

**The Constitution of
the United States of America;**
Improved and Modernized.

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Preface

I wondered just how the US Constitution might look, how very different, if the Founders had traveled through time to the our current year and then back again. Imagine the sort of things which would have shocked them and they could have crafted a Constitution better serving us now. Of course, they couldn't guess 240 years ago the issues that would face the nation and how the constitution would affect the choices made and the nation America would become. The founding fathers, to be fair, did create an excellent document of law for their time. Indeed, the US Constitution was a very progressive and well conceived document of the Enlightenment Era. So, in this document, a hypothetical concept is explored. It is a concept that updates and aims to improve what a constitution would look like in today's world if the founding fathers had privy to the knowledge we now do, centuries later.

The basis of this concept of an improved and modernized US Constitution is build from the existing US Constitution. One of the first things I've done is to rewrite it so as to get a complete document without the separate amendments. I've omitted the old text in places where amendments made that portion obsolete, and I've include those portions that were added in the amendments. The result is a constitution that looks more like it would have if the founders incorporated the amendments as if they were editor's notes, revising it, before publishing the final version.

I took all of the ten amendments that formed the Bill of Rights and included that within the main document of the constitution. It is a section called “The Bill of Rights”. I have expanded upon the wording of the amendments, creating new variations with the intent to more explicitly guarantee those rights which have over the centuries been refined by the courts. I've divided some areas into separate rights – for example, in the original in the first amendment the separation of church and state, the freedom of religion, is incorporated with the freedom of speech, but in this version the freedom of religion is treated as one and the freedom of speech is treated as another. Both concepts still exist in this version, though under separate enumerations.

I've added content, which appears in *italics*, and I've removed some outdated content. Ultimately, my goal in this document was to create a concept of a constitution that would be improved and updated. I've gone to great efforts to try to preserve, to the greatest possible extent, the original constitution while also trying to create a new one that arises out of recent experience in America. There are, after all, some factors to be wrestled with, for instance, at the time the founders originally wrote the constitution slavery was legal, but today it is intolerable.

I have removed the content which was abolished by amendments, and added the material which was added by the amendments. The result is, before I added my own ideas, how the Constitution would appear had the Founders written the revised version after the amendments, all the way up to the 27th Amendment, consolidating documents into a singular Constitution.

Additionally, I've done some restructuring. Article I is about the form of the government. Article II is about the laws, the elections, and the Bill of Rights. Article III is about the process of government, including meetings of congress, compensation of elected officials, the powers of congress.

An important part of updating the constitution, from the original and its later amendments, to better suit modern times, is the abolition of the Electoral College in this version. I think Alexander Hamilton might have reconsidered his argument for the Electoral College, from the Federalist Papers number 68 – an argument that the EC would serve to appoint a qualified and fit person to the presidency in the case of the people electing an unfit and unqualified person. In the election of 2016 the Electoral College proved Hamilton wrong, in fact, it went the other way. If you believe in democracy then to utilize an institution which is contrary to democracy it must never backfire – the Electoral College did exactly what it was argued it would prevent. Also, in the section on elections I've added many items that have been made laws in the various states, and some concepts that have not. In particular this constitution includes not just detailed specifications on how the elections should be done, but also most elements derived from the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Moreover, in the section on the Presidency, I've added various provisions, including qualification standards. It seems very apropos in light of the 2016 election in which Donald Trump exemplified the absolute need for such controls to protect the nation, the government, and the people. Trump demonstrated intolerable lack of fitness of character and temperament, complete lack of qualification by gross incompetence and inexperience, and disqualification by very likely working with a foreign power to influence the election and extraordinary insults to the people, not to mention Trump's unacceptable moral turpitude.

Due to the Republican party in the Senate refusing to give a hearing to President Obama's nominee for the Supreme Court, for most of the year, in hopes of waiting for a nominee from Trump, I was compelled to alter the structure of the Supreme Court – a clearly necessary improvement. The political game created by selfish petty people and a small number of seats on the Supreme Court poses far greater harm to the people than the Founders would have wanted to permit. The problem came about not just from obstruction in the Senate by one party against another, but also in the Supreme Court's lack of a substantial staff of justices which could continue hearing cases for some time without a new justice appointed to fill a vacant seat. With only 9 justices in the original constitutional provision, and one absent, the court was unable to fully perform as intended. So, I raised the number of justices to 21, and added the provision that any case can be heard by at least 9 justices, or any odd number of justices over that minimum. This would make such egregious politic games interfering with the proper governance of the nation less likely in the future. It seems to me that even with an absence of 5 justices, the idea of obstructing by refusal to hold confirmation hearings for nominees to the court would become essentially pointless, as the court would still have 7 more justices than needed to be able to hear cases. Additionally, if the justices were split into two groups more cases could be heard, which could expedite the resolution of urgent cases. With 18 justices on two separate teams hearing cases, still 3 justices would be essentially on reserve. Moreover, if justices should become ill, extra justices would be able to fill in when needed.

I've also made the House of Representatives an office filled by local sortition, first, then followed by campaigns, and then elections. This would severely undercut corruption, since any given Representative will be serving essentially as one does with jury duty, and thus more likely to be willing to leave at the end of the term. I did not apply this sortition to the Senate as the

terms there are for 6 years, while the terms for the House are still just for 2 years. It seems to me it would be a burden to essentially draft people to serve in the government, even as Representative, but it would be cruel to apply it to a job with a term three times longer. I've also added some other anti-corruption devices in this improved Constitution.

While in the era of the founders the concepts of socialized education and socialized healthcare was not even possible, in this modern era it is clear that a healthy and educated society depends, necessarily, upon assurance from the government. The Founders clearly intended for the government to work for the people, to serve the people, and to provide for the people essential services which the people could not otherwise do for themselves. One ought to pay especially close attention to the original preamble to the US Constitution – “... *promote the general welfare* ...”. Following the Revolutionary War the US government offered free grants of land to veterans and widows of veterans. This is one of the earliest socialist practices in America. That's not to be confused with the mythical Soviet specter of Socialism, rather we've long had many socialist programs (lower case “s”), which is not at all contradictory nor exclusive of capitalism. So why did the Founders not give us a constitutional guarantee of healthcare? The answer is they would have, most likely, if healthcare were a thing in their time – physicians were more artist than scientist. In the era the Constitution was written there were no hospitals, no germ theory, no medicine we'd recognize, the physicians were well regarded by the population but they typically would use leeches to drain your “humors”. Moreover, the Founders were, in reality, creating a new European country in North America – they looked to Europe as a model to inspire them. If they could see Europe now they would most likely insist on universal healthcare for us too.

The Constitution of the United States of America.

We, the people, of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the *benefits* of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this constitution for the United States of America.

Be it known, the nature of our country is of diversity in unity – as the people of America descend from our familial origins across the continents of the Earth, and together on our soil we unite in equality, working to build a better life for ourselves, our neighbors, and our posterity. In our national spirit we embody the motto of 'E Pluribus Unum' – we are many individuals, each with different stories, who are a single American people. We believe in the value of work, and the justice of fair compensation.

We solemnly resolve to put to rest the divisions of the past and look forward to a brighter future, which we shall make more inclusive of the difference, more prosperous for everyone, more just for all, more free for each, and more peaceful for everyone.

Article I.

Section 1 – This Constitution.

This constitution of the United States of America is the supreme law of the land, to which all charters or constitutions, and any law or act or treaty, of the several states and territories, and all towns, cities, and counties therein are subordinate. Any such law or act, ordinance, bill, or ruling of the judges, which shall conflict with this constitution shall be invalid, null, and unenforceable. Any amendment hereto which shall be made is deemed to be a fully enforceable component of this constitution if it shall have passed with the approval of both houses of congress, and then following be signed by the President, and shall not have been voided by the Supreme Court. This constitution fully incorporates severability such that any single word which may be altered or deleted shall not modify any other portion of this constitution, except where such conflict may exist between the original and that which supersedes. Amendments shall require a three-fourths ratification in the Senate and a two-thirds ratification in the House of Representatives, following which the President shall sign such bill and thereupon it shall immediately, or on such date and at such time as may be assigned within the bill, become effective.

Section 2 – The Government.

The government shall be divided, by duties, rights, and powers, into three branches: in the first, the legislative branch, headed by the Senate and the House of Representatives; and in the second, the executive branch, headed by the President; and in the third, the judicial branch, headed by the Supreme Court.

All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and a House of Representatives. The sole power to make or

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abolish laws shall reside in the legislative branch.

The executive branch shall consist of a President of the United States, a Vice President, all government agencies, bureaus, and departments; and the cabinet of ministers serving the President as advisers and at the President's pleasure. It shall be the executive branch's purview, alone, to carry out all activities of governance, excluding those reserved to the legislative and the judicial branches.

The judicial branch shall consist of a Supreme Court of the United States, which shall itself be comprised of twenty-one justices; and all subordinate courts of the districts and all other federal courts. It shall be the sole function of the judicial branch to hear the arguments of the people regarding any law in question and to issue a judgment regarding the modification, or the effect, or the function, or the viability of any such law, or of any such act of congress or of the states, or of any such treaty. Judgments of the Supreme Court shall be thoroughly enforceable, requiring the compliance of both the executive and legislative branches.

The government of the United States is not, in any sense, founded upon the Christian religion, nor any other religious sentiment. The motto of the United States shall be "E Pluribus Unum", which means "Out of the many, one"; and the great seal of the United States shall bear the inscription "Novus Ordo Seclorum", which means "The New Secular Order" and which shall appear with the motto. No religious expression, nor spiritual sentiment, may be inscribed, nor imprinted, nor stamped, nor carved, nor written upon any document, structure, currency and coin, or other property of the government of the United States or property of the governments of the several states, and the counties and cities therein.

Section 3 – The House of Representatives.

The House of Representatives shall be composed of members chosen every second year by the people of the several states, and the electors in each state shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the state legislature. A Representative shall have for not less than five years been a resident of the district which he or she shall represent in the House, and for the duration of such term shall remain a resident of that same district. Each Representative shall hold a seat for a term of two years. No person shall be a representative who shall not have attained to the age of twenty-five years, and been ten years a citizen of the United States.

In the year preceding an election candidates for the House of Representatives shall be chosen by means of sortition, drafting from among the eligible residents of each district ten candidates. The primary ten candidates shall participate in not less than one debate before the primary election is held. The primary election shall chose the five out of the ten who shall proceed to the general election coinciding with the Presidential general election, or the same time of year in the middle of the President's term. Each candidate shall campaign within the district, receiving funding from the combination of funds allocated by the federal, the state, the county, and the local township or city governments for the purposes of funding the campaigns for each of the candidates for Representative in each district. Only one candidate may be elected for each district; each of the four candidates not elected shall receive immunity from the next three selections, which is six years; each candidate elected to the House of Representatives shall receive immunity from selection beginning on the date of leaving office for the next five

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selections, which shall be ten years.

Herein enumerated are reasons that any person selected may be excused from the requirement to campaign for, and to serve as, Representative. It shall be a reason to excuse a person selected for candidacy for the House of Representatives if such person shall be: over the age of sixty-five years; or such person is not mentally fit for such duties; or such person not in such physical health as to easily execute the duties of the office; or such person has within the six years preceding served on a jury in a court of law; or such person has served in active duty military within the twelve years preceding; or such person is currently serving in active duty in the military; or such person is responsible for providing care for an elderly, or ill, or special needs family member, or physically disabled family member; or such person has a contractual agreement which would conflict with the execution of the duties of the office or the campaigning for such office.

Each Representative in the US House shall be compensated with a salary equal to the median household income for the year preceding. Any sitting Representative may voluntarily campaign for re-election, but doing so shall not prevent the sortition selection of candidates for the same office. The incumbent Representative shall campaign in competition against the duly selected candidates in his or her district. Representatives shall not serve more than eight consecutive terms.

Representatives shall be apportioned among the several states and the territories of the United States according to their respective numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of persons residing within each state who are eligible to vote. The number of representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty thousand persons, and each district of representation shall have a population of no less than ten thousand persons, but every state and territory shall have at least one representative. *Representative districts shall not cross over the border of one state into another state or another territory, nor one territory into a state or another territory; Nor shall any district cross over the boundary of the county in which it resides and extend into another county; But districts may cross over the boundaries of cities so long as in so doing it shall not violate the previous restrictions. No district shall have a constituency in which one party possesses a high majority exceeding fifty-three percent of the residents of that district.*

The enumeration of the populace general of the several states and territories shall be made every subsequent period of ten years, in such manner as they shall by law direct. When vacancies happen in the representation from any state, the executive authority thereof shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies. The house of representatives shall choose their Speaker of the House and other Officers from among the representatives elected; and shall have the sole power of impeachment.

The indigenous tribal nations within the United States shall, collectively, shall possess no more, nor less, than one hundred delegated Representatives, who shall be in addition to the Representatives for the congressional districts. The total number of Representatives in the House shall be equal to the total number of districts plus one hundred more. The indigenous tribal nation delegated Representatives shall be elected from among the combined tribal nations according to such compact as the tribal nations shall devise among themselves. The indigenous tribal nation delegate Representatives shall form, in the House, a permanent Indigenous Affairs Committee and such committee shall review all bills or acts coming to the floor to ascertain the

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impact such bills or acts may have upon the indigenous people within the United States; And any such bill or act which may have a uniquely specific and direct impact upon the indigenous people, beyond the same impact for all citizens, shall require approval from the committee before being heard on the floor in the House.

Each state shall have the responsibility of establishing a committee for the drawing up of Representative district maps, pursuant to the rules of this constitution. Each Representative district shall have a constituency of which not one party may hold the majority greater than fifty-two percent. The state committee for drawing up Representative districts shall be staffed with non-partisan oversight volunteers consisting of at least fifteen persons of the electorate, from within the existing districts, who shall each report on the process of drawing up the districts and such report shall be published and made available without fee to the people. The oversight committee volunteers shall represent the different parties, which shall include an equal number of the first and the second most popular parties, which shall be at least four members of each of those two parties, and shall have not less than two members of the third most popular party, and of the remainder seats shall be made available for members of the other less popular parties. Of those volunteers not selected for the oversight committee an equal representation from among those not selected shall be placed on reserve, and they shall be available to replace any member of the committee if the need should arise.

Section 4 – The Senate.

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two senators from each state, chosen by the people of the respective state every sixth year. The Senate shall be divided as equally as possible into three classes, so that at each election, every two years, one third of the senators shall be subject to the election. The selection of Senatorial candidates from among the populace shall not be subject to sortition, candidacy for the office of Senator shall solely be voluntary. There shall be no limit to the number of consecutive terms which a Senator may sit. The compensation for the office of Senator shall be equal to one and a half times the national median household income for the year preceding.

No person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the age of forty years; and have been a citizen of the United States for less than twenty years; and who is not, when elected, be an inhabitant of the same state for which he or she has been chosen. It is a requirement to be eligible to hold the office of Senator that such candidate has a bachelor's degree in law, issued by a university or college with the appropriate accreditation recognized by this government; and that such person has maintained good standing with the bar association.

The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no vote in the Senate, unless the votes of the Senators are equally divided.

The Senate shall choose their other officers, and also a President Pro Tempore for such times as the Vice President shall be absent, or when the Vice President shall exercise the office of the President of the United States. The Senate shall have the sole power to try all impeachments. When sitting for that purpose they shall be on oath or affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall preside, and no person shall be convicted without the concurrence of three-fourths of the members present.

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Judgment in cases of impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from office and disqualification to hold and to enjoy any office of honor, trust, or profit under the United States. The party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to indictment, trial, judgment, and punishment according to the law.

Section 5 – The President and Vice President.

The President of the United States shall hold his *or her* office during the term of four years, and, together with the Vice-President chosen for the same term, be elected as follows: *the person who attains the greatest number of votes, in either the majority or the plurality, depending upon the number of candidates, of the ballots cast by the people of the several states.* The states shall name in their ballots the person voted for as President, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as Vice-President, and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as President, and of all persons voted for as Vice-President, and of the number of votes for each; which list they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall, in the presence of *the assembled members of* the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates, and the votes shall then be counted. If no person *has* such majority, then from the persons having the highest numbers not exceeding three on the list of those voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall immediately choose, by ballot, the President. But in choosing the President, the votes shall be taken by states, the representation from each state having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from the two-thirds of the states, and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice.

The person having the greatest number of votes as Vice-President, shall be Vice-President, if such number be a majority *or a plurality of the votes cast, depending upon the number of candidates, by the people of the several states;* and if no person have a majority, then from the two highest numbers on the list, the Senate shall choose the Vice-President; a quorum for the purpose shall consist of two-thirds of the whole number of Senators, and a majority of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice. But no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of President shall be eligible to that of Vice-President of the United States.

If, at the time fixed for the beginning of the term of the President, the President elect shall have died, the Vice President elect shall become President. If a President shall not have been chosen before the time fixed for the beginning of his term, or if the President elect shall have failed to qualify, then the Vice President elect shall act as President until a President shall have qualified; and the Congress may by law provide for the case wherein neither a President elect nor a Vice President elect shall have qualified, declaring who shall then act as President, or the manner in which one who is to act shall be selected, and such person shall act accordingly until a President or Vice President shall have qualified.

To be eligible to hold the office of President of the United States a nominee must have attained the age of forty years; he or she shall be a citizen of, and have been born within the several states of the United States, or the territories thereof; have never been convicted of any felony crime; have served at least one full term, prior, in an office of the United States, or any state thereof, for which he or she had campaigned, and been rightfully elected by the people, or for two whole terms in the case of being a Representative, or in lieu thereof, have served in the military for at least ten years attaining the rank of Major in the Army, or equivalent thereof in

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another branch, or greater, and have been honorably discharged from such service; and shall disclose, upon announcing his or her candidacy, for the purposes of investigation, his or her tax returns covering the ten years up to election, and other relevant documents for inspection and investigation, and confirmation of qualification.

No person shall be qualified to hold the office of President of the United States who shall not: have been examined by a panel of psychologists, and certified by them, to be temperamentally and judgmentally fit for the purposes of the office; nor have completed a battery of at least three tests of intelligence quotient, which shall be constructed by well-esteemed psychologists, and which shall be considered to be of top quality, and for which the candidate's scores shall be averaged from among the totality of the tests, which shall equal at least one standard deviation greater than the median of all persons.

Both the President and the Vice President shall begin their terms of office, at noon, on the twentieth day of January in the year following the election. At his or her inauguration the President shall affirm the oath of the office, in public view, which shall be administered by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States; and witness of affirmation of oath of office shall be recorded by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. Before the President-Elect shall enter on the execution of the office, he or she shall make the following affirmation: "I do solemnly affirm that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the constitution of the United States."

Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Vice-President, the President shall nominate a Vice-President who shall take office upon confirmation by a majority vote of both Houses of congress. In case of the removal of the President from office, or of his *or her* death or resignation, the Vice-President shall become President. Whenever the President of the United States transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his *or her* written declaration that he *or she* is unable to discharge the powers and duties of the office, and until he *or she* transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the Vice-President as acting President.

Whenever the Vice-President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments, or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of the office, the Vice President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President.

Thereafter, when the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his *or her* written declaration that no inability exists, he *or she* shall resume the powers and duties of the office unless the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive department or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit within four days to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his *or her* office. Thereupon Congress shall decide the issue, assembling within forty-eight hours for that purpose if not in session. If the Congress, within twenty-one days after receipt of the latter written declaration, or, if Congress is not in session, within twenty-one days after Congress is required to assemble,

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determines by two-thirds vote of both Houses that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his *or her* office, the Vice President shall continue to discharge the same as Acting President; otherwise, the President shall resume the powers and duties of the office.

If, at the time fixed for the beginning of the term of the President, the President elect shall have died, the Vice President elect shall become President. If a President shall not have been chosen before the time fixed for the beginning of his or her term, or if the President elect shall have failed to qualify, then the Vice President elect shall act as President until a President shall have qualified; and the congress may by law provide for the case wherein neither a President elect nor a Vice President elect shall have qualified, declaring who shall then act as President, or the manner in which one who is to act shall be selected, and such person shall act accordingly until a President or Vice President shall have qualified.

The congress may by law provide for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the House of Representatives may choose a President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them, and for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the Senate may choose a Vice President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them.

The President shall, at stated times, receive for his *or her* services, a compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the period for which he *or she* shall have been elected, and he *or she* shall not receive within that period any other emolument from the United States, or any of them.

The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the militia of the several States, when called into the actual Service of the United States; he *or she* may require the opinion, in writing, of the principal officer in each of the executive departments, upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices.

The President, alone, shall have power to grant reprieves and pardons for offenses against the United States, but not for offenses against the several states, except in cases of impeachment; In no case, shall the President be able to pardon himself or herself; If the President shall resign, or be impeached, and the Vice-President shall have succeeded to the office of President, he or she shall be able to grant a pardon or reprieve to the previous President, and which shall come into effect, no earlier than ninety calendar days following such succession to the office of President. The pardon shall name the offense, specifically, for which the recipient shall be believed to be guilty but shall be granted immunity from prosecution; or, if after having been convicted, the reprieve shall specifically name the offense for which the recipient is benefited by the cancellation of the penalty to which he or she had been sentenced in court.

He *or she* shall have power, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to make treaties, provided two-thirds of the Senators present concur; and he *or she* shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, judges of the Supreme Court, and all other officers of the United States, whose appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by law: but the congress may by law vest the appointment of such inferior officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the courts of law, or in the heads of departments. The President shall have

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power to fill up all vacancies that may happen during the recess of the Senate, by granting commissions which shall expire at the end of their next session. *The persons whom the President shall nominate as appointees to an office shall be qualified to the office appointed: he or she shall be a citizen of the United States; and he or she shall have demonstrable expertise, including having earned a diploma from an accredited university which is relevant to the office; and he or she shall have not less than five years prior experience of work appropriate to the office. The Senate shall hold hearings, no later than ninety days following the presentment of nomination, to decide to confirm, or to not confirm, the appointees to offices whom the President nominates; and if the Senate shall fail to hold the hearings in that time, the nominee appointed shall assume office by the Senate's forfeiture of hearing; nonetheless, such appointee must meet the qualifications to the office; and if he or she is later found to fail to meet such qualifications the appointee may be removed from office and the President shall nominate a replacement appointee.*

He *or she* shall from time to time give to the congress information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he *or she* shall judge necessary and expedient; he *or she* may, on extraordinary occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in case of disagreement between them, with respect to the time of adjournment, he *or she* may adjourn them to such time as he *or she* shall think proper; he *or she* shall receive ambassadors and other public ministers; he *or she* shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed, and shall commission all the officers of the United States.

The President, Vice President and all civil officers of the United States, shall be removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of, treason, bribery, *conspiracy or collusion with a foreign entity in a criminal matter*, or other high crimes and misdemeanors.

If the President shall issue an order to the Department of Defense, or any officer thereof, which the top-ranking command officers may believe to unjustifiably imperil the people of the United States, or of the several states and territories thereof, in a case in which the order requires timely execution, such officer who shall be required by the order to carry it out may refuse to execute the order of the President; And the Joint Chiefs of the Armed Forces shall convene a special hearing council, thereafter, to hear the arguments for the reasoning of the refusal; And they shall seat on the bench for such hearings seven judges, each of whom shall be active duty or reserve officers of the Armed Forces, who shall also be lawyers or justices so qualified to be as if equally such in the civilian sector, representing the legal departments of the branches of the Department of Defense; If any controversy shall arise following the ruling of the special hearing, of which the cause is the refusal to follow the President's order which was heard in the special hearing, all such cases shall, thereafter, go before the Supreme Court of the United States; If the special hearing council shall determine the refusal to follow the President's order was not sufficiently justified the council may issue orders for further hearings to determine any such offense which may have occurred and shall order any such penalty as the Department of Defense shall deem appropriate, if such offense shall be found to have occurred; And if the President's order shall be deemed controversial, though the refusal was ruled not justified, the officer who refused the order shall be immune to penalties.

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Section 6 – The Supreme Court.

The judicial powers of the United States, shall be vested in one Supreme Court, and in such inferior courts as congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The judges, both of the Supreme and inferior courts, shall hold their offices during good behavior, and shall, at stated times, receive for their services, a compensation, which shall not be diminished during their continuance in office.

The Supreme Court shall consist of twenty-one seated justices; each of whom shall be confirmed in hearings by a simple majority of the Senate, after the President shall have nominated for the appointment of such justices; and to qualify for such confirmation each justice shall have maintained good standing with the bar association of his or her region, and shall possess not lesser than a master's degree in law from a properly accredited university, and shall have practiced law for not less than ten years, and shall have tried some portion of those cases with particular pertinence to constitutional law. All cases heard by the Supreme Court shall require not fewer than nine justices presiding, and may have presiding any odd number of justices up to the twenty-one of them on the bench.

The justices of the Supreme Court shall not be bound to limitation of terms on the length of time for which the office may be held. A justice who may hold interests which shall be reasonably construed to cause partiality or bias of same in any case, and who does not recuse himself or herself from hearing that case, shall cause the ruling arrived at in that case to be reversed automatically upon discovery of such interest; and such justice who shall have heard a case while holding such interest shall be removed from office and subject to imprisonment for not less than ten years; such cases discovered to have been so jeopardized shall be automatically returned in a timely manner to the Supreme Court to be heard again without the presence of the justice whose conflict of interest has been discovered.

Section 7 – Trial by Jury, and Original Jurisdiction.

The judicial power shall extend to all cases, in law and equity, arising under this constitution, the laws of the United States, and treaties made, or which shall be made, under their authority; to all cases affecting ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls; to all cases of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction; to controversies to which the United States shall be a party; to controversies between two or more states; between citizens of different states; between citizens of the same state claiming lands under grants of different states, and between a state, or the citizens thereof, and foreign states, citizens or subjects.

In all cases affecting ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, and those in which a state shall be party, the Supreme Court shall have original jurisdiction. In all the other cases before mentioned, the Supreme Court shall have appellate jurisdiction, both as to law and fact, with such exceptions, and under such regulations as the congress shall make.

The trial of all crimes, except in cases of impeachment, shall be by jury; and such trial shall be held in the state where the said crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any state, the trial shall be at such place or places as the congress may by law have directed.

Article II.

Section 1 – The Bill of Rights.

The fundamental rights guaranteed in this constitution shall be immune to repeal, no amendment shall be valid which in part, or in whole, causes any right hereinafter to be in effect repealed; And to all persons these rights shall be entrusted with equal applicability, regardless of skin color, or sex, or gender identity, or sexual orientation, or religious affiliation or lack thereof, or place of origin, or age, or ability. The introduction for consideration on the floor of any proposal, or the issuance of an order, which may have the effect of removing, repealing, or inhibiting the equal enjoyment of such rights as enumerated hereinafter this Bill of Rights, in so doing shall be the cause of the holder of office of public trust who introduces such to become ineligible to further hold any office with the government; And such person introducing an act that may be deemed to have the intent of contravening the rights of the people shall be subject to removal from office. The rights of the people shall be categorized as two groups; the most fundamental being those rights of a human nature and entrusted to all people, citizen and non-citizen alike, and the second being civil rights entrusted only to those who are citizens.

The several inalienable rights of the people are hereinafter enumerated:

***First**, no law of any state, county, or municipality, nor any act of congress, nor order of the executive, shall abridge, or have such an effect as to interfere with, the right of the people to enjoy freedom of speech or expression; or of the people to peaceably assemble; or of the people to petition the government for a redress of grievances. No law or act of congress, nor of any state, nor of any county or city therein, shall abridge the right to the freedom of the press, except to the extent that in publication or broadcast of news the reporting body shall provide equal time to differing points of view on issues of a political nature in contention, except such consideration shall not be construed to grant equal time to opinions contrary to the consensus of scientists on issues of scientific fact; And shall provide fact-checking relying upon such sources as a consensus of reporting bodies, and of the people, shall agree to be of good repute; And shall provide a presentment to the audience of conspicuous disclosure or disclaimer to distinguish between opinion and news; And that opinion belonging to the reporting body shall not be purported to be factual news; And that no opinion belonging to the reporting body or to commentators shall be permitted to be presented in the same time or space as the news, which shall consist only of verifiable facts and of attributed statements belonging solely to those being reported upon. In the press, violations by reporting bodies of the aforementioned regulations shall be punishable by fines or by revocation of applicable licenses, according to such rules as the Federal Communications Commission shall establish in furtherance of unbiased and factual news reporting.*

***Second**, congress shall make no law, nor act, nor resolution, nor shall the President, nor any executive under his or her authority, issue any such order as would be similar, respecting an establishment of religion, nor prohibiting the free exercise thereof; nor shall any state or county or municipality make any such law or act. No motto, nor slogan, nor engraving, nor printing shall be affixed upon any government building, or premises, or public property, or currency, which expresses, either implied or directly, any form of religious or spiritual sentiment of any kind; And the pledge of allegiance, and the national anthem, and all oaths of affirmation under the United States shall not invoke a reference to any religious or spiritual sentiment; Nor shall*

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any funding derived from taxes be granted to any religiously affiliated group, except that verified charitable organizations, religious or not religious in nature, shall be granted immunity of taxation; Nor shall any religious or spiritual invocation be permitted upon any public grounds of the United States, or any state thereof, except in the case of funeral or marriage ceremonies, and such may only be made in a manner appropriate to the religious or spiritual affiliation of the person for whom the ceremony shall occur, if any. Crimes committed against a person or group which shall have been ascertained to have been motivated by bigotry against them, regarding skin color, or gender, or sex, or sexual orientation, or national origin, or age, or religious opinion, or handicap shall be considered magnified in the nature of the offense and shall warrant a magnification in penalty. The right of the people to freedom of conscience, and religious opinion, shall be protected under the law in all places, for believers and non-believers, alike; And it shall be unlawful for any person or group to take any action of force against another person or group in an effort to convert their religious opinion, or to discriminate against them.

Third, the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated; and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized; and any person who gives affirmation for a warrant to be issued, who knowingly did so under false pretenses shall be subject to criminal indictment.

Fourth, in all criminal prosecutions, the accused, whether he *or she* be a citizen of the United States, or a citizen of a foreign nation and answerable to such charges within the US, shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime has been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses and evidence against *him or her*; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses and evidence in his *or her* favor; and to have the assistance of counsel for his *or her* defense; excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted. *Persons taken into custody or who are presently under investigation in a criminal case shall be informed, prior to interrogation, of their rights, which shall include: The right remain silent; And the right to not answer questions unless with the advisement of legal counsel, except specifically for the purpose of noting the identity of the person in custody; And the right to have legal counsel present during questioning; And the right to have a court appoint legal counsel on behalf of the defendant, without cost to the defendant if he or she cannot afford legal counsel; And the right to not say things which may be used against the accused in court.*

Fifth, no person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous, crime unless on a presentment of indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the military forces in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be witness against himself *or herself*, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law. *Under the jurisdiction of the United States, and of the several states thereof, there shall be no capital punishment, no penalty of death, resulting for any crime; But, in such cases of willful murder or treason there shall be a punishment of lifetime imprisonment without a possibility of parole. Persons convicted of felonies shall have compulsory appeals to overturn the verdicts and sentences filed, in a timely manner, on their behalf in a court of appeals; and if the compulsory first appeal is rejected in a court of appeals the same prisoner shall have the*

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right to further apply for appeals.

Sixth, in suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed the value of an amount, *rounded to the nearest one hundred whole dollars, which shall be equivalent to approximately two percent of the national median household income in the year preceding*, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved; and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise re-examined in any court of the United States, except as according to the rules of common law.

Seventh, private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation; and no soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Eighth, *the right of the people to own and to operate vehicles, and the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed, except in appropriate regulatory acts and laws which shall require: The licensing of the owner so as to register him or her for recognition of fitness of ownership and of use; And registration of the firearm or motor vehicle for recognition of such rightful possession and the fitness of such for use; And the requirement of an insurance policy, maintained in good standing, which shall cover the liability of the owner of the vehicle or firearm, and the liability of any person who might use them with or without the owner's permission; And the vehicle or the firearm shall be required to be maintained in such condition as shall prevent faulty action that may give cause to damage and harm; And a minimum standard of training of the owner, and of permitted users, such as to improve the competency of such owner or user; And otherwise such laws, in general, which may provide for the public safety. No person shall purchase, possess, transport, or own a firearm if he or she has been adjudicated mentally defective or unstable; or has not yet attained the age of twenty-one years; or has previously been convicted of a felony crime; or has been charged with, but not yet acquitted of, or has been convicted of any violent crime; or has been discharged from the military in dishonor; or is subject to an order of temporary restriction from any court. No person shall purchase, possess, transport, make available for sale, or own: any ammunition which is designed to defeat armor; nor any weapon which is designed to fire automatically; nor any device which alters a weapon to, or which creates a similar effect without alteration, fire automatically; nor any device with a capacity of ammunition exceeding ten rounds; nor any device which has the effect of suppressing the report from the muzzle of a firearm; nor any weapon which in design has the effect of being militaristic or a similitude thereof; nor any weapon which does not contain a sufficient amount of steel to make it detectable by security devices.*

Ninth, *it shall be the right of the people to have access to healthcare, medicine, education, water, and energy, provided by the United States, and the several states thereof, without price for delivery directly assessed against any person; Except as such co-payment may be applied to mitigate cost to the federal and state budgets and such shall be scaled according to the income of the person, dependent upon the ability of the person to afford the price with negligible impact upon such person. All citizens and residents shall enjoy the right to a Social Security insurance which shall provide a livable monthly stipend to each person, upon that person's attainment of the age qualifying for retirement from work, or upon verification of the person possessing a qualifying permanent disability; And each able-bodied person of lawful working age shall contribute to his or her own account through a taxation of five percent on income, and for which the same total amount of contribution shall be matched by his or her employer; And an additional tax on income, scaled according to income level, shall be levied for*

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the general fund for these programs; And such Social Security insurance shall pay a total annual income equal to, or greater than, one-hundred-seventy-five percent of the estimated poverty income level for the year prior, relevant to the recipient's number of claimable dependent minors, and according to the person's contributions over previous years. No debt, public or private, shall incur a lien against a person's Social Security benefits, nor against his or her total annual allowance; Nor shall such debts impede, in any manner, a person's full entitlement to healthcare, medicine, education, water, and energy.

Tenth, *workers shall have the right to organize for collective bargaining in negotiations with employers; And all workers, in each year, shall have the right to take up to three weeks of paid leave for medical and family reasons at their full regular pay-rate, and up to an additional three weeks at three-quarters of their regular pay-rate, and up to an additional six weeks at half of their regular pay-rate; and all workers shall have the right to take up to eight weeks leave, at their full regular pay-rate, for maternity or paternity reasons when their child is born; and all workers, in each year, shall have the right to take up to three weeks of vacation leave at their full regular pay-rate; and the leave taken for either medical and family reasons, or for maternity and paternity, or for vacation, shall not be counted among the leave available for the other reasons; and when a person has the right to claim leave from work, but shall not have consumed all of the available time for family and medical, or for vacation, by the end of the year, that person shall have the right to either accumulate forward one-third of that remaining leave in addition to the next year's allowance for leave, or to convert that remaining leave time into extra pay in addition to his or her regular pay, at a rate of one-half of the regular pay-rate; maternity and paternity leave shall not be convertible for pay, nor accumulated, and is only available on condition of the recent birth of a child who is a dependent of the worker; for all work there shall be a minimum wage which shall be a livable income able to provide for housing, and food, and transportation, and medicines, and insurances, and other bills regularly due, including utility services.*

Eleventh, *the rights of the people enjoyed by some shall not extend such as infringes upon the enjoyment by others of their rights; when such conflicts between two or more people in the enjoyment of their rights shall arise, the exercising of a right which does the least harm to the other shall prevail; the enumeration in this constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people; the powers not delegated to the United States by this constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.*

Section 2 – Indigenous People.

Portions of land within the boundaries of the several states shall be reserved to the tribal nations of the indigenous people belonging thereto; the tribal nations of the indigenous people are sovereign in their own right, making such laws and acts and treaties as the people thereof shall decide; notwithstanding the choice of the tribal nations of the indigenous people to either adopt this constitution or to not do so, the indigenous people thereof are citizens of the United States entitled to all the rights and privileges heretofore enumerated.

Within the Department of the Interior shall exist a Bureau of Indigenous Affairs, which shall act on behalf of the government of the United States as an agency of relations between the sovereign tribal nations of the indigenous people and the United States government, and which shall assist

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such tribal nations, and which manage all such projects as may be undertaken in conjunction between the US government and the sovereign tribal nations.

Section 3 – Elections.

Every second year the people of the several states shall choose for their districts, from among the people, their Representatives in the US House of Representatives; and they shall choose their state's Senators to the US Senate as may be appropriate according to the last occasion of choosing such Senators; and the Election Day shall be a federal holiday, taking place on the first weekend of November, for two whole days, on Saturday and on Sunday, between sunrise and sunset of each. The elections process shall begin on the second Monday in January of the year in which the election shall be held; the primary election shall end before the last day of June, in that same year, in all the states and territories; the winners of such primary elections continuing on to the general election. No person may make an announcement of his or her candidacy before the day on which the elections process shall begin in January.

All employers shall be required under penalty of law, as assigned by congress, to grant sufficient time off from work, with regular pay, to each and every employee; such time off shall take into account transportation to and from the precinct in which that person is registered to vote, and shall accommodate the time which is actually needed to accomplish the vote and then to return to the workplace; and the employer shall not enact, nor threaten to do so, any form of retribution upon the employee who shall be free to exercise their right to vote.

Interference with the exercising of the right to vote, or any attempt to do so, by any person or organization, whether at the polling locations or any other place, is a felony under federal law punishable by up to ten years imprisonment; acts reasonably construed to have the intent and effect of threatening or intimidating people constitutes interference with the exercising of the right to vote. Possession of weapons, including firearms, within a range of three hundred feet of an election polling place during the time for voting, from three hours before the opening thereof until three hours after the closing thereof, or an election campaign office of any group or candidate during the election cycle, is a federal felony punishable by up to ten years imprisonment. Signs shall be conspicuously posted at polling places and election campaign offices, and within a range five hundred feet thereof, which shall warn against such violations.

Normal campaigning for a candidate or ballot issue, or any reasonable discussion or debate between the people regarding such issues, shall not be construed to be interfering with a person's exercising the right to vote. Tampering with the recording of ballots cast shall be a felony under federal law punishable by not more than thirty years imprisonment, and for which if the accused person shall be found in a jurisdiction outside of the United States such accused person shall be extradited to the United States to stand trial, and to suffer imprisonment within the United States, if convicted in a trial by jury, and if the accused person be a citizen or subject of another nation that person shall enjoy the same rights to due process and justice as a citizen of the United States shall enjoy.

The states shall choose which election cycle to elect their governors, coinciding with the Presidential election, or alternately coinciding with the elections taking place between the Presidential elections. The states and territories shall hold their elections on all issues and legislators, sheriffs, councilmembers, and the like coinciding with the federal elections of every

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second year. A recount shall take place upon the conclusion of counting of the ballots in which the the winner shall have less than ten percent of the votes greater than the contender next closest to the win; and in such cases in which a winner shall have less than ten percent of the votes greater than the contender next closest to the win, an audit of the elections shall take place; and audits of the election and recounts of the votes shall be conducted if a candidate, or an advocate for a candidate, shall make presentment of a reasonable concern regarding the election. The ballots shall be counted within a reasonable time, not exceeding, for the initial tallying, two weeks after the end of the last election day; and with the assistance of the Federal Elections Commission, the county recorders and the Secretaries of State of the several states shall take such measures may be necessary to ensure the security and the integrity of the elections and the completion of the counting of votes in a timely manner.

Each state and county shall be responsible for running the election within their jurisdiction, and those local agencies shall be accountable to, and shall cooperate with, the federal commission on elections oversight and management. In each state the secretary of state's office thereof shall manage the elections in the state; including the registration of voters; and the registration of candidates and issues to be placed on the ballots; and the creation and dissemination of election information materials for the people to read; and the application of laws on elections; and shall collect and tabulate the records of cast ballots and present the results to the federal agency on elections oversight and management. Within each county, the county recorder's office shall manage the elections in each precinct, and shall submit the collected records of cast ballots within that county to the state. No office involved in the management of elections may hire, nor organize, the workers thereof in a manner that is partisan in nature or essence; nor shall such offices prohibit independent citizens from voluntarily participating in an oversight function; nor may such offices interfere with such voluntary oversight except as to take reasonable precautionary measures to prevent tampering with the recording of the casting of votes, or to prevent harassment, intimidation, threatening, or other inference against the voters.

Each state and territory shall make available to the voters the option for early voting, which shall begin no later than forty days prior to each primary election and general election, and which shall end on the last day of the election; and such option shall be offered for permanent early ballot delivered by United States Postal Service; and for his or her ballot cast the voter shall be presented with a paper receipt indicating the acceptance of the ballot, which shall indicate the time and date of recording and shall indicate the choices made by the voter on the ballot; and all ballots to be delivered to the recording office by United States Postal Service shall be sealed within a secured envelop which shall include postage prepaid on behalf of the voter by the election recording office or the Secretary of State of that state.

Each person shall be provided the opportunity to register to vote, upon having attained the age of eighteen years, and shall upon completion of registration be issued a permanent voter identification card; to be presented upon demand at the ballot deposit station; and which shall, in itself, suffice for all identification purposes to qualify to vote in all elections within the state the person is so registered and eligible to vote. No fees shall be charged related to registering to vote, nor to obtain the identifying permanent voter registration card. To register to vote, and to obtain the permanent voter registration card, an eligible person shall provide a valid identification card, Social Security number, or some other valid form of identification. There shall be no limitation upon the time within which an eligible person may register to vote, including affording the opportunity to register immediately prior to receiving a ballot to make

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his or her first vote.

To be eligible to register to vote a person must have attained the age of eighteen years; shall be a citizen of the United States, either born as such or naturalized; Shall be an inhabitant of the state and county in which he or she is registered; Shall complete a battery of not less than three independently administered qualifying intelligence quotient tests, all within a year's time from the start, and shall have scored, on average for the battery among those tests, not lower than one-half of one standard deviation below the national median for all such tests; And shall not be currently serving a term of imprisonment, nor currently subject to a term of parole or probation, for a felony offense, but upon completion of such penalties of a felony crime shall be reinstated to qualification to vote, and misdemeanor offenses shall not disqualify. The battery of intelligence quotient tests to qualify as eligible to vote shall only be required once in a person's life; Regardless of the number of times a person shall complete the intelligence quotient testing, if he or she shall have failed to qualify to eligibility, such person shall have the right to try again; No fee shall be required to complete the battery of intelligence quotient tests, and no other fee shall be applied to register to vote.

No person shall be disqualified to vote on the basis of skin color or racial composition, nor of sex, nor of sexual orientation, nor of gender identity, nor of religious or political opinion, nor of physical disability, nor of illness, nor of national origin. No person whose name appears to be registered to vote shall be removed from the registrar's list fewer than ninety days before an election date; any person whose registration status is contested shall be given notice of the contention prior to removal from such registrar's list and such notice shall present the name of the complainant and the nature and cause of the contention along with clear instruction for the defense of his or her registration status; and any persons who shall issue a complaint of contention to the registrar shall affirm an oath, under penalty of felony perjury indictment, attesting to genuine concern of violation of a law specifically regarding eligibility to vote and of the ineligibility of the registered voter in contention.

No state, county, nor city may cause roadways to be obstructed upon which people must travel to enter the polling places on the days of election. All persons shall be permitted to vote, but those whose identification cannot be verified at the time, and whose eligibility shall be in contention shall have their ballots, upon completion of the choices by the voter thereupon, sealed without being counted and the ballot shall be stored in a secure place, and that person shall be granted up to thirty days following to satisfy the required verification, at which time, this provision being satisfied, the ballot shall then be counted among the other ballots.

No law or act or order, in the US, nor in the several states and territories thereof, shall be passed or issued which may, in effect, regard petition initiative ballot measures except by having, itself, been passed as a ballot measure; Nor shall any law or act or order prevent the repeal through petition initiative ballot measures of another law or act or order which, in effect, regards ballot measures. Each state shall clearly define within their constitutions, or charters, the rules and processes for ballot measures and for petition initiatives. No state or territory shall prohibit the right of the people to petition initiative ballot measures.

Section 4 – Infrastructure.

The tangible assets owned by the people, and managed by the government on behalf of the people, which delivers essential services – including organization, energy, democratic elections, water, defense, deployment and distribution of materials and information, among other things – shall be considered to be infrastructure; And such infrastructure shall be classified into three categories: with critical at the top concern, vital below critical, and important below vital. Important infrastructure shall include roads and highways, bridges, mass transit, dams, levees, and the like; Vital infrastructure shall include energy production and distribution, potable water treatment and distribution, sanitation, healthcare, and the like; Critical infrastructure shall include intelligence, elections systems, information security, defense, continuity of government, and the like. Congress shall make appropriations to support infrastructure without stipulation or condition.

The classification of infrastructure for these purposes are in order of priority and importance. Important infrastructure shall be maintained by the several states with assistance from the appropriate federal agencies; and which the same appropriate federal agencies shall issue guidelines and undertake routine inspections. Vital infrastructure shall be maintained by the several states with assistance from the appropriate federal agencies, or where appropriate the federal agencies shall operate and maintain such vital infrastructure with the assistance of the several states; and such federal agencies shall issue regulations, establish standards, undertake annual reviews and compliance inspections, and shall enforce compliance where and when necessary; and redundancies shall be maintained for such vital infrastructure so as to maximize prevention of, and minimize effects of, interruption or failures. Critical infrastructure shall be maintained and operated by the appropriate federal agencies, with cooperation and assistance from the several states when and wherever appropriate; and such agencies shall establish standards and regulations, conduct continuous inspections and reviews, enforce such regulations as necessary, and maintain multiple redundancies and contingencies so as to ensure no effect of interruption or failure.

In times of disaster within the United States, and the territories and the several states thereof, the Department of Defense shall, without the hesitation to await orders from the Executive nor the Legislative branches, mobilize to provide rescue, search for survivors and deceased victims, to evaluate the damage and harm done, to provide relief and aid, to restore infrastructure, to secure the affected areas against threats to peace and property, and to organize and oversee such efforts in cooperation with civilian volunteers. Congress shall be obliged to make appropriations to the budget to accommodate the outlays necessary for the Department of Defense to execute all disaster aid and relief and related efforts. The territories and the several states of the United States shall take such precautions and make such preparations as is fitting to minimize loss of life, damage to properties and to infrastructure, and to facilitate timely recovery from disasters; and Congress shall appropriate such funding as necessary to assist the states and territories in making their cities resilient against disasters and prepared to recover quickly following such disasters.

Section 5 – Blind Trusts, Recusals, and Prohibition of Nepotism.

No person shall be qualified to hold office, including the President, the Vice-President, the Secretaries of the President's Cabinet, the Justices of the Supreme Court, governors and vice-governors of the states and territories, or secretaries of state thereof, unless he or she shall

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sell his or her businesses and business interests, and place the profits thereof, and all investments, into blind-trusts for the duration of the terms in office; failure to comply with this requirement shall be remedied by the immediate removal of the disqualified person from office, and a permanent disqualification of that person from holding any office of public trust under the United States. Such blind trusts shall be defined as the investment of proceeds from sales of all interests in any business through a registered investment agency; which shall be managed by a group of persons not related to, nor affiliated with, the person investing the proceeds; and of which the person investing shall not know in which manners the funds have been subsequently invested, nor shall any person related to, or affiliated with, the person investing be informed of the manner of such investments. Any intellectual property rights, which include copyright, or trademark rights, for any work produced by the office-holder before assuming office shall be managed by an independent registered holdings management firm; the office-holder shall not personally promote his or her works of intellectual property while serving in the office, nor instruct any subordinate officer to do the same.

Senators and Representatives in congress, other office holders of public trust under the United States, and the legislators of the several states, and judges, sheriffs, district and county attorneys shall provide to the Office of Government Ethics upon successfully winning the election in which they attain their office, or for which they've been appointed, a letter detailing their business interests, and the names, places, and natures of them; the Office of Government Ethics shall maintain a record of such business interests of the office holders; and such office holders shall recuse themselves whenever such issues shall arise before them; and failure to recuse themselves shall be a felony crime disqualifying them from their office and punishable by up to five years imprisonment and two hundred fifty thousand dollars fine, and the act or resolution, judgment or decision in which they shall have had a conflict of interest shall be immediately reversed and nullified.

All holders of office or public trust under the United States, and of the several states, appointed or elected, and their families, including the President, and the Vice-President, and the Senators and Representatives, and the Justices of the Supreme Court, and the Secretaries of State, of Defense, of Labor, among others, shall place all of their investments, and other forms of business, in blind-trusts for the duration of the term of their office; and if any of them shall fail to place and to keep his or her investments and businesses in blind trusts he or she shall be ineligible to continue holding the office; but if, by some accident, the nature of the investment held in a blind-trust should be made known to the office-holder that investment shall be required to be changed to preserve the purpose and nature of the blind-trust.

No elected office-holder in the United States, nor in the several states and territories thereof, may appoint a family member, nor a personal friend or a friend of a family member, to any office. No elected office-holder, nor any person affiliated with an office-holder, may create, nor own any share, nor manage, nor delegate management to another person, in any media company. Elected office-holders may decide to which media companies they shall agree to be interviewed, but all announcements shall be presented to not-fewer-than the majority of the major publicly regarded news media companies; And the President shall hold routine press conferences, or delegate such duty to an administration appointee, and shall maintain a press pool represented by reporters from all of the major reputable news companies in the nation. It shall be a felony crime for any government employee, including the President, to knowingly disseminate propaganda which is adversarial, or presents disinformation, or disparages the majority of the press.

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The Supreme Court of the United States shall appoint, once every ten years, or whenever a vacancy shall arise, the Director of the Office of Government Ethics; And the Office of Government Ethics shall analyze and advise, regarding all proposals of legislation, statements, and acts made by the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, and the President and Vice-President.

No person shall make demands for compensation, nor reimbursement, for any service granted by the government to him or her, including for protectees of the Secret Service, due to the use by an agency, or its personnel, of any property belonging to the person while such services are being provided; Entities owned, in part or in whole, by the person receiving such aforementioned services, or any family member of such person, shall not make any similar demands for compensation or reimbursement, regardless of whether such entities or family members were not, themselves, beneficiaries of such aforementioned services.

Section 6 – Removal from Office.

If any holder of office or public trust under the United States, including: the President, the Vice-President, a Senator, a Representative, or a Justice of the Supreme Court, be reasonably proven unqualified for the office he or she enjoys, he or she shall resign the office in a timely manner; but if such person, having been reasonably proven unqualified, refuses to resign the office it shall be a felony crime and the person shall be seized under arrest by the responsible law enforcement authority and he or she be charged with the crime, being forcibly removed from that office.

Upon sufficient reason to suspect an election has been tampered, interfered, or meddled with the Federal Bureau of Investigations shall conduct an investigation into such suspected interference. Other agencies which may possess appropriate jurisdiction for such an investigation shall independently conduct their separate investigation; And such agencies and the FBI shall share their collected information with each other, while maintaining separate investigations. It shall be a felony crime for any candidate to knowingly, or having reason to know, participate or be in some functional fashion involved with any tampering, meddling, or interference with an election; And such crime shall be punishable by not less than ten years imprisonment; And any person found to be guilty of having tampered with an election shall be permanently prohibited from holding any elected office or office of public trust under the United States and the several states thereof.

If an election shall be found to have been tampered, interfered, or meddled with in such unlawful manner the person previously presumed to have won shall be removed from the office, and the person who shall have come next closest to having won the election shall assume the office instead, regardless of whether the person who was previously presumed to have won was found to be involved. For the purpose of fulfillment of term limits, when the person next closest to winning the election shall assume office with approximately sixty-five percent of the term remaining it shall count as a term, but if there is less than sixty-five percent it shall not count as a term.

In the case of the President and Vice President: If the the President shall have been found to have been involved in tampering in the election then the presidential candidate who came next closest to winning shall assume the office; but if the Vice President shall not have likewise been

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found to have participated in the tampering, he or she shall retain the office of Vice President to the new President; Similarly, if the Vice President shall be found to have participated in the tampering he or she shall be removed and the candidate for Vice President who came next closest to winning shall assume the office.

If at the time of a call for impeachment of the President or of the Vice-President, the party of which the President is a member shall hold the majority of seats in the Senate, and if sufficient cause and evidence shall be presented for the impeachment, which comparably if the same criminal charges were applicable in theory to an ordinary citizen such would justify the bringing of charges and arrest and trial of such citizen, and yet the Senate should refuse to move to impeach, in such cases the President or Vice-President, as appropriate, shall surrender to, or be seized upon by, the appropriate lawful authority and taken into custody to stand trial for such charges; And the Secret Service shall not obstruct the lawful arrest of the President or Vice-President, nor any personal security, in such cases; And, for which, such obstruction shall be a class two felony punishable by up to twenty-five years imprisonment. The Secret Service shall continue personal bodily protection of the President or Vice-President, while he or she has been removed from office, while in police custody, and while he or she is imprisoned, but such bodily protection shall not interfere with the lawful holding, processing, and compulsion of the President or Vice-President to attend his or her trial, and imprisonment, if he or she be convicted.

Special Counsel, upon sufficient and probable cause of suspicion that a crime involving the elections, or an elected office-holder, may have likely occurred, shall be appointed by the Attorney General, or Deputy Attorney General, or the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigations, or through a resolution proposed in, and passing by a vote of at least forty percent of, the House of Representatives or the Senate; The Special Counsel shall investigate the circumstances and nature of such suspected crimes, and shall have full lawful authority to issue subpoenas, and to issue warrants; And upon the conclusion of his or her investigation shall publish an announcement of such findings and shall make recommendation to the Department of Justice either for or against prosecution; The Special Counsel's team shall not be comprised exclusively of persons belonging to one party, nor shall any cause be given to reasonably suspect partisanship; The Special Counsel shall operate independently, with immunity from interference or cancellation from any elected office-holder or other appointee of such; Funding allocations for the Special Counsel shall not be withheld; And it shall be a felony crime, punishable by not less than five years, nor more than ten years, imprisonment, for any person to attempt to intimidate, or to threaten, or to bribe, or to extort the Special Counsel or any member of his or her investigative team, or to obstruct the Special Counsel's investigations, or to tamper with evidence and witnesses.

Section 7 – Education.

Education shall be provided to the people, without direct cost at the time, nor bills for service following; The government of the United States, through the Department of Education, and the governments of the several states, shall provide guarantee of such services by an apportionment of the budgets of the United States government and of the governments of the several states, arising out of the collection of taxes. The government of the United States shall establish standards for education, and shall maintain the quality of education across the nation by inspections of schools and the school districts; This guarantee of equal access to education

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shall include both primary through secondary, and post-secondary education levels. Primary and secondary education is defined as beginning with the Kindergarten in elementary schools, for students approximately five years of age, and concluding in the senior year of high school, following the completion of which the typical student may be approximately attaining the eighteenth year of age. For all minor persons primary education shall be consider compulsory. Post-secondary education is voluntary.

The Department of Education, regarding both primary and secondary schools, as well as for post-secondary and for technical proficiency schools, shall establish standards to which schools must comply to qualify for accreditation, and issue accreditation to them; and establish standards to which instructors must comply, and shall conduct tests of instructors to ensure compliance with those standards, and shall issue licenses to those instructors who shall qualify.

Among the courses which shall be required in primary education, of each shall be not less than one semester of: civics; and comparative religious studies, which shall not instruct belief in any religion but shall examine the doctrines, practices, and history of several different religions; and logic and argument; and critical reading; and debate and communication. The courses above shall be staggered so that only one of them is required each year. Each school shall issue a special course on sex education to those students who shall be attaining the stage of puberty; and such course shall instruct concerning biological reproduction, and sexually transmitted diseases, and abortion, and contraception, and the typical expected burdens of raising children, and appropriate and inappropriate behavior, and the nature of consent and the rights of persons regarding sex.

Among the courses which shall be required in primary education, each year, are: English; and mathematics; and science, including physics, chemistry, biology, psychology, sociology; and history; and humanities, including literature.

The instruction in personal beliefs, contradictory to scientific consensus, is prohibited, under penalty of permanent forfeiture of the instructor's license to teach. Persons who attempt to introduce creationism, or other scientifically contradictory beliefs, to the curricula while serving on the school board shall be removed from the school board and permanently barred for serving on any other school board.

Post-secondary higher education shall be made available to all persons, regardless of age, without cost to them for tuition, nor with bills following, including up to the attainment of a Doctorate diploma. The price for primarily required text books shall be controlled to avoid reaching excessive amounts.

Instructors shall be compensated with an annual salary not less than twenty-five percent greater than the national median household income of the year prior.

Section 8 – Healthcare.

The government of the United States, and the governments of the several states, shall provide for the people access to all needs of healthcare, both preventative and curative in nature, without direct cost at the time, nor bills for service following; such services shall be guaranteed

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by an apportionment to the Department of Human Services of the government's budget, arising out of the collection of taxes.

Each parent shall be taxed a small fraction on income, which shall begin at the birth of his or her child, continuing each year thereafter; and the collected money shall be placed in a savings account; such account shall be for the healthcare costs of the child after he or she attains the age of eighteen years; and it shall accrue interest on the deposits; and it shall be used exclusively to aid in funding the healthcare of the person to whom the account is assigned; the account shall be accessible only to the government for such purposes. The amount of funds reserved in the account shall not be a limit on the benefits a person who may make claim.

The government shall not cover the costs of elective procedures and medicines including: cosmetic procedures, if not warranted in cause from disfigurement by injury or birth; any alternative medicine or procedure; chiropractic procedures; acupuncture and acupressure; and other such procedures and treatments regarded by the majority of medical experts as ineffectual or as pseudoscience.

Employers shall contribute not less than thirty-five percent of the amount of the employee's contribution, in addition thereof, to the healthcare account belonging to that employee.

Section 9 – Social Security.

The government of the United States shall establish an administration of the Social Security to maintain and administer on behalf of the people an assurance of income, becoming available to each citizen, upon retirement, or upon disability, and which shall provide to each person such as is according to the contributions over the years made by each person, but which shall, at the least, be sufficient to depend upon for the expenses of: food, housing, medicine, insurances, transportation, and other bills regularly due including utilities.

Upon a child's birth, and continuing each year thereafter, the parents shall pay a small fraction tax, which shall continue until the child shall attain the age of eighteen years; the funds deposited in the account shall accrue interest; the account shall be the reserved source for aiding in funding the payments made to the person upon qualification for claim upon it. A person who attains the age of eighteen years shall begin payments through the collection of a tax on income to continue funding the account. Regardless of the amount of funds reserved in an account, the government shall pay out the Social Security in the amount needed, for as long as needed, including the lifetime of the person.

Employers shall contribute not less than thirty-five percent of the amount of the employee's contribution, in addition thereto, to the Social Security account belonging to that employee.

Section 10 – Environment, National Parks, Library of Congress, Agencies.

To enhance the lives of the people, to protect them from harms of callous acts, to ensure the stability of the nation, and its well-being, and to guarantee the benefits of a great society, it is

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mandated that the government of the United States shall maintain, operate, and fund several agencies and departments as follows:

An Environmental Protection Agency shall be established to evaluate, and to direct, and to enforce, regulations relating to the environment, for the control of pollution, and for the promotion of non-polluting energy production.

The Department of Agriculture shall oversee, monitor, and manage the activities of agriculture, and shall regulate the process of production of food, and shall promote and participate in the sciences relating thereof, and shall evaluate new procedures of agriculture and varieties of plants.

The collection, cataloging, preservation, and archiving, of books and documents, poetry and music, shall rest in a Library of Congress, which shall serve the research resource needs of the Senators and Representatives, and other employees of the government, and of the people in general.

A Food and Drug Administration shall be established for the regulations, evaluations, monitoring, and approvals of food and drugs, either produced within or imported to the United States.

Of the lands of the nation portions shall be set aside, upon which development shall be prohibited, excluding only such buildings of a minimum nature which may be necessary for the administration by the National Forest Service, and which, in their preserved wild condition, shall be for enjoyment by the people. This agency shall have the full legal authority to enforce and manage regulations which are necessary for the preservation of the lands so set aside.

The places, structures, and artifacts deemed to be of historical value and interest shall be preserved, and administered, and reserved for enjoyment by the people, in a National Park Service. This agency shall have the full legal authority to enforce and manage regulations which are necessary for the preservation of historical sites and artifacts so designated.

To ensure the great pursuits of scientific endeavors the government shall establish the National Academy of Sciences, and shall apportion thereto from the federal budget not less than five percent. Regarding the nation's interests in space outside of Earth, the under the authority of the National Academy of Sciences, shall be established the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The National Academy of Sciences shall manage research and development initiatives and compacts with the universities of the several states; and shall provide to the congress, and the President, and Supreme Court, counsel on issues to which science may be relevant. From the prescribed endowment within the budget the Academy shall, according to their own standards and guides, issue grants to qualifying scientific researchers in order to promote and advance the greater scientific understanding and discovery in the nation.

An agency shall be established to provide for the security and personal safety of the President, and the Vice-President, and the Senators and Representatives, and the candidates for such offices, and the Justices of the Supreme Court, and the visiting foreign heads of state, and United States diplomats at home and abroad, and recognized foreign diplomats while in the US. The agents of this security service shall have authority over areas surrounding their charges

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which shall supersede the authority of the local law enforcement agencies for the purpose of security, for the duration of the visit, and the time prior required for setting up the security measures and for clearing potential risks from the area. The agents of the security service may not provide testimony in any case, for or against any party, if such testimony being sought shall be thought to have been given cause during the performance of their duties; and they shall be immune to all subpoenas and writs which shall issue in any court, except in such cases in which the agent shall be the plaintiff, or complainant, or defendant. The agents, particularly who shall be most in harm's way in the protective duties, shall be compensated by an annual salary equal to not less than double the national median household income of the year prior.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation shall be responsible for investigation allegations of crimes under federal law and jurisdiction, and shall make recommendations to the Attorney General's office for or not for prosecutions according to the findings; and the President shall appoint a director of the Bureau who shall be qualified to the office by not less than ten years prior experience in law enforcement, and in particular not less than five years prior experience in conducting and leading criminal investigations under any law enforcement authority within the United States or the jurisdictions of the several states, who shall have a good record for professional and respectable conduct; and the term of office for the director shall be ten years; and the President shall not remove the director from office, except upon presentment to both houses of congress of verified evidence of misconduct by the director.

The National Security Agency shall be responsible for establishing the standards for classification of sensitive or secret information; and shall be responsible for monitoring the activities of persons or groups suspected of being operatives against the people of the United States.

A Central Intelligence Agency shall be responsible for gathering of intelligence data, statistical and other information, and shall analyze such information, and shall make recommendations to the United States government.

The United States Marshalls shall be responsible for serving federal warrants, and taking persons into custody wanted by the government for crimes against the United States, and for maintaining security and safety of passengers on sensitive or vulnerable modes of public transit.

There shall be a National Endowment for the Humanities and Arts which shall manage a fund apportioned from the federal budget, to promote and enrich the quality and spectrum and scope of the works of intellect and public discourse; from the budget the Endowment shall issue grants to artists, writers, journalists, musicians, and philosophers or thinkers who shall qualify according to the Endowment's standards and guides.

An Administration for Occupational Safety and Health shall establish and enforce regulations in places of work to protect the workers and the public from harms which can be prevented through due diligence to such safety.

Article III.

Section 1 – Meetings.

The congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall begin at noon on the third day of January. *No invocation shall be given before, nor during, the commencement of, nor after the adjourning of, any meeting, excepting in the private chambers wherein only such members who so choose shall assemble for that purpose either minutes before being due to commence or minutes after the adjourning of any meeting; and the same shall apply to all meetings of government including within the several states, and counties, and cities or towns thereof.*

Section 2 – Membership, Rules, Journals, and Adjournment.

Each House shall be the judge of the elections, returns and qualifications of its own members, and a majority of each shall constitute a quorum to do business; but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the attendance of absent members, in such manner, and under such penalties as each House may provide.

Each House may determine the rules of its proceedings, punish its members for disorderly behavior, and, with the concurrence of two-thirds, expel a member. Each House shall keep a journal of its proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such parts as may in their judgment require secrecy; and the yeas and nays of the members of either House on any question shall, at the desire of the one-fifth of those present, be entered on the journal.

Neither House, during the Session of congress, shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.

The journals of both houses shall be preserved, and shall be publish for permanent public review, for non-classified information, no later than seven calendar days from when the entries were made. On the journals, classified information shall be made publicly available no later than four years following the entries having been made; and for secret information those portions in the journals shall be made publicly available no later than twelve years; and the top secret information which might appear on the journals shall be made publicly available no later than twenty-four years after the entries were made.

Section 3 – Compensation.

No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened. They shall in all cases, except treason, felony and breach of the peace, be privileged from arrest during their attendance at the session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any speech or debate in either House, they not be questioned in any other place.

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No Senator or Representative shall, during the time for which he or she was elected, be appointed to any civil office under the authority of the United States which shall have been created, or the emoluments whereof shall have been increased during such time; and no person holding any office under the United States, shall be a member of either House during his or her continuance in office.

The members of the House of Representatives, but not of the Senate, shall have, without cost to them, the assignment of residential provisions, according to the district which shall have elected them, while holding such office. All Representatives and Senators shall have offices provided, without cost to them, and assigned to them according to the state and district which shall have elected them, and such offices shall be used for the conducting of the official business of them while not attending meetings or on the floor in their respective Houses.

Section 4 – Taxation.

Taxes upon income and wealth shall be exercised by the federal government, which shall fund the appropriations of the budget. The personal income tax rates shall be based upon brackets of ranges of income in relation to the national median household income of the fiscal year prior to the the year in which the income earned is subject to tax. The First bracket shall be income at or below half of the national median household income; the Second bracket shall be at or below the national median household income; the Third bracket shall be at or below three times greater than the national median household income; the Fourth bracket shall be at or below ten times greater; the Fifth bracket shall be at or below twenty times greater; the Sixth bracket shall be at or below thirty-five times greater; the Seventh bracket shall be at or below fifty times greater; the Eighth bracket shall be any income greater than fifty times the national median household income. Within each bracket the applied tax rate shall be scaled according to position of the income within the bracket's range.

Upon those who earn in a year within the First bracket of personal income there shall be no income tax exercised. Upon those who earn in a year within the Second bracket a tax rate no greater than ten percent of the income shall be exercised. Upon those who earn in a year within the Third bracket of personal income a tax rate of not less than ten percent, nor greater than twenty percent, shall be exercised. Upon those who earn in a year within the Fourth bracket a tax rate of not less than twenty percent, nor greater than thirty percent, shall be exercised. Upon those who earn in a year within the Fifth bracket a tax rate of not less than thirty percent, nor greater than forty percent, shall be exercised. Upon those who earn in a year within the Sixth bracket a tax rate of not less than forty percent, nor greater than fifty percent, shall be exercised. Upon those who earn in a year within the Seventh bracket a tax rate of not less than fifty percent, nor greater than sixty percent, shall be exercised. Upon those who earn in a year within the Eighth bracket a tax rate of not less than sixty percent shall be exercised.

Upon business activity which earns profits within the United States there shall be exercised by the federal government an income tax, regardless of whether the company is domestic or foreign owned; Upon businesses headquartered in the United States and doing business within the U.S. the tax rate applicable to profits earned shall be not less than fifteen percent, nor greater than fifty percent; The applicable tax rate on profits earned in the U.S. by foreign owned businesses, or on profits earned in a foreign land by a domestically owned business, shall be half the rate for profits earned in the U.S. by a domestic company

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headquartered in the U.S. If the foreign owned business shall within the home country have tax liability on business within the U.S. the applicable tax rate owed to the U.S. shall be half the normal rate; If a domestically owned business shall earn profits in a foreign land and shall have a tax liability on such foreign derived revenue owed to such foreign government the applicable tax rate in the U.S. shall be half the normal rate.

Section 5 – Revenue Bills, Legislative Process, Presidential Veto.

All bills for raising revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with amendments as on other bills.

Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a Law, be presented to the President of the United States; If he *or she* approve he *or she* shall sign it, but if not he *or she* shall return it, with his *or her* Objections to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the Objections at large on their Journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such Reconsideration two thirds of that House shall agree to pass the Bill, it shall be sent, together with the Objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two thirds of that House, it shall become a Law. But in all such Cases the Votes of both Houses shall be determined by Yeas and Nays, and the Names of the Persons voting for and against the Bill shall be entered on the Journal of each House respectively. If any Bill shall not be returned by the President within ten Days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him *or her*, the Same shall be a Law, in like Manner as if he *or she* had signed it, unless the Congress by their Adjournment prevent its Return, in which Case it shall not be a Law.

Every Order, Resolution, or Vote to which the Concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary (except on a question of Adjournment) shall be presented to the President of the United States; and before the Same shall take Effect, shall be approved by him *or her*, or being disapproved by him *or her*, shall be repassed by two thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the Rules and Limitations prescribed in the Case of a Bill.

Section 6 – Powers of Congress.

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States; To borrow money on the credit of the United States; To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes; To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States; To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures; To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States; To establish Post Offices and Post Roads; To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries; To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court; To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offenses against the Law of Nations; To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules

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concerning Captures on Land and Water; To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years; To provide and maintain a Navy; To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces; To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions; To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress; To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings; And To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

Section 7 – Limits on Congress.

The Migration or Importation of such Persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the Year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a tax or duty may be imposed on such Importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each Person.

The privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it.

No Bill of Attainder or ex post facto Law shall be passed. (No capitation, or other direct, Tax shall be laid, unless in Proportion to the Census or *Enumeration herein before directed to be taken.*) (Section in parentheses clarified by the 16th Amendment.)

No Tax or Duty shall be laid on Articles exported from any State. No Preference shall be given by any Regulation of Commerce or Revenue to the Ports of one State over those of another: nor shall Vessels bound to, or from, one State, be obliged to enter, clear, or pay Duties in another.

No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States: And no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince or foreign State.

Section 8 – Powers prohibited of States.

No State shall enter into any Treaty, Alliance, or Confederation; grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal; coin Money; emit Bills of Credit; make any Thing but gold and silver Coin a Tender in Payment of Debts; pass any Bill of Attainder, ex post facto Law, or Law impairing the Obligation of Contracts, or grant any Title of Nobility.

No State shall, without the Consent of the Congress, lay any Imposts or Duties on Imports or Exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing it's inspection Laws: and the net Produce of all Duties and Imposts, laid by any State on Imports or Exports, shall be for the Use of the Treasury of the United States; and all such Laws shall be subject to the Revision and Controul of the Congress.

No State shall, without the Consent of Congress, lay any duty of Tonnage, keep Troops, or Ships of War in time of Peace, enter into any Agreement or Compact with another State, or with a foreign Power, or engage in War, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent Danger as will not admit of delay.

Article IV.

Section 1 – Treason.

Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court. The Congress shall have power to declare the Punishment of Treason, but no Attainder of Treason shall work Corruption of Blood, or Forfeiture except during the Life of the Person attainted.

Section 2 - Each State to Honor all others.

Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of every other State. And the Congress may by general Laws prescribe the Manner in which such Acts, Records and Proceedings shall be proved, and the Effect thereof.

Section 3 - State citizens, Extradition.

The Citizens of each State shall be entitled to all Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the several States. A Person charged in any State with Treason, Felony, or other Crime, who shall flee from Justice, and be found in another State, shall on demand of the executive Authority of the State from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the State having Jurisdiction of the Crime.

No limitation of time for filing charges or claims on the crimes of treason, murder, and rape shall be imposed; but for other crimes or controversies in civil court the states may impose, at the discretion of their legislatures, a limitation of time for filing charges or claims.

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(No Person held to Service or Labour in one State, under the Laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in Consequence of any Law or Regulation therein, be discharged from such Service or Labour, But shall be delivered up on Claim of the Party to whom such *Service or Labour may be due.*) (This clause in parentheses is superseded by the 13th Amendment.)

Section 4 - New States.

New States may be admitted by the Congress into this Union; but no new States shall be formed or erected within the Jurisdiction of any other State; nor any State be formed by the Junction of two or more States, or parts of States, without the Consent of the Legislatures of the States concerned as well as of the Congress.

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

Section 5 - Republican government.

The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened) against domestic Violence.

Article V. - Amendment

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress; Provided that no Amendment which may be made prior to the Year One thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any Manner affect the first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth Section of the first Article*; and that no State, without its Consent, shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in the Senate.

[* Article I, Section 9, Clause 1: “The Migration or Importation of such Persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the Year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a Tax or duty may be imposed on such Importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each Person.” and Clause 4: “No Capitation, or other direct, Tax shall be laid, unless in Proportion to the Census or enumeration herein before directed to be taken.” in the original Constitution.]

Article VI. - Debts, Supremacy, Oaths

All Debts contracted and Engagements entered into, before the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this Constitution, as under the

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Confederation.

This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.

The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.

Article VII. - Ratification

The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States, shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the Same. Done in Convention by the Unanimous Consent of the States present the Seventeenth Day of September in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven and of the Independence of the United States of America the Twelfth. In Witness whereof We have hereunto subscribed our Names.

Go Washington - President and deputy from Virginia

New Hampshire - John Langdon, Nicholas Gilman

Massachusetts - Nathaniel Gorham, Rufus King

Connecticut - Wm Saml Johnson, Roger Sherman

New York - Alexander Hamilton

New Jersey - Wil Livingston, David Brearley, Wm Paterson, Jona. Dayton

Pennsylvania - B Franklin, Thomas Mifflin, Robt Morris, Geo. Clymer, Thos FitzSimons,

Jared Ingersoll, James Wilson, Gouv Morris

Delaware - Geo. Read, Gunning Bedford jun, John Dickinson, Richard Bassett, Jaco.

Broom

Maryland - James McHenry, Dan of St Tho Jenifer, Danl Carroll

Virginia - John Blair, James Madison Jr.

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North Carolina - Wm Blount, Richd Dobbs Spaight, Hu Williamson

South Carolina - J. Rutledge, Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, Charles Pinckney, Pierce

Butler

Georgia - William Few, Abr Baldwin

Attest: William Jackson, Secretary

The Original US Constitution.

Improved United States Constitution

The Constitution of the United States: A Transcription

Note: The following text is a transcription of the Constitution as it was inscribed by Jacob Shallus on parchment (the document on display in the Rotunda at the National Archives Museum.) The spelling and punctuation reflect the original.

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Article. I.

Section. 1.

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section. 2.

The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons. The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative; and until such enumeration shall be made, the State of New Hampshire shall be entitled to chuse three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New-York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

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When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies.

The House of Representatives shall chuse their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

Section. 3.

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, **chosen by the Legislature** thereof, for six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote.

Immediately after they shall be assembled in Consequence of the first Election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three Classes. The Seats of the Senators of the first Class shall be vacated at the Expiration of the second Year, of the second Class at the Expiration of the fourth Year, and of the third Class at the Expiration of the sixth Year, so that one third may be chosen every second Year; **and if Vacancies happen by Resignation, or otherwise, during the Recess of the Legislature of any State, the Executive thereof may make temporary Appointments until the next Meeting of the Legislature, which shall then fill such Vacancies.**

No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been nine Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen.

The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless they be equally divided.

The Senate shall chuse their other Officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the Absence of the Vice President, or when he shall exercise the Office of President of the United States.

The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Judgment in Cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from Office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of honor, Trust or Profit under the United States: but the Party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment and Punishment, according to Law.

Section. 4.

The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of chusing Senators.

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every Year, and such Meeting shall be on **the first Monday in December**, unless they shall by Law appoint a different Day.

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Section. 5.

Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its own Members, and a Majority of each shall constitute a Quorum to do Business; but a smaller Number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the Attendance of absent Members, in such Manner, and under such Penalties as each House may provide.

Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly Behaviour, and, with the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member.

Each House shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such Parts as may in their Judgment require Secrecy; and the Yeas and Nays of the Members of either House on any question shall, at the Desire of one fifth of those Present, be entered on the Journal.

Neither House, during the Session of Congress, shall, without the Consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other Place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.

Section. 6.

The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States. They shall in all Cases, except Treason, Felony and Breach of the Peace, be privileged from Arrest during their Attendance at the Session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any Speech or Debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other Place.

No Senator or Representative shall, during the Time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil Office under the Authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the Emoluments whereof shall have been increased during such time; and no Person holding any Office under the United States, shall be a Member of either House during his Continuance in Office.

Section. 7.

All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills.

Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a Law, be presented to the President of the United States; If he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his Objections to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the Objections at large on their Journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such Reconsideration two thirds of that House shall agree to pass the Bill, it shall be sent, together with the Objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two thirds of that House, it shall become a Law. But in all such Cases the Votes of both Houses shall be determined by yeas and Nays, and the Names of the Persons voting for and against the Bill shall be entered on the Journal of each House respectively. If any Bill shall not be returned by the President within ten Days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been

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presented to him, the Same shall be a Law, in like Manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their Adjournment prevent its Return, in which Case it shall not be a Law.

Every Order, Resolution, or Vote to which the Concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary (except on a question of Adjournment) shall be presented to the President of the United States; and before the Same shall take Effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by two thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the Rules and Limitations prescribed in the Case of a Bill.

Section. 8.

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow Money on the credit of the United States;

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;

To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

To establish Post Offices and post Roads;

To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court;

To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offences against the Law of Nations;

To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;

To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the

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States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings;—And

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

Section. 9.

The Migration or Importation of such Persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the Year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a Tax or duty may be imposed on such Importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each Person.

The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it.

No Bill of Attainder or ex post facto Law shall be passed.

No Capitation, or other direct, Tax shall be laid, [unless in Proportion to the Census or enumeration herein before directed to be taken.](#)

No Tax or Duty shall be laid on Articles exported from any State.

No Preference shall be given by any Regulation of Commerce or Revenue to the Ports of one State over those of another: nor shall Vessels bound to, or from, one State, be obliged to enter, clear, or pay Duties in another.

No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States: And no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State.

Section. 10.

No State shall enter into any Treaty, Alliance, or Confederation; grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal; coin Money; emit Bills of Credit; make any Thing but gold and silver Coin a Tender in Payment of Debts; pass any Bill of Attainder, ex post facto Law, or Law impairing the Obligation of Contracts, or grant any Title of Nobility.

No State shall, without the Consent of the Congress, lay any Imposts or Duties on Imports or Exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing it's inspection Laws: and the net Produce of all Duties and Imposts, laid by any State on

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Imports or Exports, shall be for the Use of the Treasury of the United States; and all such Laws shall be subject to the Revision and Controul of the Congress.

No State shall, without the Consent of Congress, lay any Duty of Tonnage, keep Troops, or Ships of War in time of Peace, enter into any Agreement or Compact with another State, or with a foreign Power, or engage in War, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent Danger as will not admit of delay.

Article. II.

Section. 1.

The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his Office during the Term of four Years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same Term, be elected, as follows

Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress: but no Senator or Representative, or Person holding an Office of Trust or Profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector.

The Electors shall meet in their respective States, and vote by Ballot for two Persons, of whom one at least shall not be an Inhabitant of the same State with themselves. And they shall make a List of all the Persons voted for, and of the Number of Votes for each; which List they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the Seat of the Government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall, in the Presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the Certificates, and the Votes shall then be counted. The Person having the greatest Number of Votes shall be the President, if such Number be a Majority of the whole Number of Electors appointed; and if there be more than one who have such Majority, and have an equal Number of Votes, then the House of Representatives shall immediately chuse by Ballot one of them for President; and if no Person have a Majority, then from the five highest on the List the said House shall in like Manner chuse the President. But in chusing the President, the Votes shall be taken by States, the Representation from each State having one Vote; A quorum for this Purpose shall consist of a Member or Members from two thirds of the States, and a Majority of all the States shall be necessary to a Choice. In every Case, after the Choice of the President, the Person having the greatest Number of Votes of the Electors shall be the Vice President. But if there should remain two or more who have equal Votes, the Senate shall chuse from them by Ballot the Vice President.

The Congress may determine the Time of chusing the Electors, and the Day on which they shall give their Votes; which Day shall be the same throughout the United States.

No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall

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any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.

In Case of the Removal of the President from Office, or of his Death, Resignation, or Inability to discharge the Powers and Duties of the said Office, the Same shall devolve on the Vice President, and the Congress may by Law provide for the Case of Removal, Death, Resignation or Inability, both of the President and Vice President, declaring what Officer shall then act as President, and such Officer shall act accordingly, until the Disability be removed, or a President shall be elected.

The President shall, at stated Times, receive for his Services, a Compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the Period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that Period any other Emolument from the United States, or any of them.

Before he enter on the Execution of his Office, he shall take the following Oath or Affirmation:—"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

Section. 2.

The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States, when called into the actual Service of the United States; he may require the Opinion, in writing, of the principal Officer in each of the executive Departments, upon any Subject relating to the Duties of their respective Offices, and he shall have Power to grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offences against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment.

He shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States, whose Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by Law: but the Congress may by Law vest the Appointment of such inferior Officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments.

The President shall have Power to fill up all Vacancies that may happen during the Recess of the Senate, by granting Commissions which shall expire at the End of their next Session.

Section. 3.

He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary Occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in Case of Disagreement between them, with Respect to the Time of Adjournment, he may adjourn them to such Time as he shall think proper; he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the Officers of the United States.

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Section. 4.

The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.

Article III.

Section. 1.

The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services, a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.

Section. 2.

The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority;—to all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls;—to all Cases of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction;—to Controversies to which the United States shall be a Party;—to Controversies between two or more States;— [between a State and Citizens of another State](#),—between Citizens of different States,—between Citizens of the same State claiming Lands under Grants of different States, and between a State, or the Citizens thereof, and foreign States, Citizens or Subjects.

In all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be Party, the supreme Court shall have original Jurisdiction. In all the other Cases before mentioned, the supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Congress shall make.

The Trial of all Crimes, except in Cases of Impeachment, shall be by Jury; and such Trial shall be held in the State where the said Crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any State, the Trial shall be at such Place or Places as the Congress may by Law have directed.

Section. 3.

Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court.

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The Congress shall have Power to declare the Punishment of Treason, but no Attainder of Treason shall work Corruption of Blood, or Forfeiture except during the Life of the Person attainted.

Article. IV.

Section. 1.

Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of every other State. And the Congress may by general Laws prescribe the Manner in which such Acts, Records and Proceedings shall be proved, and the Effect thereof.

Section. 2.

The Citizens of each State shall be entitled to all Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the several States.

A Person charged in any State with Treason, Felony, or other Crime, who shall flee from Justice, and be found in another State, shall on Demand of the executive Authority of the State from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the State having Jurisdiction of the Crime.

No Person held to Service or Labour in one State, under the Laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in Consequence of any Law or Regulation therein, be discharged from such Service or Labour, but shall be delivered up on Claim of the Party to whom such Service or Labour may be due.

Section. 3.

New States may be admitted by the Congress into this Union; but no new State shall be formed or erected within the Jurisdiction of any other State; nor any State be formed by the Junction of two or more States, or Parts of States, without the Consent of the Legislatures of the States concerned as well as of the Congress.

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

Section. 4.

The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened), against domestic Violence.

Article. V.

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress; Provided that no Amendment which may be made prior to the Year One thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any Manner affect the first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth Section of the first Article; and that no State, without its Consent, shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in the Senate.

Article. VI.

All Debts contracted and Engagements entered into, before the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this Constitution, as under the Confederation.

This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.

The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.

Article. VII.

The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States, shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the Same.

The Word, "the," being interlined between the seventh and eighth Lines of the first Page, The Word "Thirty" being partly written on an Erasure in the fifteenth Line of the first Page, The Words "is tried" being interlined between the thirty second and thirty third Lines of the first Page and the Word "the" being interlined between the forty third and forty fourth Lines of the second Page.

Attest William Jackson Secretary

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done in Convention by the Unanimous Consent of the States present the Seventeenth Day of September in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven and of the Independance of the United States of America the Twelfth In witness whereof We have hereunto subscribed our Names,

G° Washington

Presidt and deputy from Virginia

New Jersey

Wil: Livingston

David Brearley

Wm. Paterson

Jona: Dayton

Pennsylvania

B Franklin

Thomas Mifflin

Robt. Morris

Geo. Clymer

Thos. FitzSimons

Jared Ingersoll

James Wilson

Gouv Morris

NEW YORK

Alexander Hamilton

The Amendments to the US Constitution.

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The Bill of Rights: A Transcription

Note: The following text is a transcription of the enrolled original of the Joint Resolution of Congress proposing the Bill of Rights, which is on permanent display in the Rotunda at the National Archives Museum. The spelling and punctuation reflects the original.

On September 25, 1789, the First Congress of the United States proposed 12 amendments to the Constitution. The 1789 Joint Resolution of Congress proposing the amendments is on display in the Rotunda in the National Archives Museum. Ten of the proposed 12 amendments were ratified by three-fourths of the state legislatures on December 15, 1791. The ratified Articles (Articles 3–12) constitute the first 10 amendments of the Constitution, or the U.S. Bill of Rights. In 1992, 203 years after it was proposed, Article 2 was ratified as the 27th Amendment to the Constitution. Article 1 was never ratified.

Transcription of the 1789 Joint Resolution of Congress Proposing 12 Amendments to the U.S. Constitution

Congress of the United States begun and held at the City of New-York, on Wednesday the fourth of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine.

THE Conventions of a number of the States, having at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added: And as extending the ground of public confidence in the Government, will best ensure the beneficent ends of its institution.

RESOLVED by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, two thirds of both Houses concurring, that the following Articles be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, as amendments to the Constitution of the United States, all, or any of which Articles, when ratified by three fourths of the said Legislatures, to be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of the said Constitution; viz.

ARTICLES in addition to, and Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America, proposed by Congress, and ratified by the Legislatures of the several States, pursuant to the fifth Article of the original Constitution.

Article the first... After the first enumeration required by the first article of the Constitution, there shall be one Representative for every thirty thousand, until the number shall amount to one hundred, after which the proportion shall be so regulated by Congress, that there shall be not less than one hundred Representatives, nor less than one Representative for every forty thousand persons, until the number of Representatives shall amount to two hundred; after which the proportion shall be so regulated by Congress, that there shall not be less than two hundred Representatives, nor more than one Representative for every fifty thousand persons.

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Article the second... No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened.

Article the third... Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Article the fourth... A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Article the fifth... No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Article the sixth... The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Article the seventh... No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Article the eighth... In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

Article the ninth... In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Article the tenth... Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Article the eleventh... The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Article the twelfth... The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

ATTEST,

Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg, Speaker of the House of Representatives
John Adams, Vice-President of the United States, and President of the Senate

John Beckley, Clerk of the House of Representatives.
Sam. A Otis Secretary of the Senate

Amendments 11-27

The U.S. Bill of Rights

The Preamble to The Bill of Rights

Congress of the United States

begun and held at the City of New-York, on
Wednesday the fourth of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine.

THE Conventions of a number of the States, having at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added: And as extending the ground of public confidence in the Government, will best ensure the beneficent ends of its institution.

RESOLVED by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, two thirds of both Houses concurring, that the following Articles be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, as amendments to the Constitution of the United States, all, or any of which Articles, when ratified by three fourths of the said Legislatures, to be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of the said Constitution; viz.

ARTICLES in addition to, and Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America, proposed by Congress, and ratified by the Legislatures of the several States, pursuant to the fifth Article of the original Constitution.

Note: The following text is a transcription of the first ten amendments to the Constitution in their original form. These amendments were ratified December 15, 1791, and form what is known as the "Bill of Rights."

Amendment I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment II

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

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Amendment III

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Amendment IV

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Amendment V

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Amendment VI

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

Amendment VII

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment VIII

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment IX

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment X

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

The Constitution: Amendments 11-27

Constitutional Amendments 1-10 make up what is known as [The Bill of Rights](#). Amendments 11-27 are listed below.

AMENDMENT XI

Passed by Congress March 4, 1794. Ratified February 7, 1795.

Note: Article III, section 2, of the Constitution was modified by amendment 11. The Judicial power of the United States shall not be construed to extend to any suit in law or equity, commenced or prosecuted against one of the United States by Citizens of another State, or by Citizens or Subjects of any Foreign State.

AMENDMENT XII

Passed by Congress December 9, 1803. Ratified June 15, 1804.

Note: A portion of Article II, section 1 of the Constitution was superseded by the 12th amendment. The Electors shall meet in their respective states and vote by ballot for President and Vice-President, one of whom, at least, shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves; they shall name in their ballots the person voted for as President, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as Vice-President, and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as President, and of all persons voted for as Vice-President, and of the number of votes for each, which lists they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate; -- the President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates and the votes shall then be counted; -- The person having the greatest number of votes for President, shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed; and if no person have such majority, then from the persons having the highest numbers not exceeding three on the list of those voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall choose immediately, by ballot, the President. But in choosing the President, the votes shall be taken by states, the representation from each state having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the states, and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice. [And if the House of Representatives shall not choose a President whenever the right of choice shall devolve upon them, before the fourth day of March next following, then the Vice-President shall act as President, as in case of the death or other constitutional disability of the President. --]* The person having the greatest number of votes as Vice-President, shall be the Vice-President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed, and if no person have a majority, then from the two highest numbers on the list, the Senate shall choose the Vice-President; a quorum for the purpose shall consist of two-thirds of the whole number of Senators, and a majority

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of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice. But no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of President shall be eligible to that of Vice-President of the United States. *Superseded by section 3 of the 20th amendment.

AMENDMENT XIII

Passed by Congress January 31, 1865. Ratified December 6, 1865.

Note: A portion of Article IV, section 2, of the Constitution was superseded by the 13th amendment.

Section 1.

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Section 2.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

AMENDMENT XIV

Passed by Congress June 13, 1866. Ratified July 9, 1868.

Note: Article I, section 2, of the Constitution was modified by section 2 of the 14th amendment.

Section 1.

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Section 2.

Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice-President of the United States, Representatives in Congress, the

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Executive and Judicial officers of a State, or the members of the Legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such State, being twenty-one years of age,* and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion, or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such State.

Section 3.

No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice-President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.

Section 4.

The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void.

Section 5.

The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

*Changed by section 1 of the 26th amendment.

AMENDMENT XV

Passed by Congress February 26, 1869. Ratified February 3, 1870.

Section 1.

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude--

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Section 2.

The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

AMENDMENT XVI

Passed by Congress July 2, 1909. Ratified February 3, 1913.

Note: Article I, section 9, of the Constitution was modified by amendment 16.

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.

AMENDMENT XVII

Passed by Congress May 13, 1912. Ratified April 8, 1913.

Note: Article I, section 3, of the Constitution was modified by the 17th amendment.

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, elected by the people thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote. The electors in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State legislatures.

When vacancies happen in the representation of any State in the Senate, the executive authority of such State shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies: Provided, That the legislature of any State may empower the executive thereof to make temporary appointments until the people fill the vacancies by election as the legislature may direct.

This amendment shall not be so construed as to affect the election or term of any Senator chosen before it becomes valid as part of the Constitution.

AMENDMENT XVIII

Passed by Congress December 18, 1917. Ratified January 16, 1919. Repealed by amendment 21.

Section 1.

After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from

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the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.

Section 2.

The Congress and the several States shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Section 3.

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

AMENDMENT XIX

Passed by Congress June 4, 1919. Ratified August 18, 1920.

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

AMENDMENT XX

Passed by Congress March 2, 1932. Ratified January 23, 1933.

Note: Article I, section 4, of the Constitution was modified by section 2 of this amendment. In addition, a portion of the 12th amendment was superseded by section 3.

Section 1.

The terms of the President and the Vice President shall end at noon on the 20th day of January, and the terms of Senators and Representatives at noon on the 3d day of January, of the years in which such terms would have ended if this article had not been ratified; and the terms of their successors shall then begin.

Section 2.

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall begin at noon on the 3d day of January, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

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Section 3.

If, at the time fixed for the beginning of the term of the President, the President elect shall have died, the Vice President elect shall become President. If a President shall not have been chosen before the time fixed for the beginning of his term, or if the President elect shall have failed to qualify, then the Vice President elect shall act as President until a President shall have qualified; and the Congress may by law provide for the case wherein neither a President elect nor a Vice President elect shall have qualified, declaring who shall then act as President, or the manner in which one who is to act shall be selected, and such person shall act accordingly until a President or Vice President shall have qualified.

Section 4.

The Congress may by law provide for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the House of Representatives may choose a President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them, and for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the Senate may choose a Vice President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them.

Section 5.

Sections 1 and 2 shall take effect on the 15th day of October following the ratification of this article.

Section 6.

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission.

AMENDMENT XXI

Passed by Congress February 20, 1933. Ratified December 5, 1933.

Section 1.

The eighteenth article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States is hereby repealed.

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Section 2.

The transportation or importation into any State, Territory, or possession of the United States for delivery or use therein of intoxicating liquors, in violation of the laws thereof, is hereby prohibited.

Section 3.

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by conventions in the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

AMENDMENT XXII

Passed by Congress March 21, 1947. Ratified February 27, 1951.

Section 1.

No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice, and no person who has held the office of President, or acted as President, for more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected President shall be elected to the office of the President more than once. But this Article shall not apply to any person holding the office of President when this Article was proposed by the Congress, and shall not prevent any person who may be holding the office of President, or acting as President, during the term within which this Article becomes operative from holding the office of President or acting as President during the remainder of such term.

Section 2.

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress.

AMENDMENT XXIII

Passed by Congress June 16, 1960. Ratified March 29, 1961.

Section 1.

The District constituting the seat of Government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as the Congress may direct:

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A number of electors of President and Vice President equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives in Congress to which the District would be entitled if it were a State, but in no event more than the least populous State; they shall be in addition to those appointed by the States, but they shall be considered, for the purposes of the election of President and Vice President, to be electors appointed by a State; and they shall meet in the District and perform such duties as provided by the twelfth article of amendment.

Section 2.

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

AMENDMENT XXIV

Passed by Congress August 27, 1962. Ratified January 23, 1964.

Section 1.

The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President, for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax.

Section 2.

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

AMENDMENT XXV

Passed by Congress July 6, 1965. Ratified February 10, 1967.

Note: Article II, section 1, of the Constitution was affected by the 25th amendment.

Section 1.

In case of the removal of the President from office or of his death or resignation, the Vice President shall become President.

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Section 2.

Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Vice President, the President shall nominate a Vice President who shall take office upon confirmation by a majority vote of both Houses of Congress.

Section 3.

Whenever the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the Vice President as Acting President.

Section 4.

Whenever the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President.

Thereafter, when the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that no inability exists, he shall resume the powers and duties of his office unless the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive department or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit within four days to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office. Thereupon Congress shall decide the issue, assembling within forty-eight hours for that purpose if not in session. If the Congress, within twenty-one days after receipt of the latter written declaration, or, if Congress is not in session, within twenty-one days after Congress is required to assemble, determines by two-thirds vote of both Houses that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall continue to discharge the same as Acting President; otherwise, the President shall resume the powers and duties of his office.

AMENDMENT XXVI

Passed by Congress March 23, 1971. Ratified July 1, 1971.

Note: Amendment 14, section 2, of the Constitution was modified by section 1 of the 26th amendment.

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Section 1.

The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.

Section 2.

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

AMENDMENT XXVII

Originally proposed Sept. 25, 1789. Ratified May 7, 1992.

No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened.