



YOUR ROLE IN REINING IN BIG GOVERNMENT

WHAT WE HAVE

1776: America's Founders fought a war for independence from out-of-control Big Government. They declared their freedom to create a new government limited to its proper role of protecting the God-given rights of the people.

1787: The Constitution is a set of rules that governs the government, not the people. It enables We the People to rule our government. But it's impossible to enforce the rules if we don't know them.

CHANGE OR OBEY THE CONSTITUTION?

BIG GOVERNMENT: Government has grown out-of-control because of disregard for the rules. Enforcement of the rules will bring the federal government back into compliance (slashing the size and cost!).

FALSE SOLUTION: If the federal government ignores the Constitution now, why would it suddenly start to obey either a new one or an amended one? Adherence to the Constitution is the answer, not amending it.

ADHERE & ENFORCE

ARTICLE VI: Elected officials take an oath to abide by the Constitution and all laws "made in pursuance thereof." To protect citizens, officials are duty bound to reject, ignore, or nullify federal acts that are not "in pursuance thereof."

WE THE PEOPLE: To rein in Big Government, we must learn the rules and hold our local, state, and federal officials accountable to them. The most effective way to do so is through membership in The John Birch Society.

Visit [JBS.org/6not5](https://www.jbs.org/6not5) to learn more, tell others, and take action!



SOLUTIONS FROM THE FOUNDING FATHERS

FEDERAL DUTIES

“The powers delegated by the ... Constitution to the federal government are few and defined. Those which are to remain in the State governments are numerous and indefinite.”

— James Madison, *Federalist 45*

“The powers not delegated to the [federal government] by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.”

— 10TH Amendment, *U.S. Constitution*

STATE DUTIES

“[W]hensoever the [federal government] assumes undelegated powers, its acts are unauthorized, void, and of no force.”

— Thomas Jefferson, *Kentucky Resolutions*

“[W]here powers are assumed which have not been delegated, a nullification of the act is the rightful remedy....”

— Thomas Jefferson, *Kentucky Resolutions*

“[A]cts ... which are not pursuant to its constitutional powers ... will be merely acts of usurpation, and will deserve to be treated as such.”

— Alexander Hamilton, *Federalist 33*

“If the ... State legislatures be necessary to give effect to a measure of the [federal government], they have only NOT TO ACT, or to ACT EVASIVELY, and the measure is defeated.”

— Alexander Hamilton, *Federalist 16*

“[I]n case of a deliberate ... dangerous exercise of other powers, not granted by the [Constitution], the states ... have the right, and are in duty bound, to interpose, for arresting the progress of the evil....”

— James Madison, *Virginia Resolutions*

WE THE PEOPLE DUTIES

“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.”

— Thomas Jefferson, *Letter to William C. Jarvis*