

PROCLAMATION

"With Liberty and Justice for All"
is more than a Pledge; and It's
More Than a Political Party.
This Ideal Unites the American
People of All Parties in A
Common Purpose: Make Our
Votes Count!

WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

A PUBLIC DECLARATION SUSPENDING OUR
CONSENT TO BE REPRESENTED BY CORRUPT
GOVERNMENT, REAFFIRMING OUR NINTH
AMENDMENT RIGHTS OF LIBERTY, AND
REVIEWING OUR VOTER'S BILL OF RIGHTS

WILLIAM JOHN COX

WILLIAM JOHN COX

With
Liberty
and Justice
for All

William John Cox

Copyright © 2025 William John Cox. All Rights Reserved.

No part of this publication can be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, without permission in writing from William John Cox, who asserts his moral right to be identified as the author of this work and to be recognized as the creator of its intellectual properties.

ISBN: 9798290579771

The American flag on the front cover has a gold stripe added to represent The People of the United States of America.

Websites

WilliamJohnCox.com

Mindkind.info

TheVote.io

YouTube Channel

[@CoxWilliamJohn](https://www.youtube.com/@CoxWilliamJohn)

Also by William John Cox

You're Not Stupid! Get the Truth: A Brief on the Bush Presidency

Mitt Romney and the Mormon Church: Questions

Target Iran: Drawing Red Lines in the Sand

The Holocaust Case: Defeat of Denial

Transforming America: A Voter's Bill of Rights

Sam: A Political Philosophy

An Essential History of China: Why it Matters to Americans

The Way of Righteousness:

*A Revealing History and Reconciliation of
Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*

Mathematics and Physics

Time Travel to Ancient Math & Physics

The Work: Second Edition

*A Geometrical Structure for an Infinite,
Living, Static Universe of Electricity and Plasma,
as Defined by Universal Numbers*

Universal Quantum Numbers: An Introduction

The Perfect Number Calculus of the Negative Matrices of Mind

The Information Trial:

Universal Numbers vs. Finger Base 10 and ASCII

The Gift of Mind Series

A Message of Mind: Hello, We Speak the Truth

The Book of Mindkind:

A Philosophy for the New Millennium

Mind & Its Languages of Reason

The Choices of Mind: Extinction or Evolution

Companion Books

Our Quantum Soul

With Liberty and Justice for All

Contents

A Declaration of Retained Rights of Liberty and Suspension of Consent to be Governed	1
Proclamation.....	11
A Brief of 'The Voter's Bill of Rights	13
The Right to Vote.....	18
Equality of All Rights.....	20
Maximizing Voter Participation	22
Corporations Are Not People	26
Money Is Not Speech.....	28
Freedom of the Press and the Internet.....	29
Public Funding of Elections	31
Gerrymandering and Adequate Congressional Representation.....	36
Political Education and Public Information	39
Articulation of Policy Issues	46
National Policy Referendum, Voting Holidays, and Write-In Voting.....	48
Popular Election of the President and Vice President	55
Lobbying, Bribery, and the Revolving Door	61
Conflicts of Interest	62

Ratification by State Conventions and Absence of Deadline	65
A Multi-Party System.....	71
The Power to Make a Difference	73
The Power of the Constitution.....	74
The Power of a Mass, Nonpartisan, Popular Movement.....	77
The Power of the Internet and Social Media	79
The Power of Nonviolence.....	81
The Power of Youth.....	84
The Political Future	89
Failure is Not an Option.....	91
The Author.....	93
A Story About the Coxes of Texas	99

Dedication

To The People of the United States of America,
Whose Consent to be Governed
Cannot be Taken for Granted,
And Whose Ninth Amendment Retained
Rights of Liberty
Remain Paramount Throughout the Land
As the Living Source of
the People's Government.

A Declaration of Retained Rights of Liberty and Suspension of Consent to be Governed

The pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands is inclusive in providing *liberty and justice for all*. The Fourteenth Amendment to *our* Constitution extends “due process and equal protection” to *all persons*, and most importantly, the Ninth Amendment¹ retained the universal Rights of Liberty of *the people*, as proclaimed by *the people* in *our* Declaration of Independence.

As enshrined in the American Declaration of Independence, the Rights of Liberty are universal and inherent in every *Person*; each of whom possess “certain inalienable Rights, that among them are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.”

It was the power of our consent resulting from our inherent rights that created the logic and reliability of our organic self-government that guided

¹ “The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.”

our nation's public affairs, from local to international, for 250 years. These tested principles and values of representative self-government are now being threatened worldwide by the rise of authoritarian, corporate controlled, manipulated, and dominated corrupt governments in the United States and other countries.

It is simply a matter of reason: no individual or political party, irrespective of how powerful or strong they become, can ever exceed or replace the collective, tolerant wisdom of the People. Our power derives from our collectively consenting to securing the success and happiness of our families, communities, states, societies, nation, and international community of humanity.

We, the People, prefer that our government avoids war, and we are confident we can best police ourselves at the most local level possible, within the courts of our counties, cities, and states, where we can enforce our own laws, and defend our universal Rights of Liberty before juries of our peers and judges of our choosing.

Working and thinking together, the policies of self-government we produce by collaboration are always better for us than the phony platforms, empty promises, and corrupt decisions

any personage or party can ever offer to direct the fortunes of the People.

What was the original understanding of the seminal word Liberty during the People's Revolutionary War for independence and in their original grant of consent to be governed by the laws of our representative government? *Liberty means the right to be left alone by one's own government.*

Our consent to be governed is contingent upon trust and service, duty and honor, and it is revocable when abuse or dishonor becomes commonplace, or when the oath of office to "preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution" is ignored and violated, without conscience or fear.

Inauguration into a public office cannot be a free pass to ignore the laws and Constitution, and to rule by decree for the term of the office, without fear of reelection and with complete immunity. All votes cast for candidates who intentionally violate their oaths are necessarily null and void, as the votes were expressions of the consent of individual voters to be represented by a government that is free of corruption and the blatant violation of oaths.

Our continuing consent to submit to the governance of constitutional laws is entirely personal and necessarily presumes lawful service of our

representative government for the public good of everyone, instead of a corrupt and self-serving government that operates for the benefit of corporations, their CEOs, the wealthy, the privileged elite, and elected officials.

Should our government become personally threatening, rather than protecting, our consent to be governed can be publicly (or privately) suspended, withdrawn, or revoked, independent of the ballot box and electoral process, as a form of instant protest and petition, without surrendering expressed or retained rights under our Constitution.

Refusal to be governed by corruption is the purest form of political speech, and such protest is protected by the First Amendment. Moreover, our power to personally and jointly petition our government for redress of grievances is an expression of our Ninth Amendment retained Rights of Liberty.

Justice means every single one of us is equal to the government we created, and we are presumptively innocent when we are accused by our own government. In every case, we expect and demand to be judged fairly, with individual justice, according to law and equity, as protected by our Constitution.

Justice also means we have the right to a legal remedy, if in fact and reality, our representative

government has become increasingly corrupt over the decades. The flow of money and corporate influence spreading through both major political parties and their administrations is focused almost solely on soliciting and spending vast sums of money for negative media advertising to get candidates elected and reelected. All this is intentionally designed to create fear and distrust, polarized political views, unlawful authoritarian solutions, endless corporate wars of profit, and shameless self-dealing at the highest level.

This corrupt reality has become abominable beyond words, and this sick form of representative government no longer serves the public interest of the People. Indeed, since its endemic corruption threatens the immediate safety of our families and communities, we each have standing to personally assert our original retained Ninth Amendment Rights of Liberty to suspend our consent to be governed by corruption, pending reformation, or to revoke consent upon good cause.

Therefore, I, William John Cox of Long Beach, California, also known as Billy Jack in Texas, being 84 years of age and descended through the dual lineages of Quaker North Carolina Revolutionary War patriots Solomon *and* Samuel Cox, and Texas rebels, do hereby give notice of my suspension

of consent to be governed by the existing corrupt two-party system of government, irrespective of party or administration.

My consent is withheld pending the election of a congress composed of representatives of every party who support our individual right to vote in a National Policy Referendum on the primary issues every time we vote to elect a president to represent all of us, and to create the recommended policies of the People to instruct the next administration and congress.

A policy referendum on the 12 most critical issues facing each new president and congress empowers We the People to discuss and decide, as a matter of principle and policy, what we want our government to concentrate on for the next four years, instead of fearfully responding to negative and fraudulent political attack ads on radio, television, and social media. In addition, all candidates of every party seeking our vote to represent us in our councils, districts, legislatures, congress, and as president, must also address those important issues, allowing all of us, of every political persuasion, to make better choices.

If we are smart enough to pay taxes and to sacrifice our children to die and be maimed in wars fought for corporate profits, we are intelligent

enough to consider the true issues facing our collective representative government, to make basic policy decisions about the best path forward, and to decide who we should hire to build a new and improved form of representative democracy from our blueprints and instructions.

National policy referenda ensures that our government represents the best interests of the People who elect it, rather than the corporations who strive to buy, control, and profit from it. These conscienceless, artificial entities with eternal life, created and chartered by law for the convenience of society, have no original rights or mention in our Constitution, nor in any amendment. Indeed, our revolution was fought against the British corporate owners of the colonies, as well as King George and Parliament.

Corporations are not People; they are contractual robots necessary to organize and do great things, but they are artificially intelligent machines that must be carefully controlled for the public good, rather than allowing ourselves to be governed by them and the individual greed and reckless gambling of their CEOs for profits at all costs.

The evidence is abundant and apparent that the existing congressional, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government have been

corrupted by money politics, and that they are no longer respecting our Ninth Amendment Rights of Liberty that require *effective* self-government.

I hereby declare that I am not bound by, or responsible for the debts, obligations, promises, or commitments made by the executive and congress of the federal government currently in power in the United States, which to all common reports and appearances is thoroughly corrupted by money in its electoral and deliberative processes. Moreover, our government is currently experiencing a corporate takeover and destruction of its agencies created by law for the good of the People. All of which is being done by elected representatives and appointed officials in flagrant disregard of their oaths to “preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution.”

We the People do hereby petition the congressional and executive branches of our Government under our First Amendment right to redress grievances, to provide for our policy vote on the 12 most critical issues we face whenever we elect our president and other representatives every four years.

We also respectfully petition the Supreme Court to judicially notice the inherent corrupting influence of money in the election process that controls both congressional and executive races, and which is now openly purchasing state judicial

offices and threatening the independence of the federal courts. In addition, the Court is requested to judicially notice the numerous injunctions being issued by Federal District Courts in response to the flagrant violations of law committed by the current president in seeking, as a matter of strategy, to overwhelm the judicial system with an avalanche of hundreds of unlawful Executive Orders allowing the corporate takeover and destruction of federal agencies established by law.

These willful violations of law are causing irreparable harm as such widespread, blatant corruption and political crimes diminish our Rights of Liberty to participate in effective self-government for the betterment of our societies. Our votes become meaningless when all choices are controlled by the same corporate contributors, their CEOs, and the wealthy elite.

Everyone, irrespective of political persuasion, party, or belief is urged to seriously consider the *collective, exponential effect* of all provisions of the Voter's Bill of Rights, when implemented at once, and the immense power it would restore and place in the hands of the People. What a great promise it would be to self-governing societies around the world and their global economies, in a joyful return to reality and the rule of law, bless-

ed and endowed with the informed consent of the People, freely given.

There is one thing that every Person, every single one of you can do. You have the personal power to contact all your elected representatives at every level of society and government, and the leaders of the political parties offering platforms and candidates for your consideration, and to ask everyone who solicits your vote, manifesting your consent to be governed: **Do you support our Voter's Bill of Rights?**

Proclamation

“With Liberty and Justice for All”
is more than a Pledge; and
It’s More Than a Political Party.
This Ideal Unites the American
People of All Parties in
A Common Purpose: *Make Our Votes Count!*

A Brief of The Voter's Bill of Rights

More than one third of the 245 million American People who were registered to vote did not cast ballots in the 2024 presidential election, when only 152 million People voted. Since, in most races, candidates were elected by approximately half of all votes cast in their elections, the winners were only supported by a third of the registered voters. This does not include millions of eligible unregistered citizens, and it can hardly be considered a mandate for anyone to do anything.²

There may be a moral duty to vote in a free society, but, unlike some countries, United States citizens are not legally obligated to cast ballots. Many conservatives believe voting should be a privilege to be earned, and they are not reluctant to impose onerous conditions on voting by the poor and disadvantaged. Most progressives believe voting is a

² This brief is updated and expanded from material originally published in *Transforming America: A Voter's Bill of Rights* (2015).

constitutional right, and they oppose arbitrary restrictions placed on registration and voting.

Voting in a free society must be more than a privilege, which can be granted or taken away at the whim of government, irrespective of the party in power. As a symbol of our consent to be governed, voting is an integral part of a democratic republican form of representative government. To achieve the essential “Wisdom of the Crowd,” a government must be free and democratic, and it must be effective and just.

Not one of the founders of the United States believed the Constitution was perfect, and they all believed it could and should be amended as necessary. The failure of the Constitution to specifically provide a right to cast effective votes and its abdication of voting rights to the states has resulted in the destructive political practices which have infected and corrupted the government formed by the Constitution.

The government of the United States is no longer representative of those who elect it, nor is it the government the American People consented to. If the Republic is to continue, its constitution must be amended to empower the People who created the concept of consensual self-government,

instead of robotic corporations, their CEOs, and the wealthy elite.

There are several major issues concerning voting, all of which have generated their own constituencies for protection and reform. Inasmuch as most of these problems involve constitutional questions, reformers face almost insurmountable obstacles in getting Congress to enact amendment legislation and convincing enough states to ratify the amendment. The Equal Rights (for women) Amendment is an example. First introduced in Congress in 1923, the Amendment was finally enacted and sent to the states for ratification in 1972. It has yet to be ratified.

Most voters are alarmed by the Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* to judicially expand constitutional personhood rights for corporations, allowing them to spend unlimited money as a form of free speech. Essentially, those with the most money now have the loudest voice. The Move to Amend organization is at the forefront of the effort to change the Constitution to eliminate the personhood rights of corporations and the equation of money and speech. Assuming the success of Move to Amend and the ultimate ratification of its proposed Amendment,

there would remain other unresolved issues relating to the voting rights of Americans.

The Voter's Bill of Rights remedies these destructive practices that have eroded the tenuous voting rights granted to the People by Congress and the States. It is, however, far more than a set of constitutional amendments that would curtail these anti-democratic practices. Its ratification—and the action by the People that makes it happen—would create a dramatic transformation of the United States government into finally becoming a true representative democracy. The Voter's Bill of Rights would reorient the government to the People, and it would provide the means to make the government work more effectively for their benefit.

The Voter's Bill of Rights not only guarantees the individual right to vote, but it includes other provisions that ensure the votes cast by the People are effective in defining what they want their government to do and how they want it to be done. These include defining equal rights for women; maximizing voter participation and prohibiting the suppression of voting; eliminating corporate personhood; controlling campaign contributions; guaranteeing freedom of the press; public funding of elections; prohibiting gerrymandering;

increasing congressional representation; improving political education and public information; articulating policy issues; deciding policy issues by voting; eliminating the Electoral College; curtailing lobbying; and prohibiting conflicts of interest.

The purpose of the Voter's Bill of Rights is *not* to change the personal political beliefs of anyone. Rather, its objective is to encourage differences of opinion, and to provide individuals of every political persuasion with the ability to think critically, effectively communicate their thoughts, and to persuade others of the validity of their convictions. Reasoning together, in tolerance, the People will naturally generate the essential *Wisdom of the Crowd*, the flowering and harvest of collaboration—the fruit of democracy—that is critical to effective self-government and the evolution of our species.

Successful reformation of the United States government will require a mass, nonpartisan movement sufficient to overcome the formidable forces arrayed against any effort to diminish or eliminate the corporate monopoly of power. Undoubtedly, the promotion of change will be arduous and dangerous, and the opposition will be nasty and violent, but for now, let us consider the background, purpose, and content of the various sections of the Voter's Bill of Rights leading to an

improved form of self-government and a better future for our children.

The Right to Vote

Contrary to popular belief, United States citizens do not have a constitutional right to vote. As the result of a series of amendments, people of color, women, and young people over the age of 18 cannot be deprived of the right to vote because of their status; however, nowhere in the Constitution does it say that they or anyone else have a fundamental right to vote in the first place.

The absence of a constitutional right to vote was clearly and bluntly expressed by the Supreme Court in *Bush v. Gore*, which awarded the presidency to George W. Bush in 2000:

The individual citizen has no federal constitutional right to vote for electors for the President of the United States unless and until the state legislature chooses a state-wide election as the means to implement its power to appoint members of the Electoral College. U.S. Const., Art. II, §1. This is the source for the statement in *McPherson v. Black*, ... that the State legislature's power to select the manner for appointing electors is plenary [absolute and unconditional]; it

may, if it so chooses, select the electors itself, which indeed was the manner used by State legislatures in several States for many years after the Framing of our Constitution. ... History has now favored the voters, and in each of the several States the citizens themselves vote for Presidential electors. When the state legislature vests the right to vote for President in its people, the right to vote as the legislature has prescribed is fundamental; and one source of its fundamental nature lies in the equal weight accorded to each vote and the equal dignity owed to each voter. The State, of course, after granting the franchise in the special context of Article II, can take back the power to appoint electors. ... [T]here is no doubt of the right of the legislature to resume the power at any time, for it can neither be taken away nor abdicated.

In essence, any or all the state legislatures could decide to directly appoint presidential electors in 2028, instead of holding elections, and there is presently nothing in the Constitution to prevent it. It is entirely up to each state legislature.

Following ratification of the Constitution and the formation of the United States, the

qualification of voters and the regulation of voting was left up to the individual states. That remains the situation today. Because there is no overriding constitutional guarantee of voting rights, congressional efforts to protect voters are subject to the inclinations of Supreme Court justices.

Binding together the provisions that follow it, Section One of the Voter's Bill of Rights simply provides that all citizens have the right to vote. Moreover, by specifying an *effective* vote, it incorporates the subsequent sections within its intent and purpose, as coherent elements of every vote—a personal, conditional expression of consent to be governed by the laws and Constitution, and a reaffirmation of retained Rights of Liberty.

Section 1.

The right of all citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to cast effective votes in political elections is inherent under this Constitution and shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State.

Equality of All Rights

The protection of voting rights for women was excluded from Section 2 of the Fourteenth

Amendment in that it mentioned only “male inhabitants” of discriminating states. That omission was modified by the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920; however, many states failed to approve the ratification for many years—Maryland-1941, Virginia-1952, Alabama-1953, Florida and South Carolina-1969, Georgia, Louisiana and North Carolina-1971, and lastly Mississippi-1984.

While the Nineteenth Amendment prohibits the denial or abridgement of voting rights “on account of sex,” no other rights were included. To secure full equality of all rights for women, the Equal Rights Amendment was first introduced in the Congress in 1923. It was not passed and submitted to the states for ratification until 1972. The amendment was approved by 35 of the necessary 38 states by the deadline of 1979. Now renamed the Women’s Equality Amendment, it has been re-introduced into every subsequent Congress; however, it has yet to be passed.

The primary objection to the Equal Rights Amendment was the belief that it would require equality in Selective Service and the military, especially in combat. Now that the American women have proven their capabilities and are engaged in almost every aspect of war fighting, the objection is no longer valid.

The right to cast effective votes cannot be fully effective until every citizen of the United States has equal rights. Inclusion of the Equal Rights Amendment in the Voter's Bill of Rights would serve to ameliorate another failure—that of the United States to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

Section Two establishes the equal rights of women.

Section 2.

Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Maximizing Voter Participation

Ostensibly, universal voting is the ideal of a free and democratic republic; however, as we have seen, barriers have been placed between many citizens and the ballot box ever since the creation of the United States. Many of these obstacles, such as having to be a property owner and the racially biased poll tax, have been removed. They are, however, being replaced by voter identification (ID) laws that are intended to prevent many, otherwise eligible, voters from participating in elections.

At least 36 states have passed voter ID laws, purportedly to prevent voter fraud, in which an ineligible voter impersonates an eligible voter. Typically, these laws require the presentation of photographic identification, such as a driver's license or passport to vote. In fact, these laws are a deliberate, and not so subtle attempt to discourage and suppress voting.

There are millions of otherwise eligible voters in the United States who, for a variety of reasons, do not possess acceptable photographic identification. If the reason is a lack of money to pay the licensing fee, voter ID laws have the same effect as the Jim Crow poll tax in the South. These laws disproportionately affect the young, disabled, seniors, minorities, and the poor and disadvantaged of every race.

The reality is that voter fraud is very rare, and when it does occur, it would not be prevented by voter ID laws. An in-depth study by the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University involved travel to 40 cities, 21 states, interviews of more than 1,000 people, and reviews of nearly 5,000 public documents. The effort identified only 10 cases of voter impersonation in more than a decade. There were more cases of absentee ballot fraud and reg-

istration fraud, which would not have been prevented by the voter ID laws.

The conservative political bias of these laws is indicated by the fact that photo ID laws primarily impact vulnerable voting populations that tend to favor progressive candidates. Most of the state photo ID legislation result from the efforts of the conservative, corporate sponsored American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC). Bills based on the ALEC model Voter ID Act have been introduced and passed in state legislatures across the country.

The necessity of a constitutional amendment was demonstrated by a ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court just prior to the 2014 midterm elections. The decision reversed a lower court's decision that the Texas voter ID law unconstitutionally prevented more than 600,000 registered voters in Texas from voting. A Federal District Court had found the law was adopted "with an unconstitutional discriminatory purpose" and that it placed "an unconstitutional burden on the right to vote."

The Texas voter ID law had been previously blocked by a federal law, which required jurisdictions with a history of discrimination to obtain permission before changing voting procedures. That provision of the Voting Rights Act was earlier struck down by the Supreme Court in

2013, and Texas officials announced they would begin enforcing the state's voter ID law.

In her dissent to the 2014 decision, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said, "A sharply disproportionate percentage of those voters are African American or Hispanic." She added that "racial discrimination in elections in Texas is no mere historical artifact."

Whether affected by strict photo ID rules or other forms of voter suppression, the turnout for the 2014 midterm election was the lowest since 1942. The effect could be seen between Texas, with the most restrictive rules and a 33.6 percent turnout, and Colorado, Washington and Oregon, which allow everyone to vote by mail, and a participation of 53, 54 and 69 percent, respectively.

Dealing with all the issues presented by voter suppression efforts, Section Three of the Voter's Bill of Rights provides standards that encourage voting as an expression of our consent to be governed, and it imposes sanctions on those who intentionally suppress voting.

Section 3.

The States shall ensure that all citizens who are eligible to vote are registered to vote.

In balancing the public benefit of maximum voter participation with the prevention of voting fraud, Congress and the States shall

not impose any unjustifiable restrictions on registration or voting by citizens.

The intentional suppression of voting is hereby prohibited and, in addition to any other penalty imposed by law, any person convicted of the intentional suppression of voting shall be ineligible for any public office for a period of five years following such conviction.

Corporations Are Not People

In *Citizens United*, the Supreme Court struck down election laws prohibiting corporations and labor unions from making independent expenditures and “electioneering communications.” Added to the Court’s earlier ruling that equated money with free speech, the decision opened the floodgates to corporate spending in elections. As journalist Bill Moyers said:

When five conservative members of the Supreme Court handed for-profit corporations the right to secretly flood political campaigns with tidal waves of cash on the eve of an election, they moved America closer to outright plutocracy,³ where

³ A country governed by an elite or ruling class whose power drives from its wealth.

political power derived from wealth is devoted to the protection of wealth.

Only 15 percent of voters believe *Citizens United* was correctly decided—while some polls have found more than 80 percent in opposition. During the 2014 midterm elections, people in dozens of communities in Massachusetts, Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Florida voted overwhelmingly for ballot questions asking their legislators to support a constitutional amendment denying constitutional rights for corporations.

There have been several initiatives brought forth to amend the Constitution as the only way to reverse the Court's action; however, the best researched and most popular initiative appears to be the one by the Move to Amend organization.

Section Four of the Voter's Bill of Rights is identical to the Move to Amend proposed amendment.

Section 4.

The rights protected by the Constitution of the United States are the rights of natural persons only.

Artificial entities established by the laws of any State, the United States, or any foreign state shall have no rights under this Constitution and are subject to regulation

by the People, through Federal, State, or local law.

The privileges of artificial entities shall be determined by the People, through Federal, State, or local law, and shall not be construed to be inherent or inalienable.

Money Is Not Speech

In *Buckley v. Valeo*, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act that set limits on campaign spending. The Court ruled that the provisions violated individuals' rights to free speech under the First Amendment. The Court held that restrictions on the amount of money a person could spend in a campaign were "direct quantity restrictions on political communication and association by persons, groups, candidates, and political parties." In other words, the Court equated money and free speech and prohibited the government from imposing limits.

A 2014 poll by Public Citizen found 61 percent of all Americans opposed to allowing corporations and unions to make unlimited contributions to political campaigns. An even higher percentage hold a negative view of special interest lobbying and election spending. Seventy

eight percent believe the reduction of the influence of money in politics and elections is an important issue.

Section Five of the Voter's Bill of Rights is identical to the Move to Amend proposed amendment.

Section 5.

Federal, State and local government shall regulate, limit, or prohibit contributions and expenditures, to ensure that all citizens, regardless of their economic status, have access to the political process, and that no person gains, as a result of their money, substantially more access or ability to influence in any way the election of any candidate for public office or any ballot measure. Federal, State and local government shall require that any permissible contributions and expenditures be publicly disclosed.

The judiciary shall not construe the spending of money to influence elections to be speech under the First Amendment.

Freedom of the Press and the Internet

John Adams said, "The liberty of the press is essential to the security of the state." A half century later, Alexis de Tocqueville wrote, "I think that men living in aristocracies may, strictly

speaking, do without the liberty of the press; but such is not the case with those who live in democratic countries ... the press is the chief democratic instrument of freedom.”

The framers of the Constitution left no doubt that the freedom of the press was paramount and was not to be infringed upon. Therefore, the loss of corporate personhood through ratification of the previous sections must not affect the First Amendment right of corporate newspapers or other media and press organizations to report the facts or to express editorial opinions regarding political and social issues.

Today, 80 percent of America’s newspapers are owned by just ten corporations and most magazines are published by three corporations. Ratification of the previous sections would allow the government to restrict corporations to the ownership of a single radio or television station, or a single newspaper or magazine, or to prevent corporations from contributing money to political candidates or causes, but it should not restrict the freedom of media corporations to engage in the business of reporting facts and expressing opinions.

Section Six of the Voter’s Bill of Rights makes clear the freedom of the press is not affected by the previous sections and moreover, that the

freedom of the press necessarily includes modern digital publications on the Internet and other electronic media.

Section 6.

Nothing contained in this article shall be construed to abridge the freedom of the press, which includes electronic and digital publication.

Public Funding of Elections

In 1907, President Theodore Roosevelt said, “The need for collecting large campaign funds would vanish if Congress provided an appropriation for the proper and legitimate expenses of each of the great national parties.” Congress did not respond, and the only national effort at public funding was the presidential matching fund system enacted in 1976. Taxpayers were allowed to check a box on their tax return to divert three dollars of their income taxes to the matching fund.

Between its enactment and 2008, every presidential nominee used the public funds for the general election and most used it for the primary season. George W. Bush opted out of the matching fund program in the 2000 primary, and Barack Obama opted out of the fund in the general election of 2008.

Both Obama and Mitt Romney opted out in the 2012 general election, as *each spent more than a billion dollars* on the election. Altogether, more than \$4.2 billion was raised and spent during the 2012 presidential and congressional elections. Since then, no major candidate has submitted a request for matching funds, although Jill Stein and Mike Pence did so in the 2024 primary election cycle.

Fourteen states now provide funding for campaigns, with Arizona, Connecticut, Maine, and New Mexico providing full public financing. Under full public funding, candidates agree not to accept any further private funds, once they meet threshold requirements, and the state government finances their campaign. The Arizona law suffered a defeat in 2011 when the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a key provision that provided matching funds when an opponent's spending exceeded the state allotment. The Court held that this provision punished the exercise of free speech by the opposing candidate who financed his own campaign.

On April 3, 2014, President Barack Obama took the first step toward ending the matching fund program by signing legislation to end the public funding of presidential nominating conventions.

With the presidential candidates free to raise money in multiple ways, Donald Trump spent \$66 million of his own money in 2016, and overall, less than half of what Hillary Clinton did in losing. The 2020 general election became the most expensive ever totaling more than \$14.4 billion, with Biden outspending Trump in the swing states. The congressional races also spent a record \$8.7 billion dollars on campaign expenditures and advertising.

In 2024, the two presidential campaigns spent \$5.5 billion, less than the 2020 total. In all campaigns, the Republicans outspent the Democrats \$7.6 to \$6.7 billion. Elon Musk openly contributed more than a quarter billion dollars to the Trump campaign, and he was given a free hand to make massive cuts to agencies in violation of multiple laws and personal conflicts of interests. Musk also directly paid millions to buy votes in the election of a Wisconsin State Supreme Court justice he sought to install.

A large percentage of the cost of political campaigns results from the widespread use of radio, television, and social media advertising. During the 2024 presidential campaign, the total cost of political advertising in all races was almost \$11 billion, with almost \$3 billion being spent on ads in the presidential election.

Most countries in the European Union and the United Kingdom forbid the use of paid political advertisements on radio and television; however, political parties are provided free slots on broadcast channels. In a 2013 decision, the European Court of Human Rights approved the English government's position that the law reasonably restricted television advertisements to protect the democratic debate and process from distortion by powerful financial groups with advantageous access to influential media.

In the Communications Act of 1934, Congress declared the airwaves belonged to the People, and businesses wanting to use the airwaves to transmit programming had to obtain federal licenses from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Licensees are required to operate their stations in the “public interest, convenience and necessity.” The Act imposed the Equal-time Rule, which requires broadcast stations to provide equal time to opposing candidates and campaigns—whenever it provides free airtime.

The FCC established the Fairness Doctrine in 1949 to require holders of broadcast licenses to present controversial issues of public importance and to do so in a manner that was honest, equitable and balanced. The Doctrine was repealed by the

Reagan administration FCC in 1987. The Equal-time Rule is still in effect, but exceptions, including biased documentaries and news programming, limit its effectiveness.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 changed the 1934 Communications Act by allowing the airwaves to be divided up and auctioned off to corporations, who use them for profit without regard for public good. The corporate owners can shape and distort political stories and may refuse any advertising or coverage of causes they oppose.

Another reason why political campaigns are so expensive is because they are continual. As soon as candidates are elected, they immediately begin to raise money for the next election. It is not unusual for presidential candidates to start actively soliciting campaign contributions several years before the election. Having a massive war chest discourages competition.

Most people—71 percent of Republicans and 81 percent of Democrats—believe “money buys results in Congress.” This loss of faith in the integrity of elected representatives probably contributes to the high public disapproval rate of Congress, which is currently 74 percent.

Section Seven of the Voter’s Bill of Rights provides a presumption in favor of public funding,

establishes a public access fairness doctrine and equal-time rule for public broadcasting, and it limits the period of active campaigning.

Section 7.

In balancing the public benefits of corruption-free elections with allowing candidates to accept private campaign contributions, Congress and the States shall favor public financing over private contributions.

Broadcasters using the public airwaves shall provide free airtime for political campaign programming; ensure controversial issues of public importance are presented in an honest, equitable and balanced manner; and provide equal time to opposing candidates and political points of view.

No campaign for elective public office, including solicitation or receipt of campaign contributions, shall commence prior to six months before such election.

Gerrymandering and Adequate Congressional Representation

As early as 1812, politicians were seeking political advantage by mapping election districts to benefit one political party over another. Named for Massachusetts Governor Gerry, who first

designed the scheme, Gerrymandering continues to be in widespread use. Today, both major parties conspire to create safe districts for themselves, thus denying voters any real choice in the elections.

Most congressional districts have been configured to ensure there are no serious challenges to incumbents. It is estimated that 242 of the 435 current congressional districts are strongly for one or the other major party and are roughly divided between the two. In a minority of districts, the balance could swing either way depending upon candidates and issues.

The Constitution originally required there to be a minimum of 30,000 "Persons" for each member of the House of Representatives; however, it did not establish a maximum number of Persons in each congressional district. There were 12 amendments originally proposed by the first Congress, including the ten which became the Bill of Rights. The first proposed amendment—which was never ratified—imposed a maximum of 50,000 Persons per representative. Had that amendment been ratified, the People would now have 6,320 representatives.

In 1790, the number of Persons represented in each district was 33,000. When the number of

congressional seats was increased to the current 435 in 1911, each new district represented approximately 212,000 Persons.

The population of each congressional district is now around 781,000 Persons. The more than threefold increase in the number of constituents since 1911 renders it virtually impossible for voters to communicate with their representatives—absent generous financial contributions. On the other hand, simply mailing a single letter to each voter in a congressional district by a candidate could cost more than a half million dollars.

If the maximum number of Persons per district was set at a quarter million (about where it was in 1911), and with a current national population of approximately 340,000,000, the House of Representatives would be expanded to 1,360 members. While this might impose a bit of crowding in the House chamber, and some subdividing might be required in the majestic House Office Buildings, the People would have a far better chance of contacting their representatives and receiving a response.

Section Eight of the Voter's Bill of Rights eliminates gerrymandering and establishes the maximum population representation of congressional districts.

Section 8.

Election districts represented by members of Congress, or by members of any State legislative body, shall be compact and composed of contiguous territory. The State shall have the burden of justifying any departures from this requirement by reference to neutral criteria such as natural, political, or historical boundaries or demographic changes. Enhancing or preserving the power of any political party or individual shall not be such a neutral criterion.

Congress shall apportion the number of representatives according to the decennial census to ensure the representation of a maximum of 250,000 Persons in each district.

Political Education and Public Information

Coexistent with the creation of the Republic, the founders recognized the essential role of public education in its operation. In the preamble to a Virginia bill establishing liberal education for those who would aspire to political leadership, Thomas Jefferson wrote:

And whereas it is generally true that the people will be happiest whose laws are best,

and are best administered, and that laws will be wisely formed, and honestly administered, in proportion as those who form and administer them are wise and honest; whence it becomes expedient for promoting the public happiness that those persons, whom nature hath endowed with genius and virtue, should be rendered by liberal education worthy to receive, and able to guard the sacred deposit of the rights and liberties of their fellow citizens, and that they should be called to that charge without regard to wealth, birth, or other accidental condition or circumstance; but the indigence of the greater number disabling them from so educating, at their own expense, those of their children whom nature hath fitly formed and disposed to become useful instruments for the public, it is better that such should be sought for, and educated at the common expense of all, than that the happiness of all should be confided to the weak or wicked.

One unfulfilled goal of President George Washington was the establishment of a national university to train future leaders. He regretted its omission in his farewell address, saying education

was “one of the surest means of enlightening and giving just ways of thinking to our citizens, but particularly the establishment of a university, where the youth from all parts of the United States might receive the polish of erudition in the arts, sciences, and belles lettres, and where those who were disposed to run a political course might ... be instructed in the theory and principles.”

John Adams stated, “Laws for the liberal education of youth, especially for the lower classes of people, are so extremely wise and useful that to a humane and generous mind, no expense for this purpose would be thought extravagant.”

In his later years, Jefferson wrote, “It is an axiom of my mind that our liberty can never be safe but in the hands of the people themselves, and that too of the people with a certain degree of instruction. This is the business of the state to effect, and on a general plan.”

It seems timely to finally realize Washington’s dream of having a national university—one which has as a primary goal the teaching of the values of liberty and justice upon which the nation was founded. It should be a place where students learn the nature of a representative democracy and the rights, duties, and responsibilities of voting and public service.

The University of the United States should include all the military service academies under its umbrella—so future military officers are first instructed about the nature and values of the government they will later learn to serve and defend, before concentrating on their specialty. Moreover, the University should come to include other service academies, such as justice, education, health, nutrition and agriculture, energy, transportation, economics, science, government, and diplomacy, where students can concentrate studies after first being instructed in the basic values of a democratically elected representative government. Much like the present military service academies, admission could follow the existing congressional nomination process and through merit scholarships, with an obligatory period of national public service in the field of study.

Not only has the federal government failed to adequately provide for the civic education of young people, but it discourages such education. The current federal emphasis on mandatory testing in public schools does not focus on civic education that has, consequently, been greatly curtailed. An overriding emphasis on the essentials of math, science, and language reduces the amount

of classroom time available to study current events and political news.

The Freedom of Information Act of 1966 established mandatory disclosure procedures for the release of information and documents controlled by the federal government. Subsequent amendments and presidential orders have substantially reduced the scope and effectiveness of the Act. President Obama went so far as to authorize retroactive classification of requested documents to prevent their disclosure.

The operations of the federal government are heavily classified and are unavailable for public review. The congressional Public Interest Declassification Board has warned that over-classification is impeding informed government decisions, failing to inform the public, and is contributing to corruption and malfeasance.

The informed consent of the people is essential for a representative democracy; however, most people in America are convinced their government consistently lies to them. Whether this is done to protect the public or to conceal government failures, the fact is that the People are denied essential information about what is being done with their taxes. There are laws that protect the public from misleading commercial

advertising, but nothing protects the public from the deception and lies of their elected representatives.

Perhaps there was a time when one might assume the government was telling the truth when it spoke; however, most government officials do not believe it is wrong to tell lies if it necessary to provide cover for a secret mission, gain support for their policies, or to avoid criticism and embarrassment.

History is replete with examples of deliberately false statements being made to justify wrongful or illegal government actions. Most notably these include the U-2 spy plane incident by Eisenhower, the Bay of Pigs invasion by Kennedy, the Tonkin Gulf episode by Johnson, the secret bombing of Cambodia by Nixon, and the false claim of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq by George W. Bush.

The reality is that the enemy usually knows the truth, and the lies cannot be kept secret from the American public for very long. When the deception is revealed, the damage done to government credibility is always greater than the harm done if the truth was revealed initially, or, at least, a diplomatic silence was maintained.

James Madison said, "Knowledge will forever govern ignorance, and a people who mean

to be their own governors, must arm themselves with the power knowledge gives.” Acquiring such knowledge must become a constitutional right of every person.

Section Nine of the Voters’ Bill of Rights prohibits government deceit, mandates the civic education of students, and establishes a national university, which incorporates the existing service academies and other federal academies as may be established in the future.

Section 9.

It shall be a primary function of the government to ensure that the People are supplied with truthful, unbiased, objective, and timely information regarding the political, economic, environmental, financial, and social issues that affect them, and that all students are educated in the nature and responsibilities of representative democracy.

The University of the United States shall be established to incorporate all federal service academies and to provide education on the nature and responsibilities of representative democracy, the meaning of liberty and justice, and the appropriate limitations on the use of coercion and force.

Articulation of Policy Issues

Every four years the major political parties get together and create policy platforms to serve as publicity gimmicks to get their presidential candidates elected. Presidential elections are supposed to be a referendum on the alternative party platforms, but all too often the outcome depends on which candidate devised the nastiest smear campaign and spent the most money.

After the dust settles, both parties generally ignore the policies they promised and begin to raise money for the next election and to reward their major contributors. The process is supposed to reflect the interests of the voters, but it is truly a national disgrace.

The corporate-controlled news media can no longer be trusted to provide unbiased and trustworthy information, and the 24-hour news cycle mindlessly trumpets the issue of the day.

Public polling, such as the Gallup Poll, is supposed to test and report public opinion, however, the results often depend on the latest headline and snap judgments, rather than any thoughtful evaluation of issues.

As the most direct representatives of the People, the members of Congress have a duty to be

responsive to the concerns of those who elect them. Congress has the authority to determine the most serious policy issues and to present them to the People for consideration. Its members just must be compelled to do it.

Section Ten of the Voter's Bill of Rights creates a method for determining the most vital policy issues facing the Nation every four years during the presidential elections, and it provides a means of compulsion to make it happen.

Section 10.

During the calendar year preceding a presidential election, Congress shall solicit public comment regarding the political issues that most concern the People.

Prior to the end of the calendar year preceding a presidential election, Congress shall adopt a joint resolution articulating questions regarding the twelve most critical policy issues to be addressed by the next president and Congress.

Failure of Congress to adopt such a joint resolution prior to the end of such calendar year shall result in the disqualification of all sitting members of Congress to be eligible for reelection.

National Policy Referendum, Voting Holidays, and Write-In Voting

Just as the law of supply and demand generally works to provide goods and services at the time and place they are needed, the collective wisdom of a group of informed and engaged voters is greater than that of any candidate seeking their vote. Irrespective of a candidate's intelligence, ethics, or qualifications, the voters' collective decision will be less biased and less subject to corruption.

At present, voters must choose between the policies offered by different candidates and their parties. Wouldn't it be better if the People formulated their own policies and then made a choice between candidates, based on their ability and commitment to implementing the policies desired by the People?

The concept of "policy" is often misunderstood. Policy is simply a guideline or a path to a goal or objective. It differs from mandatory laws, rules and regulations, which implement policy guidance.

Moreover, a policy referendum differs substantially from the initiatives and propositions that voters often find on their state and local ballots. *A policy referendum does not make law—it creates public policy.* Ballot initiatives and propositions may not

be the best way to make laws, but a referendum is an excellent way to create instructive public policy to guide elected representatives.

Through their answers to referendum questions, voters can effectively establish policy instructions to be followed by those they elect. If an elected official fails to implement the People's policy, then he or she must be prepared to justify the deviation at the next election.

A National Policy Referendum can produce positive results:

- First, the grassroots movement that compels the enactment of a policy referendum (whether by constitutional amendment or by congressional action) will, in and of itself, transform the government. Once truly effective representative democracy is effectuated, self-government will never again be the same.
- Second, the policy referendum process will result in a motivation of apathetic voters of every political persuasion to become a better informed and more engaged electorate. Once the power to create policy is realized by voters, they will naturally become more questioning and inquisitive. Moreover, they will likely insist on civics

education in public schools to better prepare young people to evaluate and resist political propaganda and misleading negative advertising in the future.

- Third, Congress will be compelled to identify actual problems—rather than the profit-motivated concerns promoted by their corporate sponsors in the military-homeland security-intelligence-industrial complex and the health care, financial, and petroleum industries.

In a transformed representative democracy, it will necessarily be the responsibility of Congress to decide on the most vital issues facing the Nation during presidential elections; however, the Internet Age provides myriad opportunities for public participation in the process and for political parties to promote competing questions.

- Fourth, candidates for all elective offices, particularly presidential candidates, will be forced to take a public stand on a range of real problems. Undoubtedly, politicians will try to avoid taking positions on issues, but much like witnesses under cross-examination in a court trial, they can be forced to

simply answer yes or no to the most vital questions.

- Finally, referendum voters will be much more inclined to study the issues, to confront their own prejudices and to challenge the positions of others before arriving at well-thought-out conclusions. Answers to a policy referendum at the conclusion of an educational elective process are far more instructive and useful than quick answers offered during surprise opinion polls.

It might appear on the surface that computerized voting could supply a modern and secure method of voting; however, evidence of its vulnerabilities continues to accumulate.

Voting machines are manufactured and marketed by political partisans who refuse to disclose their operating codes; the computers can be and have been easily hacked; voting machines are mechanically and electronically unreliable and often break down during elections; and they do not produce an auditable paper ballot which is completed and verified by the voter.

Since the 2000 presidential election was awarded to George W. Bush by the U.S. Supreme Court, the resulting Help America Vote Act has encouraged the spread of electronic voting machines

throughout the United States. Computerized voting is believed to have contributed to Bush's re-election in 2004 when the data flow from computerized voting machines in Ohio mysteriously shut down at a time when John Kerry was projected to win Ohio. When the data flow resumed two hours later, the voting margins had flipped by more than six percent, a statistical impossibility. If Ohio's 20 electoral votes had been awarded to Kerry instead of Bush, Kerry would have won in the Electoral College, 271 to 266, and would have been elected president.

Just before his inauguration in January 2025, Donald Trump publicly thanked tech CEO Elon Musk saying he "knows those computers better than anybody, all those computers, those vote counting computers, and we ended up winning Pennsylvania, like, in a landslide."

If American voters are to regain and retain control over their elections, they must refuse to use computerized voting machines or any other form of electronic balloting. Instead, voters must insist on hand-countable paper ballots upon which to record their choices.

Even still, paper ballots can be optically scanned and quickly counted, but most importantly, each ballot is, indisputably, documentary evidence of

an individual's vote. Collectively, paper ballots serve as a tangible symbol of democracy in action and the voters' consent to be governed.

Once in the voting booth, or at their kitchen table, instead of responding like laboratory animals pushing buttons in response to the latest 30-second television attack ad, or social media meme, voters should take time to carefully consider the issues and candidates presented on their ballots by the various political parties.

Once decisions are reached, voters should demonstrate their literacy, and inherent political power, by voting yes or no on the most vital questions *and* (if choosing to do so) by clearly writing in their personal choice for president and vice president of the United States and Congressional senators and representatives—whether or not the choices have been nominated by a political party and the names are printed on the ballot.

So, what if it takes a little longer to count, or recount, the ballots? Wouldn't it be a good thing if pundits could not predict the outcome of elections before the polls have even closed? Isn't delayed gratification a small price to pay for ensuring that voters control elections, rather than those who profit from elections?

If voter turnouts were to dramatically increase, by in-person and mail-in voting, and if only 15 to 25 percent of voters were to cast protest write-in votes, trust that politicians would quickly register their willingness to accept every write-in vote naming them for any office of public trust. Moreover, they would be scrambling to ensure that all write-in votes cast for them are legally counted.

To increase voter turnout, Vermont Senator Sanders has proposed a Democracy Day Act, in which all federal election days become national holidays. Rather than just increasing voter participation, perhaps the election holiday should also honor all voters, whose consent to be governed and retained Rights of Liberty established the Constitution, as we instruct those we choose to represent us.

Section Eleven of the Voter's Bill of Rights provides for paid voting holidays, national policy referenda in conjunction with presidential elections, uniform paper ballots, and write-in voting.

Section 11.

Federal elections conducted every second year shall be held on a national voters' holiday, with full pay for all citizens who cast ballots.

Federal elections shall be conducted on uniform, hand-countable paper ballots and, for the presidential election, ballots shall include the twelve most critical policy questions articulated by Congress, each to be answered yes or no by the voters.

Paper ballots shall provide space allowing voters to handwrite in their choice for all elective federal offices, if they choose, and all such votes shall be counted.

Popular Election of the President and Vice President

In creating a republican form of government for the United States, its propertied founders feared democracy, factions, and the power of workers to harm their property interests. In the Federalist Papers, Alexander Hamilton justified the Electoral College's selection of the president "by men most capable of analyzing the qualities adapted to the station, and acting under circumstances favorable to deliberation, and to a judicious combination of all the reasons and inducements which were proper to govern their choice."

Initially, the state legislatures in half of the states appointed their presidential electors, while today pledged electors are elected by popular vote in all states. The Constitution does not mandate

any particular manner for the states to appoint electors in the Electoral College, nor does it mandate that electors must follow the popular vote. All but two states award all their electoral votes to the candidate who wins the popular vote in the state, rather than to allocate them by the number of ballots cast for each candidate.

Twenty-one states have no effective laws requiring their pledged electors to cast their votes for the winners of the state-wide popular vote. Since 1960, there have been several instances when electors have broken faith with their promise. In 2016, ten members attempted to vote contrary to their pledge; seven were successful, with Hillary Clinton losing five electors, and Donald Trump lost two. In 2020, the Trump campaign encouraged his pledged electors in seven “battleground states” to falsely assume office and to certify they were lawfully elected, even though Trump had lost their state’s popular vote.

John Quincy Adams was elected president by the House of Representatives, even though Andrew Jackson had received far more popular votes. Since that time, there have been four more occasions when the winner of the popular vote was not elected.

Most recently, Al Gore won 48.38 percent of the popular vote in 2000, versus 47.87 percent for George W. Bush. When a majority of the U.S. Supreme Court awarded Florida's electoral votes to Bush, he pushed ahead in the Electoral College, 271 to 266. In 2016, more Americans voted for Clinton than any other candidate who ever lost the presidential election. Even though Trump won in the Electoral College, more than 2.9 million People voted for Clinton instead of him.

Elimination of the Electoral College would force candidates to campaign in each large state, even if a candidate had no chance of winning a majority of its votes. On the other hand, retention of the Electoral College keeps candidates from ignoring the smaller states—that have few electoral votes to offer. In practice, since most of the states are either solidly democratic or republican, presidential candidates spend little time or money campaigning in those states. In 2024, the seven “swing states” experienced almost 90 percent of personal campaign events by the candidates.

Because the voting and election processes have been left up to the states, there are inconsistencies in the time and manner presidential candidates are nominated by their political parties for the general election. Iowa, which chooses candidates by party

caucuses, commences the primary process in early January of the election year and is followed by others states through January into March.

The staggered primaries allow candidates to concentrate their resources in separate areas of the country at different times. The early states, however, exert a disproportionate influence in the process, and later states often play no role—as the nominations are decided before their primaries are held. A uniform date for primaries would still allow the various states to have some flexibility in the type of primary system to employ, such as caucuses, open or closed primaries, or winner-take-all contests.

If no presidential or vice-presidential candidate receives a majority of votes in the Electoral College, the Twelfth Amendment requires the House of Representatives to elect the president from among the three candidates who received the most electoral votes. Voting in the House is by the states, with each state having one vote. Using a similar process, the Senate would select the vice president from the two candidates having the most electoral votes, with each senator having one vote.

Under the existing two-party system, and with most states awarding all their electoral votes to the candidate who receives the most popular votes,

one or the other major candidates should receive a majority of the electoral votes. With the rising popularity of other parties, such as the Greens and Libertarians, it is not difficult to imagine a situation in which a third-party candidate might win enough electoral votes to deny a majority to any candidate. In such a situation, members of Congress, rather than the People, would decide the elections.

Twice in the last century, there have been third-party attempts to throw the presidential election into the House, where the third party would have the power to decide which of the two major candidates prevailed. In 1948, the segregationist Dixiecrats ran South Carolina Governor Strom Thurmond for president, and in 1968, the American Independent Party's candidate was Alabama Governor George Wallace.

The District of Columbia was awarded three electoral votes in the Electoral College by the Twenty-third Amendment in 1961; however, American citizens in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and other U.S. territories cannot presently vote in the presidential election.

Elimination of the Electoral College would require repeal of the Twelfth and Twenty-third Amendments and the clauses of the Constitution that establishes the Electoral College.

The Electoral College is an undemocratic, historical anachronism; it is unnecessarily complicated; it deprives American citizens of their vote; and it defeats the will of the People. More importantly, the president should be the personal representative of all People, without reference to party or political persuasion.

Section Twelve of the Voter's Bill of Rights eliminates the Electoral College.

Section 12.

Clauses Two and Three of Article Two, Section One and the Twelfth and Twenty-third articles of amendment to the Constitution of the United States are hereby repealed.

Clause Four of Article Two, Section One of the Constitution of the United States is amended to read as follows: "The Congress shall determine the dates of the primary and general elections of the president and vice president, which dates shall be the same throughout the United States. The presidential and vice-presidential candidates receiving the most popular votes by all citizens of the United States shall be elected."

Lobbying, Bribery, and the Revolving Door

Lobbying means being employed to influence decisions by legislators, regulators, and other government officials. In practice, lobbyists provide campaign contributions, gifts, and other personal benefits to those they are trying to influence. The success of lobbyists depends upon the quality and quantity of their access to those they seek to persuade. The most powerful are those who previously held the same or similar positions in government.

There are currently more than 12,000 registered lobbyists working in the corridors and lobbies of Congress and other government buildings, and perhaps as many as 100,000 policy advisors and other proponents who avoid the registration requirements. A new official record \$4.4 billion was spent on lobbying in 2024, but the real numbers are much greater.

Irrespective of how it is phrased, the provision of contributions, gifts, and benefits to public officials by lobbyists is simply bribery by another name.

There are laws and congressional rules that attempt to regulate lobbyists; however, the Supreme Court has declared the practice to be an exercise of free speech and the right to petition for redress of grievances.

Section Thirteen of the Voter's Bill of Rights places constitutional restrictions on lobbying, which it disallows as free speech.

Section 13.

No person, having previously served as an official of the federal government, whether elected, appointed, employed, or serving in the military shall engage in any employment to advocate an interest or position to any Government official for a period of time following such service equal to the period of such service.

No person advocating an interest or position to any government official, whether or not for pay, shall offer or provide any campaign contribution, gifts, or things of value, including favors, services, travel, meals, entertainment, honoraria, and promises of future employment to such government official, nor shall such official accept any such proffering. Restrictions imposed by this section shall not be deemed to violate the rights of free speech or petition for redress.

Conflicts of Interest

Both the Senate and House of Representatives have developed rules of ethics governing conflicts

of interest by congressional members and their staff. For example, Senate Rule 37.4 says:

A Member, officer, or employee may not use his or her official position to introduce or pass legislation, when *the principal purpose* is to further the official's or an immediate family member's financial interests, or the financial interests of a limited class to which such individuals belong. (emphasis added)

One does not have to be a lawyer to spot the loopholes. Should a member be voting at all on legislation that benefits him or her, or immediate family members, even if the principal purpose of the legislation is otherwise? What if the principal purpose of the legislation *is* to benefit a major contributor or a personal friend?

All states have enacted conflict of interest laws. The California Political Reform Act of 1974 disqualifies public officials from participating in government decisions in which they have a financial interest. They may own or acquire financial interests that conflict with their official duties—they just cannot participate in any decisions relating to the interest.

Canon Two of the Code of Conduct for federal judges says, “A judge should respect and comply with the law and should act at all times

in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary;” and that “A judge should not allow family, social, political, financial, or other relationships to influence judicial conduct or judgment.” Canon Three requires that “A judge shall disqualify himself or herself in a proceeding in which the judge’s impartiality might reasonably be questioned.”

The U.S. Supreme Court oversees and enforces the Code of Conduct for the judges of all inferior federal courts; however, it has refused to apply the Code to the conduct of its own justices. The situation of Justice Clarence Thomas is a case in point. He participated in deciding a matter involving the Affordable Care Act, while his wife was an officer of Liberty Central and Liberty Consulting—organizations that actively opposed the act. It was also discovered that Justice Thomas had “inadvertently” failed to report his wife’s employment income of more than \$1.5 million from similar organizations over a 13-year period. Justice Thomas denied there was any conflict of interest in his deciding the case and refused to disqualify himself.

Section Fourteen of the Voter’s Bill of Rights disqualifies federal officials, congressional members, and the federal judiciary, including members of the Supreme Court, from participating

in decisions regarding matters in which they have an interest.

Section 14.

No member of Congress, federal judge, or federal official shall vote, or rule on any matter in which such person or their spouse, domestic partner, child, or contributor of more than minor amounts of campaign funds has a financial, legal, or beneficial interest.

Ratification by State Conventions and Absence of Deadline

In all but one instance, amendments to the Constitution have been ratified by votes of the state legislatures. The exception was ratification of the Twenty-first Amendment, which repealed the prohibition of intoxicating liquors. It provided that its ratification was to be “by conventions in the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of submission hereof to the States by the Congress.”

The Amendment was ratified within eight months by conventions in the requisite number of states, followed by two more the following day. The convention of one state rejected the

amendment, one state voted against holding a convention, and eight states took no action.

Congress chose to ratify the Amendment by state conventions because it believed too many state legislators would be reluctant to vote against prohibition. By allowing the vote to take place in conventions, legislators were insulated against the “dry” vote. In addition, the average citizens attending the conventions were believed to be less susceptible to political pressure from temperance activists.

There were different procedures in the states. Vermont (which has 14 counties) called for an election of delegates in which votes were cast for 14 “at large” delegates from a list of 28 candidates proposed by the governor, lieutenant governor and speaker of the house. The top 14 individuals comprised the convention. In New Mexico, each member of the legislature was a delegate. In Florida, there was an election in which all candidates who paid the fee and gathered 500 signatures were allowed on the ballot. Candidates could declare whether they were for or against, or decline to state, and the 67 (the number of counties in Florida) candidates receiving the most votes were elected to serve in the convention.

Given the extraordinary power of the forces that will line up to oppose the Voter's Bill of Rights, it would seem prudent to minimize, to the greatest extent possible, the political pressure that can be brought to bear on state legislators in voting on the Bill of Rights. Ratification by conventions, rather than the legislatures might help insulate delegates.

The costs of the special elections for delegates and for the ratification conventions should be the responsibility of the federal government, rather than the states. The expense might have been one of the reasons why eight states took no action regarding the ratification of the amendment to repeal prohibition.

Contrary to other recent amendments, no time limit is specified for ratification of the Voter's Bill of Rights. In 1939, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Coleman v. Miller* that an amendment can be ratified at any time, when no ratification deadline is specified in an amendment. The Twenty Seventh Amendment concerning congressional salaries was originally proposed by Congress in 1789, along with the Bill of Rights, and it was not fully ratified until 1922.

Section Fifteen of the Voter's Bill of Rights provides that ratification shall be by conventions,

without a deadline, and specifies the method by which delegates are elected, and conventions are held.

Section 15.

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by conventions in the several States, as provided in the Constitution. Delegates to State conventions to ratify this amendment shall be selected by special elections held within three months of its being proposed by Congress to the States. The voters in each congressional district in the several States shall elect one delegate. All delegate candidates shall affirm under oath when filing as a candidate whether they will vote yes or not for ratification of the proposed amendment, and their position shall be printed with their names on the special election ballot. Delegates shall not have the power to vote differently than their stated intention.

Conventions shall be held in the capitals of each State within three months of the election of delegates, with the chief justice of the highest court in the State chairing the

convention. Tie votes by delegates shall be considered a vote for ratification.

The power of delegates convened pursuant to this section shall be restricted to voting yes or no for ratification of the proposed amendment. Such conventions shall not have the power to make changes to the proposed amendment or to consider other constitutional amendments.

The costs of ratification pursuant to this section shall be an expense of the federal government.

A Multi-Party System

What kind of government will result from ratification of the Voter's Bill of Rights? Surely, the government will become more oriented towards the society of the People who elect it. The minor parties will probably attract electoral strength from the major parties, and it is conceivable that the two-party system would be replaced by a more representative and healthier multi-party system.

For more than 20 years, the Gallup Poll has reported that most People believe a third party is needed because of failures by both the Republican and Democratic parties. Support is higher among Independents and Democrats, but overall, last year's poll found 58 percent of all adult voters believed a new political party is necessary because the two major parties "do such a poor job."

Under a multi-party, national referendum system, Congress will become more issue oriented and will be forced to collaborate and compromise in carrying out the People's policy and fulfilling the voters' expectations.

Given the absence of an Electoral College, the presidential and vice-presidential candidates receiving the most popular votes will be elected to

represent all the People. With a multi-party system, it may be less likely that any candidate could receive a majority of the vote; however, implementation of “ranked choice voting” allowing voters to rank all candidates in order of preference would always ensure a majority for a single candidate.

The power of the imperial presidency and autocratic executives will be curtailed. Moreover, the popularly elected president would represent all People, and the President should necessarily become more concerned with faithfully implementing the policies of the People and executing the laws passed by Congress.

The Power to Make a Difference

The collective knowledge, intelligence, and wisdom of the People far exceeds that of any individual or party, and reformation of their government will result from an achievement and application of that collective power. Although the opposition to change is great and the process of change may appear overwhelming, the inherent and potential power of the People is beyond measure. Authoritarianism is regressive, limited, and harmful, while the power of tolerant self-government is progressive, unlimited, and healing.

The stupendous power of the robotic corporations, their CEOs, the wealthy elite, and the unrepresentative United States government they presently control, is exceeded only by the power of the American People—once they become fully committed to defending their liberties, taking control of their government, and governing themselves.

Recent history provides vivid examples of how people power can overcome dictatorial power. The collapse of the communist regimes in Eastern Europe and East Germany resulted from popular social and political movements that

continued to gain strength, even in the face of severe repression. The disintegration of the Soviet Union into 15 separate countries resulted from an irresistible groundswell of popular demand for political and economic freedom. “Color” revolutions around the globe have demonstrated the political power of young people communicating by social media.

The People of the United States are not powerless. The foundation of our strength is the realization that our primary weakness results from the success of intentional efforts designed to divide us. Our greatest power is the sharing of a common goal and our determination to *force* elected officials to address our issues and concerns, rather than to attack our unity.

The time is ripe for change. We the People possess far more power than we imagine in our retained universal Rights of Liberty; however, that power must be preserved at all costs, for once the moment passes, the opportunity for transformation may be lost forever in the corruption of empire and endless war.

The Power of the Constitution

The creators of the Constitution of the United States recognized that it was not perfect and that

changing conditions would require its amendment. Thomas Jefferson said:

No work of man is perfect. It is inevitable that, in the course of time, the imperfections of a written Constitution will become apparent. Moreover, the passage of time will bring changes in society which a Constitution must accommodate if it is to remain suitable for the nation. It was imperative, therefore, that a practicable means of amending the Constitution be provided.

Article V of the Constitution establishes the process for amending the Constitution. Thus far, every amendment has been proposed by Congress. Ratification by three-quarters of the state legislatures occurred for all but one amendment. The Twenty-first, which repealed the Eighteenth Amendment prohibiting intoxicating liquors, was decided by conventions, rather than state legislatures, as provided for in the Constitution.

The Twenty-first Amendment was proposed by Congress after several state legislatures began to call for a Second Constitutional Convention, as is provided by Article V of the Constitution: “on the application of the legislatures of two thirds of the several states, [Congress] shall call a convention for proposing Amendments,”

Once a Constitutional Convention is convened, it can consider and propose any amendments it chooses, subject to ratification by 38 of the states. It is this fear of a runaway convention that can be used to pressure Congress to propose the limited Voter's Bill of Rights to the states.

The First Amendment provides the People with freedoms of speech, assembly, and petition, which are powerful tools to compel consideration of the Voter's Bill of Rights by Congress and the states.

It is extremely appropriate to ask every legislative and executive candidate in the country whether she or he supports the Voter's Bill of Rights. By maintaining a public tally of the individual position of all representatives, Congress and state legislatures can be compelled to adopt legislation calling for the Voter's Bill of Rights, or for a Second Constitutional Convention as an alternative.

Once Congress passes a joint resolution proposing a constitutional amendment, it is sent to the Federal Register for official publication. The amendment is then forwarded to state governors for presentation to state legislatures for consideration. The president and state governors do not play a direct role in the amendment process—as they have no power under the Constitution to introduce, veto, or ratify proposed amendments.

Depending on the ratification procedure proposed in the amendment, the state legislatures either vote on the amendment or authorize a convention to consider it.

The Power of a Mass, Nonpartisan, Popular Movement

Saul David Alinsky, who originated the practice of community organizing, taught that money and people were the two main sources of power. To overcome the overwhelming influence of money in politics, the People must unite and use the synergy of their combined creative energy to secure their constitutional right to vote and to control their own government.

The power to compel Congress to propose a Voter's Bill of Rights Amendment to the Constitution and to obtain its ratification cannot come from the political left, right, or middle. It cannot come from the unemployed, workers, or small business owners. It cannot come from young people, or seniors. It cannot come from one or a few leaders, as they can be easily compromised or assassinated. Power will only be sufficient and unstoppable if it naturally arises from all the People, generating a safe, nonviolent solution to a common problem.

There are many corrupting elements in the existing government of the United States, and there are individual political initiatives to remedy these various ailments; however, a mass movement requires a narrow focus, which will facilitate solutions for all voting problems. In a representative democracy, that nucleus must be *the right to cast an informed, effective, self-governing vote, with the Wisdom of the Crowd arising from the votes of everyone.*

Achieving an effective vote requires constitutional protection, not only of the right to vote, but against political corruption which interferes with, prevents, or dilutes the vote and right of self-government. Moreover, the right to cast an effective vote ultimately requires the People to speak for themselves about what the policies of their government should be.

Mahatma Gandhi, who led the nonviolent movement that achieved independence in India said, "First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win." In the same light, Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

The Power of the Internet and Social Media

Much like the printing press, postal service, and Committees of Correspondence during the Revolutionary War, the Internet and social media provide the People with the modern means to communicate independently, and to compel political change.

As of 2024, more than 97 percent of Americans have daily access to the Internet; 194 million actively use Facebook; more than 92 percent of the digital population use email every day; and 98 percent use a mobile phone.

The Internet not only has the power to spread political ideas, such as the Voter's Bill of Rights, but it also has the power to facilitate debate of these ideas among the many diverse communities that use the Internet for social and political interaction. People are encouraged to "like" statements and ideas and to "comment" on them in a public forum accessible to their "friends." Conversation and debate are stimulated, and there are rules against "flaming," "trolls," and other disruptions.

Cell phones, the Internet, and other electronic media, such as email, texting, and social media have been used to not only spread information, but to organize real-time responses to the messages. This

has been observed in China, Egypt, Tunisia, South Korea, Ukraine, and Hong Kong.

Totalitarian nations, such as China, North Korea, and Iran seek to control the Internet, social media, search engines, text messaging, and email, and there are efforts in the United States and other Western democracies to emulate such repression. Powerful corporate forces are seeking to eliminate federal “net neutrality” regulations which mandate the same speed of Internet access for everyone on the same system.

Governments find it relatively easy to defeat digital tools that are specifically designed to avoid censorship and electronic monitoring, but the authorities cannot overcome the disorganized basis of the Internet and social media. Success of the Voter’s Bill of Rights, “Liberty and Justice for All,” and “Make Our Votes Count,” will not depend on a hierarchical organization—rather it will result from the rationality of its message and its relevance to the problems of the real world in which real People struggle to survive, instead of starring on reality TV.

The plutocracy and corpocracy have also come to depend on the Internet and electronic connectivity to operate, and they cannot shut down the Internet without harming their own interests.

Moreover, any attempt to restrict the People from participating on the Internet will serve to galvanize nonpolitical individuals into acting—when they might have otherwise remained silent.

The American People are already connected, and they are prepared to speak with a loud, unified, and magnified voice in support of liberty and justice for all.

The Power of Nonviolence

The Revolutionary War could not have been won without the massive importation of gunpowder and other military supplies from France, Spain, and the Dutch Republic. The Civil War was won by the industrial strength of the North because its immense firepower and immigrant manpower eventually overwhelmed the rebel forces—even though the South had higher morale and superior military leadership.

The United States was formed as the result of a violent revolution and its unification was maintained by a savage civil war; however, it cannot be transformed into a peaceful, people-oriented government through violence. It can only be destroyed by violence, intolerance, and hatred.

There are more firearms in the United States than there are people, with as many as 500 million

civilian-owned guns, resulting in 44 percent of Americans living in households with guns. Some people own firearms for sport or hunting, but most people believe their guns are necessary for the defense of self and liberty. Unfortunately, millions of gun owners believe it is their government that poses the greatest threat, and they are prepared to use their weapons to defend themselves, their families, homes, communities, and retained rights of liberty.

This arsenal of a half billion personally owned guns is impressive; however, as a matter of reality, it is no match for the destructive power that can be unleashed by the U.S. military. This is not to say that violent guerrilla warfare could not be carried on for some time; however, the commercial supply of ammunition and spare parts would soon run out, as manufacturing and distribution would be controlled by the corporate government. Most likely, the rebellion would be ultimately crushed with massive injuries, loss of life, and collateral damage, *and* the resulting government would not be one worth having.

It is unlikely the threatened plutocracy and corporations will passively allow a mass nonpartisan movement to unseat them from power—even if the campaign is nonviolent. Over the past decades, we have seen the criminalization of political protest

in the United States, as the “war on terror” has morphed into a “war on dissent.”

Peaceful political protesters are often confronted with lines of masked police officers wearing black tactical suits with full body armor and equipped with military weapons. Protesters are restricted to “free expression zones” or corralled in “free speech cages.” Nonviolent political protest movements are regularly infiltrated by undercover officers and agent provocateurs, and activists are subjected to preemptive arrests and searches.

The only possible way to prevail in the face of such overwhelming police and military power is to exercise nonviolence and to continually demonstrate the strength inherent in the rational presentation of reasonable and achievable constitutional goals. Any resort to violence will simply provide an excuse for the corporations and plutocracy to violently destroy the natural evolution of the People’s government that threatens their existing power.

Mahatma Gandhi proved that “Non-violence is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind. It is mightier than the mightiest weapon of destruction devised by the ingenuity of man.” Or, as his follower Martin Luther King once said, “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

Once the wave of *Liberty and Justice for All* sufficiently grows in strength and numbers as to be undeniable, there will be no stopping it—irrespective of the power of the plutocracy. Given the prevalence of smartphones with digital camera capability, any attempt to defeat peaceful protests by violent means will rebound to the detriment of the authorities, as the images of repression will go viral and flash around the world. The Internet and social media will allow the dissemination of information about successful endeavors, even if they are ignored by the corporate-controlled media.

The Power of Youth

The future belongs to the young people. They are the ones who will have to cope with the economic, environmental, military, and social issues they inherit. The problems will still be there tomorrow—if reasonable solutions continue to be opposed and defeated by corporations and the wealthy elite.

The 2008 presidential election was the first election where the participation of young people made a significant difference. Thousands of young Americans enthusiastically campaigned for Barack Obama, and more than two-thirds of voters under the age of 30 supported him. With

older voters split between the two major parties, the youth vote made a difference in the battleground states where the popular vote was close. The Pew Research Center also found:

Young voters are more diverse, racially and ethnically, than older voters and more secular in their religious orientation. These characteristics, as well as the climate in which they have come of age politically, incline them not only toward Democratic Party affiliation but also toward greater support of activist government, greater opposition to the war in Iraq, less social conservatism, and a greater willingness to describe themselves as liberal politically.

In 2008, 45 percent of young people registered Democratic and 26 percent registered Republican. Today, half of all young people consider themselves to be politically independent. Almost one-third do not believe there is “a great deal of difference in what Republicans and Democrats stand for.” Young people are approximately 14 percent of the population, and they are more interested in issues than in political parties and their corporate-approved candidates.

Reflecting the mood of the 2024 election, young people favored Harris by 11 points, with

young men favoring Trump by two points. Young black voters favored Harris over Trump at levels far higher than white youths.

Members of the Me and Gen-X generations have become parents and grandparents, and their children and grandchildren are entering adulthood. We are finding the attitudes and practices of the Millennial generation to be significantly different, as well as the following Generation Z who are now coming of age.

Young people have grown up with smartphones, texting, computers, email, the Internet, and social networking. They are master communicators and active participants in the new media—they are connected and online all the time. They are ethnically diverse, are more empathetic, and have a better understanding of the perspective of others. Young people have a greater concern for the well-being of their friends, their communities, and the environment. They are positive about their own futures and that of their country.

The young people of today have been given the confidence since infancy to play a leadership role in a social and political movement that will transform and reorient the government of the United States toward the People who elect it. Their government will protect them and their children—as

they enter a future that will be magnificent beyond their wildest dreams. They are confident, and they are challenged. The only question is whether they will become committed to and focused upon a practical, achievable objective such as the Voter's Bill of Rights.

While young people must necessarily carry the burden of defining their own future, all parents have the instinctive drive to do all they can to care for their children and to make their lives easier. Guaranteeing them the right to cast informed, effective votes is one thing we can all do for our children.

The Political Future

Young Americans continue to be grievously wounded and killed in their nation's wars to defend a plutocratic government that places them in harm's way for reasons of corporate greed and avarice—rather than legitimate national defense. What kind of government will these young people have in the future?

Will it be a despotic government autocratically controlled by corporate AI and enabled by disillusioned, disheartened, and easily misled voters?

More likely, the People of the United States of America—of every political persuasion—will prove they are smart enough to figure out they are not being properly represented by their political parties, and they will have the courage and wisdom to do something about it.

Irrespective of the political party in power, the United States government is in grave danger of becoming an irreversible plutocracy (or corpocracy), and its constitution does not presently guarantee that the People have the right to vote. To secure that right and to preserve their Rights of Liberty, the People, irrespective of their individual political persuasion—conservative, progressive,

libertarian, green, or independent—must come together with a common goal.

United in purpose, the People will not only restrain the power of the plutocracy, but *the People will transform their government into something unlike anything ever achieved on Earth*. The United States government will become oriented to the People who elect it, and their needs, aspirations, and wellbeing will become paramount.

The founding of the United States and the creation of its Constitution were done by individuals who had the ability to dream on a large scale. If the government of the United States is to be salvaged and the liberties of its People are to be preserved, the People must once again share a grand vision of *transforming their government, along with reforming it*. As George Bernard Shaw said, “Some look at things that are, and ask why. I dream of things that never were, and ask why not?”

Failure is Not an Option

The scientific creed that guided the U.S. space program—which repeatedly landed astronauts on the moon and returned them safely to Earth—was “failure is not an option.” There are few who would deny that the government of the United States has become increasingly corrupt, irrespective of administration or congress, over the past 50 years and that the People are in great peril. Many even believe our government poses a greater danger to Americans than do foreign adversaries. Not everyone will agree that the Voter’s Bill of Rights is the answer to some or all these problems, but the one thing everyone can agree on is that failure to find a solution is not an option.

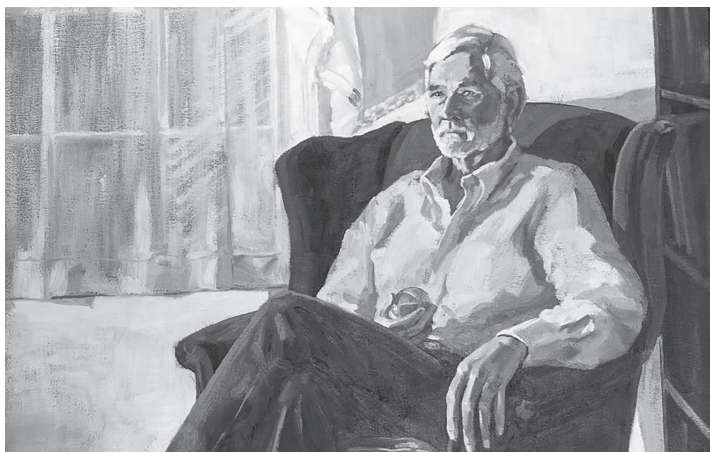
What has been summarized here is a blueprint. Much remains to be learned and accomplished during the building—if we Americans are to transform our government into one that is oriented to the People who created it.

The task of securing effective voting rights must commence with good intentions and a spiritual reverence for the binding and healing power of liberty and justice.

In his first inaugural address, Abraham Lincoln said, “This country, with its institutions, belongs to the people who inhabit it. Whenever they shall grow weary of the existing government, they can exercise their constitutional right of amending it or their revolutionary right to dismember or overthrow it.”

The People must become united in performing the greatest political feat in human history—the re-orienting and peaceful political transformation of the government of the United States of America into finally becoming a true government of the People, by the People and for the People—so that it will not perish from the earth.

The Author



For more than 50 years, William John (Billy Jack) Cox, orphaned last child of a pioneer family of American patriots and Texas rebels, has written extensively on public policy, law, politics, history, philosophy, mathematics, and the human condition.⁴

With a native ability to absorb complicated problems and to formulate and articulate concise practical policies with simple legal solutions, Cox's

⁴ The oil painting of the author holding the *Universal Geometry* sphere is by his wife, master artist Helen Werner Cox. (<https://www.helenwernercox.com/>)

professional work is well known, rather than his name, as he has voluntarily represented and quietly defended the legal rights and interests of others in a series of historical matters.

Upon his honorable discharge in 1962 as a Hospital Corpsman Second Class after four years of service in the U.S. Navy, Cox became a police officer and joined the “New Breed” movement to define and professionalize law enforcement as peace officers of the People. First representing the officers of his local police department, he was elected to serve as president of all law enforcement officers in San Diego County in the California statewide professional organization (PO-RAC) that conceived the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics and the Peace Officers Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) commissions.

Transferring to the Los Angeles Police Department in 1968 and later serving as a police sergeant attending evening law school, Cox wrote the principles and philosophy of the LAPD in its Policy Manual. He was then seconded to President Nixon’s National Advisory Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals in 1973 to write the Role of the Police in America that established the existing model of Peace Officers Standards and Training in all states.

As an attorney, Cox worked for the U.S. Department of Justice to implement national criminal justice standards and goals, prosecuted cases for the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, and operated a public interest law practice in Long Beach, California primarily dedicated to the defense of young people accused of serious crimes.

Cox volunteered *pro bono* services in several landmark legal cases. In 1979, he filed a class-action lawsuit on behalf of all citizens directly in the U.S. Supreme Court alleging that the government no longer represented the voters who elected it.

As a remedy, Cox petitioned the Court to mandate the failed government to hold a National Policy Referendum on the 12 most critical issues with every presidential election, so the People can vote and make their own policies for their elected representatives to implement.

When the Supreme Court declined to hear his petition, Cox symbolically ran for president in 1980 as a write-in candidate to promote government by people-policy referenda and nonviolence against other nations or peoples. Instead of war, Congressional declarations of arrest warrants should issue to secure the appearance of dangerous leaders at the International Court of Justice

to defend the legitimacy of their government over their own innocent, repressed people, such as Iraq, North Korea, and Russia. Cox did not contest the election of Ronald Reagan.

In 1981, representing a U.S. Korean War veteran, a Jewish immigrant who had survived Auschwitz as a youth by pretending to be older and capable of work, Cox provided *pro bono* legal services as he investigated and successfully sued a group of radical right-wing organizations that denied the Holocaust. With the Los Angeles Superior Court taking judicial notice of the Holocaust during a hearing televised by all three major networks, the case became the subject of the movie, *Never Forget* in 1991.

It was while engaged in these risky, high-profile matters that Cox escaped the stress of responsibility after work by thought experiments, such as the compression of a Cartesian cube containing the universe down its vertices *through* its center and out the other side of nothing. His imagination produced the *Universal Geometry* spherical model, and he invented *Universal Numbers* to describe it.

Leaving private practice in 1984, Cox served two former LAPD commanding officers as general counsel and operations officer of their nationwide security consulting and investigation corporation

that tested the security of the U.S. nuclear weapons facilities and provided high-level, specialized services to major corporations and law firms.

When his principals retired and sold their corporation to investors, Cox opened an investigative law office overlooking the Long Beach harbor, primarily offering specialized evidentiary consultant services, including data resources, to major law firms before easy internet access and search engines were available.

During this time, Cox quietly represented (*pro bono*) a still secret client, and he signed a contract with the Biblical Archeological Society allowing the publication of almost 1,800 photographs of ancient Dead Sea Scrolls in 1991 that had been suppressed for more than 40 years, with their study denied to generations of biblical scholars.

Cox concluded his justice system career in 2007 as a Supervising Trial Counsel for the State Bar of California. Under the auspices of the California Supreme Court, he created and managed a Fast Track Team of lawyers, investigators, and paralegals who worked with law enforcement and the Superior Courts to quickly prosecute and seize the practices of dishonest lawyers who endangered the public and their clients. His success was recognized by the California legislature when the

State Bar was empowered to target criminal gangs engaged in the illegal unlicensed practice of law.

Continuing to contemplate public policy, political, philosophical, and mathematical matters during his retirement on a combined public safety pension, and following his survival from near-death, full-body sepsis in 2014, Cox realized his time remaining in life was dear, and he began to self-publish the various matters he was thinking and writing about. These include *The Gift of Mind* series and *The Way of Righteousness: A Revealing History and Reconciliation of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*.

Nearing his mid-80s, as an armchair philosopher and grandfather of six, great-grandfather of four and great-great-grandfather of one, Cox continues to read, write, think, communicate, and to act in accord with his sense of duty, in some way, every day. He submitted a new petition to the U.S. Supreme Court for a redress of the People's grievances against their government in 2018 for the retained rights of liberty generally, and again in 2022 for women's universal rights of liberty and freedom of reproductive choice. He has photographed and made videos of political protests over the years; and he has created and maintains a YouTube channel and multiple internet websites.

A Story About the Coxes of Texas

The hills and creek bottoms of central Texas were first explored by Thomas Isaac Cox in 1756 while scouting for a company of Spanish soldiers in establishing a fort and mission at Delucia Creek and Arroyo Cavallo (near Lampasas). The area was abundant with buffalo, wild horses, and longhorn cattle, with few predators. Unwelcomed and under constant attack by the local Kiowa people, the small fort was soon abandoned.

American Revolution

Thomas Cox returned during the Revolution in 1780 as a Continental Army captain, serving under General Francis Marion, the Swamp Fox of the Carolinas who originated modern guerilla warfare. Cox led five nephews on a mission to capture wild mustangs in Texas to equip George Washington with a cavalry to disrupt the superior maneuvering of English infantry formations, as the British shifted to major attacks in the South.

The Cox boys were each able to lead long strings of wild horses linked together with horse-hair ropes, for 81 days straight, running 20 miles a day through more than 1,600 miles of wilderness

to arrive in Philadelphia with 316 horses and 48 colts. Cox commanded a second, more successful roundup, returning with 366 horses and 109 colts, before organizing a company of militia.

Thomas Cox returned as an old man in 1803, along with his namesake (Thomas Isaac Cox, the younger) and legally rounded up and tamed strings of wild Texas mustangs under contract for the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Thomas Cox operated under a license from an old friend, the young officer for whom Cox had originally scouted 47 years earlier, and who became the Spanish governor at New Orleans—before Mexico gained its independence from Spain in 1810.

Texas Revolution

Twenty-six years later, around the first of March in 1836, the invading Mexican Army closed in on San Antonio and the Alamo, which had been fortified by the Texas Republic rebels after their revolution for independence. The Texans had driven the occupying Mexican soldiers below the Rio Grande River as far down as Brownsville, but General Santa Ana, Mexico's military dictator, had responded with a large army.

As the Mexican forces began to encircle San Antonio, a supply wagon was sent up from Goliad

but quickly broke an axle. Over the next four days, Benjamin E. Cox, the son of the younger Thomas Isaac Cox and grandson of Solomon Cox I, ran strings of pack horses carrying corn meal, flour, and beef jerky through the Mexican lines to resupply the Alamo. In the final Mexican assault on the fortified mission all the Texan defenders fought to their death, rather than surrender. The names of fourteen Coxes are listed in the rolls of the Army of the Texas Republic.

Migration of the Cox Family to Texas

There are two lineages of Cox patriot families who migrated to Texas after being expelled from their pacifist Quaker congregation in Cane Creek, North Carolina for their “militant activities” during the American Revolution. One family was led by Solomon Cox I (DAR#A027084) (the father of the younger Thomas Isaac Cox and grandfather of Benjamin E. Cox), his son Solomon II, and his grandson, Joseph Cox. The other lineage was led by Samuel Cox II (DAR#A205252), Solomon I’s nephew, being the son of his brother Samuel I.

The separation tells a story of romance, disownment, and adventure. Samuel II was first banished by the Cane Creek Congregation of Friends because he fought in the War. Martha, the 17-year-

old twin sister of Solomon II, fell in love with Samuel, her courageous first cousin who was seven years older. She left the congregation and the protection of her patriot father Solomon I to marry the rebel Samuel II and to accompany him on his explorations.

Thereafter, the outcast Samuel branch migrated directly to the west along native trails into the Tennessee and Kentucky wilderness, where there were few wagon roads. The larger Solomon I branch took the longer, but safer wagon routes north through Virginia, and then west through northern Kentucky into the new states of Ohio, and Missouri.

Exercising the Rights of Liberty, they had fought to defend, the pioneering Cox families set out to explore the new United States, a nation almost instantly doubled in size by the Louisiana Purchase. Both branches of Coxes were accompanied by other extended families in long trains of horses and wagons that planted peaceful settlements and made good marriages along their way.

When the 1832 Blackhawk War in Illinois threatened to spread into Missouri, Solomon I's grandson, Joseph Cox, a county judge, was elected to command the local Missouri militia regiment with the rank of colonel to defend the border.

Investigating depredations on settlers blamed on Native Americans, his militia identified and captured a white gang of criminals who preyed on outlying areas while masquerading as Indians.

First to arrive in Bell County, Texas was Fleming Trigg Cox, the grandson of the adventurers Samuel II and Martha, being the son of Samuel III. Fleming was scouting a wagon trail from Kentucky through central Texas as an alternate southern route to California. The plan was to gather, graze, and trail cattle herds and move wagon trains down below the West Texas rivers, with easier crossings, and then break out through El Paso and across Arizona into Southern California.

According to family lore, when Fleming's wagon broke an axle at South Nolan Creek, and he didn't have a spare, he stopped and staked out the land.

In his old age, Joseph Cox, the last patriarch of the Solomon branch, undertook one last migration from Missouri down through Arkansas into the hill country of Central Texas, first explored by Thomas Cox almost a century before. His fifth son, Hiram Washington "Wash" Cox, the family maverick, had earlier ranged out alone into West Texas away from family ties to gather and herd cattle instead of farming. Joseph's eleventh and

youngest daughter, Nica Jane sat beside him on their way down to farm and hunt the fertile creek bottoms, where Joseph claimed 600 acres of land in Bell County in 1851. Joseph was also accompanied on the wagon train by his father, Solomon II who settled in Livingston County, where he is buried.

With the Texas arrival of Nica Jane Cox aged 19, her introduction to Fleming's spirited son, Samuel Hampton Cox aged 22, and their marriage in 1853, the two separated Cox families were reunited by these now distant cousins. Joseph Cox was not pleased to have another daughter of the Solomons marry a Samuel, and it is said Nica Jane was not welcome in the family home when her father was in residence—until after her first “fine young boy” was born. Joseph Cox died in 1869 while visiting relatives in Lampasas County, where he was buried.

The Civil War

In the Civil War, Samuel Hampton Cox left Nica Jane and his family to ride with Terry's Texas Rangers. Each of the original 1,170 volunteer rangers who mustered in 1861 with Samuel in the Eighth Cavalry Regiment was required to present himself with a shotgun and/or carbine, a Colt

revolver or two, a Bowie knife, and a saddle, bridle, and blanket.

The Regiment organizer, Benjamin Franklin Terry, was a wealthy railroad builder and commercial planter from Sugar Land near Houston, which he constructed and operated with a large, industrialized labor force of enslaved people. Terry, an avid secessionist, was under appointment as a Confederate colonel by General Longstreet to establish a cavalry force on the western front. Terry formed and quickly led his new Regiment to its first victory, an attack on federal forces at Woodsonville, Kentucky on December 17, 1861, during which he was mortally wounded.

Carrying on without Terry, and fighting from horseback for the next four years, with no common uniform except a Lone Star on their cap or hat, and acting under a succession of fallen leaders, the Ranger Regiment operated as shock troops for the Confederacy throughout the western and southern states.

Of Ranger tactics, it was said that, irrespective of the odds in every battle fought against the Federals, the Rangers “did not have quit in them,” and “once in a fight, they were not there to take prisoners.” The Rangers are generally considered to have been one of the most effective fighting units

ever fielded by either side in the conflict, having remained continually on the attack throughout their “War Against Northern Aggression” to its end.

The Rangers engaged in 275 battles, as they aggressively defended the northeastern land borders of the State against any potential Federal invasions. Raiding and scouting under the command of the Army of Tennessee, the Rangers harassed the flanks of General Sherman, as he drove his larger army across Georgia toward Atlanta, and then north through the Carolinas. At the end, Sherman was in central North Carolina striking hard toward Virginia and combining Union forces and supply lines with General Grant.

The last major battle of the Civil War was fought at the end of March 1865 at Bentonville, North Carolina (less than 100 miles from Cane Creek, the origin of the Cox family migrations). Over several days of fierce fighting, the far superior Federal army under Sherman defeated a final series of repeated counter attacks by the Rangers and remaining western Confederate forces under the command of General Joseph E. Johnston. The Rangers suffered major losses, including three officers, in a desperate effort to block Sherman from connecting with Grant in Virginia.

With the surrender of the Army of Tennessee at Bentonville, followed days later by Lee's surrender of the Army of Virginia, Samuel Cox's Eighth Cavalry Regiment stood down, and less than 300 of the original 1,170 volunteer Rangers rode home.

While Samuel Hampton was fighting across the South, his brother-in-law, Nica Jane's lone wolf older brother, Wash Cox and his ranch cowboys and cattle trail pioneers were ranging out of Erath and Hopkins counties in defense of the West Texas frontier—once the Federal Army abandoned its western line of forts and retreated to the north at the beginning of the war.

When the Confederate government failed to organize or field a defense of its western frontier borders, Wash Cox and his cowboys ranged out and reacted aggressively against raids by Native American tribes, renegades, and rustlers, pushing them out of Texas across the border into the wild Territory of New Mexico.

Having learned and improved upon the horseback tactics of the Comanche and Apache Native Americans, Wash Cox and his western cowboy rangers were violently combative, yet they stopped short of reciprocal scalping (even though bounties had been paid by Texas as late as 1841 for the scalps of Comanches killed along

the Llano River), or branding dead cattle rustlers, although there were rumors to that effect.

Following the surrender of Texas, the last Confederate state to do so (on “Juneteenth”), the Federals were able to cross Texas and to reoccupy the western forts. Wash Cox began to relocate his ranch headquarters, and his entire “outfit” of 30,000 head of COX-branded cattle, moving trains of wagons 800 miles across roadless New Mexico Territory into far northwest San Juan County, up to “four corners” where Colorado, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico connect. There he built the first ranch house at Cedar Hill in the wilderness on the east face of the Rockies, near the original northwestern boundary of the Republic of Texas.

Unlike all other States of the Confederacy, the interior of Texas was unscarred by battle, and although its coast had been blockaded, all invasion attempts were repelled. Samuel Hampton Cox mustered out of the Rangers and rode 1,300 miles across a devastated South back home to Nolanville and his wife Nica Jane. Life for them was mostly unchanged, as their homes, property, stock, and crops were safe and intact. They hung up their weapons and they quietly raised 13 children, as Sam served as a Justice of the Peace.

Philosophy

With basic Quaker beliefs in peace and the better qualities of all people, moderated by the necessity of self-defense, the Coxes did not own or work slaves, nor did they unnecessarily associate with those who did; however, by living independently on the bounty of the land of Texas, and when they rode to defend it and their inherent Rights of Liberty, they followed the creed of the Rangers: "Say what you mean and mean what you say," and "Defend the ground upon which you stand."

The Cox family in America (including the Mormon pioneers who branched off to migrate west to Utah) is one of the oldest, largest, related families in the United States, most of whom share a gentle Quaker ancestry tradition of avoiding disputes and performing community service. Having always lived on the land without slaves, the family did not defend the horrible institution of slavery, which they abhorred, but they protected their land and people from external threat. When forced to fight, they did so with a ferocity of tactics and purpose that punishes and deters aggression.

The Coxes ended the Civil War with an honorable peace, and, with their responsibilities met and duty fulfilled, they were at ease with themselves, and the weapons they had to use in defense of

their inherent Rights of Liberty. It was their reluctance to bear arms, rather than their prowess when forced to do so, that defined their bravery.

The wife of the patriarch Solomon Cox I was Naomi “Amy” Hussey, and her descendants, including Nica Jane, can trace their lineage of English royalty back through the Plantagenets and the Magna Carta, to William the Conqueror. The motto on the Cox Family Crest is to be vigilant, and to “Go forth and find someone worthy to be brought into the family.”

One meaning of the Cox name is the male rooster, a small, fierce, and vigilant cock. Another derivation is from the coxswain, the tillers of the boats and navigators by the stars in the ancient seagoing civilization.

Final Resting Place

Fleming Trigg Cox is buried on Pleasant Hill in the community cemetery in Nolanville, Texas that he dedicated from the land he had staked after his wagon broke down. Samuel Hampton and Nica Jane Cox are also buried nearby alongside their son, Christopher Columbus Alonzo (C. Lonnie) Cox. His son, Samuel Hubert Cox, is the father of William John (Billy Jack) Cox, the author of this story.