

**Congress has effectively created a Plutocratic Republic. The Initiatives Amendment can restore our Democratic Republic.**

## Summary

Federal government's [systemic corruption](#), [dysfunction](#), and [waste](#) is intolerable. It grows hand-in-hand with the [bribery](#) and [coercion](#) by a [Plutocracy](#) of huge corporations, vastly wealthy individuals, [lobbyists](#), [special interests](#), and [monopoly](#) media. This is the primary cause of inferior governance, [inequalities](#), [massive national debt](#), [financial crashes](#), etc. It is not the governance that our founding documents promised the People; instead it greatly harms the People and especially their children. This website describes in detail how to solve this problem permanently and constitutionally, without dramatic Government change or bloodshed, over the opposition of Congress and Plutocracy.

Our Constitution's Framers knew that democracy worked outstandingly well in the ancient [Cities of Greece](#) and in New England [Town Meetings](#), but it could not be scaled up for the entire U.S. because all the People could not [gather in one place](#) to make democratic decisions. The Framers could not have anticipated today's Internet revolution that enables the People to communicate instantaneously across the nation. Consequently, the Framers decided that the People should elect Representatives normally serving [one or two terms](#) as a civic duty, hoping that they would act in the People's democratic interests even while realizing that all governments degenerate. They would be appalled that most representatives today have [gerrymandered](#) safe seats, serve many terms, and allocate excessive congressional to [fund-raising](#), because re-election is the vital stepping-stone for half of Congress to enter [legalized revolving-door lobbying](#) and benefit from incomes in the millions.

Starting in 1898, in response to the industrial [robber barons'](#) corruption of State politics, [24 States](#) introduced People's Initiatives that demonstrate the People's competence to vote biannually on up to 20 initiatives. The People support this State right: none have rescinded it. Rather It has expanded to many cities and counties, so that today 70 percent of voters have initiatives on their ballots. Switzerland is the only recent (since 1891) example of nationwide initiatives. The Swiss have prospered: starting as a very poor country Switzerland now ranks with the world's top three in [life expectancy, education, and income per capita](#) (the U.S. has fallen to eighth; [27th](#) if inequality is considered). The challenge is how to implement benefits of Initiatives to the U.S. Government effectively, considering [pros & cons](#), [minimizing risk](#), and with constitutionally-compatible [guidelines](#).

Some groups of able and knowledgeable Citizens will create excellent initiative proposals, but the majority will fall short of the quality required. Therefore, [winnowing](#) all the People's initiative proposals down to the few on which the People will want to vote is crucial. Statistically, it requires a super [grand jury](#) (called [Initiatives Qualifying Assembly](#) or [IQA](#)) of about 500 randomly-selected Citizens (about half the size of a Gallup poll) to decide accurately which initiatives should go on the ballot. Oregon has adopted a [State Initiative winnowing](#) process to improve their State initiatives; several other States and the E.U. are also considering this.

The question is can these ideas be developed into a system enabling the People to [do and undo](#) all manner of things that Congress does and to have a major effect over time? Moreover, can the system work, evolve, and function cooperatively and effectively in parallel with our current form of

Government, which must perform the vast majority of the work to run the country? Crucially, can the system be constitutionally [authorized](#), [defined](#), and [implemented](#) by an initiatives amendment, overcoming fierce resistance by Government and Plutocracy?

These issues are answered affirmatively with details in the remainder of this website. To see how the Solution works, look at the simple [one-page explanation](#). It shows that we can have a Government that is far less corrupt and far more responsive to the People's well-being, while still accomplishing all the good things that our Government does today. The six key constitutional and legislative documents that create the Initiatives Amendment and its operation are:

**U.S. Constitution Documents**

[Constitutional Amendment](#) with two [referenced documents](#):

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[Constitutional Orders](#) to Government to establish the Initiatives process

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[Initiatives Qualifying Assembly \(IQA\) Rules](#) defining and managing how Initiatives get onto Federal Election Ballots

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**State Documents Calling a Constitutional Convention using:**

In [16 States](#) with [Direct Constitutional Initiatives](#), voters should incorporate the U.S. Constitutional Amendment into their State Constitutions, permanently requiring applications to Congress and demanding ratification. With Legislative Initiatives in an additional [8 States](#), they can legislatively require applications to Congress and demand ratification.

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[State Referendums](#) available in all States.

In the balance of 14 non-[Initiative States](#) needed to make up a total of [38 States](#) to ratify the Amendment, it will be a harder battle, but the People can focus their efforts to pass a Referendum or enact Legislation in one state after another – e.g., using the [Initiatives Amendment Pledge](#) as a voting guide for State and Federal Candidates.

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[State Legislation](#) bypassing Referendum or Initiative in proactive States concerned by the dominance and harm of Federal Plutocracy.

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