



# Cordova for President

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## The United States Constitution

Article II, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution imposes only three eligibility requirements on persons serving as president, based on the officeholder's age, time of residency in the U.S., and citizenship status:

## U.S. Constitution – Presidential Candidate Eligibility

"No person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty-five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States."

## EXECUTIVE ORDER

### ESTABLISHING THE COMMISSION TO PROPOSE A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ABOLISHING ALL FORMS OF SLAVERY AND INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE, WITH EXTRATERRITORIAL APPLICATION, CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY, PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ON CORPORATE PERSONHOOD, AND REVIEW OF TAXATION AND ANTI-CAPTURE MECHANISMS

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including Article II, Section 1, and the inherent executive authority to recommend measures to the Congress, and pursuant to the Department of Justice Appropriation Act and the authority to establish advisory committees under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C.

App.), it is hereby ordered as follows:



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### **Preamble.**

The Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, ratified in 1865, declared that “neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.” That amendment was a monumental step toward freedom, yet it contained a fatal exception: it permitted involuntary servitude as punishment for crime.

That exception has been exploited across generations—through convict leasing, the chain gang, the modern prison-industrial complex, and practices that compel labor under threat of penalty. Today, millions of people in the United States work under conditions that, in any other context, would be recognized as involuntary servitude. Meanwhile, new forms of economic coercion—debt bondage, exploitation of vulnerable workers, and systems designed to trap individuals in dependency—operate in the shadows of our economy, often without legal consequence. Moreover, corporations and other private entities have sometimes claimed that constitutional prohibitions on slavery do not bind them in the same way they bind the government, creating a dangerous gap in accountability.

Separately, the doctrine of corporate personhood has been used to grant corporations constitutional rights—such as free speech and religious liberty—while allowing them to avoid constitutional responsibilities. This imbalance has enabled corporations to assert constitutional protections against the people while escaping the obligations that the Constitution imposes on those who wield power.

Beyond the direct vestiges of servitude, the American people face systems of taxation and economic structure that can function as mechanisms of capture—extracting wealth from communities and individuals while entrenching the power of extractive entities. Property taxes, for example, often force long-time residents from their homes, and the overall tax structure can be weaponized to benefit concentrated wealth at the expense of human thriving. At the same time, purpose-driven businesses—entities designed to serve people and communities rather than extract profit—should be encouraged, not



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burdened, and must be protected from being owned or controlled by extractive systems that would undermine their mission.

The original sin of slavery did not end in 1865; it merely changed forms. The Thirteenth Amendment's loophole has allowed a continuation of servitude, now hidden behind the walls of prisons, the fine print of contracts, and the structures of economic dependency. It is time to close that loophole forever, and to make clear that no person, corporation, or other entity—whether operating within the United States or abroad—may engage in slavery or involuntary servitude. It is also time to examine the broader economic structures—including taxation and ownership models—that can perpetuate extraction and dependency, and to propose reforms that ensure the American economy serves human thriving rather than the opposite.

It is the policy of my Administration to propose a constitutional amendment that:

- Removes the "except as punishment for crime" exception entirely;
- Defines slavery and involuntary servitude in the broadest terms, covering all practices in which a person is compelled to work or provide services against their will, whether by physical coercion, legal threat, economic duress, or any other means;
- Prohibits any form of debt bondage, peonage, or other systems that impose involuntary labor;
- Explicitly applies the prohibition to all persons, corporations, and other entities, both public and private, and holds them to the same constitutional standard as the government;
- Extends the prohibition to any place within the jurisdiction of the United States, including its territories, and to the conduct of United States citizens, corporations, and entities outside the territorial boundaries of the United States, ensuring that no American corporation or citizen may engage in slavery or involuntary servitude anywhere in the world;
- Authorizes Congress to enforce the prohibition through appropriate legislation, ensuring that no person, corporation, or government entity may engage in or benefit from such practices.



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Additionally, it is the policy of my Administration to invite public debate on whether corporations should continue to enjoy constitutional “personhood” rights that enable them to assert constitutional protections while escaping constitutional responsibilities, and whether such rights should be limited or abolished in light of the fundamental rights of natural persons. It is further the policy of my Administration to examine the tax system, property taxes, and other fiscal mechanisms to ensure they do not serve as tools of economic capture, and to create a framework for purpose-driven businesses that can never be owned or controlled by extractive systems.

This Executive Order establishes a Commission to draft such an amendment, to recommend legislation enforcing its provisions, and to engage the American people in a national conversation about corporate personhood, taxation, anti-capture mechanisms, and the future of constitutional accountability.

### **Section 1. Establishment of the Commission on Constitutional Freedom.**

(a) There is hereby established the Commission on Constitutional Freedom (the “Commission”). The Commission shall be composed of no more than 15 members appointed by the President, including:

- (i) Legal scholars with expertise in constitutional law, civil rights, and the history of the Thirteenth Amendment;
- (ii) Historians specializing in the era of slavery, Reconstruction, and the post-Civil War transition;
- (iii) Advocates and experts on prison labor, debt bondage, human trafficking, and economic coercion;
- (iv) Experts in taxation, public finance, and property law;
- (v) Representatives of purpose-driven businesses, cooperatives, and community-based economic models;
- (vi) Representatives of impacted communities, including formerly incarcerated individuals and survivors of forced labor;
- (vii) Members of Congress, who may serve as ex officio non-voting members.



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(b) The President shall designate a Chair and Vice Chair from among the members.

(c) The Commission shall be housed within the Department of Justice for administrative purposes, but shall operate independently in its deliberations.

## **Sec. 2. Duties of the Commission.**

The Commission shall:

(a) Conduct a comprehensive review of the Thirteenth Amendment, its legislative history, judicial interpretations, and the ways in which the “punishment for crime” exception has been used to perpetuate systems of involuntary servitude;

(b) Identify and document contemporary practices that constitute slavery, involuntary servitude, peonage, or debt bondage within the United States and, to the extent feasible, involving United States citizens or corporations abroad, including but not limited to:

(i) Prison labor systems that compel work without meaningful consent or fair compensation;

(ii) Practices in which employers use threats, debt, or immigration status to coerce labor;

(iii) Contracts that impose involuntary service as a condition of debt repayment;

(iv) Any system where a person is held in a condition of servitude through force, fraud, or coercion, regardless of whether such system operates within or outside the territorial United States.

(c) Draft a proposed constitutional amendment that:

(i) Repeals or amends the Thirteenth Amendment to remove the exception for punishment of crime;

(ii) Defines “slavery” and “involuntary servitude” to encompass all forms of compelled labor, whether through physical, legal, economic, or other coercive means;

(iii) Explicitly prohibits debt bondage, peonage, and any analogous practices;

(iv) Provides that the prohibition applies to all persons, corporations, partnerships, associations, and other entities, public or private, and that no such entity may engage in,



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facilitate, or benefit from slavery or involuntary servitude;

(v) Declares that the prohibition extends to conduct occurring within the United States, its territories, and possessions, and to conduct of United States citizens, corporations, and entities outside the territorial boundaries of the United States, to the fullest extent permitted by the Constitution and international law;

(vi) Grants Congress authority to enforce the prohibition by appropriate legislation, ensuring that the amendment is self-executing and not subject to narrow interpretation.

(d) Recommend any necessary implementing legislation, including criminal penalties for violations, civil remedies for victims, and measures to ensure that no federal, state, or local government, corporation, or other private entity may engage in or benefit from prohibited practices.

(e) **Public Engagement on Corporate Personhood.** The Commission shall conduct a national public engagement process to solicit views on whether corporations should continue to be recognized as “persons” entitled to constitutional rights, and whether such rights should be limited, modified, or abolished in light of the fundamental rights of natural persons. This process shall include:

(i) At least six public hearings held in geographically diverse locations, including one in a rural area, one in an urban area, and one in a Tribal community;

(ii) A public comment period of not less than 90 days, with submissions accepted by mail, electronic portal, and in person;

(iii) The ability to submit testimony by video or telephone to ensure accessibility for all interested parties;

(iv) A summary of findings and recommendations on whether the proposed constitutional amendment should include provisions limiting or abolishing corporate constitutional rights, and if so, the precise language of such provisions.

(f) **Review of Taxation and Anti-Capture Mechanisms.** The Commission shall conduct a comprehensive review of the tax system—including property taxes, income taxes, corporate taxes, and all other forms of taxation—with the goal of identifying mechanisms that:



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- (i) Function as tools of economic capture, extracting wealth from individuals, families, and communities in ways that perpetuate dependency and inequality;
- (ii) Disproportionately burden those least able to pay or force displacement from homes, land, or businesses;
- (iii) Incentivize extractive ownership models over purpose-driven, community-serving enterprises.

The Commission shall develop recommendations to restructure taxation to serve human thriving, including:

- (A) Anti-capture mechanisms that prevent taxation from being used to displace or impoverish individuals and communities;
- (B) Proposals for a constitutional or statutory framework that exempts from taxation—or provides substantial relief for—purpose-driven businesses that are structured to never be owned or controlled by extractive systems (including entities organized as cooperatives, public utilities, community land trusts, benefit corporations with locked ownership, and similar structures);
- (C) Specific definitions of “purpose-driven business” and “extractive system” to ensure the exemption cannot be exploited by entities that claim purpose while engaging in extraction.

(g) **Framework for Non-Extractive, Purpose-Driven Entities.** The Commission shall draft model legislation and, where appropriate, propose constitutional language that:

- (i) Establishes a clear legal distinction between extractive enterprises (those structured primarily to maximize returns to private owners or shareholders) and purpose-driven enterprises (those structured to serve public or community benefit with restrictions on ownership and profit distribution);
- (ii) Provides that purpose-driven enterprises may be granted special tax status, preferential treatment in government contracting, and protection from being acquired or controlled by extractive entities;
- (iii) Ensures that any such designation is accompanied by rigorous transparency and accountability requirements, including annual public reporting on mission alignment.



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(h) Consult with State governments, tribal governments, civil rights organizations, labor unions, business associations, international human rights organizations, tax policy experts, and other stakeholders to ensure the recommendations address the full range of economic coercion, extractive systems, and the promotion of purpose-driven enterprise.

### **Sec. 3. Reporting and Submission.**

(a) The Commission shall submit a final report to the President and to Congress no later than one year after the date of this order. The report shall include:

- (i) The proposed text of the constitutional amendment (addressing the Thirteenth Amendment, and if recommended, provisions regarding corporate personhood, taxation, and purpose-driven enterprises);
- (ii) A detailed explanation of the historical and legal basis for the amendment, including its extraterritorial scope and application to corporations;
- (iii) A summary of the public engagement on corporate personhood, including the views expressed and the Commission's recommendations;
- (iv) A summary of the review of taxation and anti-capture mechanisms, including findings and recommendations for legislative and constitutional changes;
- (v) Model legislation for purpose-driven enterprise frameworks;
- (vi) Draft implementing legislation for the constitutional amendment and related reforms;
- (vii) Recommendations for public education and advocacy to support ratification and implementation.

(b) The President shall transmit the proposed amendment to Congress with a request for prompt consideration and submission to the States.

### **Sec. 4. Administration and Support.**

(a) The Attorney General shall provide administrative support, staffing, and resources to the Commission to the extent permitted by law.



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(b) The Commission may hold public hearings, receive testimony, and request information from federal departments and agencies, which shall cooperate to the extent authorized by law.

(c) Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation, but may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law.

## **Sec. 5. General Provisions.**

(a) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(b) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair the authority of the Department of Justice to enforce existing laws against human trafficking, forced labor, or other criminal conduct.

## **Sec. 6. Effective Date.**

This order is effective immediately from date below. Note: This Ordered may take affect before the date below should the public demand it.

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**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand this **20<sup>th</sup> day of January 2029**.

Signed,

**Vincent Cordova**  
*President of the United States, 2028*