

The Liberal Vermin Party

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Introduction

When in the course of human events it becomes necessary to stir the pot and create a new political party, there needs to be massive justification for it. This document explains the motivation behind the Liberal Vermin Party platform and then summarizes the major Constitutional changes needed to implement them.

Inspiration

Former President Donald Trump attacked everyone who disagrees with him again on November 12, 2023, in a speech in Florida.

“We pledge to you that we will root out the communists, Marxists, fascists and the radical left thugs that live like vermin within the confines of our country that lie and steal and cheat on elections,”¹ - Donald Trump

Ignoring that some of those political philosophies are contradictory, I merged the “communists, Marxists, fascists and the radical left thugs that live like vermin” into “Liberal Vermin.”

The Party name is the Liberal Vermin Party. Liberal refers to a person “who is open-minded or not strict in the observance of orthodox, traditional, or established forms or ways.”² This Party deliberately deviates from the traditional Democrat and Republican Parties by fighting for the rights of the LGBT community, poor people, and establishing a sustainable economy.

Vermin has been used as a pejorative for political enemies by dictators such as Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini.³ They used it to “dehumanize people and encourage their followers to engage in violence” against them. Vermin typically refers to “small common harmful or objectionable animals (such as lice or fleas) that are difficult to control.”⁴ In the latter sense, “control” of vermin means to exterminate them.

Vermin can also refer to an offensive person, and that is more the goal here. We want to be offensive to people who want to throw the American Democracy out the window and install a delusional, gullible, wildly insecure man as autocrat for life.

The use of vermin here has no connection to Mr. Vermin Love Supreme, a recurring satirical Libertarian Presidential candidate.⁵

Bipartisan History

Historically Democrats and Republicans have both been to the right of the political spectrum and have even switched places occasionally. Democrats used to be more right wing, and Republicans used to be left wing. President Lincoln was a Republican, and signed the Emancipation Declaration, freeing the

¹ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2023/11/12/trump-rally-vermin-political-opponents/>

² <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/liberal>

³ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2023/11/12/trump-rally-vermin-political-opponents/>

⁴ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/vermin>

⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vermin_Supreme

slaves. Calls for a third party have noted for over a century that Democrats and Republicans are “the left wing and the right wing of the same bird of prey.”⁶

Attempts to introduce more moderate views are blasted with attacks of being “radical” and “extreme” and so on. However, compared to international political standards, “radicals” like Senator Bernie Sanders are barely in the middle of the left-right spectrum.

How did we get here?

I believe that the United States was based on a balance between liberal and conservative perspectives, between central Federal power and rights of the States. The law-making bodies House and Senate were based on favoring large population states and small population states, respectively. The Senate was modeled on being a board of directors for the country, to have a more long-term perspective and prevent radical changes in government. The body of the Constitution defined the major structures of government, but people insisted on adding the Bill of Rights (Amendments 1 to 10) to specify individual rights. To be fair, for writing in the 18th century they did an excellent job.

But in the 19th century, the Industrial Revolution led to increased wealth disparity. The railroad and newspaper industries became wealthy and powerful, such as the Vanderbilt and Hearst empires. The Supreme Court bowed to their power in 1886 and decided that a corporation was a person.⁷ In the late 19th century, some of the first cars were powered by electricity. But when Henry Ford started mass production of cars in the early 20th century, he pushed the electrical cars out of business and sold only gas-powered cars.

Money buys Congress

The number of registered lobbyists in Washington, DC is over 12,000, or about 23 lobbyists per member of Congress. They spent over \$4 billion in 2022 wooing Congresspeople, so if you can’t afford a flock of lobbyists, you have a hard time bending the ear of your representatives.⁸

For a long time, donations to political campaigns were strongly limited by law. There are still limits of \$3300 per candidate per year for an individual to contribute.⁹ Limits on state races can range from a few hundred dollars per candidate to unlimited.¹⁰

Corporate donations were turned loose in 2010 with the *Citizen’s United* Supreme Court decision. A corporation forms a PAC, and the PAC can collect and distribute unlimited donations, provided they are not spent supporting a specific candidate. As a result of lobbying and donations, the people writing laws are flooded with contributions that will disappear if they don’t support a certain special interest.

New members of Congress are advised that they are typically expected to spend several hours per day soliciting contributions from major donors.

⁶ Attributed to Allen McCurdy, 1920.

⁷ <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/118/394/>

⁸ <https://www.opensecrets.org/news/2023/01/federal-lobbying-spending-reaches-4-1-billion-in-2022-the-highest-since-2010/>

⁹ <https://www.usa.gov/campaign-finance-laws>

¹⁰ <https://www.ncsl.org/elections-and-campaigns/campaign-contribution-limits-overview>

How do we fix this? Keep it simple. Ban corporate donations. Ban anonymous and PAC donations. Put a national and state cap on individual donations per candidate and per campaign. Ban lobbyist communication with candidates.

Clueless Leaders

In recent years there has been an epidemic of people getting into high levels of Federal Service without an appropriate understanding of the position they are assuming. As people well beyond traditional retirement ages enter service, frequent questions of mental competence also arise.

To prevent these issues, term limits have been defined. In addition, upon first being elected or selected for Executive or Legislative Federal Service, every person must pass objective tests of physical and mental condition. They must also pass a written or oral test to determine a fundamental understanding of Unified States history, government structure, checks and balances, and international relations. Failure to pass after no more than two attempts will disqualify them from serving.

Such tests would have to be developed by nonpartisan scientists and validated to show objectivity.

Lifetime careers of “public service”

When the founding fathers were drafting the Constitution, life expectancy was pretty terrible. Around the start of the 19th century, wealthier people could live much longer – Benjamin Franklin lived to 85 – but the average life expectancy was about 35.¹¹ This is reflected in the Constitution, where the minimum ages for congress and the presidency are 30 and 35 years, respectively. They weren’t expecting too many people to live a lot longer.

Improvements in medical care have resulted in a much longer life expectancy today, Men in the USA expect to live about 73 years, women 79 years.¹²

Four Senators served from 47 to 51 years in office (Leahy, Thurmond, Inouye, and Byrd). President Biden served 36 years in the Senate. Four Representatives served from 48 to 59 years in office (Young, Conyers, Whitten, and Dingell). Representative Dingell was reelected 29 times by his Michigan district.¹³ During the Cold War, my High School history teacher pointed out that Congress had a higher re-election rate than the Soviet Union’s Politburo.

As a result of this trend, the average American is 20 years younger than their representatives in Congress. The average age of a Senator is 64; an average Representative is 57 years old.¹⁴

It should come as no surprise that there is massive public support for term limits for Congress, but apparently no one in Congress wants to do that to themselves.

The Justices of the Supreme Court have lifetime appointments, so partisan majorities in the Senate have taken to installing Justices who are younger than the average. The four most recently added Justices are

¹¹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2885717/>

¹²¹² <https://www.statnews.com/2023/11/13/life-expectancy-men-women/>

¹³ <https://www.quorum.us/data-driven-insights/who-are-the-longest-serving-members-of-congress/>

¹⁴ <https://fiscalnote.com/blog/how-old-118th-congress>

all in their 50's, and the rest range from 63 to 75 years old.¹⁵ Term limits have been strongly suggested for the Justices, but no action has been taken.

Therefore, it is proposed that term limits be applied to the President, Vice President, Congress, and the Supreme Court. The President and Vice President can retain the current limit of two four-year terms. Congress, both House and Senate, will have limits of 12 years – two six-year terms for Senators and four three-year terms for Representatives.

The change in House term length is to give them more time to get something done. Under two-year terms, Representatives barely learn how their job works before campaigning for re-election. A three-year term should help give them more productive time.

A lifetime appointment for Justices of the Supreme Court brings in excessive influence on decisions and introduces many concerns about the onset of mental deterioration such as dementia. A single 12-year term will give them a good amount of continuity but prevent 30–40-year terms.

Number of Congresspeople

The point of this section is to meet two goals: 1) give a distribution of representation that is fair to both small and large states, and 2) give room for future growth so we don't wind up in this position later.

The number of Senators was defined by the United States' Constitution to be two per State. The number of Representatives initially increased with population but was fixed at 435 as a result of the 1929 Permanent Apportionment Act.¹⁶

When the first National Census was done in 1790, the least populous state was Delaware, with about 59,000 people, and Virginia was largest, with 692,000 people. Hence the ratio of largest to smallest population was about 11.7.¹⁷ In the 2020 Census, Wyoming had a population of 577,000, and California a population of 39,538,000. That gives a ratio of 68.5, over six times greater disparity than when the country was founded.¹⁸

This means a Senator from Wyoming represents 289,000 people, but a Senator from California represents 19,789,000 people. On average, a Senator represents one percent of the population, or 3.3 million people. Based on this and to allow for future population growth, **assign one Senator per 4 million population**. At present this would give one Senator each for 24 States, and ten for California.

Given the total USA population of 331,449,000, each Representative represents about 760,000 people. Each state has at least one Representative, so even Wyoming gets one. **Assign one Representative per 800,000 people** in a State District, so five states get one Representative who represents the single State District.

¹⁵ <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2023/02/10/how-many-justices-supreme-court-list-justices-2023/10796688002/>

¹⁶ <https://history.house.gov/HistoricalHighlight/Detail/35159?ret=True>

¹⁷ <https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/decennial/1990/population-of-states-and-counties-us-1790-1990/population-of-states-and-counties-of-the-united-states-1790-1990.pdf>

¹⁸ <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2020/dec/2020-apportionment-data.html>

Allow the number of Representatives and Senators to expand as the country grows. There is no benefit from allowing a single person to represent tens of millions of people, except the Executive Branch itself.

Sustainability

As a result of excessive influence by lobbyists and corporate donations, the focus of federal legislation has been severely short-sighted. I believe that a goal of government should be sustainability. This manifests in many areas such as not incurring excessive debt, long term management of renewable resources, and avoiding long term dependence on non-renewable resources.

The need for this change in perspective is to counter the capitalist perspective of maximizing profit at any cost. Under a purely capitalist society, corporations will eagerly put children to work as soon as they can walk, destroy irreplaceable resources like old growth forests, push addiction to fossil fuels, dump pollution anywhere until the lakes burn (a reference to the Lake Erie fire in 1969), and keep workers undereducated, underpaid, and overworked as long as possible.

Another symptom of corporate shortsightedness is the emphasis on short term profitability. Publicly traded corporations are generally run by a board of directors who can fire managers if they disapprove of the way the company is being run. Changes in stock price, amount of dividends paid, and other short term measures are seen as critical, making a strong disincentive against long term investments in infrastructure, employee satisfaction, and environmental protection.

In contrast, cultures around the world before written records established cities, knew of basic hygiene, made artwork, and had structured societies. The Vikings, Aztecs, Mayans, Maori, and people from China, Indonesia, India, and our oldest ancestors from Africa all learned how to live in harmony with their environment. “Modern” civilization has destroyed most of the world’s resources in only 150 years. If we don’t change this trend, there will be no one to crew your megayacht.

Bodily Autonomy

In 1973 the Supreme Court in *Roe v Wade* gave women the right to terminate a pregnancy before the fetus is viable. In 2022, *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* took away that right at the federal level, stating that the constitutional right to “liberty” does not include the right to choose an abortion.¹⁹

The Dobbs decision passed the right to determine bodily autonomy to the states to decide individually. This defies the concept of the states being unified under a federal government. It’s one thing to say the States have some reserved rights, but another to allow wildly different interpretations of fundamental human rights to be decided by the whim of every new state government. It also discriminates against poor people to glibly assume they could just “go to a different state” if the healthcare they need is illegal in their state and possibly several neighboring states.

At its core, the debate over abortion is one of bodily autonomy. “Who has the right to decide what medical procedures I can have?” Most of the anti-choice arguments try to claim that the fetus is a

¹⁹ https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/roe-v-wade-and-supreme-court-abortion-cases?fbclid=IwAR2Kz765sUBsiwqWn8pUki4YpcoxJ5XivEI-o3OJui8ul1IC_lx_JJhJU4_aem_AfgrWAFkIRW408Mm01ValrZ7E38XR6HSpUUMVtGivgFGN7waH7ALIX-9h5PpMj5bFbY

person, and therefore has protection. Or it's phrased as determining when life starts. Some try to say it's at conception, which is impractical since no one knows they are pregnant immediately after conception. *Roe v Wade* said it was a fetal viability, "When can a fetus survive if it is removed before full term?" The problem with that is that fetal viability has changed with advances in technology. It was widely assumed to be 24 weeks' gestation, but viability can be from 20 to 26 weeks.²⁰

Another neglected issue is the cost of caring for extremely premature infants. Even if a NICU (neonatal intensive care unit) is available, it can cost \$8,000 to \$20,000 per day for basic care, not counting surgical or other procedures. Premature infants can have severe breathing issues, and the cost before they can leave the hospital can often exceed one million dollars. If a legislature wants to force women to give birth, who is going to pay for that care? Who is going to pay for drug rehab treatment for babies forced to be born to mothers with drug addiction? I don't see "pro-life" activists lining up to adopt severely challenged babies.

Some try to use Biblical justification but separation of church and state rules that out. Besides, the Bible says a person has a soul when they first take a breath, as in the creation of Adam (Genesis 2:7). The Catholic Church maintains the soul is created at conception. These arguments can be decided after it is resolved how many angels can dance on the head of a pin. Others try to establish arbitrary deadlines for performing an abortion, such as six- or fifteen-weeks' gestation, which have no medical basis.

Attempts to ban abortion also ignore very important cases where an abortion is a medical necessity. The fetus can die *in utero* and must be removed to prevent deadly infection (sepsis) for the mother. Modern technology can also determine if the fetus is not going to be viable at any gestational age, such as when the fetus is severely deformed or missing vital organs. I have witnessed third trimester abortions (after 24 weeks), and it's not something anyone would do unless absolutely necessary. Would you go through morning sickness, peeing every ten minutes, and becoming very visibly pregnant for six months only to "change your mind?"

All of this assumes that the government can decide when a person gets a certain medical procedure. This violates laws of bodily autonomy that apply even after death. Anyone can decide if they want their organs donated after their death, or even specify certain organs and not others. To deny a person the right to a medical abortion is to give them fewer rights alive than after they die. That is no exaggeration.

Gerrymandering

Congressional districts have been fine tuned into absurd shapes to select specific neighborhoods or even individual homes in order to control how many districts have a majority of voters for one party. Some degree of partisan bias is allowable under the Civil Rights Act of 1964, but needs to be reined in. I considered choosing districts based on county boundaries, but many counties have more people than would be feasible for one congressional district.

To resolve this, I propose a simple approach that would still give a little room for tweaking it. **Define a congressional district using no more than six boundaries.** A boundary is one of the following:

- The middle of a public roadway (street, road, avenue, etc.)
- The middle of a moving body of water (creek, stream, river)

²⁰ <https://www.acog.org/advocacy/facts-are-important/understanding-and-navigating-viability>

- The coast of a stationary body of water (pond, lake, sea, ocean)
- A political boundary, such as the boundaries of a county, state, or the country.

The exact definition needs further refinement, but that's the idea.

Ban Slavery

There is no need for the vestiges of slavery from the United States' Constitution, including the Three Fifths Compromise, which was abolished in 1868 by the 14th Amendment, and the Electoral College.

Fashion and the Law

Most laws regarding fashion have been to enforce strict gender-based clothing presentation. In my opinion this is an utter waste of time for the government. Women wear suits sometimes. Men can wear skirts, and it can be culturally expected for Scotsmen.

The only legitimate case for fashion laws is to cover external primary reproductive organs and elimination openings (urethra and anus), and even that is a cultural choice and not empirically necessary.

This means that legislation aimed at gender presentation is pointless.

Marital Status

The intent behind encouraging marriage was to improve stability of relationships, but since the 1970's that has not been helpful.

Income tax was created by the 16th Amendment in 1916, but the concept of filing jointly didn't exist until 1948.²¹ Women were considered property. Think of the marriage traditions of "giving away the bride" or a married woman taking the surname of her spouse. Who owned her before that? Does her partner own her after marriage? Women didn't get the right to have credit cards and sign mortgages until 1974 with the Equal Credit Opportunity Act.²² This and other legislation in that time period made it much easier or women to live independently. As a result, marriage is not needed for women to have financial stability and independence.

Nevertheless, income tax and health insurance and many other areas still make strong distinctions based on marital status. There is no longer justification for this.

Sex and Gender Identity

Many "Christian" activists insist that the only human sexes are men and women, and everyone should be heterosexual (straight). These assumptions are purely culturally based (i.e. local opinions) and have no basis in history or science.

I went into detail to describe how biology allows many more genetic chromosomes than just XX and XY, and issues with hormone creation and use can result in many people who have intersex conditions,

²¹ <https://www.hrblock.com/tax-center/filing/personal-tax-planning/how-filing-jointly-came-to-be/>

²² <https://www.annenbergclassroom.org/resource/womens-rights/>

making them defy the male-female binary.²³ Some of these conditions lead to formation of genitals that are not clearly male or female, which used to be called a hermaphrodite. Some of these conditions are also seen elsewhere in nature, such as birds or animals that are female on one lateral half, and male on the other half. These conditions can be called chimera or mosaic, depending on exactly how they originated. Other creatures can change their sex depending on environmental conditions or scarcity of one sex. This was hinted at in the first Jurassic Park movie (1993), but is based on real science.

Gender identity has a lot more options than just man or woman. People around the world have been recognized for millennia who didn't fit into that simple binary. Some Native Americans called them Two Spirit people, in India there are the Hijira, Bakla in the Philippines, and so on.²⁴ Transgender is an umbrella term for anyone who doesn't fit into the man/woman, and includes people who identify as pangender, cross dressing, gender fluid, and more.

Why do people love to put sex and gender identity into simple binary choices? The answer lies in biology, but not between a person's legs. Survival has forced all organisms to live as efficiently as possible to be able to survive extreme conditions. In psychology this is sometimes called the simplicity principle.²⁵

One result of this principle is trying to reduce the amount of work our brains have to do. If we can take a complex topic and reduce it to something simpler, we have to do less work to think about it. That is why stereotyping is to some extent a natural tendency and leads to people wanting to simplify sex to male/female and gender identity to man/woman.

The conclusion from this section is that the government should not assume one's sex or gender identity is binary and is not fixed during one's lifetime.

Sexual Preference

Many laws around sexual preference focus on specific acts. Thousands of years of art and other records show that the types of sexual activities which are possible have been performed as long as people have existed.

Assuming that we are dealing with people who are of age and mental competence to consent to sexual activity, there is no reason for government to legislate sexual activities that are voluntary and consensual. Activities outside that realm are addressed by rape, sexual assault, and pedophilia laws.

Clarify Fundamental Rights

Under the current laws, the scope and interpretation of several laws or legal principles are poorly defined. This has led to needless debate about issues such as gun rights, separation of church and state, and others. The solution is simple – rewrite them to be clearer.

²³ <https://wordpress.com/post/socialsciencepapers.wordpress.com/309>

²⁴ <https://www.hrc.org/news/two-spirit-and-lgbtq-identities-today-and-centuries-ago>

²⁵ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5125387/>

Summary

The changes proposed by the Liberal Vermin Party are too substantial to fit into the existing warped structures of the United States. Therefore, I have drafted a new Constitution for the UNIFIED States of America, proposing the following features.

- Term limits of 12 years for House, Senate, and Supreme Court. Twelve chosen because it is two Senate terms, giving time for continuity, but avoids the lifetime positions.
- Constitutional right to bodily autonomy.
- Fix extreme gerrymandering by applying the six-boundary rule.
- Make House and Senate more fairly representative by having one Representative per 800,000 people in a state, with a minimum of one per state. Assign one Senator for each 4 million people in a state, minimum of one per state.
- Change House term to three years, with half elected every three years. Keep senate at six-year term, also with half elected every three years.
- Eliminate the electoral college.
- Ban laws based on gender presentation, except to cover primary external genitals.
- Ban laws based on marital status.
- Ban laws based on one's sex or gender identity.
- Ban the death penalty.
- Explicitly clarify separation of church and state, gun rights, presumption of innocence, and other contentious issues.
- Ban corporate and special interest donations to Federal and State campaigns.

Constitution for the UNIFIED STATES OF AMERICA

4/14/2024

Jennifer Booker

Preamble

This Constitution defines the structure, functions, assumptions, and constraints on the government for the Unified States of America. This document is motivated by critical omissions from the United States of America Constitution and intends to prevent debates about “what the founding Mother thought.”

Article 0 – Founding Principles

This Constitution is based on making critical assumptions about the purpose of government, the nature of humanity and the rest of nature, and the role of citizens and residents in government. Laws and amendments which are derived from or added to this Constitution shall be consistent with these assumptions.

Section 0.1 - Life

All people have the right to life, freedom, and the pursuit of happiness, so long as they do not deprive others of those things.

Section 0.2 - State Purpose

Government is a set of structures and rules to improve the safety and happiness of our citizens and residents and guide our interaction with other States.

Section 0.3 - Legislative Purpose

The government shall enact laws to ensure that the structures and functions of the State are utilized and administered in the best interests of the general public.

Section 0.4 - State Authority

Government is the only authority to define fiscal and/or physical punishments or restriction of other rights.

Section 0.5 - Type of Government

The Unified States of America are based on a representative democracy.

Section 0.6 - Type of Economy

The Unified States of America’s economy is based on capitalism, with government exercising or allowing necessary controls to prevent abuses of workers, product and/or service pricing, or unfair control of vertical and/or horizontal markets.

Section 0.7 - International Relations Goal

A key objective of the Unified States of America globally is to encourage and support the development and continued flourishing of other States based on democratic principles.

Section 0.8 - Role in Nature

Humanity is an integral part of nature, including the Earth, our solar system, galaxy, and universe.

Humans are caretakers of the Earth and to a lesser extent, the Universe. Nature is not FOR us, it is a PART of us. People should strive to act with compassion and empathy toward all creatures in accordance with reasonable need for survival. Policies and goals shall be made to create a culture and society which is sustainable for at least seven generations.

Article 1 - Introduction

The former United States of America tried to be an indirect democracy. Over time its intent was subverted by a massive influx of special interest funds combined with legislators who made a life career of their positions, leading to an unstable and unfair plutocracy. The goal of this Constitution is to create a new State which will meet the needs of all citizens and residents.

Sources of inspiration for this document include the Constitution of the United States of America²⁶, the Seven Tenets of the Satanic Temple²⁷, the Lakota Code of Ethics²⁸, Norway's Constitution of 1814 with Amendments through 2014²⁹, the Green Party Ten Key Values³⁰, and the Iroquois Constitution³¹.

Article 2 – Executive Branch

The Executive Branch consists of the Offices of the President, Vice President, and the Armed Forces.

Section 2.1 – Office of the President

The President shall be the highest executive officer of the country. Their duties include definition of foreign policy, economic policy, and other stuff.

The Office of the President shall include a Cabinet, each of which contains Secretaries for each major policy area: Secretaries of Commerce, Defense (including Veterans' Affairs), Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Housing, Interior (including Agriculture), Labor, State, Transportation, and Treasury, and the Attorney General. The role of these Secretaries is to advise the President on policy decisions relevant to their area of expertise.

The President shall be elected by a simple majority of the popular vote and serve a term of four years. In the event an election does not result in a clear majority (>50% of votes cast), the election will be repeated with the three candidates with the most votes until a majority is obtained.

The President shall be at least 35 years of age when assuming office. They must be a citizen of the Unified States for at least five years. They must pass tests to assess mental and physical health, and demonstrate basic knowledge of US history, government, and international relations.

The President can serve no more than two terms, consecutively or not.

The President can step down temporarily in the event of medical or psychological illness or other personal issue. The Vice President will act on their behalf during that time.

The President can be permanently removed from office by 60% majority vote of both the House and Senate for: treason, permanent incapacity, or unexplained absence of more than a week. In that event, the Vice President will become President until the next election.

²⁶ <https://constitutioncenter.org/media/files/constitution.pdf>

²⁷ <https://thesatanictemple.com/blogs/the-satanic-temple-tenets/there-are-seven-fundamental-tenets>

²⁸ <https://stein.to/life-lessons/lakota-code-of-ethics>

²⁹ https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Norway_2014.pdf

³⁰ https://www.gp.org/ten_key_values

³¹ https://www.engageny.org/file/2191/download/the_constitution_of_the_iroquois_nations.pdf

Treason is defined as 1) levying War against these Unified States, or 2) supporting the Enemies of the Unified States, such as providing them financial support, materiel support, and/or encouraging them to act against these Unified States.

Section 2.2 – Office of the Vice President

The Vice President shall represent the President in domestic and international affairs to the extent determined by the President.

The Vice President shall be at least 35 years of age when assuming office. They must be a citizen of the Unified States for at least five years. They must pass tests to assess mental and physical health, and demonstrate basic knowledge of US history, government, and international relations.

The Vice President may serve no more than two terms, consecutively or not.

The Vice President may be removed from office temporarily or permanently under the same criteria as the President.

The line of succession below the Vice President is defined in Article 6, Section 1.

Section 2.3 – Office of the Armed Forces

The purpose of this Office is to protect the Unified States from foreign and domestic threats and support allied countries in accordance with treaties, Non-Government Organizations (NGO), and alliances (such as the United Nations, NATO, etc.).

The Armed Forces include Departments for protection of coastal boundaries, land, sea, air, and space.

The Office of the Armed Forces is led by the Military Master, who reports to the President. The President is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces. The Military Master is appointed by the President and must be from one of the Departments.

Each Department is led by a Secretary who guides the policy and goals of their Department in cooperation with the Military Master, and approves promotion of high-ranking officers of their Department.

Article 3 – Legislative Branch

The Legislative Branch shall consist of two Branches, the House and the Senate.

Judicial decisions and laws should be based on the best scientific understanding of the world, while also recognizing that science evolves over time. Everyone should take care never to distort scientific facts to fit one's biases or personal objectives.

Section 3.1 – The House

The House shall consist of Representatives who each represent the people within one State District. They must pass tests to assess mental and physical health, and demonstrate basic knowledge of US history, government, and international relations.

Each Representative shall be at least 30 years old when assuming office. They must be a citizen for at least five years. They serve a term of three years. They may serve no more than four terms, consecutively or not.

Each State District shall have no more than a population of 800,000 people. As such, the total number of Representatives will change over time, and the number in each State may change.

The number of State Districts will be redefined every twelfth year on the basis of a complete National Census. Each State District shall have no more than six geographic boundaries.

For the purpose of defining State District boundaries, geographic boundaries may be: the middle of a paved street, a line of fixed latitude or longitude, a county, state, or national boundary, the middle of a moving body of water (river, stream, creek, etc.), or the shore of a lake, sea, or ocean.

The House shall be led by a Chief Representative, who is elected by the Representatives at the start of each session by simple majority. Each session lasts three years, and one half of Representatives are elected before each session.

Section 3.2 – The Senate

The Senate functions as a longer-term governing body, like a corporation’s board of directors. The purpose of the Senate is to review and approve (or veto) laws passed by the House. Their longer term is to provide a stabilizing influence on legislation over time. They may serve no more than two terms, consecutive or not.

Senators must be at least 35 years old when assuming office. They must be a citizen for at least five years. They serve a term of six years. They must pass tests to assess mental and physical health, and demonstrate basic knowledge of US history, government, and international relations.

Each State shall have one Senator per four million population, rounded up. This number is adjusted each National Census.

The Senate shall be led by a Chief Senator, who is elected by the Senators at the start of each session by a simple majority. Each session lasts three years, and one half of Senators are elected before each session.

Article 4 – Judicial Branch

The Judicial Branch consists of the State Supreme Courts and the National Supreme Court. Additional levels of jurisprudence may be defined as needed by legislation.

Section 4.1 – State Supreme Courts

The role of State Supreme Courts is to rule on lower court decisions which have been appealed. The key criteria are whether the lower court decisions are consistent with Federal, State, and local laws. The State Supreme Courts may need to resolve cases of conflicting rights.

Justices on the State Supreme Courts must be at least 30 years of age when assuming office. They must be a citizen of the Unified States for at least three years. They serve a single term of 12 years and must have earned a *Juris Doctor* degree.

State Supreme Court justices are nominated by the President and must be approved by a majority of the Senate. Each State shall have eleven State Supreme Court justices.

Section 4.2 – National Supreme Court

The National Supreme Court is the highest judicial entity in the country. They address cases that were ruled upon by a State Supreme Court and appealed.

The qualifications and term for National Supreme Court justices are the same as for State Supreme Court justices.

National Supreme Court justices are nominated by the President and must be approved by a majority of the Senate AND a majority of the House.

Article 5 – Bill of Rights

Section 5.1 – Equal Rights Statement

Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the Unified States or by any State or local government on account of race, ethnicity, marital status, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity, or gender presentation.

Collection of personal data on any of the above characteristics shall only be allowed for demographic or public health purposes.

Section 5.2 - Basic Human Rights

The citizens and residents of the Unified States of America have a fundamental right to adequate shelter, potable water, and food.

Section 5.3 – Right to Healthcare

Every person in the Unified States shall have the right to healthcare, including medical, dental, vision, and psychological care.

Section 5.4 – Free Speech

Every person in the Unified States shall have the right of free speech, with exceptions for treason, endangering others, or violation of other personal rights.

Section 5.5 – Freedom of Media

A free press is necessary for the exchange of ideas. The press in this context includes printed, electronic, internet, electromagnetic (television, radio), or other media formats.

Section 5.6 – Right to Assembly

Every person in the Unified States shall have the right to assemble peacefully.

Section 5.7 - Right to Bodily Autonomy

A person's body is inviolable, subject to one's own will alone. The citizens and residents of the Unified States of America have a fundamental right to bodily autonomy except as limited by Article 0 Section 4. The right to bodily autonomy starts at birth and extends beyond death.

Section 5.8 - Freedom from Religion

Every person in the Unified States has the right for freedom of religion and freedom from religion. No law shall discriminate based on a person's religion, faith, spirituality, or absence thereof.

Section 5.9 - Right to Vote

All citizens of the Unified States of America have the right to vote for elected local, city, state, and federal candidates, provided they are not currently incarcerated.

Section 5.10 - Presumption of Innocence

All people are assumed innocent of a crime until convicted of said crime.

Section 5.11 – Right to Petition

Every person in the Unified States shall have the right to petition the government for the redress of grievances. If a petition has verified signatures from at least one percent of registered voters, the government shall publicly respond to the petition within sixty calendar days.

Section 5.12 – Right to Bear Arms

Every adult of sound mind has the right to own firearms, provided they are not incarcerated, they have received training on safe use and storage of said firearms and are licensed by the Federal government.

The firearms in question can not be fully automatic or have a magazine capacity of more than thirty rounds. The right to bear arms can be revoked if the person is a danger to themselves or others or have been convicted of a violent crime.

Section 5.13 – No Soldiers in Private Property

Members of the active Armed Forces may not be allowed to stay in private residences or on private land during peacetime, unless freely authorized in writing by the owner.

Section 5.14 – Search and Seizure

No person shall be searched, nor property seized, without specific probable cause.

Section 5.15 – No Self Incrimination

No person may be forced to testify against themselves.

Section 5.16 – No Double Jeopardy

No person may be prosecuted twice for the same crime.

Section 5.17 – No Death Penalty

No law may punish a person by death. Incarceration may be allowed until death of the person.

Section 5,18 – No Kin Punishment

No law may punish the family members of a person who is convicted.

No law may punish the descendants of a person or otherwise extend punishment beyond the lifespan of the person convicted.

Section 5.19 - Eminent Domain

No person's belongings or property may be seized for public use without just compensation. Public use can never be for the direct benefit of a business entity.

Section 5.20 – Speedy Trial

Criminal prosecutions for State crimes shall be performed in the State District in which the alleged crimes occurred. Criminal prosecutions for Federal crimes shall be performed in the State in which the alleged crimes occurred.

Trials shall be public and use an impartial jury of peers. Witnesses for the prosecution and the defense may be presented. Every defendant is entitled to have qualified counsel to aid in their defense.

Section 5.21 – Proportional Bail

The amount of bail shall be fair for the crimes accused, and not excessive. Bail amounts may be adjusted up or down according to the defendant’s socioeconomic status. No defendant may be held in prison for non-violent crimes if they can not produce cash bail.

Article 6 – Other Considerations

Section 6.1 – Line of Succession

If the President, Vice President, Chief Senator, and Chief Representative are all not able to perform their duties, the available Senators shall vote on which of them will assume the President’s role. Similarly, the House members shall vote on who among them will become Vice President. Both votes will be by simple majority.

Section 6.2 – Federal Law Scope

Federal laws shall be enacted which affect the entire country and it would be confusing or impractical for each State to determine their own laws. Such laws may include telecommunications, education, healthcare, weapons, and licenses for driving, or piloting an aircraft or boat.

Section 6.3 – Research Duty

A key responsibility of the Federal government is to support research into areas that are not deemed financially worthwhile by private or publicly held institutions. These areas may include the effectiveness of naturally occurring plants and fungi (e.g. marijuana, mushrooms), alternative medicine, and treatment and/or cures for rare diseases or disorders.

Section 6.4 – Measurement

The Metric system of units shall be used for all official business of the state.

Section 6.5 - Education

Funding for public primary and secondary education shall be evenly distributed within a State District based on the number of students in each school and school district.

Post-secondary education shall be free for two years for all students who successfully complete secondary education. Post-secondary education includes accredited colleges, universities, and trade schools.

Section 6.6 – Campaign Contributions

Donations to political campaigns for Federal and State elected offices may be made only by individual citizens or residents, subject to a limit of 10% of the median individual gross income per year per candidate.

Donations may not be made by businesses, non-profit organizations, special interest groups, or corporations.

Section 6.7 – States’ Powers

All powers not described in this Constitution for the Federal government are reserved for the States.

The people may have other rights not addressed explicitly in this document.