

REFERENCE TITLE: constitutional amendment; U.S. senators; repeal

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-seventh Legislature
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2026

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Introduced by
Representative Powell

A CONCURRENT MEMORIAL

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROPOSE AN AMENDMENT TO THE
CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES TO REPEAL THE REQUIREMENT FOR DIRECT
ELECTION OF UNITED STATES SENATORS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 To the Congress of the United States of America:

2 Your memorialist respectfully represents:

3 Whereas, before the passage of the seventeenth amendment to the
4 United States Constitution, on a vacancy in the office of a senator the
5 governor of a state was empowered under article I, section 3, clause 2 of
6 the United States Constitution to fill the vacancy with a temporary
7 appointment until such time as the state legislature convened and selected
8 a replacement; and

9 Whereas, on ratification of the seventeenth amendment to the United
10 States Constitution, the power to elect senators from each state was
11 passed to the people of each state; and

12 Whereas, the founders of our republic and the framers of the United
13 States Constitution recognized that, in a republican form of government,
14 the legislative authority should necessarily be predominant; and

15 Whereas, the people of the State of Arizona view with growing
16 concern the ongoing failure of political will exhibited by the members of
17 the United States Senate with respect to federal issues that are of grave
18 concern to the people of this state; and

19 Whereas, this lack of responsiveness by the members of the United
20 States Senate to the needs of the states is attributable to the skewing of
21 the legislative checks and balances system originally established by the
22 founders of this country in the United States Constitution as originally
23 adopted; and

24 Whereas, the people of this state firmly believe that a return to
25 the original structure of the United States Congress is required to
26 restore the balance between states and the federal government and that
27 this nation is best served by returning to the prior constitutional system
28 that provided for each state's legislature to elect that state's United
29 States senators.

30 Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of
31 Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

32 1. That, pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the United
33 States, the United States Congress propose an amendment to the
34 Constitution of the United States, to be ratified by the legislatures or
35 by conventions in three-fourths of the several states, as follows:

36 Amendment XVII, Constitution of the United States,
37 relating to the election of United States senators from the
38 several states, is repealed.

39 2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit a
40 copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the
41 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of
42 Congress from the State of Arizona.