

Amendment XXVIII

Section 1. The people have the inalienable right of self-government. Self-government is the province of the people alone. Self-government is the free and informed actions of the people to select and direct their government, and to deliberate among themselves about the same.

This right is held equally by every one of the people. No one of the people's exercise of this right shall materially impair the equal exercise of this right by any other of the people. No right, power, or interest of the United States, of the States, of any construct, or of any non-resident, however derived, supersedes any right of the people under this article.

Self-government shall be free from intrusion or influence by any construct or non-resident. The people may seek information and opinions from any source. A construct may inform and influence the people if organized solely for that purpose and funded solely by contributions by the people. Congress shall limit the total annual contributions by any one of the people to such organizations, candidates, and campaigns combined, to an amount attainable by most of the people.

The United States and the States shall secure self-government to the people, and shall exercise every power in conformity with this article.

Section 2. To secure the orderly exercise of self-government, the United States and the States may establish qualifications for holding elective office. Any qualification shall be necessary to exercise the authority of the office over the people subject thereto. Such qualifications may be applied to candidates seeking office. Additional qualifications for candidates beyond those for holding office must be strictly necessary to secure the equal exercise of self-government.

Section 3. Every citizen of the United States who has attained eighteen years of age has the inalienable right to vote in any election. This right is limited solely by such residency requirements as are strictly necessary to secure the orderly and equal exercise of self-government. Neither the United States nor any State shall deny, abridge, dilute, materially burden, or otherwise impair this right. The United States and the States shall provide such accommodations as are necessary to ensure that every such citizen has a practical, effective, and equal opportunity to exercise this right. An electoral district map shall be that map among all maps consistent with traditional districting principles which minimizes the total number of people represented by a candidate for whom they did not vote.

Section 4. Congress shall have power to enforce and implement this article by legislation. The States shall retain power to regulate elections subject to this article.

Section 5. Any one of the people may seek expedited judicial review of and relief against any actual or threatened violation of a right secured by this article. No rule of law, doctrine, immunity, privilege, or discretion, however derived, shall bar review or relief. Review and relief shall be timely enough to be effective. The court shall grant all relief within its power to protect the rights this article secures, in light of the history and likely recurrence of their violation. A violation of a right secured by this article is a constitutional injury, not extinguished by subsequent correction.

Section 6. A court that cannot fully remedy an injury resulting from a violation of a right secured by this article shall, upon entering judgment, transmit to Congress a Notice of Continuing Injury incorporating the findings and judgment by reference. A Notice shall not be altered or withdrawn. Congress shall deliver each Notice to the people as received. No later than the third day of March of each calendar year, Congress shall deliver to the people a written State of the Democracy report. The report shall include every Notice of Continuing Injury transmitted to Congress during the preceding calendar year.

Section 7. As used in this article, the following terms have the meanings specified, and those meanings govern the interpretation of this article throughout.

'State' means any of the several States and additionally includes the District of Columbia, all territories and possessions of the United States, and all governmental subdivisions and entities exercising authority derived from the United States or from any of the several States, but does not include tribal governments recognized by the United States.

'The people' means all natural persons subject to the authority of the United States or of any State.

'Construct' means anything other than a natural person, the United States, or a State, that is capable of holding a right or interest, however organized or recognized.

'Non-resident' means a natural person not subject to the authority of the United States or of any State.

'Seek' means to invite by one's own deliberate act.

'Election' means a process conducted or regulated by the United States or any State through which the people exercise self-government.

'Vote' means to record the choice of one of the people for the purpose of determining the result of an election.

Section 8. Nothing in this article limits the power of Congress under Article I to impeach, try, remove, or disqualify any officer of the United States.

Nothing in this article affects qualifications for federal office established in Article I or Article II.

Nothing in this article limits the inherent sovereign authority of tribal governments recognized by the United States to establish and maintain their own processes for self-government by the members of the tribe. Nothing in this article limits communication by a tribal government recognized by the United States directed to its members.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Does this ban Fox News, MSNBC, or my newspaper?

No. The amendment protects your right to seek information and opinions from any source — that expressly includes newspapers, broadcasters, websites, and podcasts. Anything you subscribe to, tune in to, buy, click on, or otherwise choose is yours to receive. What the amendment stops is the reverse: organizations pushing political messaging at people who never asked for it. The newsstand stays open. The unsolicited political ad blitz does not.

Doesn't this repeal the First Amendment?

No person loses any speech right. Every American can still say, write, publish, post, march, argue, and campaign exactly as before. The amendment changes the rules only for *organizations* — corporations, PACs, foreign entities — which are not people and do not vote. It says the process of choosing our government belongs to the people who live under it, and that organizations may join that process only through a channel funded by the people themselves. Your voice is untouched. A corporate treasury is not your voice.

So can any organization ever advocate on political issues?

Yes. An organization organized for the purpose of informing and influencing the public, and funded solely by contributions from individual people, may do so. This preserves grassroots advocacy — environmental groups, gun-rights groups, civil-rights groups — while cutting off corporate treasuries, foreign money, and billionaire-dominated funds. The test is simple: is this organization the people's collective voice, or is it something else's money wearing a mask?

Does this let felons vote? Even from prison?

Yes. The right to vote belongs to every adult citizen and can be limited only by residency requirements. Letting governments choose who may vote has a long, ugly history of abuse. If a person is subject to the law, they get a say in who makes it.

What about non-citizens? Do they get to vote?

No. Voting is reserved to citizens eighteen and older. Non-citizen residents are part of "the people" for other purposes — they may deliberate, speak, and participate in public debate like anyone living here — but the ballot itself is a citizen's right.

Won't contribution limits protect incumbents and the famous?

Contribution limits apply equally to everyone, challenger and incumbent alike. What actually protects incumbents today is a system where a handful of enormous donors can flood a race — access to that flood is what incumbents and celebrities have and challengers don't. Capping every person at an amount most Americans could actually give forces every campaign to win broad support rather than deep pockets. The rest of the world's democracies run competitive elections on a fraction of what America spends; broad small-donor funding is how challengers win, not how they lose.

Why does it say "construct"? Why the strange vocabulary?

Because the familiar words are a problem. Over the past 150 years, courts turned "person" into a word that includes corporations with consequences no one voted for. This amendment uses a fresh word with a precise written definition so that courts apply what the text says rather than what a century of case law assumed. "Construct" means exactly what Section 7 says it means — nothing more, nothing less.

Doesn't this give judges too much power?

It gives judges less discretion, not more. Today, courts can refuse to hear election cases at all — calling them "political questions," invoking immunity, or running out the clock. This amendment closes those exits: courts must hear these cases, must decide them quickly enough to matter, and must grant real relief. And when a court cannot fully fix a violation, it must say so publicly, in a notice Congress must deliver to the people. That is judges being put to work under deadline and daylight — the opposite of unaccountable. If Congress acts as the amendment invites it to, much of that litigation is not needed and doesn't happen.

Is the districting rule a computer taking over elections?

No computer is mentioned or required. The rule states a principle any citizen can understand: among fair maps — compact, contiguous, respecting communities — pick the one that leaves the fewest people represented by someone they didn't vote for. Today, politicians pick maps to maximize their own party's seats; this replaces that self-dealing with a measurable standard of representation that aims to satisfy the most voters. Whether map-drawers use software (they already do) doesn't change who the map is for.

Who decides what "an amount attainable by most of the people" is?

Congress sets the number; courts can review it against the plain standard. The phrase means what it says — an amount within reach of the typical American, not the typical millionaire. It rises with the

people's prosperity but cannot be quietly inflated into a loophole because any citizen can challenge a sham limit in court.

What about my church or union?

Churches and unions continue everything they do today — worship, organizing, bargaining, charity, community. For political advocacy specifically, they use the same channel as everyone else: a fund contributed by their own members, each capped like every other American. A congregation or membership speaking through its own pooled dollars is exactly what the amendment protects. An institution's general treasury entering politics is what it ends.

What about tribal governments?

Tribal sovereignty over internal self-government is expressly preserved, and nothing limits a tribal government's communication with its own members or how a tribe arranges or chooses its government. Tribal members are also US citizens with every right this amendment secures with regard to non-tribal elections. What tribes cannot do is direct institutional money or messaging into the politics of the wider public — except through the same people-funded channel open to any other organization.

Was this amendment written by AI?

No. It was written by natural persons, real human beings. Several AIs were used to suggest and test wording and ideas and to critique the drafts but every idea was originally conceived of by a real human being. Most of the words were originally written by real human beings though often in response to AI output. This FAQ was indeed written by an AI with minor editing by a real human, including adding this last question and answer.