

Topics omitted from *Idiot-proofing Democracy* and errata

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As publication of *Idiot-proofing Democracy* is imminent, I want to address issues which are not covered, intentionally or not. As noted in *The Challenge of Complete Requirements* section, it's very easy to omit topics that are so obvious you forget to include them, and I'm guilty of that too. Some issues have come up recently (September 2025), such as redistricting between censuses and foreign ownership of farmland.

The great challenge of writing a good Constitution is having enough detail to capture critical rights, structures, and processes, without being so specific that it micromanages the State and needs to be amended frequently.

Topic	Meaning
Animal personhood	Animal personhood is discussed but not addressed in the Constitution.
Code of Ethics	A formal code of ethics is not defined, such as that currently for the House ¹ or Senate. ² The Financial Assessment in section 6.7.3 is to help prevent financial conflicts of interest. A code of conduct, such as that defined in 2023 for the Supreme Court, ³ which lacks objective external oversight and enforcement, is meaningless.
Drug advertising	Prescription drug advertising directly to consumers has been allowed since 1983. This is a terrible idea, and only one other country allows it. Cigarette advertising was banned on radio and television in 1971 ⁴ and is supported by the World Health Organization. ⁵
Drug legalization	No mention is made of legalizing marijuana or other common recreational drugs.
Fairness doctrine	The fairness doctrine of the United States Federal Communications Commission (FCC), introduced in 1949, was a policy that required the holders of broadcast licenses both to present controversial issues of public importance and to do so in a manner that fairly reflected differing viewpoints. It was repealed by the FCC in 1987 under the Reagan administration.

¹ <https://ethics.house.gov/publications/code-official-conduct/>

² <https://www.ethics.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/ethicsrules>

³ https://www.supremecourt.gov/about/Code-of-Conduct-for-Justices_November_13_2023.pdf

⁴ [Public Health Cigarette Smoking Act](#) of 1970.

⁵ https://www.who.int/europe/health-topics/tobacco/banning-tobacco-advertising-sponsorship-and-promotion#tab=tab_1

Topic	Meaning
Foreign ownership	Foreign ownership of land and businesses is not addressed. It is a sensitive issue, especially large-scale foreign ownership of farmland, but there are no existing federal standards for limiting it.
Hatch Act	The 1939 Hatch Act limits what kinds of political activities are allowed by federal employees. It has been largely ignored recently, with frequent campaign activities taking place on federal property.
Medicaid and Medicare	These programs are not addressed explicitly, but universal healthcare and guaranteed minimum food, water, and shelter are rights (sections 5.1.3 and 5.1.2).
Mortgage deduction	The unfairness of mortgage interest being income tax deductible, but rental payments are not, is discussed but not included in the Constitution.
National symbols	Many Constitutions describe the State's flag, motto, national anthem, national animal, etc. These have not been discussed. "In God We Trust" was defined as the United States' motto in 1956 but has obvious conflict with religious freedom rights.
Oaths of office	Specific wording for the oaths of office for the President, VP, Congress, Supreme Courts, etc. have not been included.
Post Office	The role and ownership of the Postal Service is not directly addressed, but services affecting the whole country are specified to be federally managed, such as education, roads, rail, marine, aircraft, etc.
Qualified immunity	Qualified immunity is a legal doctrine that protects government officials from liability in civil lawsuits, unless their conduct violates clearly established statutory or constitutional rights, and there is no reasonable dispute that those rights were violated. Presidential immunity is addressed in this Constitution, section 4.3.4.
Redistricting	When the Census is discussed in section 6.6, it should state that redistricting (definition of Electoral District boundaries) may only be done after a full Census, or within a new state after a territory becomes a state. Redistricting between Censuses is not allowed.
Social Security	The Social Security Administration is not addressed. It is currently in the Executive Branch under the President, but not part of the Cabinet. It was created in 1935 by the Social Security Act after the Great Depression as a form of federally managed savings for retirement and disability insurance.
Territory representation	While the status of territories is discussed in Section 6.11, the definition of Electoral Districts in section 3.1 does not explicitly state whether territories have House and Senate representation. They should have both, with full voting rights.

Projected House and Senate Composition

Based on the 2020 Census for the United States, here is how Congress would look for the Unified States of America. Notice that all populated territories and the District of Columbia have equal representation and voting rights.

Under this Constitution, the least populous nine states and territories would each get one Representative and one Senator. The most populous state, California, would get 50 Representatives and ten Senators.

State / Territory	2020 Population	Representatives	Senators
Alabama	5,025,369	7	2
Alaska	733,395	1	1
American Samoa	49,710	1	1
Arizona	7,158,110	9	2
Arkansas	3,011,553	4	1
California	39,555,674	50	10
Colorado	5,775,324	8	2
Connecticut	3,607,701	5	1
Delaware	989,955	2	1
District of Columbia	689,545	1	1
Florida	21,538,192	27	6
Georgia	10,713,755	14	3
Guam	153,836	1	1
Hawaii	1,455,252	2	1
Idaho	1,839,140	3	1
Illinois	12,821,814	17	4
Indiana	6,786,587	9	2
Iowa	3,190,546	4	1
Kansas	2,937,745	4	1
Kentucky	4,506,302	6	2
Louisiana	4,657,874	6	2
Maine	1,363,196	2	1
Maryland	6,181,629	8	2
Massachusetts	7,033,132	9	2
Michigan	10,079,338	13	3
Minnesota	5,706,692	8	2
Mississippi	2,961,278	4	1
Missouri	6,154,854	8	2
Montana	1,084,216	2	1

State / Territory	2020 Population	Representatives	Senators
Nebraska	1,961,996	3	1
Nevada	3,105,595	4	1
New Hampshire	1,377,546	2	1
New Jersey	9,289,014	12	3
New Mexico	2,117,555	3	1
New York	20,203,772	26	6
North Carolina	10,441,499	14	3
North Dakota	779,046	1	1
Northern Mariana Islands, Commonwealth of the	47,329	1	1
Ohio	11,799,453	15	3
Oklahoma	3,959,405	5	1
Oregon	4,237,224	6	2
Pennsylvania	13,002,909	17	4
Puerto Rico	3,285,874	5	1
Rhode Island	1,097,354	2	1
South Carolina	5,118,252	7	2
South Dakota	886,729	2	1
Tennessee	6,912,347	9	2
Texas	29,149,458	37	8
U.S. Virgin Islands	87,146	1	1
Utah	3,271,608	5	1
Vermont	643,082	1	1
Virginia	8,631,388	11	3
Washington	7,707,586	10	2
West Virginia	1,793,736	3	1
Wisconsin	5,894,170	8	2
Wyoming	576,844	1	1
TOTALS	335,139,631	446	115

The current United States Congress has 435 voting Representatives and 100 Senators, plus six non-voting Representatives for the territories and D.C.