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South Carolina

South Carolina Form of Ratification, 23 May 1788

[The U.S. Constitution appears here.]

In Convention of the people of the state of South Carolina by their Representatives held in the city of charleston, on Monday the twelfth day of May and continued by divers Adjournments to friday the twenty third day of May Anno Domini, One thousand seven hundred and eighty eight, and in the twelfth Year of the Independence of the United States of America.

The Convention having maturely considered the constitution or form of Government reported to Congress by the Convention of Delegates from the United States of America and submitted to them by a Resolution of the Legislature of this State passed the seventeenth and eighteenth days of February last in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, ensure Domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the blessings of Liberty to the people of the said United States and their posterity Do in the name and behalf of the people of this State hereby assent to and ratify the said Constitution.

Done in Convention the twenty third day of May in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and eighty eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the twelfth.—

Thomas Pinckney President

Attest John Sanford Dart, Secretary

And Whereas it is essential to the preservation of the rights reserved to the several states, and the freedom of the people under the operations of a General government that the right of prescribing the manner time and places of holding the Elections to the Federal Legislature, should be for ever inseparably annexed to the sovereignty of the several States. This convention doth declare that the same ought to remain to all posterity a perpetual and fundamental right in the local, exclusive of the interference of the General Government except in cases where the Legislatures of the States, shall refuse or neglect to perform and fulfil the same according to the tenor of the said Constitution.—

This Convention doth also declare that no Section or paragraph of the said Constitution warrants a Construction that the states do not retain every power not expressly relinquished by them and vested in the General Government of the Union.—

Resolved that the general Government of the United States ought never to impose direct taxes, *but* where the monies arising from the duties, imposts and excise are insufficient for the public exigencies *nor then until* Congress shall have made a requisition upon the states to assess levy and pay their respective proportions of such requisitions and in case any State shall neglect

or refuse to pay its proportion pursuant to such requisition then Congress may assess and levy such state's proportion together with Interest thereon at the rate of Six per centum per annum from the time of payment prescribed by such requisition.—

Resolved that the third Section of the Sixth Article ought to be amended by inserting the word “*other*” between the words “*no*” and “*religious*.”

Resolved that it be a standing instruction to all such delegates as may hereafter be elected to represent this State in the general Government to exert their utmost abilities and influence to effect an alteration of the Constitution conformably to the foregoing Resolutions.—

Done in Convention the twenty third day of May in the Year of our Lord one thousand Seven hundred and eighty eight and of the Independence of the United States of America the twelfth—

Thomas Pinckney President

Attest, John Sanford Dart, Secretary—

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