

TEN PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION
TO BE CONSIDERED AS AN INDIVISIBLE WHOLE, ENTITLED
- A BILL FOR DEMOCRATIC REFORM, REDRESS, & RESPONSIBILITY -

OR

THE BILL OF AMERICAN RENEWAL

Working Draft & Summary (v3)

PART I: REFORM

28TH AMENDMENT – To reform Congress

29TH AMENDMENT – To reform the Executive Branch

30TH AMENDMENT – To reform the Judiciary

31ST AMENDMENT – To reform Federal Elections

32ND AMENDMENT – To reform and clarify certain matters of Federalism

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PART II: REDRESS

34TH AMENDMENT – Concerning matters of Institutional Redress

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36TH AMENDMENT – To recognize and codify certain Governmental Duties

37TH AMENDMENT – To recognize and codify certain Civic Duties

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

ABOUT THE EDITOR

My name is Chris Register. I've served in the Peace Corps (El Salvador), litigated sprawling lawsuits in federal court, and bicycled thousands of miles across the country for a book project called *Conversations With US*, interviewing hundreds of everyday Americans in search of the roots of our nation's problems, and the seeds of our potential (conversationswithus.com). These days, I'm rarely seen without my 4-legged pal Banjo, whether around our homebase of Charlottesville, Virginia; plying roads and trails in our camper van; or beating a retreat to our mountain acreage near the West Virginia border, where he chases things through the woods while I run the chainsaw and skid steer, or curls up and snoozes while I write and tend the woodstove.

These and a dozen other lives now inform the dual objects of my civic passion: 1) hashing out this BILL FOR DEMOCRATIC REFORM, REDRESS, & RESPONSIBILITY—or Bill of American Renewal, for short—with the goal of producing a comprehensive, fearless, Hail Mary blueprint for salvaging and fortifying American democracy; and 2) running to represent the folks of Virginia's 5th Congressional District—and our Constitution—as an Independent member of the U.S. House of Representatives (Chris4Virginia.org). The two pursuits are interwoven, but not interdependent. Serving in Congress, especially as perhaps the lone Independent in a House evenly split along bitter partisan lines, would no doubt offer a powerful platform for working to repair the civic infrastructure of our nation. But, come this November 4th, whether as a congressional representative-elect, or as just one among millions of ordinary concerned citizens, my dedication will be the same. In an epoch of dwindling hope, faith, options, and time, I believe this Bill—along with the enormous collaborative effort it will take to draft, present, defend, and ratify it—can provide the most promising avenue for resurrecting our civic pride and securing our shared future. As such, I expect the project, or one that springs herefrom, will be the most consequential undertaking of my life.

AN URGENT CASE FOR BOLD ACTION

As I submit this third working draft of the Bill in early spring 2026, a daydream lingers in my mind: It's a crisp Saturday morning in April. The season's unpredictable weather had dictated meetings planned for indoors, but a nationwide blessing of warming sun and clear skies invites many discussions outside, among picnic tables and hastily arranged circles of plastic chairs. A perfect breeze lifts moods without carrying away signup sheets. In rural counties and small towns, suburban neighborhoods and city boroughs, excited Americans everywhere are steeped in preparations for our fast-approaching and extra-special Semiquincentennial this 4th of July. Neighbors feel united in pride and purpose. It's a beautiful scene.

It's also nothing more than a daydream.

~ *We are turning away from that which we claim to venerate* ~

In fact, the stark and heartbreaking reality is that most Americans are feeling too concerned, if not too disgusted, with the state of our Union to have any emotional energy left for celebration. For my part, when I gaze out across a wayward nation and contemplate the more likely commemoration of our milestone 250th birthday, I envision a turbid sky, one that has yet to decide between momentarily dampening the fireworks, or raining out the show altogether. And, even if by strokes of luck and grace the sanctioned festivities proceed as planned, I dread the possibility that I could feel compelled by patriotism and decency to turn down my eyes, so as to avoid bearing witness as our misguided country embarrasses itself with a gaudy spectacle of empty booms and flashes.

~ *We are sinking into the shadow of who we sought to become* ~

In contemplating our present moment, I also feel a deep and immense grief. I grieve for our wasted time and treasure; for the strewn splinters of our former institutional and moral leadership; for the stupid and shamelessly corrupt decisions, the lazy and cowardly indecisions, and the unfathomable burdens of all kinds with which we have stained the prospects of our young and future compatriots. I grieve for the lives and promises we have broken and tossed aside with such callous indifference; whether the wreckage has landed overseas, as it did among the rubble of a schoolhouse roof and the blood of 150 tiny Iranian schoolgirls we recently blew to pieces with a \$3 million dollar tomahawk missile; or here at home, to be reflected among the shards of glass of formerly vibrant American storefronts, in the unseeing eyes of despair-ridden addicts lying in pools of street filth in every American city, or in the numbing glare of tens of millions of digital screens held close by lonely Americans every night, in their struggle to stave off a gnawing uncertainty, disillusionment, resentment, and a pernicious, dangerous, hopelessness.

~ *We are abandoning the path we had so carefully mapped out* ~

If we *have* notched any lasting achievements in recent years, top among them would be our permanent debunking of that myth called American Exceptionalism. We have finally confirmed to ourselves, and to the world, that indeed we are not at all innately special or divinely ordained; that we, too, are susceptible to self-immolation; that we can be driven as much by a can-do attitude and fiercely independent spirit as a caustic greed and shameless ignorance; that we are at the same time heroic saviors and nasty bullies; and that—no matter what we hear on repeat from Hollywood, Nashville, Washington, or even Main Street—the United States of America is not a given. It is not destined to succeed. We are neither invincible, nor immune. We are simply a group of human beings, trying to figure it out—just like every other nation that has ever existed, and ceased to exist, on Earth.

But the formative values of America, the ideals that stir our hearts and call us forward—now there's something that *does* ring exceptional. It thus feels exceptionally maddening that, instead of addressing the obstacles and resolving the burdens of a steady uphill march towards our beacon, our country is instead slipping down that muddy slope, on the verge of tumbling headlong into the abyss of becoming a failed state, or at least a fractured and impotent state. Absent a wholesale reorientation, our Republic will, I fear, soon find itself lying prostrate in the muck, incapacitated by the self-inflicted

wounds of petty tribalism, inexcusable wealth inequality, resentment-fueling disparities in access to education, health, and opportunity, a news and media landscape that patronizes for profit, a political system that has thrown open the door to self-enrichment and bald patronage, and an overall gross squandering of every single advantage we have earned or inherited. We are becoming a near perfect manifestation of the specter that haunted Jefferson, Hamilton, Madison, and so many others who risked their lives so that we might have this chance to get it *right*. We have taken a country founded on humanity's most soaring ideas, and set about recasting it into something that smacks more of a tasteless meme and pedestrian farce, like a box of Red, White, & Blue t-shirts shipped from an overseas sweatshop. And we have no one to blame but ourselves—not *them*, but us—because a democracy will always get the leaders and country it deserves.

~ *And yet, the ember of our potential still smolders* ~

That seemingly bleak maxim of democracy hides a brighter side, however. It *also* means that we hold the power to reassess our direction and retake control of our spiraling momentum; to change our own trajectory; to reinvent ourselves into a nation that deserves better.

But things are not going to fix themselves. Our chance at renewal can vest only upon our commitment to the work of true democracy, which means more than just voting; more than just showing up—it means *stepping up*. We must acknowledge our debt of civic duty. We must be ready to swap out our distractions and comforts for the labors of civic works; be willing to listen to the concerns of our neighbors; be humble enough to admit our mistakes and take responsibility for righting them; be patient enough to maintain a sense of care and connection for those whose progress may lag behind our own. And we must be strong enough to both believe in ourselves, and to hold tightly to our faith that—despite the exhausting and infuriating and sometimes nauseating siren songs seeking to lull our spirit into a slumber of cynicism—that, in fact:

~ *the Ideals and Promise of the United States of America*

are worth not giving up on ~

CHALLENGES

If this proposal is to mature from a lofty little intellectual exercise into a big and menacing threat to our failing status quo, I'll first need to overcome two principal challenges: 1) convincing *you* that the serious consideration of such a proposal isn't (entirely) crazy, and then; 2) convincing you that the power to renew our nation *really is* in your hands. Those challenges surmounted, the rest would amount to mere details.

Of course, the “mere details” of getting even *one* uncontroversial new Amendment incorporated into to our Constitution would be mind-boggling... and here we go proposing **ten** new Amendments, each and every one of which would **turn business as usual on its head** for its respective domain (perhaps causing some contention). The enormity of such an endeavor illuminates the project's inaugural challenge: my own lack of subject-matter expertise.

Although my life has been blessed with a wealth of opportunities for formal education (most of which I've managed to not squander), as well as for real-world learning (many of which, in one form or another, I've come by the hard way), I am no constitutional scholar or policy wonk. That's not to say I lack confidence in the value of my contribution—the training in law and critical thinking I received through Georgetown Law's unique curriculum is without peer, and the efforts I've since made to interrogate the ways those laws and systems intersect with Americans from every strata and background have been earnest and eye-opening. But, regardless of any merit I may bring as an originator, transforming this idea into something with a real shot at national viability will require vast amounts of input from all corners of the Republic, especially from legal and scholarly minds of a higher and more specialized caliber than mine. As such, I don't expect us to figure it all out anytime soon.

Nevertheless, a robust *commitment to getting started* will itself mark a gargantuan upset victory for our Republic. I can think of nothing more classically and fundamentally American than citizens envisioning a revolutionary approach to our own self-government, and then undertaking the serious, sometimes tedious work of collaborating, debating, arguing, and compromising, as we hammer out the details of our Renewal. It's enough to give one the chills.

Our hiccups, delays, setbacks, and challenges will be myriad, but you can help move the process forward right now by supporting my campaign for Congress as a volunteer (I'm not presently accepting financial contributions), by getting actively involved in the development of the Bill, or by doing both. I invite you to sign up for email updates and/or get in touch directly to explore where your skillset and interests might best be applied. Researchers, communications specialists, graphic designers, marketers, legal scholars and practitioners, economists and financial professionals, event planners, historians, teachers, social media engineers and celebrities, systems designers, general nerds, and anyone else feeling resolved to be a force for civic good and transformative change in bringing forth this next iteration of our shared country—come one, come all (more info below).

TIMELINE, PROCESS, & NEXT STEPS

The pace and progress of this undertaking will depend largely on you, and the countless other Americans who share your concerns, uncertainties, and exasperation; but also your determination, hope, and vision.

The legal process for amending our Constitution begins when an Amendment is formally proposed, either by a two-thirds vote from both chambers of Congress, or by a constitutional convention convened by two-thirds of state legislatures. Then, the Archivist of the United States transmits the proposed Amendment to all 50 states for consideration and ratification (or not) by their legislatures. The Amendment becomes part of the Constitution upon ratification by three-fourths (38) of the states.

It goes without saying that no Amendment would have any chance for proposal without first going through a lengthy debate period, whether via Congress or convention; and lawmakers would be unlikely to even consider taking up the debate in the first place absent a strong mandate from their

constituent voters. And, before any of *that* happens, we would need to produce, and then promote, a solid draft that is simultaneously strong *and* flexible; ambitious *and* practical; inspirational *and* reassuring; comprehensive *and* comprehensible; revolutionary *and* reverential.

A rough outline of projected next steps (which I will refine and update periodically):

- Spring 2026
 - continue thinking through Bill in broad strokes
 - continue drafting Bill summary/intro document
 - begin establishing wishlist provisions to be researched for each proposed Amendment
 - dive into more specific Amendment provisions, sparingly
 - establish stand-alone website
 - solicit input and onboard first volunteer collaborators
 - blueprint a volunteer infrastructure and committee framework
- Summer 2026
 - finalize all non-Amendment document subparts (summary, intro, etc)
 - continue work on Amendment wishlist provisions
 - begin legal research
 - compile stakeholder lists for each proposed provision, for considering how changes to the status quo might affect these groups
 - begin running analyses of how these provisions and their mechanisms might play out in the real world over several years
 - build out volunteer infrastructure, committee framework, and management system
 - begin finalizing a series of standing committees and assigning members:
 - legal research; practical research; citizen outreach; legislator communications; media relations; volunteer coordination; fundraising
- Fall 2026
 - shift focus to narrowing down Amendment wishlist provisions, based on legal and practical considerations, such as:
 - funding/cost of implementation
 - macroeconomic and job market concerns
 - international relations, obligations, treaties
 - legal hurdles
 - setting precedent
 - conflict with other constitutional provisions
 - conflict with existing governmental mandates & obligations
 - finalize any outstanding work on volunteer infrastructure and committee framework
 - assign remaining leadership and delegate task management
 - consider establishing standing office and forming nonprofit organization

- Winter 2026/2027
 - shift to consolidating all research/testing/input and begin dedicated drafting of proposed Amendment provisions/subparts
 - ramp up citizen outreach
 - after the November election, begin coordinated and systematic campaign to establish lines of communication with state and federal lawmakers nationwide

As for *your* next steps...

YOUR CRUCIAL INVOLVEMENT

This endeavor is one both for *and* by We The People of the United States of America—and that means *you*. As much as any and every other American, this is *your* country, *your* Constitution, *your* future. As such, participation in America’s Renewal is not only *your right*, but—I believe—*your duty*... **our duty**. The momentous task of reigniting our spirit and reasserting our values presents all Americans with the most critical civic duty of our generation. How you approach your version of that will be up to you.

To be clear, my idea of “participation in America’s Renewal” is not necessarily restricted to actions supportive of the Bill. I assert, unequivocally, that civic involvement *against* the Bill, when grounded in the same concern for our Republic that will fuel Bill proponents, would be equally American. My point is: No matter one’s political or philosophical disposition, the precarious state of our nation cannot be denied, and cannot be remedied without robust and honest participation from all of us. That civic participation based in goodwill is what matters more than anything else.

But if you *are* interested in supporting the Bill (or my campaign), you can:

- sign up [here](#) for periodic Bill and campaign updates
- contact my campaign to explore how your interests and skillset might be most effective (contact@chris4virginia.org)
- follow my campaign—via my video [Campaign Notes](#), a weekly emailed newsletter, and [Facebook](#)
- voters registered in Virginia’s 5th Congressional District can sign my ballot petition (email me), and any willing volunteer can help [gather other signatures](#) on my behalf ([check your registration status and district here](#))
- unregistered adults in Virginia’s 5th Congressional District (or any other Virginia district) can begin the simple voter registration process [here](#)
- email me directly with your ideas, concerns, suggestions, etc. at chris@chris4virginia.org

A FINAL NOTE ON HOUSEKEEPING

As I’ve mentioned probably too many times, this is a working draft, making it even more imperfect and incomplete than the eventual final version will be. To be sure, at this early stage, *none* of

the ideas you'll encounter herein have been exhaustively explored or researched (not by me, at least). I'm sure some of my operating understandings will turn out to be incomplete or outright incorrect. I expect to face several instances where a darling that "seemed like a good idea at the time," when considered more thoroughly in real world scenarios, actually appears more likely to dishonor our core American values, or threatens to morph into a legal or administrative abomination, and must therefore be killed. Your reading may be even tripped up by (*gasp*) a spelling or capitalization error. All of these contingencies are why working drafts generally are not held out as public drafts. But this work is not mine to withhold. I appreciate your grace—and I look forward to your input.

That input will inform the Bill's development, which you can follow via the updated drafts I'll be releasing periodically (a time-saving Edits Log at the end of each new draft summarizes additions and changes). You are currently reading **v3**; visit chris4virginia.org/issues/AmericanRenewal to confirm the latest version.

A FINAL NOTE ON LONGSHOTS

As an Independent candidate facing opponents backed by party machines and billionaires, my campaign for Congress (which, at the time of writing, hasn't seen a House Independent in some 20 years) is a statistical longshot. Likewise, a citizen movement to ratify **ten** Constitutional Amendments and upend a calcified system of governance, claw back usurped citizen power, create a healthcare system that serves people instead of profits, establish an entire ecosystem of civic service, reform nearly every aspect of the federal government, reengineer our national electoral system to be uniform and fair across every state in the Union, and more—*all at once*—well, that's quite the longshot, indeed.

1776 was a longshot.

Worthy undertakings most often do present as longshots, not because they are bad or fanatical ideas, but precisely because they are *revolutionary* ideas—ideas that threaten to upend the status quo. And no one is more concerned with preserving the status quo than those who benefit most from it; those who have the most to lose from change: The Powers That Be. The ultra-rich, both old money and new. Lifetime politicians and dynasties. And the cynics and sycophants who ride their coattails.

It's easy to see why individuals among these groups will roundly reject the Bill, and will spend vast quantities of money and energy in an effort to convince you to do the same. I invite you to tune-out the noise; to form your own opinions. To allow yourself to believe in your power and our possibility. To consider how the United States of America might look if we set about redesigning it today, using everything we've learned—and to look squarely upon the massive task before us.

Now, let's get to work.

—CR

A CONSTITUTION FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
& ITS PHILOSOPHICAL FOUNDATION
(IN A NUTSHELL)

[coming soon]

WORKING SUMMARY

The BILL FOR DEMOCRATIC REFORM, REDRESS, & RESPONSIBILITY—or Bill of American Renewal—entreats us to imagine how our Constitution, government, and society might look were we to supplement the revolutionary wisdom of our Framers with now 250 years of lived experience. It challenges us to acknowledge the limitations and failings of our present approach to the American Ideal, while equally reminding us to not overlook the wondrous things we *have* achieved in its pursuit. This daunting, but critically important civic project of our generation establishes our opportunity—indeed, perhaps even our duty—to envision the United States of America that *could be*; while also providing the mechanism by which we might carry that vision forward to enshrine our founding charter with *that* More Perfect version of our Union.

Above all, the Bill of American Renewal is an invitation for Americans to breathe again, to dream again, to believe again—and then to commit again, as neighbors and as a nation, to the hands-on work of democracy in making our renewed aspirations manifest.

PART I: REFORM

Part I opens the Bill with scores of reforms to our three branches of government.

28TH AMENDMENT – To reform Congress

Proposed reforms to Congress include term limits; age caps (also applicable to all elected and appointed federal offices); a fixed procedure, occurring perhaps every ten years, to update congressional pay/benefits/travel stipend packages; a requirement that House members live in the district they represent; a potential reconsideration of how House district sizes are determined (by using the population size of the least populous state to set the standardized district size, and adding House seats as required); implementing strict bans on stock trades and other potential avenues for corruption or the appearance thereof; a package of rules/mandates/procedures/backstops that eliminate, or at least severely limit, tactical government shutdowns; a mandate that Congress timely examine every existing Executive Agency and classify it, and any such Agency created in the future, as Independent/Administrative/etc. (terms TBD) and develop clear definitions of those terms, to eliminate any ambiguity as to executive authority to remove/replace administrators and otherwise micromanage those Agencies; and other reforms.

29TH AMENDMENT – To reform the Executive Branch

Proposed Executive Branch reforms focus on clarifying the scope of Executive power; codifying norms that, until recently, have been observed by American presidents as a matter of decency and custom; setting clear and strict limits on self-dealing, or the appearance thereof, by the president and other officials and their families, including by the president-elect; and intensely reexamining the

doctrine of presidential immunity. Specific items would include (among others not listed) severe restrictions on War by Executive Order; specific guidelines and rules for declaring and maintaining a National Emergency (including automatic “sunset provisions” for every declaration) in an attempt to halt the misuse of these declarations as a cynical workaround against the Constitution; the clear and formal classification of the Department of Justice, and other Agencies, as Independent; a set of rules limiting the president’s power to unilaterally withhold or shift federal funding for a given item; absolute rules governing the president’s power to demolish or “remodel” federal buildings; a clear classification of tariffs as **taxes** (thereby clarifying tariff authority rests strictly and exclusively with Congress); and a substantial overhaul of the clemency power (a more formalized process for putting clemency petitions on the president’s desk; written justification/explanation submitted to Congress, to the DOJ prosecution team that pursued the case, and to the original convicting court and jury, for every grant of clemency issued by the president; accounting (in one place) of all presidential campaign donations made by a pardonee’s family and associates (to be included in justification/explanation document); full restitution from either the pardonee, or the U.S. Treasury, for moneys owed victims that have been nullified by a pardon; no pardonee/commutee goes free until the granting president’s term is complete (perhaps transferred to minimum security prison or similar in the interim); no preemptive pardons).

30TH AMENDMENT – To reform the Judiciary

Proposed reforms to the Judiciary, for now, focus on facilitating, protecting, and increasing the speed of judges’ decision-making process. This means ensuring the safety and security of our federal judiciary, and ensuring they have the financial and staff resources necessary to render decisions at a modern pace. Additional proposals may include increasing the size of the Supreme Court bench from 9 to 11 Justices and fixing it at that number (with age limits)—or reimagining the Supreme Court bench to be a larger slate of Justices, perhaps 18 Justices, with each case being heard by a rotating 9-Justice panel chosen at random, ensuring no one Court roster, or president, defines decades of constitutional jurisprudence. Also, look at bringing administrative (Executive Branch) courts within the purview of Article III; and other potential reforms.

Next, Part I institutes multifaceted reforms and modernizations to our federal elections.

31ST AMENDMENT – To reform Federal Elections

Proposed electoral reforms would be directed at reinforcing voter confidence in the process and outcome, and establishing a uniform fairness across all States—without usurping the underlying constitutional role of State control. Gerrymandering would be targeted and eliminated by 1) strictly limiting congressional redistricting to once every ten years, following the Census, and 2) an edict requiring that every State form a nonpartisan redistricting commission and place therein sole control over redistricting (many States already employ this system). The Electoral College would be intensely examined to determine whether its role in presidential elections serves, or hinders, democracy. If the system remains in place, it would be modified to uniformly replace winner-take-all allocation systems

with the congressional district method, or an alternative system similarly more based in fairness. Similarly, the current practice of holding staggered primary elections is not a model of fairness; as such, primary dates would be standardized to match the practice of a standardized general election date. Further inquiry into ranked-choice voting, and direct presidential elections, would be made. Analysis of opening up our system to Third Parties and Independents would be made. Participation in federal elections would become mandatory (*see* Part III), with Election Day becoming a national holiday, and offering a method of participation without being forced to vote, via a “Conscientious Objector” and/or “No Vote Cast” option. Proper ID would be required to vote, a requirement coupled with funds for States to ensure this does not deter or hinder anyone from voting. A baseline of alternative forms of voting would be established. Election integrity and security would be examined. Penalties for election fraud or material interference would be augmented. Finally, it goes without saying that campaign finance reform would represent a significant part of this Amendment—examining *Citizens United*, the potential for public funding for campaigns (including spending caps), and other ways to mitigate the corrupting and confidence-crushing effects of money in politics. Among our multitudinous national systems and processes, our elections are the first that must be unassailable.

All proposed electoral reforms would seek to strike a balance between honoring the Framers’ original intent of placing elections under State control, while ensuring every vote in federal elections carries equal weight across State lines and processes.

Finally, Part I settles certain questions regarding federal vs State power, and the constitutional constraints on extraterritorial actions by the federal government.

32ND AMENDMENT – To reform and clarify certain matters of Federalism

33RD AMENDMENT – To reform and clarify certain matters of Constitutional Jurisdiction

Amendments 32 and 33 are, in part, direct responses to actual instances of Executive overreach, and to outright immoral and un-American actions and policies, and potentially war crimes, implemented by the U.S. government at home and overseas, in the name of the American People. These acts include sending federal troops into States and cities against the wishes of those governments; summarily executing individuals on the High Seas with no Due Process; disguising military aircraft as civilian craft; operating Black Sites and other offshore detention facilities where individuals are imprisoned, and have been tortured, with no Due Process; extrajudicial kidnappings of foreign leaders; and other actions where the federal government 1) disrespects State sovereignty and self-determination, and the principles of Federalism; or 2) conducts actions overseas that, if conducted on American soil, would be prohibited by the Constitution. Finally, the Bill makes explicit that the natural rights protected by the Constitution are inalienable and innate; therefore, it protects those rights, by default, for any and every person on U.S. soil (in response to our present gross mishandling of the deportation surge).

PART II: REDRESS

The Bill's second part addresses the harms to individuals and institutions caused by government, particularly Executive, inaction or overreach.

34TH AMENDMENT – Concerning matters of Institutional Redress

35TH AMENDMENT – Concerning matters of Individual Redress

Amendments 34 & 35 seek to clarify and establish mechanisms for redress, including possibly codifying certain causes of action for lawsuits; examining burdens and thresholds of proof; providing avenues for nonpublic testimony and other protections; fortifying whistleblower protections; strengthening FOIA and increasing government transparency generally; perhaps substantially increasing the number of executive administration positions that require showing cause before firing/replacing the position-holder (U.S. Attorneys, as an example to consider); shifting the presumption of legality of certain executive actions; clarifying and memorializing the extent of agency independence and executive authority to dissolve/materially defund/materially alter bodies created by Congress; considering the question of “who holds the money in the meantime” when threats to block or withhold congressionally approved funding are used as leverage; etc.

PART III: RESPONSIBILITY

Part III of the Bill would be its most consequential, and likely most controversial, in that it would take the Constitution in a direction heretofore uncharted: the enshrinement of affirmative duties, both for the federal government, and for individual citizens.

36TH AMENDMENT – To recognize and codify certain Governmental Duties

37TH AMENDMENT – To recognize and codify certain Civic Duties

Regardless of the substance of the proposed affirmative duties, the paradigm shift itself will be supremely contentious (and rightfully so), with strong and valid dissenting arguments. Understanding the potential ramifications of this change will require deep thought and robust debate among experts/scholars/historians/jurists and, of course, the American People. That debate should begin with this question:

Is our Republic on a sustainable path?

Most Americans would reply with a resounding NO. Even so, reshaping the nature of our Constitution in this way may not present the optimal solution to our current existential crisis. Better options may exist. What *is* clear is that our democratic health has deteriorated past the point of hoping a little rest and chicken soup will get us sorted. We will not heal, much less establish the foundation

for long life, by trying a tweak here and there. We must adopt major lifestyle changes if we want to survive—ones we are 100% committed to. What follows is just one way we might do that:

The 36th Amendment would establish new Governmental Duties, including:

- to bring us into line with our peer Democracies, and to advance our pursuit of a baseline equity among all citizens, **the creation and maintenance of a single-payer Nationalized Healthcare System**, providing all Americans the opportunity to pursue their best health, regardless of financial station;
- to, once and for all, stop kicking the can down the road and finally take a stand on behalf of future generations of Americans, **a requirement for government fiscal responsibility**, demanding that, except in certain rare and extenuating circumstances, our government balance its budget every year, and formulate a specific and rigid plan to pay down its existing gargantuan debt;
- the codification of our commitment to those who have put in the most work building this country, by **fortifying and sealing-off Social Security for our seniors**, in perpetuity;
- [More to come]

The Bill's closing 37th Amendment formalizes two Civic Duties that many Americans already view as elemental to the requirements of democratic citizenship, because no Republic could expect to thrive and endure without them:

A Duty of Civic Participation, requiring adult citizens to periodically engage in and support certain civic activities (voting, jury service, etc) necessary for the functioning of a democracy, and;

A Duty of Civic Service, or National Service Requirement, obliging every American to provide two years of national service, which must be underway before turning 25; **and the creation of a corresponding American National Service Corps**, providing up to two dozen service options from which to choose.

[Much more detail to follow]

EDITS LOG

v3 (early April 2026)

- Introductory Note (new)
 - added this major new section at beginning of document
- Working Summary
 - edited first paragraphs
 - 28th Amendment
 - Replaced most uses of the word “pardon” with the more accurate word “clemency,” which includes both pardons and sentence commutations
 - Added provision for complete bar against clemency orders issued within final 90 days of office
 - Added provision for potential Board of Pardons or similar constitutionally mandated procedure for getting clemency requests onto president’s desk
 - 30th Amendment
 - added idea of enlarged Supreme Court Justice roster from which nine justices are chosen at random, in a rotating fashion, to hear cases. This would reduce the likelihood of any one president or panel from dictating years or decades of constitutional jurisprudence.
 - Substantial edits to Part III
- Miscellaneous minor formatting, heading, and wording tweaks
- Added this Edits Log

v2 (early February 2026)

- changed some proposed Amendment wording from first page
- added the Working Summary section