

The People's Amendment Let's tear up the blank check!

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When was the last time that you hired someone to do a job for you, and when they asked you what their budget would be, you replied by handing them a blank check?

No doubt you'd consider anyone crazy who operates like that, but that's what the citizens of a representative government have done. And what's worse, if the citizens think that their hired hands in the government are spending too much money with the blank check, guess what: the citizens can't promptly fire them! This is how representative government works.

Now, how would you like to gather your family around the dining room table, discuss how much income you'd like to have in order to pay for the many good things that you wish to do, including altruistic deeds. And then you decide, by voting, what your income will be. Wouldn't every family like that!

How would the CEO of a business like to gather the directors together, discuss how much income they'd like to have in order to pay for the many good things that they'd like to do. And then they decide, by voting, what their income will be. Wouldn't every business like that!

But there's only one kind of business that can vote itself more money: a representative government. A representative government can vote itself more money because the citizens have given the government a blank check, and this is why every representative government is fiscally irresponsible.

How do we make representative government fiscally responsible?

We tear up the blank check! We tear up the blank check and replace it with a filled-in check! To see a graphic expression of this, click here: www.ThePeoplesAmendment.com.

The filled-in check establishes a ceiling on government income+debt expressed as a fraction of the buying power of the economy or GDP, thereby allowing government to grow as the economy grows. The ceiling can be changed only by the people through an initiative process or in response to a request by Congress. In particular, the people can lower the ceiling through an initiative process, thereby telling the members of Congress that they should make the government ever more efficient and, if necessary, eliminate programs, passing them to the private sector where they will benefit from the incentives of competition.

Under a citizen-controlled ceiling, the people — who finance the government — will establish the budget total through the ceiling, while the legislators will establish spending priorities.

A citizen-controlled ceiling will revolutionize political dynamics, as follows. Currently fiscal liberals claim to be on the side of the people through the many programs that they propose, but they ignore the cost of the programs, or else they claim that the cost will be paid by the wealthy. By contrast, with a citizen-controlled ceiling in place, fiscal conservatives will now be on the side of the people because the ceiling will be the people's ceiling. As a result, a citizen-controlled ceiling

will provide a platform for fiscal conservatives to use in getting elected, and the ceiling will propel fiscal conservatives into legislative leadership because they will be on the side of the people.

Nice idea, yes, but there's no chance of getting a federal amendment to do this, right?

So I've heard. But I also know that the experienced know-it-alls don't know everything, As so often attested by history, it takes new people to envision new possibilities and to achieve them.

How did women get the right to vote? They built momentum by getting the right to vote in the western states, where they had a stronger voice in governance on the frontier. So we take a lesson from the women, and we build momentum in the 24 states that have an initiative process — mostly western states: http://www.iandrinstitute.org/statewide_i%26r.htm.

We get initiatives on the ballots in these 24 states in 2010, and we give the people of these states the opportunity to tear up the blank check that they've given to their state government. And won't they enjoy doing that! Let's mount campaigns in all 24 states and work together to create self-supporting campaigns and obtain national media coverage of this grassroots movement. Send me email if you'd like to start an initiative campaign in your state.

The idea of giving the people control of the ability of the government to take their money will have a magnetic appeal to the people because who wants anyone — let alone the government — drawing money from their pocketbook?

So here's to the new year of 2010 — the year in which we begin the process of revolutionizing government so that it can no longer pick our pockets!