 1861, 1865, 1868, 1895	Jan. 1, 1896	22,500	650 (n)	465 (r)
South Dakota .....	1	1889	Nov. 2, 1889	25,000	196	101
Tennessee .....	3	1796, 1835, 1870	Feb. 23, 1870	15,300	55	32
Texas .....	5 (s)	1845, 1861, 1866, 1869, 1876	Feb. 15, 1876	80,806 (b)	532 (t)	364
Utah .....	1	1895	Jan. 4, 1896	11,000	134	84
Vermont .....	3	1777, 1786, 1793	July 9, 1793	6,880	210	52
Virginia .....	6	1776, 1830, 1851, 1869, 1902, 1970	July 1, 1971	18,500	31	26
Washington .....	1	1889	Nov. 11, 1889	29,400	159	89
West Virginia .....	2	1863, 1872	April 9, 1872	26,000	113	66
Wisconsin .....	1	1848	May 29, 1848	15,531 (b)	177	129 (j)
Wyoming .....	1	1889	July 10, 1890	31,800	104	62
American Samoa .....	2	1960, 1967	July 1, 1967	6,000	14	7
No. Mariana Islands .....	1	1977	Jan. 9, 1978	11,000	50	47 (u,v)
Puerto Rico .....	1	1952	July 25, 1952	9,281	6	6

See footnotes at end of table.

## CONSTITUTIONS

### GENERAL INFORMATION ON STATE CONSTITUTIONS — Continued

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

(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 amendments to the constitution.

(b) Computer word count.

(c) One of four proposals was adopted in 1994-95. The total number of proposals and adoptions has been reduced by one each to conform to authoritative counts of all amendments proposed and adopted since statehood.

(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 that were proposed and adopted since statehood.

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

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

(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 a republic, Hawaii had five constitutions.

(i) Seven amendments approved by voters in 1994 are not counted because final certification has been delayed by litigation.

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

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

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

(m) The printed constitution includes many provisions that have been annulled. The length of effective provisions is an estimated 24,122 words (12,400 annulled) in Massachusetts. In Rhode Island before the "rewrite" of the constitution in 1986, it was 11,399 words long (7,627 annulled).

(n) The constitution of 1784 was extensively revised in 1792. Figures show 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) Certain sections of the constitution were revised by the limited constitutional convention of 1967-68. Amendments proposed and adopted are since 1968.

(r) In 1981 approximately two-thirds of the 626 proposed and four-fifths of the adopted amendments were local. Since then the 24 proposed and 12 adopted amendments have been statewide propositions.

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

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

(u) The 47 amendments were adopted in 1985. One amendment was proposed in 1994, but was rejected.

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

**Table 1.2**  
**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROCEDURE: BY THE LEGISLATURE**  
**Constitutional Provisions**

<i>State or other jurisdiction</i>	<i>Legislative vote required for proposal (a)</i>	<i>Consideration by two sessions required</i>	<i>Vote required for ratification</i>	<i>Limitation on the number of amendments submitted at one election</i>
Alabama .....	3/5	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Alaska .....	2/3	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Arizona .....	Majority	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Arkansas .....	Majority	No	Majority vote on amendment	3
California .....	2/3	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Colorado .....	2/3	No	Majority vote on amendment	None (b)
Connecticut .....	(c)	(c)	Majority vote on amendment	None
Delaware .....	2/3	Yes	Not required	No referendum
Florida .....	3/5	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Georgia .....	2/3	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Hawaii .....	(d)	(d)	Majority vote on amendment (e)	None
Idaho .....	2/3	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Illinois .....	3/5	No	(f)	3 articles
Indiana .....	Majority	Yes	Majority vote on amendment	None
Iowa .....	Majority	Yes	Majority vote on amendment	None
Kansas .....	2/3	No	Majority vote on amendment	5
Kentucky .....	3/5	No	Majority vote on amendment	4
Louisiana .....	2/3	No	Majority vote on amendment (g)	None
Maine .....	2/3 (h)	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Maryland .....	3/5	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Massachusetts .....	Majority (i)	Yes	Majority vote on amendment	None
Michigan .....	2/3	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Minnesota .....	Majority	No	Majority vote in election	None
Mississippi .....	2/3 (j)	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Missouri .....	Majority	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Montana .....	2/3 (h)	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Nebraska .....	3/5	No	Majority vote on amendment (e)	None
Nevada .....	Majority	Yes	Majority vote on amendment	None
New Hampshire .....	3/5	No	2/3 vote on amendment	None
New Jersey .....	(k)	(k)	Majority vote on amendment	None (l)
New Mexico .....	Majority (m)	No	Majority vote on amendment (m)	None
New York .....	Majority	Yes	Majority vote on amendment	None
North Carolina .....	3/5	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
North Dakota .....	Majority	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Ohio .....	3/5	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Oklahoma .....	Majority	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Oregon .....	(n)	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Pennsylvania .....	Majority (o)	Yes (o)	Majority vote on amendment	None
Rhode Island .....	Majority	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
South Carolina .....	2/3 (p)	Yes (p)	Majority vote on amendment	None
South Dakota .....	Majority	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Tennessee .....	(q)	Yes (q)	Majority vote in election (r)	None
Texas .....	2/3	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Utah .....	2/3	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Vermont .....	(s)	Yes	Majority vote on amendment	None
Virginia .....	Majority	Yes	Majority vote on amendment	None
Washington .....	2/3	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
West Virginia .....	2/3	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Wisconsin .....	Majority	Yes	Majority vote on amendment	None
Wyoming .....	2/3	No	Majority vote in election	None
American Samoa .....	2/3	No	Majority vote on amendment (t)	None
No. Mariana Islands .....	3/4	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Puerto Rico .....	2/3 (u)	No	Majority vote on amendment	3

See footnotes at end of table.

## CONSTITUTIONS

### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROCEDURE: BY THE LEGISLATURE — Continued

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- (a) In all states not otherwise noted, the figure shown in the column refers to the proportion of elected members in each house required for approval of proposed constitutional amendments.
- (b) Legislature may not propose amendments to more than six articles of the constitution in the same legislative session.
- (c) Three-fourths vote in each house at one session, or majority vote in each house in two sessions between which an election has intervened.
- (d) Two-thirds vote in each house at one session, or majority vote in each house in two sessions.
- (e) Majority vote on amendment must be at least 50 percent of the total votes cast at the election (at least 35 percent in Nebraska); or, at a special election, a majority of the votes tallied which must be at least 30 percent of the total number of registered voters.
- (f) Majority voting in election or three-fifths voting on amendment.
- (g) If five or fewer political subdivisions of the state are affected, majority in state as a whole and also in affected subdivision(s) is required.
- (h) Two-thirds of both houses.
- (i) Majority of members elected sitting in joint session.
- (j) The two-thirds must include not less than a majority elected to each house.
- (k) Three-fifths of all members of each house at one session, or majority of all members of each house for two successive sessions.
- (l) If a proposed amendment is not approved at the election when submitted, neither the same amendment nor one which would make substantially the same change for the constitution may be again submitted to the people before the third general election thereafter.
- (m) Amendments concerning certain elective franchise and education matters require three-fourths vote of members elected and approval by three-fourths of electors voting in state and two-thirds of those voting in each county.
- (n) Majority vote to amend constitution, two-thirds to revise ("revise" includes all or a part of the constitution).
- (o) Emergency amendments may be passed by two-thirds vote of each house, followed by ratification by majority vote of electors in election held at least one month after legislative approval.
- (p) Two-thirds of members of each house, first passage; majority of members of each house after popular ratification.
- (q) Majority of members elected to both houses, first passage; two-thirds of members elected to both houses, second passage.
- (r) Majority of all citizens voting for governor.
- (s) Two-thirds vote senate, majority vote house, first passage; majority both houses, second passage. As of 1974, amendments may be submitted only every four years.
- (t) Within 30 days after voter approval, governor must submit amendment(s) to U.S. Secretary of the Interior for approval.
- (u) If approved by two-thirds of members of each house, amendment(s) submitted to voters at special referendum; if approved by not less than three-fourths of total members of each house, referendum may be held at next general election.

**Table 1.3**  
**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROCEDURE: BY INITIATIVE**  
**Constitutional Provisions**

<i>State or other jurisdiction</i>	<i>Number of signatures required on initiative petition</i>	<i>Distribution of signatures</i>	<i>Referendum vote</i>
<b>Arizona</b> .....	15% of total votes cast for all candidates for governor at last election.	None specified.	Majority vote on amendment.
<b>Arkansas</b> .....	10% of voters for governor at last election.	Must include 5% of voters for governor in each of 15 counties.	Majority vote on amendment.
<b>California</b> .....	8% of total voters for all candidates for governor at last election.	None specified.	Majority vote on amendment.
<b>Colorado</b> .....	5% of total legal votes for all candidates for secretary of state at last general election.	None specified.	Majority vote on amendment.
<b>Florida</b> .....	8% of total votes cast in the state in the last election for presidential electors.	8% of total votes cast in each of 1/2 of the congressional districts.	Majority vote on amendment.
<b>Illinois (a)</b> .....	8% of total votes cast for candidates for governor at last election.	None specified.	Majority voting in election or 3/5 voting on amendment.
<b>Massachusetts (b)</b> .....	3% of total votes cast for governor at preceding biennial state election (not less than 25,000 qualified voters).	No more than 1/4 from any one county.	Majority vote on amendment which must be 30% of total ballots cast at election.
<b>Michigan</b> .....	10% of total voters for all candidates at last gubernatorial election.	None specified.	Majority vote on amendment.
<b>Mississippi</b> .....	12% of total votes for all candidates for governor in last election.	No more than 20% from any one congressional district.	Majority vote on amendment and not less than 40% of total vote cast at election.
<b>Missouri</b> .....	8% of legal voters for all candidates for governor at last election.	The 8% must be in each of 2/3 of the congressional districts in the state.	Majority vote on amendment.
<b>Montana</b> .....	10% of qualified electors, the number of qualified electors to be determined by number of votes cast for governor in preceding general election.	The 10% to include at least 10% of qualified electors in each of 2/5 of the legislative districts.	Majority vote on amendment.
<b>Nebraska</b> .....	10% of total votes for governor at last election.	The 10% must include 5% in each of 2/5 of the counties.	Majority vote on amendment which must be at least 35% of total vote at the election.
<b>Nevada</b> .....	10% of voters who voted in entire state in last general election.	10% of total voters who voted in each of 75% of the counties.	Majority vote on amendment in two consecutive general elections.
<b>North Dakota</b> .....	4% of population of the state.	None specified.	Majority vote on amendment.
<b>Ohio</b> .....	10% of total number of electors who voted for governor in last election.	At least 5% of qualified electors in each of 1/2 of counties in the state.	Majority vote on amendment.
<b>Oklahoma</b> .....	15% of legal voters for state office receiving highest number of voters at last general state election.	None specified.	Majority vote on amendment.
<b>Oregon</b> .....	8% of total votes for all candidates for governor at last election at which governor was elected for four-year term.	None specified.	Majority vote on amendment.
<b>South Dakota</b> .....	10% of total votes for governor in last election.	None specified.	Majority vote on amendment.
<b>No. Mariana Islands</b> .....	50% of qualified voters of commonwealth.	In addition, 25% of qualified voters in each senatorial district.	Majority vote on amendment if legislature approved it by majority vote; if not, at least 2/3 vote in each of two senatorial districts in addition to a majority vote.

(a) Only Article IV, the Legislature, may be amended by initiative petition. (b) Before being submitted to the electorate for ratification, initiative measures must be approved at two sessions of a successively elected legislature by not less than one-fourth of all members elected, sitting in joint session.

CONSTITUTIONS

**Table 1.4**  
**PROCEDURES FOR CALLING CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS**  
**Constitutional Provisions**

<i>State or other jurisdiction</i>	<i>Provision for convention</i>	<i>Legislative vote for submission of convention question (a)</i>	<i>Popular vote to authorize convention</i>	<i>Periodic submission of convention question required (b)</i>	<i>Popular vote required for ratification of convention proposals</i>
Alabama .....	Yes	Majority	ME	No	Not specified
Alaska .....	Yes	No provision (c,d)	(c)	10 years (c)	Not specified (c)
Arizona .....	Yes	Majority	(e)	No	MP
Arkansas .....	No	No			
California .....	Yes	2/3	MP	No	MP
Colorado .....	Yes	2/3	MP	No	ME
Connecticut .....	Yes	2/3	MP	20 years (f)	MP
Delaware .....	Yes	2/3	MP	No	No provision
Florida .....	Yes	(g)	MP	No	Not specified
Georgia .....	Yes	(d)	No	No	MP
Hawaii .....	Yes	Not specified	MP	9 years	MP (h)
Idaho .....	Yes	2/3	MP	No	Not specified
Illinois .....	Yes	3/5	(i)	20 years; 1988	MP
Indiana .....	No	No			
Iowa .....	Yes	Majority	MP	10 years; 1970	MP
Kansas .....	Yes	2/3	MP	No	MP
Kentucky .....	Yes	Majority (j)	MP (k)	No	No provision
Louisiana .....	Yes	(d)	No	No	MP
Maine .....	Yes	(d)	No	No	No provision
Maryland .....	Yes	Majority	ME	20 years; 1970	MP
Massachusetts .....	No		No	Not specified	
Michigan .....	Yes	Majority	MP	16 years; 1978	MP
Minnesota .....	Yes	2/3	ME	No	3/5 voting on proposal
Mississippi .....	No	No			
Missouri .....	Yes	Majority	MP	20 years; 1962	Not specified (l)
Montana .....	Yes (m)	2/3 (n)	MP	20 years	MP
Nebraska .....	Yes	3/5	MP (o)	No	MP
Nevada .....	Yes	2/3	ME	No	No provision
New Hampshire .....	Yes	Majority	MP	10 years	2/3 voting on proposal
New Jersey .....	No	No			
New Mexico .....	Yes	2/3	MP	No	Not specified
New York .....	Yes	Majority	MP	20 years; 1957	MP
North Carolina .....	Yes	2/3	MP	No	MP
North Dakota .....	No	No			
Ohio .....	Yes	2/3	MP	20 years; 1932	MP
Oklahoma .....	Yes	Majority	(e)	20 years	MP
Oregon .....	Yes	Majority	(e)	No	No provision
Pennsylvania .....	No	No			
Rhode Island .....	Yes	Majority	MP	10 years	MP
South Carolina .....	Yes	(d)	ME	No	No provision
South Dakota .....	Yes	(d)	(d)	No	(p)
Tennessee .....	Yes (q)	Majority	MP	No	MP
Texas .....	No	No			
Utah .....	Yes	2/3	ME	No	MP
Vermont .....	No	No			
Virginia .....	Yes	(d)	No	No	MP
Washington .....	Yes	2/3	ME	No	Not specified
West Virginia .....	Yes	Majority	MP	No	Not specified
Wisconsin .....	Yes	Majority	MP	No	No provision
Wyoming .....	Yes	2/3	ME	No	Not specified
American Samoa .....	Yes	(r)	No	No	ME (s)
No. Mariana Islands .....	Yes	Majority (t)	2/3	No (u)	MP and at least 2/3 in each of 2 senatorial districts
Puerto Rico .....	Yes	2/3	MP	No	MP

**PROCEDURES FOR CALLING CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS — Continued**

*Key:*

MP — Majority voting on the proposal.

ME — Majority voting in the election.

(a) In all states not otherwise noted, the entries in this column refer to the proportion of members elected to each house required to submit to the electorate the question of calling a constitutional convention.

(b) The number listed is the interval between required submissions on the question of calling a constitutional convention; where given, the date is that of the first required submission of the convention question.

(c) Unless provided otherwise by law, convention calls are to conform as nearly as possible to the act calling the 1955 convention, which provided for a legislative vote of a majority of members elected to each house and ratification by a majority vote on the proposals. The legislature may call a constitutional convention at any time.

(d) In these states, the legislature may call a convention without submitting the question to the people. The legislative vote required is two-thirds of the members elected to each house in Georgia, Louisiana, South Carolina and Virginia; two-thirds concurrent vote of both branches in Maine; three-fourths of all members of each house in South Dakota; and not specified in Alaska, but bills require majority vote of membership of each house. In South Dakota, the question of calling a convention may be initiated by the people in the same manner as an amendment to the constitution (see Table 1.3) and requires a majority vote on the question for approval.

(e) The law calling a convention must be approved by the people.

(f) The legislature shall submit the question 20 years after the last convention, or 20 years after the last vote on the question of calling a convention, whichever date is last.

(g) The power to call a convention is reserved to the people by petition.

(h) The majority must be 50 percent of the total votes cast at a general election or at a special election, a majority of the votes tallied which must be at least 30 percent of the total number of registered voters.

(i) Majority voting in the election, or three-fifths voting on the question.

(j) Must be approved during two legislative sessions.

(k) Majority must equal one-fourth of qualified voters at last general election.

(l) Majority of those voting on the proposal is assumed.

(m) The question of calling a constitutional convention may be submitted either by the legislature or by initiative petition to the secretary of state in the same manner as provided for initiated amendments (see Table 1.3).

(n) Two-thirds of all members of the legislature.

(o) Majority must be 35 percent of total votes cast at the election.

(p) Convention proposals are submitted to the electorate at a special election in a manner to be determined by the convention. Ratification by a majority of votes cast.

(q) Conventions may not be held more often than once in six years.

(r) Five years after effective date of constitutions, governor shall call a constitutional convention to consider changes proposed by a constitutional committee appointed by the governor. Delegates to the convention are to be elected by their county councils. A convention was held in 1972.

(s) If proposed amendments are approved by the voters, they must be submitted to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior for approval.

(t) The initiative may also be used to place a referendum convention call on the ballot. The petition must be signed by 25 percent of the qualified voters or at least 75 percent in a senatorial district.

(u) The legislature was required to submit the referendum no later than seven years after the effective date of the constitution. The convention was held in 1985; 45 amendments were submitted to the voters.



**Table 1.5**  
**STATE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSIONS**  
**(Operative during January 1, 1994 to January 1, 1996)**

<i>State</i>	<i>Name of commission</i>	<i>Method and date of creation and period of operation</i>	<i>Membership: number and type</i>	<i>Funding</i>	<i>Purpose of commission</i>	<i>Proposals and action</i>
<b>Alaska</b> .....	Constitutional Revision Task Force	Legislative: House Resolution 5 (18th Leg. 1st Sess.), 1993 - Jan. 1995.	5: speaker of the House appointed three representatives and two public members and named chair.	From regular appropriations for legislature.	To study alternatives to current methods of revising the constitution and submit recommendations.	Five formal meetings: Sept. 9 - March 24. Teleconferences and other outreach methods to acquire information. Public testimony encouraged. Final report on April 1, 1994. Recommendation for a permanent seven-member statutory advisory commission on the constitution to study and submit recommendations to the legislature; recommend rule changes to create Joint Committee on the Constitution and to require a vote on advisory commission's recommendations for amendments. No legislative action taken on recommendations in 1994-95.
<b>Arkansas</b> .....	Governor's Task Force for a New Constitution	Executive Order: May 1, 1995. May 1 - January 19, 1996.	31: governor appointed 24 attorneys, four experts on English and editing, retired Chief Justice of the state Supreme Court, governor's chief legal counsel, and chair.	\$100,000 legislative appropriation; one staff member from governor's office assigned full-time to serve Task Force.	To prepare for a convention by submission of a working draft of a proposed constitution, by making arrangements for convention at the state capitol, and to assist the convention when held in 1996.	Prepared a working draft of a proposed constitution given to governor in July. Commission chair testified before joint interim legislative committee hearings on constitutional proposals in July - September. Other activities handled by legislature, Legislative Council and governor's office rather than Task Force. Defeat of the referendum on a convention call December 12, 1995 ended Task Force convention plans.
<b>California</b> .....	California Constitutional Revision Commission	Statutory: Ch. 1243, <i>Laws of California</i> , 1993. April 1994 - July 1, 1996. Act expires Jan. 1997.	23: three ex officio, 20 appointed, 10 appointed by the governor who also named chair; five by speaker of the House; five by the Senate Rules Committee; bipartisan appointments required. Ex officio - Chief Justice Legislative Analyst, Director of Finance.	Total legislative appropriations: \$1,148,000 (1993-94 \$200,000; 1994-95 \$474,000; 1995-96 \$474,000).	To study and make recommendations on budget process (including intergovernmental fiscal relations); state governmental structure; state and local governmental duties, responsibilities and relationships; and community resources and delivery systems. No lobbyist eligible. No more than one legislator appointed by each of the appointing authorities. Membership to reflect state diversity (ethnic, racial, cultural, geographic, gender).	Numerous commission meetings and workshops to study and develop recommendations for constitutional revision. Many opportunities for public involvement and access to information. Monthly newsletter ("CCRC News"). Home Page on Internet. 25 public forums co-sponsored by League of Women Voters (April - May 1995). Preliminary recommendations published and submitted to governor and legislature September 1995. Four video tele-conferences with aid of League of Women Voters and Pacific Bell and four public hearings on the preliminary report (October-December 1995). Final recommendations to the governor and legislature due in March 1996 to be followed by an explanatory report.

**STATE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSIONS — Continued**

<i>State</i>	<i>Name of commission</i>	<i>Method and date of creation and period of operation</i>	<i>Membership: number and type</i>	<i>Funding</i>	<i>Purpose of commission</i>	<i>Proposals and action</i>
<b>New York</b> .....	Temporary State Commission on Constitutional Revision	Executive: Executive Order 172. May 26, 1993 - at least May 15, 1995.	18: appointed by governor who named chair. Member non-partisan and diverse, representative of state's areas, interests, and occupations.	Funding and staff through Rockefeller Institute of Government of the State of New York.	To prepare for referendum on convention call in 1997 (or earlier call); to evaluate New York convention processes and make recommendations; to develop broad agenda on state constitutional issues and concerns; to determine New Yorker views on constitutional change; to inform New Yorkers about the state constitution.	Regular monthly meetings began Fall 1993. Three major reports published: "Delegate Selection Process," first interim report Mar. 17, 1994; "The New York State Constitution: Briefing Book;" and "Effective Government Now for the New Century," final report February 1995. Efforts to involve and inform public included six public meetings across state and production of numerous materials including newsletters, a video program, a game/map on state government, talk shows, high school curriculum on state constitution. Copies of materials available On-line through the New York State Library gopher.
<b>Utah</b> .....	Utah Constitutional Revision Commission	Statutory: Ch. 89, <i>Laws of Utah</i> , 1969; amended by Ch. 107, <i>Laws 1977</i> , which made the commission permanent as of July 1, 1977. (Codified at Ch. 54, Title 63, <i>Utah Code Annotated</i> , 1953.)	16: one ex officio, nine appointed - by the speaker of the House (3), president of Senate (3), and governor (3) no more than two of each group to be from same party; and six additional members appointed by the nine previously appointed members.	Appropriations through 1995 totaled \$1,023,000. In recent years, including 1994 and 1995, the annual appropriation has been \$55,000.	Study constitution and recommend desirable changes, including proposed drafts.	Mandated to report recommendations at least 60 days before legislature convenes. Voter action on commission recommendations referred by legislature through 1993 include: approval of revised articles on legislature, elections and rights of suffrage, revenue and taxation, executive, judicial, education, and corporations. In 1994 the voters approved rights of crime victims amendments. In 1994 the commission studied four subjects and in 1995, nine (some overlapping with 1994), including Utah exclusionary rule, jury size, attorney general, and a new look at the revenue and taxation article after the legislature rejected commission recommendations in 1994.

*Note:* There were no state constitutional conventions in 1994-95.

**Table 1.6**  
**STATE CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES BY METHOD OF INITIATION: 1988-89, 1990-91, 1992-93 and 1994-95**

Method of installation	Number of states involved				Total proposals				Total adopted				Percentage adopted			
	1988-89	1990-91	1992-93	1994-95	1988-89	1990-91	1992-93	1994-95	1988-89	1990-91	1992-93	1994-95	1988-89	1990-91	1992-93	1994-95
All methods .....	45	41	43	43	267	226	239	233	199	145	160	161‡	74.0*	63.3*	66.1*	69.7*‡
Legislative proposal .....	45	41	42	41	246	197	201	202	188	134	137	151‡	75.6*	67.0*	67.1*	75.7*‡
Constitutional initiative .....	11	10	13	13	21	29	34	31	11	11	21	10	55.0	37.9	61.7	32.2
Constitutional convention .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	0	...	...	...	0	...
Constitutional commission .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	66.6	...

*Key:*

\* — In calculating these percentages, the amendments adopted in Delaware (where proposals are not submitted to the voters) are excluded.

‡ — Excludes 1994 Hawaii propositions from percentage adopted.

... — Not applicable

**Table 1.7**  
**SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES IN STATE CONSTITUTIONS: PROPOSED AND ADOPTED 1988-89, 1990-91, 1992-93 AND 1994-95**

Subject matter	Total proposed				Total adopted				Percentage adopted			
	1988-89	1990-91	1992-93	1994-95	1988-89	1990-91	1992-93	1994-95	1988-89	1990-91	1992-93	1994-95
Proposals of statewide applicability .....	228*	195*	211*	199*	164†	121†	139†	134†	71.6*	61.5*	64.9*	67.3*
Bill of Rights .....	21	13	18	26	19	8	15	19	90.5	61.5	83.3	73.0
Suffrage & elections .....	12	3	8†	9	8	2	8	6	66.7	66.6	100.0	66.6
Legislative branch .....	44	45	42	30	33	28	31	23	75.0	62.2	73.8	76.6
Executive branch .....	22	9	15	16	14	8	13	12	63.6	88.8	86.6	75.0
Judicial branch .....	18	13	12†	22	14	7	9	15‡	77.8	53.8	75.0	72.2‡
Local government .....	14	7	10	9	10	3	6	7	71.4	42.8	60.0	77.7
Finance & taxation .....	54	58	54	49	33	36	29	29‡	62.9‡	62.0	53.7	61.7 ‡
State & local debt .....	6	4	4	5	5	3	2	2	83.3	75.0	50.0	40.0
State functions .....	22	29	25	17	17	18	9	9‡	77.3	62.0	36.0	46.6‡
Amendment & revision .....	5	0	2	6	2	0	1	4	40.0	0.0	50.0	66.6
General revision proposals .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous proposals .....	12	15	23	10	9	9	16	8	75.0	60.0	69.5	80.0
Local amendments .....	39	31	28	34	35	24	21	27	89.7	74.1*	75.7	79.4

*Key:*

\* — Excludes Delaware where proposals are not submitted to voters.

† — Includes Delaware.

‡ — Excludes Hawaii propositions approved by voters in 1994 but not finally certified pending litigation outcome.

**Table 1.8**  
**STATE CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES BY CONSTITUTIONAL INITIATIVE**

<i>State</i>	<i>Number of proposals</i>	<i>Number of adoptions</i>	<i>Percentage adopted</i>
Arizona .....	1	0	0.0
Arkansas .....	0	0	0.0
California .....	1	0	0.0
Colorado .....	8	1	12.5
Florida .....	2	1	50.0
Illinois .....	0	0	0.0
Massachusetts .....	1	0	0.0
Michigan .....	0	0	0.0
Mississippi .....	1	0	0.0
Missouri .....	2	1	50.0
Montana .....	2	0	0.0
Nebraska .....	1	1	100.0
Nevada .....	(4)*	(4)*	0.0
North Dakota .....	0	0	0.0
Ohio .....	1	1	100.0
Oklahoma .....	1	1	100.0
Oregon .....	10	4	40.0
South Dakota .....	0	0	0.0
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>32.2</b>

\* Nevada voters approved four constitutional initiatives in 1994 in the first of two required elections for adoption. The final outcome will be determined at the general election in November 1996.

