

CITIZENS
BEFORE POLITICS

**BILL OF
STRUCTURAL
INTEGRITY**

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AMENDMENT I
FAIR ELECTIONS

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to establish an affirmative right to vote, require ranked-choice voting and proportional representation in federal elections, abolish the Electoral College, establish nonpartisan redistricting standards, and create an independent Federal Election Commission.

Section 1. Right to Vote

- (a) The right of citizens of the United States, eighteen years of age or older, to vote in any election for public office shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State.
- (b) Every citizen eighteen years of age or older shall be automatically registered to vote at their residence upon reaching such age or establishing residency. No affirmative act of registration shall be required.
- (c) The United States and each State shall provide, without charge, a government-issued voting credential to every eligible voter for use in all elections. No voter shall be denied the right to vote for failure to possess or present such credential. The voting credential shall be made reasonably accessible for issuance and replacement through multiple government channels, as provided by law. The form, issuance, maintenance, and security of the credential shall be prescribed by law. Such credential shall be made available prior to the first federal general election held after ratification of this article.
- (d) No citizen may be removed from voter rolls except upon death, written request, criminal conviction carrying disenfranchisement during the period of incarceration only, or change of residence to another State. Any voting rights suspended due to incarceration shall be automatically restored upon release from custody, without condition, delay, or additional legal process. Removal based on change of residence may occur only after confirmation of registration in the new State.
- (e) Any citizen whose eligibility is challenged shall remain eligible to vote while the challenge is adjudicated.
- (f) Early voting shall be available for no fewer than fourteen days preceding any federal election.
- (g) No voter shall be required to wait more than thirty minutes to cast a ballot.

- (h) Absentee ballots shall be available to any voter upon request without requiring cause.
 - (i) Elections for federal office shall be held on a national holiday. All employers shall permit employees sufficient time to vote without loss of pay.
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Section 2. Winner Determination

- (a) No candidate for federal office shall be declared elected without receiving support from a majority of voters, determined through ranked-choice voting whereby voters rank candidates in order of preference and ballots are counted in rounds, eliminating the candidate with fewest votes each round and transferring those ballots to the next-ranked candidate, until one candidate receives a majority.
 - (b) Members of the House of Representatives shall be elected from multi-member districts of two to five Representatives by single transferable vote. States apportioned fewer than two Representatives shall elect members at-large by ranked-choice voting requiring a majority.
 - (c) The President and Vice President shall be elected directly by the people of the United States through ranked-choice voting. The pair of candidates receiving a majority of votes cast nationwide shall be elected. If no pair receives a majority after all elimination rounds, the pair with the most votes shall be elected. The Electoral College is hereby abolished.
 - (d) Within ten years of ratification, each State shall adopt ranked-choice voting for all elections for state and local office.
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Section 3. Redistricting

- (a) Each State shall establish congressional districts according to the criteria set forth in this section.
- (b) If a State fails to establish districts within one year following each decennial census, or if a court finds the State's districts violate this article, a special redistricting commission shall draw districts for that State. The commission shall consist of:
 - Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House;
 - Two members appointed by the House Minority Leader;
 - Two members appointed by the Senate Majority Leader;
 - Two members appointed by the Senate Minority Leader;

- One member selected unanimously by the other eight;
 - No member may be a current or former elected official, registered lobbyist, or national party officer.
- (c) Each State shall establish congressional districts according to the criteria set forth in this section.
- (d) If a State fails to establish districts within one year following each decennial census, or if a court finds the State's districts violate this article, a special redistricting commission shall draw districts for that State. The commission shall consist of:
- Each district shall elect no fewer than three and no more than five representatives;
 - Equal population;
 - Compliance with the Voting Rights Act and all applicable federal law;
 - Protection of minority voting power;
 - Contiguity;
 - Preservation of communities of interest, counties, and municipalities.
- (e) Districts shall not be drawn with the intent or effect of favoring or disfavoring any political party.
- (f) In drawing districts, no consideration shall be given to the residence of any incumbent or candidate, the political party affiliation of voters, or the voting history of the population.
- (g) No State shall redistrict except following a decennial census, unless required by court order to comply with this article.
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Section 4. Independent Election Administration

- (a) There shall be a Federal Election Commission composed of seven members appointed by the President with the advice and consent of two-thirds of the Senate.
- (b) Commissioners shall serve staggered terms of ten years. No person may serve more than one term.
- (c) No more than three commissioners may be affiliated with the same political party. At least one commissioner shall be affiliated with neither major party. A Commissioner shall be deemed 'non-affiliated' if they have not held an elected office, served as a registered lobbyist, or held a leadership position in a political party that received more than 5% of the national vote at any point in the previous 10 years.
- (d) Commissioners may be removed only for cause by two-thirds vote of the Senate.

- (e) The Commission shall:
 - Administer federal elections;
 - Enforce this article and all federal election laws;
 - Establish uniform standards for ballot design, voting systems, and election security;
 - Certify election results;
 - Investigate violations and impose civil penalties.
 - (f) The Commission shall have authority to issue binding regulations and to seek injunctive relief in federal court.
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Section 5. Election Integrity

- (a) The Federal Election Commission shall have authority to investigate violations and impose civil penalties.
- (b) Any citizen denied the right to vote in violation of this article shall have standing to bring suit in federal court for injunctive relief and damages.
- (c) Where any election conducted in violation of this article a suit to invalidate an election under this article may be filed within fourteen days of certification of election results by:
 - The Federal Election Commission;
 - The Attorney General of the United States;
 - Any candidate whose name appeared on the ballot in the affected election.
- (d) Jurisdiction for suits under subsection 5 shall lie in the United States District Court for the district in which the violation occurred, with direct appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States.
- (e) If a court finds a violation of this article:
 - The court shall formally declare the violation;
 - The court may order a new election in the affected districts, to be held within sixty days, only if the number of voters affected by the violation exceeds the margin of victory;
 - The court shall order a new election if the Commission finds a pattern of intentional disenfranchisement, regardless of margin.
- (f) The burden of proof shall be clear and convincing evidence.
- (g) Upon invalidation of an election:

- If an incumbent holds the office and was not a candidate in the invalidated election, the incumbent shall continue in office until certification of the new election;
 - In all other cases, the office shall be declared vacant and filled according to the applicable constitutional or statutory line of succession until certification of the new election;
 - No person serving under this subsection may make permanent appointments to the federal judiciary, sign treaties, or issue executive orders except as necessary to address an imminent threat to national security;
 - No person whose election is invalidated under this section may fill the resulting vacancy;
 - Service under this subsection shall terminate upon certification of the new election, and in no event exceed sixty days.
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Section 6. Enforcement

- (a) The rights secured by this article are self-executing and shall not require enabling legislation to be enforceable.
 - (b) Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.
 - (c) Any citizen of the United States shall have standing to bring suit in any federal court to enforce the provisions of this article.
 - (d) No State law or action inconsistent with this article shall have any force or effect.
 - (e) No provision of this article shall be construed to limit individual rights or remedies otherwise available under this Constitution or the laws of the United States.
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Section 7. Effective Date and Implementation

- (a) This article shall take effect immediately upon ratification.
- (b) Congress shall provide for the funding necessary to implement this article through existing appropriations, budget reallocations, or reductions in other expenditures, and may not fund its implementation through fees, surcharges, or new taxes imposed on the general public. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit Congress from adjusting tax policy applicable to higher-income individuals or large corporations to meet these obligations.

- (c) The voting credential required by Section 1(c) shall be made available prior to the first federal general election held after ratification.
- (d) The Federal Election Commission shall be fully constituted within one hundred eighty days of ratification. If the Commission is not fully constituted within one year of ratification, the Chief Justice of the United States shall appoint temporary commissioners to serve until permanent commissioners are confirmed.
- (e) Multi-member districts required by Section 2(b) shall be established following the first decennial census after ratification.
- (f) States shall adopt ranked-choice voting for state and local elections within ten years of ratification, as provided in Section 2(d).
- (g) This article shall be inoperative unless ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within one year from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress.

AMENDMENT II
FAIR COMPETITION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to guarantee equal ballot access for all candidates, require democratic governance and financial transparency of political parties, and protect constitutional democracy from parties that seek to abolish it.

Section 1. Political Parties and Ballot Access

- (a) A political party is an association of citizens organized to nominate candidates and contest elections. Political parties may be freely established.
- (b) The internal organization of political parties shall conform to democratic principles. Parties shall select candidates and leaders through processes that permit participation by party members.
- (c) Political parties shall publicly account for their assets and for the sources and use of their funds, as provided by law.
- (d) Any citizen meeting age and residency requirements may appear on the ballot for federal office upon submitting a petition signed by no more than one percent of votes cast in the prior election for that office, or ten thousand signatures, whichever is fewer.
- (e) No filing fee for federal office shall exceed one hundred dollars.
- (f) Requirements for ballot access shall be identical for all candidates regardless of party affiliation or lack thereof.
- (g) A political party shall be ineligible to appear on the ballot or receive public funding if it openly advocates:
 - 1. Abolishing elections or establishing one-party rule;
 - 2. Overthrowing the constitutional order by force or unlawful means;
 - 3. Denying the equal citizenship or legal rights of any person based on race, ethnicity, religion, sex, or national origin.

The Supreme Court shall have sole authority to make such determination upon petition by the Attorney General or by Congress.

- (h) This section applies to federal elections upon ratification. Within ten years of ratification, each State shall adopt consistent standards for all state and local elections.

Section 2. Enforcement

- (a) The rights secured by this article are self-executing and shall not require enabling legislation to be enforceable.
- (b) Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.
- (c) Any candidate or party denied rights under this article shall have standing to bring suit in federal court for injunctive relief.
- (d) No State law or action inconsistent with this article shall have any force or effect.
- (e) No provision of this article shall be construed to limit individual rights or remedies otherwise available under this Constitution or the laws of the United States.
- (f) The Federal Election Commission established by the Fair Elections Amendment shall have authority to investigate violations of this article and impose civil penalties.

Section 3. Effective Date and Implementation

- (a) This article shall take effect immediately upon ratification.
- (b) Within ten years of ratification, each State shall adopt consistent standards for state and local elections as provided in Section 1(h).
- (c) This article shall be inoperative unless ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within one year from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress.

AMENDMENT III
CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to establish that constitutional rights belong to natural persons only, prohibit corporate spending to influence elections, limit campaign contributions and expenditures, and provide for public financing of federal elections.

Section 1. Campaign Finance

- (a) The rights protected by this Constitution are the rights of natural persons only. Corporations and other entities created by law shall not be considered persons for purposes of political speech or campaign activity.
- (b) The spending of money to influence elections shall not be considered speech protected by the First Amendment. Congress and the States shall have power to regulate and limit contributions and expenditures for the purpose of influencing elections.
- (c) No corporation, labor union, nonprofit, or other entity created by law shall contribute or spend any amount to influence any election for federal office.
- (d) No natural person may contribute more than five hundred dollars to any candidate or one thousand dollars total to all candidates and political parties in any calendar year. Contributions may only be made directly to candidates or political parties. Congress may adjust these amounts only to reflect changes in the value of money.
- (e) Congress shall establish by law limits on total expenditures by candidates for each federal office. No candidate may exceed such limit from any source, including personal funds.
- (f) Congress shall establish by law a system of public financing available to all candidates who qualify for the ballot. Public financing shall be distributed on equal terms to all qualifying candidates. No allocation formula shall favor candidates based on prior fundraising, incumbency, or party affiliation.
- (g) If Congress fails to establish expenditure limits and public financing prior to the next federal election following ratification:
 - (1) No Senator or Representative shall receive any compensation from the United States until such legislation is enacted;
 - (2) The Federal Election Commission shall establish expenditure limits and public financing by regulation within ninety days, which shall remain in effect until Congress acts.

- (h) All contributions and expenditures for the purpose of influencing elections shall be publicly disclosed within forty-eight hours. Any entity that contributes to candidates or political parties shall disclose the identity of all natural persons with an ownership interest of five percent or more.
 - (i) Foreign nationals and foreign governments shall not contribute or spend any amount to influence any election in the United States.
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Section 2. Enforcement

- (a) The rights secured by this article are self-executing and shall not require enabling legislation to be enforceable.
 - (b) Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.
 - (c) Any citizen of the United States shall have standing to bring suit in any federal court to enforce the provisions of this article.
 - (d) No State law or action inconsistent with this article shall have any force or effect.
 - (e) No provision of this article shall be construed to limit individual rights or remedies otherwise available under this Constitution or the laws of the United States.
 - (f) The Federal Election Commission established by the Fair Elections Amendment shall have authority to investigate violations of this article and impose civil penalties.
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Section 3. Effective Date and Implementation

- (g) This article shall take effect immediately upon ratification.
- (h) Congress shall provide for the funding necessary to implement public financing through existing appropriations, budget reallocations, or reductions in other expenditures, and may not fund its implementation through fees, surcharges, or new taxes imposed on the general public. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit Congress from adjusting tax policy applicable to higher-income individuals or large corporations to meet these obligations.
- (i) This article applies to federal elections upon ratification. Within ten years of ratification, each State shall adopt consistent standards for state and local elections.
- (j) This article shall be inoperative unless ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within one year from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress.

AMENDMENT IV
CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to establish criminal disqualification standards, financial disclosure requirements, conflict of interest prohibitions, post-service lobbying restrictions, anti-self-dealing provisions, and age eligibility limits for candidates and officeholders.

Section 1. Criminal Disqualification

- (a) No person shall be eligible to hold or seek election to any federal office who has been convicted in any jurisdiction of:
 - 1. Treason, sedition, or insurrection against the United States;
 - 2. Bribery, corruption, or extortion involving a position of public trust;
 - 3. Electoral fraud, vote suppression, or interference with the administration of elections;
 - 4. Any crime involving the abuse of public office;
 - 5. Murder in the first degree;
 - 6. Any sexual offense, including sexual assault, sexual abuse, human trafficking, or any offense against a minor of a sexual nature;
 - 7. Any felony committed while holding federal, state, or local office.
- (b) No person shall be eligible to hold or seek election to any federal office who has been convicted of any other felony, until ten years have elapsed following the completion of all terms of imprisonment, probation, and supervised release, and upon petition to a federal court demonstrating rehabilitation. The court shall consider the nature of the offense, the time elapsed, and evidence of rehabilitation in determining eligibility.
- (c) No person shall be eligible to hold or seek election to any federal office who has been convicted of a misdemeanor involving fraud, dishonesty, or false statement, until five years have elapsed following the completion of sentence, and upon petition to a federal court demonstrating rehabilitation.
- (d) The disqualifications in this section shall not apply to:
 - 1. Convictions for simple possession of a controlled substance;
 - 2. Convictions for operating a vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs, unless such offense resulted in death or serious bodily injury, or unless the person has three or more such convictions;
 - 3. Offenses that have been expunged, sealed, or set aside by the convicting jurisdiction prior to the filing of candidacy.

- (e) Any person who is convicted of a disqualifying offense under subsection (a) while holding federal office shall be subject to removal proceedings. Upon final conviction, the appropriate body shall initiate removal within thirty days.
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Section 2. Financial Disclosure

- (a) No person shall appear on the ballot for any federal office unless such person has filed, not fewer than ninety days before the election, a complete financial disclosure with the Federal Election Commission, which shall be made available to the public.
 - (b) A candidate for President or Vice President shall disclose:
 1. Complete federal, state, and local tax returns for the ten years preceding the filing of candidacy;
 2. All assets and liabilities, including real property, securities, business interests, and debts exceeding ten thousand dollars;
 3. All sources of income exceeding one thousand dollars during the preceding ten years;
 4. All positions held in any corporation, partnership, or other business entity during the preceding ten years;
 5. The identity of all clients, customers, or entities from whom the candidate received payment exceeding ten thousand dollars during the preceding five years, unless disclosure is prohibited by law.
 - (c) A candidate for the Senate or House of Representatives shall disclose:
 1. Complete federal, state, and local tax returns for the five years preceding the filing of candidacy;
 2. All assets and liabilities, including real property, securities, business interests, and debts exceeding ten thousand dollars;
 3. All sources of income exceeding one thousand dollars during the preceding five years;
 4. All positions held in any corporation, partnership, or other business entity during the preceding five years.
 - (d) Congress shall have power to adjust the monetary thresholds in this section to reflect changes in the value of money.
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Section 3. Conflict of Interest

- (a) No member of Congress shall participate in any vote or committee proceeding on any matter in which the member, the member's spouse, or any dependent has a direct and

substantial financial interest, unless such interest is shared generally by the public or a broad class of persons.

- (b) The President and Vice President, upon taking office, shall divest all financial interests that could present a conflict with the duties of office, or place such interests in a blind trust managed by an independent trustee with no prior relationship to the officeholder. The terms of such trust shall be approved by the Office of Government Ethics and disclosed to the public.
 - (c) Members of Congress shall place in a blind trust, or divest, any financial interest in any entity that is directly and substantially affected by legislation pending before any committee on which the member serves.
 - (d) No person holding federal office shall use the authority of such office to influence any official action for the purpose of personal financial benefit.
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Section 4. Post-Service Restrictions

- (a) No former President, Vice President, or head of an executive department shall engage in lobbying activities before any officer or employee of the executive branch for a period of five years following the conclusion of service.
 - (b) No former member of Congress shall engage in lobbying activities before any member, officer, or employee of Congress for a period of five years following the conclusion of service.
 - (c) No former senior executive branch official, as defined by Congress, shall engage in lobbying activities before the department or agency in which such official served for a period of three years following the conclusion of service.
 - (d) Congress shall have power to define lobbying activities and to extend but not reduce the restrictions in this section.
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Section 5. Anti-Self-Dealing

- (a) No law enacted by Congress that affects the conduct, administration, or eligibility requirements of elections for any federal office held by members who voted for such law shall take effect until the beginning of the term following the next regularly scheduled election for that office.
- (b) No law enacted by Congress that extends or alters the term of office for any federal office shall apply to any person holding such office at the time of enactment.

Section 6. Age Eligibility

- (a) No law enacted by Congress that affects the conduct, administration, or eligibility requirements of elections for any federal office held by members who voted for such law shall take effect until the beginning of the term following the next regularly scheduled election for that office.
 - (b) No law enacted by Congress that extends or alters the term of office for any federal office shall apply to any person holding such office at the time of enactment.
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Section 7. Enforcement

- (a) The rights secured by this article are self-executing and shall not require enabling legislation to be enforceable.
 - (b) Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.
 - (c) Any citizen of the United States shall have standing to bring suit in any federal court to enforce the provisions of this article.
 - (d) No State law or action inconsistent with this article shall have any force or effect.
 - (e) No provision of this article shall be construed to limit individual rights or remedies otherwise available under this Constitution or the laws of the United States.
 - (f) The Federal Election Commission shall have authority to receive and publish disclosures required by this article, to investigate violations, and to impose civil penalties.
 - (g) No person who fails to comply with the disclosure requirements of Section 2 shall appear on any ballot for federal office. The Federal Election Commission shall certify compliance before any candidate's name is placed on the ballot.
 - (h) Any person who knowingly files a false or materially incomplete disclosure under this article shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, shall be permanently disqualified from holding federal office under Section 1(a).
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Section 8. Effective Date and Implementation

- (a) This article shall take effect immediately upon ratification.
- (b) This article shall be inoperative unless ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within one year from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress.

AMENDMENT V
**JUDICIAL COMPOSITION &
AUTHORITY**

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to establish a Constitutional Court, restructure the Supreme Court, impose term limits and mandatory retirement for justices, define the jurisdiction and authority of each court, and provide for transition of sitting justices.

Section 1. Establishment of Courts

- (a) The judicial power of the United States shall be vested in a Constitutional Court, a Supreme Court, and such inferior courts as Congress may from time to time ordain and establish.
 - (b) The Constitutional Court shall be composed of eleven justices, including a Chief Justice of the Constitutional Court.
 - (c) The Supreme Court shall be composed of nine justices, including a Chief Justice of the United States.
 - (d) The number of justices on either court shall not be altered except by constitutional amendment.
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Section 2. Terms of Office

- (a) Justices of the Constitutional Court and Supreme Court shall serve a single term of eighteen years. No person who has served a full term on either court may be appointed to any seat on either court thereafter.
 - (b) No justice shall remain in office after attaining the age of seventy-five years.
 - (c) A vacancy occurring for any reason shall be filled for a full eighteen-year term.
 - (d) A justice whose term expires or who is required to retire due to age shall continue to serve until a successor is confirmed, but in no case longer than one hundred eighty days.
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Section 3. Jurisdiction of the Constitutional Court

- (a) The Constitutional Court shall have jurisdiction over:

1. All claims arising under this Constitution alleging violation of individual rights;
 2. All questions concerning the structure, separation, or powers of the federal government or the relationship between the federal government and the States under this Constitution;
 3. All challenges to the constitutionality of any federal law or executive action;
 4. All determinations regarding political parties under Amendment II;
 5. All claims alleging that a federal court violated constitutional rights in its procedures or process.
- (b) The Constitutional Court shall review the following matters without discretion to decline:
1. Any case in which a lower federal court has declared a federal law unconstitutional;
 2. Any case presenting a question of constitutional interpretation on which the circuit courts of appeals are in conflict;
 3. Any case in which a petitioner alleges that a federal court's procedure or process violated the petitioner's constitutional rights.
- (c) The Constitutional Court may organize itself into panels of no fewer than three justices to screen petitions and resolve claims presenting settled questions of constitutional law. Panels may dismiss petitions or grant relief unanimously. Any petition not unanimously resolved by a panel shall be heard by the full court.
- (d) All decisions of the Constitutional Court, including denials of review where permitted, shall include a written explanation of the court's reasoning.
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Section 4. Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court

- (a) The Supreme Court shall have jurisdiction over:
1. The interpretation of federal statutes;
 2. Disputes arising under federal regulatory and administrative law;
 3. Admiralty and maritime matters;
 4. Bankruptcy;
 5. Federal criminal law not involving constitutional claims;
 6. Patents, copyrights, and intellectual property;
 7. Disputes between States not arising under this Constitution;
 8. All other matters of federal law not assigned to the Constitutional Court.
- (b) The Supreme Court shall review the following matters without discretion to decline:

1. Any case presenting a question of statutory interpretation on which the circuit courts of appeals are in conflict;
 2. Any case in which a lower federal court has invalidated a federal regulation or administrative action;
 3. Any case in which the United States is a party and the Solicitor General petitions for review.
- (c) The Supreme Court may organize itself into panels of no fewer than three justices to screen petitions and resolve claims presenting settled questions of law. Panels may dismiss petitions or grant relief unanimously. Any petition not unanimously resolved by a panel shall be heard by the full court.
- (d) All decisions of the Supreme Court, including denials of review where permitted, shall include a written explanation of the court's reasoning.
- (e) Where a case presents both constitutional and non-constitutional questions, the Constitutional Court shall hear the constitutional claims and may certify remaining questions to the Supreme Court or retain jurisdiction over the entire matter in the interest of judicial economy.
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Section 5. Judicial Authority and Limitations

- (a) The Constitutional Court shall have authority to declare any federal law or provision thereof unconstitutional by majority vote. A law declared unconstitutional shall have no force or effect.
- (b) Congress may restore a law declared unconstitutional by vote of two-thirds of both the House of Representatives and the Senate, provided such vote occurs within one year of the decision declaring the law unconstitutional. A law so restored may be subject to future constitutional challenge upon a substantial change in circumstances or legal reasoning.
- (c) No precedent of the Constitutional Court or Supreme Court that has stood for ten years or more shall be overturned except by a vote of no fewer than three-fourth of the justices of the court that established the precedent.
- (d) For purposes of subsection (c), the date of precedent shall be the date of the original decision, not the date of any subsequent decision affirming or applying that precedent.
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Section 6. Transition and Reassignment

- (a) Upon ratification, any justice of the Supreme Court who has attained the age of seventy-five years shall retire within one hundred eighty days.

- (b) Within ninety days of ratification, each justice of the Supreme Court who has not retired under subsection (a) shall submit to the Judicial Selection Commission a statement indicating whether such justice seeks assignment to the Constitutional Court or the Supreme Court as reconstituted under this article.
 - (c) The Commission shall review each justice's qualifications, judicial record, and expertise, and shall assign each justice to the Constitutional Court or Supreme Court based on:
 - 1. The justice's stated preference;
 - 2. The justice's demonstrated expertise in constitutional law or statutory interpretation;
 - 3. The justice's compliance with all ethics and disclosure requirements established by this Constitution;
 - 4. The needs and balance of each court.
 - (d) No sitting justice shall be entitled to assignment to their preferred court. The Commission's assignment decision shall be final.
 - (e) Any justice who fails to submit a preference within ninety days, or who fails to meet the ethics and disclosure standards required of all judicial nominees, shall be deemed to have retired.
 - (f) Upon assignment of sitting justices, the Commission shall fill remaining vacancies on both courts through the standard nomination process established in the Judicial Qualification and Selection Amendment.
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Section 7. Enforcement

- (a) The rights secured by this article are self-executing and shall not require enabling legislation to be enforceable.
 - (b) Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.
 - (c) Any citizen of the United States shall have standing to bring suit in any federal court to enforce the provisions of this article.
 - (d) No State law or action inconsistent with this article shall have any force or effect.
 - (e) No provision of this article shall be construed to limit individual rights or remedies otherwise available under this Constitution or the laws of the United States.
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Section 8. Effective Date and Implementation

- (a) This article shall take effect immediately upon ratification.

- (b) Congress shall provide for the funding necessary to implement this article through existing appropriations, budget reallocations, or reductions in other expenditures, and may not fund its implementation through fees, surcharges, or new taxes imposed on the general public. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit Congress from adjusting tax policy applicable to higher-income individuals or large corporations to meet these obligations.
- (c) The mandatory retirement age established in Section 2(b) and the limitations on judicial authority established in Section 5 shall apply immediately upon ratification.
- (d) Within sixty days of ratification, the Judicial Selection Commission established in the Judicial Qualifications and Selection Amendment shall be constituted and sitting justices shall be notified of the requirement to submit preference statements under Section 6(b).
- (e) Within one hundred eighty days of ratification, all justices who have attained the age of seventy-five years shall retire, the Commission shall complete review and assignment of remaining justices, and the Commission shall nominate candidates for all vacant seats on both courts.
- (f) Within one year of ratification, the Constitutional Court and the Supreme Court shall be fully constituted and operational.
- (g) If the Commission is not constituted within sixty days, the chief justices of the state supreme courts, acting collectively, shall appoint temporary commissioners. If either court is not fully constituted within one year, the chief justices of the state supreme courts shall appoint temporary justices with full judicial authority until permanent justices are confirmed.
- (h) This article shall be inoperative unless ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within one year from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress.

AMENDMENT VI
**JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS &
SELECTION**

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to establish a Judicial Selection Commission, define the composition and procedures for selecting federal judges, establish qualifications and disqualifications for judicial nominees, and provide for geographic restrictions on judicial assignment.

Section 1. Judicial Selection Commission

- (a) There shall be a Judicial Selection Commission composed of nine members:
 - 1. Three retired federal judges;
 - 2. Two attorneys; and
 - 3. Four lay citizens who have never practiced law or held judicial office.
 - (b) The Chair of the Commission shall be a lay member, selected by the Commission from among its lay members.
 - (c) The Commission shall nominate candidates for appointment to the Constitutional Court, the Supreme Court, and the circuit courts of appeals.
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Section 2. Selection of Commissioners

- (a) The three retired judge members shall be selected as follows: retired federal judges may apply to serve; the chief judges of the thirteen circuit courts of appeals, acting collectively, shall select three from among the applicants.
- (b) The two attorney members shall be selected by the American Bar Association.
- (c) The four lay members shall be selected by the chief justices of the state supreme courts, organized into four regions:
 - 1. Northeast: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and the District of Columbia;
 - 2. South: Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Arkansas;
 - 3. Midwest: Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas;

4. West: Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Alaska, and Hawaii.
 - (d) The chief justices of each region, acting collectively, shall select one lay member from among applicants residing in their region.
-

Section 3. Commissioner Terms

- (a) Commissioners shall serve terms of four years. No person shall serve more than eight years total on the Commission.
 - (b) Terms shall be staggered such that no more than three commissioners' terms expire in any single year.
 - (c) Upon the initial constitution of the Commission, commissioners shall be assigned initial terms of two, three, or four years by lottery to establish staggered terms. Thereafter, all terms shall be four years.
 - (d) A vacancy occurring before expiration of a term shall be filled for the remainder of that term by the same method used for the original appointment. Service of a partial term of two years or less shall not count toward the eight-year limit.
-

Section 4. Commissioner Qualifications and Disqualifications

- (a) No person shall serve as a commissioner who:
 1. Is a current elected official at any level of government;
 2. Is a current registered lobbyist;
 3. Has been employed by a political party committee within the ten years preceding appointment;
 4. Has been a registered lobbyist within the ten years preceding appointment;
 5. Is the spouse, parent, child, or sibling of any member of Congress or senior executive official;
 6. Has received formal discipline from any court, bar association, or judicial conduct body at any time; or
 7. Has been the subject of a complaint before any court, bar association, or judicial conduct body that was substantiated upon investigation within the twenty years preceding appointment.
- (b) Each commissioner shall file upon appointment, and annually thereafter, a disclosure statement including:

1. All assets, income, and debts;
 2. All political donations made within the preceding ten years;
 3. Employment history for the preceding ten years; and
 4. The identity of any family member currently serving in federal, state, or local government.
- (c) Disclosure statements shall be made available to the public.
-

Section 5. Commissioner Removal and Compensation

- (a) A commissioner may be removed only for misconduct, incapacity, or failure to perform the duties of office.
 - (b) Removal shall require a vote of two-thirds of the Senate.
 - (c) Commissioners shall receive compensation equal to the salary of a federal district court judge.
-

Section 6. Commission Procedures

- (a) Six commissioners shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business.
 - (b) Six commissioners shall be required to nominate any candidate for judicial appointment.
 - (c) The Commission shall establish rules and procedures for receiving applications, evaluating candidates, and conducting nominations, which shall be made available to the public.
-

Section 7. Nomination Process

- (a) For each vacancy on the Constitutional Court, Supreme Court, or a circuit court of appeals, the Commission shall nominate three candidates.
- (b) The Commission shall select one nominee from among the three candidates for appointment.
- (c) The nominee shall be submitted to the Senate.

Section 8. Confirmation Process

- (a) A nominee shall be confirmed thirty days following submission unless a member of the Senate files a written objection stating specific grounds for rejection.
 - (b) If an objection is filed, the Senate shall vote within thirty days of the objection. A vote of two-thirds of the Senate shall be required to reject the nominee.
 - (c) If the Senate fails to vote within thirty days of an objection, the nominee shall be deemed confirmed.
 - (d) If a nominee is rejected, the Commission shall select another nominee from the remaining candidates and the process shall repeat.
 - (e) If all three candidates nominated for a vacancy are rejected, the Commission shall submit three new candidates. If the Senate rejects all candidates from a second slate, the Commission's first-ranked candidate from that slate shall be deemed confirmed.
-

Section 9. Qualifications for Judicial Nominees

- (a) No person shall be eligible for appointment to the Constitutional Court, Supreme Court, or any circuit court of appeals who:
 - 1. Has received formal discipline from any court, bar association, or judicial conduct body at any time; or
 - 2. Has been the subject of a complaint before any court, bar association, or judicial conduct body that was substantiated upon investigation within the twenty years preceding nomination.
- (b) Each nominee shall file with the Commission a disclosure statement including:
 - 1. Complete federal, state, and local tax returns for the ten years preceding nomination;
 - 2. All assets, liabilities, and debts exceeding ten thousand dollars;
 - 3. All sources of income exceeding one thousand dollars during the preceding ten years;
 - 4. All positions held in any corporation, partnership, or other business entity during the preceding ten years;
 - 5. All political donations made within the preceding ten years;
 - 6. The identity of any family member currently serving in federal, state, or local government.
- (c) Disclosure statements of confirmed judges shall be made available to the public.

Section 10. District Court Appointments

- (a) Judges of the district courts shall be nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate by majority vote.
 - (b) No person shall be eligible for appointment to a district court who:
 - (1) Has received formal discipline from any court, bar association, or judicial conduct body at any time; or
 - (2) Has been the subject of a complaint before any court, bar association, or judicial conduct body that was substantiated upon investigation within the twenty years preceding nomination.
 - (c) Each district court nominee shall file the disclosure statement required by Section 9(b). Disclosure statements of confirmed judges shall be made available to the public.
-

Section 11. Geographic Restrictions

- (a) No person shall be assigned as a judge of a district court in any state in which such person, within the ten years preceding appointment:
 - 1. Practiced law;
 - 2. Resided; or
 - 3. Owned real property.
 - (b) No person shall be assigned as a judge of a circuit court of appeals in any circuit containing a state in which such person, within the ten years preceding appointment:
 - 1. Practiced law;
 - 2. Resided; or
 - 3. Owned real property.
 - (c) The Judicial Selection Commission shall consider geographic restrictions when nominating and assigning judges to ensure adequate judicial coverage in all districts and circuits.
-

Section 12. Enforcement

- (a) The rights secured by this article are self-executing and shall not require enabling legislation to be enforceable.
- (b) Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.
- (c) Any citizen of the United States shall have standing to bring suit in any federal court to enforce the provisions of this article.
- (d) No State law or action inconsistent with this article shall have any force or effect.

- (e) No provision of this article shall be construed to limit individual rights or remedies otherwise available under this Constitution or the laws of the United States.
-

Section 13. Effective Date and Implementation

- (a) This article shall take effect immediately upon ratification.
- (b) Congress shall provide for the funding necessary to implement this article through existing appropriations, budget reallocations, or reductions in other expenditures, and may not fund its implementation through fees, surcharges, or new taxes imposed on the general public. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit Congress from adjusting tax policy applicable to higher-income individuals or large corporations to meet these obligations.
- (c) Within sixty days of ratification, the chief judges of the circuit courts of appeals shall select retired judge commissioners, the American Bar Association shall select attorney commissioners, and the chief justices of state supreme courts in each region shall select lay commissioners.
- (d) Within ninety days of ratification, the Commission shall be fully constituted and shall elect a Chair.
- (e) If any selecting body fails to choose commissioners within sixty days, the chief justices of all state supreme courts, acting collectively, shall appoint temporary commissioners from the appropriate category to serve until permanent commissioners are selected.
- (f) This article shall be inoperative unless ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within one year from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress.

AMENDMENT VII
**JUDICIAL TRANSPARENCY &
ACCOUNTABILITY**

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to establish a Judicial Conduct Commission with authority to receive complaints, investigate misconduct, discipline and remove federal judges, and maintain transparent public reporting on judicial conduct.

Section 1. Judicial Conduct Commission

- (a) There shall be a Judicial Conduct Commission composed of nine members:
 - 1. Two federal Inspectors General;
 - 2. Two retired judges of the circuit courts of appeals;
 - 3. Two justices of state supreme courts; and
 - 4. Three lay citizens who have never practiced law or held judicial office.
 - (b) The Commission shall receive and investigate complaints against justices of the Constitutional Court, justices of the Supreme Court, and judges of the circuit courts of appeals and district courts.
 - (c) The Commission shall have authority to discipline or remove any federal judge for misconduct.
 - (d) No person may serve simultaneously on the Judicial Selection Commission and the Judicial Conduct Commission.
-

Section 2. Selection of Conduct Commission Members

- (a) The two Inspector General members shall be selected by the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency.
- (b) The two retired circuit judge members shall be selected by the chief judges of the thirteen circuit courts of appeals, acting collectively. No person who has served on the Judicial Selection Commission may serve as a retired judge member of the Conduct Commission.
- (c) The two state supreme court justice members shall be selected by the chief justices of the state supreme courts, organized into regions different from those used for selection of lay members of the Judicial Selection Commission.

- (d) The three lay members shall be selected by the chief justices of the state supreme courts, organized into three regions, with each region's chief justices selecting one lay member. These regions shall be different from those used for selection of lay members of the Judicial Selection Commission.
-

Section 3. Conduct Commission Terms

- (a) Members shall serve terms of four years. No person shall serve more than eight years total on the Commission.
 - (b) Terms shall be staggered such that no more than three members' terms expire in any single year.
 - (c) Upon the initial constitution of the Commission, members shall be assigned initial terms of two, three, or four years by lottery to establish staggered terms. Thereafter, all terms shall be four years.
 - (d) A vacancy occurring before expiration of a term shall be filled for the remainder of that term by the same method used for the original appointment. Service of a partial term of two years or less shall not count toward the eight-year limit.
-

Section 4. Conduct Commission Qualifications & Disqualifications

- (a) No person shall serve as a member of the Conduct Commission who:
 - 1. Is a current elected official at any level of government;
 - 2. Is a current registered lobbyist;
 - 3. Has been employed by a political party committee within the ten years preceding appointment;
 - 4. Has been a registered lobbyist within the ten years preceding appointment;
 - 5. Is the spouse, parent, child, or sibling of any member of Congress or senior executive official;
 - 6. Has received formal discipline from any court, bar association, or judicial conduct body at any time; or
 - 7. Has been the subject of a complaint before any court, bar association, or judicial conduct body that was substantiated upon investigation within the twenty years preceding appointment.
- (b) Each member shall file upon appointment, and annually thereafter, a disclosure statement including:

1. All assets, income, and debts;
 2. All political donations made within the preceding ten years;
 3. Employment history for the preceding ten years; and
 4. The identity of any family member currently serving in federal, state, or local government.
- (c) Disclosure statements shall be made available to the public.
-

Section 5. Conduct Commission Removal and Compensation

- (a) A member may be removed only for misconduct, incapacity, or failure to perform the duties of office.
 - (b) Removal shall require a vote of two-thirds of the Senate.
 - (c) Members shall receive compensation equal to the salary of a federal circuit court judge.
-

Section 6. Conduct Commission Procedures

- (a) Six members shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business.
 - (b) The Commission shall establish rules and procedures for its operations, which shall be published for public comment for no fewer than sixty days before adoption and made publicly available upon adoption. Congress may disapprove any rule by vote of two-thirds of both the House of Representatives and the Senate.
 - (c) No member of the Commission shall participate in any proceeding involving a judge from the same state in which the member resides or has resided within the preceding ten years.
-

Section 7. Complaints

- (a) Any person with direct knowledge of judicial misconduct may file a complaint with the Commission.
- (b) Complaints must be filed within one year of the alleged misconduct.
- (c) Complaints must be supported by evidence and submitted in writing.

- (d) The Commission shall screen all complaints within thirty days of filing. Complaints determined to be frivolous or without evidentiary basis shall be dismissed.
 - (e) A complainant who files repeated frivolous complaints shall receive a warning. Upon subsequent frivolous filing, the complainant may be banned from filing further complaints and fined an amount determined by the Commission.
-

Section 8. Complaint Transparency

- (a) The Commission shall establish and maintain a publicly accessible database of judicial complaints, indexed by judge's legal name and current judicial position, containing up-to-date records of the following for each judge:
 - 1. Current total number of complaints filed;
 - 2. Current total number of cases presided over, reported by case type (criminal, civil, family, and appellate);
 - 3. Ratio of complaints to caseload, reported by case type;
 - 4. Category of alleged misconduct for each complaint;
 - 5. Court in which each complaint was filed;
 - 6. Current status of each complaint; and
 - 7. Outcome of each resolved complaint, including whether the complaint was: (i) dismissed as frivolous; (ii) dismissed after investigation with no wrongdoing found; (iii) substantiated, with any discipline imposed; or (iv) pending.
 - (b) The name of the accused judge shall not be made public upon filing. If the Commission opens an investigation, the judge's name shall be added to the public record.
 - (c) If a complaint is dismissed as frivolous within the initial screening period, no further information shall be published.
 - (d) Upon imposition of any discipline, the full content and details of the complaint that resulted in discipline shall be made public.
 - (e) The database shall be searchable by judge name, court, category, date, outcome, caseload volume, and complaints-to-caseload ratio.
 - (f) The database shall be available at no cost to the public.
-

Section 9. Categories of Misconduct

- (a) The Commission shall receive and investigate complaints in the following categories:
 - 1. Bias;

2. Ethics violations;
 3. Improper conduct;
 4. Undue delay;
 5. Abuse of discretion;
 6. Discrimination; and
 7. Other misconduct.
- (b) A complaint alleging that a judge's ruling was incorrect on the merits shall not be dismissed solely on that basis if the complaint also presents evidence of misconduct in categories listed in subsection (a).
-

Section 10. Discipline

- (a) Upon finding misconduct, the Commission may impose the following discipline:
1. Public reprimand;
 2. Fine;
 3. Suspension from duties for a period determined by the Commission;
 4. Mandatory training or education;
 5. Referral for criminal prosecution; or
 6. Removal from office.
- (b) Removal from office shall require a vote of no fewer than six members of the Commission.
- (c) Removal may be imposed for:
1. Criminal conviction of a felony;
 2. Bribery or corruption;
 3. A pattern of bias or discrimination;
 4. Repeated ethics violations;
 5. Failure to disclose conflicts of interest; or
 6. Any single act of serious misconduct.
- (d) A judge removed by the Commission shall be permanently barred from holding any federal judicial office.
-

Section 11. Annual Reporting

- (a) The Commission shall publish an annual report including:
 - 1. Total complaints filed;
 - 2. Complaints by category;
 - 3. Complaints by court and circuit;
 - 4. Disposition rates, including complaints dismissed, substantiated, and pending;
 - 5. Average time to resolution;
 - 6. Discipline imposed, by type; and
 - 7. Comparison of complaint rates across courts and circuits.
 - (b) The annual report shall be made available to the public and transmitted to Congress.
-

Section 12. Complaint Database

- (a) The Commission shall establish and maintain a publicly accessible database containing:
 - 1. All complaints that have proceeded to investigation;
 - 2. Status of pending complaints;
 - 3. Disposition of resolved complaints; and
 - 4. Discipline imposed.
 - (b) The database shall be searchable by judge name, court, category, date, and outcome.
 - (c) The database shall be available at no cost to the public.
-

Section 13. Enforcement

- (a) The rights secured by this article are self-executing and shall not require enabling legislation to be enforceable.
- (b) Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.
- (c) Any citizen of the United States shall have standing to bring suit in any federal court to enforce the provisions of this article.
- (d) No State law or action inconsistent with this article shall have any force or effect.
- (e) No provision of this article shall be construed to limit individual rights or remedies otherwise available under this Constitution or the laws of the United States.

Section 14. Effective Date and Implementation

- (a) This article shall take effect immediately upon ratification.
- (b) Congress shall provide for the funding necessary to implement this article through existing appropriations, budget reallocations, or reductions in other expenditures, and may not fund its implementation through fees, surcharges, or new taxes imposed on the general public. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit Congress from adjusting tax policy applicable to higher-income individuals or large corporations to meet these obligations.
- (c) Within sixty days of ratification, the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency shall select Inspector General members, the chief judges of the circuit courts of appeals shall select retired judge members, and the chief justices of state supreme courts shall convene to select state justice members and lay members.
- (d) Within ninety days of ratification, the Commission shall be fully constituted.
- (e) Within one hundred eighty days of ratification, the Commission shall establish rules and procedures, the complaint database shall be operational, and the Commission shall begin receiving complaints.
- (f) If any selecting body fails to choose members within sixty days, the chief justices of all state supreme courts, acting collectively, shall appoint temporary members from the appropriate category to serve until permanent members are selected.
- (g) This article shall be inoperative unless ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within one year from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress.

AMENDMENT VIII
ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to require transparency in attorney discipline, establish a national case law database, abolish filing fees for natural persons, standardize federal court rules, protect self-represented parties, create alternative pathways to legal practice, and define the scope of legal information versus legal representation.

Section 1. Attorney Transparency

- (a) Complaints filed against attorneys with any state bar association, disciplinary body, or court shall be made available to the public.
 - (b) Upon filing of a complaint, the following information shall be made public:
 - 1. Date of filing;
 - 2. Name of the attorney;
 - 3. Category of alleged misconduct;
 - 4. State bar or disciplinary body receiving the complaint; and
 - 5. Status of the complaint.
 - (c) Upon disposition of any complaint, the following shall be made public:
 - 1. The full complaint;
 - 2. The attorney's response;
 - 3. The findings of the disciplinary body; and
 - 4. The outcome, including any discipline imposed.
-

Section 2. National Attorney Grievance Database

- (a) There shall be established a national database of attorney complaints and discipline, maintained by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts.
- (b) Every state bar and attorney disciplinary body must report the following to this database, indexed by individual attorney and identified by state bar number and full legal name:
 - 1. The total number of complaints filed annually and the attorney's total active caseload for that year;
 - 2. The current status of all pending complaints;

3. The final disposition of all resolved complaints, including whether each complaint was dismissed without investigation, dismissed after investigation, or substantiated;
 4. Any discipline imposed;
 5. The full content and details of any complaint that results in discipline.
- (c) The database shall be searchable by attorney name, state, category, date, and outcome.
 - (d) The database shall be available to the public at no cost.
 - (e) Reporting to the national database shall be a condition of attorney admission to practice before any federal court.
-

Section 3. National Case Law Database

- (a) There shall be established a national database of legal decisions and filings, maintained by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts.
 - (b) The database shall include:
 1. All decisions of federal courts;
 2. All decisions of state courts as reported by the states;
 3. Docket information for all filed cases; and
 4. All court rules, forms, and procedural guidance.
 - (c) The database shall be free, searchable, and downloadable by the public.
 - (d) States shall report decisions and docket information to the database within five years of ratification.
-

Section 4. Filing Fees and Court Costs

- (a) No filing fee or court cost shall be imposed upon any natural person seeking access to any federal court.
- (b) Corporations, partnerships, and other legal entities shall remain subject to filing fees as established by law.
- (c) No case brought by a natural person shall be dismissed for failure to pay fees or costs.
- (d) In any case brought by a natural person against a corporation, partnership, or other legal entity, if judgment is entered in favor of the natural person, the court shall order the defendant to pay all court fees and costs that would have been assessed had the plaintiff been subject to such fees

Section 5. Uniform Federal Rules

- (a) The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure, and Federal Rules of Evidence shall apply uniformly in all federal courts.
 - (b) No federal court shall promulgate, enforce, or apply any local rule.
 - (c) All existing local rules are void upon ratification.
 - (d) No party shall be sanctioned, have a filing rejected, or suffer any adverse consequence based on any requirement not contained in the Federal Rules.
 - (e) Any party who suffers an adverse ruling based on a requirement not contained in the Federal Rules shall be entitled to immediate reversal and recovery of costs incurred.
-

Section 6. Protection of Self-Represented Parties

- (a) No motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim shall be granted against a self-represented party until such party has had opportunity to conduct discovery relevant to the claims alleged.
 - (b) Before dismissing any claim brought by a self-represented party, the court shall provide specific written guidance identifying the deficiencies in the claim and shall grant leave to amend at least once.
 - (c) No court shall deny any party access to any filing method, procedure, system, or court resource that is available to licensed attorneys. A self-represented party shall have equal access to electronic filing systems, court records, procedural accommodations, and all other resources available to parties represented by counsel.
 - (d) Court clerks and staff shall provide the same assistance to self-represented parties as they provide to attorneys regarding procedural requirements, filing methods, and court processes. Such assistance shall not constitute legal advice.
 - (e) No court rule shall require representation by a licensed attorney as a condition of filing, appearing, or participating in any proceeding.
-

Section 7. Pathways to Legal Practices

- (a) Every State and the United States shall establish multiple pathways to legal practice, which shall include at minimum:
 - 1. Completion of an undergraduate law degree with qualifying examination; and

2. Completion of a supervised legal apprenticeship of no fewer than four years with qualifying examination.
 - (b) No person shall be denied admission to practice before any court based solely on lack of a graduate or doctoral degree in law if such person has satisfied a pathway established under subsection (a).
 - (c) States shall comply with this section within five years of ratification.
-

Section 8. Legal Information and Advice

- (a) The following activities are reserved to persons licensed to practice law:
 1. Appearing before any court or tribunal as representative of another person; and
 2. Holding oneself out as a licensed attorney, solicitor, or counselor at law.
 - (b) The following activities shall not require licensure and shall not constitute unauthorized practice of law:
 1. Providing information about laws, legal rights, or legal procedures;
 2. Explaining legal options available to another person;
 3. Preparing legal documents on behalf of another person;
 4. Assisting another person in completing court forms; and
 5. Providing advice regarding legal matters.
 - (c) No person who is not a licensed attorney shall be subject to criminal prosecution, civil penalty, or professional sanction for engaging in activities described in subsection (b).
 - (d) Every person receiving legal information or advice from a person who is not a licensed attorney bears responsibility to verify such information and make their own informed decisions.
-

Section 9. Attorney Professional Duties

- (a) Licensed attorneys shall remain subject to professional duties of competence, loyalty, confidentiality, and candor when providing legal services. An attorney who provides legal advice for compensation or who holds themselves out as providing legal services shall owe full professional duties to the person receiving such services.
- (b) No attorney shall provide legal advice or information to any person whom the attorney knows or reasonably should know is an opposing party or potential opposing party in any legal matter. Any communication by an attorney to an unrepresented opposing party

must clearly state that the attorney represents an adverse party and that the unrepresented person should seek independent legal advice.

Section 10. Enforcement

- (a) The rights secured by this article are self-executing and shall not require enabling legislation to be enforceable.
 - (b) Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.
 - (c) Any citizen of the United States shall have standing to bring suit in any federal court to enforce the provisions of this article.
 - (d) No State law or action inconsistent with this article shall have any force or effect.
 - (e) No provision of this article shall be construed to limit individual rights or remedies otherwise available under this Constitution or the laws of the United States.
-

Section 11. Effective Date and Implementation

- (a) This article shall take effect immediately upon ratification.
- (b) Congress shall provide for the funding necessary to implement this article through existing appropriations, budget reallocations, or reductions in other expenditures, and may not fund its implementation through fees, surcharges, or new taxes imposed on the general public. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit Congress from adjusting tax policy applicable to higher-income individuals or large corporations to meet these obligations.
- (c) This article shall be inoperative unless ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within one year from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress.

AMENDMENT IX
LIABILITY & IMMUNITY

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States establishing that no person holding public office or authority is above the law; abolishing doctrines of official immunity from civil and criminal accountability; constitutionalizing the right of citizens to seek redress for deprivation of rights by state actors; clarifying the scope of state sovereign immunity; and restricting the presidential pardon power.

Section 1. Criminal Prosecution of Public Officials

- (a) No person holding any office or position of authority under the United States, including the President, Vice President, members of Congress, and all officers and employees of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches, shall be immune from criminal prosecution for any violation of federal or state law.
 - (b) The fact that an alleged criminal act was performed in the exercise of official duties, or within the constitutional authority of the office held, shall not constitute a defense to criminal prosecution.
 - (c) No person shall be excused from arrest, indictment, or prosecution on the ground that such person currently holds office. Criminal proceedings against an officeholder shall proceed in the ordinary course of law without delay or suspension.
 - (d) This section preserves the privilege of Senators and Representatives under the first clause of the sixth section of the first article of this Constitution with respect to speech or debate in either House.
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Section 2. Abolition of Official Immunity from Civil Suit

- (a) No doctrine of qualified immunity, absolute prosecutorial immunity, or absolute judicial immunity shall shield any officer or employee of the United States, or of any State or subdivision thereof, from civil suit for the deprivation of any right, privilege, or immunity secured by this Constitution or the laws of the United States.
- (b) It shall be a defense to civil liability under this section that the officer or employee acted in good faith and in the reasonable belief that the conduct was lawful. The burden of establishing good faith shall rest upon the officer or employee asserting the defense. Good faith shall be determined by a jury, not by the court on motion for summary judgment.
- (c) Where an officer or employee acts through negligence or error, the aggrieved party may provide written notice identifying the specific conduct and the legal basis for the claim.

The officer or employee shall have twenty-one days from receipt of such notice to correct the identified conduct. If the conduct is corrected within twenty-one days, no personal civil liability shall attach for the period preceding notice. If the conduct is not corrected, personal civil liability shall attach from the date of the original act.

- (d) No notice shall be required, and no good faith defense shall be available, where the officer or employee acted with malicious intent, willful indifference to the rights of any person, or for the purpose of depriving any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law. In such cases, personal civil liability shall attach immediately, and the conduct shall be referred for criminal prosecution.
- (e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the liability of the government entity employing the officer or employee. Suit may be brought against both the individual and the employing entity.
- (f) The defense of sovereign immunity shall not apply to actions brought under this article against the United States or any State for violations of rights secured by this Constitution.

Section 3. Right of Action Against State Deprivation of Rights

- (a) Every person who, under color of any statute, ordinance, regulation, custom, or usage of any State or subdivision thereof, subjects or causes to be subjected any person within the jurisdiction of the United States to the deprivation of any right, privilege, or immunity secured by this Constitution or the laws of the United States shall be liable to the party injured in an action at law or in equity or other proper proceeding for redress.
- (b) No court shall create, apply, or recognize any doctrine of immunity, whether qualified, absolute, or otherwise, that limits or bars an action brought under this section. The liability established by this section shall not be abridged by judicial interpretation.
- (c) It shall be a defense to liability under this section only that the person acted in good faith and with a reasonable belief that the conduct was lawful. The burden of establishing good faith shall rest upon the person asserting the defense. The question of good faith shall be determined by the trier of fact and shall not be resolved by the court on a motion to dismiss or for summary judgment.
- (d) The notice and cure provisions of Section 2(c) of this article shall apply to actions brought under this section where the conduct complained of was negligent rather than intentional.
- (e) No good faith defense or notice provision shall apply where the person acted with malicious intent, willful indifference to the rights of any person, or for the purpose of depriving any person of life, liberty, or property. In such cases, the conduct shall be referred for criminal prosecution.
- (f) This section creates a right of action enforceable in any federal court. No doctrine of abstention, comity, or deference to state proceedings shall bar or delay an action brought under this section.

- (g) No State shall assert sovereign immunity as a defense to an action brought under this section. The Eleventh Article of Amendment shall not be construed to bar any action arising under this section.
 - (h) An action under this section may be brought against any person acting under color of state law, including but not limited to judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officers, correctional officers, administrative officials, and any private person or entity exercising authority delegated by the State.
 - (i) Congress shall have power to enforce this section by appropriate legislation, but the rights secured by this section are self-executing and shall not require enabling legislation to be enforceable.
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Section 4. State Accountability

- (a) The Eleventh Article of Amendment to this Constitution shall not be construed to bar any suit brought by a citizen against the State in which such citizen resides, or against any officer, employee, or agent thereof, for the deprivation of any right, privilege, or immunity secured by this Constitution or the laws of the United States.
 - (b) No State shall assert sovereign immunity as a defense in any action brought by any person alleging a violation of rights secured by this Constitution. The defense of sovereign immunity shall not apply to actions arising under any article of amendment ratified after the original Bill of Rights.
 - (c) A State's liability under this section shall extend to actions taken by any officer, employee, agent, or contractor acting under color of state law, including judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officers, and administrative officials.
 - (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to modify the Eleventh Article of Amendment as it applies to suits by citizens of other States or foreign nationals against a State, except as provided in subsection (b).
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Section 5. Pardon Power

- (a) The President shall not have the power to grant a pardon or commutation to the President's self.
- (b) The President shall not have the power to grant a pardon or commutation to any person for offenses committed while serving in a prior presidential administration in connection with the duties of that administration.
- (c) The President shall not have the power to grant a pardon or commutation to any person for an offense that was committed at the direction of, in coordination with, or for the purpose of benefiting the President.

- (d) The President shall not have the power to grant a pardon or commutation for any of the following offenses:
 - 1. Insurrection, sedition, or rebellion against the United States;
 - 2. Treason or espionage;
 - 3. Contempt of Congress or contempt of any court of the United States;
 - 4. Genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, or torture as defined by federal law or international treaty to which the United States is a party.
 - (e) The President shall not grant a pardon or commutation for any offense for which no formal charge has been filed. A pardon or commutation may be issued only after conviction or entry of a guilty plea.
 - (f) No pardon or commutation shall be issued during the final thirty days of a presidential term.
 - (g) Any pardon or commutation of a sentence for a violent offense resulting in death, or for an offense involving the leadership or operation of a criminal enterprise as defined by federal law, shall require review and approval by the Supreme Court before taking effect. The Court shall determine whether the pardon or commutation serves a legitimate purpose of justice and is not issued for a corrupt purpose.
 - (h) For any pardon or commutation issued to a member of the President's family within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity, or to any current or former member of the President's administration, or to any paid employee of the President's campaign, the President shall submit the pardon to the Supreme Court for review before issuance. The Court shall determine within thirty days whether the pardon was issued for a corrupt purpose. If the Court finds corrupt purpose, the pardon shall be void.
 - (i) The President shall publish a written justification for every pardon and commutation within forty-eight hours of issuance, including the name of the recipient, the offense, the sentence, and the reasons for the grant of clemency.
 - (j) Any pardon or commutation issued in violation of this section shall be void and of no legal effect.
 - (k) Congress shall have power to enforce this section by appropriate legislation.
-

Section 6. Enforcement

- (a) The rights secured by this article are self-executing and shall not require enabling legislation to be enforceable.
- (b) Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.
- (c) Any citizen of the United States shall have standing to bring suit in any federal court to enforce the provisions of this article.
- (d) No State law or action inconsistent with this article shall have any force or effect.

- (e) No provision of this article shall be construed to limit individual rights or remedies otherwise available under this Constitution or the laws of the United States.
 - (f) Any pardon, commutation, or official act taken in violation of this article shall be void and of no legal effect from the date of issuance.
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Section 7. Effective Date and Implementation

- (a) This article shall take effect immediately upon ratification.
- (b) This article shall be inoperative unless ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within one year from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress.

AMENDMENT X
ACCOUNTABILITY & ENFORCEMENT

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to prohibit conflicts in civil claims by executive officials, establish constituent accountability, enforce compliance with legal deadlines and court orders, transfer enforcement authority to the judiciary, and prevent use of pardons or immunity to obstruct enforcement.

Section 1. Conflicts in Civil Claims

- (a) No person holding the office of President, Vice President, or any Senate-confirmed executive branch position shall initiate, maintain, or settle any civil claim against the United States, any agency thereof, or any officer acting in official capacity, during the term of service.
 - (b) Any pending civil claim shall be stayed for the duration of service.
 - (c) Settlement of any claim involving the President or Vice President shall require approval by the Constitutional Court.
-

Section 2. Constituent Accountability System

- (a) Congress shall establish and maintain a public online system for receiving and responding to constituent communications regarding government accountability, institutional misconduct, and failures of official duty.
 - (b) All communications and responses shall be public record.
 - (c) Response metrics shall be published quarterly and made available to voters at polling locations and on official election websites.
-

Section 3. Deadline Compliance

When any law establishes a deadline for executive action, disclosure, or release of records, failure to meet such deadline shall result in:

- (a) Automatic suspension of salary for the responsible official until compliance;
- (b) Automatic suspension of duties, with authority transferring to the designated deputy or next in succession until compliance;

- (c) For document release deadlines, automatic public release without redaction upon the date of non-compliance.
-

Section 4. Court Order Compliance

All officers and employees of the executive branch shall comply with final orders of any court of competent jurisdiction. All officers of the United States, without exception, shall be subject to the provisions of this section. Willful failure to comply with a court order affecting the life, liberty, or legal status of any person shall result in:

- (a) Immediate detention of the official who ordered or executed the non-compliance;
 - (b) Detention shall continue until the court order is satisfied;
 - (c) Criminal liability shall attach automatically without requiring prosecutorial discretion;
 - (d) If the President is detained under this section, the Vice President shall assume presidential powers until compliance is achieved.
-

Section 5. Enforcement Authority

- (a) The United States Marshals Service shall be transferred to the judicial branch and shall operate under the direction of the Constitutional Court.
 - (b) The Marshals shall execute court orders, enforce the provisions of this article, and shall not be subject to executive direction.
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Section 6. No Pardon or Immunity

No pardon, reprieve, or immunity shall prevent enforcement of this article or shield any official from its sanctions.

Section 7. Enforcement

- (c) The rights secured by this article are self-executing and shall not require enabling legislation to be enforceable.
- (d) Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

- (e) Any citizen of the United States shall have standing to bring suit in any federal court to enforce the provisions of this article.
 - (f) No State law or action inconsistent with this article shall have any force or effect.
 - (g) No provision of this article shall be construed to limit individual rights or remedies otherwise available under this Constitution or the laws of the United States.
-

Section 8. Effective Date and Implementation

- (a) This article shall take effect immediately upon ratification.
- (b) Congress shall provide for the funding necessary to implement this article through existing appropriations, budget reallocations, or reductions in other expenditures, and may not fund its implementation through fees, surcharges, or new taxes imposed on the general public. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit Congress from adjusting tax policy applicable to higher-income individuals or large corporations to meet these obligations.
- (c) The public constituent accountability system under Section 2 shall be operational within one year of ratification.
- (d) Transfer of the United States Marshals Service under Section 5 shall be complete within one year of ratification.
- (e) This article shall be inoperative unless ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within one year from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress.

AMENDMENT XI
**IMMIGRATION & ASYLUM
STANDARDS**

Proposing an amendment establishing due process protections for persons subject to immigration enforcement, prohibiting deportation to countries where individuals face documented persecution, setting constitutional standards for detention, protecting family unity, and linking asylum obligations to U.S. foreign policy conduct.

Section 1. Protection of Citizenship

- (a) No citizen of the United States, whether by birth or naturalization, shall be deported or exiled from the United States.
 - (b) No naturalized citizen shall be denaturalized except upon conviction in a federal court of having procured naturalization by willful material fraud, following a full criminal trial with all constitutional protections. Administrative denaturalization proceedings are prohibited.
 - (c) Birthright citizenship as established by the Fourteenth Amendment to this Constitution shall not be abridged, denied, or conditioned by any act of Congress, executive order, or administrative action. Every person born within the jurisdiction of the United States is a citizen of the United States regardless of the immigration status of such person's parents.
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Section 2. Due Process in Immigration Proceedings

- (d) No person within the jurisdiction of the United States shall be deported, removed, or transferred to a foreign country without due process of law. Immigration proceedings are matters of liberty, and all constitutional protections applicable to deprivation of liberty shall apply.
- (e) Congress shall establish an independent Immigration Court of the United States, separate from the Department of Justice and any executive agency. Immigration judges shall be appointed to fixed terms of no fewer than ten years, removable only for cause. The Immigration Court shall be funded as an independent court, and the number of judges shall be determined by caseload. No officer of the executive branch shall have authority to direct, overrule, or reassign the decision of any immigration judge in an individual case.
- (f) Every person subject to removal proceedings shall have the right to:

1. A hearing before an independent immigration judge not subject to executive branch direction in individual case determinations;
 2. Present evidence, compel witnesses, and confront adverse evidence;
 3. Judicial review of any removal order by an Article III court before execution of that order;
 4. An interpreter at government expense in any language necessary to participate meaningfully in proceedings.
- (g) No person shall be removed from the United States on the basis of secret evidence or classified information that the person and their counsel have not had the opportunity to review and challenge.
- (h) No removal order shall be executed during the pendency of any appeal or habeas corpus petition. No person shall be transferred or deported while legal proceedings remain active.
- (i) Any person erroneously deported or removed shall have the right to return to the United States and shall be entitled to compensation for damages resulting from the unlawful removal.
-

Section 3. Prohibition on Deportation to Danger

- (a) No person shall be deported, removed, extradited, or transferred to any country or territory where there are substantial grounds for believing that the person would face:
1. Torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment;
 2. Persecution on the basis of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, membership in a particular social group, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity;
 3. A real risk of death, including by extrajudicial killing, armed conflict, or capital punishment.
- (b) This prohibition is absolute and shall not be subject to exception on grounds of national security, public safety, criminal history, or any other basis. No person may be transferred to a third country for the purpose of circumventing this prohibition.
- (c) The burden of proving that a proposed country of removal is safe shall rest with the government.
- (d) No agreement, arrangement, or understanding between the United States and a foreign government shall authorize deportation or transfer in violation of this section.
-

Section 4. Detention Standards

- (a) Immigration detention is a deprivation of liberty. All protections against cruel and unusual punishment under the Eighth Amendment to this Constitution shall apply to immigration detention without distinction between civil and criminal classification.
 - (b) No person shall be detained for immigration purposes for longer than ninety days without an individualized hearing before an independent judge of the Immigration Court establishing that continued detention is necessary because the person poses a specific, documented flight risk or danger to public safety. The burden of proof shall rest with the government. Such hearings shall be repeated at ninety-day intervals for the duration of detention.
 - (c) Congress shall establish by law the maximum duration of immigration detention, which shall not exceed the minimum period necessary to resolve proceedings. Congress shall review and adjust such limitation no less than every five years. No person shall be detained indefinitely for immigration purposes.
 - (d) Conditions of immigration detention shall meet or exceed the minimum standards required for pretrial criminal detention under federal law, including:
 - 1. Adequate food, clean water, and sanitary living conditions;
 - 2. Timely access to medical, dental, and mental health care;
 - 3. Access to legal counsel, legal materials, and communication with family;
 - 4. Access to outdoor recreation;
 - 5. Protection from physical and sexual abuse;
 - 6. Communication and legal materials in a language the detained person understands.
 - (e) An independent oversight body, appointed by the judiciary and not subject to executive direction, shall conduct unannounced inspections of all immigration detention facilities no less than quarterly. Inspection reports shall be published in full and made available to the public within thirty days of completion.
 - (f) Any person detained in conditions that violate this section shall have standing to seek immediate relief in any federal court, including release from detention.
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Section 5. Prohibition on For-Profit Immigration Detention

- (a) No private entity shall own, operate, manage, or derive revenue from any facility used for immigration detention.

- (b) No contract, agreement, or arrangement between the United States or any State and any private entity shall provide for compensation that scales with the number of persons detained, the duration of detention, or bed occupancy rates.
 - (c) No minimum occupancy requirement, bed quota, or guaranteed payment for unused detention capacity shall be included in any contract for immigration detention services.
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Section 6. Protection of Children and Family Unity

- (a) For purposes of this section, a child is any person under the age of eighteen years.
 - (b) No child shall be detained in any immigration detention facility under any circumstances. Children who are unaccompanied shall be placed in the custody of licensed child welfare agencies, not in the custody of any law enforcement or immigration enforcement agency, and shall be appointed independent legal counsel and a child welfare advocate.
 - (c) No family shall be separated in the course of immigration enforcement except upon a finding by a court of competent jurisdiction that a parent or guardian poses a direct and immediate safety threat to the child, applying the same standard used in domestic child welfare proceedings. Separation of a family for the purpose of deterring migration or punishing immigration violations is prohibited.
 - (d) Where a parent or guardian is subject to removal proceedings and has a child who is a citizen of the United States, no removal order shall be executed without a judicial finding that the order accounts for the constitutional rights of the citizen child, including the right to remain in the United States with their family. The court shall consider:
 - 1. The best interests of the child;
 - 2. The availability of the deported parent to continue providing care;
 - 3. The conditions in the country of proposed removal as they affect the child;
 - 4. The disruption to the child's education, medical care, and community ties.
 - (e) Any immigration proceeding involving a child, whether as the subject or as a family member of the subject, shall be prioritized on the docket and assigned independent child welfare review separate from the immigration adjudication.
 - (f) No child shall be used as a witness, informant, or leverage in immigration enforcement against any member of their family.
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Section 7. Transparency in Immigration Enforcement

- (a) The Department of Homeland Security, or any successor agency responsible for immigration enforcement, shall publish monthly reports containing, at minimum:
 - 1. The total number of persons detained, disaggregated by age, sex, nationality, and length of detention;

2. The criminal history of all detained persons, including the specific offenses charged or convicted, or the absence of any criminal history;
 3. The number of persons deported and the countries to which they were deported;
 4. The number of deaths in detention and the circumstances of each death;
 5. The number of families separated and the basis for each separation;
 6. The number of children in government custody and the facilities in which they are placed;
 7. The number of persons deported while legal proceedings were pending or without access to counsel;
 8. Total expenditures on detention, deportation, and enforcement operations, disaggregated by facility and contractor.
- (b) All reports required by this section shall be made publicly available at no cost and in a machine-readable format. Failure to publish any required report within sixty days shall result in automatic suspension of salary for the responsible official until compliance, as provided in Amendment X of this Constitution.
- (c) No information required by this section shall be classified, redacted, or withheld on grounds of national security, law enforcement sensitivity, or any other basis.
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Section 8. Asylum Obligations & Accountability for Destabilization

- (d) Any person present in the United States or at its borders who expresses a fear of persecution or harm shall have the right to apply for asylum and to have such application adjudicated in a full hearing before an independent immigration judge with all protections provided in Section 2 of this article.
- (e) The definition of refugee for purposes of United States law shall include any person who has fled their country because their life, safety, or freedom has been threatened by generalized violence, foreign aggression, internal conflicts, massive violation of human rights, or other circumstances that have seriously disturbed public order.
- (f) Where documented actions of the United States government—including but not limited to military intervention, covert operations, economic sanctions, trade policies, or drug enforcement policies—have materially contributed to conditions of violence, instability, or economic collapse causing mass displacement in a foreign nation, the United States shall maintain accessible asylum pathways and shall not impose barriers to protection for persons displaced from such nations.
- (g) Congress shall establish and maintain a nonpartisan commission to review and publish findings, no less than every five years, identifying nations whose displacement conditions are substantially linked to documented United States government actions. The commission's findings shall be binding for purposes of subsection (c).

- (h) No executive order, policy, or administrative action shall deny, restrict, or delay access to asylum proceedings on the basis of the applicant's country of origin, method of entry, or failure to apply for protection in a transit country.
 - (i) Asylum seekers shall not be detained pending adjudication unless a court finds specific, individualized grounds for detention under Section 4 of this article. Asylum seekers who are not detained shall be permitted to work and access public services during the pendency of their proceedings.
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Section 9. Enforcement

- (a) The rights secured by this article are self-executing and shall not require enabling legislation to be enforceable.
 - (b) Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.
 - (c) Any citizen of the United States shall have standing to bring suit in any federal court to enforce the provisions of this article.
 - (d) No State law or action inconsistent with this article shall have any force or effect.
 - (e) No provision of this article shall be construed to limit individual rights or remedies otherwise available under this Constitution or the laws of the United States.
 - (f) Any deportation, removal, or transfer executed in violation of this article shall be void. The United States shall facilitate the return of any person unlawfully removed and shall provide compensation for damages.
 - (g) Any officer who orders or executes a deportation, removal, or transfer in knowing violation of this article shall be subject to criminal prosecution and shall not be shielded by any claim of immunity, official duty, or superior orders.
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Section 10. Effective Date and Implementation

- (a) This article shall take effect immediately upon ratification.
- (b) Congress shall provide for the funding necessary to implement this article through existing appropriations, budget reallocations, or reductions in other expenditures, and may not fund its implementation through fees, surcharges, or new taxes imposed on the general public. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit Congress from adjusting tax policy applicable to higher-income individuals or large corporations to meet these obligations.
- (c) The Immigration Court of the United States shall be established and operational within two years of ratification. During the transition period, no officer of the executive branch shall exercise authority to direct, overrule, or reassign the decision of any immigration judge in an individual case. All cases pending before the Department of Justice immigration courts at the time the Immigration Court becomes operational shall be

transferred to the new court. The Department of Justice shall have no authority over immigration adjudication after the transition period expires.

- (d) The independent detention oversight body required by Section 4(e) shall be established within one hundred eighty days of ratification.
- (e) The nonpartisan commission required by Section 8(d) shall be established and shall publish its initial findings within one year of ratification.
- (f) Upon ratification of this article, no new contract shall be entered into, and no existing contract shall be renewed or extended, with any private entity for immigration detention services. No person shall be newly placed in a private detention facility after the date of ratification. All existing contracts that violate Section 5 shall be terminated within one year of ratification.
- (g) This article shall be inoperative unless ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within one year from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress.

AMENDMENT XII
**MEDIA INDEPENDENCE &
REGULATION**

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to protect press independence, prevent government control of media, establish factual integrity standards, limit media monopolies, and safeguard public media funding.

Section 1. Definitions

- (a) "Communications platform" means any digital service that hosts, curates, algorithmically promotes, or distributes user-generated or third-party content to the public, including social media platforms, video-sharing services, search engines that surface news content, and content recommendation systems. This definition shall be construed broadly to encompass future technologies serving equivalent functions.
- (b) "Media organization" means any entity that regularly produces, publishes, broadcasts, or distributes news reporting, analysis, or editorial content to the public through any medium, including broadcast, cable, satellite, print, digital, or any communications platform.
- (c) "News reporting" means content presented to the public as factual accounts of events, whether by explicit designation or by reasonable audience interpretation based on the format, context, and manner of presentation. This term does not include content clearly and persistently labeled as opinion, editorial, commentary, or satire.
- (d) "Opinion content" means content presenting the viewpoints, interpretations, or editorial judgments of the speaker or author, clearly and persistently identified as such to the audience throughout the duration of its presentation.
- (e) "Dominant share" means a degree of ownership or control over media distribution within a single market or nationally that is sufficient to substantially reduce the diversity of independent editorial voices available to the public. Congress shall establish specific numerical thresholds. In the absence of implementing legislation, federal courts shall determine dominance on a case-by-case basis applying this principle.
- (f) "Immediate family member" means a spouse, domestic partner, child, stepchild, parent, stepparent, or sibling of the officeholder, and any entity in which such persons hold a controlling financial interest.
- (g) "Functional operating threshold" means the minimum level of funding necessary to maintain independent editorial operations, national distribution, and local programming across all states and territories.
- (h) "Algorithmically promotes" means the use of automated systems, including but not limited to recommendation algorithms, ranking systems, and content curation tools, to

increase the visibility, reach, or prominence of specific content to users beyond the users' direct and intentional selection.

- (i) "For cause" means misconduct, neglect of duty, incapacity, or criminal conviction. Policy disagreements, political affiliation, or regulatory decisions shall not constitute cause.
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Section 2. Independence of Communications Regulators

- (a) Any federal agency or commission with regulatory authority over speech, press, broadcasting, or communications shall operate independently of presidential direction on matters of regulatory substance, enforcement, and licensing.
 - (b) Such commissions shall be composed of no fewer than seven members, confirmed by two-thirds vote of the Senate. No more than three commissioners may be affiliated with the same political party. At least one commissioner shall be affiliated with no political party.
 - (c) Commissioners shall serve staggered terms of ten years. No person may serve more than one term.
 - (d) No commissioner may be removed except for cause, by two-thirds vote of the Senate.
 - (e) The commission shall designate its own chair by annual vote among commissioners. No external authority, including the President, shall designate or remove the chair.
 - (f) The chair shall preside over meetings, represent the commission publicly, and manage administrative operations. The chair shall hold no unilateral authority over agenda-setting, enforcement priorities, staffing decisions, or bureau oversight.
 - (g) Agenda-setting, enforcement priorities, hiring and oversight of bureau chiefs and senior staff, and all regulatory actions shall be determined by majority vote of the full commission.
 - (h) Any two commissioners may place any matter on the commission's agenda for a vote. No single commissioner may prevent an item from reaching a vote.
 - (i) The President shall not direct, coerce, threaten, or retaliate against any commissioner or agency staff for regulatory decisions, enforcement actions, or licensing determinations.
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Section 3. Prohibition on Government Interest in Media and Communications

- (a) No person holding the office of President, Vice President, or member of Congress, nor any immediate family member thereof, shall hold any direct or indirect financial interest in any entity that owns, operates, or controls a broadcast network, communications platform, news organization, media organization, or media distribution service.

- (b) Any such interest held at the time of taking office shall be divested within one hundred eighty days.
 - (c) No sitting federal officeholder shall direct, broker, facilitate, or benefit from the acquisition of any communications platform by any person or entity with whom the officeholder has a financial, familial, or business relationship.
 - (d) Violations of this section shall constitute grounds for impeachment and shall be subject to criminal prosecution upon leaving office.
-

Section 4. Prohibition on Regulatory Retaliation Against Protected Speech and Factual Integrity Standards

- (a) No federal agency shall condition, revoke, deny, delay, or threaten to revoke any license, permit, funding, or regulatory approval based on the political content of speech, editorial decisions, or viewpoint expressed by the licensee or applicant.
 - (b) No federal officer or employee shall publicly or privately threaten regulatory action against any person or entity for the purpose of chilling, deterring, or punishing the exercise of speech or press freedoms protected by the First Amendment.
 - (c) Any person or entity subject to such action shall have standing to seek immediate injunctive relief in federal court. The burden of proof shall rest with the government to demonstrate that the regulatory action was not retaliatory.
 - (d) No entity presenting news reporting to the public shall present statements of fact known to be false, or made with reckless disregard for their truth, regarding the conduct of elections, public health emergencies, or the official actions of government. Such presentation as news reporting shall constitute a violation of this section.
 - (e) Any citizen shall have standing to bring a civil action in federal court to enforce this subsection. The court shall adjudicate all claims. No federal commission, elected official, or political appointee shall have authority to initiate, direct, or influence enforcement of this subsection.
 - (f) This section shall not apply to opinion content as defined in Section 1 of this article.
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Section 5. Media Ownership and Information Diversity

- (a) No single entity, nor entities under common ownership or control, shall hold a dominant share of broadcast, print, or digital news distribution in any single media market or nationally.

- (b) Congress shall establish and maintain specific ownership thresholds and concentration limits. The absence of implementing legislation shall not diminish the force of this section; federal courts shall have authority to enforce the principle directly.
 - (c) No entity holding a federal broadcast license shall impose uniform editorial directives, scripts, or mandatory content segments across independently licensed stations or markets.
 - (d) Congress shall not weaken or repeal ownership limits except by two-thirds vote of both houses.
-

Section 6. Public Information Infrastructure

- (a) Congress shall fund and maintain an independent, nonpartisan public media system accessible to all persons within the United States.
 - (b) Funding for public media shall not be conditioned on editorial content, political viewpoint, or the approval of any elected official.
 - (c) Public media funding may be adjusted through the regular appropriations process but shall not be eliminated or reduced below the functional operating threshold as retaliation for editorial independence.
 - (d) Editorial and programming decisions of publicly funded media shall be made independently of Congress, the President, and any federal agency.
-

Section 7. Consumer Protection in Media Markets

- (a) Congress shall enact and maintain protections against anticompetitive practices in media distribution, including but not limited to exclusive content licensing designed to compel subscription bundling, artificial fragmentation of content across affiliated platforms, and pricing structures that exploit consolidated market power.
 - (b) The anticompetitive harm analysis applied to media mergers and acquisitions shall include harm to information diversity, editorial independence, and democratic participation — not solely economic harm measured by consumer price.
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Section 8. Enforcement

- (a) Any person, entity, or State shall have standing to challenge violations of this article in federal court.
- (b) Federal courts shall have authority to grant injunctive relief, impose civil penalties, and order divestiture for violations of Sections 3 and 5.

- (c) Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation consistent with its provisions.
 - (d) No provision of this article shall be construed to permit government censorship of any speech or press.
-

Section 10. Effective Date and Implementation

- (a) This article shall take effect one year after the date of ratification.
- (b) Congress shall provide for the funding necessary to implement this article through existing appropriations, budget reallocations, or reductions in other expenditures, and may not fund its implementation through fees, surcharges, or new taxes imposed on the general public. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit Congress from adjusting tax policy applicable to higher-income individuals or large corporations to meet these obligations.
- (c) Within one hundred eighty days of ratification, the President shall nominate and the Senate shall confirm commissioners to reconstitute any existing commission subject to Section 2 of this article under the requirements herein. Incumbent commissioners not reconfirmed under the new requirements shall complete their existing terms but may not exercise unilateral authority inconsistent with this article.
- (d) Within one year of ratification, Congress shall enact implementing legislation for Sections 5 and 7 of this article, including specific ownership thresholds, concentration limits, and consumer protection standards.
- (e) If Congress fails to enact implementing legislation within the period specified in subsection (c), the independent commission constituted under Section 2 shall promulgate interim regulations consistent with the principles of this article, which shall remain in force until superseded by legislation.
- (f) Any person holding a financial interest prohibited by Section 3 at the time of ratification shall divest such interest within one hundred eighty days or resign from office.
- (g) All existing federal regulations, licenses, and enforcement actions inconsistent with this article shall be brought into compliance within two years of ratification.
- (h) This article shall be inoperative unless ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within one year from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress.