



THE DEMOCRACY AMENDMENTS

Constitutional Reforms to Save the United States

John J. Davenport



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Sets out a moderate, centrist agenda by laying down procedural amendments in order to fix fundamental lacunae in US constitutional design.

The institutional fabric of our nation is afflicted by divisive politics. Trust in Congress and the Supreme Court has reached new lows, and a tsunami of misinformation and vote suppression is causing many Americans to lose faith in the electoral process itself. These problems can no longer be solved simply by winning elections: gridlock in both the Senate and House, together with judicial vetoes, block most legal reforms for which majorities of Americans vote. Constitutional amendments are the only way out that can restore our government's capacity to solve problems and rebuild faith among citizens that they can actively participate in effective democratic processes. This book sets out a moderate, centrist agenda to achieve this goal, setting out the problems and solutions in clear language accessible to non-experts. Steering clear of the sharp political divides, Davenport describes 25 procedural amendments that a majority of Americans can consider to fix the deepest flaws in our constitutional design. He also argues that a new national convention called by the states offers the best chance to break the logjam and restore the politics of effective compromise.

Contents

1. The Problems: why the federal government barely functions and polarization is rising; 2. Solutions I: The Top Ten Amendments to reduce polarization and make our government work; 3. Solutions II: Fifteen procedural amendments to strengthen democracy and the rule of law; 4. How to Pass the Amendments: A New Constitutional Convention

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

John J. Davenport is a Professor of Philosophy at Fordham University focusing on political philosophy, including political theory, global justice issues, human rights, democratic theory, constitutional problems, and related topics. He has done numerous TV and radio interviews, as well as op-eds, on political topics in these areas over the last decade. He is the author of *A League of Democracies*, which develops cosmopolitan themes, and *The Federalist Papers* as a basis for conceiving a global democratic alliance.

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