

www.CUSDI.org

Our Founders' Warning: "Every government degenerates when trusted to the rulers of the people alone. The people themselves are its only safe depositories." (Thomas Jefferson)

[about](#) [contact](#)

"Unless the mass retains sufficient control over those entrusted with the powers of their government, these will be perverted to their own oppression, and to the perpetuation of wealth and power in the individuals and their families selected for the trust." (Thomas Jefferson). Clearly, the Founders did not trust elected representatives not to abuse their office to pursue their personal wealth and repeated reelection. But the People have ignored our Founders' wisdom.

Consequently, our Democratic Republic has now become a ruling Oligarchy of huge corporations and vastly wealthy individuals, aided by hordes of lobbyists, non-profit fronts, dark money, and Oligarchs' media. They use their wealth and resources to select and buy candidates' loyalty, fund their campaigns, dictate their votes; creating intolerable systemic corruption, spreading big liepropaganda, causing lock-step dysfunction, wasting the Nation's physical and human resources. **Congressnow represents Oligarchs not the People.**



The U.S., not long ago clearly the world leader, has fallen to 21st amongst nations, and is classified as a flawed democracy. Among many analyses, a 10-min. video and a Senator's eBook "Captured" explain what has gone wrong. Neither the Peoples' Congressional choice from mostly preselected and bought candidates, nor choice of Party, nor choice of President, can reverse Oligarchs' relentless capture of Congress. **"[You have] A Republic ... if you can keep it." (Benjamin Franklin).**

The Founders anticipated today's problem and included a Constitutional solution. **"We may safely rely on the disposition of the State legislatures to erect barriers against the encroachments of the national authority." (Alexander Hamilton).** The People have the power to compel reluctant States to take the necessary action.

Switzerland, ancient Athens, and 24 U.S. States faced similar problems and came up with an excellent solution. It grants the People's right to propose legislation by Initiatives, comment in public and Internet, debate and winnow in an Initiatives Qualifying Assembly, and then to vote on them directly at Federal elections. Both Switzerland and Athens thrived; Initiative States have done well too. None have ever revoked their Initiative rights. The scope and size of U.S. Federal legislation requires a professional government, but it takes only a few Initiatives a year to restrain corruption and Oligarchy (domestic or foreign). **"[A legislature] ... should be an exact portrait, in miniature, of the people at large, as it should feel, reason and act like them" (John Adams, 1776)**

To constrain Oligarchy now and for the future, the People through their States must permit Direct Initiatives under the U.S. Constitution, while retaining a republican form of Government. This can and must be accomplished without any support from a Congress beholden to Oligarchs, too corrupt, and untrustworthy. **"The basis of our political systems is the right of the people to make and to alter their constitutions of government." (George Washington, 1796).** **"All power is originally in the People and should be exercised by them in person, if that could be done with convenience, or even with little difficulty." (James Wilson 1804).**

The availability of initiatives in 24 States out of the 34 States needed to apply, and 38 States needed to ratify, a U.S. Constitutional Amendment, provides crucial power to bypass Congress. It permits concentration of the People's resources to focus on convincing and/or forcing at least 14 of the 28 non-initiative States to submit their amendment applications. After the Amendment is ratified by a Limited Convention of the States,

followed by a [one-year implementation](#) period, the People will have the direct power to limit Oligarchy.



Citizens Assembly
Photo by Stuart Davis #715955 by kind permission of The Vancouver Sun.

Initiatives Qualifying Assembly
is a Large Grand Jury

The practical details to achieve this are presented in [this website](#). Central is a Grand Jury meeting one week each month, with rolling membership, that oversees the Initiatives system. It decides which few of the People's Proposed Initiatives qualify to go on the Federal Election Ballot.

Today, Oligarchs can damage our Democracy far faster than the People can repair it. For example, Oligarchs implemented Citizens United in 2010; but over 8 years later, even the most aggressive responses from the People are still in the early stages. However, once implemented, this single Initiatives Amendment enables remedy of Citizens United and many other issues within one to 3 years after they arise, with far less effort, cost, and dissention.

Our Founders in their wisdom gave us a path to a Constitutional solution. But to date, we as a nation have not shown the courage and patriotism to follow our Founders' wisdom and the leadership of our 24 initiative States. **“As the people are the only legitimate fountain of power, and it is from them that the constitutional charter, under which the several branches of government hold their power, is derived, it seems strictly consonant to the republican theory to recur to the same original authority [the People]... whenever it may be necessary to enlarge, diminish, or new-model the powers of government.” (James Madison)**

Without U.S. Initiative power, the People procrastinate and gamble that the Oligarchs and Congress will benignly reform themselves; but history predicts this is a futile hope and entrenched Oligarchy or worse is most likely. By trying the [Initiatives solution for 10 years](#), at a total cost equivalent to building [one aircraft carrier](#), the U.S. resumes world leadership. By ignoring it, the People will have only themselves to blame as they and their children lose their rights, freedoms, and security.

Quick Answers to Some Obvious Questions:

- [How Will the People Propose, Select, and Approve Initiatives?](#)
- [How Does the Amendment Become Part of the Constitution?](#)
- [What Is the First Draft Wording of the Initiatives Amendment?](#)
- [How Will States Demand the Initiatives Amendment?](#)
- [How Will the Initiatives Amendment System be Physically Implemented?](#)
- [What Type of Issues Might Initiatives be Able to Solve that Congress Cannot?](#)

[Download this Summary as PDF](#)
