

Exhibit O

FULL TEXT OF THE GENERAL REVISION

OF THE

Constitution of the State of Michigan,

WITH THE EXPLANATIONS OF PROPOSED CHANGES AND THE
REASONS THEREFOR.

PREAMBLE.

We, the people of the state of Michigan, grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of freedom, and earnestly desiring to secure these blessings undiminished to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this constitution.

The present constitution has the following preamble: "The People of the State of Michigan do ordain this constitution." The change was made to give recognition in the constitution to the Supreme Being. Similar recognition is found in the constitutions of forty-two of our sister states.

ARTICLE I.

BOUNDARIES AND SEAT OF GOVERNMENT.

Section 1. The state of Michigan consists of and has jurisdiction over the territory embraced within the following boundaries, to wit: Commencing at a point on the eastern boundary line of the state of Indiana, where a direct line drawn from the southern extremity of Lake Michigan to the most northerly cape of Maumee Bay shall intersect the same—said point being the northwest *point* of the state of Ohio, as established by act of Congress, entitled "An act to establish the northern boundary line of the state of Ohio, and to provide for the admission of the state of Michigan into the Union upon the conditions therein expressed," approved June fifteenth, eighteen hundred thirty-six; thence with the said boundary line of the state of Ohio, until it intersects the boundary line between the United States and Canada in Lake Erie; thence with the said boundary line between the United States and Canada through the Detroit River, Lake Huron and Lake Superior to a point where the said line last touches Lake Superior; thence in a

constitution, except for the purpose of changing the phraseology.

Section 9. Aliens, who are or who may hereafter become bona fide residents of this state, shall enjoy the same rights in respect to the possession, enjoyment and inheritance of property as native born citizens.

No change is made from Sec. 13, Art. XVIII of the present constitution.

Section 10. No lease or grant of agricultural land for agricultural purposes for a longer period than twelve years, reserving any rent or service of any kind, shall be valid.

No change is made from Sec. 12, Art. XVIII of the present constitution, except the addition of the words "for agricultural purposes" to make the section more clear and definite.

ARTICLE XVII.

AMENDMENT AND REVISION.

Section 1. Any amendment or amendments to this constitution may be proposed in the senate or house of representatives. If the same shall be agreed to by two-thirds of the members elected to each house, such amendment or amendments shall be entered on the journals, respectively, with the yeas and nays taken thereon; and the same shall be submitted to the electors at the next spring or autumn election thereafter, as the legislature shall direct; and, if a majority of electors qualified to vote for members of the legislature voting thereon shall ratify and approve such amendment or amendments, the same shall become part of the constitution.

No change from Sec. 1, Art. XX, of the present constitution.

Section 2. Amendments may also be proposed to this constitution by petition of the qualified electors of this state but no proposed amendment shall be submitted to the electors unless the number of petitioners therefor shall exceed twenty per cent of the total number of electors voting for secretary of state at the preceding election of such officer. All petitions shall contain the full text of any proposed amendment, together with any existing provisions of the constitution which would be altered or abrogated thereby. Such petitions shall be signed at the regular registration or election places at a regular registration or election under the supervision of the officials thereof, who shall verify the genuineness of the signatures and certify the fact that the signers are registered electors of the respective townships and cities in which they reside, and shall forthwith forward the petition to the secretary of state. All petitions for amendments filed with the secretary of state shall be certified by that officer to the legislature at the opening of its next regular session; and, when such petitions for any one proposed

amendment shall be signed by not less than the required number of petitioners, he shall also submit the proposed amendment to the electors at the first regular election thereafter, unless the legislature in joint convention shall disapprove of the proposed amendment by a majority vote of the members elected. The legislature may, by a like vote, submit an alternative or a substitute proposal on the same subject: The action of the legislature shall be entered on the journal of each house, with the yeas and nays taken thereon. But no amendment to this section may be proposed in the manner herein prescribed.

If a majority of the electors qualified to vote for members of the legislature voting thereon shall ratify and approve any such amendment or amendments, the same shall become a part of the constitution: Provided, That for any amendment proposed under this section, the affirmative vote shall be not less than one-third of the highest number of votes cast at the said election for any office. In case alternative proposed amendments on the same subject are submitted at the same election, the vote shall be for one of such alternatives or against such proposed amendments as a whole. If the affirmative vote for one proposed amendment is the required majority of all the votes cast for and against such proposed amendments, it shall become a part of the constitution. If the total affirmative vote for such alternative proposed amendments is the required majority of all the votes for and against them, but no one proposed amendment receives such majority, then the proposed amendment which receives the largest number of affirmative votes shall be submitted at the next regular election, and if it then receives the required majority of all the votes cast thereon it shall become a part of the constitution. The legislature shall enact appropriate laws to carry out the provisions of this section.

Section 3. All proposed amendments to the constitution submitted to the electors shall be published in full, with any existing provisions of the constitution which would be altered or abrogated thereby, and a copy thereof shall be posted at each registration and election place. Proposed amendments shall also be printed in full on a ballot or ballots separate from the ballot containing the names of nominees for public office.

These sections represent a compromise between those who desired no change in the manner of amending the constitution provided by Sec. 1, Art. XX of the existing constitution (Sec. 1 of this article), and those who favored the initiative method of amendment by the people without the proposed amendment being first submitted to the legislature. The resulting compromise, embodied in the foregoing sections, provides a new method of amending the constitution. Whenever the required number of electors petition for an amendment to the constitution it becomes the duty of the secretary of state, upon filing of such petition in his office, to certify the same to the legislature at the opening of the next regular session. The secretary of state must, also, submit the amendment to the electors at the first regular election thereafter, unless the legislature in joint session shall disapprove of the proposed amendment by a majority vote of the members elected to each house. A method is thus provided whereby the language, scope and purpose of the

proposed amendment will be scrutinized and discussed by a deliberative body, and its terms made to harmonize with other provisions in the constitution. The convention realized the far-reaching effect that each amendment to the constitution may have beyond the immediate purpose intended by it, and it was deemed essential in so important a matter as changing the fundamental law of the state that the very greatest care should be required in both the form and substance of amendments to it. Such care is secured by requiring the amendments proposed to pass the scrutiny of the legislature. In this manner the purpose and terms, as well as the legal effect, of such amendments will become the subject of popular discussion; in other words, the utmost publicity is secured.

It is generally conceded that the effect of this provision will be the submission to a vote of the electors of practically all amendments petitioned for. The legislature may change the phraseology and harmonize the provisions of the amendment with those portions of the constitution not intended to be affected by it, before submitting it to the electors. No one doubts the response of the legislature, in normal times, to a petition containing twenty per cent of the electors specified. It is foreseen that in seasons of great stress, disturbance and excitement, a petition might be presented designed to serve a temporary or unjust purpose. In such an event the time required under this section for consideration of such petition by the legislature will afford opportunity for normal conditions to return, and if, after due deliberation by the legislature, a majority of that body deem it unwise or improper to submit the amendment to the electors, the power to do so is conferred. The consideration was potent with the convention that public opinion is subject to sudden fluctuations; that the cherished policies of one year may be discarded the next upon fuller information and maturer thought. Living as we are under "a government of laws and not of men" the wisdom of preserving the stability of our fundamental laws was most persuasive with the convention.

Section 4. At the general election to be held in the year nineteen hundred twenty-six, in each sixteenth year thereafter and at such other times as may be provided by law, the question of a general revision of the constitution shall be submitted to the electors qualified to vote for members of the legislature. In case a majority of such electors voting at such election shall decide in favor of a convention for such purpose, at the next biennial spring election the electors of each senatorial district of the state as then organized shall elect three delegates. The delegates so elected shall convene at the state capitol on the first Tuesday in September next succeeding such election, and shall continue their sessions until the business of the convention shall be completed. A majority of the delegates elected shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The convention shall choose its own officers, determine the rules of its proceedings and judge of the qualifications, elections and returns of its members. In case of a vacancy by