

**When we, the people, unite in support of our Ideals,
we will find that we already have all the power we need to -**



MAKE AMERICA A PERFECT DEMOCRACY

*“The majority, having the whole power of the community naturally in them,
may employ all that power in making laws for the community,
and executing those laws by officers of their own appointing;
and then the form of the government is a perfect democracy.”*

~

John Locke

John Locke used the term “perfect democracy” in the same way the term “pure democracy” is sometimes used to describe direct democracy. In a direct democracy every adult member of a community, state, or nation who wants to be politically active has an equal vote and votes directly as political decisions are made, with the votes of the majority determining whether proposed legislation is approved or rejected.

Majority rule is the essential element that makes the form of a government a Perfect Democracy. Democracy in America, at present, is far from perfect. Observation tells us, and research confirms, that “Majorities of the American public actually have little influence over the policies our government adopts.” Flaws in the way we conduct elections and antidemocratic provisions in the body of our Constitution have made it possible for corporate interests to gain and maintain control of our governments at the federal, state, and local level. Checks and balances have devolved into gridlock by design. The frustration of not being able to get critically needed legislation enacted, toxic levels of anger, fear and hatred, spread through misinformation, disinformation and outright lies, have left Americans deeply and bitterly divided. Given the state of politics and civic engagement in America today, the idea of making America a Perfect Democracy may seem to be hopelessly idealistic.

It is idealistic. Our nation was founded on democratic ideals. Most Americans believe in democracy and in the “self-evident” Truths stated clearly in the Declaration of Independence: That we are endowed by our Creator with equal and unalienable Rights to “Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness”; that the primary purpose of government is to secure and protect our Rights; and that governments derive their “just powers” from “the consent of the governed.”

Making America a Perfect Democracy is not hopeless. These “self-evident” Truths are eternal. And there is one other unalienable Right included in the Declaration of Independence – our Right to alter the form of our government whenever we deem it necessary to effect our “Safety and Happiness.” When we (the People) unite in support of our ideals and to promote democracy, we will find that we already have all the power we need to enact two elegantly simple, yet incredibly powerful, pro-democracy reforms – Personal Representation and Perfect Democracy Amendments – that will shift power from corporate interests to the People and make it easier to enact the additional reforms needed to make America a Perfect Democracy.

Two Elegantly Simple, Yet Incredibly Powerful, Pro-Democracy Reforms

John Adams, in his *Thoughts on Government* (published in the spring of 1776), described the ideal representative assembly as “in miniature, an exact portrait of the people at large” that “should think, feel, reason and act like them”, with “equal interests among the people” having “equal interest” in the representative assembly. James Madison, in remarks he made at the Federal Convention of 1787, as our Constitution was being drafted, focused on the “act” of voting, making the important point that votes taken in a representative assembly should correlate strongly with the results that would have been obtained if the people had voted directly.

The best way to make Adams’ and Madison’s visions a reality and transform Congress and state legislatures into truly democratic institutions by implementing systems of **Personal Representation** that give every citizen who is eligible to vote the right to assign proxies authorizing one member of each legislative body that governs them to cast votes on their behalf, and then allow each member of a legislative body to cast a number of votes equal to the number of proxies they have been assigned, plus one vote for themselves, on everything voted on, including procedural votes and votes in committees. Citizens should be able to reassign their proxies at any time. That will allow Politically Active Citizens to vote (indirectly) in representative assemblies.

Citizens should also be able to propose legislation through the **initiative** anytime it appears likely that a legislature has failed to enact legislation that is supported by a majority of the citizens - with that legislation then approved or rejected by a simple majority of voters in **referendums**. And citizens should be able to call **veto referendums** anytime it appears likely that a legislature has enacted legislation that does not have the support of a majority of the citizens. (With a simple majority required to reject legislation.)

Twenty-six states already have provisions for these power forms of direct democracy in their constitutions. But in every one of those states, it is far more difficult than it should be to call referendums and use the initiative. There are no provisions for referendums or the initiative in the other 24 states or in the U. S. Constitution.

Perfect Democracy Amendments will extend the use of referendums and the initiative to the federal government and to the states that do not yet have provisions for them and make it easier to call referendums and use the initiative in the states that already provide for them.

The two most obvious ways to make it easier to call referendums and use the initiative are by allowing citizens to “sign” petitions electronically (which has been done in the European Union since 2011) or by reducing the number of signatures required to call a referendum or put a proposal on the ballot.

In a survey conducted in 2021, 85% of Americans surveyed agreed that we need to completely reform or make major changes to our political system. Of course, many people say they want change but are hesitant to support changes when specific reforms are proposed. Enacting Perfect Democracy Amendments and implementing systems of Personal Representation are minor changes with major benefits. **When we succeed in making America a Perfect Democracy, we will have done more than make America great again, we will have made America greater than it has ever been. And will we have made history.**

LET’S MAKE HISTORY!

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