Prologue

The Founding Moment

In the afterglow of the miracle that brought independence to the American colonies, thirteen disparate entities sought to unite as a new nation. The Articles of Confederation were intended to become the foundational document. The undercurrent of the effort was to avoid the excessive power of monarchy; consequently, the Articles provided only for a legislative body, the Confederation Congress. No executive or judicial element was chartered.

The weakness of the plan became evident within a few years. The states acted with such independence and rancor that the fledgling nation was in danger of failing. A stronger foundation was clearly needed, one that would give the national government sufficient authority to unify the states. Proponents of this shift became known as Federalists. Work began in 1787 in the very room where the Declaration of Independence had been signed.

An Unfinished Work

Accounts of the proceedings, which went on for several months, would dismay most Americans. The lesser angels of our nature were on full display. Pettiness and hypocrisy were as prevalent in Philadelphia as the summer heat. By September, the delegates were eager to be done with the interminable business, and Mr. Gouverneur Morris penned the final draft, masterfully stitching together the incongruous provisions the convention had approved.

On September 17th, the delegates of ten states stepped forward to put their names to the document. While it was a quantum leap forward, each of the 39 men was keenly aware of its flaws and omissions. Benjamin Franklin spoke for many:

> "I thus consent, sir, to this constitution because I expect no better, and because I am not sure that it is not the best."

The delegates also knew that the work was unfinished. The institution of slavery had been preserved, and the fundamental protections that would later come with the Bill of Rights had yet to be added. Nevertheless, it was the best that could be achieved in the latter years of the eighteenth century.

Why a New Foundation Is Needed

For the "Founding Fathers," America in the early twenty-first century would be beyond imagining, technologically but also politically. A federal government that provides cradle-to-grave services and regulates every aspect of its citizens' lives would be quite alien to eighteenth-century Americans. It would dismay them to learn that their work and their words were used to shift so much responsibility from states and individuals to a central government. I believe they would be appalled that we have not updated the Constitution to fit our times and to better preserve their original vision for America. Their admonishment would be that the surest sign of imminent decline is the assumption that perfection has been achieved.



Across our world, the ancients designed and erected structures that still inspire awe and admiration. No doubt they imagined their works enjoying the immortality they themselves would not. And yet, for every creation and every great invention of man, the day comes when repair of its many flaws and growing faults defies prudence. The time arrives to build anew.

In that moment, a new generation of builders is released from the physical and intellectual restraints of both past and present. Such is the design of the Grand Architect of the Universe: that new replace old, that life replace death.

Now, for that magnificent invention we know as America, the day has arrived. Its foundation, an innovative constitution, was elegant in its time but is crumbling under forces that did not exist when ground was first broken.

Jefferson's Counsel

At least one of the original artisans had the vision to anticipate this day. Listen closely to excerpts from the writings of Thomas Jefferson:

> *"Some men look at constitutions with sanctimonious reverence ... too sacred to be touched. They ascribe to the men of the preceding age a wisdom more than human, and suppose what they did to be beyond amendment."*

> *"I am not an advocate for frequent changes in laws and constitutions, but laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths discovered and manners and opinions change, with the change of circumstances, institutions must advance also to keep pace with the times. We might as well require a man to wear still the coat which fitted him when a boy as civilized society to remain ever under the regimen of their barbarous ancestors."*



Thus, a wonderful responsibility and mighty challenge reveals itself to the present generation of Americans. The torch is passed. We **can** restore the dream that was America. We **can** restore America to a position of moral leadership in the world. However, unless we prepare this new foundation and lay it soon, America's decline will pass beyond reversal.

Flaws in the Present Constitution

A decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that we declare the causes which impel us to reinvent America. So, for those who will inevitably object to change, let us review just some of the many flaws and growing faults of our present constitution. It:

A. It collects excessive power in the central government in its zeal to avoid the flaws of the Confederation and, out of a fear of kings, places too much of that power in the legislative branch.
B. It leaves open to debate the core duties of a federal government.
C. It fails to delineate functions reserved exclusively to the states.
D. It neglects to set forth the requirements for citizenship.
E. It sets forth an incomplete set of basic rights for all Citizens.
F. It emphasizes the rights of the People, then says nothing of their commensurate responsibilities.
G. It acknowledges that sovereignty resides with the Citizenry, but prescribes no meaningful role for them in their government.
H. It makes no provision for a direct citizen voice in major national policy decisions, or even in the amendment of their constitution.
I. It offers no reasonable means for Citizens to petition for redress of grievances, while allowing moneyed interests inappropriate access to lawmakers.
J. It has allowed the development of a revenue collection system of unfathomable complexity, one that stifles economic development by commandeering the fruits of each citizen's labor.
K. It has allowed government spending in excess of revenues and the accumulation of unbridled debt.
L. It requires no tangible assets as equity for a stable and honored currency.
M. It permits all manner of mischief in the details of annual budgets, perpetually delaying their timely approval and squandering limited resources.
N. It sanctions elected representatives determining their own levels and manner of compensation.
O. It sanctions elected representatives adjudicating their own unethical and illegal conduct.
P. It allows the injection of unlimited private funds to pollute and pervert the process of democratic elections.
Q. It prescribes an arcane and obsolete method of determining the ultimate result of presidential elections.
R. It permits manipulation of the rules governing the legislative process for partisan and transient purposes.
S. It neglects to prescribe appropriate penalties for elected and appointed officials who fail in their prescribed duties, violate the public trust, or jeopardize national security.
T. It prescribes no minimum standards for the initiation of military action by the nation's Commander in Chief.
U. It allows offices requiring professional law enforcement expertise to be filled through partisan elections.

V. It makes inadequate provision for the regular review of laws, their renewal, or their retraction.
W. It provides no guidelines for developing laws that preserve the liberties and responsibilities of the people, which are the strength of the nation.
X. It sets no limit on the size of the body of law to ensure that it may be easily comprehended by the People.
Y. It permits exemptions from the law for the privileged, as well as the unequal application of the law.
Z. It contains language regarding issues peculiar to the eighteenth century.

A Call to Participate

I have come to the painful conclusion that if the ideal of America is to survive, a reboot is necessary. Destructive viruses need to be eradicated, and major upgrades need to be installed. Progress demands a platform designed for the twenty-first century, not the eighteenth. Fortunately, we Americans are the champions of change.

What follows is a draft constitution for our America. Hopefully, it addresses all the issues cited above and more. It seeks to present a highly structured and comprehensive framework for the government of our nation, based upon the best of democratic philosophy.

This is a beginning. Such a document requires the thoughtful contributions of the Citizenry, not only constitutional scholars but ordinary folks as well. Who knows from which hill or hamlet will come the wisest provisions and the most elegant language?

You are therefore invited to participate in the process of reinventing America. Open your minds now. Remember what America was meant to be. Imagine what we might become. Together, we will create a document of lasting beauty and function: a sturdy base on which to build the more enduring and brighter future we all desire, a platform that would make the Founding Fathers proud.

> "Far better is it to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs even though checkered by failure, than to take rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much because they live in the grey twilight that knows neither victory nor defeat."
>
> — *Theodore Roosevelt*



B. Thomas Marking
President, The Citizen v2.1 Initiative

This endeavor is undertaken in fulfillment of my obligations as an American Mason.



The Constitution of the United States of America



Approved in special convention this _____ day of _____, ____

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Preamble

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

Article I. The Federal Government

Section 1. The Form of Government

"Without virtue there can be no liberty, and liberty is the object and life of all republican governments."

— Benjamin Rush

The form and goal of the government of the United States of America shall be that of a democratic republic wherein elected representatives and appointed officials act upon the wise guidance of their constituents in pursuit of the greatest good.

Section 2. The Structure of Government

a. The federal government of the United States of America shall have four components: a Legislative Branch to develop a body of law sufficient to maintain order in the society; an Executive Branch to implement and enforce the laws with equity and justice; a Judicial Branch to expeditiously adjudicate disputes arising from the law; and the Citizenry, which shall inform the branches concerning the desired direction of national policies and then consent, directly or indirectly, to live by the just laws created to implement those policies.
b. So that it may be better preserved and defended, the facilities and functions of the federal government shall be well distributed among the states.

Section 3. Core Functions of a Federal Government

The government shall be neither paternal nor maternal. Rather, its goal shall be to set the example in its prudence and temperance, and to empower, enable, and ennoble its citizens as they chart the course of their lives.

"What government is best? That which teaches us to govern ourselves."

— Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

These, then, shall be the authorized duties of the national government:

- Preservation of our national sovereignty.
- Defense of the nation against all who would see it suffer.
- The pursuit of harmony among nations.
- Promoting national and personal self-sufficiency.
- The development and enforcement of just laws.
- Establishing a common currency and ensuring its stability.
- Protection of the Citizenry against fraud and usury in commerce.
- Prudently administering the nation's resources and revenues.
- Assisting the States in recovering from national or regional disasters.
- Providing such other services to the Citizenry as they are explicitly willing to support.

Section 4. Compensation for Federal Service

All employees of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches, be they appointed, elected, or selected, shall be compensated according to a standard schedule of pay, allowances, and benefits. The President shall propose the schedule annually and publish it for general review, and it shall then be approved by a majority vote in both houses of Congress.

Section 5. Standards of Conduct for Government Employees

The best and the wisest, in us and among us, must be chosen; for if it be any other, the low and ignoble will presume and soon prevail. Therefore:

a. **Seeking elected office.** Persons seeking elected office must gather the verified endorsements of one percent of the registered voters in the jurisdiction they hope to represent. Only uncompensated volunteers may be employed in this effort, and all endorsements must be obtained within the year of election. Persons meeting this test will be placed on the ballot and will then receive public funds equal to the single-year salary for the office being sought. To forestall the corruption that money brings, no private or organizational funding is sanctioned, and the use of such resources will disqualify the candidate.

b. **Equality before the law.** No elected or appointed official of the federal government will ever receive favored treatment with regard to the law. In recognition of the special trust placed in all federal employees, they will also be subject to a strict Code of Ethics, prepared by the President and ratified by both houses of Congress.

c. **Discipline of senior officials.** Should the President, Vice President, or any member of Congress be shown to have committed a criminal act or violated the Code of Ethics, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall appoint a tribunal of respected non-partisan judges to investigate the charges and recommend disciplinary action, up to and including removal from office, loss of benefits, and disqualification to hold any office of honor, trust, or profit under the United States. The Supreme Court shall consider these recommendations and render the final verdict.

d. **Oath of service.** The following shall be the oath sworn by all persons entering upon federal service and every five years thereafter:

> "On my sacred honor, and at whatever peril to my person may arise, I solemnly vow to advance the principles embodied in this Constitution of the United States of America, to bear true faith and allegiance to our flag, and to defend the same against all enemies, foreign and domestic."

e. **Post-service restrictions.** No person who has served in government may, during their term or at any later date, be engaged or compensated by a party seeking favored treatment from the government.
f. **Investments.** No person serving in government, elected or appointed, may actively or passively, directly or indirectly, invest in any endeavor which may be affected by federal policy, law, or regulation.
g. **Public resources.** No person serving in government, elected or appointed, may employ public resources to campaign for election, reelection, appointment, or reappointment, except as provided in item 5a above.

"Nobody has a more sacred obligation to obey the law than those who make the law." — Sophocles

"Where there is a lack of honor in government, the morals of the whole people are poisoned." — President Herbert Hoover

Article II. The Role of Law

Section 1. The Purpose of Policy, Law, and Regulation

a. National policy encapsulates the sentiment of the majority of the Citizenry or, where they have not recorded specific guidance, the prevailing sentiment of the other branches of government.
b. Great care must be taken in crafting the laws which bind a people into one nation. Laws are often necessary to promote harmony in human endeavors; they are, however, a poor substitute for citizens behaving morally of their own accord. Laws should, foremost, reward virtue as well as punish vice.
c. Regulations are the vehicles through which laws are implemented by the Executive Branch. No regulation may be enacted by any Executive Branch entity that is not directly linked to a mandate of law.

"Law is the embodiment of the moral sentiment of the people."

— William Blackstone

Section 2. Precedence and Application

a. National policy shall take precedence over the policies of the states, except where a state policy is peculiar to that jurisdiction and affects no other.
b. Federal laws shall take precedence over the laws of the states, as state laws naturally take precedence over the laws of their component jurisdictions.
c. United States law applies to all persons present within the nation's borders and to all United States citizens, wherever they may be. No immunities may be granted.
d. Before any proposal shall become law, it must be passed by majority vote in both bodies of Congress and then signed into law by the President. The President must sign the bill within ten days of receipt or return it to Congress with specific objections. The bill will automatically become law if the President fails to follow this procedure.
e. Congress may respond to a Presidential veto by addressing the objections and resubmitting the bill for approval, or by passing the bill again, this second time by a two-thirds majority vote in both houses.

Section 3. Guidelines for the Making of Laws

a. Federal laws must be national in application. No person, group, organization, agency, city, state, region, or other entity may be granted exemption or favored treatment.
b. The system of laws shall perpetually strive for justice by ensuring equal protection under the law and equal application of the law.
c. The body of law must be kept to a minimum and expressed with clarity and simplicity.
d. All laws must be reviewed, updated, and re-approved at least every twenty-five years, or they are automatically repealed. The Constitution itself, as the supreme law, must be reviewed and updated every one hundred years.
e. No law may be applied ex post facto.
f. Laws should not be made to address light, transient, or parochial issues.
g. No law should be codified that is not easily and equitably enforced.
h. No law should be passed or retained if the real costs of its enforcement exceed the tangible benefits to society.
i. No document of legislation may contain a clause or addendum unrelated to its principal subject and intent.

"Pardoning the bad is injuring the good." — Benjamin Franklin

"Where you find the laws most numerous,
there you will find also the greatest injustice." — Arcesilaus

"Nothing is more destructive of respect for the government and the law of the land
than passing laws which cannot be enforced." — Albert Einstein

"The greater the number of laws and enactments,
the more thieves and robbers there will be." — Lao-tzu

Article III. The Citizenry

Section 1. Citizenship

a. United States Citizenship shall be conferred upon any person born of a parent who is already a Citizen, and begins at the taking of first breath. Other persons may be granted citizenship through the nation's immigration and naturalization process. This process shall be limited by prudence and show no favoritism toward the citizens of any other nation or region of the world, except those openly hostile to the principles of Democracy. Neither shall the foreign-born relatives of Citizens be shown a higher consideration.
b. A person shall cease to enjoy the rights and responsibilities of a United States Citizen only upon accepting the citizenship of another nation, while convicted of a criminal offense, or upon the drawing of final breath.
c. No association of persons may be endowed with the human, legal, political, or economic rights granted to a Citizen.

Section 2. The Role of The Citizenry

"When public service ceases to be the main concern of the citizens,
and they prefer to serve with their purses rather than their persons,
the state is already close to ruin." *— Jean Jacques Rousseau*

The Citizens of these United States of America are, and of right ought to be, the supreme authority in their own governance. The sovereignty of the United States of America resides unequivocally with The Citizenry. All Legislative, Executive, and Judicial powers granted herein shall henceforth be subordinate to the Will of The People.

a. General Obligations. Within that authority lies a moral obligation for each Citizen to:
    - Study objectively the national policy issues facing the nation, with a view toward achieving the greatest good for the greatest number.
    - Inform with regularity and clarity their elected representatives as to the citizen's considered opinion on issues of general concern.
    - Participate in all policy referenda and candidate elections.
    - Preserve and promote, always, the ideal of fairness and of equity of opportunity.

b. Specific Obligations concerning National Policy.

- The Will of the People shall be expressed in National Policy Decisions. At three-month intervals, a group of seven willing citizens shall be randomly selected by sortition to serve on the Caucus. The task of the Caucus shall be to identify to the nation those unresolved issues of great current or future import and to present those issues for deliberation as part of a national policy referendum. The period of deliberation shall be three months and will conclude with a vote. A National Policy Decision shall be deemed to have been made when two-thirds of participating voters affirm the policy or one of the policy options presented.
- *A National Policy Decision directs all subsequent actions by the other branches of government. The Legislature shall formulate laws that faithfully express the Will of the People. The Executive shall efficiently administer those laws. The Judiciary shall rule where there is disagreement as to whether a law (or its administration) faithfully expresses the Will of the People.*
- *National Policy Decisions must be implemented within six months. Legislators refusing to act shall be considered in breach of public trust and subject to immediate recall by the executives of their states. The House of Representatives shall exercise the power of impeachment upon any President refusing to act in subordination to the Will of the People. National Policy Decisions may not be challenged in court until two years after implementation.*

Section 3. Rights of the Citizen

"Necessity is the plea of every infringement of human freedom.
It is the argument of tyrants; it is the creed of slaves." — *William Pitt*

These individual rights, unalienable and reserved to all Citizens, regardless of all distinctions, shall not be diminished or denied by any entity of government:

- To practice a religion of their own choosing, or to practice none.
- To exercise freedom of speech, verbal and written.
- To assemble peacefully.
- To easily petition the government for a redress of grievances.
- To keep and bear arms appropriate for self-defense.
- To enjoy exclusively, for a period of ten years, the fruits of their writings, creations, inventions, and discoveries.
- To privacy in the conduct of their daily affairs and in all matters under legal or medical review.
- To be secure in their private persons, property, documents, and effects against unreasonable search or seizure, except by warrant showing a probable criminal act.
- To be fairly compensated for private property appropriated to public use.

- To enjoy a safe place of work while laboring for others, to be judged solely on performance, to be equitably compensated for every hour worked, and to receive due consideration from the employer should employment be unwillingly lost for reasons other than poor performance.
- To pursue such happiness as can be gained, though not at the unwilling or unwitting expense of others.
- If accused of wrongdoing: to due process and the assistance of counsel as needed, to a speedy resolution, to the option of testifying against oneself, to be not twice placed in jeopardy for the same offense, and to fear no cruel or unusual punishment.
- As Providence allows, to choose the time and manner of ending this life experience.

"The right to be let alone is indeed the beginning of all freedom."

— William O. Douglas

Section 4. Responsibilities of the Citizen

"Duty is the sublimest word in the English language." — Gen. Robert E. Lee

Responsibility is, ultimately, a personal commitment to moral behavior. Adult Citizens of these United States bear primary and continuing responsibility for:

- Their own actions and the consequences of those actions.
- Acting for the greater good over personal gain, when conflicting interests arise.
- Honesty and high ethics in all relations.
- Respect for the beliefs and the privacy of others.
- Preparation for the inevitable and predictable misfortunes that attend all lives, sufficient to avoid becoming a burden to their fellow Citizens.
- Providing aid to those less fortunate, as personal circumstances allow.
- Ensuring a safe and nurturing environment for dependent children.
- Obedience to just laws and the peaceful pursuit of necessary changes.
- Respecting public and private property.
- Preservation of the nation's limited resources.
- An appropriate period of civil or military service to the nation as needed, to begin no later than age thirty.
- Upon reaching adulthood, registering to vote and then annually confirming their current residence and contact information.
- Well-informed participation in the deliberative administration of the nation.

"Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country."

— John F. Kennedy

Article IV. The Legislative Branch

Section 1. Mission

All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a House of Representatives and a Senate. In exercising that power, it shall be the aim of Congress to empower Citizens to resolve most of their problems absent the heavy hand of legislation.

"You cannot build character and courage by taking away a man's initiative and independence. You cannot help a man permanently by doing for them what they could and should be doing for themselves." — *Abraham Lincoln*

Section 2. Common Responsibilities

a. No member of either house of Congress will allow their vote to be guided by any political or commercial organization, any elected or appointed official, any foreign agent, or anyone other than the majority voice of their constituency and their own moral conscience. In neither chamber will members be seated by political affiliation.
b. All legislation proposed by a member shall be brought to the floor for debate and vote within sixty days of its introduction, and shall be available for public review at least ten days prior to the scheduled vote. Proposals received from the opposite chamber shall be acted upon within thirty days.
c. Congress shall remain in permanent session except for five weeks beginning on the 1st day of October, weekends, and official national holidays.
d. Both bodies of Congress shall maintain a complete journal of their formal proceedings and publish all entries in a timely manner, except those which may compromise national security. The journal will report the vote of each member on every formal proposal.
e. Both bodies of Congress shall develop and publish a set of simple procedures and protocols for conducting legislative activity as expeditiously as possible. Care will be taken to prevent partisan mischief and preserve the trust of the Citizenry.
f. By the end of September, Congress will have reviewed the budget proposed by the President, made such adjustments as deemed prudent, and provided to each Executive Department an appropriation of collected revenues for the coming calendar year. Failure to meet this deadline will mandate the forfeiture of the October recess until the duty is performed. Thereafter, all pay shall be forfeited until the work is complete.
g. By the end of March, with the assistance of the Executive Branch, Congress will cause to be published a comprehensive accounting of federal expenditures for the preceding calendar year.
h. In the event that the Commander-in-Chief feels compelled to request a formal Declaration of War against a nation or a non-state actor for their hostile actions against the United States, the Congress shall expeditiously and appropriately respond.

Section 3. Common Restrictions

The federal government, and the Legislative Branch in particular, shall guard against the persistent temptation to address every problem brought before it, as poverty, whether material or intellectual, will consume the resources of a nation as locusts devour the fields.

"Experience should teach us to be most on our guard to protect liberty when the Government's purposes are beneficent." — Louis Brandeis

The Legislative Branch and its members are specifically prohibited from:

- Assuming the responsibilities of states or of individual Citizens without their explicit approval.
- Imposing any unfunded or partially funded burdens upon the states without their specific acceptance.
- Approving or implementing a budget that exceeds projected revenue.
- Allowing the cumulative national debt to exceed the gross domestic product of the preceding year.
- Voting by proxy or in absentia. Absence from a session in either chamber is excused only for physical incapacitation or family emergency.
- Trafficking in votes to gain support for legislative proposals.

Section 4. The House of Representatives

a. Composition

Seats in the House of Representatives shall be apportioned among the states according to population. Every state will have at least one Representative. The total number of Representatives shall never exceed 500.

b. Member Qualifications

A United States Representative shall have attained the age of thirty years, been eight years a citizen of the United States, and, during half that time, been a resident of the state in which chosen.

c. Member Selection and Terms of Office

Representatives shall be elected for a three-year term, and no person may serve more than two terms during their lifetime. Election must be based upon voting in which all citizens of their state may participate.

Where vacancies occur in the representation from any state, the Governor shall issue Writs of Election to fill such vacancies for the duration of the truncated term.

"Nothing so strongly impels a man to regard the interest of his constituents, as the certainty of returning to the general mass of the people, from whence he was taken, where he must participate in their burdens." — George Mason

d. Organization

The House of Representatives shall annually choose its leadership from among the members. The House will establish standing committees to oversee the authorized functions of the federal government, and sub-committees to review the operations of individual agencies. Membership on committees and subcommittees will be determined by lot from those members with related qualifications.

e. Special Responsibilities

- The House will review the budget proposed by the President, negotiate such adjustments as it considers prudent, pen the enacting legislation, and then forward it to the Senate for approval.
- The House shall provide advice and consent upon the President's nominees to head the cabinet departments of the Executive Branch.
- The House must approve any quartering of armed forces within the nation's borders.

Section 5. The Senate

a. Composition

The Senate shall be composed of two Senators from each state, and each Senator shall have one vote.

b. Member Qualifications

A United States Senator shall have attained the age of thirty-five years, been ten years a citizen of the United States, and, during half that time, been a resident of the state in which chosen.

c. Member Selection and Terms of Office

Senators shall be elected for a five-year term, and no person may serve more than two terms during their lifetime. Election must be based upon voting in which all citizens of their state may participate.

Where vacancies occur in the representation from any state, the Governor shall issue Writs of Election to fill such vacancies for the duration of the truncated term.

d. Organization

The Vice President of the United States shall be the Chairperson of the Senate, but shall have no vote unless the Senate is equally divided on an issue.

The Senate as a body shall annually choose a Chairperson pro tempore to act in the Vice President's absence, and such other officers as are needed to expedite legislative action.

For the purpose of fact-finding, the Senate may establish temporary ad hoc committees to review national-level issues and develop policy or legislative recommendations.

e. Special Responsibilities

- The Senate shall maintain a system of uniform taxation that ensures adequate revenue to conduct authorized federal operations. The system must also ensure universal participation, as no Citizen should be exempt from contributing to the general welfare. In developing this system, the government is prohibited from withholding or directly taxing the fruits of a Citizen's labor. Government is further prohibited from levying differing taxes or levels of taxation on groups of Citizens, organizations, businesses, activities, or any segment of the society. Nor are devices for revenue collection to be disguised by any other name than "tax."
- The Senate is authorized to adjust the boundaries of congressional districts as each decade dawns to ensure equitable representation in the House of Representatives. Such divisions, however, may not deviate from existing jurisdictional boundaries.
- The Senate will provide advice and consent upon all proposed agreements with foreign governments and upon the President's nominees for ambassador to foreign lands or to international organizations.
- The Senate will provide advice and consent on all nominations to the Supreme Court.
- The Senate must approve all deployments of armed forces beyond the nation's borders.

"The power to tax is the power to destroy." — John Marshall

Article V. The Executive Branch

Section 1. Mission

The Executive Branch shall efficiently and effectively manage the core functions of a federal government as delineated in Article I, Section 3. .

Section 2. The Chief Executive

a. Composition

The Executive Office of the President shall consist of the President, who acts as Chief Executive and as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, plus a Vice President to share in these executive duties or to assume them as required.

b. Qualifications of the President

A President of the United States shall have attained the age of forty years and been twelve years a citizen of the United States.

c. Selection of the President

The President shall be elected for a four-year term, and no person may serve more than two terms during their lifetime. Election must be based upon voting in which all citizens may participate. Should a President not complete a term of office, the Vice President shall immediately assume those duties and the Speaker of the House shall become Vice President.

d. Organization

The immediate Office of the Chief Executive is authorized a support staff of no more than 100 appointed officials and 500 career civil servants on temporary duty from their home departments.

e. Special Responsibilities

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." — John Quincy Adams

The President shall:

- Be foremost among those who have sworn eternal hostility toward every form of tyranny over the mind of Man. In this, the President shall ensure that the People remain well and fairly informed on the challenges facing the nation, the issues under consideration, the actions being taken by their government, and the associated costs.
- Deliver to Congress by 1 July a concise proposed budget for the coming calendar year, with projections for an additional four years.
- Where the People have not already demanded it, be empowered to place an issue of great import to all before the electorate as a policy referendum for binding decision.

"Anything important is never left to the vote of the people. We only get to vote on some man; we never get to vote on what he is to do." — Will Rogers

In addition, only the President may:

- Act as Commander-in-Chief of the nation's armed forces.
- As Commander-in-Chief, request of Congress authority for the peacetime deployment of armed forces outside the nation and their quartering within the nation.
- In the event of an attack or imminent attack by a nation or a non-state actor, the Commander-in-Chief (CIC) will take all appropriate defensive measures. Then, as soon as practical, the CIC will request a formal Declaration of War from the Congress.
- Nominate to Congress well-qualified persons to fill seats on the Supreme Court, head the major executive departments, or serve as ambassadors to other nations and international organizations.
- Sign treaties, pacts, or other agreements with foreign governments, once approved by the Senate.
- Issue Executive Orders to establish administrative policies within the Executive Branch.
- Call the Congress into special session to deal with a national crisis.

f. Restrictions

Upon election, the President and Vice President must formally end all association with, and disavow allegiance to, any organized political party for as long as these high offices are held.

Section 3. The Executive Departments and Agencies

a. Composition

Departments of the Executive Branch may be created to manage the core functions of a federal government as delineated in Article I, Section 3.

b. Qualifications of the Leader

Any person appointed to head an executive department or agency shall possess significant managerial and technical expertise in areas applicable to the department's responsibilities.

c. Member Selection

The heads of the several departments will be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the House and will comprise the President's Cabinet. All other employees shall hold their positions by virtue of merit in their federal service careers.

d. Organization

Each federal department may create subordinate agencies, with the approval of the House, to execute segments of its responsibilities. Departments will allocate a percentage of their total budget to each such agency. Departments may also realign or abolish agencies as needed with the approval of the House of Representatives.

e. Special Responsibilities

The departments and agencies of the Executive Branch are chartered to faithfully adhere to national policies while implementing and administering the laws passed by Congress and signed by the President.

f. Restrictions

In performing this duty, there must be no reservation or undue delay, and there may be no embellishment or interpretation that imposes burdens not specifically authorized in the legislation.

Article VI. The Judicial Branch

Section 1. Mission

Because the most humble Citizen has the same right to justice as to air, we aspire to a realm in which justice and right are sold to none, denied to none, and delayed to none. It shall therefore be the purpose of the Judicial Branch to reveal the objective truth in all cases of law and equity brought before it, to guarantee professional and equal representation regardless of the citizen's station, and to ensure swift justice for the injured party, once identified.

Section 2. The Supreme Court

"Four things belong to a judge: to hear courteously, to answer wisely, to consider soberly, and to decide impartially." — *Socrates*

a. Composition

The Supreme Court shall consist of nine Citizens of at least age fifty, appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate.

b. Qualifications of the Justices

They only are free in whose courts sit judges whose power cannot terrify, wealth corrupt, or ambition seduce. Therefore, persons nominated for this high office shall be superbly qualified students and practitioners of constitutional law, unencumbered by any current political affiliation. Justices shall have been a Citizen of the United States for no less than twenty years.

c. Term of Office

Justices of the Supreme Court shall hold their offices for a term not to exceed twenty years. A Justice may, however, be expelled by a unanimous vote of the remaining Justices should he or she bring dishonor upon the Court.

d. Organization

Each Justice is authorized a small support staff. A Chief Justice shall be elected by the nine members of the Court to preside for a period of six years, or as vacancies occur.

e. Special Responsibilities

- The Supreme Court shall have original jurisdiction in cases involving international relations and in cases involving the impeachment of federal officials.
- The Supreme Court shall publish a simple common dictionary of offenses, up to and including treason. To ensure consistency throughout the system, it has authority to establish mandatory guidelines for civil penalties and criminal punishments.
- The Supreme Court will establish stringent ethical requirements for all those who practice before the bar, including consequences for those who abuse their special trust. It will also define consequences for those Citizens who bear false witness against their neighbors, thus using the nation's legal system unethically for personal gain.
- The Supreme Court will energetically promote the practice of resolving disputes at the lowest possible level, using counseling, mediation, arbitration, and any other means available to avoid adjudication by a judge or jury.
- The Supreme Court shall have authority to establish or disestablish such regional courts or mechanisms as may be required to ensure that all civil cases requiring trial by jury are resolved within one year of the complaint and that all criminal cases are resolved by jury trial within two years of the offense. Appeals arising from these initial decisions shall be resolved in some other jurisdiction within half the period allowed for the initial ruling.
- The Supreme Court shall have appellate jurisdiction in unresolved cases involving disputes between states, between organizations, between citizens, or any combination thereof.
- At each level of appeal, a court may agree to hear further argument or uphold the decision of the lower court.

"He who exercises government by means of his virtue may be compared to the north polar star, which keeps its place and all the stars turn towards it."
— Confucius

"You can't shake hands with a clenched fist." *— Indira Gandhi*

f. Restrictions

- In adjudicating such disputes as arise in the affairs of society, the Justices shall be mindful that strict adherence to the law is not always the equivalent of justice, and that wrong and injustice, once done, cannot be undone but are eternal in their consequences.
- The Supreme Court shall render no ruling that, permanently or temporarily, promotes an unequal status for any group of citizens.
- The Supreme Court shall make no ruling that may significantly alter existing national policy, or that increases immediate revenue requirements, without first advising Congress.

Article VII. Rights Reserved

Section 1. Core Functions of the State Governments

These, then, shall be the authorized duties of state governments:

- The development and enforcement of just state laws.
- Promoting state, local, and personal self-sufficiency.
- The pursuit of harmony among component jurisdictions.
- Adjudicating disputes among component jurisdictions.
- Prudently administering the state's resources and revenues.
- Maintaining sufficient resources to effectively respond to natural and man-made disasters.
- Providing such other services to The Citizenry as they are explicitly willing to support.

Section 2. Other Provisions

"There are more instances of the abridgment of the freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments of those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations." *— James Madison*

a. Whatsoever functions, responsibilities, benefits, or privileges not specifically addressed herein shall belong first to the Citizenry, and then to the states, unless specifically relinquished. New authorities may not be assumed by the federal government without the explicit approval of the Citizenry.
b. No political jurisdiction that claims equal or greater status or rank may exist within the boundaries of a state.

c. State and local jurisdictions may collect revenues sufficient to administer their core functions using a system of taxation that mirrors the federal.
d. States have undiminished authority to raise and maintain a well-regulated militia to supplement the nation's armed forces. Governors may use this force within the state's borders to perform such functions as are approved by the state's legislative body.
e. States and their subordinate jurisdictions have primary responsibility for managing emergencies within their borders, including preparation, mitigation, response, and recovery.
f. States are encouraged to follow the federal model in setting high professional and ethical standards for all persons engaged in the development, adjudication, and enforcement of laws.
g. Full faith and credit shall be given in each state to the public acts, records, and judicial proceedings of every other state.
h. The Citizens of each state shall be entitled to all rights, responsibilities, privileges, and immunities claimed by the Citizens of other states. States will strive for consistency in their laws and make all reasonable accommodations with their neighboring states.
i. New states may be admitted to the union with a two-thirds majority vote in both houses of Congress. However, no state may be created from territory already claimed by an existing state.

Article VIII. Amending the Constitution

Alterations to this constitution may be formally proposed by any member of Congress upon the explicit direction of a majority of their constituents, and will be given primacy on the docket. A joint resolution, approved by a two-thirds majority of the combined houses of Congress, is sufficient to send the amendment to the states for ratification. The amendment becomes law when ratified by three-fourths of the states within ninety days of receipt.

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"The cause of America is in great measure the cause of all mankind."
— Thomas Paine

These provisions we firmly endorse, that our beloved nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that the ideal of government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the Earth.

