

# Republic for the United States of America

## Implementation of the Northwest Ordinance



*Whereas*, the ***Northwest Ordinance*** (1787) was the most important piece of legislation enacted by Congress under the ***Articles of Confederation***. Some historians have claimed that the principles established in the ***Northwest Ordinance*** are so important that they actually formed part of the Constitution. Before the Constitution, the ***Northwest Ordinance*** promised a republican form of government for the territories. It guaranteed that residents in the territories would not be treated as second class citizens, and they would enter under the same terms as those states that were already part of the union. The ***Northwest Ordinance*** also ensured the equality of rights of Citizens of the new states with the rights of Citizens of the states that had fought the Revolution. Listed are some fundamental rights including trial by jury, *habeas corpus*, due process, and religious freedom. Excessive fines and cruel and unusual punishments were banned. The ***Northwest Ordinance*** accelerated westward expansion, established policies for the creation of new states and the admission of those states into the confederation, and;

*Whereas*, once the Constitution was approved, in 1789 the United States Congress made minor changes, such that the President, with the advice and consent of the United States Senate, had the power to appoint the Governor and officers of the territory instead of Congress. In addition, the power of removal was given exclusively to the office of the President. On August 7, 1789, President George Washington signed the ***Northwest Ordinance*** of 1789 into law. The Supreme Court recognized the authority of the ***Northwest Ordinance*** of 1789 as constitutional in ***Strader v. Graham, 51 U.S. 82, 96, 97*** (1851). After it was codified by the first *de jure* congress, it became known as *1 Statute 50*, and;

*Whereas*, on August the 7<sup>th</sup>, 1789 the first Congress of the United States under the Constitution of the United States of America transferred the administration of *An Ordinance for the Government of the Territory of the United States, North-West of the River Ohio Ordinance* (Northwest Ordinance), when it was codified into law by *1 Statute fifty<sup>i</sup>*, to the office of the President. In the case of appointments the authority of the President is tempered with the *advice and consent* of the Senate. *Article 1* of this document states; “ That the said territory, for the purposes of temporary government, be one district, subject, however, to be divided into two

districts, as future circumstances may, in the opinion of Congress, make it expedient.”, granting Congress the ability to make alterations when it is “expedient,” and;

*Whereas*, with the lawful passage of, 1 Statute fifty, that authority was transferred solely to the office of President. Congress does not appear to reclaim administrative authority, nor could they by law, in subsequent legislation.

*Therefore*, on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2016 by and with the authority conferred upon me, I, James Buchanan Geiger, President of the Republic for the United States of America do hereby, officially acknowledge the following policies of administration for the interim government of the Republic for the United States of America in respect to 1 Statute fifty for the sole purpose of re-inhabiting the vacated *de jure* seats of the free States and upon the participation of the people in mass restoring the said States’ Constitutional laws and lawfully legislated acts.

**Section 1.** *Be it ordained by the United States in Congress assembled, That the said territory, for the purposes of temporary government, be one district, subject, however, to be divided into two districts, as future circumstances may, in the opinion of Congress, make it expedient.*

*Whereas*, all policies herein stated are for the use of the interim parallel governments, national, state and local, to re-inhabit the seats of the *de jure* Constitutional Republic in accordance with the *Declaration of Sovereign Intent (c. 2010)* and in no way should be considered a means of overthrow or take over of the U.S. Corporation;

*Therefore*, for the purpose of populating the free States, the current *Metes and Bounds* divisions of the several fifty States are herewith accepted and shall not be subdivided by this interim government. The acceptance of all fifty States in law shall be foundational to the policies herein stated.

**Section 2.** *Be it ordained by the authority aforesaid, That the estates, both of resident and nonresident proprietors in the said territory, dying intestate, shall descent to, and be distributed among their children, and the descendants of a deceased child, in equal parts; the descendants of a deceased child or grandchild to take the share of their deceased parent in equal parts among them: And where there shall be no children or descendants, then in equal parts to the next of kin in equal degree; and among collaterals, the children of a deceased brother or sister of the intestate shall have, in equal parts among them, their deceased parents' share; and there shall in no case be a distinction between kindred of the whole and half blood; saving, in all cases, to the widow of the intestate her third part of the real estate for life, and one third part of the personal estate; and this law relative to descents and dower, shall remain in full force until altered by the legislature of the district. And until the governor and judges shall adopt laws as hereinafter mentioned, estates in the said territory may be devised or bequeathed by wills in writing, signed and sealed by him or her in whom the estate may be (being of full age), and attested by three witnesses; and real estates may be conveyed by lease and release, or bargain and sale, signed, sealed and delivered by the person being of full age, in whom the estate may be, and attested by two witnesses, provided such wills be duly proved, and such conveyances be acknowledged, or the execution thereof duly proved, and be recorded within one year after proper magistrates, courts, and registers shall be appointed for that purpose; and personal property may be transferred by delivery; saving, however to the French and Canadian inhabitants, and other settlers of the Kaskaskies, St. Vincents and the neighboring villages who have heretofore professed themselves citizens of Virginia, their laws and customs now in force among them, relative to the descent and conveyance, of property.*

*Whereas*, the scope of this section is outside the purview of the interim government and can only be resolved by a fully restored Constitutional government be it national, state or local;

*Therefore*, the Office of the President sayeth naught, excepting that the Republic will protect property rights once the American people assemble in mass to re-inhabit their Republic. At that time Americans will once again be *fee simple, allodium* owners of their land, no longer paying “rent” in the form of “property taxes.”

**Section 3.** *Be it ordained by the authority aforesaid, That there shall be appointed from time to time by Congress, a governor, whose commission shall continue in force for the term of three years, unless sooner revoked by Congress; he shall reside in the district, and have a freehold estate therein in 1,000 acres of land, while in the exercise of his office.*

*Whereas*, this section was superseded by 1 Statute fifty and acknowledging that the requirement to have a freehold 1,000 acres estate is not possible at this time (see *Section 2* above) and; that the scope of this section is outside the purview of the interim government and can only be resolved by a fully restored Constitutional government be it national, state or local; excepting that all free state officers are charged with diligently working toward having thirty thousand Republic Voters in their state so that elections can be held (see *Section 4*);

*Therefore*, the President shall appoint a Governor for each of the free States, with the advice and consent of the Senate for a term commencing upon the consent of the Republic for the United States Senate and having taken their oath of office. The free State governor is charged with the following duties and obligations:

- Support and defend the Constitution of the United States in a Provisional (Interim) capacity;
- Faithfully execute the laws enacted by the Congress of the Republic for the United States of America;
- Keep Republic records; Attend Republic conference calls; Promote the Republic;
- Diligently work toward having thirty thousand Republic Voters in their state so that elections can be held and;
- Remain in honor and good standing.

**Standard terms of office (for the interim government) (STO):**

The Provisional (Interim) term of office shall be while acting in good behavior and ending when a *de jure* governor takes office following an election with at least thirty thousand<sup>ii</sup> (30,000) Republic Voters, unless removed from office by the President or by resignation. No other considerations for emoluments are made other than that the position is voluntary, without pay or personal gain. This position of terms, emoluments, pay and personal gain shall be the standard for all positions and offices herein named. All previously required paper work established by the first re-inhabited Congress shall remain in force. The President acknowledges that the requirement to have a freehold estate is not possible at this time (see *Section 2* above.)

**Section 4** *There shall be appointed from time to time by Congress, a secretary, whose commission shall continue in force for four years unless sooner revoked; he shall reside in the district, and have a freehold estate therein in 500 acres of land, while in the exercise of his office. It shall be his duty to keep and preserve the acts and laws passed by the legislature, and the public records of the district, and the proceedings of the governor in his executive department, and transmit authentic copies of such acts and proceedings, every six months, to the Secretary of*

*Congress: There shall also be appointed a court to consist of three judges, any two of whom to form a court, who shall have a common law jurisdiction, and reside in the district, and have each therein a freehold estate in 500 acres of land while in the exercise of their offices; and their commissions shall continue in force during good behavior.*

*Whereas the needs of the existing free States are different than that of territories, adaptations shall be made for National representation in accordance of Article 4 sec. 4 of the Constitution; and for the purpose of populating the free States;*

*Therefore, the Office of the President sayeth naught, excepting for the purpose of populating the free State, the President shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the Senate, one Representative, two Senators and a State Chief Justice. Standard terms of office (STO) shall apply (see Section 3.)*

Representatives are charged with the following duties and obligations:

- Support and defend the Constitution of the United States in a Provisional (Interim) capacity;
- Attend Republic conference calls;
- Attend and actively participate in all House calls;
- Promote the Republic;
- Diligently work toward having thirty thousand Republic Voters in your state so that elections can be held and;
- Remain in honor and good standing.

Senators are charged with the following duties and obligations:

- Support and defend the Constitution of the United States in a Provisional (Interim) capacity;
- Attend Republic conference calls;
- Attend and actively participate in all Senate calls;
- Join and actively participate in at least one Senate Committee;
- Promote the Republic;
- Diligently work toward having thirty thousand Republic Voters in your state so that elections can be held and;
- Remain in honor and good standing.

Justices are charged with the following duties and obligations:

- Support and defend the Constitution of the United States in a Provisional (Interim) capacity; Faithfully abide by the laws enacted by the Congress of the Republic for the United States of America; Keep Republic Court records;
- Learn about and have a thorough understanding of our nation's founding documents, as well as all lawful acts up to 1860; Make every attempt possible to participate in judicial calls and teachings concerning *de jure* laws;
- Develop an understanding of the workings of a common law court; Remain in honor and good standing; Attend Republic conference calls; Promote the Republic; Diligently work toward having thirty thousand Republic Voters in your state so that elections can be held.

Understand that there is no way to articulate the courts of the U.S. Corporation to those of the Republic for the United States. You cannot provide remedy for, nor can you entertain litigation with, the U.S. Corporation including but not limited to: taxation, foreclosures, traffic, or any other legal issue the corporation may bring against someone. You may adjudicate ONLY those cases that deal exclusively between citizens of the Republic who have voluntarily submitted themselves to your jurisdiction. In summary, you commit to making every effort possible to prepare yourself with education and research to be ready to step into power, and serve the American people with lawful justice, at the time when the corporation either recognizes us, collapses, or no longer exists. You must be ready to serve the American people in every way you possibly can.

**Section 5.** *The governor and judges, or a majority of them, shall adopt and publish in the district such laws of the original States, criminal and civil, as may be necessary and best suited to the circumstances of the district, and report them to Congress from time to time: which laws shall be in force in the district until the organization of the General Assembly therein, unless disapproved of by Congress; but afterwards the Legislature shall have authority to alter them as they shall think fit.*

*Whereas*, the scope of this section is outside the purview of the interim government and can only be resolved by a fully restored Constitutional government be it national, state or local; excepting that all free state officers are charged with diligently working toward having thirty thousand Republic Voters in their state so that elections can be held (see *Sections 3 & 4;*)

*Therefore*, the Office of the President sayeth naught, excepting for the purpose of populating the free State, the free State Governor and Provisional Legislative Council, shall by majority adopt and publish in the free State such policies of this document, for the express purpose of re-inhabiting the State and forming the Provisional (interim) government there in; and shall report them to the President from time to time: which policies shall be in force in the free State until the organization of the Provisional General Assembly therein.

**Section 6.** *The governor, for the time being, shall be commander in chief of the militia, appoint and commission all officers in the same below the rank of general officers; all general officers shall be appointed and commissioned by Congress.*

*Whereas*, the scope of this section is outside the purview of the interim government and can only be resolved by a fully restored Constitutional government be it national, state or local; excepting that all free state officers are charged with diligently working toward having thirty thousand Republic Voters in their state so that elections can be held (see *Sections 3 & 4;*)

*Therefore*, the President herewith authorizes the free State Governors to make such Provisional appointments and serve their free State as Provisional commander in chief of the militia in order to secure the general welfare of the American people ONLY if both of the following conditions are fully met during a national emergency:

The *de facto* government is no longer able to secure the general welfare of the American people and; Communications are severed with the President.

**Section 7.** *Previous to the organization of the general assembly, the governor shall appoint such magistrates and other civil officers in each county or township, as he shall find necessary for the preservation of the peace and good order in the same: After the general assembly shall be organized, the powers and duties of the magistrates and other civil officers shall be regulated and defined by the said assembly; but all magistrates and other civil officers not herein otherwise directed, shall during the continuance of this temporary government, be appointed by the governor.*

*Whereas*, the scope of this section is outside the purview of the interim government and can only be resolved by a fully restored Constitutional government be it national, state or local; excepting that all free state officers are charged with diligently working toward having thirty thousand Republic Voters in their state so that elections can be held (see *Sections 3 & 4;*)

*Therefore, the Office of the President sayeth naught, excepting for the purpose of populating the free State, that previous to the organization of the interim general assembly, the free State governor, with the advice and consent of the Provisional Legislative Council, shall appoint such Provisional civil officers in each county or township, as he shall find necessary for the re-inhabitation and good order of the interim government; and shall report them to the President via the Republic Records Bureau. After the Provisional General Assembly shall be organized, the powers and duties of the civil officers shall be regulated and defined by the said assembly; but all civil officers not herein otherwise directed, shall during the continuance of this Provisional Government, be appointed by the free State governor with advice and consent of the Provisional free State Legislative Council. Standard terms of office (STO) shall apply to all appointees (see *Section 3.*)*

***Section 8.*** *For the prevention of crimes and injuries, the laws to be adopted or made shall have force in all parts of the district, and for the execution of process, criminal and civil, the governor shall make proper divisions thereof; and he shall proceed from time to time as circumstances may require, to lay out the parts of the district in which the Indian titles shall have been extinguished, into counties and townships, subject, however, to such alterations as may thereafter be made by the legislature.*

*Whereas, the scope of this section is outside the purview of the interim government and can only be resolved by a fully restored Constitutional government be it national, state or local; excepting that all free state officers are charged with diligently working toward having thirty thousand Republic Voters in their state so that elections can be held (see *Sections 3 & 4;*)*

*Therefore, the Office of the President sayeth naught, excepting that the Republic will protect property rights once the American people assemble in mass to re-inhabit their Republic. At that time Americans will once again be *fee simple, allodium* owners of their land, no longer paying “rent” in the form of “property taxes” (see *Section 2*) and;*  
*For the purpose of populating the free State, the current *Metes and Bounds* divisions of the several fifty States are herewith accepted and shall not be subdivided by this interim government (see *Section 1.*)*

***Section 9.*** *So soon as there shall be five thousand free male inhabitants of full age in the district, upon giving proof thereof to the governor, they shall receive authority, with time and place, to elect a representative from their counties or townships to represent them in the general assembly: Provided, That, for every five hundred free male inhabitants, there shall be one representative, and so on progressively with the number of free male inhabitants shall the right of representation increase, until the number of representatives shall amount to twenty five; after which, the number and proportion of representatives shall be regulated by the legislature: Provided, That no person be eligible or qualified to act as a representative unless he shall have been a citizen of one of the United States three years, and be a resident in the district, or unless he shall have resided in the district three years; and, in either case, shall likewise hold in his own right, in *fee simple*, two hundred acres of land within the same; Provided, also, That a freehold in fifty acres of land in the district, having been a citizen of one of the states, and being resident in the district, or the like freehold and two years residence in the district, shall be necessary to qualify a man as an elector of a representative.*

*Whereas*, the scope of this section is outside the purview of the interim government and can only be resolved by a fully restored Constitutional government be it national, state or local; excepting that all free state officers are charged with diligently working toward having thirty thousand Republic Voters in their state so that elections can be held (see *Sections 3 & 4*;) )

*Therefore*, the Office of the President sayeth naught, excepting for the purpose of populating the free State, that so soon as there shall be five thousand inhabitants of full age in the free State, upon giving proof thereof and a signed “Declaration of sovereign rights” (DSR), to the governor, they shall receive authority, with time and place, to elect a Provisional representative from their counties or townships to represent them in the general assembly: Provided, That, for every five hundred inhabitants, there shall be one representative, and so on progressively with the number of inhabitants shall the right of representation increase, until the number of representatives shall amount to twenty five; after which, the number and proportion of representatives shall be regulated by the legislature: Provided, That no person be eligible or qualified to act as a representative unless they shall have been a citizen of one of the United States three years, and be a resident in the district, or unless they shall have resided in the district three years; having been a citizen of one of the states, shall be necessary to qualify a person as an elector (voter) of a representative. Standard terms of office (STO) shall apply to all representatives during the Provisional transition phase (see *Section 3*.)

\*\*\*Please NOTE that issues or requirements involving land ownership are outside the scope of the interim government and cannot be considered for voting eligibility or in consideration for holding an office at this time (see *Section 2*.) Also see the *Citizenship transition plan* for more clarification.\*\*\*

**Section 10.** *The representatives thus elected, shall serve for the term of two years; and, in case of the death of a representative, or removal from office, the governor shall issue a writ to the county or township for which he was a member, to elect another in his stead, to serve for the residue of the term.*

*Whereas*, the scope of this section is outside the purview of the interim government and can only be resolved by a fully restored Constitutional government be it national, state or local; excepting that all free state officers are charged with diligently working toward having thirty thousand Republic Voters in their state so that elections can be held (see *Sections 3 & 4*;) )

*Therefore*, the Office of the President sayeth naught, excepting for the purpose of populating the free State, that elected Provisional representatives shall serve in accordance with the Standard terms of office (see *Section 3*.); and, in case of the death of a representative, or removal from office, the free State Governor shall issue a writ to the county or township for which he was a member, to elect another in his stead, to serve for the residue of the term. Standard terms of office (STO) shall apply to all representatives during the Provisional transition phase (see *Section 3*.)

**Section 11.** *The general assembly or legislature shall consist of the governor, legislative council, and a house of representatives. The Legislative Council shall consist of five members, to continue in office five years, unless sooner removed by Congress; any three of whom to be a quorum: and the members of the Council shall be nominated and*

*appointed in the following manner, to wit: As soon as representatives shall be elected, the Governor shall appoint a time and place for them to meet together; and, when met, they shall nominate ten persons, residents in the district, and each possessed of a freehold in five hundred acres of land, and return their names to Congress; five of whom Congress shall appoint and commission to serve as aforesaid; and, whenever a vacancy shall happen in the council, by death or removal from office, the house of representatives shall nominate two persons, qualified as aforesaid, for each vacancy, and return their names to Congress; one of whom congress shall appoint and commission for the residue of the term. And every five years, four months at least before the expiration of the time of service of the members of council, the said house shall nominate ten persons, qualified as aforesaid, and return their names to Congress; five of whom Congress shall appoint and commission to serve as members of the council five years, unless sooner removed. And the governor, legislative council, and house of representatives, shall have authority to make laws in all cases, for the good government of the district, not repugnant to the principles and articles in this ordinance established and declared. And all bills, having passed by a majority in the house, and by a majority in the council, shall be referred to the governor for his assent; but no bill, or legislative act whatever, shall be of any force without his assent. The governor shall have power to convene, prorogue, and dissolve the general assembly, when, in his opinion, it shall be expedient.*

*Whereas, the scope of this section is outside the purview of the interim government and can only be resolved by a fully restored Constitutional government be it national, state or local; excepting that all free state officers are charged with diligently working toward having thirty thousand Republic Voters in their state so that elections can be held (see *Sections 3 & 4;*) and; excepting that the Republic will protect property rights once the American people assemble in mass to re-inhabit their Republic (see *Section 2;*)*

*Therefore, the Office of the President sayeth naught, excepting for the purpose of populating the free State, the Provisional general assembly or legislature shall consist of the free State governor, legislative council, and a house of representatives. The Provisional Legislative Council shall consist of five members, to continue in office per the (STO), unless sooner removed by the President; any three of whom to be a quorum: and the members of the Provisional Council shall be the two Senators and one Representative already serving the people at the National government and the free State Chief Justice. The fifth member shall be presented to the President for approval by the Governor; (STO) shall apply. That individual will serve the people in the position of Secretary of State of that free State and shall be responsible for the keeping of all records of said free State as well as Provisional Legislative Council member. In the unfortunate and untimely death or removal of the free State Governor the Secretary of State would become acting Governor until which time the President appoints a new Governor. Future appointments to the council shall be made in the following manner: As soon as Provisional representatives shall be elected for not less than 3/4<sup>ths</sup> of the counties of a free State, the free State Governor shall appoint a time and place for them to meet together; and, when met, they shall nominate ten persons, residents in the free State, and return their names to the President; five of whom the President with the advice and consent of the Senate shall appoint and commission to serve as aforesaid; and, whenever a vacancy shall happen in the council, by death or removal from office, the free State house of representatives shall nominate two persons, qualified as aforesaid, for each vacancy, and return their names to the President; one of whom shall be appointed the commission, as aforesaid, for the residue of the term. And every five years, four months at least before the expiration of the time of service of the members of council, the said house shall nominate ten persons, qualified as aforesaid, and return their names to the President; five of whom the President shall appoint and commission to serve as members of the council five years,*



unless sooner removed. And the governor, legislative council, and house of representatives, shall have authority to pass resolutions pursuant to the free State interim government for the purpose of re-inhabiting only and in a manner that is not repugnant to this document, the DSI, the Constitution of the United States of America, the Bill of Rights or the Principles of the Declaration of Independence, for the good parallel interim government of the free State, not repugnant to the principles and articles in this ordinance established and declared. And all Provisional resolutions, having passed by a majority in the house, and by a majority in the council, shall be referred to the governor for his assent; but no resolution, or legislative act whatever, shall be of any force without his assent and shall be of null effect, excepting for the purpose of populating the free State. The governor shall have power to convene, prorogue, and dissolve the general assembly, when, in his opinion, it shall be expedient.

***Section 12.*** *The governor, judges, legislative council, secretary, and such other officers as Congress shall appoint in the district, shall take an oath or affirmation of fidelity and of office; the governor before the president of congress, and all other officers before the Governor. As soon as a legislature shall be formed in the district, the council and house assembled in one room, shall have authority, by joint ballot, to elect a delegate to Congress, who shall have a seat in Congress, with a right of debating but not voting during this temporary government.*

*Whereas*, the scope of this section is outside the purview of the interim government and can only be resolved by a fully restored Constitutional government be it national, state or local; excepting that all free state officers are charged with diligently working toward having thirty thousand Republic Voters in their state so that elections can be held (see *Sections 3 & 4;*) and; excepting that the Republic will protect property rights once the American people assemble in mass to re-inhabit their Republic (see *Section 2;*)

*Therefore*, the Office of the President sayeth naught, excepting for the purpose of populating the free State, the free State governor, judges, legislative council, secretary, and such other officers as the President shall appoint in the free State, shall take an oath or affirmation to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States; before the President, and all other officers before the Governor, and;

Once seated, the Provisional legislature, the council and house assembled, shall have authority, by joint ballot, to nominate, to the President, a Representative to the National House of Representatives at any time there is a vacancy therein. Senators to the National government shall be nominated by the free State Governor and Provisional Legislative council, by joint ballot, in like manner of the Representative, provided there is a vacancy therein.

***Sec. 13:*** *And, for extending the fundamental principles of civil and religious liberty, which form the basis whereon these republics, their laws and constitutions are erected; to fix and establish those principles as the basis of all laws, constitutions, and governments, which forever hereafter shall be formed in the said territory: to provide also for the establishment of States, and permanent government therein, and for their admission to a share in the federal councils on an equal footing with the original States, at as early periods as may be consistent with the general interest:*

*Whereas*, the scope of this section is outside the purview of the interim government and can only be resolved by a fully restored Constitutional government be it national, state or local; excepting that all free state officers are charged with diligently working toward having thirty thousand Republic Voters in their state so that elections can be held (see *Sections 3 & 4;*) and;

excepting that the Republic will protect property rights once the American people assemble in mass to re-inhabit their Republic (see *Section 2*;) )

*Therefore, the Office of the President sayeth naught, excepting for the purpose of populating the free State, for extending the fundamental principles of civil and religious liberty, which form the basis whereon these free States, their laws and constitutions are erected; to fix and establish those principles as the basis of all laws, constitutions, and governments, which forever hereafter shall be upon completion of re-inhabitation to their de jure status: to provide for the establishment of said re-inhabited free States, and permanent government therein upon the participation of the American people in mass, that may be consistent with the general interest: (see *Section 14*)*

***Section 14.*** *It is hereby ordained and declared by the authority aforesaid, That the following articles shall be considered as articles of compact between the original States and the people and States in the said territory and forever remain unalterable, unless by common consent, to wit:*

***Art. 1.*** *No person, demeaning himself in a peaceable and orderly manner, shall ever be molested on account of his mode of worship or religious sentiments, in the said territory.*

***Art. 2.*** *The inhabitants of the said territory shall always be entitled to the benefits of the writ of habeas corpus, and of the trial by jury; of a proportionate representation of the people in the legislature; and of judicial proceedings according to the course of the common law. All persons shall be bailable, unless for capital offenses, where the proof shall be evident or the presumption great. All fines shall be moderate; and no cruel or unusual punishments shall be inflicted. No man shall be deprived of his liberty or property, but by the judgment of his peers or the law of the land; and, should the public exigencies make it necessary, for the common preservation, to take any person's property, or to demand his particular services, full compensation shall be made for the same. And, in the just preservation of rights and property, it is understood and declared, that no law ought ever to be made, or have force in the said territory, that shall, in any manner whatever, interfere with or affect private contracts or engagements, bona fide, and without fraud, previously formed.*

***Art. 3.*** *Religion, morality, and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged. The utmost good faith shall always be observed towards the Indians; their lands and property shall never be taken from them without their consent; and, in their property, rights, and liberty, they shall never be invaded or disturbed, unless in just and lawful wars authorized by Congress; but laws founded in justice and humanity, shall from time to time be made for preventing wrongs being done to them, and for preserving peace and friendship with them.*

***Art. 4.*** *The said territory, and the States which may be formed therein, shall forever remain a part of this Confederacy of the United States of America, subject to the Articles of Confederation, and to such alterations therein as shall be constitutionally made; and to all the acts and ordinances of the United States in Congress assembled, conformable thereto. The inhabitants and settlers in the said territory shall be subject to pay a part of the federal debts contracted or to be contracted, and a proportional part of the expenses of government, to be apportioned on them by Congress according to the same common rule and measure by which apportionments thereof shall be made on the other States; and the taxes for paying their proportion shall be laid and levied by the authority and direction of the legislatures of the district or districts, or new States, as in the original States, within the time agreed upon by the United States in Congress assembled. The legislatures of those districts or new States, shall never interfere with the primary disposal of the soil by the United States in Congress assembled, nor with any regulations Congress may find necessary for securing the title in such soil to the bona fide purchasers. No tax shall be imposed on lands the property of the United States; and, in no case, shall nonresident proprietors be taxed higher than residents. The navigable waters leading into the Mississippi and St. Lawrence, and the carrying places between the same, shall be common highways and forever free, as well to the inhabitants of the said territory as to the citizens of the United States, and those of any other States that may be admitted into the confederacy, without any tax, impost, or duty therefor.*

***Art. 5.*** *There shall be formed in the said territory, not less than three nor more than five States; and the boundaries of the States, as soon as Virginia shall alter her act of cession, and consent to the same, shall become fixed and established as follows, to wit: The western State in the said territory, shall be bounded by the Mississippi, the Ohio, and Wabash Rivers; a direct line drawn from the Wabash and Post Vincents, due North, to the territorial line between the United States and Canada; and, by the said territorial line, to the Lake of the Woods and Mississippi.*

*The middle State shall be bounded by the said direct line, the Wabash from Post Vincents to the Ohio, by the Ohio, by a direct line, drawn due north from the mouth of the Great Miami, to the said territorial line, and by the said territorial line. The eastern State shall be bounded by the last mentioned direct line, the Ohio, Pennsylvania, and the said territorial line: Provided, however, and it is further understood and declared, that the boundaries of these three States shall be subject so far to be altered, that, if Congress shall hereafter find it expedient, they shall have authority to form one or two States in that part of the said territory which lies north of an east and west line drawn through the southerly bend or extreme of Lake Michigan. And, whenever any of the said States shall have sixty thousand free inhabitants therein, such State shall be admitted, by its delegates, into the Congress of the United States, on an equal footing with the original States in all respects whatever, and shall be at liberty to form a permanent constitution and State government: Provided, the constitution and government so to be formed, shall be republican, and in conformity to the principles contained in these articles; and, so far as it can be consistent with the general interest of the confederacy, such admission shall be allowed at an earlier period, and when there may be a less number of free inhabitants in the State than sixty thousand.*

**Art. 6.** *There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the said territory, otherwise than in the punishment of crimes whereof the party shall have been duly convicted: Provided, always, That any person escaping into the same, from whom labor or service is lawfully claimed in any one of the original States, such fugitive may be lawfully reclaimed and conveyed to the person claiming his or her labor or service as aforesaid.*

Whereas, the scope of this section is outside the purview of the interim government and can only be resolved by a fully restored Constitutional government be it national, state or local; excepting that all free state officers are charged with diligently working toward having thirty thousand Republic Voters in their state so that elections can be held (see *Sections 3 & 4;*) and; excepting that the Republic will protect property rights once the American people assemble in mass to re-inhabit their Republic (see *Section 2;*)

Therefore, the Office of the President sayeth naught, excepting for the purpose of populating the free State, no person, demeaning himself in a peaceable and orderly manner, shall ever be molested on account of his mode of worship or religious sentiments, in the said free State, and; *Articles 2 through 6* would only become enforceable should the people become members in mass and begin to participate in their *de jure* Republic.



Chap. VIII.- *An Act to provide for the Government of the Territory North-west of the river Ohio.*

*Whereas* in order that the ordinance of the United States in Congress assembled, for the government of the territory north-west of the river Ohio may continue to have full effect, it is requisite that certain provisions should be made, so as to adapt the same to the present Constitution of the United States.(a)

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That in all cases in which by the said ordinance, any information is to be given, or communication made by the governor of the said territory to the United States in Congress assembled, or to any of their officers, it shall be the duty of the said governor to give such information and to make such communication to the President of the United States, and the President shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint all officers which by the said ordinance were to have been appointed by the United States in Congress assembled, and all officers so appointed shall be commissioned by him; and in all cases where the United States in Congress assembled, might, by the said ordinance, revoke any commission or remove from any office, the President is hereby declared to have the same powers of revocation and removal.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That in case of the death, removal, resignation, or necessary absence of the governor of the said territory, the secretary thereof shall be, and he is hereby authorized and required to execute all the powers, and perform all the duties of the governor, during the vacancy occasioned by the removal, resignation or necessary absence of the said governor.(a.)

APPROVED, August 7, 1789.

(a) *An Ordinance for the government of the Territory of the United States northwest of the River Ohio.*

*Be it ordained by the United States in Congress assembled,* That the said territory, for the purposes of temporary government, be one district, subject, however, to be divided into two districts, as future circumstances may, in the opinion of Congress, make it expedient.

*Be it ordained by the authority aforesaid,* That the estates, both of resident and nonresident proprietors in the said territory, dying intestate, shall descent to, and be distributed among their children, and the descendants of a deceased child, in equal parts; the descendants of a deceased child or grandchild to take the share of their deceased parent in equal parts among them: And where there shall be no children or descendants, then in equal parts to the next of kin in equal degree; and among collaterals, the children of a deceased brother or sister of the intestate shall have, in equal parts among them, their deceased parents' share; and there shall in no case be a distinction between kindred of the whole and half blood; saving, in all cases, to the widow of the intestate her third part of the real estate for life, and one third part of the personal estate; and this law relative to descents and dower, shall remain in full force until altered by the legislature of the district. And until the governor and judges shall adopt laws as hereinafter mentioned, estates in the said territory may be devised or bequeathed by wills in writing, signed and sealed by him or her in whom the estate may be (being of full age), and attested by three witnesses; and real estates may be conveyed by lease and release, or bargain and sale, signed, sealed and delivered by the person being of full age, in whom the estate may be, and attested by two witnesses, provided such wills be duly proved, and such conveyances be acknowledged, or the execution thereof duly proved, and be

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recorded within one year after proper magistrates, courts, and registers shall be appointed for that purpose; and personal property may be transferred by delivery; saving, however to the French and Canadian inhabitants, and other settlers of the Kaskaskies, St. Vincents and the neighboring villages who have heretofore professed themselves citizens of Virginia, their laws and customs now in force among them, relative to the descent and conveyance, of property.

*Be it ordained by the authority aforesaid,* That there shall be appointed from time to time by Congress, a governor, whose commission shall continue in force for the term of three years, unless sooner revoked by Congress; he shall reside in the district, and have a freehold estate therein in 1,000 acres of land, while in the exercise of his office. There shall be appointed from time to time by Congress, a secretary, whose commission shall continue in force for four years unless sooner revoked; he shall reside in the district, and have a freehold estate therein in 500 acres of land, while in the exercise of his office. It shall be his duty to keep and preserve the acts and laws passed by the legislature, and the public records of the district, and the proceedings of the governor in his executive department, and transmit authentic copies of such acts and proceedings, every six months, to the Secretary of Congress: There shall also be appointed a court to consist of three judges, any two of whom to form a court, who shall have a common law jurisdiction, and reside in the district, and have each therein a freehold estate in 500 acres of land while in the exercise of their offices; and their commissions shall continue in force during good behavior.

The governor and judges, or a majority of them, shall adopt and publish in the district such laws of the original States, criminal and civil, as may be necessary and best suited to the circumstances of the district, and report them to Congress from time to time: which laws shall be in force in the district until the organization of the General Assembly therein, unless disapproved of by Congress; but afterwards the Legislature shall have authority to alter them as they shall think fit.

The governor, for the time being, shall be commander in chief of the militia, appoint and commission all officers in the same below the rank of general officers; all general officers shall be appointed and commissioned by Congress. Previous to the organization of the general assembly, the governor shall appoint such magistrates and other civil officers in each county or township, as he shall find necessary for the preservation of the peace and good order in the same: After the general assembly shall be organized, the powers and duties of the magistrates and other civil officers shall be regulated and defined by the said assembly; but all magistrates and other civil officers not herein otherwise directed, shall during the continuance of this temporary government, be appointed by the governor. For the prevention of crimes and injuries, the laws to be adopted or made shall have force in all parts of the district, and for the execution of process, criminal and civil, the governor shall make proper divisions thereof; and he shall proceed from time to time as circumstances may require, to lay out the parts of the district in which the Indian titles shall have been extinguished, into counties and townships, subject, however, to such alterations as may thereafter be made by the legislature.

So soon as there shall be five thousand free male inhabitants of full age in the district, upon giving proof thereof to the governor, they shall receive authority, with time and place, to elect a representative from their counties or townships to represent them in the general assembly: Provided, That, for every five hundred free male inhabitants, there shall be one representative, and so on progressively with the number of free male inhabitants shall the right of representation increase, until the number of representatives shall amount to twenty five; after which, the number and proportion of representatives shall be regulated by the legislature: Provided, That no person be eligible or qualified to act as a representative unless he shall have been a citizen of one of the United States three years, and be a resident in the district, or unless he shall have resided in the district three years; and, in either case, shall likewise hold in his own right, in fee simple, two hundred acres of land within the same; Provided, also, That a freehold in fifty acres of land in the district, having been a citizen of one of the states, and being resident in the district, or the like freehold and two years residence in the district, shall be necessary to qualify a man as an elector of a representative.

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The representatives thus elected, shall serve for the term of two years; and, in case of the death of a representative, or removal from office, the governor shall issue a writ to the county or township for which he was a member, to elect another in his stead, to serve for the residue of the term.

The general assembly or legislature shall consist of the governor, legislative council, and a house of representatives. The Legislative Council shall consist of five members, to continue in office five years, unless sooner removed by Congress; any three of whom to be a quorum: and the members of the Council shall be nominated and appointed in the following manner, to wit: As soon as representatives shall be elected, the Governor shall appoint a time and place for them to meet together; and, when met, they shall nominate ten persons, residents in the district, and each possessed of a freehold in five hundred acres of land, and return their names to Congress; five of whom Congress shall appoint and commission to serve as aforesaid; and, whenever a vacancy shall happen in the council, by death or removal from office, the house of representatives shall nominate two persons, qualified as aforesaid, for each vacancy, and return their names to Congress; one of whom congress shall appoint and commission for the residue of the term. And every five years, four months at least before the expiration of the time of service of the members of council, the said house shall nominate ten persons, qualified as aforesaid, and return their names to Congress; five of whom Congress shall appoint and commission to serve as members of the council five years, unless sooner removed. And the governor, legislative council, and house of representatives, shall have authority to make laws in all cases, for the good government of the district, not repugnant to the principles and articles in this ordinance established and declared. And all bills, having passed by a majority in the house, and by a majority in the council, shall be referred to the governor for his assent; but no bill, or legislative act whatever, shall be of any force without his assent. The governor shall have power to convene, prorogue, and dissolve the general assembly, when, in his opinion, it shall be expedient.

The governor, judges, legislative council, secretary, and such other officers as Congress shall appoint in the district, shall take an oath or affirmation of fidelity and of office; the governor before the president of congress, and all other officers before the Governor. As soon as a legislature shall be formed in the district, the council and house assembled in one room, shall have authority, by joint ballot, to elect a delegate to Congress, who shall have a seat in Congress, with a right of debating but not voting during this temporary government.

And, for extending the fundamental principles of civil and religious liberty, which form the basis whereon these republics, their laws and constitutions are erected; to fix and establish those principles as the basis of all laws, constitutions, and governments, which forever hereafter shall be formed in the said territory: to provide also for the establishment of States, and permanent government therein, and for their admission to a share in the federal councils on an equal footing with the original States, at as early periods as may be consistent with the general interest:

*It is hereby ordained and declared by the authority aforesaid, That the following articles shall be considered as articles of compact between the original States and the people and States in the said territory and forever remain unalterable, unless by common consent, to wit:*

Art. I. No person, demeaning himself in a peaceable and orderly manner, shall ever be molested on account of his mode of worship or religious sentiments, in the said territory.

Art. II. The inhabitants of the said territory shall always be entitled to the benefits of the writ of habeas corpus, and of the trial by jury; of a proportionate representation of the people in the legislature; and of judicial proceedings according to the course of the common law. All persons shall be bailable, unless for capital offenses, where the proof shall be evident or the presumption great. All fines shall be moderate; and no cruel or unusual punishments shall be inflicted. No man shall be deprived of his liberty or property, but by the judgment of his peers or the law of the land; and, should the public exigencies make it necessary, for the common preservation, to take any person's property, or to demand his particular services, full compensation shall be made for the same. And, in the just preservation of rights and property, it is understood and declared, that no law ought ever to be made, or have

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force in the said territory, that shall, in any manner whatever, interfere with or affect private contracts or engagements, bona fide, and without fraud, previously formed.

Art. III. Religion, morality, and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged. The utmost good faith shall always be observed towards the Indians; their lands and property shall never be taken from them without their consent; and, in their property, rights, and liberty, they shall never be invaded or disturbed, unless in just and lawful wars authorized by Congress; but laws founded in justice and humanity, shall from time to time be made for preventing wrongs being done to them, and for preserving peace and friendship with them.

Art. IV. The said territory, and the States which may be formed therein, shall forever remain a part of this Confederacy of the United States of America, subject to the Articles of Confederation, and to such alterations therein as shall be constitutionally made; and to all the acts and ordinances of the United States in Congress assembled, conformable thereto. The inhabitants and settlers in the said territory shall be subject to pay a part of the federal debts contracted or to be contracted, and a proportional part of the expenses of government, to be apportioned on them by Congress according to the same common rule and measure by which apportionments thereof shall be made on the other States; and the taxes for paying their proportion shall be laid and levied by the authority and direction of the legislatures of the district or districts, or new States, as in the original States, within the time agreed upon by the United States in Congress assembled. The legislatures of those districts or new States, shall never interfere with the primary disposal of the soil by the United States in Congress assembled, nor with any regulations Congress may find necessary for securing the title in such soil to the bona fide purchasers. No tax shall be imposed on lands the property of the United States; and, in no case, shall nonresident proprietors be taxed higher than residents. The navigable waters leading into the Mississippi and St. Lawrence, and the carrying places between the same, shall be common highways and forever free, as well to the inhabitants of the said territory as to the citizens of the United States, and those of any other States that may be admitted into the confederacy, without any tax, impost, or duty therefor.

Art. V. There shall be formed in the said territory, not less than three nor more than five States; and the boundaries of the States, as soon as Virginia shall alter her act of cession, and consent to the same, shall become fixed and established as follows, to wit: The western State in the said territory, shall be bounded by the Mississippi, the Ohio, and Wabash Rivers; a direct line drawn from the Wabash and Post Vincents, due North, to the territorial line between the United States and Canada; and, by the said territorial line, to the Lake of the Woods and Mississippi. The middle State shall be bounded by the said direct line, the Wabash from Post Vincents to the Ohio, by the Ohio, by a direct line, drawn due north from the mouth of the Great Miami, to the said territorial line, and by the said territorial line. The eastern State shall be bounded by the last mentioned direct line, the Ohio, Pennsylvania, and the said territorial line: Provided, however, and it is further understood and declared, that the boundaries of these three States shall be subject so far to be altered, that, if Congress shall hereafter find it expedient, they shall have authority to form one or two States in that part of the said territory which lies north of an east and west line drawn through the southerly bend or extreme of Lake Michigan. And, whenever any of the said States shall have sixty thousand free inhabitants therein, such State shall be admitted, by its delegates, into the Congress of the United States, on an equal footing with the original States in all respects whatever, and shall be at liberty to form a permanent constitution and State government: Provided, the constitution and government so to be formed, shall be republican, and in conformity to the principles contained in these articles; and, so far as it can be consistent with the general interest of the confederacy, such admission shall be allowed at an earlier period, and when there may be a less number of free inhabitants in the State than sixty thousand.

Art. VI. There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the said territory, otherwise than in the punishment of crimes whereof the party shall have been duly convicted: Provided, always, That any person escaping into the same, from whom labor or service is lawfully claimed in any one of the original States, such

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fugitive may be lawfully reclaimed and conveyed to the person claiming his or her labor or service as aforesaid.  
[Be it ordained by the authority aforesaid, That the resolutions of the 23rd of April, 1784, relative to the subject of this ordinance, be, and the same are hereby repealed and declared null and void.]

*Done by the United States, in Congress assembled, the 13th day of July, in the year of our Lord 1787, and of their sovereignty and independence the twelfth.*

*WILLIAM GRAYSON, Chairman.*

<sup>ii</sup> *United States Constitution, Article I, Section 2 (c. 1789) The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative;*