

Text of proposed

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

ARTICLE 28 (or alternate number to be assigned by Congress)

Section 1. It is the right of citizens to enjoy a fiscally sound and debt free federal government which is foundational to a free people and must not be violated by the State.

Section 2. It is hereby mandated that the United States Congress will conduct the fiscal affairs of the United States Government according to the requirements of this Article.

Section 3. A Balanced Federal Budget consists of accurately assigning the sum of all federal receipts (which includes all tax revenues and all other sources of government income) to pay for all Federal expenditures within the current year and with the mandate not to allow expenditures to exceed revenue and income. The following exceptions apply:

1. In time of war or national emergency the United States Congress can authorize expenditures to exceed income and revenue as is required to protect the interests and security of the United States and its citizens. However, the United States Congress is required to amortize the repayment of any debt incurred over a maximum of ten years from the end of the war or national emergency. The United States Congress is prohibited from extending the repayment of the debt beyond ten years which includes the repayment of monies borrowed and any interest and other costs that may have accrued in order to service said debt. Congress can repay the debt, in full, in less than ten years, but must pay no less than 1/10th of the original amount owed by the Government, including interest and other costs, in each remaining year of the ten year term, unless the balance is less than 1/10th of the original amount.
2. The United States Congress is authorized to allow expenditures to exceed revenues and income when in the collective wisdom of two thirds of the members of both Houses of the United States Congress it is necessary to do so. However, the United States Congress is required to amortize the repayment of any debt incurred over a maximum of five years from the date said debt was authorized by Congress. The United States Congress is prohibited from extending the repayment of said debt beyond five years which includes the repayment of monies borrowed and any interest and other costs that may have accrued in order to service said debt. Congress can repay the debt, in full, in less than five years, but must pay no less than 1/5th of the original amount owed by the Government, including interest and other costs, in each remaining year of the five year term, unless the balance is less than 1/5th of the original amount.

Section 4. The United States Congress is prohibited from taking any debt that may remain from previous year deficits and include it as part of a new deficit expenditure in current or future years. The repayment of any previous years debt, as defined in Section 3 and Section 6., is a Federal expenditure to be repaid as part of a balanced Federal budget in a current year and/or future year(s) as mandated in this Article.

Section 5. It is further prohibited for the United States Congress to extend the repayment of any and all debt incurred beyond the time lines required in this Article.

Section 6. All current debt owed by the United State Government at the time this Article is ratified, including accrued interest and other costs to service said debt, must be repaid by the United States Congress within 20 years from the date this Article is ratified by the several States. Congress can repay the current debt, in full, in less than twenty years, but must pay no less than 1/20th of the original amount

owed by the Government, including interest and other costs, in each remaining year of the 20 year term, unless the balance is less than 1/20th of the original amount.

Section 7. To secure the rights of citizens to enjoy a fiscally sound and debt free federal government, which is foundational to a free people, it is hereby prohibited for the United States Congress to allow federal expenditures to exceed federal revenue and income, in any given year, as mandated by the requirements and allowances of this Article.

Section 8. Any elected or non-elected government official, or any non-government individual or organization, who intentionally obstructs or prevents the implementation of any provision in this Article shall have committed a criminal offense and shall be subject to impeachment (when applicable) and criminal prosecution and upon conviction serve up to five years in prison.

Section 9. Individual States shall have authority to prosecute violators of this Article under State laws in the absence of Federal prosecution after 90 days from the date of the alleged violation. Multiple prosecutions, by multiple States, for the same alleged crime are prohibited.

Section 10. This Article shall be immediately enforceable upon the United States Congress when ratified by the State Legislatures of three quarters of the several States.