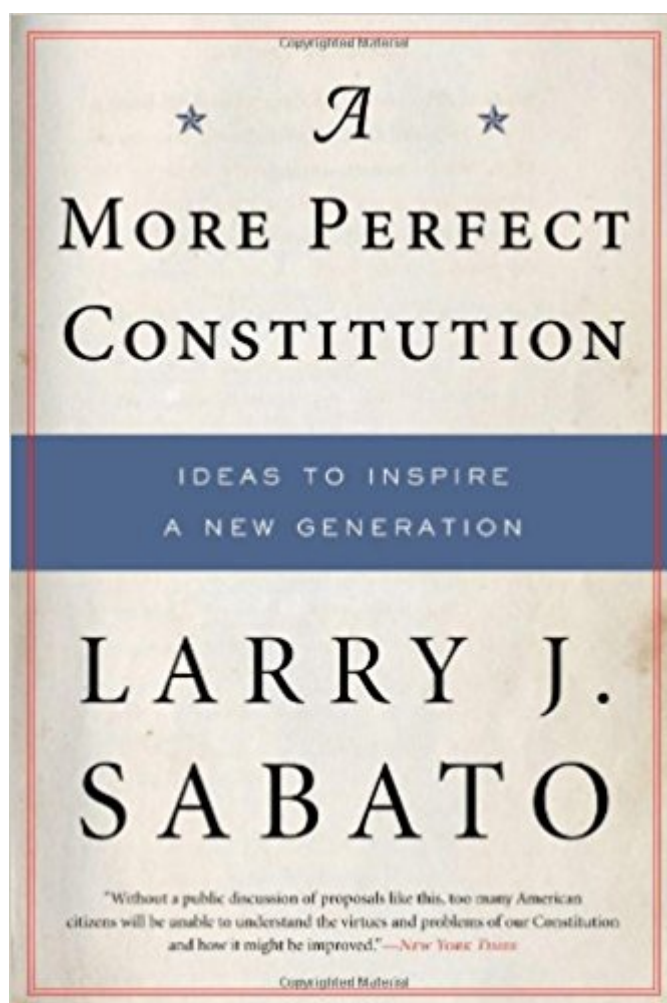


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# A More Perfect Constitution: Why The Constitution Must Be Revised: Ideas To Inspire A New Generation



## Synopsis

A More Perfect Constitution presents creative and dynamic proposals from one of the most visionary and fertile political minds of our time to reinvigorate our Constitution and American governance at a time when such change is urgently needed, given the growing dysfunction and unfairness of our political system. Combining idealism and pragmatism, and with full respect for the original document, Larry Sabato's thought-provoking ideas range from the length of the president's term in office and the number and terms of Supreme Court justices to the vagaries of the antiquated Electoral College, and a compelling call for universal national service—all laced through with the history behind each proposal and the potential impact on the lives of ordinary people. Aware that such changes won't happen easily, but that the original Framers fully expected the Constitution to be regularly revised, Sabato urges us to engage in the debate and discussion his ideas will surely engender. During a presidential election year, no book is more relevant or significant than this.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Sabato, founder of the Center for Politics at the University of Virginia, ventures bravely into the controversial waters of constitutional reform. Sabato argues that the founders never intended the Constitution to be timeless, but rather understood that government structures, ossified by constitutional neglect [can] become fundamentally unfair and tilted to those already in power. Sabato's reforms are consistent with the values he believes underpin the Constitution—fairness, idealism, pragmatism and focus on the needs of the present and the

future—while attempting to mitigate social inequities. His lucid if unorthodox suggestions include a single six-year presidential term that could be extended another two years by referendum; limiting federal and Supreme Court justices to a 15-year term; a larger House of Representatives that would, among other benefits, allow for greater diversity in Congress. His reforms encompass the entire citizenry, who would be required to perform two years of national civilian or military service in what he calls a Bill of Responsibilities. While there's room for skepticism and unintended consequences in some of his suggestions, Sabato makes strong, cogent arguments. (Oct.)

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The founder and director of the renowned Center for Politics at the University of Virginia, Larry J. Sabato has appeared on dozens of national television and radio programs including 60 Minutes, Today, Hardball, and Nightline. A Rhodes scholar, he received his doctorate in politics from Oxford, and has taught at UVA since 1978. The author of countless articles and some twenty previous books, he coanchored the BBC's coverage of the 2006 election. In 2002, the University of Virginia gave him its highest honor, the Thomas Jefferson Award.

I enjoyed Sabato's work on the constitution. In this book, Sabato recommends a couple dozen suggestions for updating and improving our constitution. Sabato did a fine job of discussing each point with counter-point, although one could pretty clearly see that the counter-points were not as vigorously defended as were the original suggestions. So many of the points that he recommends are problems that I have noticed over the years, spoken with family about, but never summarized them. Sabato presents a single suggestion for each difficulty. I wish that he would have presented the three strongest options and discussed pros and cons for each. As this is a political action book, such an approach would likely have created greater "buy in". As one who sees the constitution as a living document, I give him tremendous praise for nearly all of the points discussed. I'd add a few as well just to make the government in compliance with the constitution. While there's significant support for a balanced budget amendment, I think that the House Ways and Means Committee ought to just do its job rather than introducing another constitutional amendment. Sabato accomplished his goal - the book got me to thinking! I give this 5 stars and an "A-". This book comes highly recommended for individuals with some interest in introducing amendments, the constitution, and political activism. I'm very glad that he wrote this!!!

I bought this for my son for school and it arrived very quickly. He likes it also.

America would be so much better off if Professor Sabato's reforms were enacted.

This book is must reading for everyone who's frustrated by our present voting and political systems. Some of the ideas are a bit extreme, but they make you think. Our Constitution was designed to be improved. How can we make voting, and the Federal government/politics more responsive to US today? I hope I live to see the Constitutional Convention we so desperately need and the author strongly recommends. It will revive our political thinking and make our country more democratic. Good reading -- not boring!

This is what the country needs instead of the mess we have now.

Good book

Great service! Speedy delivery and great quality. Thnks.

great

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