

Amendment XXVIII of the United States Constitution

Companion Document

This document provides a concise overview of each Article within Amendment XXVIII to assist reviewers in understanding the structural intent, constitutional objectives, and institutional design of the proposed amendment. It is not a substitute for the full text, but a guide to its architecture and internal logic. Reviewers are encouraged to read each Article in full while using this summary to orient their analysis.

Amendment XXVIII comprehensively updates and strengthens the American political system to secure political equality, protect human dignity, and preserve democratic self-government against corruption, concentrated power, and technological manipulation. It establishes durable safeguards to ensure that governance remains accountable to the People alone, that essential rights are meaningfully protected, and that the Republic endures as a just and resilient democracy for present and future generations.

TITLE I — SOVEREIGNTY OF THE PEOPLE & DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION

ARTICLE I — Equal and Secure Citizenship

This Article defines who belongs to the political community and ensures citizenship cannot be manipulated for partisan or discriminatory purposes. Democratic legitimacy begins with clarity about who counts as “the People.” By establishing uniform standards for equal treatment and protecting civic status from political interference, it secures the foundation of democratic participation.

ARTICLE II — Voting Rights

This Article creates an affirmative right to vote in all federal, state, and local elections. Rather than merely preventing discrimination, it establishes voting as a protected civic guarantee. It blocks suppression and improper voter roll removals, provides automatic voter registration, lowers the voting age to sixteen, and restores voting rights automatically upon release from incarceration for violent felony convictions. The goal is simple: if democracy depends on participation, access to the ballot must be protected and consistent.

ARTICLE III — Ranked Choice Voting

This Article requires majority-based elections through Ranked Choice Voting or a similar system. In many elections, candidates win with only a plurality, leaving large segments of voters unrepresented. By requiring majority support, this Article strengthens legitimacy, reduces spoiler dynamics, and encourages broader coalition-building.

ARTICLE IV — Popular Vote for the Executive

This Article replaces the Electoral College with a direct national popular vote. Under the current system, presidential outcomes can diverge from the national vote total. This Article ensures that every vote carries equal weight and that the candidate with the most votes wins. It also sets uniform standards for counting and certification to protect clarity and public trust.

ARTICLE V — Independent Redistricting

This Article removes elected officials from drawing district maps. Partisan gerrymandering allows politicians to shape their electorate rather than the other way around. Independent, transparent redistricting authorities help ensure that representation reflects voters — not strategic manipulation.

ARTICLE VI — Civic Education and Democratic Literacy

Democratic systems rely on informed citizens. This Article establishes nonpartisan civic education standards so that constitutional principles, institutional roles, and democratic processes are broadly understood. It treats civic literacy as a structural requirement, not an afterthought.

TITLE II — PROTECTION AGAINST CORRUPTION AND DOMINATION

ARTICLE VII — Money in Politics

This Article ends the doctrine that unlimited political spending is protected speech. When wealth determines political influence, equality at the ballot box is weakened. By prohibiting private campaign financing at the federal level and creating a publicly funded, viewpoint-neutral system, this Article seeks to separate democratic representation from concentrated economic power.

ARTICLE VIII — Financial Integrity of Federal Officeholders

Public office should not be a vehicle for private enrichment. This Article bars federal officials and their immediate families from holding financial interests that create conflicts

of interest. It requires blind trusts where appropriate and establishes independent enforcement. The goal is straightforward: decisions should serve the public, not personal portfolios.

ARTICLE IX — Lobbying and Influence Expenditures

Lobbying is a legitimate part of democracy, but hidden or wealth-based access distorts it. This Article requires transparency, blocks disguised influence efforts, and restricts foreign interference. Enforcement is handled by the independent ethics authority established in Article VIII. The intent is not to silence advocacy, but to ensure that influence is visible and accountable.

ARTICLE X — Political Advertising Integrity

This Article permits viewpoint-neutral regulation of paid political advertising to prevent deception. Modern campaigns increasingly rely on synthetic media and targeted manipulation. The Article focuses narrowly on knowingly false factual claims and undisclosed synthetic impersonation, while protecting political disagreement and criticism.

ARTICLE XI — Media Accountability

A free press is essential, but concentrated informational power can distort public understanding. This Article allows transparency requirements for ownership, sponsorship, and algorithmic amplification, while explicitly forbidding government control of political viewpoints or journalist licensing. The aim is disclosure, not censorship.

ARTICLE XII — Digital Integrity and Anti-Manipulation

Digital platforms now shape public discourse. This Article addresses bot networks, synthetic personas, and coordinated inauthentic behavior used to fabricate public opinion. It requires safeguards against covert manipulation while protecting lawful speech and dissent. The focus is structural integrity, not content policing.

TITLE III — FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS & CONSTITUTIONAL PERSONHOOD

ARTICLE XIII — Personhood

This Article clarifies that constitutional rights belong to natural persons — human beings — and not to corporations or artificial entities. While businesses may receive statutory protections, they may not claim constitutional rights that override democratic law or individual liberty. This restores the human-centered foundation of constitutional rights.

ARTICLE XIV — Essential Rights of the People and the General Welfare

Political freedom is hollow without basic material security. This Article recognizes access to healthcare, housing, food, water, education, environmental stability, fair employment, dignified retirement, and bodily autonomy as essential foundations of liberty. It affirms Congress's duty to protect these conditions so that rights are meaningful in practice, not merely theoretical.

ARTICLE XV — Right to Privacy and Data Sovereignty

Modern life generates constant streams of personal data. This Article establishes a constitutional right to privacy in personal information and digital identity. It limits mass surveillance and coercive profiling and guarantees transparency and avenues for challenge. Its purpose is to ensure that technological power does not quietly erode individual autonomy.

ARTICLE XVI — Historical Justice and Structural Repair

Historic injustices carried out under law continue to shape present conditions. This Article creates a permanent commission to investigate enduring harm and propose legislative remedies. Congress must debate and vote on those proposals. The goal is structured accountability, not symbolic acknowledgment alone.

TITLE IV — ECONOMIC STRUCTURE & PREVENTION OF WEALTH DOMINATION

ARTICLE XVII — Ensuring Economic Justice and Preventing Wealth Domination

Extreme wealth concentration can translate into political control. This Article recognizes economic domination as a structural threat to democratic equality. It authorizes Congress to prevent such concentration and establishes the elimination of involuntary poverty as a constitutional objective.

ARTICLE XVIII — Free, Fair, Democratic, and Non-Monopolized Markets

Markets function best when they remain competitive and open. This Article protects against monopoly and oligopoly power that suppresses entry or enables coercion. It ensures that markets serve broad participation rather than concentrated control.

TITLE V — GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE & SYSTEMIC STABILITY

ARTICLE XIX — Term Limits and Judicial Tenure

Long-term entrenchment can weaken accountability. This Article establishes term limits for Members of Congress and defined tenure rules for federal judges to balance continuity with renewal.

ARTICLE XX — Majority Rule and Structured Legislative Debate

Democracy depends on majority decision-making, but also on meaningful debate. This Article limits procedural obstruction that allows a minority to permanently block legislation while preserving structured deliberation.

ARTICLE XXI — Prevention of Government Shutdowns

Government shutdowns disrupt services and undermine public trust. This Article establishes automatic funding mechanisms when appropriations lapse to ensure continuity of essential operations.

ARTICLE XXII — Constitutional Commitment to Peace and Limits on Military Force

Sustained military engagement requires democratic authorization. This Article strengthens congressional war powers and limits prolonged or unilateral executive action without clear authorization.

ARTICLE XXIII — Limitations on Emergency Powers

Emergency powers can expand quickly and persist indefinitely. This Article limits their duration and scope and requires ongoing legislative oversight to prevent consolidation of authority.

ARTICLE XXIV — State-Initiated Amendment Procedure

When Congress fails to act, states should have a structured path to initiate constitutional reform. This Article creates that pathway with defined safeguards and supplements, rather than replaces, Article V.

ARTICLE XXV — Resolution of Non-Represented United States Jurisdictions

No American population should remain permanently governed without meaningful representation. This Article creates a constitutional process to resolve the status of such jurisdictions based on the democratic will of affected residents.