

At-Large Senators Constitutional Amendment Summary

In theory, the fundamental promise of our democracy rests upon trust that the government fulfills the will of the people.

In recent years, we have seen that faith erode as reactionaries have manipulated the counter-majoritarian institutions of our political system, including a distorted power balance in both the Senate and Electoral College. The Senate and Electoral College were designed by our founders to not reflect the will of the majority, in part because of concerns from southern states that a popular government would move to overturn slavery.

Population shifts have accelerated the conflicts between the Electoral College and public will; two of the five times in our history that the winner of the popular vote did not win the Electoral College have occurred in the last 25 years.

This Constitutional Amendment establishes 12 at-large Senators to be elected by a national popular vote. These at-large Senators shall serve six-year terms, and four seats shall be up for election during each regularly scheduled general election. This creates a bloc of Senators, comprising 10% of the body, who are directly responsive to the national public will, forcing the Senate to move its agenda towards the majority will.

It also establishes 12 at-large Electors who shall cast their votes in the Electoral College for the winner of the national popular vote, better aligning Electoral College outcomes with those of the national popular vote and provide an incentive for candidates to win the popular vote instead of campaigning in a handful of swing states.

Senate Constitutional Amendment Section-by-Section

Section 1: Senators at-large

- Creates 12 at-large Senators with the same age and citizenship requirements, six-year terms, and voting powers, as Senators from the states.

Section 2: Popular Voting

- Senators at-large will be elected using a nation-wide popular voting system. Elections for those Senators will be divided up so that four Senators are elected for their six year terms every second year. The first election shall occur no later than the second regularly scheduled general election for Federal office after ratification.

Section 3: Vacancies

- Should a Senate at-large seat become vacant, the President shall appoint an individual to the position within 30 days. This individual must be of the same political party, or from a state-level affiliated party, as the party of the departing incumbent.
- If the vacant seat is not up for election in the next regularly scheduled general election, a special election shall be held to fill the remainder of the term which will be conducted at the same time as the next regularly scheduled general election on a separate ballot.

Section 4: Section 3: Voter Eligibility

- US citizens who are older than 18, meet the eligibility requirements in their state, and are registered to vote by their state's deadline are eligible to vote.
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Section 5: Election Administration

- The elections shall be administered by the states, which shall then submit their ballots to a Federal entity that Congress shall establish by law to count the ballots and announce the winners.

Section 6: District of Columbia and the Territories

- Individuals in the US territories and the District of Columbia who meet the requirements in Section 3 are eligible to vote for Senators at-large.

Section 7: Electors-at large

- Creates 12 at-large Electors in the Electoral College who shall cast their ballots in Presidential and Vice Presidential elections for the winner of the national popular vote.

Section 8: Enforcement

- Grants Congress the power to enforce these sections with appropriate legislation establishing the procedures for ranked choice voting as laid out in Section 2.