

INITIATIVES AMENDMENT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Our Congress has abused the People's trust by creating [systemic](#) Congressional [corruption](#), [dysfunction](#), and [inefficiency](#). Moreover, it has usurped our Democratic Republic by advancing rule by a [Plutocracy](#) of the executives, directors, and major stockholders of domestic and international corporations, aided by [12,000](#) lobbyists who include over [350](#) retired congresspersons. Congress permits massively merged [Plutocratic media](#) corporations that [propagandize](#) their issues, facilitate [divide and rule](#) strategies. [Hundreds](#) of books, studies, and articles leave no doubt about the reality and severity of these Problems. However, Congress cannot and will not produce an effective Solution because Plutocracy bestows Congresspersons with far greater personal benefits than the People can provide. Consequently, Congress [strongly accommodates](#) Plutocracy's wishes and does not consider the People's wishes. Our [government of the people](#) has become by the Plutocracy, for the Plutocracy.

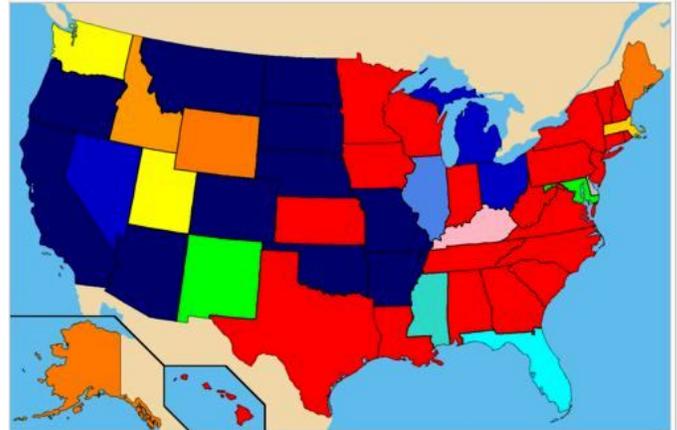
That many freshman Congresspersons are decent people and unhappy about Plutocracy is largely irrelevant, because Congress quickly corrupts them or Plutocrats' targeted election funding often ensures that defiant holdouts lose their seats.

The People can vote, donate, petition, and demonstrate, but [Congress ignores them](#) or hides behind mostly cosmetic solutions. Congress gives its serious attention only to big money, re-election, massive protest, and to the People's remaining peaceful authority: the [Declaration of Independence](#) proclaims that, when confronted by abuse and usurpation, it is the People's Right and their Duty to alter their Government.

The People can enforce this remaining Right peacefully only through the Power of the States, which can apply for an [Article V Convention](#), propose Constitutional Amendments, and later ratify those Amendments. Congress has no Constitutional Power to prevent this most deliberate intent of the Framers ([Hamilton](#), [Madison](#), et al.) In August 2014, the [Congressional Research Service](#) affirmed that Congress should not impede an Article V Convention that is limited to dealing with a single issue, or group of issues.

To motivate States to alter Federal Government, the People have the Duty to use STATE initiatives to require States to apply for a Convention [limited](#) to an Amendment defining a Constitutional

Solution. In [18 States](#) with direct initiatives, the People can compel their State to apply. Additionally, in [six States](#) with other forms of initiatives, the People can demand State support. In total, these 24 initiative States represent 70 percent of the 34 States needed to apply for the Amendment. In addition, 14 or more of 26 non-initiative States must concur to reach the 38 states needed to ratify the Amendment.



States that allow direct initiated constitutional amendments

- States that allow legislatively-referred and direct initiative statutes, or legislatively-referred and direct initiated constitutional amendments or referendums.
- States that allow legislatively-referred and indirect initiative statutes, or legislatively-referred and direct initiated constitutional amendments or referendums.
- Illinois allows legislatively-referred initiative statutes, or legislatively-referred and direct initiated constitutional amendments or referendums.

- Mississippi allows legislatively-referred, indirect, and direct initiated constitutional amendments.
- Florida allows legislatively-referred, and direct initiated constitutional amendments.

States and federal district that allow initiated statutes

- Massachusetts allows legislatively-referred and indirect initiative statutes, or legislatively-referred and indirect initiated constitutional amendments or referendums.
- States that allow legislatively-referred, indirect, and direct initiative statutes, or legislatively-referred initiated constitutional amendments or referendums.
- Idaho allows direct initiative statutes, or legislatively-referred initiated constitutional amendments or referendums.
- States that allow indirect initiative statutes, or legislatively-referred initiated constitutional amendments or referendums.
- Washington D.C. allows direct initiative statutes.

States that allow referendums

- States that allow legislatively-referred state statutes, or legislatively-referred initiated constitutional amendments or referendums.

States that allow legislative referral only

- Kentucky allows legislatively-referred state statutes and legislatively-referred initiated constitutional amendments.
- States that allow legislatively-referred initiated constitutional amendments only.

[Courtesy © Wikipedia](#)

In the States, in which the People lack authority to bypass any State Government reluctance or corruption, the People must generate massive voter pressure, apply focus, leverage contestable elections, if necessary forming movements like those that created initiatives to control corruption in [21 States](#) from 1898 to 1918. Financial support will come from the many businesspersons who prefer level-playing-field competition to corruption,

freedom-loving philanthropists and nonprofits, and the People. It will take much time, effort, and money, but our history shows that it is certainly feasible.

The national effort to pass just one federal Amendment is huge, lengthy, expensive, and exhausting, whereas Plutocratic mischief is nimble, quick, lucrative, surreptitious, and recurring. Even an unlimited Constitutional Convention of the states could address only a few issues and cannot anticipate or respond to future issues. Therefore, the Solution must facilitate passage of Federal Laws and proposal of Constitutional Amendments over many years to resolve systemic corruption, dysfunction, inefficiency, Plutocracy, and subsequent attempts to circumvent the People's intent.

The only way for the People to gain this continuing power to check and balance Government corruption and Plutocratic takeover is by a [Limited Constitutional Amendment](#) defining a FEDERAL Direct Initiative System. The People alone will be responsible for and will operate this Initiative System in accordance with its Constitutional [Charter](#), capable of enforcing the People's wishes, capable of adapting to new circumstances, funded as an inalienable right of the People. The Constitutional Amendment must [Order](#) correct implementation of the System, denying Federal Government the opportunity to subvert it.

Even though the People value their existing STATE initiative rights, [Plutocratic manipulation](#) of signature gathering is easy and the qualification process cannot scale effectively to a Federal level. However, an [improved](#) Initiatives System makes Federal Initiatives both feasible and effective. Small self-organizing Groups of about 25 Citizens, some excelling with the finest experts and the most competent minds in the nation, provide the most effective way to create excellent remedies. They will have the right to propose Initiatives by publishing them in a newspaper that will concurrently post them to an Internet database. An Internet website (adopting social media and collaboration technologies) will present all proposed Initiatives enabling the People to search, evaluate, comment, grade, suggest improvement, and avoid duplication; however, data that might encourage effects such as "group think", "decision cascade", etc. will not be displayed while those risks are significant. Constraints, declining over

time, will reduce initial inundation, mischievous over-use, and backlog.

The People will probably create a large number of proposed initiatives, but the People will want only a few on their ballot. Mirroring all the People, an adequately compensated and very well protected Assembly of about 500 randomly selected Citizens will perform the culling—adopting many concepts of a large [federal Grand Jury](#) process, our most incorruptible [decision-making](#) method of choosing between alternatives. (At a State level since 2012, the Oregon [Citizens' Initiative Review Commission](#) convenes a randomly selected panel of voters to evaluate [state initiatives](#) before they go on the ballot.) The Assembly (Jury) size assures representation of all the People's views to national poll [accuracy](#), makes any tampering effort dangerous and impracticable, and provides small-jury teams to evaluate the proposed Initiatives, ranking and finally, with the full jury, voting to select the best few as Candidate Initiatives for the People's vote at each Federal Election.

After Candidate Initiative publication, months of open public debate will ensue, then the People will vote their decision at the next General Election. Congress shall not have an override power nor the President a veto power over a FEDERAL Initiative. Thus, citizen legislation can become law in one to three years after a citizen group originally wrote it—fast enough to be effective. Federal Constitutional Initiatives will go directly to the State Legislatures for their ratification.

This Solution can restore and defend their Democratic Republic, the People recommitted to and supportive of their Government, guardians of their Constitution and Government. The People value initiative power—since South Dakota first adopted initiatives in 1898, no State has ever discontinued initiatives. Note that this Solution does not advocate any specific Federal Initiative subject or content—that is up to the People after this Solution is in place.

Without a Solution, the People can expect the Problems to get worse. Individuals who neglect their Duty and Right to alter their corrupt, dysfunctional, inefficient, and plutocratic Government are complicit in the consequences. The world watches while the true meaning of our democratic republic, the integrity of our Citizens, and our nation's claim to leadership are in the balance.
