

Preamble

We the People of British West Florida, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty and the British Crown to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and Publish this Constitution for the Dominion of British West Florida.

Article I

Section 1

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Parliament of British West Florida, which shall consist of a House of Lords and a House of Commons, and the Crown.

Section 2

The House of Commons shall be composed of Three Groups: The Baronies, the Civatas and the Members at Large.

The Baronies shall be Members chosen by the People of the several Baronies, and the Electors in each Barony shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the Baronial Counsel.

The Civatas shall be Members chosen by the People of the several Earldoms, Vicounties, and the March of Mobile (the Titled Domains); and the Electors of each shall have the the Qualifications requisite for the Lord's Counsel.

The Members at Large shall be chosen, in the order of the ballots cast till a total of thirty be reached by the People of the Duchy, and the Electors shall have as their sole qualifications: The first, Having reached twenty one years of age and been a Citizen for not less than seven years. And the Second, Having had no conviction of Treason, Murder, Adultery or other High Crime.

No Person shall be a Member of the House of Commons who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the Dominion of British West Florida, or a Subject of the Crown, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant.

When vacancies happen in the Representation from any Barony or Titled Domain, the Executive Authority (Baron, Viscount, or Earl) thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies. Vacancies in the Members at Large shall be filled by a writ of appointment by the Governor-General or the Crown.

The House of Commons shall choose their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment of the Members of the House of Commons.

Section 3

The House of Lords of British West Florida shall be composed of the Head and Governor of each Barony, Viscounty, Earldom, March, and Duchy, The Solicitor-General, the Lord Marshall, and the Lords Spiritual. The Lords Spiritual shall consist of the Senior Bishop of the Anglican Faith in Florida, the Senior Bishop of the Catholic Faith in Florida, and the President of the Florida Baptist Convention; Other Lords Spiritual shall be appointed by the Governor-General or the Crown for each Christian Sect, Movement, or Denomination that has as its membership a total of one eighth or more of the population of the Dominion as a whole.

No person shall take his Seat as a Member of the House of Lords who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been nine Years a Citizen of the Dominion of British West Florida.

The Governor-General of the Dominion of British West Florida shall be President of the House of Lords.

The Lord Marshall Shall ensure Order in the House of Lords.

The Solicitor General Shall try all Cases brought before the Lords.

The House of Lords shall choose their other Officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the absence of the Governor-General.

The House of Lords shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments of Members of the House of Lords, and of the Governor-General. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the Governor-General is tried, the Ranking Lord excluding the Governor-General and his Kin by Blood or Oath shall preside: And no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Judgment in Cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from Office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of honor, Trust or Profit under the Dominion of British West Florida: but the Party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment and Punishment, according to Law.

Section 4

The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Members of the House of Commons shall be prescribed in each Barony by the Head and Governor thereof; but the Parliament may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations.

The Parliament shall assemble at least once in every Fifth Year, and such Meeting shall be on the first Tuesday in December, unless they shall by Law appoint a different Day.

Parliament shall assemble at such times and places as the Governor-General, or The Crown may require by Writ of Summons, and such place shall be within the Dominion of British West Florida.

Section 5

Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and

Qualifications of its own Members, and a Majority of each shall constitute a Quorum to do Business; but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the Attendance of absent Members, in such Manner, and under such Penalties as each House may provide.

Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly Behavior, and, with the Concurrence of seven-eighths, expel a Member. Such expulsion shall not preclude the sending of a proxy to the House of Lords, chosen by the Lord so expelled, nor shall it extend to the next selected member of the House of Commons.

Each House shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such Parts as may in their Judgment require Secrecy; and the Yeas and Nays of the Members of either House on any question shall, at the Desire of one twelfth of those Present, be entered on the Journal.

Section 6

The Lords and Commons shall receive no Compensation for their Services, other than the Honors to be ascertained by Law. They shall in all Cases, except Treason, Felony and Breach of the Peace, be privileged from Arrest during their Attendance at the Session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any Speech or Debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other Place.

Section 7

All bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Commons; but the House of Lords may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills.

Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Commons and the House of Lords, shall, before it become a Law, be presented to the Governor-general of the Dominion of British West Florida or The Crown; If he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his Objections to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the Objections at large on their Journal, and proceed to reconsider it.

Every Order, Resolution, or Vote to which the Concurrence of the House of Lords and House of Commons may be necessary (except on a question of Adjournment) shall be presented to the Governor-General of the Dominion of British West Florida; and before the Same shall take Effect, shall be approved by him, or The Crown.

Article II

Section 1

The Parliament shall have power To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several Baronies, and among the Titled Domains, and with the Indian Tribes;

To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;

To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the Dominion of West Florida;

To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court;

To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offenses against the Law of Nations;

To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Dominion, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the Dominion, reserving to the Baronies respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Parliament;

Section 2

The privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended.

No Bill of Attainder or ex post facto Law shall be passed.

No Tax or Duty shall be laid on Articles exported from any Barony.

No Preference shall be given by any Regulation of Commerce or Revenue to the Ports of one Barony over those of another: nor shall Vessels bound to, or from, one Barony, be obliged to enter, clear, or pay Duties in another.

No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time. The current account of the Treasury shall be maintained with a surplus, and indebtedness accursed by the Dominion.

Section 3

No Barony, nor Titled Domain shall enter into any Treaty, Alliance, or Confederation; grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal; make any Thing but gold and silver Coin a Tender in Payment of Debts; pass any Bill of Attainder, ex post facto Law, or Law impairing the Obligation of Contracts, or grant any Title of Nobility.

No Barony nor Titled Domain shall, without the Consent of the Parliament, lay any Imposts or Duties on Imports or Exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing it's inspection Laws: and the net Produce of all Duties and Imposts, laid by any Barony on Imports or Exports, shall be for the Use of the Treasury of the Dominion of British West Florida; and all such Laws shall be subject to the Revision and Controul of the Parliament

No Barony shall, without the Consent of Parliament, lay any duty of Tonnage, keep Troops, or Ships of War in time of Peace, enter into any Agreement or Compact with a foreign Power, or engage in War, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent Danger as will not admit of delay.

Article III

Section 1

The executive Power shall be vested in a Governor-General of the Dominion of British West Florida. He shall hold his Office during the Term of Good Conduct and the The Crown's Pleasure. Unless Convicted of Treason or Felony, or Dismissed by the Crown, he shall remain in Office for the term of his Natural Life. The Oath of Office for the Governor-General is determined by The Crown. In case of the removal of the Governor-General from office or of his death or resignation, the Duke of Florida, or if he be absent, the Marquis of Mobile shall become Acting Governor-General until it please The Crown to appoint another.

Section 2

The Duke of Florida shall be Commander of the Army, Navy, and Other Armed Forces of the Dominion, and of the Militia of the several Baronies, when called into the actual Service of the Dominion.

Section 3

The Governor-General may require the Opinion, in writing, of the principal Officer in each of the executive Departments, upon any subject relating to the Duties of their respective Offices, and he shall have power to Grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offenses against the Dominion, except in Cases of Impeachment.

He shall have Power, with the Advice of the House of Lords, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Lords and seven eighths of the Earls present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the House of Lords, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consul; He shall appoint all other Officers of the Dominion, whose Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by Law.

The Governor-General shall have power to fill up all Vacancies that may happen in the House of Lords, by granting Commissions which shall expire at the End of their next Session, or by re-creation of the Title.

Section 4

He may, on extraordinary Occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in Case of Disagreement between them, with Respect to the Time of Adjournment, he may adjourn them to such Time as he shall think proper; he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the Officers of the Dominion of British West Florida.

Article IV

Section 1

The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court: The House of Lords, and in such inferior Courts as the Parliament may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges of

the Courts, so established shall hold their Offices during good Behavior, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services a Compensation which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.

Section 2

The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the Dominion of British West Florida, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority; to all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls; to all Cases of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction; to Controversies to which the Dominion shall be a Party; to Controversies between two or more Baronies; between a Barony and Citizens of another Barony; between Citizens of different Titled Domains; and between a Barony, or the Citizens thereof, and foreign States, Citizens or Subjects.

In all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a Barony, or Titled Domain, shall be Party (Unless the parties are all within the Same Titled Domain), the supreme Court shall have original Jurisdiction. In all the other Cases before mentioned, the supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and to Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Parliament shall make.

Trial of all Crimes, except in Cases of Impeachment, shall be by Jury; and such Trial shall be held in the Barony where the said Crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any Barony, the Trial shall be at such Place or Places as the Parliament, or Lords of the Parties may by Law have directed.

Section 3

Treason against the Dominion of British West Florida, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court.

The Parliament shall have power to declare the Punishment of Treason, but no Attainder of Treason shall work Corruption of Blood, or Forfeiture except during the Life of the Person attainted.

Article V

Section 1

Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each Barony to the public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of every other Barony. And the Parliament may by general Laws prescribe the Manner in which such Acts, Records and Proceedings shall be proved, and the Effect thereof.

Section 2

The Citizens of each Barony shall be entitled to all Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the Dominion of British West Florida.

A Person charged in any State with Treason, Felony, or other Crime, who shall flee from Justice, and be found in another Locality, shall on

demand of the Head and Governor of the Barony from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the Locality having Jurisdiction of the Crime.

Section 3

The Parliament shall have power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the Dominion of British West Florida; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the Dominion, or of any particular Barony.

Section 4

The Dominion shall guarantee to every State in this Realm its Traditional Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Counsel, or of the Head and Governor (when the Counsel cannot be convened) against domestic Violence.

Article VI

The Parliament, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, and the Governor-General or The Crown so agree shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, which, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Counsels of seven eighths of the several Titled Domains, Provided that such amendment meets with the pleasure of The Sovereign at the time of approval.

Article VII

This Constitution, and the Laws of the Dominion of British West Florida which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every Barony and Titled Domain shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any Barony to the Contrary notwithstanding.

Bill of Rights

Article I

Parliament shall make no law to establish a State Religion, or prohibiting the free exercise of Religion; nor abridging the freedom of speech, nor of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Article II

The right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed, except for those persons found Guilty of Treason or other High and Violent Crime.

Article III

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.

Amendment IV

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Article V

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use.

Article VI

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the Barony and Titled Domain wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

Article VII

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed One Pound, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Article VIII

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Article IX

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people and The Crown.

Article X

The powers not delegated to the Dominion by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the Baronies, are reserved to the Baronies respectively, or to the people, or to the Crown.

Article XI

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the Dominion of British West Florida, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Article XII

All persons born or naturalized in the Dominion of British West Florida and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the Dominion and of the Barony and Titled Domain wherein they reside.

Article XIII

No Barony nor Titled Domain shall deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Article XIV

The right of citizens of the Dominion to vote for Members of Parliament shall not be denied or abridged by on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Article XV

The right of citizens of the Dominion of British West Florida to vote shall not be denied or abridged on account of sex.