
TWENTIETH AMENDMENT

TO THE

CONSTITUTION

AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION, 1933

HENRY L. STIMSON

February 6, 1933.

SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

To all to whom these presents shall come, greeting:

KNOW YE, That the Congress of the United States, at the first session, seventy-second Congress begun at the City of Washington on Monday, the seventh day of December, in the year one thousand nine hundred and thirty-one, passed a Joint Resolution in the words and figures as follows: to wit—

Twentieth Amend-
ment to the Constitu-
tion.
Preamble.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States fixing the commencement of the terms of President and Vice President and Members of Congress and fixing the time of the assembling of Congress.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following amendment to the Constitution be, and hereby is, proposed to the States, to become valid as a part of said Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of the several States as provided in the Constitution:

Amendment pro-
posed to the States.
Ante, p. 745.

"ARTICLE —

"SECTION 1. The terms of the President and Vice President shall end at noon on the 20th day of January, and the terms of Senators and Representatives at noon on the 3d day of January, of the years in which such terms would have ended if this article had not been ratified; and the terms of their successors shall then begin.

Terms of President,
Vice President, and
Congress.

"SEC. 2. The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall begin at noon on the 3d day of January, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

Sessions of Congress.
Date of convening.

"SEC. 3. If, at the time fixed for the beginning of the term of the President, the President elect shall have died, the Vice President elect shall become President. If a President shall not have been chosen before the time fixed for the beginning of his term, or if the President elect shall have failed to qualify, then the Vice President elect shall act as President until a President shall have qualified; and the Congress may by law provide for the case wherein neither a President elect nor a Vice President elect shall have qualified, declaring who shall then act as President, or the manner in which one who is to act shall be selected, and such person shall act accordingly until a President or Vice President shall have qualified.

Succession if Presi-
dent elect dies before
term begins.
Acting President if
President elect fails to
qualify.

"SEC. 4. The Congress may by law provide for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the House of Representatives may choose a President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them, and for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the Senate may choose a Vice President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them.

Power of Congress to
provide for succession.

Effective date of sections 1 and 2.

Inoperative, if not ratified in seven years.

States ratifying proposed Amendment.

Declaration.

Certificate of adoption as part of the Constitution.
U. S. C., p. 37.

"SEC. 5. Sections 1 and 2 shall take effect on the 15th day of October following the ratification of this article.

"SEC. 6. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission."

And, further, that it appears from official documents on file in the Department of State that the Amendment to the Constitution of the United States proposed as aforesaid has been ratified by the Legislatures of the States of Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

And, further, that the States whose Legislatures have so ratified the said proposed Amendment, constitute more than the requisite three-fourths of the whole number of States in the United States.

Now, therefore, be it known that I, Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of State of the United States, by virtue and in pursuance of Section 160, Title 5, of the United States Code, do hereby certify that the Amendment aforesaid has become valid to all intents and purposes as a part of the Constitution of the United States.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Department of State to be affixed.

DONE at the City of Washington this sixth day of February, in [SEAL] the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and thirty-three.

HENRY L STIMSON