

Examples of Religious Tests in the Colonial Constitutions*

Delaware (1776)

Article 22: "'Every person who shall be chosen a member of either house ... shall make and subscribe the following declaration, to wit: 'I ...do profess faith in God the Father, and in Jesus Christ His only Son, and in the Holy Ghost.'"

Pennsylvania (1776)

Article 2, Section 10: "[E]ach member ... shall make and subscribe the following declaration, viz: 'I do believe in one God, the creator and governor of the universe ... And I do acknowledge the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be given by Divine inspiration.'"

New Jersey (1776)

Article 19: "[A]ll persons, professing a belief in the faith of any Protestant sect. ... shall be capable of being elected into any office."

Georgia (1777)

Article VI: "The representatives ... shall be of the Protestant religion."

Massachusetts (1780)

Chapter 6, Article 1: "Any person chosen ... representative ... shall ... make and subscribe the following declaration, viz.—'I, A. B., do declare, that I believe the Christian religion, and have a firm persuasion of its truth.'"

Maryland (1776)

Section 55: "[E]very person, appointed to any office of profit or trust, shall ... subscribe a declaration of his belief in the Christian religion."

South Carolina (1778)

Article 12: "[N]o person shall be eligible to a seat in the said senate unless he be of the Protestant religion..."

Article 13: "[N]o person shall be eligible to sit in the house of representatives unless he be of the Protestant religion..."

New Hampshire (1784)

Article VI: "[E]very denomination of christians ... shall be equally under the protection of the law:"

North Carolina (1776)

Article 32: "[N]o person, who shall deny the being of God or the truth of the Protestant religion, ...shall be capable of holding any office."

* Accessed on February 16, 2008 at <http://candst.tripod.com/toc.htm#constitutions>.