

WEEK 5

MARCH 27TH TO 31ST

FEDERALISM

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

"Among the Natural Rights of the Colonists are these, First Life, secondly Liberty, third property, together with the Right to protect and defend them in the best means possible."

- SAMUEL ADAMS

Open discussion: Philadelphia has recently been the site of political discussion in relation to the **2nd Amendment**. **Gun Owners of America** "GOA" stepped forward to ensure that Gun Owners rights were not impacted as their City Council was taking a position to regulate "**ghost guns**". They successfully argued for an injunction on the city's proposed regulations, until the full case can be heard. Politicians may believe that any law is a good one, for the simple purpose of headlines and political capital. To accept such restrictions comes at a cost to

all, an erosion of the right to "keep and bear arms". If regulation is to continue, where does it stop. Or **do we teach accountability?** "**Profiles in Corruption**", Peter Schweitzer provides insights on what is wrong and what should be done, including the need for a vibrant media that holds all national leaders accountable.

Thought on time: Time limits for Constitutional Amendments do not exist in the Constitution, yet Congress began to put time limits in place in 1917 with the 18th Amendment (beginning of Prohibition). Yet we find that in the last 50 years only 1 Amendment has passed, the 27th, and it was first proposed 203 years prior to 1992, at the time the original Bill of Rights were proposed. As we have learned earlier, we might ask, what might have been the complications had the Equal Rights Amendment passed sometime after it was proposed in 1972. Many believe that the gains in Women's Rights and Sports, would be destroyed.

Maybe, we would have seen the Amendment rescinded, much the same as the 18th was rescinded by the 21st. Or, would we have seen a more divided and polarized political discussion?

Remember that originally 19 Amendments were proposed, 17 agreed on by the House and 12 were agreed upon by the U.S. Senate, 10 were ratified by the States and became law on December 15, 1791. However, the original 2nd Amendment was resurrected and passed 203 years later, becoming the 27th.

In total 11,770 proposed amendments have been considered since 1789. 33 have been sent to the States for Ratification, with only 27 being approved.

