We the People

Article I

Section 1. All legislative Power shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

Representatives and Direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, counting every free Woman three Quarters of a free Man. But when the Number of any State shall reach forty thousand, the Representatives for such State shall be at least two; and when a census shall be directed by the Legislature of the United States, the apportionment of Representatives shall be according to such census.

The House of Representatives shall choose their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

Section 3. The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote.

Immediately after they shall be assembled in Conventions, they shall be.sworn in open Court, before one Judge of the Supreme Court, or other Officers of the State, and be hydro sworn to support the Constitution of the United States. This Clause will not be so construed as to require Congress to accept such an oath. They shall choose a President of their Senate, and by a Majority vote, shall choose a Vice President, who shall have the same Qualifications as the said President, and who shall hold their Office during the Term for which they were appointed, and be removed, as the Case of the said President.

The Vice President of the United States shall be the President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless they be equally divided.

Section 4. The Times, Places, and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of Holding the first Elections.

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every Year, and such Meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by Law appoint a different Day.

Section 5. Candidates shall be chosen of the United States to hold their Office during the Term for which they were elected, and no Person shall be a Senator or Representative, or hold any Office of trust or profit under them, during the Time for which they were elected, except as a Member of Congress.

They shall, in all Cases, except Treason, Felony and Breach of the Peace, be privileged from Arrest during their Attendance at the Session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any Speech or Debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other Place.

Section 6. The Congress shall have Power to enact Laws securing the Expenditure of the United States, and to fix the Number of Senators and Representatives, and the Enumeration of the Population, both to be determined by the General Registerers of the United States; but the Enumeration shall not be less than the actual Number of Persons enumerated in such Registerers, excluding Indians not taxed.

The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department thereof.
Article V.

The Congress shall have the power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

Article VI.

All Debts contracted and Engagements entered into before the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this Constitution as if they had been contracted and entered into for the acceptance and advantages of this Constitution.

The 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.

Article VII.

The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States, shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the same.

Done in Convention by the Unanimous Consent of the States present the Seventeenth day of September in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Eighty-seven.

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, ensure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

In Witness Whereof, we have hereunto subscribed our Names.

[Signatures and endorsements]