



What is the wording for the 28th Amendment?

American Promise supports a 28th Amendment so that people, not money, govern America. Good amendment language secures fair, free elections; the rights of all Americans to equal participation and representation; and human liberty rather than new privileges for the largest corporations and special interests.

There are several solid versions of the Amendment already introduced in Congress, and two of them are listed below. These and similar amendment bills are a good start.

American Promise now is leading a year-long effort to build national consensus around the most effective 28th Amendment language. We are bringing Americans of all walks of life together with law professors, attorneys, former judges and Constitutional experts for deliberation and debate. In addition to online and other forms of research and deliberation, we will continue to organize public meetings and citizen roundtable discussions, as we did at the first [National Citizen Leadership Conference](#).

To ensure that this process is most effective, American Promise has refrained from endorsing any specific amendment bill, much as we applaud and facilitate continued progress in Congress.

Over the next twelve months, we will continue to bring many more Americans into the deliberations and debate. We're confident that we will get the best, most effective Amendment language in a timely manner consistent with our roadmap for passage and ratification of the 28th Amendment in the next few years.

By way of example, here are two 28th Amendment bills now in Congress:

This one received 54 votes in the US Senate in the last Congress, and was reintroduced in the House (167 co-sponsors) and Senate (44 co-sponsors):

Section 1. To advance democratic self-government and political equality for all, and to protect the integrity of government and the electoral process, Congress and the States may regulate and set limits on the raising and spending of money by candidates and others to influence elections.

Section 2. Congress and the States shall have power to implement this article by appropriate legislation, and may distinguish between natural persons and corporations or other artificial entities created by law, including by prohibiting such entities from spending money to influence elections.

Section 3. Nothing in this article shall be construed to grant Congress or the States the power to abridge the freedom of the press.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-joint-resolution/5/text>

Another approach is reflected here (30 co-sponsors in the House):

SECTION 1. The rights protected by the Constitution of the United States are the rights of natural persons only. Artificial entities, such as corporations, limited liability companies, and other entities, established by the laws of any State, the United States, or any foreign state shall have no rights under this Constitution and are subject to regulation by the People, through Federal, State, or local law. The privileges of artificial entities shall be determined by the People, through Federal, State, or local law, and shall not be construed to be inherent or inalienable.

SECTION 2. Federal, State and local government shall regulate, limit, or prohibit contributions and expenditures, including a candidate's own contributions and expenditures, to ensure that all citizens, regardless of their economic status, have access to the political process, and that no person gains, as a result of that person's money, substantially more access or ability to influence in any way the election of any candidate for public office or any ballot measure. Federal, State, and local governments shall require that any permissible contributions and expenditures be publicly disclosed. The judiciary shall not construe the spending of money to influence elections to be speech under the First Amendment.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-joint-resolution/48/text>

American Promise invites all Americans to join the discussion and deliberation. Sign up to learn more at Americanpromise.net, and let us know your ideas and feedback at info@americanpromise.net.