

No. 2

The American Citizen

The foundation upon which the Republic is built

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Letter from the Editor

The importance of the Citizen to the Republic can not be overstated and should never be understated. It is where the process of societal management and control begins, and it is what we must rely on most in order to achieve the goals we wish to achieve as a collective group making up our immediate society. It is when the individual melds with the social that the Citizen is born and becomes equipped to embark on a path of self determination through the construct of a self governing system. To be a Citizen, an inhabitant of the polity, is to have broken the bonds of a primitive existence and to have ascended to a higher form of ourselves. It is the movement from merely existing within a society to awakening to the forces that move us within it, and exerting our individual and collective interests. The Citizens are the artists and sculptors that can shape society and form a world in the expressions of our natural freedom.

The role that the Citizen fulfills will determine the quality of the society in which they live and the prosperity or lack thereof that they will enjoy. It is the Citizen in their engagement in civic life that defines the quality of our existence and directs the social and political environment. The Citizen's attention to the movements of society and the effects on their community ignite discourse and organize civic action in the exertion of collective power. This engagement is the driving force to the establishment and security of a Republic. The American Citizen has such a role to play in the making of the great community and as the cornerstone of the polity, fulfilling a purpose much greater than the self.

How we see ourselves as a Citizen and how we understand and accept the critical role we must play, will determine the level at which we will be able to exercise our free will and secure the protection from those things that threaten us individually and as a whole. The American Citizen's firmness of identity and the understanding of their role in effective engagement within the social, political and economic structures is the engine that powers a free society.

Any Nation promising a Republic, has a duty to nurture and grow the Citizen; to educate in the way of the Republic and in the role that the Citizen must play. Society as a whole, in turn, has a duty to educate and create a clear vision of what the American Citizen is; in building the resilience and purpose that empowers us to fulfill our duty to the Republic. The United States of America has made a pledge to the American Citizen but has failed to honor the preservation and importance of the Citizen to the Republic and to re-enforce and renew it with each new generation. The United States of America has faltered in holding up the American Citizen and safeguarding an identity that should be deeply rooted in securing freedom and so critical to the exercise of our free will. Instead, social norms are supported that define the American Citizen as nothing more than a pawn in the power struggles of the political elites and the attempt to strip the Citizen from our true purpose.

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We are no longer raised as Citizens of the Republic. We are diminished as fodder for the political and economic elites and thrust into the system as bargaining chips in the fight for ideological dominance, as the course of our lives are steered by the interests of the few. In short, we are seeing a failure in the duty of the Nation to ensure the survival of The American Citizen.

These are critical observations that when examined reveal an unbecoming truth; that the identity and purpose of the American Citizen has been washed away. The bonds that once united us have been dissolved and replaced with allegiance to the government institution and its actors that have created social norms that distort the true essence of the Citizen, redirecting our sense of pride away from our defense and contributions to our community and into the tribal associations of political ideologies. The image of the American Citizen that has been handed to us is an empty shell that harnesses only the illusion of self governing power. As a result, we have been blinded to the proper civic advocacy critical to the identity and duty of the American Citizen.

It is time for The American Citizen to be redefined in the image of the Republic and to overcome the struggles in reinstating an American identity. Now is the time that we must ask, Who is the American Citizen? What is our role and how shall it be fulfilled? How are we to rebuild our identity and reclaim our power? And now is our time to lay out the answers.

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THE ROLE OF THE CITIZEN

The Republic relies on the Citizen. It is the structure built around the Citizen to provide the means by which the Citizen exerts the social, political and economic influence best suited to the desires of the community and necessary to remaining in control of the governing system. The Republic is designed specifically to protect the individual citizen's ability to achieve effective participation in the community. The Republic relies on this participation to achieve the goals of a self-governing society. Without the Citizen, the Republic can not function and will cease to exist. The Citizen, therefore, is the engine of the Republic and the Republic provides the parts and pieces for the engine to run smoothly in doing the work required to travel the road to a free, self governing society.

The effectiveness and success of the Citizen is delivered through how well the tools of the Republic are understood, maintained, and utilized. This Knowledge and understanding is the prerequisite for defining the Citizens role and prepares the Citizen to exercise their civic responsibilities in managing the systems intended to provide order, control and prosperity for the society we live in. If the American Citizen is to retain control of the Republic and maintain an efficiently working republican system, the Citizen must use the tools of the Republic to ensure that all of the social systems remain under the control of the Citizen. This includes the preservation of, and the proper implementation of the political structure (The governing institution and our Social Contract, the Constitution of The United States) and the proper function, separation and relationship between governance and industry (our economic system).

In opening the path to becoming an effective part in the direction of the community, the Republic relies on the Citizen to also embrace an identity of values compatible with the notion of free will in exercising civic actions as part of our daily living. The Republic offers us the protection and opportunity to act out our role.

Conviction, Commitment and Spirit:

The Citizen must retain an unmovable conviction and desire for individual autonomy and sovereignty; the desire to self-rule. This conviction is the driving force of all other actions and activities in participation of your role as an American Citizen. This conviction holds us steady in commitment to persevere in efforts that will bear fruit for the Republic. The Republic lives beyond us and so must our commitment to the Republic. We may not see the fruits of this labor in our time but they are borne out of our commitment non the less. The spirit of resolution, determination and sacrifice lie at the heart of the Republican Citizen. Prepared to confront and resist any compromises to the guarantees of freedom, the Citizen accepts the role as the caretaker and gatekeeper of the Republic. The acts of the Citizen are not only to ensure freedom in their own time but for the generations that will ultimately become the new stewards of the Republic to carry the torch of freedom when we depart.

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Knowledge, Education and Awareness:

A successful Republic requires a citizenry educated in social organization and control. The Citizen must retain a basic understanding of how the political and economic systems effect a society as a whole, the nature and perils of institutions that hold power over the people. The Citizen's knowledge should extend to an understanding of the social, political and economic environments that support self-rule. Therefore, the American Citizen should understand how our Social Contract (The Constitution) shapes our Republican society; This enables the Citizen to develop a clear vision of how to participate in effecting the course of these systems to preserve their ability to remain in control of self governance.

This knowledge through education equips the Citizen to measure their current state against the requirements of the Republic and the guarantees of our Social Contract. The Republic is safeguarded through the Citizen's awareness of the shifts and changes in these systems and how they affect the way the Republic is functioning. This enables the Citizen to recognize when actions are a breach of our Constitutional guarantees or when the processes of the institution violate their Constitutional prescriptions and that may threaten to compromise or weaken the Republic in any way.

Self expression, Discourse, Community:

Self expression is the most crucial and natural act to humankind and lies at the core of an operational Republic. It has to be exercised and defended in every moment of civic life. The Citizen must harness the protection of free expression by recognizing any attempts to subdue or infringe upon it and to confront those infringements. The exercise of individual expression of ideas, perspectives and interests are the tools to respond to the events and changes in the system affecting your ability to move along the life path you are choosing.

Secondly, the Citizen must share their expressions and seek out dialogue with others in a collaboration of thoughts that will begin to raise collective awareness and generate ideas for solutions. This begins the process of building a unified collaborative power that must grow into a force capable of challenging and changing affronts to the Republic. This is the birth of Community and the essence of American discourse.

Reaction, Engagement and Promotion:

The Citizen must understand how to apply the community in seeking a redress of grievances and appeals to un-agreeable or questionable acts contrary to the common interest or to the function and protection of the Republic. Reaction to the events and changes that occur in the governing system is a step toward moving the interests of the community into the sphere of influence. Reaction puts in motion the voice and interests of the Citizen.

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It creates opportunities to begin engaging in activities and further collaborations directed toward gaining a role in decision making and self governance. Once the Citizen is engaged, they are ready for further utilization of the tools of the Republic in promoting the will of the Citizen through accessing the Republican structure of representation.

The Citizens role is critical. The understanding of the Republic is indispensable. When The American Citizen takes action, the power of the Republic is harnessed and the promise of self governance is fulfilled.

“For, in a democracy, every citizen, regardless of his interest in politics, 'holds office'; every one of us is in a position of responsibility; and, in the final analysis, the kind of government we get depends upon how we fulfill those responsibilities. We, the people, are the boss, and we will get the kind of political leadership, be it good or bad, that we demand and deserve.”

John Fitzgerald Kennedy

**University of Massachusetts
Amherst on September 14, 1963**



Below are some resources for the American Citizen.

Click the [titles](#) for access. More available at www.theamcj.com

[United States House of Representatives Directory](#)

Also referred to as a congressman or congresswoman, each representative is elected to a two-year term serving the people of a specific congressional district. The number of voting representatives in the House is fixed by law at no more than 435, proportionally representing the population of the 50 states. Currently, there are five delegates representing the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

[Senate Floor Proceedings](#)

See the current proceedings on the Senate Floor, and explore the Senate's Constitutional foundations, its unique role in America's governmental system, and its rich history.

[Congressional Website](#)

This publication was developed by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts to provide an introduction to the federal judicial system, its organization and administration, and its relationship to the legislative and executive branches of the government. The Administrative Office, the judicial branch's central support agency, provides a broad range of management, legal, technical, communications, and other support services for the administration of the federal courts.

[United States Department of the Treasury](#)

The U.S. Department of the Treasury's mission is to maintain a strong economy and create economic and job opportunities by promoting the conditions that enable economic growth and stability at home and abroad, strengthen national security by combating threats and protecting the integrity of the financial system, and manage the U.S. Government's finances and resources effectively.

[United States Department of Health and Human Services](#)

The mission of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is to enhance the health and well-being of all Americans, by providing for effective health and human services and by fostering sound, sustained advances in the sciences underlying medicine, public health, and social services.

THE POWERS AND PROTECTIONS OF THE CITIZEN

To be a Citizen is to harness the power within the polity, or political body of society. The inclusion of the Citizen is critical to obtaining the authority of law in enforcing the rights and protections that are not only guaranteed in the Social Contract, but that are critical to exerting the Citizen's power within the operation of the Republic. Where does the American Citizen stand within our Social Contract, the Constitution of The United States? How does the Constitution support the powers of the Citizen to remain an effective force in self-governance?

As an important distinction and central component to the Republic, the American Citizen has specific rights and protections and enjoys the full guarantees of our Constitution. This inclusion in the Constitution reinforces the Citizen's power and role in the Republic and the protections enables the Citizen to exercise the required tools in fulfilling their role.

The first reference to the citizen can be found in [Article IV, Section 2, Clause 1](#). Stating, "The Citizens of each State shall be entitled to all Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the several States." This is referred to as the Privileges and Immunities clause and it creates a uniform treatment of citizenship regardless of State residency. It is one example of how the separate and sovereign states share a central and united interest in accepting universal practice and observance of the rights of the people.

The Citizens are guaranteed to receive all of the constitutional protections by congress in the National Government, (the unified governing of the people and the states) regardless of the different States that they may reside in and "to place the citizens of each State upon the same footing with citizens of other States, so far as the advantages resulting from citizenship in those States are concerned." ([1869 case Paul v. Virginia](#)).

These Citizen rights were first recognized and established prior to their inclusion in the Constitution. This was in the agreement between the states under the ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION which described them as follows:

The free inhabitants of each of these States...shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of free citizens in the several States; and the people of each State shall have free ingress and regress to and from any other State, and shall enjoy therein all the privileges of trade and commerce, subject to the same duties, impositions and restrictions as the inhabitants thereof respectively provided that such restrictions shall not extend so far as to prevent the removal of property imported into any State, to any other State, of which the owner is an inhabitant.

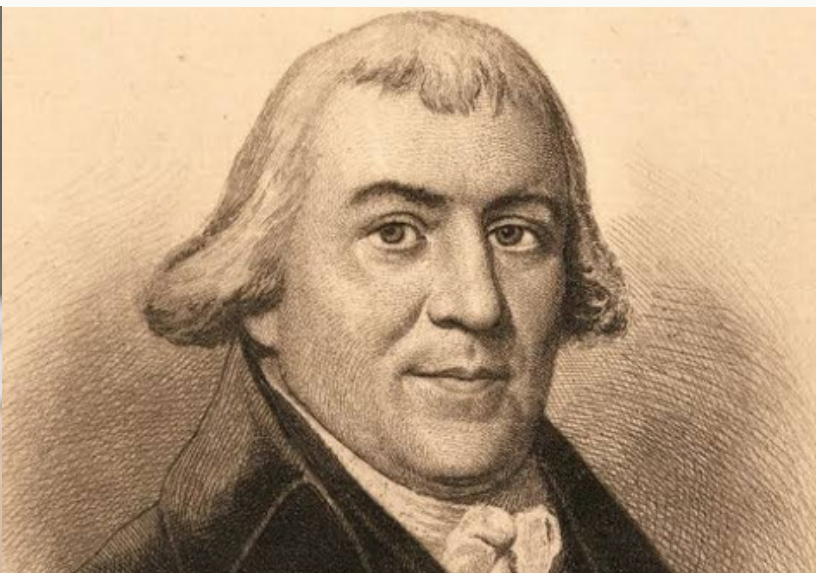
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We again see protections for the Citizen in the 14th Amendment of the Constitution. As Article IV provides for the same rights and protections of citizens of each state as citizens of other states, the 14th amendment defines what constitutes American Citizenship ([Citizenship Clause](#)), provides for the equal protection under the law of the Citizens of each state ([Equal protections clause](#)), and provides protections for natural and inherent rights recognized in the protection of life, liberty and property ([Due Process Clause](#)).

The Citizenship Clause secures our rights by way of birth (Birthright) or naturalization (completing a process by which we are the granted legal recognition as an American Citizen). This establishes our authority in the Republic. As a Citizen we can now exercise our rights and exert our power under the legal protections and enforcement of our Social Contract under the Article IV and 14th amendment provisions. One important step to take as an American Citizen is to become familiar with the initial introduction of the Citizen in these parts of our constitution.

It is then as equally important to begin the process of studying the past and current ways in which these guarantees have been used and the protections they have received, what the deeper meaning and applications are, and how we can harness these protections to actively pursue control within the Republic. It is the duty of the Citizen to utilize whatever means are at our disposal to secure our consent. Through our Social Contract, the Constitution of the United States, the American Citizen is forever imbedded in the makeup of the governing system ensuring that we can exercise our role and exert our power for the proper function of the Republic in the preservation of our self-rule. It is only through the action of the American Citizen that we will remain masters of our own destinies.

“The only resource against usurpation is the inherent right of the people to prevent its exercise”



James Iredell Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of The United States 1790-1799

Birthright Citizenship, a 14th Amendment Debate

By: Stephen Piacentino

The 14th Amendment Citizenship Clause states:

"All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside."

Recently a debate has emerged over what the 14th amendment means by "All persons born" referred to as Birthright Citizenship. Birthright citizenship has been a cornerstone of American identity, granting automatic citizenship to individuals born on U.S. soil. This principle, enshrined in the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution has been a subject of legal interpretation and political debate. The issue raises important constitutional questions: Does birthright citizenship align with the original intent of the 14th Amendment? Should it continue as a fundamental right, or should it be reinterpreted in light of modern concerns? This article explores the historical foundations of the 14th Amendment, relevant Supreme Court rulings, and the contemporary arguments for and against birthright citizenship.

Understanding the 14th Amendment

The 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified on July 9, 1868, during the Reconstruction Era. Its primary purpose was to grant citizenship and equal protection under the law to formerly enslaved individuals and includes the Citizenship Clause. This clause firmly establishes the concept of birthright citizenship, but the phrase "subject to the jurisdiction thereof" has been the focal point of legal interpretation and controversy.

Before the 14th Amendment, citizenship in the United States was largely defined by state laws and federal statutes. The infamous [Dred Scott v. Sandford \(1857\)](#) decision ruled that African Americans could not be U.S. citizens, exacerbating tensions that led to the Civil War. In response, the 14th Amendment was designed to overturn Dred Scott and ensure that citizenship was a federal right, not subject to state discrimination.

The authors of the amendment, such as Senator Jacob Howard and Representative John Bingham, emphasized that it was meant to include all people born in the U.S., with a few exceptions: children of foreign diplomats, enemy occupiers, and Native Americans (the latter of whom were granted citizenship through later legislation).

Key Supreme Court Rulings on Birthright Citizenship

[United States v. Wong Kim Ark \(1898\)](#) One of the most significant Supreme Court rulings on birthright citizenship, Wong Kim Ark affirmed that a child born in the U.S. to foreign parents (who were lawful residents) was a U.S. citizen. The Court held that the 14th Amendment codified the English common law principle of jus soli (right of the soil), which grants citizenship based on birthplace rather than ancestry.

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Elk v. Wilkins (1884) This case ruled that Native Americans born in sovereign tribal nations were not automatically U.S. citizens under the 14th Amendment. The ruling emphasized that "subject to the jurisdiction thereof" meant complete allegiance to the United States, which did not apply to tribal members at that time. Congress later rectified this through the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924.

Plyler v. Doe (1982) While not a direct ruling on birthright citizenship, this case reaffirmed that children of undocumented immigrants were entitled to equal protection under the law, further strengthening the argument that birthright citizenship applies broadly.

Arguments in Favor of Birthright Citizenship

Constitutional Originalism and Precedent

Supporters argue that the 14th Amendment's text and historical intent clearly establish birthright citizenship as a constitutional right. The Supreme Court has consistently upheld this interpretation, making any attempt to alter it unconstitutional without an amendment.

Legal Clarity and Stability

Birthright citizenship provides a clear and easily administrable rule for determining citizenship. Removing it could lead to significant legal uncertainty, bureaucratic burdens, and a rise in stateless individuals.

Promoting American Ideals

The U.S. has long prided itself on being a land of opportunity. Birthright citizenship ensures that all individuals born in the country have equal rights and opportunities, regardless of their parents' status.

Economic and Social Contributions

Immigrants and their children contribute significantly to the economy. Many U.S.-born children of immigrants become productive citizens, boosting innovation, labor markets, and tax revenues.

Arguments Against Birthright Citizenship

Misinterpretation of "Jurisdiction" Clause

Critics argue that "subject to the jurisdiction thereof" was meant to exclude individuals who owe allegiance to a foreign power, including undocumented immigrants. They contend that birthright citizenship should not apply to children of non-citizens who have not been formally admitted into the country.

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Birth Tourism and Anchor Babies

Opponents claim that the policy encourages "birth tourism," where foreign nationals come to the U.S. specifically to give birth and obtain citizenship for their children. They argue that this loophole is being exploited and should be closed.

Encouraging Illegal Immigration

Some believe that automatic citizenship for children of undocumented immigrants creates incentives for illegal immigration. They argue that stricter policies, such as requiring at least one citizen parent, would discourage unauthorized entry.

Global Comparisons Many developed nations, including most of Europe, have abandoned unrestricted birthright citizenship. Critics argue that the U.S. should follow suit and implement a more restrictive approach that aligns with modern immigration realities.

Is Birthright Citizenship Consistent with the U.S. Constitution?

From a constitutional standpoint, birthright citizenship is deeply embedded in U.S. law and precedent. The Supreme Court has reaffirmed its validity multiple times and altering it would require a constitutional amendment—a difficult and unlikely process.

However, ongoing debates suggest that while the current interpretation aligns with historical precedent, some legal scholars believe that a more restrictive reading of the "jurisdiction" clause could be considered.

Birthright citizenship, as established by the 14th Amendment, remains one of the most consequential principles of American democracy. While it has been reaffirmed by history and the courts, challenges persist regarding its modern implications.

The debate over birthright citizenship ultimately reflects broader concerns about immigration policy, national identity, and constitutional interpretation. Any attempt to change this long-standing policy would require significant legal and political efforts, making it one of the most enduring constitutional discussions in the United States today.



Who Has Your Voice?

Where do you find, or how can you build, the best representation for your interests? It is worth the time and research to find your space in the expression of your interests and to gather with other American voices that share your needs. Once the American Citizen begins the process of building a community in gathering strength for your voice, it is likely to be discovered that there are a variety of communities offering an organized explanation of a set of beliefs or desires for change. As communities of interest build and become organized in offering the beliefs that they hold, and the methods they believe best in achieving them, the American Citizen will have much to consider about how and where their interests may fit in. What becomes most important in the midst of these discoveries is understanding how to sift through the many ideas that will be presented.

It is true that we need to group our interests in order to begin to exert influence in a meaningful way. And ultimately we must take on a form that can enter us onto the political stage and into the power structure of the government to achieve our interests through legislation and under the protection of law. As it stands now, the current system and methods to reach representation in government have been directed toward seeking out institutions and organizations who have garnered influence and transferred that influence into a representative group in the form of a Political Party.

Ultimately, here is where the final destination rests in holding your interests and bringing them into government. Once the American Citizen has identified the institutions, groups or organizations that best capture their interest, the next step is to understand the role of the political party. Building one is daunting, finding one that best represents your world views can be no less arduous. For the American Citizen it can be difficult to understand how the issues represented by the party can fold into the interest of the Citizen. One helpful measure is to determine what the most important concerns are that you may have and what things not only affect your life, but that affect the community as a whole.

This can be found in the party's platform. A declaration of the interests and issues advocated for by the party. In addition to the issues related to our governing system, there are concerns for social issues as well.

Evaluating platforms:

One of the most important things for The American Citizen to know is how to evaluate and navigate the various party platforms and to approach with caution, from an initial position of skepticism. One thing you may find is that most platforms appeal to "Serving the people" and are intended to convince you that all of the ideas are in the best interest of the people. This is not always necessarily true.

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*The American Citizen must be critical in their evaluation
by asking themselves these questions:*

- What issues or points seem to be well aligned with your interests?
- What issues are contrary to what you believe in, or the direction you want to go in?
- Are problems being identified with the current system and how it is functioning?
- What solutions are being recommended to fix parts of the system not compatible with the Republic?

Most importantly,

- How will all of this be achieved? What will it take to get it done?
- What does the platform mean to the structure of the Republic?
- Does it truly strengthen our ability to self rule?

The American Citizen should become familiar with examining these party platforms, so we have provided some sample platforms [here](#) to review and practice applying critical consideration. In an attempt to examine these things without prejudice, we have left out the party identification and have simply provided of a variety of platform stances. This is a small representation of the choices that you have, but it is a good beginning for a simple exercise to learn how to judge and evaluate party platforms. It may also be helpful and interesting to mix and match the items from each platform that seem to align with your own interests and make your own list in the form of your own platform and see where you stand in the midst of choice.

Finally, the American Citizen should maintain an awareness that almost all party platforms will have a certain appeal to the people and will attempt to portray themselves as working for the people. It's important to keep in mind that part of the job of the party is to convince the American Citizen to choose them in their representation.



Our Duty, Our Time

We have our role to play in the destiny of our Nation; a commitment to make in our refusal to accept relegation to observers of what is laid before us instead of elevation as masters of our chosen paths. A firm belief in the power we can wield in our unity will secure our bonds as American Citizens and prepare us with the confidence and determination to exert our will against the tides of tyranny. Our unity gives us a clear vision of the encroachments of power against us and the degradation of the systems that are meant to support the Republic. We must act, and in order to act we must know.

As our political system spirals into turmoil and moves further away from its ideal, the gales of time and change increasingly strain the fabric of our free system that holds the threads of governance together. Every era has seen the constant, ever evolving challenges to the tenets and safeguards of our delicately crafted Constitutional Republic built to ensure our freedom and liberty. The United States of America, so strong and so bold in the power of its people, only survives through the constant force of open dialogue and critical analysis.

A renewed awakening and active re-measure of the system in its current state and operation, against the spirit and intentions of the origin of our constitutional system put in place to preserve the power of the Citizen over the power of government, is a constant necessity and the duty of the American Citizen and a free society as a whole. To hold these pillars in place, to retain the self-directed destinies that are paramount to freedom and liberty, requires a continued pursuit to challenge the movements of the governing body, restrain their attempts to overreach, and contain their activities to within the limits and perimeters of their intended place.

It is in this spirit that the interest and desire of the American Citizen, to contribute and effect such control of power, must grow. As we see the erosion of autonomy and the strengthening of a centralized power, as we see the progress of modernization and invention increase the tools in which a central government can deceitfully and quietly usurp the powers of the people, we see the urgent need for the American Citizen to re-activate the social political animal within them and to recognize and exercise the strengths we have as a united people, to cause these infringements to resound loudly so as to be heard by all as a rallying cry to take action.

Those of us that can dig deeply into the framework of a free society and add an understanding and cohesion to the many facets of governance have an obligation to use these abilities to enlighten the citizenry and to raise the volume of debate and challenge to the movements of our government.

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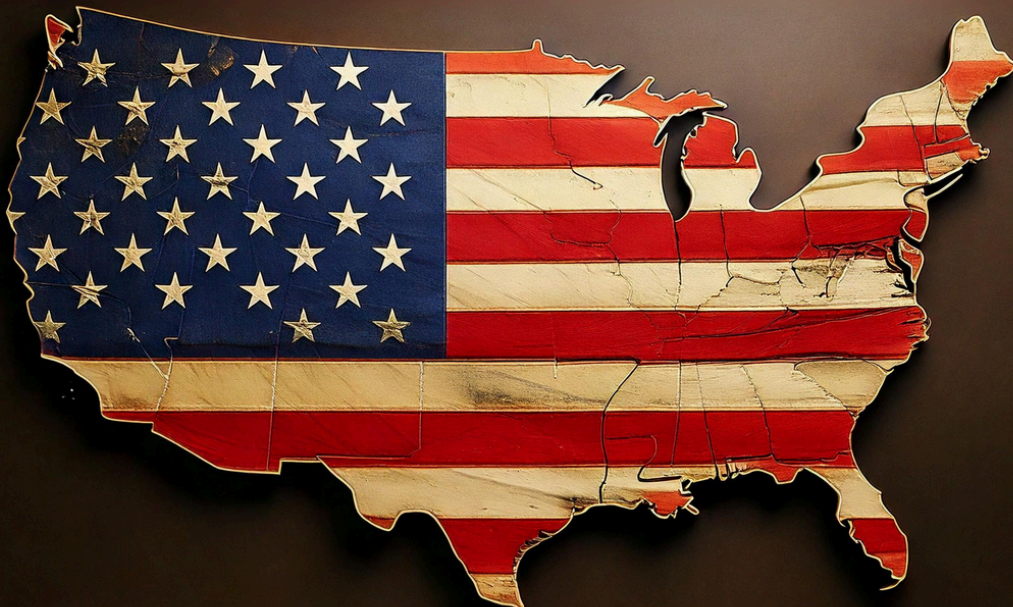
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If we find ourselves ill prepared to move forward in our civic duties to the extent of our capabilities, we must seek a higher level of knowledge and discourse, a thirst to enter into a more intense arena of political understanding and exchange. Our effect, in order to move from the individual to the collective, will require us to legitimize our discourse, to open up new, more effective avenues to be heard, and to gain a voice in the crowded room of the grandiloquent and opinionist, that have for better or worse sought to move their agendas to the forefront of society.

And therein lies our purpose in seeking to be well equipped to elevate ourselves to the next legitimate level of expertise to fulfill our roll more completely as an American Citizen of these United States. The most powerful instigator of civic action is our deep thirst for freedom and the sense of its loss.

Amidst these tumultuous times, hearing and seeing the discord and disunity of the citizenry and our government seep into the fabric of our lives, and witnessing the division between friends, family and neighbors, our socio-political spirit must be re-ignited. Where do we stand as a Republic when what was meant to unite has become an instrument to divide? Here is where our discourse and analysis must begin. Here is where our passion must lend credence to our voices and leave our contribution, no matter how big or how small, to the enduring fight for freedom and liberty.

The American Citizen



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