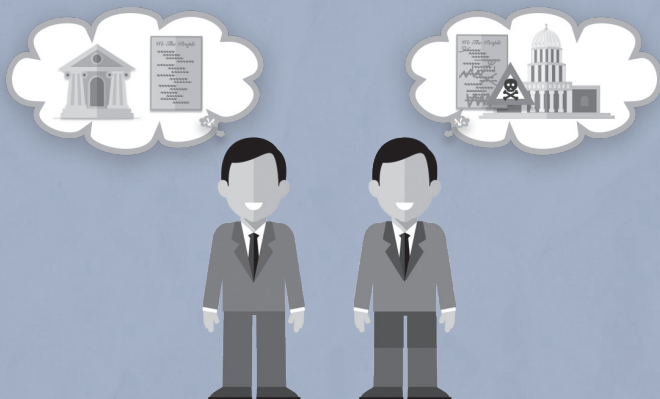


The Article VI Solution



THE FOUNDERS' BRILLIANT SOLUTION TO BIG GOVERNMENT ARTICLE VI



CONSTITUTIONAL PRINCIPLES



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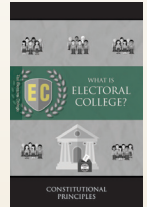
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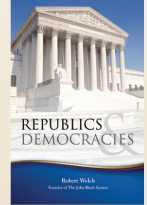
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DVDRIBG



THE FOUNDERS' BRILLIANT
SOLUTION TO BIG GOVERNMENT

ARTICLE VI

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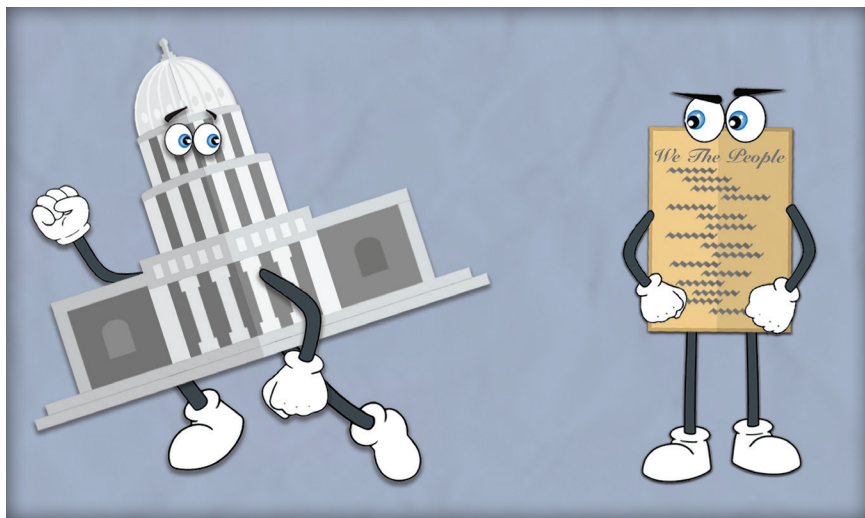
WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO AMERICA'S LIBERTY?

America, blessed with great natural resources and a moral, hard-working citizenry, became the envy of the world through its liberties and abundant opportunities. Prosperity followed liberty for the first century, but the second century ushered in an era of trading liberty for dependency on government. The results?

- Oppressive taxation and regulation
- Reckless and wasteful spending
- Corporate bailouts and welfare
- Greatly devalued dollar
- Unconstitutional wars
- Progressive nationalization of healthcare, education, police, etc.
- Attacks on religious freedom, morality, privacy, property rights, freedom of speech, gun rights, etc.

The list of unconstitutional and dangerous encroachments on our liberty could go on and on.

America has seen international bodies telling us what to do, presidents legislating by executive order, activist judges issuing radical decisions, Congress' perpetual appetite for spending, and state and local governments becoming dependent on and subservient to the federal government — all in spite of a soaring national debt.



We have the problem of “big government” because our government is running away from the Constitution.

It is clear that we have a runaway government. What has it run away from? The Constitution, as given to us by the Founding Fathers.

The aforementioned abuses of power are often referred to as “big government.” If these trends continue, the future looks very bleak, and we may all soon be living under totalitarianism. History is not kind to societies that tolerate big government. Lord Acton warned, “Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely.”

Since it is obvious that out-of-control big government will not restrain itself, something must be done — quickly!

IS THE SYSTEM BROKEN?

Many voters put all their trust into a political party, in hopes that it will fix Washington. However, our runaway government is not a partisan issue, as both major political parties have helped grow big government by not following the Constitution’s limitations.

Without limitations, the American Republic ceases to exist. But the Founders gave us Article VI to ensure limitations were enforced.

You can track which congressmen are following these limitations through the *Freedom Index*, a scorecard published by *The New American* magazine that shows how every member of Congress voted compared to what’s authorized by the Constitution (see TheNewAmerican.com or TheFreedomIndex.org).

Unfortunately, average scores are usually very low.

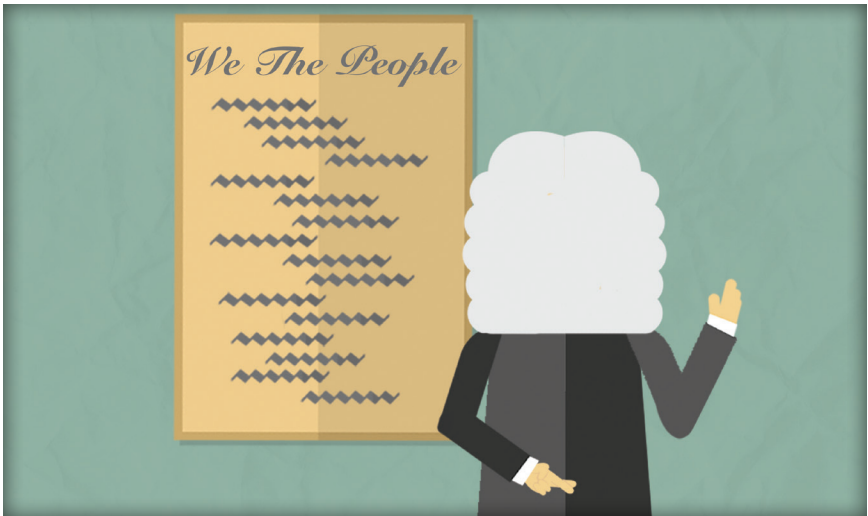
If a majority in the House of Representatives (218) would uphold their oath as required by Article VI and vote against all legislation not authorized by the Constitution, *Freedom Index* scores would skyrocket and the federal government would shrink dramatically.

The Constitution has the solutions for the problems in our government. For instance, Congress has the constitutional power and duty to regulate the courts (Article III, Section 2), by which it can rein in judicial activism. The House of Representatives controls the purse strings (Article I, Section 7), and therefore can rein in unconstitutional executive branch agencies. Congress can also remove any federal official by impeachment (Article II, Section 4).

And if Congress is negligent in its duties and unfaithful to the Constitution, *We the People* have the power to replace the entire House of Representatives and one third of the Senate every two years. In other words, we have the power to “fix” our government whenever we choose, by using the constitutional tools our Founding Fathers gave us.

So why are most congressmen, regardless of their fidelity to the Constitution, so often reelected? Polls indicate that although voters disapprove of the job Congress is doing as a whole, they like the job that their congressmen are doing!

Congressman James Garfield (R-Ohio), four years prior to being elected the 20th U.S. president in 1880, provided this thoughtful analysis on July 4, 1876:



If congressmen fail to uphold their oath to “support the Constitution,” *We the People* have the power to replace the entire House of Representatives and one third of the Senate every two years.

Now more than ever before, the people are responsible for the character of their Congress. If that body be ignorant, reckless and corrupt, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness and corruption. If it be intelligent, brave and pure, it is because the people demand these high qualities to represent them.

His words ring all the more true today, as Americans have allowed government to deviate from the Constitution.

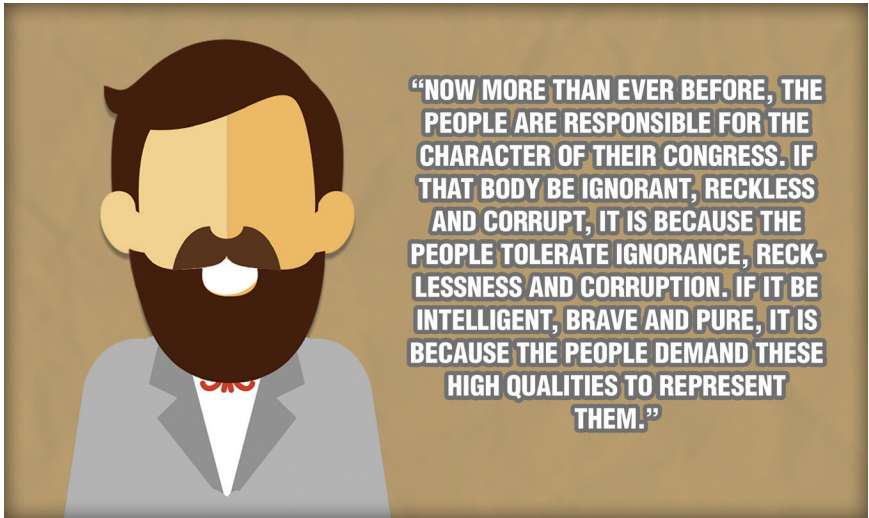
So to answer the question: “Is the system broken?” No, it’s working exactly the way it was designed. The problem is the shortage of constitutionalists working in concert to lead the country back to sanity.

THE SOLUTION IS EDUCATION

The solution is to create well-informed leaders with a well-grounded understanding of and appreciation for the Constitution who will work to oppose constitutional violations and influence a majority of voters.

Does education and influence work? Just ask big-government advocates. This is what they’ve been doing for ages, and it’s producing the results they want — Americans are succumbing not just to big government, but to socialism as well. For example, self-described socialists are becoming increasingly influential and powerful in the Democratic Party.

To demonstrate the need for education, take our Constitution Quiz. The answers follow the quiz. Good luck!



Congressman James A. Garfield, 1876

Constitution Quiz

1. What does the Constitution say is “necessary to the security of a free state”?
2. What does the Constitution say about the duration of office for Supreme Court justices?
3. The decision of taking our country into war is in whose hands?
4. What does the Constitution say about “bills of credit”?
5. Are Supreme Court rulings included in the Supremacy Clause as part of “the supreme law of the land”?
6. Fill in the blank: The enumerated powers of Congress are found in Article _____, Section _____.
7. What are the three things that Congress is authorized to spend money on?
8. What are the five purposes for which the federal government can own and control land within a state?
9. How much of the lawmaking power granted by the Constitution is given to Congress? To the president? To the Supreme Court?
10. In a “checks and balances” showdown, which of the three branches holds the highest power, or are they equal?

Answers:

1. *Second Amendment: “A well regulated Militia”;*

2. *Article III, Section 1: “shall hold their offices during good behavior”;*

3. *Article I, Section 8, Clause 11: “Congress shall have power to ... declare war”;*

4. *Article I, Section 10, Clause 1: “No state shall ... emit bills of credit”; giving Congress the power to emit bills of credit was proposed, but voted down in the 1787 Constitutional Convention;*

5. *Article VI, Clause 2: No, only the Constitution, laws made in following the Constitution, and treaties made under its authority are considered “the supreme law of the land”;*

6. *Article I, Section 8 is the list of general lawmaking powers, known as the enumerated powers of Congress;*

7. *Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: “Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts, provide for the common defence and general welfare”;*

8. *Article I, Section 8, Clause 17: “forts, magazines, arsenals, dockyards, and other needful buildings”;*

9. *Article I, Section 1: “All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress”; NONE is granted to the president or the Supreme Court;*

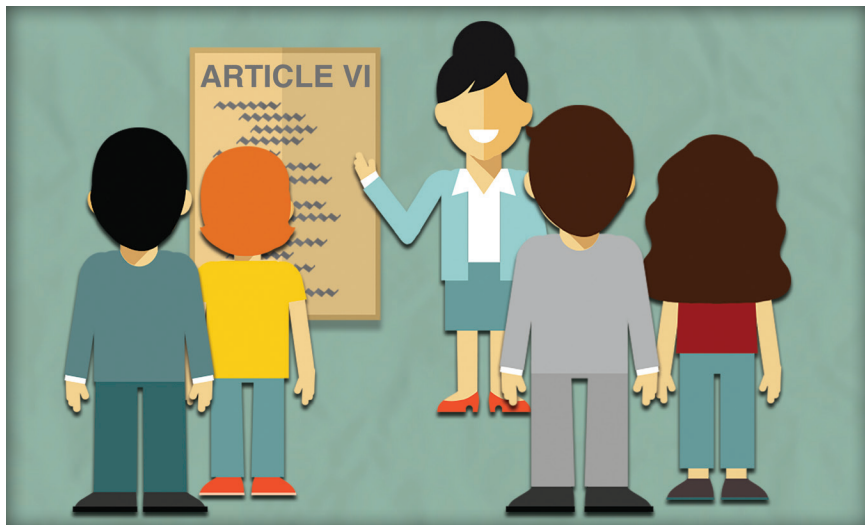
10. *Congress has the ultimate power, that of impeachment.*

So, how did you do? If you got all 10 correct, congratulations! Start educating others! If you got a lot wrong, don't feel too bad, as many Americans are in the same boat. This just helps to underscore the need for learning more about the Constitution and knowing where and how to apply it.

To give you an idea of how far Americans have slipped in their civic knowledge, notice the following observation made on a visit to America in 1831 by Alexis de Tocqueville, a famous French political theorist:

Every citizen ... is ... taught ... the history of his country, and the leading features of its Constitution.... [I]t is extremely rare to find a man imperfectly acquainted with all these things, and a person wholly ignorant of them is sort of a phenomenon.

Sadly, now the opposite is true. Anyone who is even vaguely acquainted with the Constitution and the true history of the country is a rarity — and that is the root of the problem.



To rein in big government, we must learn the rules (as laid out in the Constitution) and hold our local, state, and federal officials accountable to them.

Government has grown out of control by disregarding the rules. They don't play by the rules because *We the People* don't know the rules to ensure they get enforced! Government abuses will cease when government is brought back into compliance with the rules.

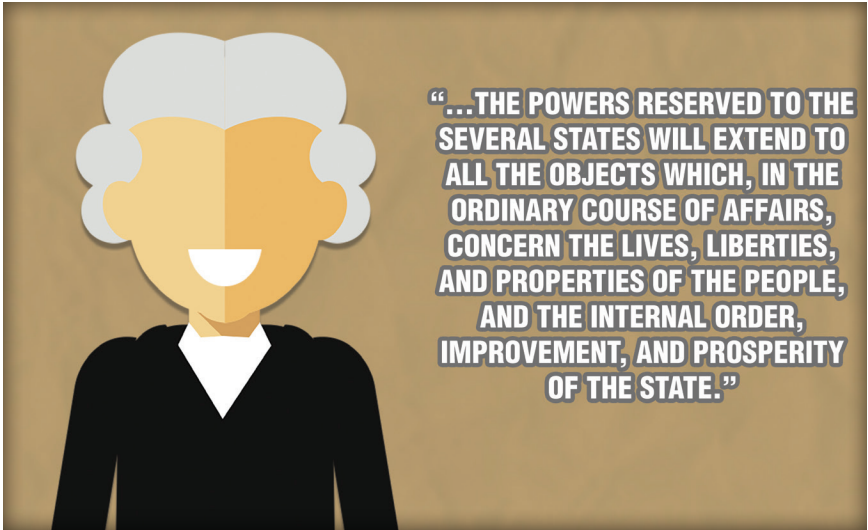
To rein in big government, we must learn the rules and hold our local, state, and federal officials accountable to them.

OBEYING THE CONSTITUTION

Understanding a few basic principles is key to obeying the Constitution. Let's start with independence and move into "few and defined" powers.

After declaring that all men are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, America's Founders fought and won a war for independence from an out-of-control monarchy. This left 13 free and independent states, united under the Articles of Confederation. Then they created the Constitution, which delegated certain powers to a new United States federal government. The Constitution is a set of rules that governs the government, not the people.

Three of America's prominent Founding Fathers — James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay — wrote a series of letters to the editor explaining the new Constitution. This collection of letters is still published as *The Federalist Papers*, or *The Federalist*.



James Madison, *The Federalist*, No. 45, 1788

James Madison, known as “The Father of the Constitution,” summarized the new Constitution in *The Federalist*, No. 45:

The powers delegated by the proposed Constitution to the federal government are *few and defined*. Those which are to remain in the State governments are *numerous and indefinite*. The former will be exercised principally on external objects, as war, peace, negotiation, and foreign commerce; with which last the power of taxation will, for the most part, be connected. The powers reserved to the several States will extend to all the objects which, in the ordinary course of affairs, concern the lives, liberties, and properties of the people, and the internal order, improvement, and prosperity of the State. [Emphasis added.]

Each state has jurisdiction over its own internal policies. There is competition among the states, and policies vary widely based on the people of each state. If a state encourages industriousness by allowing freedom to flourish and people to keep the fruit of their labor, it attracts a different kind of people than a nanny state with many regulations and redistribution of wealth. People can vote for change or vote with their feet by moving to a freer state.

FEDERALISM

The constitutional division of power between the United States government and the largely sovereign and independent state governments is known as “federalism.” This is much different than a socialist government with a centrally

controlled economy, one-size-fits-all policies, and coercive controls on everyone. We are supposed to have a federalist system of government, as evidenced by Madison’s quote on the previous page and the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution, which states:

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

The few powers delegated to federal jurisdiction are defined in the Constitution. Those powers are divided between three branches or departments: legislative, executive, and judicial. The bulk of power resides in the legislative branch (which is accountable directly to the people). All powers not delegated to the federal government are reserved to the states and the people.

Madison wrote in *The Federalist*, No. 51, that the separation of powers is “essential to the preservation of liberty” and “the means of keeping [the branches of government] in their proper places.” Furthermore, the United States’ federalist structure of government, with most power retained by the states, creates “a double security” further protecting individual freedom.

There’s a vertical and horizontal separation and division of power. If any branch or division of government violates the Constitution by exercising a power outside its jurisdiction, its action is a *usurpation* of power.



We the People, through our local, state, and federal elected representatives, have the power to control our government.

A REPUBLIC, NOT A DEMOCRACY

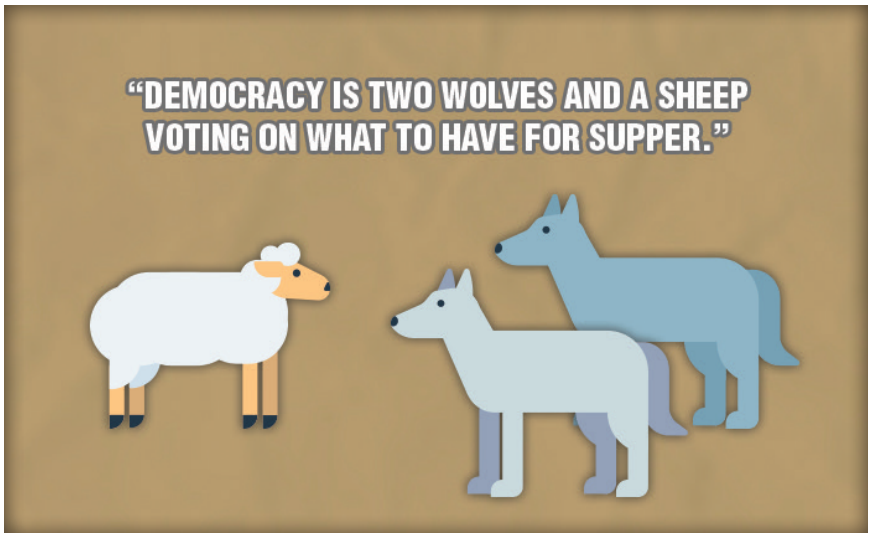
When asked what form of government the Constitutional Convention of 1787 had created, Benjamin Franklin replied, “A republic, if you can keep it.” Notice that he did not call it a democracy, which is today’s most common (although incorrect) label for American government.

In a democracy (majority rule), there is virtually no limit to government power and no security for the rights of any minority. Another famous line attributed to Benjamin Franklin is, “Democracy is two wolves and a sheep voting on what to have for supper.”

In *The Federalist*, No. 10, Madison noted that “democracies have ever been spectacles of turbulence and contention; have ever been found incompatible with personal security or the rights of property; and have in general been as short in their lives as they have been violent in their deaths.” Instead, Madison pointed to a republic — our nation’s form of government — as the solution to factions and majority-rule oppression.

In our Republic (rule of law), our Constitution is a fixed body of supreme law that cannot be changed by majority whims or power-hungry politicians without going through a deliberately complicated process. The federal government has strictly limited powers to protect the God-given rights of all the people.

As Robert Welch, founder of The John Birch Society, was fond of saying, “This is a republic, not a democracy. Let’s keep it that way!”





According to Article VI, Clause 2 of the Constitution, known as the Supremacy Clause, only those laws and treaties made in pursuance of the Constitution “shall be the supreme law of the land.”

THE “SUPREMACY CLAUSE”

This brings us to Article VI, Clause 2 of the Constitution, which reads:

This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States *which shall be made in Pursuance thereof*; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding. [Emphasis added.]

This is what is known as the “Supremacy Clause.” It declares that only those laws and treaties made in pursuance of (i.e., in accordance with) the Constitution “shall be the supreme law of the land.”

This clause draws a clear line between constitutional and unconstitutional laws. Only constitutional laws (i.e., those that are in pursuance of the Constitution) are the supreme law of the land. By contrast, unconstitutional laws (i.e., those that are not in pursuance of the Constitution) are *not* the supreme law of the land

BOUND BY OATH OR AFFIRMATION

The third clause of Article VI requires:

The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by

Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.

This clarifies the duty of all government officials, who are bound by oath or affirmation to uphold the Constitution and laws “made in Pursuance thereof,” not in violation thereof. Local, state, and federal officials — elected or otherwise appointed — who take this oath are duty-bound to reject and oppose constitutional violations by local, state, federal, or international bodies or officials, whether the usurper be legislative, executive, or judicial. In the face of government overreach, which official is faithful to his oath: the one who acquiesces to the usurpation, or the one who resists? Clearly the latter.

At the beginning of this booklet, we gave several examples showing that federal officials are guilty of gross constitutional violations. But they aren’t the only ones. Thousands of local and state officials are also guilty of violating their oath by participating in unconstitutional programs.

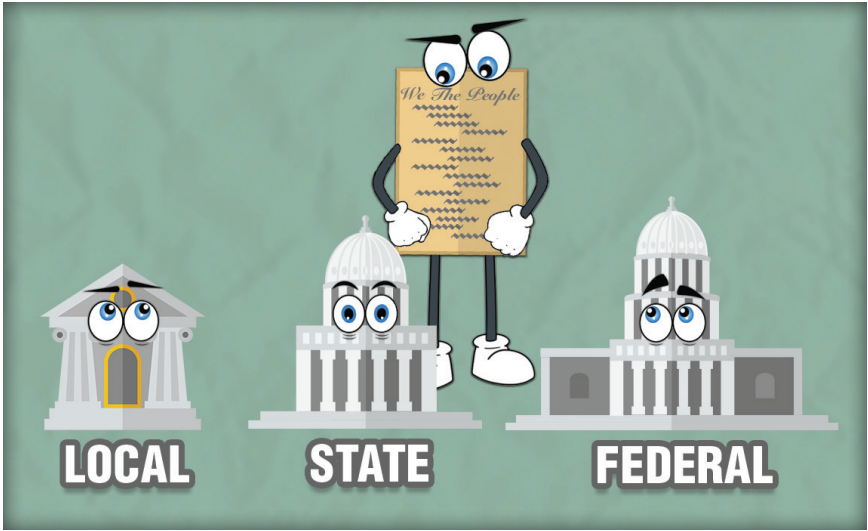
When opposing unconstitutional usurpations, state and local officials must be bold and courageous. Any state or locality acting to enforce the Constitution and prevent the implementation of unconstitutional edicts will likely face significant opposition from the federal government, judiciary, media, big business, and others. Following one’s oath to uphold the Constitution will not come without a fight. However, if our leaders are bold and courageous, they can immediately and effectively enforce the Constitution and push back against unconstitutional usurpations.

THE FOUNDERS’ SOLUTION FOR REINING IN CONSTITUTIONAL VIOLATIONS

America’s Founders said constitutional violations should be met with constitutional enforcement. Local, state, and federal officials have a duty to protect our rights by opposing constitutional violations. Enforcement would slash over 80 percent of the currently bloated, unconstitutional government. Taxes, corruption, and abuses of power would be dramatically reduced, enabling a new American renaissance.

We the People, through our local, state, and federal elected representatives, have the power to control our government. We have even more influence over local and state officials than we have over federal ones.

The Founders had a much broader understanding of the checks and balances they built into our system than what has been taught in government schools for generations. The 13 states were jealous of their recently won independence, and they didn’t want the new federal government to become tyrannical like the British government they had just repelled.



When any local, state, or federal bodies try to exercise powers not delegated to them by the Constitution, it is a usurpation that should be opposed by all who support the Constitution.

The Founders expected the people and the states to be alert “in case the Congress shall misconstrue ... part of the Constitution, and exercise powers not warranted by its true meaning.” State legislators should “be ever ready to mark the innovation, to sound the alarm to the people, and to exert their local influence in effecting a change of federal representatives.” “A remedy must be obtained from the people who can, by the election of more faithful representatives, annul the acts of the usurpers.” “This ultimate redress” was prescribed by James Madison in *The Federalist*, No. 44.

Do your local and state officials oppose encroachments on their jurisdiction from federal and international usurpers?

In *The Federalist*, No. 33, Alexander Hamilton said that federal “Acts ... which are not pursuant to its constitutional powers ... will be merely acts of usurpation, and will deserve to be treated as such.”

When any local, state, federal, or international bodies or officials try to exercise powers not delegated to them, it is a usurpation that should be opposed by all who support the Constitution (especially those bound by oath or affirmation to do so). The biggest concern has always been federal usurpations. In recent history, international encroachments have also been an increasing problem. Without amending the Constitution, no constitutional powers can be transferred to any international body. No foreign or international bodies have any lawful power or jurisdiction in the United States.

ACTS OF USURPATION DESERVE TO BE TREATED AS SUCH

What did the Founders say we should do if any branch of the federal government tries exercising powers outside its jurisdiction, such as telling the states or the people how they can use their property? Sometimes it's a matter of the state simply ignoring them. In *The Federalist*, No. 16, Hamilton said:

If the ... State legislatures be necessary to give effect to a measure of the Union, they have only NOT TO ACT, or to ACT EVASIVELY, and the measure is defeated. [Emphasis in original.]

States should not comply with federal encroachments (or international ones) or participate in unconstitutional programs. Doing so is a violation of the oath taken by state officials (or local ones). James Madison added in *The Federalist*, No. 46:

The means of opposition to [unwarrantable measures] are powerful and at hand. The disquietude of the people; their repugnance, and, perhaps, refusal, to cooperate with the officers of the Union; the frowns of the executive magistracy of the State; the embarrassments created by legislative devices, which would often be added on such occasions ... would present obstructions which the Federal government would hardly be willing to encounter.... The State governments, with the people on their side, would be able to repel the danger. [Emphasis added.]

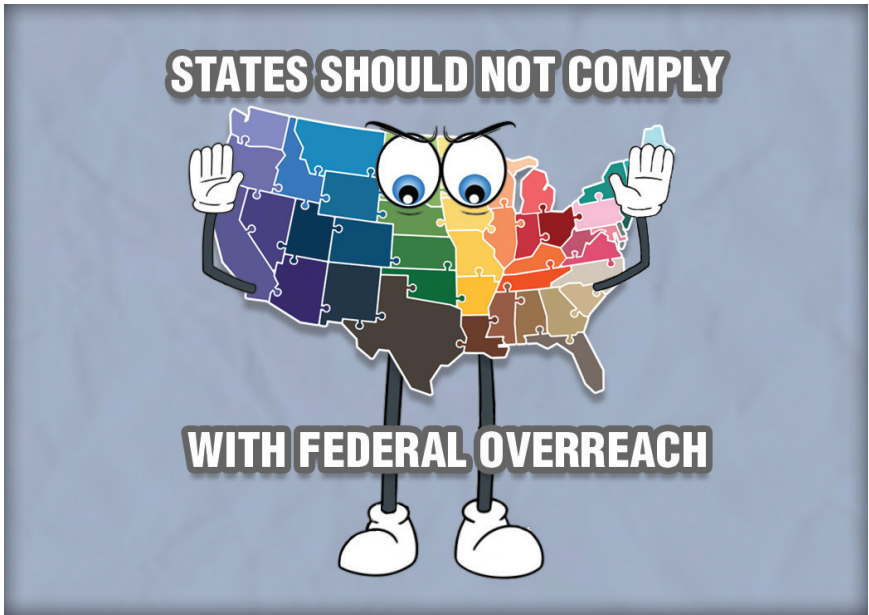
The executive magistracies (i.e., governors) have much influence “to repel the danger” when they use it. For them to make a stand, they must do so “with the people on their side” (i.e., an informed electorate).

As to the “legislative devices” that states should use, Thomas Jefferson explained in the Kentucky Resolutions of 1798:

Whensoever the general government assumes undelegated powers, its acts are unauthoritative, void, and of no force....

Where powers are assumed which have not been delegated, a nullification of the act is the rightful remedy: that every State has a natural right in cases not within the compact ... to nullify of their own authority all assumptions of power by others within their limits: that without this right, they would be under the dominion, absolute and unlimited, of whosoever might exercise this right of judgment for them.

Simply stated, *nullification* is the reserved power to nullify (or invalidate) any unconstitutional action (as defined by Article VI), not only by refusing to implement it, but also by declaring it null, void, and of no force within a jurisdiction.



States should not comply with federal encroachments (or international ones) or participate in unconstitutional programs. Doing so is a violation of the oath taken by state and local officials.

INTERPOSITION AND NULLIFICATION

Writing in favor of nullification in the Virginia Resolutions of 1798, James Madison said that when the federal government exercises powers not granted in the Constitution, “the states who are parties thereto, have the right, and are in duty bound, to interpose.”

To *interpose* means to place between. What Madison is referring to is the duty of government (local, state, and federal) to protect the God-given rights of the people by placing itself between them and any encroachment — in this case, encroachment by the federal government; this is the proper role of government.

Interposition may take the form of nullification. Another example would be for the county sheriff to interpose by placing his deputies between constituents and unconstitutional federal bureaucrats, thereby protecting his constituents’ rights.

In summary, every local, state, and federal official (including police and military) who has sworn an oath to uphold the Constitution is duty-bound to oppose laws not made in pursuance of the Constitution as well as any other unconstitutional acts of the federal government or international bodies. This is constitutional enforcement.

NULLIFICATION IN ACTION

Nullification is not just a theoretical concept. It has been — and is being — used to counter government overreach. Prominent historical examples include:

- Nullification was first used in the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions, written by Thomas Jefferson in 1798 and Madison in 1799, respectively. These resolutions condemned the Alien and Sedition Acts as unconstitutional. Furthermore, they asserted that state governments had authority to nullify, or interpose, the acts along with any other unconstitutional law.
- In the 1850s, opponents of slavery nullified the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, a federal law that unconstitutionally infringed upon individual freedom and state sovereignty. For example, when the U.S. Supreme Court ordered the State of Wisconsin to obey the law, the state's Legislature and Supreme Court nullified *that* decision.

Nullification is still being used today to push back against federal usurpations. Prominent current examples include:

- Gun control: Multiple states and counties have enacted measures nullifying federal gun control. These include Missouri's Second Amendment Preservation Act (2021), which even nullifies the 1934 National Firearms Act and the 1968 Gun Control Act.
- Real ID: In 2005, Congress passed the Real ID Act, which mandated a national ID system. However, most states either ignored the law or expressly banned its enforcement, forcing the federal government's hand. As of this writing 18 years later, the Real ID Act still hasn't gone into effect.
- Federal Reserve: Dozens of states have enacted legislation bypassing the Fed and enforcing the Constitution's monetary provisions.
- Sheriffs: Local sheriffs are key to resisting federal usurpations. For example, many sheriffs have nullified federal gun-control laws, and during Covid they protected Americans from tyrannical restrictions.

In addition to these examples, states can do much more to enforce the Constitution. Legislation has been introduced in state legislatures to nullify federal vaccine mandates; activist court rulings; unconstitutional federal deployments of state National Guard units; unconstitutional federal spending; and federal law-enforcement, agricultural, and energy regulations, among other topics. Legislation has also been introduced to create formal processes for nullifying unconstitutional federal actions.

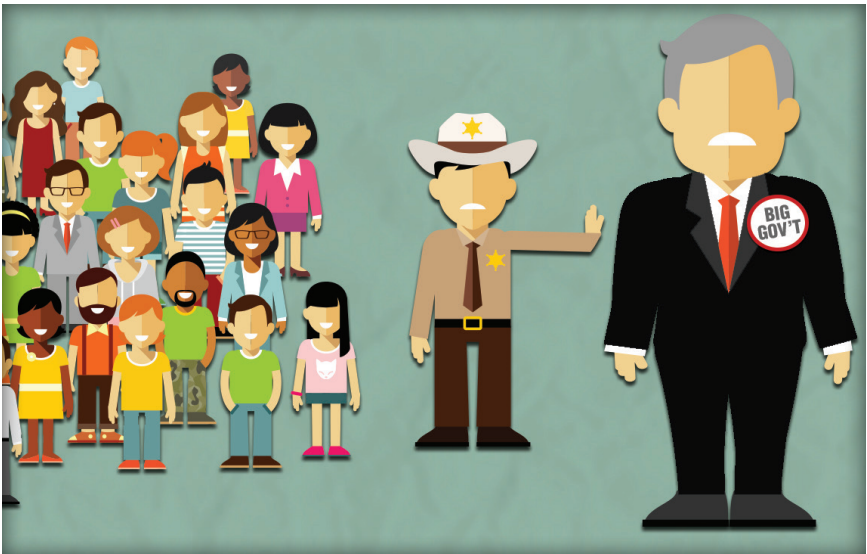
WHO WOULD OPPOSE CONSTITUTIONAL ENFORCEMENT?

Those who love big government hate constitutional enforcement. How do they oppose it? By making ridiculous claims and misrepresenting history, saying that nullification is racist and that James Madison spoke out against nullification. But constitutional enforcement isn't racist, and Madison always spoke favorably of nullification except in cases of its misuse.

To give you an example, let's look at how some detractors take a quote from Madison out of context. In a letter to Edward Coles, dated August 29, 1834, speaking of a famous case involving the *misuse* of nullification, Madison stated: "Nullification has the effect of putting powder under the Constitution and Union, and a match in the hand of every party to blow them up at pleasure."

Although it appears Madison was speaking out against nullification, in the same letter, Madison explained that he was speaking against "this offspring of the discontents of South Carolina." South Carolina was suggesting that it could nullify a tariff for the entire Union.

Madison knew that this tariff, despite how undesirable it was for South Carolina, was a constitutional act of Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, which specifically lists the enumerated powers of Congress, including the "power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises."



Every local, state, and federal official who has sworn an oath to uphold the Constitution is duty-bound to oppose laws not made in pursuance of the Constitution.



In 1834 James Madison wrote disapprovingly of South Carolina's suggestion that it could "nullify" a tariff for the entire Union: "Nullification has the effect of putting powder under the Constitution and Union, and a match in the hand of every party to blow them up at pleasure." However, later that year, Madison clarified his stand on nullification: "The right of nullification meant by Mr. Jefferson is the *natural right*, which all admit to be a remedy against insupportable oppression." (Emphasis added.)

Furthermore, Madison knew that South Carolina did not have the authority to nullify anything for the entire country. They were trying to block a constitutional act on behalf of the entire nation, which is a misuse of nullification.

Madison's long-term support for nullification is revealed in a manuscript dated 1834 and entitled "Notes on Nullification," which was published in a book, *The Writings of James Madison: 1819-1836*, edited by Gaillard Hunt.

In the manuscript, Madison quoted from Thomas Jefferson's Kentucky Resolutions of 1798:

"But, where powers are assumed which have not been delegated ... every State has a natural right in cases not within the compact, to nullify...."

He then concluded:

Thus the right of nullification meant by Mr. Jefferson is *the natural right*, which all admit to be a remedy against insupportable oppression. [Emphasis added.]

This quote from Madison in 1834 (the same year he criticized South Carolina's misuse of nullification) shows that 36 years after he wrote the Virginia Resolutions of 1798, he still upheld nullification as a remedy against *unconstitutional* federal actions.

Proponents of an Article V constitutional convention (Con-Con) also oppose constitutional enforcement. For example, in 2021, a representative for the pro-Con-Con organization Convention of States spoke out against a nullification bill in South Dakota. Among other statements, he claimed that nullification helped cause the Civil War and stated, “Wholesale nullifying leads to anarchy and nullification of the Constitution itself.”

Such claims, however, have no basis in reality. For example, nullification and secession are distinct principles. Also, nullification upholds and enforces the Constitution, whereas a Con-Con seriously threatens it. And while a Con-Con could take decades or longer to be concluded, nullification has an immediate effect. More information on the dangers of a Con-Con can be found in our *What Is a Constitutional Convention?* booklet.

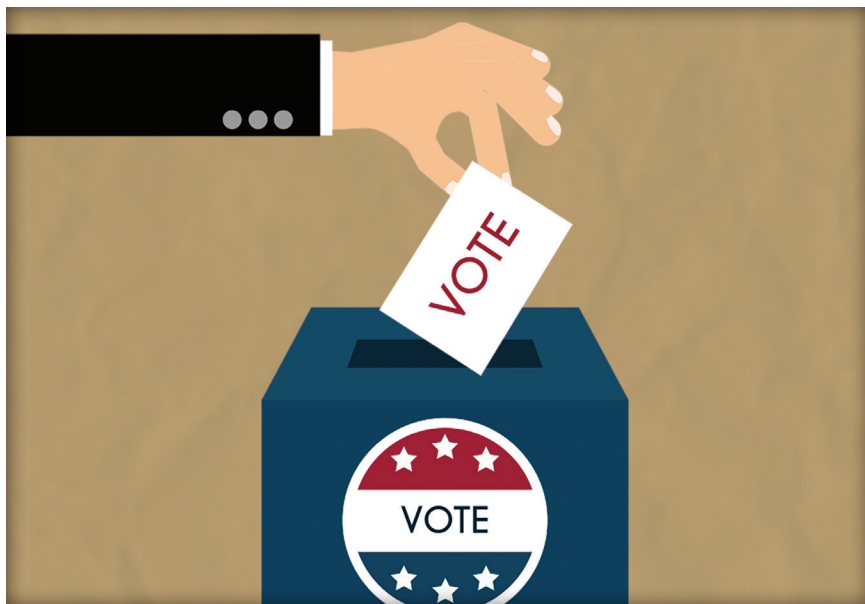
AN INFORMED ELECTORATE

Unfortunately, many officials are not obeying their oath. The best way to get them to do so, or to elect new officials who will, is by creating an informed electorate who will hold elected officials accountable to their Article VI oath to support the Constitution.

As progress is made in creating a constitutionally informed electorate within a state, then progress will be made in electing constitutionalists at the local, state, and federal level who will interpose and nullify unconstitutional acts — protecting the rights of the people.



Unfortunately, many officials are not obeying their oath to support the Constitution. The best way to get elected officials at the local, state, and federal level who will enforce the Constitution is by creating an informed electorate to hold officials accountable.



Every election is a direct reflection of the voters' understanding of the Constitution.

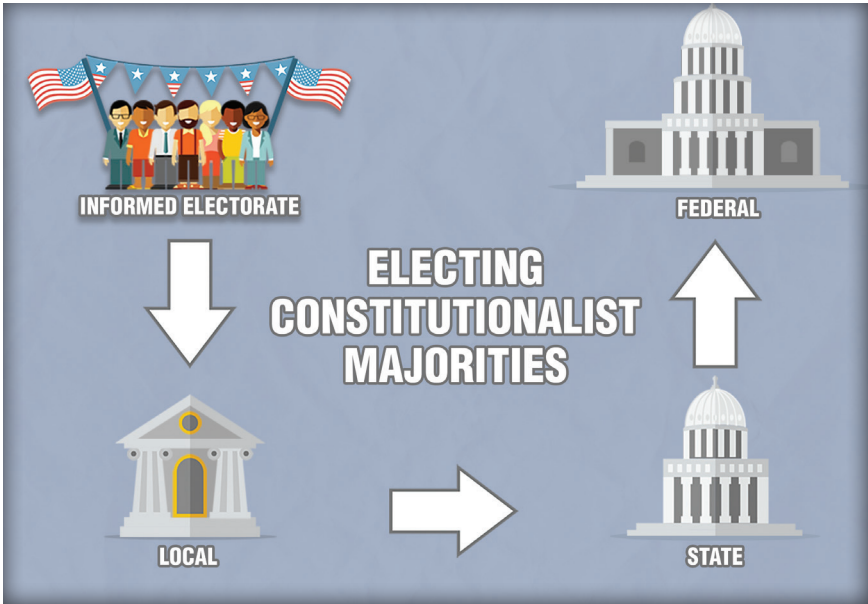
In a speech at the Virginia Ratifying Convention on June 20, 1788, James Madison said:

But I go on this great republican principle, that the people will have virtue and intelligence to select men of virtue and wisdom. Is there no virtue among us? If there be not, we are in a wretched situation. No theoretical checks — no form of government can render us secure. To suppose that any form of government will secure liberty or happiness without any virtue in the people, is a chimerical idea.

Or, as Thomas Jefferson similarly stated in a letter written to Colonel Charles Yancey on January 6, 1816: “If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be.” And in a letter to William C. Jarvis, Jefferson wrote:

I know no safe depository of the ultimate powers of the society but the people themselves; and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is ... to inform their discretion by education. This is the true corrective of abuses of constitutional power.

Every election is a direct reflection of the voters' constitutional knowledge.



Your job as a constitutionalist citizen is to help create a constitutionally informed electorate in your local area. A constitutionally informed electorate can help rein in big government by electing constitutionalists to the local, state, and federal levels of government.

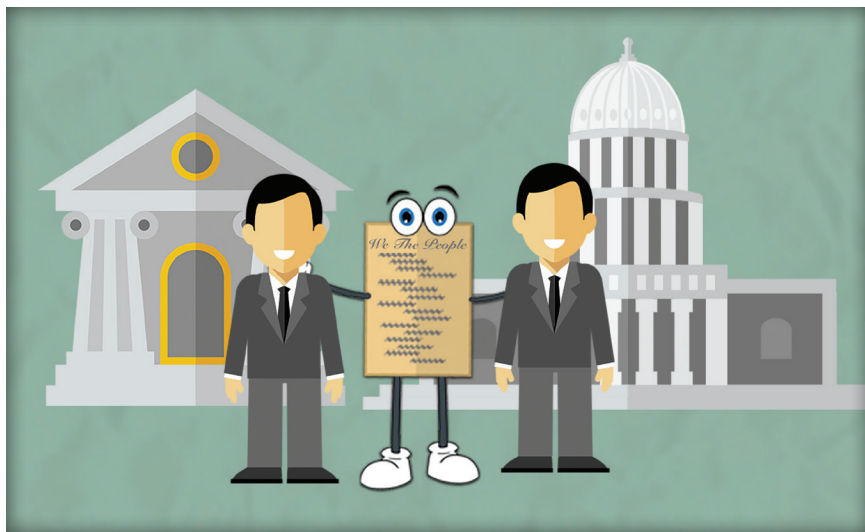
GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

All elected officials are accountable to the people through frequent elections. Non-elected officials are accountable to the elected officials who appoint them. For far too long, the national media have fixated Americans' attention on presidential elections. Of all elected offices in the United States, this is the one furthest from the people, the one they have the least influence over. This diverts people's attention from the elected officials with whom they have the most influence.

You can't do much about the president or the entire Congress, but you can help build an informed electorate in your community to hold local, state, and federal officials accountable.

Without an informed electorate to draw from, constitutionalist candidates are few and far between. When constitutionalists do run for office, it is increasingly difficult for them to win, having to contend with biased media and special interest groups.

Election results show that most Americans don't know that the easiest way to replace bad officials is in the primary or caucus (with much lower voter participation) rather than the general election. But it is difficult, if not impossible, for constitutionalists to be elected to any office without the backing of an informed electorate. In fact, an informed electorate can rein in big government by electing constitutionalist majorities to all levels of government.



Imagine what constitutionalist state legislatures and a constitutionalist Congress could accomplish by nullifying unconstitutional federal laws in state legislatures and repealing unconstitutional federal laws in Congress.

THE FUTURE

Imagine what constitutionalist state legislatures and Congress could accomplish! State legislatures can phase out unconstitutional programs by simply dropping out of them or nullifying them, if necessary. Congress can complete the phasing out of unconstitutional programs by repealing all federal and international agencies and programs that are not authorized by the Constitution. This would enable federalism, freedom, and prosperity to flourish again.

Furthermore, at the ballot box, an informed electorate can hold its elected representatives accountable to their oath to support the Constitution, thus ensuring the perpetuation of constitutionally limited government that would protect our freedom and prosperity.

The solution to reining in out-of-control big government and returning to constitutional government is that simple. The John Birch Society has the game plan, the educational and action tools, and a national network of chapters working in concert on creating a constitutionally informed electorate. As a member of a local chapter, your role is very manageable and achievable (e.g., members educate their circles of influence, local businessmen, and other community leaders on how to rein in big government).

Creating an informed electorate to hold officials accountable to their oath to support the Constitution takes diligence, dedication, and patience, but it is well worth it! The future of America is up to *We the People!*

UNDERSTAND THE U.S. CONSTITUTION AND DEMAND OUR REPRESENTATIVES OBEY IT

An informed electorate is the only way we can expect our government to comply with the Constitution. And that responsible, informed electorate begins with you!

How? Become a member of The John Birch Society (JBS) and join in on the concerted action of a nationwide network of chapters. JBS has much momentum, but must grow much larger to carry out its mission to bring about less government, more responsibility, and — with God’s help — a better world by providing leadership, education, and organized volunteer action in accordance with moral and constitutional principles.

Innumerable victories have been won since the JBS founding in 1958 by getting the right information to the right people at the right time all across the country.

JBS founder Robert Welch said, “Education is our total strategy, and truth is our only weapon,” and he invited all men and women of good character, humane conscience, and religious ideals to join us in our epic undertaking.

You can help with your time, money, or influence. Call 1-800-JBS-USA1 or visit JBS.org/join today to apply for membership and join or start a chapter in your community. Also visit JBS.org/nullify to get involved in our “Rein In Big Government With Nullification” action project and view additional resources.

Now that you know the solution to rein in big government, share this with someone you’d like to have in a chapter with you. Then contact the JBS to get started!



Share this booklet with someone you’d like to have in a chapter with you. Then contact the JBS to get started!

RECOMMENDED EDUCATIONAL TOOLS FOR FURTHER STUDY AND ACTION

The Founders' Brilliant Solution to Big Government: Article VI — booklet

The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution — booklet

What Is a Constitutional Convention? — booklet

The Doctrine of the Lesser Magistrates — book

Nullification: How to Resist Federal Tyranny in the 21st Century — book

The Federalist — book

JBS Training Video Series — DVD set

Rein In Big Government With Article VI, Not V — DVD

The Constitution Is the Solution! — DVD set

The Freedom Index — printed copies available at ShopJBS.org. A free online version is also available at TheNewAmerican.com. Scores improve wherever it is widely circulated.

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THE FOUNDERS' BRILLIANT
SOLUTION TO BIG GOVERNMENT

ARTICLE VI

Learn how big government can be reined in by applying the Constitution's Article VI, Clause 2 (the Supremacy Clause) and Clause 3 (the Oath of Office). You'll also learn how to formulate a plan of action to create a constitutionally informed electorate that will hold local, state, and federal officials accountable to their Oath of Office. Elected officials will learn how to oppose all laws and programs that were not passed in pursuance of the Constitution by nullifying such laws and programs at the state level and repealing them at the federal level.