

We can make history every day!

Find other instance of change made by the people.

American Promise

Ratified on this day in 1913, the 17th Amendment took on the United States Senate's rampant corruption and domination by corporate interests. But it never would have happened if not for 'we the people.'

Before this Constitutional amendment existed, Senators were chosen by state legislators. This process had become dominated by corruption and representation of railroad, oil, mining and other corporations rather than people. One corporate titan, William Clark, bought the Montana Senate seat with bribes, claiming that was fine because he "never bought a man who wasn't for sale." The Senate was a "millionaires' club" full of puppets that served corporations rather than citizens -- sound familiar?

But the people fought back for their voice in the U.S. Senate -- public demand and threat of a Constitutional Convention pushed members of Congress to propose, pass, and ratify the 17th Amendment, establishing the direct election of Senators by the people.

This early 20th-century movement for a fairer, equal government mirrors our modern day Citizen Uprising for the 28th Amendment -- and it proves that people power truly works to get the job done.

[You can play a role in building the same public pressure it took to achieve the 17th Amendment. Make a contribution to our cause to reclaim democracy from corporate influence today.](#)

Thanks for all that you do in this movement,



Martha Stone
Communications Director