

Pahrump Community Church



Constitution & By-Laws

April 18, 2021

Pahrump Community Church
CONSTITUTION

[Amended April 18, 2021]



Pahrump Community Church
BY-LAWS

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*An Oasis in a thirsty world
offering the hope and joy of knowing Christ,
encouraging people in the faith,
and enabling them for ministry.*

ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSE

- 1. Name:** This organization shall be called the Pahrump Community Church, Inc., of Pahrump, Nevada.
- 2. Purpose:** The purpose of this church shall be:
 - To maintain public worship of God.
 - To promote spiritual welfare and Christian fellowship.
 - To share in the proclamation of the Gospel at home and abroad to win the lost to Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE II. DOCTRINE

- 1. Inspiration of the scripture:** We believe that the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, is the verbally inspired Word and revelation of God in its original writing, and is the final authority for faith and practice.
PSALM 19:7-11; 2 TIMOTHY 3:16; 2 PETER 1:16, 21
- 2. The Triune God:** We believe that there is but one true and living God, eternally existing, and manifesting Himself to us in three divine Persons: God the father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
JOHN 15:26; 14:26; 16:13-15; 10:30, 36; 17:22; GENESIS 1:26; 2 CORINTHIANS 13:14; PSALM 90:1, 2
- 3. Deity of Jesus Christ:** We believe in the virgin birth and the deity of Jesus Christ our Lord, Who is true God and true man.
MATTHEW 1:18-25; JOHN 1:1, 14; COLOSSIANS 2:9; HEBREWS 1:1, 3, 8-10
- 4. Blood Atonement and Crucifixion:** We believe in the substitutionary atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ; that to fulfill the Old Testament He was crucified on the cross, suffered great pain, and being forsaken by God the Father, descended into hell, tasting death for every man, and that all must be born again through personal faith in His shed blood, or forever be lost.
JOHN 3:1-19; 6:44-58; HEBREWS 2:9; 1 PETER 1:18-21; ISAIAH 53; 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21; MATTHEW 27:46
- 5. The Resurrection and Exaltation of Jesus Christ:** We believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ; that He ascended bodily into heaven, and that He is now at God's right hand as our Mediator, High Priest, and Advocate.
ACTS 3:12-26; JOHN 20; HEBREWS 9:24; 1 CORINTHIANS 15:28; 1 JOHN 2:1; ROMANS 4:25
- 6. Second Coming of Christ:** We believe in the personal and imminent coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
ACTS 1:11; 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18; REVELATION 19:11-21; 20:1-6; JOHN 14:1-3
- 7. The Holy Spirit:** We believe in the personality and divinity of the Holy Spirit: that on the day of Pentecost he came into the world to abide; that He indwells all regenerate persons; that He instructs, helps, and purifies the body of Christ (the Church); that He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment; and that He is the infallible Interpreter of the Scriptures.
JOHN 14:16, 17; 16:7-15; ACTS 2:4; 1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-11; ROMANS 8:26, 27
- 8. Man:** We believe that man was created in the image of God; that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical but also spiritual death, which is separation from God; that all human beings are born with a sinful nature.
GENESIS 1:27; 2:17; 3:6, 22-24; ROMANS 3:23; PSALM 51:5

9. The Sacredness of Marriage: We adhere to the Biblical witness regarding the sacredness of marriage. The term “marriage” has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God, which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture.

(See Policy: *PCC Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality*.)

GENESIS 2:18-24

10. Sin: We believe in the universality and exceeding sinfulness of sin; that it is the moral transgression of the known laws of God; and that it is the lack of conformity to the will of God.

JEREMIAH 17:9; ROMANS 3:10, 23; 5:12

11. The Church: We believe that the true Church is the invisible body of Christ consisting of all who have been born again and baptized into this body by the Holy Spirit.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:13; EPHESIANS 1:22-23; 2:19-22; COLOSSIANS 3:10, 11

12. Salvation: We believe that salvation is by grace, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

EPHESIANS 2:8-9; ROMANS 5:1, 9; TITUS 3:5

13. Separation:

- We believe that all saved persons are asked to abstain from all sinful practices.

ROMANS 12:1, 2, 21; 1 CORINTHIANS 6:19, 20; 2 CORINTHIANS 6:14-17; JAMES 4:4; 1 JOHN 2:1-17

- We believe that all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ should maintain good works.

EPHESIANS 4:1; TITUS 2:11-14; JAMES 2:14-20

14. Satan: We believe in the personality and reality of Satan.

ISAIAH 14:12-17; MATTHEW 4:2-11; JOHN 8:44; REVELATION 12:9, 10; 20:1-15; 21:8

15. Heaven and Hell: We believe that heaven is a place of eternal blessedness and that hell is a place of eternal suffering.

MATTHEW 6:20; 25:41; REVELATION 21:8; 20:1-15; 21:1-4; 2 CORINTHIANS 5:1-4

16. Resurrection: We believe in the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting.

JOHN 11:25, 26; 6:39; 5:28-29

- The doctrinal statements above do not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of this organization’s faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our Elders are our final interpretive authority on the Bible’s meaning and application.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this organization shall consist of regenerate persons who have publicly confessed Christ as their personal Savior, who accept heartily the doctrinal statement of this church, and who joyfully covenant themselves to the other members of Pahrump Community Church in accordance with Article IV. Only those who have confessed and evidenced their faith in Jesus Christ as Savior shall be received as members. Those wishing to retain membership in their former churches may do so and also be members of this church. The Pastors and their wives shall be members by virtue of office in the church, and shall be received into the fellowship, as are other members. Applicants for membership will attend membership training classes directed by church leadership, to acquaint them with the principles and practice of this church.

ARTICLE IV. COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, we do now, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one in the body of Christ. We engage therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of the church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship (by attending its services), ordinances, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations. We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions (MATTHEW 6:6), educate our children in the spiritual life, seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances, be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and be an example of Christ-likeness in our conduct. We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love, to remember each other in prayer, to aid each other in sickness and distress, to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech, to be slow to take offense but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the commands of our Savior, to secure it without delay. We moreover engage, that when we remove from this place, we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

ARTICLE V. GOVERNMENT

- 1. Control:** This church shall have a congregational form of government. For the purposes of Pahrump Community Church, this means that, under the headship of Christ and the authority of the Holy Spirit, this church is autonomous and shall not be controlled by any external organization. It is independent and sovereign in all respects as far as human government is concerned. The Elders, along with input from the Deacons and the Treasurer, shall be responsible for prayerfully formulating church objectives, goals, and plans and submitting them annually in the form of the Annual Operating Report for approval by vote of the membership.
- 2. Affiliation:** This church has historically been affiliated with *Village Missions*. This affiliation does not interfere with the autonomous nature of this church but is voluntary and ongoing as long as the members consent to the relationship. At the request of the church, and as they are able, *Village Missions* agrees to provide qualified spiritual leadership to serve as Senior Pastor (Lead Elder). Termination of this relationship with *Village Missions* on the part of this church must be by no less than two-thirds vote of the church membership.
- 3. Officers:** the officers of this organization shall be
 - Lead Elder (Senior Pastor)
 - Elders (including Associate and/or Assistant Pastors)
 - Deacons
 - Treasurer
- 4. Congregation:** The congregation shall consist of all members in good standing, but only those who are sixteen (16) years of age and above shall be entitled to vote in business matters of the church. Young people who are twelve (12) years of age may become members of the church.
- 5. Discipline:** The congregation shall have the right at any time to dismiss from its membership any member, or dismiss from office any Elder or officer who may be found out of harmony with the covenant or doctrine of the church. The procedure in case of discipline shall be according to the principle set forth in MATTHEW 18:15-17. Restoration shall always be the aim of discipline. All discipline shall be in the spirit of 2 CORINTHIANS 2:5-11. Three (3) months of unexplained absence from services and non-support shall forfeit the right of any member to vote in business matters of the church. One (1) year of unexplained absence and non-support shall forfeit the right of active membership, and be sufficient ground upon which to deny a church letter.

ARTICLE VI. ORGANIZATIONAL POLICY

All organizations of this church shall be part of the church. The officers of the church shall be members. This church shall exist as one organization with all ministries in harmony with the constitution. The church congregation shall have the right to address concerns in any ministry of the church. No office may be filled unless there is a qualified candidate.

ARTICLE VII. FINANCIAL POLICY

This church shall be supported by free-will offerings of the people. This method only shall be followed. Gifts may be received from any source at the discretion of the Elders, but under no circumstances shall this church resort to fund-raising activities. This should not be construed to limit the organizations of the church.

ARTICLE VIII. INCORPORATION

This church shall be incorporated with this constitution at the nearest opportunity in accordance with the laws of the state of Nevada.

ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended at any annual meeting of the congregation usually held in October, or at the March business meeting. Amendments to, or replacements of this constitution shall require approval of 2/3 of the people entitled to vote present at the aforesaid meeting. Every person entitled to vote residing in this vicinity shall be notified by mail, or by announcement two (2) successive Sundays prior to the special called meeting, or annual meeting. The amendment shall be read the Sunday preceding the meeting at which it will be voted on.

ARTICLE X. ADOPTION

This constitution was adopted on June 12, 1969.

It was amended on the following dates:

- October 31, 1971 October 8, 1986
- April 9, 1975 October 9, 1991
- October 7, 1981 October 11, 2015
- October 5, 1983 April 18, 2021
- October 9, 1985

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Amended: April 18, 2021

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ARTICLE I. CHURCH LEADERSHIP

- 1. The Senior Pastor (Lead Elder)** shall be the spiritual leader of the church, and paid overseer of all church organizations, programs and functions. He shall be responsible for building up the church body through evangelistic outreach, shepherding the flock, supplying the pulpit, visiting the sick, and preparing members for the same works of service (as in EPHESIANS 4:12-16). He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and organizations of the church. He shall join with the Elders and Sunday School Superintendent in appointing Sunday School teachers. Together with Elders, he shall appoint all committees and make other such appointments as may be necessary. Together with the Elders and in consultation with Associate/Assistant Pastors, the Senior Pastor shall supervise, meet with, instruct, guide, evaluate and counsel Associate/Assistant Pastors, and will insure their professional development as well as continuous effective church operations.
- 2. The Associate/Assistant Pastor(s)** shall be a part of the Elder Board and paid assistant overseers of church organizations, programs and functions. They shall be responsible to the Senior Pastor. Their duties shall be assigned by the Senior Pastor, together with the Elders, taking into account their talents and desires, their needs for professional development, and the needs of the church. They shall through performance of assigned duties assist the Senior Pastor in building up of the body through evangelistic outreach, shepherding the flock, supplying the pulpit, visiting the sick, and/or preparing members for the same works of service. They shall be ex-officio members of church committees and organizations, particularly in areas for which oversight has been delegated to them by the Senior Pastor and Elders. In those areas, they shall be involved with the Senior Pastor and Elders in supervision, appointments and other such activities.
- 3. The Elders** shall provide the primary spiritual leadership of the church. We believe the term “Elder” is interchangeable with “bishop,” “overseer,” and “Pastor.” A man who has been charged with the duty of being an Elder is to “watch over” the church. The term Elder denotes a person who is spiritually mature and speaks of a man of dignity and character. (See 1 TIMOTHY 3:1-7 and TITUS 1:6-9.) The Elders of the Church shall consist of the Pastor(s), and up to five (5) Lay Elders. The Elders shall select a moderating Elder (Board chairman) from among themselves, according to God’s gifting.
 - A. Responsibilities of Elders.** As the overseers of the church, the Elders are responsible to protect the doctrinal, moral and directional purity of the church (ACTS 20:17-35). The doctrinal purity is concerned with ensuring that the truth is being taught. Moral purity is concerned with ensuring that the truth is being practiced. Directional purity is concerned with the great commission (MATTHEW 28:19-20) being followed. The Elders, possessing authority (1 TIMOTHY 5:17; HEBREWS 13:17), may give direction when necessary in order to uphold their responsibilities but are careful not to be encumbered with the oversight of the day-to-day operation of the church. They shall hold each other accountable in doctrine and godly character.

A. Responsibilities of Elders. *(CONTINUED)*

The responsibilities of an Elder involve:

- (1) Shepherding (ACTS 20:28)
- (2) Protecting (ACTS 20:29-30)
- (3) Caring for (1 TIMOTHY 3:5)
- (4) Feeding/Equipping (EPHESIANS 4:11)
- (5) Discipling (MATTHEW 28:19-20; 2 TIMOTHY 2:2)
- (6) Managing (1 TIMOTHY 3:5 AND 5:17)
- (7) Leading (HEBREWS 13:17)
- (8) Praying (JAMES 5:14)
- (9) Guarding Doctrine (1 TIMOTHY 4:16; 6:20-21; TITUS 1:9; 2:1)
- (10) Discipling (MATTHEW 18:15-17, TITUS 1:10-16; 2:15-3:1; GALATIANS 6:1; 2 TIMOTHY 4:2-3)

The Elders shall not take any independent action which deviates from the constitution and by-laws, or historical church methods of operation, or which would incur expense or involve transfer of church property in excess of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) assuming availability of funds. Where such action is contemplated, the matter shall be taken before the Pastor(s), Deacons, and Treasurer for formulation of recommendation(s) to be presented at the appropriate business meeting for vote by the members.

B. Qualifications for an Elder. Only such men will be recommended that have proven themselves to be examples to the congregation (1 PETER 5), meet the Biblical qualifications of an Elder (1 TIMOTHY 3 and TITUS 1) and are members in good standing.

C. Lay Elder Selection. The Elders will select each candidate. A candidate's name will be made known at any business meeting with the intention of being confirmed by the Elders at a future business meeting. If any member believes a candidate should not be selected for the office for biblical reasons, the member should communicate this reservation to a current Elder. That Elder will bring it to the attention of all the Elders and if it is determined there are biblical grounds for reservation, the candidate will be removed from consideration. However, if the candidate is qualified, the Elders will present him to the membership for affirmation.

D. Term of Service for an Elder. Once confirmed as an Elder, he shall remain in that position unless the Elder removes himself due to a change in life or a ministry priority. If this Elder desires to return to service, his return will require Elder Board confirmation.

E. Release or Dismissal of an Elder.

If an accusation arises that would disqualify an Elder, the matter will be handled in accordance with MATTHEW 18:15-17 and 1 TIMOTHY 5:19. If a situation develops that would hinder his effectiveness, the Elder Board may release him from service.

4. The Deacons shall be appointed representatives of the church. The term “Deacon” means “servant” and can refer both to general acts of Christian service performed by any believer, or to a specific church office designating those specially chosen to assist in official leadership roles in a local congregation (see 1 TIMOTHY 3:8-13).

A. Responsibilities of Deacons. Biblically, the foremost responsibility of the Deacons is to serve the local church (as stated above). The Deacon Board shall have the responsibility of the upkeep of the church building(s) and property under the oversight of the Elders. The Elders may also appoint Deacons to be in charge of specific ministries and/or functions of the church. These appointments shall be affirmed by the members at the annual meeting. The Deacons shall not take any independent action which deviates from the constitution and by-laws, or which would incur expense or involve transfer of church property in excess of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) assuming availability of funds. Where such action is contemplated, the matter shall be taken before the Pastor(s), Elders, and Treasurer for formulation of recommendation(s) to be presented at the appropriate business meeting for vote by the members. The Board of Deacons shall elect a chairman annually following election of church officers. The Board of Deacons shall meet at least once each quarter with the Elder Board, and may meet additionally as needed (at the call of the chairman) to accomplish ministry items.

B. Qualifications for a Deacon. Those entrusted with the official role of Deacon in this church must have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ (ROMANS 10:9-11), be morally and doctrinally sound in accordance with the Scriptures, and shall not promote that which is contrary to the Biblical Doctrines as expressed in Article II (Doctrines) of the PCC Constitution. Their lives are to be patterned after 1 TIMOTHY 3:8-13; EPHESIANS 4-6 and GALATIANS 5:22-23. They must also be members of Pahrump Community Church.

C. Deacon Selection. The Elders will select each candidate for deacon. A candidate’s name will be made known at any business meeting with the intention of being confirmed by the Elders at a future business meeting. If any member believes a candidate should not be selected for the office of deacon for biblical reasons, the member should communicate this reservation to a current Elder. That Elder will bring it to the attention of all the Elders and if it is determined there are biblical grounds for reservation, the candidate will be removed from consideration. However, if the candidate is qualified, the Elders will present him to the membership for affirmation. There shall be no more than seven (7) and no fewer than three (3) Deacons.

D. Term of Service for a Deacon. Deacons shall serve for a period of three (3) years and may serve consecutive terms.

E. Release or Dismissal of a Deacon. If an accusation arises that would disqualify a Deacon, the matter will be handled in accordance with MATTHEW 18:15-17. If a situation develops that would hinder a Deacon’s effectiveness, the Elder Board may release him from service.

5. The Treasurer shall receive all offerings and contributions, be responsible for having two (2) people count each offering, pay all church expenses, keep a complete record of all receipts and disbursements, handle all special funds (unless otherwise directed by the congregation); shall give a financial report at each business meeting, and a complete financial report to the congregation annually in March; and shall submit the records for audit as requested.

ARTICLE II. TERMS OF OFFICE

1. The Pastor(s) shall not be limited to a specific term of office. Salary basis shall be adjusted to suit both the Pastor(s) and church, and may be changed at any time agreeable to both. Thirty (30) day’s notice by either church or Pastor(s) shall be required, unless otherwise agreed, to dissolve the Pastoral relationship.

2. The Treasurer shall be elected to serve a term of one year.

3. The Elders. Once affirmed by membership, an Elder shall remain in that position unless he removes himself or is removed by the Elder Board for cause.

4. The Deacons. Deacons shall serve for a period of three (3) years and may serve consecutive terms.

5. Unexpired Terms of Office

a. **Pastoral vacancy** – a special meeting of the Elder Board shall be called to develop and present a proposal to the membership regarding what action is to be taken.

b. **Other officers** – to be appointed by the Elder Board.

c. **Failure to serve** – in case any officer fails to serve, or becomes incapable of serving, the Elder Board will ascertain that this is so, and will appoint another to fill that office.

6. **Effective Date of Office** – officers assume office immediately after election/affirmation of membership.

ARTICLE III. BUSINESS MEETINGS

1. **Regular Meetings.** The congregation shall meet on the second Sunday of March, July, October and December unless otherwise announced. The October meeting will be the annual meeting. Special meetings of the congregation may be called at any time by the Pastor, Elders, or upon written request of ½ of the voting members of the church. Special meetings shall be announced one (1) Sunday in advance and each person having a vote shall be notified by mail at least three (3) days in advance.

2. **Annual Meetings.** The congregation shall meet annually in October during the regularly scheduled business meeting (unless otherwise duly announced), to elect/affirm officers, hear and act upon reports (financial and otherwise) from all organizations and departments of the church, decide all other business of major importance, and discuss and decide matters of controversy and discipline.

3. **A Quorum** consists of seven (7) members who are entitled to vote.

4. **Conduct.** Meetings shall be conducted according to *Roberts Rules of Order*, a copy of which shall be supplied by the church to the moderating Elder (Board chairman).

5. **Prerequisite.** All who are entitled to vote shall read the constitution and by-laws prior to the annual meeting.

6. **Annual Operating Report.** The Elders (including the Senior Pastor, Associate/Assistant Pastors), Deacons, and Treasurer shall meet during the period immediately following each annual meeting to formulate the Annual Operating Report. This report shall express the church's desire to biblically steward its resources for God's glory and the expansion of His Kingdom. As a minimum, this report shall include the previous fiscal year's budget report, current church financial status, immediate church financial status, immediate church goals and plans, long-term objectives, and the proposed church budget for the following fiscal year. The church Treasurer shall assist in the preparation of budget information. Annual reports from church departments shall also be used in future planning. The report will be mailed in draft form so as to reach each member at least one week prior to the following December business meeting. After congregational approval by ballot vote, the finalized report shall become the annual church operating document. Throughout the year, any member entitled to vote may propose amendments to this document by submitting the proposal to leadership for review. Provided the proposal has been agreed upon by a majority of the Elders (including the Senior Pastor and Associate/Assistant Pastors), Deacons, and Treasurer, the proposed amendment(s) shall be communicated to the active members (by mail or email), shall be read the Sunday preceding the business meeting, and then shall be presented for ballot vote at the following business meeting.

7. **Annual Review of Financial Procedures.** An annual review, initiated by leadership, will be undertaken of the financial procedures of Pahrump Community Church and its ministries. Recommendations or verification of compliance will be reported to the moderating Elder (Board chairman).

ARTICLE IV. RECEPTION OF MEMBERS

Members shall be welcomed into this fellowship in accordance with Article III of the Constitution.

ARTICLE V. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Recommendations to fill the office of Elder, Deacon and Treasurer shall be requested once a year from all church members. A **nominating committee** consisting of two Elders and one Deacon shall be appointed by the Elders, who will also designate a chairman of the committee. This committee shall review all nominations, add to the list of nominees if appropriate, and determine each nominee's qualifications. A recommendation of nominees prepared by the nominating committee shall then be submitted to the Elders who shall approve, disapprove, and/or propose additional nominees. The list of Elder-approved nominees shall be shared with the active members of the congregation (by appropriate means of communication) at least one month prior to the annual meeting of the church members. At the annual meeting, the nominees shall be presented to the members for affirmation. All voting in election of church officers shall be by ballot, except when there is only one nominee. A majority vote of those entitled to vote and present shall be decisive.

ARTICLE VI. ORDINANCES

The church shall practice the two ordinances: The Lord's Supper and water baptism.

ARTICLE VII. SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday school shall be an integral part of the church. Direction of the Children's Sunday School (High School age and under) is delegated to the Sunday School Superintendent. Sunday School funds and offerings shall be received by the church Treasurer. Teachers shall be appointed annually to serve a term of one year by the Sunday School Superintendent in council with the Elder Board.

ARTICLE VIII. COMMITTEES

All standing committees shall be appointed at the annual meeting to serve a term of one (1) year. Special committees may be appointed when needed at the business meetings. Any person not fulfilling his duties may be replaced at the recommendation of the Elder Board and the approval of membership.

ARTICLE IX. USE OF CHURCH PROPERTY

The church property, both real and personal, is dedicated solely for the service of the Lord. Permission for its use by other groups such as fraternal, political, sects, or cults shall not be granted. Requests for use for weddings and funerals shall be considered only for those who will uphold the purpose for which this property is dedicated at the discretion of the Elders and Deacons.

ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

At any business meeting, amendments may be made by 2/3 vote of those present entitled to vote, providing the proposed amendments have been read the preceding Sunday.

ARTICLE XI. ADOPTION

These by-laws were adopted June 12, 1969.

They were amended on the following dates:

October 31, 1971	October 8, 1986
April 9, 1975	October 9, 1991
September 7, 1977	October 13, 1993
October 7, 198	May 18, 2008
July 11, 1984	October 11, 2015
October 9, 1985	April 18, 2021