

The Constitution Of The United States Of America

0. Preamble

We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, 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. The authors of the original (1787) Constitution, as well as the document itself, command the highest respect and admiration for providing the guiding principles and law that served the United States well for over two hundred years. This Constitution borrows heavily from the many excellent constructs of its predecessor. It also benefits from lessons learned during more than two centuries of experience and comprehends developments that could not have been foreseen in the eighteenth century.

0.1 Articles

0.1.1 Structure, Philosophy, Definitions and Purpose

0.1.2 Citizenship

0.1.3 Elections

0.1.4 The Legislative Branch

0.1.5 The Executive Branch

0.1.6 The Judicial Branch

0.1.7 Compensation

0.1.8 Government Revenues, Budgets and Currency

0.1.9 Relations Among States

0.1.10 Powers Denied to the States

0.1.11 Powers Denied to All Governments

0.1.12 Fundamental Rights Guaranteed to All Individuals

0.1.13 Additional Fundamental Rights Guaranteed to All Citizens

0.1.14 Rights to Care and Education Guaranteed to Minor Citizens

0.1.15 Blanket Limitations On All Elected Officials

0.1.16 Amendments

0.1.17 Continuity

1. Structure, Philosophy, Definitions and Purpose

The Preamble of this document is just that; no attempt should be made to read any legal implications into it. The Constitution proper begins with this Article 1.

1.1 States

The United States of America is a union of several largely independent States. New States may from time to time apply and be admitted to the 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 United States and the legislatures of all States concerned. A State may secede from the union with a minimum of a one-year delay after a vote of two-thirds of its entire legislature is subsequently confirmed within 11 months by a two-thirds vote of its Electors.

1.2 Individuals

Individuals are the “atoms” of society. More complex societal entities (for example, organizations, businesses, corporations and governments) are created by and made up of one or multiple Individuals. The salient identifying characteristics of an Individual are consciousness, sentience, self-awareness and autonomy (meaning not controlled by any other Individual or entity). When these four characteristics first come into existence together is the time at which a new Individual comes into existence. When an Individual ceases to manifest these characteristics and there is no reasonable probability of them ever being regained, the Individual ceases to exist.

1.3 Individual Rights

Major Individual rights are life, liberty, private property ownership and the pursuit of happiness, but all rights are so numerous as to be impossible to list. Individuals must be free to do or not do whatever they like so long as they do not materially encroach upon any other Individual’s equal right to do the same. A primary objective of government shall be to minimize aggression against peaceful and honest societal entities. A societal entity is deemed to include the entity’s justly-owned property. A fundamentally important guiding criterion is the Non-aggression Principle (NAP): No societal entity may deal fraudulently with any other societal entity; and no societal entity may initiate the use of force (or the credible threat of force) against any other societal entity; except for whatever minimum amount of force may be required to enforce this Non-aggression Principle. Although the NAP is crystal clear, some gray areas remain which require careful delineation. One example would be drawing the proper line between self-defense and aggression. Other examples are cases where an entity may place one or more other entities involuntarily at undue risk.

1.4 Purpose of, and Justification for Government

This Constitution establishes government of the people, by the people and for the people in order to protect, defend, secure and guarantee the Individual rights of its Citizens. The United States of America was founded upon the principle and is dedicated to the objective of maximizing the liberty and freedom of its Individual Citizens. The expectation and hope is that the strictly limited government established by this Constitution, along with the governments of the several States will: 1) be able to more consistently and more efficiently enforce the NAP than would Individuals left to enforce it on their own or in groups; 2) be able to most prudently and clearly draw the lines in NAP “gray areas,” and provide more uniform enforcement of the lines as drawn; 3) protect and defend its Citizens from foreign and domestic enemies; 4) enforce valid contracts voluntarily entered into by all parties thereto; 5) deal with entities outside the United States in international matters and especially in providing for the national defense; 6) guarantee to every State of the union a republican form of government, and protect each of them against invasion, and upon application of the legislature, or of the executive (when the legislature cannot be convened) against domestic violence; 7) in some cases, it may be appropriate to consider (with the greatest caution, care and restraint) the possible infringement of future Citizens’ rights as a result of the exercise of certain freedoms by current Citizens. However, it is expressly *not* the business of any government to protect Individuals from themselves. Governments shall have no involvement with social institutions, shall not indulge in “social engineering,” “moral tinkering” or “economic intervention,” but shall focus instead solely upon maximizing the freedom of Citizens to succeed, or to fail, in their pursuit of happiness.

1.5 Nature of Government

Government is nothing but the exercise of force. Every law authorizes a government to use force on some Individual(s) under some circumstances, thus reducing their liberty. Minimization of laws and regulations is paramount. Government is not an end in itself. It produces no wealth and must depend for its operation upon resources forcibly taken in one way or another from those created and earned by its Citizens. Government might most appropriately be thought of as overhead. To the extent that it confiscates the resources of its Citizens, it reduces their liberty. Therefore, the size and cost of government must be minimized to that absolutely required to effectively carry out its few legitimate

functions stemming from its few legitimate purposes. Governments typically exhibit a very strong tendency to grow in size and power. Along with power inevitably comes corruption. Governments also are notoriously inefficient. For those reasons and others, this Constitution strictly defines, proscribes and limits the powers that the people grant to governments at all levels and especially those granted to the United States Government. Constant vigilance is nevertheless required to prevent government growth, corruption and encroachment upon Individual liberties.

1.6 Powers

Government has no powers except those very limited powers herein delegated to it by its Citizens. The powers not specifically and clearly delegated to the United States by this Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the Citizens. Vague concepts (such as “the common good” and/or “the general welfare”) shall not be used to blur or circumvent the specificity of the powers herein granted to any government.

1.7 Government Neutrality and Citizens’ Equality

1.7.1 The government of the United States as well as the governments of the several States and all local governments shall be strictly neutral. Their laws and court decisions shall have no bias either for or against any religion, moral code, social institution, personal belief or behavior (provided that the NAP is not being violated). These are examples of some of the things that Individual Citizens may freely hold and that groups of Citizens may share, but which cannot in any way be the business or concern of any government at any level.

1.7.2 Every Citizen shall be treated equally and enjoy the equal protection of the laws of the United States; the same shall be true for all State and local governments to the extent that a Citizen falls under those jurisdictions. No law or judicial decision shall have a bias (in either direction) that is in any way based upon Citizens’ race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, age, beliefs, behaviors or economic status. No law shall be designed to treat any statistical segment of Citizens differently from any other (except as provided for in 2.4). Clearly, all laws certainly must also apply equally to Citizens who are government employees, whether they are elected or otherwise.

1.8 Transparency

1.8.1 Any and all information regarding the functioning of their governments at all levels shall be timely available to and readily accessible to or obtainable by any Citizen of a government, subject only to the restrictions of 1.8.2.

1.8.2 Only two very narrow exceptions are provided to the availability of government information. The release of information may be restricted if its release would:

1.8.2.1 Clearly, seriously and imminently jeopardize national security, and such categorizations must be reviewed and updated at least annually;

1.8.2.2 Violate the personal privacy of a Citizen, which includes most government employees; however, government employees who have their compensation defined in sub-section 7.1.2 of this Constitution shall not enjoy this privacy shield.

1.8.3 A reasonable fee shall be charged by governments for the prompt production of information. Any such fee must be set at an amount intended to just recover the reasonable costs of providing the requested information.

1.9 Official Language

All official government instructions and labeling intended for communication with Citizens shall use the (US) English language only. Communications intended for immigrants pursuing naturalization and

for visitors at ports of entry shall employ such additional languages as may be deemed best for communicating with such immigrants and visitors, and/or important to making them feel comfortable and welcome.

1.10 Interpretation

This Constitution and all laws made pursuant to it shall be interpreted to mean what the plain text says and as intended by the author(s) at the time it was written. As a foundational principle, the NAP should always be borne in mind. Changes deemed important because of errors or omissions and/or to accommodate changing future circumstances must be handled by amendment and not by “strained” or “creative” interpretation.

1.11 Supreme Law of the Land

1.11.1 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, anything in the Constitution or laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding.

1.11.2 The Senators and Representatives of the Congress, 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, defend and obey this Constitution. Each person taking this oath certifies that s/he has studied and understands this Constitution, and that it is a breach of his or her oath of office to support any law or action inconsistent with this Constitution.

2. Citizenship

2.1 Native Citizens

2.1.1 Any Individual who comes into existence at a time when at least one biological parent is a Citizen of the United States shall also become a Citizen of the United States.

2.1.2 Any Individual cloned from another Individual who is a Citizen of the United States at the time the genetic information is obtained shall also become a Citizen of the United States, effective upon obvious signs of being conscious, sentient, self-aware and autonomous.

2.2 Naturalized Citizens

2.2.1 An Individual who is not a Native Citizen may apply to become a Naturalized Citizen of the United States. Upon successful completion of the Naturalization process, a Naturalized Citizen is in every way equivalent to a Native Citizen. In order to become a Naturalized Citizen, the minimum requirements listed below must all be met.

2.2.1.1 The applicant has been lawfully admitted to and has been a legal resident of the United States for at least 6 years.

2.2.1.2 The applicant is at least 18 years of age.

2.2.1.3 The applicant can demonstrate proficiency in all of the following areas to a level equivalent to that of the average student who has completed the eleventh grade (the proficiencies required by subsections 2.2.2.3.1 through 2.2.2.3.7 will be measured utilizing the same battery of tests required by subsection 14.2.4).

2.2.1.3.1 The English language, both spoken and written;

2.2.1.3.2 Mathematics;

2.2.1.3.3 Science;

- 2.2.1.3.4 Economics (micro only);
- 2.2.1.3.5 World and United States geography;
- 2.2.1.3.6 World and United States history;
- 2.2.1.3.7 Understanding of this Constitution;
- 2.2.1.3.8 Understanding the laws of the United States and the State of his, her or its residence.
- 2.2.1.4 The applicant has not violated (or committed any act that would have violated) the laws of the United States or the State of residence which would rise to the level of a felony.
- 2.2.1.5 The applicant must be willing to freely take an oath of allegiance swearing to:
 - 2.2.1.5.1 Support and obey this Constitution and its principles as well as obey United States law;
 - 2.2.1.5.2 Renounce any foreign allegiance and/or title.

2.3 State Citizenship

Any Citizen of the United States is also a Citizen of the state in which s/he has established a permanent legal residence. A Citizen may have only one legal residence at a given time and so may be a Citizen of either one State or no State.

2.4 Minor Citizens

Citizens who have not yet attained the age of 18 years shall be classified as Minor Citizens. When exercising the powers granted to them, governments may treat minors as a class differently as may be appropriate to their tender years. This is the only exception to the provisions of sub-section 1.7.2.

2.5 No Additional Requirements

The requirements as stated in this Article 2 are the only requirements for citizenship, except that the Congress may by law set limits on the number of naturalized Citizens that may be accepted each year.

3. Elections

All elections held by or within the United States, including State and local governments, in which Electors choose between or among candidates for various offices, or between or among various choices regarding issues shall be conducted in the manner and in accordance with the standards set forth in this Article 3.

3.1 Elector Qualifications

3.1.1 A Citizen who has attained the age of majority and has been a legal resident of one of the States continuously for at least the eight months immediately preceding registering to vote is a qualified Elector for the purposes of electing his or her State's Representatives for the District in which s/he lives, as well as local officials.

3.1.2 A Citizen who has attained the age of majority and has been a legal resident of one of the States or the District of Columbia (or any combination) for at least the eight months immediately preceding registering to vote is a qualified Elector for the purposes of electing the President and Vice President of the United States.

3.1.3 An Elector duly convicted of a felony shall be barred from holding public office and shall lose the right to vote in any election held from the time of conviction until the completion of his or her sentence; full rights of citizenship shall be restored upon completion of the sentence.

3.1.4 Other than as specifically provided in this Section 3.1, the right of a registered Elector to vote in any election for President or Vice President, for Representative in Congress, or for State and local offices shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State or local government.

3.2 Elector Registration

3.2.1 It shall be the responsibility of each State to insure that all qualified Electors and only qualified Electors within their jurisdictions are entitled to freely register and vote; and also to prevent frauds such as Electors voting more than once in the same election, the voting of fictitious or deceased Electors or the voting of non-Citizens or non-Electors. Electors shall register to vote in a manner to be prescribed by the legislature of the State of her or his residence and in accordance with the following specifications.

3.2.2 Registration shall be open for a minimum time window beginning a minimum of 22 weeks prior to an election through a time not more than 3 weeks prior to the date of an election. Electors must register at least 2 weeks prior to any election in which they will vote.

3.2.3 Electors shall be assigned to a precinct polling place at the time of registration and advised as to its exact location.

3.2.4 Voting in any election shall serve to automatically extend a voter's registration. However, not voting at the assigned polling place in any election for a period of 40 months or more shall require re-registration. Registration lists for each precinct shall be carefully and securely maintained; they shall be purged at least annually to remove Electors who have died, moved to another area or have otherwise become ineligible to vote at the precinct.

3.2.5 No Elector shall be charged any "poll tax" or other fee for voting or registering to vote.

3.3 Polling Places

3.3.1 Polling places shall be established by State or local governments in easily accessible locations to serve approximately 800 to 1,600 Electors. However, in no case shall more than 2,600 Electors be assigned to the same polling place. Unless required by 3.3.2, no polling place shall be assigned less than 400 Electors. States shall establish well-publicized reasonable requirements and procedures to ensure that only live qualified Electors assigned to a polling place are allowed to vote in person once each election.

3.3.2 Polling places should be as centrally located as reasonably possible to the Electors they serve, but in no case shall a polling place be located more than 10 kilometers (straight line distance) from any assigned Elector's legal residence.

3.3.3 If the location of a polling place is changed, the change and new location must be well publicized. Except in cases of emergency, such as severe damage to a polling place from fire or weather, the location of a polling place shall not be changed within 4 months of a scheduled election. If the location of a polling place has changed for whatever reason, directions to the new location must be prominently posted at the old location during the voting hours for elections held within the 40 months following relocation of the polling place.

3.3.4 Each polling place shall be adequately sized and equipped so that the average Elector waiting time should be less than 5 minutes and the maximum waiting time should not be more than 12 minutes. If these limits are exceeded at a polling place during any election, the size and/or equipping of that polling place, or the number of Electors assigned to it shall be adjusted prior to the next election so as to alleviate the problem.

3.3.5 Polling places shall be open for voting at least between the hours of 07:00 (7:00am) and 20:00 (8:00pm) local time on days scheduled for elections. Any Electors actually present but waiting in line to vote at closing time shall be allowed to vote.

3.3.6 Proselytizing inside a polling place or within 3 meters of its entrance or within 8 meters of any voting booth during voting hours is prohibited.

3.3.7 Each organized political party shall have the option of appointing one monitor to be present in each polling place during voting if at least one candidate affiliated with that party will be on the list of candidates (defined in 3.9) used for the polling place. Each Individual on the candidate list who is not affiliated with any political party shall also have the option of appointing one monitor. Polling places shall be open to officially appointed monitors for the 20 hour period immediately prior to commencement of voting for inspection and testing of voting equipment. The judge of elections elected or appointed for that polling place by the local government shall observe any testing done by a monitor; other monitors must also be invited to observe if they wish to do so. If desired, a monitor may bring one consultant during the inspection period. During voting, monitors must be free to observe and inspect all operations (except, of course, voters voting inside voting booths). Those allowed inside the polling place during voting hours shall be limited to:

3.3.7.1 A judge of elections elected (or appointed by the cognizant local government when necessary to fill a vacancy) to supervise the election process who is trained in election and polling place procedures;

3.3.7.2 One to three similarly trained representatives elected or appointed by the cognizant local government to assist the judge of elections;

3.3.7.3 A similarly trained constable or peace-keeping officer elected or assigned to assist the judge of elections if/as needed;

3.3.7.4 The official monitors designated by the political parties and/or Individuals on the candidate list;

3.3.7.5 Bona fide qualified Electors either voting or waiting in line.

3.3.7.6 One or two bona fide representatives of the press who may wish to observe.

3.3.8 Both aspects of a secret ballot must be guaranteed in a polling place:

3.3.8.1 It must not be possible for anyone to discover how a voter has voted.

3.3.8.2 It must not be possible for a voter to prove to someone else how s/he voted, even if s/he wishes to do so.

3.3.9 An Elector may utilize any written or printed aids while voting, but normally must be alone in a private voting booth or station while registering his or her choices. Upon request of the Elector, the judge of elections may render assistance. In cases of blindness or other severe physical disability, a single person of the Elector's choosing is permitted to assist inside the booth.

3.3.10 If or when machine automation of any kind is employed in a polling place, the equipment must produce a durable (e.g., paper) audit trail that supports after-the-fact auditing and verification of all machine outputs. If a machine records votes, it must produce a simple, clear, voter-verifiable, durable (e.g., paper) ballot that the voter verifies before depositing into the ballot box. Nothing shall be printed on the ballot that is not readable and understandable by the voter. After each voter validates the ballot as accurately reflecting all the choices s/he made, the voter will deposit her or his ballot into a ballot box, after which it is handled as would be human-executed paper ballots. Said ballots are the ultimate authority and representation of voters' intents and shall be used to validate any machine-produced totals and/or other output, as well as for any recounts deemed necessary.

3.3.11 Video surveillance of each polling place from at least two locations shall be done in such a way that the movements of humans in all active polling place areas are visible. However, such surveillance must never compromise the privacy of voting booths and must not be able to resolve the details of any of the choices on ballots. Similarly, photographs or video inside a polling place (including any taken by

voters) must never be able to resolve the details of any of the choices on ballots (including a voter's own ballot). Video shall be recorded starting as soon as the polling place is staffed on election day and before commencement of any voting; it shall continue until after voting has concluded and records are being sealed as provided for in **3.3.12**.

3.3.12 All records pertinent to the voting at a polling place must be sealed and retained a minimum of 42 months for future examination. This includes all ballots cast, all absentee ballots verified and counted, all ballots not counted, all work sheets and a copy of all reports of results, a list of all personnel who worked at the polling place with the signature of each and the video recordings made up until that point.

3.4 Absentee Ballots

Except for a minimum number of bona fide and necessary absentee ballots, all votes shall be cast by Electors in person at their assigned polling places during voting hours on election day. Qualified Electors who have a bona fide and compelling reason for being unable to vote at their assigned polling place on election day may apply for an absentee ballot. The maximum number of absentee ballots that may be issued for any jurisdiction is 1% of the number of registered Electors in that jurisdiction. Application for an absentee ballot must be made at least fifteen days prior to the election. Completed absentee ballots must be returned in time to be distributed to the polling places to which Electors are assigned prior to election day. Absentee ballots will be validated and counted under the supervision of the judge of elections at each polling place on election day. Absentee ballots not returned in time to be available at the proper polling place at the time voting commences shall not be counted. However, they will be marked with the date and time received and retained with the polling place's records.

3.5 Choosing One of Two or More Options

For cases in elections for which the outcome must be a single choice and for which two or more options are possible, including the possibility of additional write-in options from Electors, a separate parallel and simultaneous referendum is conducted for each option. The winner shall be the option which wins its referendum by the largest majority. Electors shall have the ability to indicate the option they think is the best (if any) and the option they think is the worst (if any). Electors shall also have the option to indicate an alternate best choice.

3.5.1 Instructions to Electors – Indicate which of the candidates you think is the best one (if any). If you do not like any of the candidates offered, you may write in one that you prefer and designate it best. Similarly, you may indicate which of the candidates you think is the worst choice (if any). (It is also possible to write in a candidate and mark it worst.) If you do not know enough about a candidate or do not have a strong opinion about it, do not mark anything for any such candidates. You may also choose an alternate best candidate. Choosing an alternate cannot help or hurt any candidate and will not count in any way unless and until your best choice is eliminated. If your best choice is eliminated, your alternate choice will then be counted as your best choice, exactly as though you had originally voted that way.

3.5.2 Instructions to Election Officials

3.5.2.1 Count the number of "best" votes for each candidate; call this number "B."

3.5.2.2 Count the number of "alternate" votes for each candidate; call this number "A."

3.5.2.3 Count the number of "worst" votes for each candidate; call this number "W."

3.5.2.4 Add B, A and W for each candidate; call this sum "V."

3.5.2.5 Add one to one percent of the largest V that any single candidate received in the race; call this number "MV."

3.5.2.6 Disqualify any candidate which has a V less than MV, always choosing the candidate currently having the smallest V to be next eliminated.

3.5.2.7 For any ballot which had marked a disqualified or eliminated candidate as best, promote the alternate choice (if any) to best.

3.5.2.8 Again total the number of best votes for each remaining candidate; again call this number “B.”

3.5.2.9 Subtract W from B for each remaining candidate; call this number “N.”

3.5.2.10 If only one candidate remains and its N is greater than zero, that candidate is the winner. If its N is zero or negative, there is no winner and all the candidates are disqualified from again running in this race.

3.5.2.11 If more than one option remains, eliminate the one which has the lowest (or negative-most) N and go back to step 3.4.2.7.

3.6 Choosing More Than One of Multiple Options

Cases where the outcome is to be several winners (for example, choosing 3 council members from a group of more than 3 candidates), are handled as in 3.5 except that Electors may designate as best up to the number of candidates being chosen and eliminations stop when the required number of winners remain.

3.7 Referenda, Yes/No Issues

For complex issues requiring a “Yes” or “No” decision, the Elector will be provided a clear official statement of the issue and will be able to simply indicate a “Yes” or “No” choice. If the “Yes” votes are at least 50% of the total votes plus 1 vote, the issue is approved; otherwise, it fails.

3.8 Selection of Candidates

When Electors are selecting candidates for offices during the voting process, there shall be no indication as to what candidates are running for which offices. Instead, Electors will choose from a consolidated list of all candidates for all offices. This list will be in “LastName, Name Suffix (SR, JR, if any), FirstName MiddleName (or Middle Initial)” format, without titles or labels of any kind, sorted either alphabetically or reverse alphabetically.

3.9 Candidate Lists

An Individual shall be added to the candidate list on the ballot for an election if she or he has gathered nominating petition signatures from at least 0.2% of the Electors registered and eligible to vote in the jurisdiction that will be voting for the office for which the candidate will be running. However, the required number of nominating signatures shall never exceed 3,000 and shall always be at least 10. Petition signatures shall be validated by the Secretary of State of each state for statewide and national offices or the cognizant county Board of Elections for offices within counties.

3.10 Drawing Electoral Districts

In all cases where a political entity (e.g., a State) is entitled to elect multiple representatives, the electoral districts for each representative should ideally contain an equal number of qualified Electors. Equality of the districts shall be checked following each census. If any district deviates from the ideal number of qualified Electors by plus or minus 2 percent or more, the districts must be redrawn prior to the next election. The procedure defined here must be used to draw the electoral district boundaries. If the number of qualified Electors in the political entity is e and the number of districts to be drawn is n , the following (sometimes iterative) procedure is used.

3.10.1 If n is 1, no subdivision is necessary and this is a final district. If $n > 1$, then define two new integers $i = n/2$ rounded up and $j = n/2$ rounded down. (Note that $i + j$ always equals n , and if n is even, i obviously will equal j .)

3.10.2 Draw the shortest possible (great circle) line dividing the area into two sections so that one section has a number of registered Electors equal to e multiplied by i/n , and the other section has a

number of qualified Electors equal to e multiplied by j/n . If there is more than one such line, use the line closest to a north-south orientation and if there is still a tie, use the westernmost line. For irregularly shaped political entities, it is possible that a line could exit and then re-enter the entity; the length of the line is defined to be the total distance between the two most distant points which lie on the boundary of the area being subdivided.

3.10.3 Make a list of just the voting precincts that have parts of their area on both sides of the great circle line of 3.10.2.

3.10.4 Any of the precincts on the list which have 80% or more of their area on one side of the line are then assigned to the section on that same side of the line.

3.10.5 If any precincts remain on the list, assign the one with the largest number of qualified Electors to the section which needs the most voters to hit its target population. Repeat this step until all precincts have been assigned.

3.10.6 The division of the original large area into two sections has now been completely defined. For each of the two sections separately, go back to step 3.10.1 using the section's number of qualified Electors for e and either i or j (whichever was associated with the section) as n .

4. The Legislative Branch

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.

4.1 The House of Representatives

4.1.1 The House of Representatives shall be composed of members chosen every second year by the Electors of the several States. The total number of Representatives shall be nine times the number of States that make up the United States. Each Representative shall have one vote.

4.1.2 No person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained the age of twenty-five years, and been seven years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, have been a legal resident of that State in which s/he shall be chosen for at least the most recent four years. No person shall be eligible to be elected to a term that would result in holding the office of Representative for more than a total of nine years in order to complete the term.

4.1.3 Every State shall have at least one representative. A State will have exactly one Representative if its number of qualified Electors is less than the total number of qualified Electors in all States divided by the total number of Representatives. Excluding any such States that have one Representative, the remaining Representatives shall be apportioned among the remaining States as accurately as possible in proportion to their respective numbers of qualified Electors.

4.1.4 Each Representative will represent and be elected by the qualified Electors of a District. In States that have more than one Representative, Districts shall be defined by the procedure specified in 3.10.

4.1.5 The allocation of Representatives and the determination of Districts will be redone as necessary during the first two years of each new decade and within two years of a change in the number of States. The number of qualified Electors as of the beginning of the then-current decade will be the basis for reallocation.

4.1.6 When vacancies occur in the representation from any State, the executive authority thereof shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies for the remainder of the vacated term.

4.1.7 The House of Representatives shall choose their Speaker and other officers; and shall have the sole power of impeachment.

4.2 The Senate

4.2.1 The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen for terms of six years by the legislatures of each State. Each Senator shall have one vote.

4.2.2 No person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained the age of thirty years, and been nine years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, have been a legal resident of that State for which s/he shall be chosen for at least the most recent five years. No person shall be eligible to be elected to a term that would result in holding the office of Senator for more than a total of fifteen years in order to complete the term.

4.2.3 Senators 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. The Senators from any given State must be assigned to different classes.

4.2.4 If vacancies happen by resignation, or otherwise, the executive authorities of the respective States may make temporary appointments to fill such vacancies until the legislature is able to consider and fill the position for the remainder of the term.

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

4.2.6 The Senate shall choose 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.

4.2.7 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; no person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two thirds of the members present. Jurisdiction shall extend only to officials in office at the time of a trial.

4.2.8 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.

4.3 Congressional Elections and Terms

4.3.1 The times, places and manner of holding elections for Representatives as well as State and local offices shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof in accordance with Article 3.

4.3.2 The terms of Senators and Representatives shall end at noon on the 3rd day of January following the last year of their terms and the terms of their successors shall then begin. No person shall be eligible to be elected to a term that would mean holding the office of either Representative or Senator for more than a total of seventeen years in Congress (any combination or sequence) in order to complete the term.

4.3.3 Before s/he enters upon the execution of office, each Congressperson shall take the following oath or affirmation:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, defend and obey the Constitution of the United States."

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

4.4 Rules of the House and Senate

4.4.1 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.

4.4.2 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. However, the minimum vote required to terminate debate in the Senate shall not be less than three fifths. Allocation of the operations budget for each house shall be equal among the members of that house without favoritism.

4.4.3 Each House shall keep a journal of its proceedings, and promptly publish the same, excepting such parts as may require secrecy (strictly in accordance with sub-section 1.8.2); and the yeas and nays of the members of either House on any question shall, at the desire of one twentieth of those present, be entered on the journal.

4.4.4 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.

4.4.5 Senators and Representatives 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.

4.4.6 No Senator or Representative shall, during the time for which s/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.

4.5 Legislative Process

4.5.1 Bills shall, insofar as is reasonably practical, deal with a single issue to be debated and decided; unrelated items or issues shall not be combined in the same bill (either originally or by amendment) and must be considered separately. In questionable cases, the decision should favor separation; and the desire of one tenth of the members shall force separation. The specific votes of each member of Congress on every bill shall be recorded and made available as a matter of public record as soon as possible, but in no case more than 36 hours following a vote.

4.5.2 The specific section(s) of this Constitution from which the authority for the bill is derived shall be cited as a part of and near the beginning of each bill.

4.5.3 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.

4.5.4 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 s/he approve, s/he shall sign it, but if not s/he 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 twelve calendar days after it shall have been presented to him or her, the same shall become a law, in like manner as if s/he had signed it, unless the Congress by their adjournment prevents its return, in which case it shall not become a law.

4.5.5 When a spending bill contains multiple line items and amounts, the President shall have the option of vetoing the entire bill as provided above, or of vetoing or reducing only one or several of the specific line items. When such a bill is returned to Congress, they shall have the option of restoring the deleted line items by two thirds vote of each house or taking no further action in which case the bill becomes law after twelve days (with the vetoed line items removed or reduced). However, if Congress adjourns taking no action before the expiration of twelve days, the bill shall not become law.

4.5.6 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, shall be re-passed by two thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the rules and limitations prescribed in the case of a bill.

4.5.7 In order to be eligible to vote for or against any bill, a Representative or Senator must have personally read and understood it in its entirety. The act of casting a vote for or against a bill shall be taken as certification under oath by the legislator that s/he has complied with this requirement.

4.5.8 All laws as passed by Congress must be complete in and of themselves. Congress may not delegate the authority to modify, amplify or extend laws (e.g., through “rule making”).

4.5.9 Each house of Congress shall devote a minimum of ten full in-session-with-quorum days each calendar year exclusively to the consideration of existing laws which should or can be repealed. The body of laws must be held to the minimum necessary.

4.6 Limited Powers Granted to Congress

4.6.1 The Congress shall have the power (strictly in accordance with Section 8.1) to lay and collect usage fees, taxes, duties and imposts, in order to pay the debts and fund the legitimate functions of the United States. All United States taxes, duties and imposts shall be uniform throughout the United States.

4.6.2 To provide for the common defense of the United States.

4.6.3 To borrow money on the credit of the United States, but only for legitimate capital expenditures to be amortized over several years in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and

provided that no new debt may be incurred if the total of all debt would exceed 25% of total United States revenues for the prior fiscal year.

4.6.4 To regulate commerce with foreign nations.

4.6.5 To establish uniform laws on the subject of bankruptcies throughout the United States.

4.6.6 To coin money, regulate the value thereof to be as constant as is reasonably possible, and of foreign coin, and to fix the standard of weights and measures.

4.6.7 To provide for the punishment of counterfeiting the securities and current coin of the United States.

4.6.8 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.

4.6.9 To define and punish piracies and felonies committed in international territories, and crimes committed outside of the united States against the citizens thereof by foreign nationals or others.

4.6.10 To declare war, grant letters of Marque and reprisal, and make rules concerning captures on land, water and in space.

4.6.11 To raise and support armed forces, but no appropriation of money to that use shall be for a longer term than two years.

4.6.12 To make rules for the government and regulation of the land, naval, air and space forces.

4.6.13 To provide for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the Union, suppress insurrections and repel invasions.

4.6.14 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.

4.6.15 To cause an accurate census to be taken during the first nine months of each new decade of all Individuals who are residents of the United States, noting whether or not they are Citizens and whether or not they are Electors.

4.6.16 To create and maintain an arterial interstate highway system to facilitate free and efficient long-distance travel and transportation across the United States.

4.6.17 To exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever, over the District of Columbia (not to exceed 16.1 kilometers square) as the seat of the Government of the United States (which shall not be considered a State), 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 structures, provided that the right of access and assembly by Citizens shall not be infringed so long as the normal function of the facility is not materially and adversely affected by the exercise thereof.

4.6.18 To make all laws and only those laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the powers granted by this Constitution and vested in the Government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

4.7 Powers Specifically Denied to Congress

4.7.1 No tax or duty shall be laid on articles exported from any State.

4.7.2 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.

4.7.3 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 at least quarterly.

4.7.4 Money drawn from the Treasury shall be used only to discharge the legitimate powers and duties of the Government of the United States as specified in this Constitution. None shall be paid as a grant, subsidy, rebate, loan or aid to a foreign entity, a State government, a local government or any other quasi-governmental body, a business or to Individuals.

4.7.5 No right, liberty or power of the United States as a sovereign nation or of its sovereign Citizens may be ceded, whether by treaty or otherwise, to any regional or global authority or organization.

4.7.6 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.

4.8 Removal from Office

4.8.1 Any verifiable breach of the bill reading requirements of 4.6.7 shall result in immediate expulsion of the legislator from office. Such an expulsion can be rescinded only by a three fourths roll-call vote of the House and a three fourths roll-call vote of the Senate, and then only if it is the legislator's first such offense.

4.8.2 A legislator (House or Senate) shall be immediately removed from office upon any verified violation of his or her oath of office. Such a removal shall disqualify that person from thereafter holding any elected United States office or judicial appointment.

4.8.2.1 The determination that any law for which a legislator has voted is unconstitutional shall, following the exhaustion of any appeals, be prima-facie evidence that the oath of office was breached.

4.8.2.2 Citizens may petition in federal court to have a legislator removed on the basis of breach of oath. In order to be heard, such a petition must clearly define the breach and must be signed by a minimum of 1.0 percent of the registered Electors eligible to vote for the legislator.

4.8.3 Either of a State's senators may be removed and replaced for the remainder of the term at any time by a two thirds vote of that State's legislature

5. The Executive Branch

5.1 The President and Vice President

5.1.1 The executive power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. S/he shall hold this office during the term of four years, and, together with the Vice-President chosen for the same term, be elected on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of the November immediately prior to the end of the current President's term. The terms of the President and Vice President shall end at noon on the 20th day of January following the last year of their terms and the terms of their successors shall then begin. They shall be elected by the States in accordance the following procedure.

5.1.1.1 Each State shall have a number of votes equal to the number of its House representatives plus 2.

5.1.1.2 Presidential elections shall be held in each State in accordance with Article 3.

5.1.1.3 All of a State's votes are cast for the winner of that State's presidential election.

5.1.1.4 The candidate receiving the largest number of States' votes shall be the winner.

5.1.1.5 A tie will be resolved as the tied candidate who won in the most State elections.

5.1.1.6 A tie still persisting will be resolved by random selection of a tied candidate.

5.1.2 Any Citizen meeting all of the following qualifications shall be eligible for election to the office of President or Vice President:

5.1.2.1 Have been a United States Citizen for at least the most recent twenty years;

5.1.2.2 Have attained the age of thirty-five years as of the beginning of the term;

5.1.2.3 Have been resident within the United States for the most recent five years;

5.1.2.4 If elected, completion of the term would not result in holding the office of President for more than a total of ten years.

5.1.3 Before s/he enters upon the execution of office, s/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, defend and obey the Constitution of the United States."

5.1.4 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. If Congress has passed no law or problems arise with the interpretation of such a law, the House of Representatives shall resolve any such matters by majority vote.

5.1.5 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.

5.1.6 In case of the removal of the President from office or of his death or resignation, the Vice President shall be sworn in as President.

5.1.7 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.

5.1.8 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.

5.1.9 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.

5.2 Powers and Duties of the President

5.2.1 S/he shall take care that all of (and only) the laws of the United States exactly as enacted by Congress be faithfully and uniformly executed. The Executive Branch has no authority to modify, amplify or extend, or to not enforce the laws of Congress. The Executive Branch shall operate no "courts," administrative or otherwise, and the adjudication of guilt or innocence under any law shall be made only by the Judicial Branch.

5.2.2 The President shall be commander in chief of all military forces of the United States, and of the militias of the several States, when called into the actual service of the United States. He shall deploy military forces as most appropriate for the defense of the United States and strictly in accordance with purposes as established by Congress. The President shall have the latitude and the duty to defend the United States and/or its interests against any bona fide and material threat(s) that may quickly arise; however, the approval of Congress must be obtained within 45 days of the first such use of United States forces; lacking such approval, the forces will stand down from such use within 25 days following the deadline for Congressional approval.

5.2.3 S/he shall take care that all borders of the United States are secured, and that all border crossings by Individuals and materials of any kind occur in an orderly manner through its designated ports of entry. This responsibility shall include capture, prosecution and deportation as may be appropriate for any Individuals and/or materials which may have succeeded in entering the United States without properly passing through a port of entry. The President shall separately request border security funding from Congress and a two fifth vote in each house shall be sufficient to appropriate funds for this purpose.

5.2.4 S/he shall commission all the officers of the United States.

5.2.5 S/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.

5.2.6 S/he shall have power to grant reprieves and pardons for offenses against the United States, except in cases of impeachment.

5.2.7 S/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. No provision of this Constitution may be abrogated, overridden or superseded by any treaty.

5.2.8 S/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. The Congress may by law vest the appointment of other officers inferior to these, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the courts of law, or in the heads of departments.

5.2.9 The President shall have the 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.

5.2.10 S/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 s/he shall judge necessary and expedient.

5.2.11 S/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, s/he may adjourn them to such time as s/he shall think proper.

5.2.12 S/he shall receive ambassadors and other public ministers.

5.3 Removal from Office

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, breach of the oath of office or other high crimes and misdemeanors. Failure of the President to faithfully and effectively execute the duties of 5.1.1 and 5.2.3 shall also be grounds for removal from office.

6. The Judicial Branch

6.1 Courts and Tenure

The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one Supreme Court consisting of nine justices, 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 behavior.

6.2 Jurisdiction

6.2.1 The judicial power shall extend:

6.2.1.1 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;

6.2.1.2 To all cases affecting ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls;

6.2.1.3 To all cases of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction;

6.2.1.4 To controversies to which the United States shall be a party;

6.2.1.5 To controversies between two or more States;

6.2.1.6 To all cases between Citizens of different States;

6.2.1.7 To all cases involving Citizens' petitions for removal of members of Congress;

6.2.1.8 To all cases between Citizens of the same State claiming lands under grants of different States.

6.2.2 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.

6.2.3 In all the other cases before mentioned, the Supreme Court shall have appellate jurisdiction, both as to law and fact.

6.2.4 In all Supreme Court cases involving a question as to whether or not the government has been delegated certain powers by this Constitution, a standard higher than a simple majority must be met. The default presumption must always be that the government does not have the power. If the Court hears the case, at least seven of the nine justices must concur that the power in question clearly is delegated to the government by this Constitution. Concurrence of at least seven justices also is required to decline to hear such a case.

6.2.5 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.

6.3 Treason

6.3.1 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.

6.3.2 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.

6.3.3 No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, 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.

7. Compensation

7.1 Employee Classifications and Compensation

All employees of the United States are paid from the treasury bi-weekly on Thursdays for the two immediately preceding complete (Monday through Sunday) weeks. There are two classes of United States employee.

7.1.1 The first class of employee has their level of compensation either set by Congress or set by the executive branch in cases where Congress has delegated that responsibility. Similarly, Congress may optionally define (or delegate to the executive branch to define) any benefits for which these employees are eligible. This group includes all employees of the United States except those enumerated in 7.1.2 below.

7.1.2 The second class of employee has his or her compensation constitutionally defined. This class of employee may receive (from the United States or from any other direct or indirect source) no other benefits or remuneration of any type whatsoever while holding office other than the compensation specified herein. They shall not be the beneficiaries of any taxpayer financed pensions. Any owned

assets, excepting a primary residence, totaling more than \$1,000,000 in 2020 dollars shall be placed in a blind trust prior to taking office and must remain there as long as the employee holds one of the below offices. The compensation amounts are per annum in 2020 dollars. These amounts would be adjusted annually only for the change in cost of living from the year 2020. However, since one of the major responsibilities of the United States Government is to maintain sound money of constant value, no upward adjustments should be expected and the amounts below shall be considered maximum dollar amounts.

- 7.1.2.1 President of the United States -- \$300,000
- 7.1.2.2 Vice President of the United States -- \$200,000
- 7.1.2.3 Senator -- \$175,000
- 7.1.2.4 Speaker of the House -- \$200,000
- 7.1.2.5 Representative -- \$150,000
- 7.1.2.6 Chief Justice of the Supreme Court -- \$300,000
- 7.1.2.7 Justice of the Supreme Court -- \$250,000
- 7.1.2.8 Federal Court Judge -- \$175,000

7.2 Expenses

All employees of the United States shall be reimbursed from the Treasury for bona fide and necessary expenses directly related to and incurred in the execution of their duties. Any such expenses must be documented on signed expense reports filed weekly and including the reasons or purposes that justify the expenditures and receipts for verification of all amounts greater than \$35 (2020 dollars). These expense reports will be published promptly as a matter of public record.

8. Government Revenues, Budgets and Currency

8.1 Revenue Sources

8.1.1 No capitation, or other direct, tax shall be laid by any government. Individuals, families, businesses and corporations may not be required to file tax (or other information) returns. The allowed sources of revenue are herein defined. No government shall raise revenue from any other source or by any mechanism other than those specified in this Section 8.1.

8.1.2 Import duties and imposts may be collected by the United States only, which shall be solely responsible for setting, collecting and policing import duties and imposts. The rate shall be uniform across all imports and shall not exceed 12% for friendly nations and 25% for nations deemed "hostile."

8.1.3 Usage fees for government-owned parks, museums, roads, services, etc., may be set and collected.

8.1.3.1 Other than for roads, fees will be set to as nearly as feasible match the number of users to the capacity of the facility.

8.1.3.2 Every powered vehicle must be licensed by the States annually to use all public roads. Each vehicle so licensed shall display its "license number" which shall be easily identifiable as to the State. Annually, semiannually or quarterly, the owner of each licensed vehicle shall report to the State just the total kilometers traveled by the vehicle since its manufacture. The distance traveled since the previous report will be multiplied by the dollars per kilometer rate for the vehicle and that amount shall be remitted to the State as a road usage fee. The rate for each licensed vehicle shall be the total of a federal component, a state component and a local (county) component to be set as described in the following sub-section. The address of each vehicle's physical "home base" shall determine the State and local rates to which its owner is subject.

8.1.3.3 The States shall be solely responsible for enforcement and for collecting usage fees for vehicles licensed by the State. The State shall forward the proper shares of fees collected to the federal

government and to the counties within the State. The United States, each State and each county will set a road usage fee rate at the dollars per kilogram per kilometer that will raise the revenue needed to construct and maintain the roads within each jurisdiction. All revenue resulting for road usage fees will go to construct and maintain roads, bridges, etc. and revenue for that purpose shall not be supplemented with revenue from any other source. The total of the federal, state and county rates shall be used to set each vehicle's dollars per kilometer rate by multiplying this total times the gross vehicle weight for each licensed vehicle.

8.1.3.4 Powered vehicles not located and licensed within the United States shall have their total kilometers since manufacture recorded when entering the United States and will be assessed a road usage fee upon their exit from the United States based upon the distance traveled on US roads. The rate per kilometer for such external vehicles will be set by the United States and shall be proportional to the gross vehicle weight.

8.1.4 The remaining three allowed revenue sources may be levied by any of three levels of government: United States, State and local, where "local" is defined to mean the largest political subdivision inside a State (normally, a county). The method for allocation and further distribution of local taxes collected to lower (municipal) levels of government shall be at the discretion of each State or may be delegated by the State to the local (county) governments. The responsibility for administering, collecting and enforcing any and all such taxes shall rest with the States. States will forward any United States tax collected to the United States Treasury and distribute any local taxes collected to the proper local (county) governments within each State. The United States shall have no enforcement authority other than audits of State collection authorities to assure that the proper amounts are being forwarded to the United States Treasury.

8.1.5 A land value tax may be collected as a percentage of the unimproved value of all land (improvements may never be taxed). The maximum percentage that may be collected annually is 0.5% each for United States, State and local (a combined maximum of 1.5% on any given piece of land). No land within the United States or its territories shall be exempt from taxation.

8.1.6 A severance tax may be levied as a percentage of the sale amount for all non-renewable natural resources removed from land. The maximum percentage that may be collected is 11% each for United States, State and local (a combined maximum of 33% for any given commodity). The rate shall be the same for all non-renewable natural resources.

8.1.7 The above two taxes (8.1.5 and 8.1.6) are levied by each federal, State or local taxing authority by setting a single percentage between 0% and 100% that will control what percentage of the maximum tax specified above is to be collected. A two thirds vote shall be required to increase this percentage while a simple majority may decrease it.

8.1.8 A simple, broadly-based consumption tax on the sale of goods and services may be levied. The maximum percentage that may be collected is 4% each for United States, State and local (a combined maximum of 12% for any given transaction). A two thirds vote shall be required to increase this percentage while a simple majority may decrease it. A taxing entity may not levy any sales tax unless its percentage in 8.1.7 is already at the 100% maximum.

8.1.8.1 This sales tax is charged at the point of sale to the end user or consumer only and must be a single fixed percentage of the sale amount rounded to the nearest cent.

8.1.8.2 When a tax calculation results in tax amounts that have fractional pennies, the computed amount will always be rounded up to the next cent when the fractional amount is equal to or greater than half a cent and will round down to the next lower cent when the fractional amount is less than half a cent.

8.1.8.3 The percentage rate may not be specified to a precision greater than hundredths of a percent (e.g., 1.75%).

8.1.8.4 When there are multiple taxable line items in a sales transaction, they are summed and the tax is computed on the total.

8.1.8.5 Up to three taxes may apply to any given sales transaction. The basis of each tax shall be the total of the item sales amounts only; that is, one tax cannot include another tax as a part of its basis.

8.1.8.6 The amount of each tax shall be separately identified and shown on the sales transaction document.

8.1.8.7 Since at most one Federal, one State and one local tax can apply to any given transaction, the applicable jurisdiction(s) will be determined by the “location” of the transaction. The location is defined to be the place at which the end consumers receives the goods for constructive use, or the place at which the services are performed. Subterfuges such as receiving goods outside a jurisdiction and then re-shipping to a location within a jurisdiction for the purpose of avoiding taxes obviously are prohibited and will be punishable by law.

8.1.8.8 Sellers are required to make reasonable efforts to determine the correct transaction location and levy the correct taxes; however, both buyers and sellers may be prosecuted for willful tax evasion. The United States shall maintain a readily accessible centralized database of all sales tax rates, along with their jurisdictions and their effective date ranges, from which the applicable tax(es) for any transaction can be quickly, easily and officially determined.

8.1.8.9 The tax shall apply to all goods and services (tangible or intangible) except for the following.

8.1.8.9.1 The tax shall not apply to basic foodstuffs, but food prepared and served will be taxed.

8.1.8.9.2 The tax shall not apply to basic, functional clothing, but non-functional or decorative accessories will be taxed.

8.1.8.9.3 The rental or purchase of a property shall not be taxed as long as it is exclusively used as a primary residence.

8.1.8.9.4 Tuition for bona fide primary, secondary, college or post-graduate education shall not be taxed.

8.2 Budget Policy

The operations of all governments shall be tracked and reported in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. No government shall operate at a deficit. If a deficit should inadvertently, or as a result of a bona fide unanticipated emergency, occur in one budget year, it must be offset by a surplus in the immediately following year, unless a sufficient surplus is being carried forward from prior year(s). Governments may and should retain reasonable surpluses so as to be prepared for emergencies. Money may be borrowed only for bona fide capital expenditures that will be amortized over several future years consistent with the expected lifetime of the asset.

8.3 Currency

The official currency shall be the U.S. Dollar. It shall be legal tender acceptable for payment of all debts and obligations. The money supply shall be regulated to maintain the value of the Dollar as constant as possible, allowing neither significant inflation nor deflation. The value of the Dollar shall be measured through a broadly-based index of commodities regularly traded in the free market and weighted to reflect an average cost of living. Any net inflation or deflation from the value of the dollar at the end of 2020 shall be corrected so as to maintain the long-term value of the dollar as constant as may be. There shall be no prohibition of any alternate currency that Citizens may wish to use.

8.4 Banking and Interest Rates

There shall be no central bank or banking authority and interest rates shall be set through normal free market competitive forces between and among private banks and saving/lending institutions.

9. Relations Among States

9.1 Full Faith and Credit

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.

9.2 State Citizens, Extradition

9.2.1 The Citizens of each State shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of Citizens in the several States.

9.2.2 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 s/he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the State having jurisdiction of the crime.

9.3 United States Territory and Property

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 as well as property controlled by the government for public uses; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to prejudice any claims of the United States, or of any particular State. United States Citizens are the joint owners of such property and their rights as protected by Articles 11, 12 and 13 shall not be diminished as long as Citizens' activities thereon do not materially interfere with the intended normal uses and functions of the property.

10. Powers Denied to the States

10.1 No State shall enter into any treaty, alliance, or confederation; grant letters of Marque and reprisal; coin money; emit bills of credit; make anything other than the legal currency of the United States a tender in payment of debts; pass any law impairing the obligation of contracts, or grant any title of nobility.

10.2 No State shall, without the consent of Congress, enter into any agreement or compact with another state or a foreign power, or engage in war, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent danger as will not admit of delay.

10.3 No State shall restrict or impede free market commerce and competition within or across its borders.

11. Powers Denied to All Governments

11.1 Suspension of Habeas Corpus

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. In any such cases, the danger must be clear and present, the need for suspension very obvious, the geographic area of suspension as small as reasonably possible and the duration of the suspension as short as the circumstances will allow.

11.2 No Ex Post Facto Law

No bill of attainder or ex post facto law shall be passed.

11.3 No Restriction of Speech, Religion, Media

No law shall be made respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press or of other media; or the right of Citizens to peaceably assemble, and to petition the Government for redress of grievances.

11.4 No Abridgment of Citizenship

No government shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of Citizens of the United States as defined in this Constitution. A Citizen convicted of a criminal offense shall again enjoy the full rights and privileges of citizenship upon completion of her or his sentence.

11.5 No Business Ownership

No government shall own or have an interest in any part of any business. Collection of user fees as allowed by 8.1.3 shall not be considered owning or operating a business.

11.6 No Business Interference

No government shall interfere with the normal and peaceful operation of any business, or with the execution of a contract consensually entered into by all parties thereto. No government shall provide subsidies, loan guarantees or otherwise meddle in and/or distort the operation of the free market economy.

11.7 No Selective Law Enforcement

All laws must be fully, completely and impartially enforced to the greatest extent reasonably possible. Laws judged not to meet this enforcement standard for whatever reason by a court having jurisdiction shall, upon exhaustion of any appeal, be considered repealed and shall be repealed by the Congress at the earliest possible time.

12. Fundamental Rights Guaranteed to All Individuals

12.1 Due Process of Law

No Citizen of the United States or Individual under the jurisdiction or in the custody of the United States shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law.

12.2 Competent Counsel, Witnesses

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him or her; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in her or his favor, and to have the assistance of competent counsel for his or her defense.

12.3 No Cruel or Unusual Punishment

No cruel or unusual treatment or punishment shall be inflicted upon any Citizen of the United States or any Individual under the jurisdiction or in the custody of the United States.

13. Additional Fundamental Rights Guaranteed to All Citizens

The rights retained by Citizens are innumerable and include anything a Citizen may wish to do, provided only that s/he may not materially infringe upon the equal rights of others. The enumeration in this Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by

Citizens. A Citizen's right(s) may be restricted only when judged unfit by a court through due process of law.

13.1 Freedom of Speech

The right to speak freely shall broadly guaranteed without exception. The forms and means of speech are many and varied, including, but not limited to, political speech, commercial speech, even speech which could be considered by some as incorrect, offensive, pornographic or hate speech.

13.2 No Excessive Bail

Excessive bail shall not be required of any Citizen, nor excessive fines imposed.

13.3 No Double Jeopardy

No Citizen shall be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb for the same offense, whether by the same or a different level of government.

13.4 Trial By Jury

13.4.1 No Citizen of the United States 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 armed forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger.

13.4.2 In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed five hundred dollars (as adjusted for any cost of living change from the year 2020), the right of trial by jury shall be preserved for all Citizens, 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.

13.4.3 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.

13.4.4 No Citizen shall be compelled in any criminal case to bear witness against himself.

13.4.5 Judges must always inform juries of their common-law right to judge not only the facts of the case but also the justice of the law.

13.5 No Confiscation of Property

The private property of any Citizen shall not be taken for public use, without just compensation. The exercise of eminent domain shall be restricted to cases where a bona fide need exists for rights of way for public transportation or utilities, or for necessary government facilities. Property shall not be taken to be transferred to another private owner.

13.6 Privacy and Peaceful Enjoyment

13.6.1 The right of Citizens, associations of Citizens or business entities to be secure in their bodies, houses, property, vehicles, 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 Individuals or things to be seized.

13.6.2 Personal information held by third parties such as telephone records, email and data stored on remote servers shall be considered part of an Individual's "papers" and require a search warrant.

13.6.3 Covert audio or video surveillance, eavesdropping and compilation of data shall be considered kinds of searches that require warrants.

13.6.4 There shall be no interference with any social activity involving consenting adults in private.

13.6.5 There shall be no interference with the right of a Citizen, group of Citizens or business entity owning property to establish policies governing use of their private property, including guests permitted and activities allowed or not allowed.

13.6.6 Unless judged mentally incompetent by a court, a Citizen shall have the right to treat himself or herself in any way desired without interference (ingest any substance, attempt any cure or treatment, commit suicide, etc.)

13.7 Keep and Bear Arms

The right of Citizens to keep and bear arms, as well as the ammunition and accessories for said arms, shall not be questioned or infringed. This includes the right to manufacture, sell, transfer, transport, carry and store such items without registration or tracking. No offensive or defensive weapon or equipment up to and including any that a modern, up-to-date, well-equipped infantry soldier might utilize shall ever be prohibited or regulated.

13.8 Voluntary Exchange

Any Citizen, group of Citizens or business entity, may voluntarily agree to exchange goods or services with any other Citizen, group of Citizens or business entity. Such exchanges must be voluntary on both sides. Either party may decline to make a particular exchange for any reason, in which case the exchange will not take place.

13.9 Mobility

The right of Citizens to travel freely and transport possessions normally on public roads or mass transportation systems shall not be infringed. The right of Citizens to move themselves or their assets into or out of the United States shall not be infringed unless under criminal indictment or arrest. The locations and travels of Citizens and/or their vehicles shall not be surveilled or tracked without a warrant.

13.10 Redress of Grievances

A Citizen or group of Citizens may petition their government (at any level) for grievances arising under this Constitution. Such petitions stating the issues clearly and concisely may be submitted in writing through the Citizen(s)' elected representative to the lower house. Resolution of such grievances is an important duty and responsibility of all representatives. If the representative is unable to resolve a grievance, s/he must introduce it on the floor of the full legislative body. Citizen(s) must receive a clear, concise and pertinent response within 60 days of the date the representative received the petition. If a timely response is not received or if the Citizen(s)' grievance has not been redressed in a manner satisfactory to the Citizen(s), an appeal to the court having jurisdiction may be made. The court shall hear the case at its discretion, but the court is obliged to hear any case filed by at least 1,000 petitioners.

13.11 Military Quartering

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.

13.12 Locally Protected and Secured Individual Rights

13.12.1 "Local" is defined to mean the largest political subdivision inside a State (normally, a county). The Citizens/Electors of each such local political subdivision shall be entitled to directly elect a Sheriff.

13.12.2 Each Sheriff is responsible directly to the Citizens who elected him or her and shall have the primary responsibility of protecting and securing the rights of his or her Citizens as guaranteed by this Constitution. The Sheriff shall also take care that all laws that are constitutional are enforced within his or her local jurisdiction.

13.12.3 Within his or her jurisdiction, the Sheriff shall be the highest ranking law enforcement officer. No other agent or officer of any kind (federal, State, local or international) shall operate within a Sheriff's jurisdiction without the prior knowledge and consent of the Sheriff and shall be subject to arrest by the Sheriff for failure to meet notification requirements or for violating (or threatening the violation of) the rights of his or her Citizens.

13.12.4 The term of office for the Sheriff shall be four years and elections shall be held in the even numbered years between presidential elections. A special election to elect a new Sheriff must be called within four months after at least 2% of a Sheriff's registered Electors have so petitioned the State.

13.12.5 The cost of operating the Sheriff's department shall be budgeted and paid by the local jurisdiction that the Sheriff serves.

14. Rights to Care and Education Guaranteed to All Minor Citizens

14.1 Parental Requirements and Responsibilities

14.1.1 All Minor Citizens shall be entitled to and shall receive reasonable care and a good basic education. Parents and/or legal guardians are individually and jointly responsible for providing for all needs of their offspring at their expense. Among food, clothing, shelter, medical care and many other things, this includes a minimum of thirteen years of accredited educational instruction (or the equivalent) for each and every Minor Citizen. Parents' legal obligations to each child in this regard end upon the eighteenth birthday of the child.

14.1.2 Parents are free to educate their children in any way they may see fit. However, the progress of every child will be measured annually through standardized achievement tests. A child scoring below the 35th percentile in any one (or more) subject area shall be required to attend an accredited school for at least the following two years.

14.2 National Scholastic Standards Board (NSSB)

14.2.1 A National Scholastic Standards Board will establish and maintain academic standards for a core curriculum for education of Minor Citizens. The NSSB shall be comprised of 21 members divided into three classes of 7 each. Each member shall serve a term of 6 years. The terms shall be staggered so that a class of 7 will be appointed in June of every even numbered year. NSSB members will be appointed by State legislatures, one member per State at a time, on an alphabetic rotation basis by State name, as classes come due for replacement or when vacancies occur. The NSSB will elect its own chair, vice chair and secretary in July of even numbered years.

14.2.2 All NSSB members must be Citizens and no member of the NSSB may have any other connection, direct or indirect, past or present, with any government or quasi-governmental body. A minimum of 7 NSSB members must be parents of Minor Citizens. A minimum of 7 NSSB members must be professional educators. A minimum of 7 NSSB members must be drawn from business management. Whenever it is a State's turn to appoint an NSSB member:

14.2.2.1 If the number of NSSB members who are parents of Minor Citizens is currently less than 7, the State must appoint a new member who is a parent of a Minor Citizen;

14.2.2.2 If the number of members who are parents of Minor Citizens is 7 or more, but the number of NSSB members who are professional educators is currently less than 7, the State must appoint a new member who is a professional educator;

14.2.2.3 If the number of members who are parents of Minor Citizens is 7 or more, and the number of NSSB members who are professional educators is 7 or more, but the number of NSSB members who are business managers is currently less than 7, the State must appoint a new member drawn from business management;

14.2.2.4 If the requirements for 7 or more of each parents, professional educators and business managers are all met, the State may appoint any Citizen they consider best qualified.

14.2.3 Each NSSB member shall receive a salary of \$85,000 per year and shall be reimbursed for bona fide NSSB expenses upon filing of weekly expense reports in accordance with 7.2. They shall receive no other benefits. All salaries and expenses, including contracts with consultants and/or testing companies shall be borne by the United States Treasury.

14.2.4 The NSSB shall contract with private professional educational testing companies for the creation, calibration and maintenance of a battery of standardized achievement tests. Tests shall deal only with factual historical and scientific information, and shall scrupulously avoid subjectivity and matters of opinion. The tests shall be designed to provide a valid measure of each student's proficiency in each major core curriculum subject and at each grade level. In a theoretically average case, a student would rank nationally at the 50th percentile every year in each subject area and overall. An increase in the percentile ranking from one year to the next will indicate faster than normal progress during the immediately preceding year, while a decrease will reveal less than normal progress. Thus, the NSSB tests provide an objective measure of the performance of students, teachers and schools. The core curriculum subjects shall be:

14.2.4.1 English (both written and spoken);

14.2.4.2 Mathematics;

14.2.4.3 Science (physics, chemistry, biology and the scientific method);

14.2.4.4 Economics (micro only);

14.2.4.5 World and United States Geography;

14.2.4.6 World and United States History;

14.2.4.7 Understanding of this Constitution and the principles upon which it is based.

14.3 School Accreditation and Test Administration

14.3.1 The NSSB achievement tests shall be administered annually between May 15 and May 31 to every Minor Citizen of age five and above. The responsibility and cost for administering the tests shall rest with the States. Each State shall make the annual achievement test scores available by July 31 to each Minor Citizen, to the student's parents and to the school that the student attended that year, if any. The average aggregate scores in each subject area and the change from the prior year for each school shall be made publicly available.

14.3.2 Each State shall have the responsibility to establish standards for accreditation of schools which educate Minor Citizens within its jurisdiction. A mandatory component for accreditation must be a school's ability to advance its students in the NSSB core curriculum measured by the change in percentile ranking from the prior year's test scores that the school was able to achieve with each of its students during each year. No school can achieve or retain accreditation if its average student percentile declined by 8 or more points in a year. States may elect to maintain a higher core curriculum standard as well as add additional accreditation requirements.

14.3.3 A school may apply to its State for accreditation or renewal thereof. Accreditation must be renewed every two years. Accreditation will be judged by a committee of five professional educators diversely drawn from other accredited schools in the State, but not local to the school being reviewed. No committee member may have any interest or connection, direct or indirect, with the school being examined or with any of its personnel, owners or investors. The process is administered and funded by the State.

14.4 Role of Government

Each State shall have the responsibility through due process of law to ensure that its Minor Citizens are receiving the reasonable care required by this Article 14; and specifically, that all Minor Citizens of age five and above who are capable of learning are being educated in accordance with the provisions of this Article 14. However, no government or quasi-governmental body shall have any direct or indirect connection with or involvement in the operation of any school that educates Citizens (either minor or adult). The entire role of governments in educating Citizens is defined in this Article 14.

15. Blanket Limitations On All Elected Officials

15.1 Blanket Term Limit

Serving in elective office must not become a career. Therefore, no Individual may run for an office for which completion of the term of office would result in the Individual's total time in elective office exceeding twenty years. The total shall include all governmental elective offices at the federal, State and local levels.

15.2 Campaign Funds

Funds donated or however acquired for an election campaign must be used for the bona fide campaign expenses of the election and race for which they were raised. Campaign funds will include money raised for "exploratory committees" or other activities of a prospective candidate contemplating a run for office. Any gifts received by a prospective candidate or candidate which individually exceed \$100 or \$1,000 in the aggregate shall be considered campaign contributions. Any funds remaining after paying all bona fide campaign debts will be transferred to the US Treasury 75 days following that election. Campaign funds must be maintained completely segregated from any other funds and must be accurately accounted for and documented with receipts, bank statements, etc.

15.3 Fraud

Election fraud committed by a prospective candidate, candidate or elected official shall be punishable by a minimum of 5 years in prison plus a fine approximating the monetary size of the fraud. Fraud shall include, but not be limited to, any violation of 15.2 or any subterfuge to circumvent the pay and benefit limitations of 7.1.2.

16. Amendments

From time to time, it may become necessary or advisable to amend this Constitution. This may be accomplished through any of the three processes described in this Article 16. Successfully completing one of these processes shall cause an amendment to become valid and, for all intents and purposes, become a part of this Constitution. However, no amendment shall deprive a State of its equal suffrage in the Senate.

16.1 Initiated by Congress

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this Constitution. Each such proposed amendment shall require ratification by the legislatures of

three fourths of the several States. An amendment not so ratified within a period of eight years from the date of its proposal shall be deemed to have failed.

16.2 Initiated by States

Amendments proposed and endorsed by the legislatures of at least one third of the several States within a period of five years must be considered. Each such proposed amendment shall require ratification by the legislatures of three fourths of the several States. Amendments not so ratified within a period of eight years after the date of endorsement by one third of the states shall be deemed to have failed.

16.3 Initiated by Citizens

As a third alternative, Electors may propose and ratify amendments directly. If at least 0.5% of the Electors in each of at least half of the States petition for consideration of an amendment within a period of eight years, the question shall be placed on the ballot of a regular Congressional election as soon as reasonably possible, but in any case within 26 months. The amendment shall be ratified by approval of either a majority of all registered Electors or three fourths of the Electors voting on the amendment.

17. Continuity

17.1 Citizenship

Any person who is a Citizen of the United States immediately prior to the time this Constitution becomes effective shall remain a Citizen under this Constitution.

17.2 Debts and Contracts

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 previous Constitution.

17.3 Prior National Debt

Any prior national debt inconsistent with that allowed by this Constitution shall be retired at the minimum rate of 1.0% of the principal amount (as of the effective date of this Constitution) per annum until it has been completely retired. This amount may be reduced in any budget year for the reason of bona fide economic emergency upon the vote of three fourths of both the House of Representatives and the Senate, but not below a minimum of 0.2%. The minimum rate will automatically return to 1.0% the following fiscal year.

17.4 Term Limits

Only time in office following the effective date and time of this Constitution shall be counted toward operation of the term limits herein specified.