On May 15, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) announced the Senate Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing on June 3 on amending the U.S. Constitution to limit political speech. If ultimately adopted, it would mark the first time in American history that a constitutional amendment rescinded a freedom listed as among the fundamental rights of the American people.

The proposed amendment was introduced by Sen. Tom Udall (D-CO) as S.J.R. 19 (http://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/senate-joint-resolution/19/text?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22sjr+19%22%5D%7D) and if ratified would become the Twenty-Eighth Amendment. It provides in part that “Congress shall have power to regulate the raising and spending of money and in-kind equivalents with respect [to] the Federal elections ... [and] State elections.”
The proposed amendment includes a provision that “Nothing in this article shall be construed to grant Congress the power to abridge the freedom of the press.” So Breitbart News, *The New York Times*, and the mainstream media would be able to say whatever they want, but citizens and citizen groups such as the National Rifle Association could not.

The American people have amended the Constitution 27 times in the nation’s history. Ten of those happened in a single package when the states ratified the Bill of Rights, and another three occurred between 1865 and 1870 following the Civil War, forbidding slavery and racial discrimination.

Reid usually opposes amending the Constitution. In 2011, Reid voted against S.J.R. 10, a proposed constitutional amendment by Sens. Orrin Hatch and Mike Lee (R-UT) that would require the federal government to balance the federal budget. In 2004 Reid voted against S.J.R. 40 that would have protected marriage as the union of one man and one woman, which would not include same-sex partners or polygamous marriages of three or more people.

Only one amendment has modified a previous amendment. The Eighteenth Amendment was ratified in 1919 and empowered Congress to forbid alcohol nationwide. Then the Twenty-First Amendment was ratified in 1933 to repeal the Eighteenth Amendment and allow alcohol to flow once again.

But the right of Americans to fully engage in political speech is guaranteed by the Free Speech Clause of the First Amendment. If S.J.R. 19 becomes part of the Constitution, it would be the first instance in which a right secured by a constitutional amendment was later scaled back.

Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY) promises that the full Senate will vote on the measure later this year.

*Breitbart News senior legal analyst Ken Klukowski is a fellow with the American Civil Rights Union. Follow him on Twitter [@kenklukowski](https://twitter.com/j/redir...)*

---

**More from Breitbart:**

- [U.S. Air Base Benefits for Immigrants](http://www.breitbart.com/Big-Government/2014/05/18/Harry-Reid-Vote-to-Amend-U.S.-Constitution-to-Limit-Political-Speech/

- [Gun Store Owner Cuts Ties](http://www.breitbart.com/Big-Government/2014/05/18/Harry-Reid-Vote-to-Amend-U.S.-Constitution-to-Limit-Political-Speech/)

---

**More from Fox News:**

- [Half brother of Scott Brown is an officer](http://~r/foxnews/n/~3/eMC7mvY 19 May 2014, 12:5)

- [Alaska woman killed by bear attack](http://feedsHoraational/~3/519 May 2014, 12:5)

- [Workers scoop, investigate big](http://feedsHoraational/~3/19 May 2014, 12:4)

---

**More from (*I'm a machine and I'm not sure what kind of sentence this is, it seems kind of like a link to a news article...*)**

- [Islamic extremist terrorism trial](http://~r/foxnews/n 19 May 2014, 11:5)

- [Wind, trains a](http://~r/foxnews/n 19 May 2014, 11:5)
Are your parents siblings?

Dear Clayton Grant. I'll have you know there are many children who are the product of inbreeding that manage to somehow overcome their afflictions and live normal lives. It is an insult to drag them down by including them with moderate45. Don't you think?

My bad!

But if you get divorced in DC is she still your sister? I thought about becoming a politician once, but my parents were married when I was born.

You correct, most of them are liberals

Hairy Reed, who uses the floor of the senate to bash individual citizens, wants to shut down other peoples free speech, what a POS. How about we limit political speech to the TRUTH, liberals wouldn't like that.

Because if he wasn't on the floor he'd be hit with libel!

if he wasn't on the floor of the senate he'd be hit with a bat.
Federal judge strikes down Oregon’s ban on gay marriage (http://feeds.foxnews.com/~r/foxnews/politics/~3/zih_OAkTWiA/)
19 May 2014, 12:30 PM PDT

Secretive Soros-backed group looking to spend nearly $40M in 2014 (http://feeds.foxnews.com/~r/foxnews/politics/~3/vsBHFce2qQU/)
19 May 2014, 11:45 AM PDT

NH town police commissioner resigns in wake of Obama slur (http://feeds.foxnews.com/~r/foxnews/politics/~3/ToNoVLknxSY/)
19 May 2014, 11:32 AM PDT

25 years for Miss. man guilty of sending poisoned letters to Obama (http://feeds.foxxnews.com/~r/foxnews/politics/~3/3caupQriF40/)
19 May 2014, 11:29 AM PDT

Connecticut teen asks Biden to prom, VP sends her a corsage (http://feeds.foxnews.com/~r/foxnews/politics/~3/v4-a38oLW5M/)
19 May 2014, 11:03 AM PDT

Half brother of former Massachusetts Sen. Scott Brown gets 1 year for impersonating officer (http://feeds.foxxnews.com/~r/foxnews/national/~3/eMC7mvYdHGA/)
19 May 2014, 12:58 PM PDT

Alaska woman called heroic after surviving bear attack while jogging (http://feeds.foxnews.com/~r/foxnews/national/~3/5D8uxCxlEwo/)
19 May 2014, 12:50 PM PDT

Workers scoop, seagulls feast and scientists investigate big fish die-off near Los Angeles (http://feeds.foxxnews.com/~r/foxnews/national/~3/1MUJ2LKNSQY/)
19 May 2014, 12:48 PM PDT

Islamic extremist cleric convicted in NYC terrorism trial (http://feeds.foxxnews.com/~r/foxnews/national/~3/M5wXCSoX6o6k/)
19 May 2014, 11:54 AM PDT

Wind, trains among reminders for Oklahoma students, teachers who faced deadly twister’s fury (http://feeds.foxxnews.com/~r/foxnews/national/~3/ycP2pIDBWJY/)
19 May 2014, 11:47 AM PDT

Crew’s Higuain etc (http://feeds.foxxnews.com/~r/foxnews/national/~3/DsoQ4KuM-
19 May 2014, 12:45 P

This Week in Golf (http://feeds.foxxnews.com/~r/foxnews/national/~3/8N-MD9ZI6)
19 May 2014, 12:44 I

Xavier locks up M (http://feeds.foxxnews.com/~r/foxnews/national/~3/w3nE1aypm)
19 May 2014, 12:42 I

Giggs calls time o (http://feeds.foxxnews.com/~r/foxnews/national/~3/IkQnA3ynp-
19 May 2014, 12:28 I

Blackhawks’ Shav against Kings bec (http://feeds.foxxnews.com/~r/foxnews/national/~3/Ta8XNNrrc)
19 May 2014, 12:22 I

Harry Reid: Vote to Amend U.S. Constitution to Limit Political Speech http://www.breitbart.com/Big-Government/2014/05/18/Harry-Reid-Vote-...