

Proposed Constitutional Amendment

Article [XX] — Restoration of State Legislative Election of Senators

Section 1. Repeal of the Seventeenth Amendment.

The Seventeenth Article of Amendment to the Constitution of the United States is hereby repealed.

Section 2. Election of Senators by State Legislatures.

(a) The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote.

(b) The Legislature of each State shall elect Senators in public session by recorded vote, the results of which shall be entered in the journal of each chamber and made available for public inspection.

(c) No Senator shall be chosen by secret ballot or by any method not entered upon the official public record of the Legislature.

Section 3. Integrity and Accountability.

(a) No person shall, directly or indirectly, give, offer, or promise anything of value to any member of a State Legislature in consideration of a vote for Senator.

(b) Each candidate nominated or considered for election to the Senate shall submit a sworn declaration of compliance with all applicable ethics and conflict-of-interest laws of the State and of the United States.

(c) Congress and the several States shall have concurrent power to enforce this section through appropriate legislation.

Section 4. Election Procedure and Deadlocks.

(a) Each State Legislature shall elect its Senators not later than sixty days after a vacancy occurs or a new term is to begin.

(b) If the Legislature fails to make such election within that period, the Governor of the State shall appoint an interim Senator from the same political party as the Senator last elected to that seat, who shall serve until the Legislature makes its election.

(c) Each Legislature may determine its own rules for nominations and voting, provided that such rules are consistent with the public voting and integrity provisions of this Article.

Section 5. Optional Advisory Vote.

A State may, by law, provide for a nonbinding advisory popular election to indicate the preference of the people for Senator in each of the State's political districts, the result of which shall be made public before the Legislature casts its vote. Nothing in this Article shall require a Legislature to adhere to such advisory result.

Section 6. Judicial Review.

The highest court of each State shall have original jurisdiction to hear and decide challenges alleging procedural violations of this Article or of any law enacted pursuant to it. No court shall inquire into the political motivations or judgments of legislators in casting their votes for Senator.

Section 7. Recall and Term Accountability.

A State may, by law, provide for the recall or early termination of a Senator elected by its Legislature, under procedures consistent with the Constitution and laws of the United States.

Section 8. Effective Date.

This Article shall take effect for all elections and vacancies occurring after January 3 of the second year following ratification.

Summary of Effects

- **Repeals the 17th Amendment** (restoring legislative selection).
- **Mandates public recorded votes** for transparency.
- **Creates anti-corruption and ethics provisions** enforceable by both federal and state law.
- **Prevents vacancies and gridlock** via an interim gubernatorial appointment rule.
- **Allows optional public advisory elections** without undermining state sovereignty.
- **Permits recall or accountability systems** at the state level.