

## **1838 Florida Constitution Excerpts:**

### ***General Provisions***

Section 1. The General Assembly shall have no power to pass laws for the emancipation of slaves.

Section 2. They shall have no power to prevent emigrants to this State, from bringing with them, such persons as may be deemed slaves, by the laws of any one of the United States: Provided, they shall have power to enact laws to prevent the introduction of any slaves who may have committed crimes in other States.

### ***Legislative Department***

Section 4. No person shall be a representative, unless he be a white man, a citizen of the United States, and shall have been an inhabitant of the State, two years next preceding his election, and the last year thereof a resident of the county for which he shall be chosen, and shall have attained the age of twenty-one years.

Section 5. The Senators shall be chosen by the qualified electors, for the term of two years, at the same time, in the same manner, and in the same places where they vote for members of the House of Representatives; and no man shall be a Senator, unless he be a white man, a citizen of the United States, and shall have been an inhabitant of this State, two years next preceding his election, and the last year thereof, a resident of the District or County for which he shall be chosen, and shall have attained the age of twenty-five years.

### ***The Right of Suffrage and Qualifications of Officers; Civil Offices; and Impeachments, and Removals from Office***

Section 1. Every free white male person of the age of twenty-one years and upwards, and who shall be at the time of offering to vote a citizen of the United States; and who shall have resided, and had his habitation, domicil, home, and place of permanent abode in Florida for two years next preceding the election at which he shall offer to vote; and who shall have at such time, and for six months immediately preceding said time, shall have had his habitation, domicil, home, and place of permanent abode in the County in which he may offer to vote, and who shall be enrolled in the Militia thereof, (unless by law exempted from serving in the Militia,) shall be deemed a qualified elector at all elections under this Constitution, and none others; except in elections by general ticket in the State or District prescribed by law, in which cases the elector must have been a resident of the State two years next preceding the election, and six months within the election district in which he offers to vote: provided that no soldier, seaman, or marine in the regular Army or Navy of the United States, unless he be a qualified elector of the State previous to his enlistment as such soldier, seaman, or marine in the regular Army or Navy of the United States or of the Revenue Service, shall be considered a resident of the State, in consequence of being stationed within the same.