17th Amendment Passes!

States shall be composed of two Senators from each state, elected by the people thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote.”

This is, indeed, great news! Before the 17th Amendment, state legislatures chose who would represent the state in the U.S. Senate. This often led to bribery and corruption. Now, YOU, my friends, get to vote directly on qualified officials to represent you in the law-making branch of Congress. Now, get out there and vote! The 17th Amendment allows voters to vote directly on their Senator!

Poem:
At one time, corruption
Was the Senate’s biggest trait
But now Senators are elected
By the people of their state

Recall of Town Officials? Why not!

1890s—When it comes to voting, we sometimes put people into power who are not really cut out for the job. That makes for a long term, right? WRONG!

See, with enough support, we can now ‘recall’ that official. If some power-hungry, corruption driven, two-timing dude gets into office, we can petition to ‘recall’ this person. If we have enough signatures, we can vote to remove that person from office. Sure, it does not happen often, but it sure is nice to have this power when needed!

Poem:
Worse politican that I ever saw, We all need to vote to recall! He’s stealing all our money, And that just isn’t right! Sign this recall petition, And we’ll make him take a hike!

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Secret Ballots the way of the future? (1892)

- People were once intimidated into voting a certain way
- If people cannot vote how they choose, this is no democracy!
- Secret Ballots would ensure that people vote in private, without fear
- (Today) We have had secret ballots since 1892
Welcome to the world of political corruption! Let’s fix these problems!

**Want a New Law? Take Initiative!**

Want to propose a new law? Go right ahead! It’s called “Initiative.” If you draft up a law and get a certain number of registered voters to sign a petition, then you can force a public vote! Want the driving age lowered to 12? Want year-round school? More snow days? Write it up, gather signatures, and watch as YOUR bill goes to public vote!

**Poem:**
Initiative allows for people to create Brand new bills, without having to wait If you petition, and get people to sign, Then your idea can become law, in just a matter of time.

Besides voting on people, people may very well vote on bills to become laws. This is a ‘referendum.’ In this case, voters at the poll vote directly on an issue, amendment, etc… An example would be voting on the driving age, or voting for a tax increase.

**Poem:**
Referendums you vote, on bills to become laws Like should children be banned, from shopping in malls? Should sleigh rides be banned From the great Santa Clause? And when you vote to remove someone, Now that’s recall!