

## MISSISSIPPI REGISTRATION

Art. 12, Section 244 of the Mississippi Constitution provides "The person applying to register shall make a sworn, written application for registration on a form to be prescribed by the state board of election commissioners, exhibiting therein the essential facts and qualifications necessary to show that he is entitled to register and vote...." In addition, Section 244 requires that "Every elector shall, in addition to the foregoing qualifications be able to read and write any section of the Constitution of this State and give a reasonable interpretation thereof to the county registrar. He shall demonstrate to the county registrar a reasonable understanding of the duties and obligations of citizenship under a constitutional form of government." Thus in two places, Sec. 244 incorporates as requirements for registration, the requirements the constitution lists as essential for voting. The requirements for registration and voting are as follows:

1. Two years residence in the State; one years' residence in the election district, or incorporated town or city (except that "any minister of an organized church or his wife legally residing with him" ~~can~~ is entitled to vote after six months' residence in election district, incorporated town or city.

2. Must never have been convicted of bribery, theft, arson, obtaining money or goods under false pretense, perjury, forgery, embezzlement or bigamy.

~~3. Must have paid or before the first day of February of the year in which he is to vote all poll taxes which may have been legally required of him~~  
in conjunction with Sec. 244

3. This section can be interpreted to mean that poll taxes ~~payment~~ is a prerequisite for registration. However in Bew v. State, 71 M 1, a Mississippi court ruled that poll tax payment is not a prerequisite for registration.

4. In Jones v. Board of Registrars a Mississippi court ruled that, in a case of embezzlement of federal funds where the conviction was in federal court, presidential pardon restored voting entitlement. Governor's pardon does not appear to do the same, <sup>in the case of a conviction in state court,</sup> from the annotation we have.

## SAMPLE SECTIONS OF THE MISSISSIPPI CONSTITUTION

Section 8. All persons, resident in this state, citizens of the United States, are hereby declared citizens of the State of Mississippi.

Sample interpretation: Anybody who lives in Mississippi and is an American citizen is also a citizen of the State of Mississippi.

Section 30. There shall be no imprisonment for debt.

Sample interpretation: A person can not be put in jail just because he owes money.

Now write your own interpretations for the sections given below.

Section 14. No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property, except by due process of law.

Section 20. No person shall be elected or appointed to office in this state for life or during good behaviour, but the term of all offices shall be for some specified period.

Section 21. The privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in the case of rebellion or invasion, the public safety may require it, nor ever without the authority of the Legislature.

Section 22. No person's life or liberty shall be twice placed in jeopardy for the same offense; but there must be an actual acquittal or conviction on the merits to bar another prosecution.

Section 23. The people shall be secure in their persons, houses, and possessions, from unreasonable seizure or search; and no warrant shall be issued without probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, specially designating the place to be searched and the person or thing to be seized.

Section 32. The enumeration of rights in this constitution shall not be construed to deny and impair others retained by, and inherent in, the people.

Section 209. Separate schools shall be maintained for children of the white and colored races.