

The Citizens Vote.

Proposed Amendments to the U.S. Constitution to Grant Legislative Powers to the Citizens.



Introduction:

The Citizens Vote will serve to ensure that the voices and desires of the citizens within the union exert a direct influence on the laws upon which the people are governed. Citizens of the union will clearly realize the countless bills refused or delivered to properly reflect the will of the people. The Citizens Vote will provide the mechanism by which the citizens will grow more secure due to their increased knowledge and influence in matters affecting them. It will rapidly be exposed as the path to healing that the union has envisioned.

Proposed changes are in red. “Quoted terms” are conceptual and subject to review and revision.

Article 1 - The Legislative Branch

Section I – The Legislature

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress **and the citizens** of the United States. The Congress shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives. **Eligible citizens are those currently qualified to vote in the national presidential elections.**

Section VII. - Revenue Bills, Legislative Process, Presidential Veto

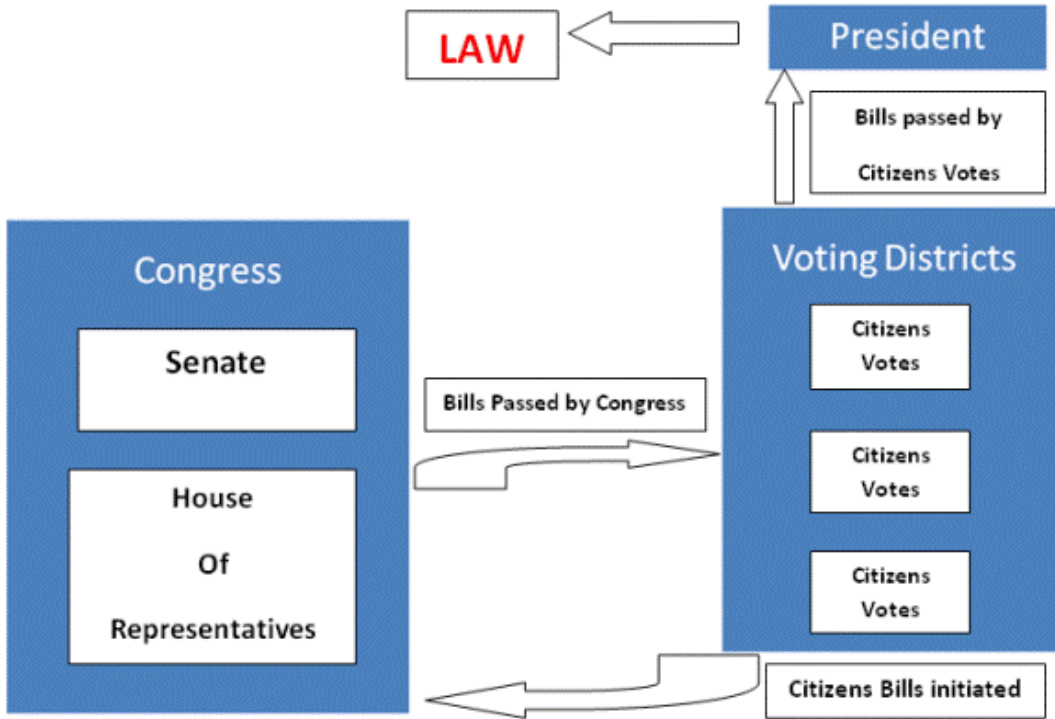
All bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate **and the Citizens Vote** may propose or concur with Amendments as on

other Bills.

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

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

The Citizens Vote (Proposed):



[Each “voting district” shall engage proposed bills in the following manner: Having received or otherwise procured access to all published and enumerated bills passed by the House and the Senate for review no later than the twenty-first day of the current month, all such bills will be placed for voluntary voting by the qualified citizens of the union within their respective “voting districts” to be conducted on the last three days of the current month.

Union citizens or “voting districts” shall receive or otherwise procure access to all final congressional bills for the Citizens Vote by the twenty-first day of each month. Bills not publicly released by the congress and thus unavailable for review by the [voting districts] and their citizens by the twenty-first day of the present month shall be carried forward to the next month for vote.

Qualified citizens as members of their respective “voting districts” shall contemplate and initiate bills for consideration of the union Citizens Vote. “Voting districts” shall receive or otherwise procure access to all bill considerations for the Citizens Vote by the twenty-first day of each month. Bills not publicly released by the “voting districts” and thus unavailable for review by all union “voting districts” and citizens by the twenty-first day of the present month shall be carried forward to the next month for vote.

Each "voting district" shall collect, tally and report the Citizens Vote results from all eligible congressional bills and the motions from the union Citizens Vote and shall be conducted during the last three days of each month.

The Citizens Votes shall be Yeas and Nays. Motions initiated from the union Citizen Vote with a majority vote percentage of Yeas shall become bills and presented to the Congress.

Bills passed by the Congress and receiving a majority percentage of Yeas from the union Citizen Votes will be presented to the President of the United States.

Presidential Performance Clause:

The monthly Citizens Vote will include a Yea or Nay performance vote for the President of the United States. If a minimum of seventy-five percentage of the union Citizens Vote deems the performance of the President of the United States as substandard for any reason for two consecutive months or otherwise two consecutive Citizens Votes, the President shall be removed from office.

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Article V. – Amendments.

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

Other Citizens Vote Considerations:

- ❖ Additional changes in legislative languages, jargons and procedures may be necessary to fully incorporate the rights and powers of the Citizens Vote into relevant articles and sections of the U.S. constitution.
- ❖ Bracketed terms such as [Districts] should be contemplated and altered to

reflect the desired and most efficient management and delivery system for the Citizens Vote.

❖ Consider creating an Article .VIII. - The [Citizens Arm], with sections outlining the activities and powers of the Citizens Vote.

❖ Powers and Influence Limitations:

1. To be determined.
2. At the discretion and needs of the citizens.

❖ Citizens Vote Eligibility Restrictions:

1. Minimum age.
2. Years of citizenship.
3. Previous voting history.

❖ Voting District Management:

1. [Districts] can choose traditional electronic voting machines or secure internet voting and mobile smart phone voting applications as primary methods.
2. [Districts] can choose paper ballots as a primary method or a secondary backup ordered for the second and third voting days to resolve suspicious or irregular results from the first two days.

❖ Alternate Jargon Contemplations:

1. Citizens [Vote, Arm, Flex, Brake].
2. District [Citizens District].

Implications and Justifications:

1. The founding fathers clearly intended the constitution to serve the people - We the People. Our constitution was conceived, designed and ratified during times of relatively limited technology. The republic form of government was

ideal then because there were limited means to interact among the citizens in a rapid and reliable manner. Technologies did not support the rapid and efficient development and exchange of individual thoughts necessary for an effective democratic government truly by the people. Yet, a government of the people as close as possible was a must. So, a republic, representative system was the logical choice for that time. However, because the founders were also wise enough to incorporate the means to evolve, the constitution has survived with twenty-seven amendment ratifications. Today, modern technologies deliver information to citizens in close to real time. Citizens are now empowered with the information tools and resources to become effective contributors to policy on a routine basis. Now, we the people are at a crossroads where we can choose to define our future paths, and perhaps more active new roles, under a new amendment to the constitution that couples the representative strengths of our republic with authentic and informed democratic voting powers of the citizens.

2. On occasions, the citizens have been subjected to government that appears to ignore the clear and firm voices of the majority of citizens and chooses to pass bills potentially against the words or spirits of our constitution. Furthermore, in an era when some elected representatives are vulnerable to failing to read bills before casting their votes, the citizens are in need of additional and permanent checks and balancing powers.
3. The Citizens Vote would serve as a stopping brake to legislations deemed too extreme by the constituency. Because it potentially could be used to initiate new bills and motions for congress, the Citizens Vote could be the mechanism to accelerate addressing issues of public concern historically avoided by government.
4. The citizens of the union are especially vulnerable when both the legislative and executive branches do not listen to and respect the union citizen majority. Our constitution designed the legislative and executive branches as checking and balancing mechanisms. The presidential performance clause is a direct check to end lingering, undesirable presidential performance that would normally continue for an entire term. It empowers the citizens of the union against allied legislative and executive branch forces acting against the wills of the citizens. Similar performance clauses could be incorporated at state levels to protect the citizens from their respective representatives.

5. The time period between the twenty-first day and the last three days of the month for the Citizens Vote offers from seven to ten days for citizens to deliberate among themselves regarding all eligible bills pending the Citizens Vote. This is a valuable time period for interaction, debate, exchange and contemplation that will not only clarify the issues and implications before voting, but also mesh together individual communities and the union to close the shared interests communication gaps among us.
6. Since bills passing both the House and the Senate must then pass the Citizens Vote prior to being sent to the president, any subsequent motions to modify the powers or procedures of the Citizens Votes would also be subject to the Citizens Vote.
7. While this effort is currently a work-in-progress in need of professional and legislative language, this proposal can be used now as a template for citizens around the world to contemplate and derive authentic democratic government formations with the citizens as influential entities.

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