Attachment A

**Ways to Amend the Constitution**

Under Article V of the Constitution, there are two ways to propose amendments to the Constitution and two ways to be ratified by the states.

**To Propose Amendments**

1. Two-thirds of both houses of Congress vote to propose an amendment, **OR**
2. Two-thirds of the state legislatures ask Congress to call a national convention to propose amendments. *This version has not yet been used.*

**To Ratify Amendments**

1. Three-fourths of the state legislatures approve it, **OR**
2. Ratifying conventions in three-fourths of the states approve it. *This method was used only once – to ratify the 21st Amendment (repealing Prohibition).*

The Supreme Court has stated that ratification must be within “some reasonable time after the proposal.” Beginning with the 18th amendment, it has been customary for Congress to set a definite period for ratification. In the case of the 18th, 20th, 21st, and 22nd amendments, the period set was 7 years, but there has been no determination as to just how long a “reasonable time” might extend.

Of the thousands of proposals that have been made, only 33 obtained the necessary two-thirds vote in Congress. Of the 33, 27 amendments have passed

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