

CONSTITUTION

OF THE STATE OF RIDGEWAY

July 22, 2026

ARTICLE I

BILL OF RIGHTS

Section I. Every person within this state ought to find a certain remedy, by having recourse to the laws, for all injuries or wrongs which one may receive in person, property or character; every person ought to obtain right and justice, freely, and without being obliged to purchase it; completely and without any denial; promptly and without delay; conformably to the laws.

Section II. That the people of this state by their legal representatives, have the sole, inherent, and exclusive right of governing and regulating the internal police of the same.

Section III. That all power being originally inherent in and co[n]sequently derived from the people, therefore, all officers of government, whether legislative or executive, are their trustees and servants; and at all times, in a legal way, accountable to them.

Section IV. That government is, or ought to be, instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security of the people, nation, or community, and not for the particular emolument or advantage of any single person, or set of persons, who are a part only of that community; and that the community hath an indubitable, unalienable, and indefeasible right, to reform or alter government, in such manner as shall be, by that community, judged most conducive to the public weal.

Section V. That every member of society hath a right to be protected in the enjoyment of life, liberty, and property, and therefore is bound to contribute the member's proportion towards the expence of that protection, and yield personal service, when necessary, or an equivalent thereto, but no part of any person's property can be justly taken, or applied to public uses, without the person's own consent, or that of the Representative Body, nor can any person who is conscientiously scrupulous of bearing arms, be justly compelled thereto,

Section VI. That in all prosecutions for criminal offenses, a person hath a right to be heard by oneself and by counsel; to demand the cause and nature of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses; to call for evidence in the person's favor, and a speedy public trial by an impartial jury of the country, when so required ;nor can any person be justly deprived of liberty, except by the laws of the land, or the judgment of the person's peers;

Section VII. That the right to jury trial shall be preserved only when explicitly demanded by law; without the unanimous consent of which jury, the person cannot be found guilty; those accused of treason or misprision of treason shall enjoy the right to be charged by grand jury indictment,

Section VIII. That the people have a right to hold themselves, their houses, papers, and possessions, free from search or seizure; and therefore warrants, without oath or affirmation first made, affording sufficient foundation for them, and whereby by any officer or messenger may be commanded or required to search suspected places, or to seize any person or persons, his, her or their property, not particularly described, are contrary to that right, and ought not to be granted.

Section IX. That the people have a right to freedom of speech, and of writing and publishing their sentiments, concerning the transactions of government, and therefore the freedom of the press ought not to be restrained.

Section X. The freedom of deliberation, speech, and debate, in the Legislature, is so essential to the rights of the people, that it cannot be the foundation of any accusation or prosecution, action or complaint, in any other court or place whatsoever.

Section XI. The power of suspending laws, or the execution of laws, ought never to be exercised but by the Legislature, or by authority derived from it, to be exercised in such particular cases, as this constitution, or the Legislature shall provide for.

Section XII. That the people have a right to bear arms for the defense of themselves and the State—and as standing armies in time of peace are dangerous to liberty, they ought not to be kept up; and that the military should be kept under strict subordination to and governed by the civil power.

Section XIII. That no person in this state can in any case be subjected to martial law, or to any penalties or pains by virtue of that law except those employed in the army, and the militia in actual service.

Section XIV. That frequent recurrence to fundamental principles, and a firm adherence to justice, moderation, temperance, industry, and frugality, are absolutely necessary to preserve the blessings of liberty, and keep government free; the people ought, therefore to pay particular attention to these points, in the choice of officers and representatives, and have a right, in a legal way, to exact a due and constant regard to them, from their legislators and magistrates, in making and executing such laws as are necessary for the good government of the State.

Section XV. That the people have a right to assemble together to consult for their common good—to instruct their Representatives—and to apply to the Legislature for redress of grievances, by address, petition or remonstrance.

ARTICLE II

MODE OF GOVERNMENT

Section I. The State of Ridgeway shall be governed by a Governor (or Lieutenant-Governor), a Senate, in manner and form following:

Section II. The Supreme Legislative power shall be exercised by a Senate.

Section III. The Supreme Executive power shall be exercised by a Governor, or in the Governor's absence, a Lieutenant-Governor.

Section IV. The judicial power of the State shall be vested in a unified judicial system which shall be composed of a Supreme Court, a Superior Court, and such other subordinate courts as the Senate may from time to time ordain and establish.

Section V. The Legislative, Executive, and Judiciary departments, shall be separate and distinct, so that neither exercise the powers properly belonging to the others.

Section VI. The doors of the House in which the Senate of this State shall sit, shall be open for the admission of all persons who behave decently, except only when the welfare of the State may require them to be shut.

ARTICLE III

THE LEGISLATURE

Section I. The votes and proceedings of the Senate shall be printed (when one-third of the members of either House think it necessary) as soon as convenient after the end of the session, with the yeas and nays of the Senate on any question when required by one Senator, (except where the votes shall be taken by ballot), in which case every member of the Senate shall have a right to insert the reasons of the member's vote upon the minutes.

Section II. This style of the laws of this State shall be, It is hereby enacted by the Legislature of the State of Ridgeway.

Section III. Every bill which shall have passed the Senate shall, before it becomes a law, be presented to the Governor; if the Governor approve, the Governor shall sign it; if not, the Governor shall return it, with objections in writing, to the Senate in which it shall have originated; which shall proceed to reconsider it. If, upon such reconsideration, two-thirds of the members present of the Senate shall pass the bill, it shall become a law.

Section IV. But, in all such cases, the votes of the Senate shall be taken by yeas and nays, and the names of the persons voting for or against the bill shall be entered in the journal of the Senate, respectively. If any bill shall not be returned by the Governor, as aforesaid, within five days after it shall have been presented to the Governor, the same shall become a law in like manner as if the Governor had signed it.

Section V. The Senate shall be composed of nine Senators. The term of office of Senators shall be for [4] months.

Section VI. The Senate shall have the like powers to decide on the election and qualifications of, and to expel any of, its members, make its own rules, and appoint its own officers. A majority shall constitute a quorum. The Lieutenant-Governor shall be President of the Senate, except when exercising the office of Governor, or when the office of the Lieutenant-Governor shall be vacant, or in the absence of the Lieutenant-Governor, in which cases the Senate shall appoint one of its own members to be President of the Senate, pro tempore. And the President of the Senate shall have no Vote, unless the Senate be equally divided.

Section VII. When the President of the Senate becomes aware of a vacancy in any seat of the legislature, he shall transmit a notice of that vacancy to the Governor and to the State Board of Elections without delay. The Governor shall, in times of vacancy in any seat of the legislature, appoint a resident of the State to the vacant seat for a term of ten days as a Senator pro tempore. The

Senator pro tempore shall vacate that seat upon the conclusion of their term, or the election of a Senator to that seat, whichever occurs first. The Governor shall not appoint more than one Senator pro tempore to any vacancy, even if the term of an appointment has expired and the seat remains unfilled, and the Governor shall not appoint or cause to be appointed more than two Senators pro tempore at any one time. Senators pro tempore are ineligible for election as the President of the Senate pro tempore.

ARTICLE IV

THE EXECUTIVE

Section I. The Governor, and in the Governor's absence, the Lieutenant-Governor, shall have power to commission all officers, and also to appoint officers, except where provision is, or shall be, otherwise made by law or this Frame of Government; and shall supply every vacancy in any executive office, occasioned by resignation or otherwise, until the office can be filled in the manner directed by law or this Constitution. The Governor is to correspond with other States, transact business with officers of government, civil and military, and prepare such business as may appear necessary, to lay before the Senate. The Governor shall have power to grant pardons and remit fines in all cases whatsoever, except in treason in which the Governor shall have power to grant reprieves, but not to pardon, until after the end of the next session of the Senate; and except in cases of impeachment, in which the Governor shall not grant reprieve or pardon, and there shall be no remission, or mitigation of punishment, but by act of legislation. The Governor is also to take care that the laws be faithfully executed. The Governor is to expedite the execution of such measures as may be resolved upon by the Senate. The Governor may grant such licenses as shall be directed by law; and shall have power to call together the Senate, when necessary, before the day to which they shall stand adjourned. The Governor shall be Commander-in-Chief of the forces of the State, but shall not command in person, in time of war, or insurrection, unless by the advice and consent of the Senate, and no longer than they shall approve thereof. And the Lieutenant-Governor shall, by virtue of office, be Lieutenant-General of all the forces of the State.

Section II. No person shall be eligible to assume elected office until the person shall have resided in this State for at least 3 months preceding the day of election.

Section IV. The Legislature shall provide by general law what officer shall act as Governor whenever there shall be a vacancy in both the offices of Governor and Lieutenant-Governor, occasioned by a failure to elect, or by the removal from office, or by the resignation of both Governor and Lieutenant-Governor, or by the inability of both Governor and Lieutenant-Governor to exercise the powers and discharge the duties of the office of Governor; and such officer so designated, shall exercise the powers and discharge the duties appertaining to the office of Governor accordingly until the disability shall be removed, or a Governor shall be elected.

Section V. There shall be an Attorney General who is the Chief Prosecutor and Chief Attorney of the State; and shall have the sole power to prosecute; and to enact other duties as prescribed by law.

Section VI. The Attorney General shall serve a term of 4 months and shall be elected by the voters of the State.

Section VII. The Secretary of State shall be appointed by the Governor by and with the consent of the Senate for a term of 4 months; and the Legislature shall carry this provision into effect by appropriate legislation.

Section VIII. The term of office of the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, respectively, shall commence when they shall be chosen and qualified, and shall continue for the term of four months.

Section IX. Sheriffs shall be elected by the voters of their respective districts as established by law. Their term of office shall be four months.

Section X. No person in this State shall be capable of holding or exercising more than one of the following offices at the same time: Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Justice of the Supreme Court, member of the Senate, Judge of the Superior Court, Secretary of State, Attorney General or Sheriff.

Section XII. The Legislature may further elaborate as to the regard and degree of certain incompatible offices, and assign such enforcement to the Governor; The Governor, the Attorney General, and the Sheriff shall hold no other public office, compensated or not.

Section XIII. The Governor and the Lieutenant-Governor shall be elected by the voters of the State at the same general election. Each office shall be voted upon separately, and no ballot shall require or permit the election of candidates for Governor and Lieutenant-Governor as a single joint ticket. Each office shall be filled by the candidate receiving the highest number of lawful votes cast for that respective office.

ARTICLE V

THE JUDICIARY

Section I. The Courts of Justice shall be open for the trial of all causes proper for their cognizance; and justice shall be therein impartially administered, without corruption or unnecessary delay.

Section II. The Supreme Court shall consist of the Chief justice of the State and four associate justices of the Supreme Court.

Section III. The Supreme Court shall exercise appellate jurisdiction in all cases, criminal and civil, under such terms and conditions as it shall specify in rules not inconsistent with law. The Supreme Court shall have original jurisdiction only as provided by law, but it shall have the power to issue all writs necessary or appropriate in aid of its appellate jurisdiction. The Supreme Court shall have administrative control of all the courts of the state, and disciplinary authority concerning all judicial officers and attorneys at law in the State.

Section IV. There shall be a Superior court which shall exercise original jurisdiction for all civil and criminal cases or controversies under the rules as set by the Supreme Court; the Superior Court shall have right to hear expungements, and provide writ of habeas corpus; the Superior Court shall be composed of judges, the amount to be specified by the Legislature, who are to be administered by a Chief judge; the Chief judge is nominated by the Governor with advice and consent of the Senate.

Section V. No writ of mandamus shall be entered against any official of the State unless; the petitioner demonstrates entitlement of relief; that the respondent needs to execute a clearly written duty; that the relief demonstrated alleviates personal, not institutional injury; and that the failure to execute that duty results in personal, concrete, and particular injury.

Section VI. No writ of quo warranto shall be filed without consent of the Attorney General.

Section VII. The Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall fill a vacancy in the office of the Chief justice of the State, associate justice of the Supreme Court or judge of any other court.

Section VIII. The justices of the Supreme Court and the judges of all subordinate courts shall hold office during good behavior for the terms for which they are appointed. The Supreme Court in the exercise of its disciplinary power over the judiciary of the state may suspend justices of the Supreme Court and judges of all subordinate courts from the judicial function for such cause and in

such manner as may be provided by law. The Senate may establish procedures for the implementation of these provisions.

Section IX. The Supreme Court shall make and promulgate rules governing the administration of all courts, and shall make and promulgate rules governing practice and procedure in civil and criminal cases in all courts. Any rule adopted by the Supreme Court may be revised by the Senate.

Section X. All prosecutions shall commence, By the authority of the State of Ridgeway. All Indictments shall conclude with these words, against the peace and dignity of the State. And all fines shall be proportioned to the offenses.

ARTICLE VI

GENERAL PROVISIONS; IMPEACHMENT

Section I. All elections, whether by the people or the Legislature, shall be free and voluntary: and any elector who shall receive any gift or reward for the elector's vote, in meat, drink, moneys or otherwise, shall forfeit the right to elect at that time, and suffer such other penalty as the law shall direct; and any person who shall directly or indirectly give, promise, or bestow, any such rewards to be elected, shall thereby be rendered incapable to serve for the ensuing year, and be subject to such further punishment as the Legislature shall direct.

Section II. Every officer, whether judicial, executive, or military, in authority under this State, before entering upon the execution of office, shall take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation of allegiance to this State, (unless the officer shall produce evidence that the officer has before taken the same) and also the following oath or affirmation of office, except military officers, and such as shall be exempted by the Legislature.

The Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance

You _____ do solemnly swear (or affirm) that you will be true and faithful to the State of Ridgeway, and that you will not, directly or indirectly, do any act or thing injurious to the Constitution or Government thereof. (If an oath) So help you God . (If an affirmation) Under the pains and penalties of perjury.

The Oath or Affirmation of Office

You _____ do solemnly swear (or affirm) that you will faithfully execute the office of _____ for the _____ of _____ and will therein do equal right and justice to all persons, to the best of your judgment and ability, according to law . (If an oath) So help you God . (If an affirmation) Under the pains and penalties of perjury.

Section III. The Senate shall have the power to order impeachments, which shall in all cases be by a vote of two-thirds of its members.

Section IV. Every officer of State, whether judicial or executive, shall be liable to be impeached by the Senate, either when in office or after resignation or removal for maladministration.

Section V. The Supreme Court shall have the sole power of trying and deciding upon all impeachments. When sitting for that purpose, they shall be on oath, or affirmation, 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 or enjoy any office of honor, or profit, or trust, under this State. But the person

convicted shall, nevertheless, be liable and subject to indictment, trial, judgment, and punishment, according to law.

Section VI. No person ought in any case, or in any time, to be declared guilty of treason or felony, by the Legislature, nor to have a sentence upon conviction for felony commuted, remitted, or mitigated by the Legislature.

Section VII. No charter of incorporation shall be granted, extended, changed or amended by special law, except for such municipal, charitable, educational, penal or reformatory corporations as are to be and remain under the patronage or control of the State; but the Senate shall provide by general laws for the organization of all corporations hereafter to be created. All general laws passed pursuant to this section may be altered from time to time or repealed.

Section VIII. This Constitution shall be amended when two thirds of the legislature shall deem it necessary, except that the determination of the legislature must be affirmed by a majority of those voting on a referendum to the same. This Constitution may nonetheless be amended by Developer Oversight, on their own accord.

Section IX. The people may hold an election to recall any holder of elected office, but not without at least 100 signatures on a petition to call for such an election.