



VIRGINIA'S CONSTITUTIONS

A Traveling Exhibition from the Library of Virginia

Content: To mark the fiftieth anniversary of the current state constitution, the Library of Virginia is pleased to offer *Virginia's Constitutions*, a traveling exhibition.

State constitutions are one of the most essential parts of the social contract. They articulate a way of life and embody fundamentally important ideas about the relationships between people and their government. State constitutions provide additional protections and rights not named in the federal constitution, and can be amended more often than the federal one. Thomas Jefferson believed that state constitutions should be revised at regular intervals.

Like the federal constitution, Virginia's first constitution defined three branches of government: executive, judicial, and legislative. Virginia's constitutions establish and regulate local governments and determine the power of the state to levy taxes. Virginia's earliest constitutions offered economic opportunity to some Virginians but condemned others to lifelong enslavement. After the Civil War, the state's constitutions determined what kind of public education children could receive. All the constitutions defined who may and who may not vote, that most basic level of participation in self-government.

Exhibition Availability: The exhibition is available for a six-week (6) loan period, inclusive of shipping, beginning November 22, 2021.

Format and Space: *Virginia's Constitutions* is a four-unit, double-sided banner exhibition. The venue should have 200 sq. ft. for comfortable viewing on both sides. The banners are 40" w x 72" h.

Insurance: For insurance purposes, the value of the exhibition is \$10,000.

Rental Fee: NONE! *Virginia's Constitutions* is available free of charge.

Transportation: The Library of Virginia will handle all transportation logistics.

Support Materials: *Virginia's Constitutions* resource web site, <https://edu.lva.virginia.gov/>

Credit: An exhibition from the Library of Virginia with support from the Virginia Law Foundation, Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP, ReedSmith LLP, and McGuireWoods. The Virginia Law Foundation promotes through philanthropy the rule of law, access to justice and law-related education.

Contact: For more information, please contact Barbara C. Batson, exhibitions coordinator, at barbara.batson@lva.virginia.gov or 804-692-3518.

