

## A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

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In his article "The Constitution and the Single Tax" in the January-February 1993 Land and Liberty, Robert Clancy argued that there is no need legally to amend the U.S. Constitution in order to levy a national tax on land value. He is correct, but the need to do so is not legal but psychological and far more compelling.

First, it focuses our expression. Putting our reform in a succinct amendment sharpens our efforts at stating our idea. This makes us more accessible to would-be supporters.

Second, it focuses our efforts. Constitutions are large targets. Amending one is an all-encompassing campaign. The task is something all Georgists can work on coherently and independently. It lets our many soloists be themselves, campaigning as they see fit, yet rallies the troops for a concerted ascent. Were our movement to head in one direction instead of many we might actually get where we want to go.

Third, the campaign puts us on the offensive, the rent-retainers on the defensive. Recently in America, even though the Equal Rights Amendment lost, it won as concessions many fall-out victories: state amendments, laws allowing pregnancy leaves, etc. All along opponents had to compromise, and their yielding goes on still.

Fourth, and most importantly, only amending a constitution matches the magnitude of our idea. What we are after - sharing Earth's worth while abolishing the state's power to tax - necessitates an entirely new way of thinking, a paradigm shift. Asking a minor jurisdiction to diddle with its share of one tax among many simply does not capture the breath-taking scope and majesty of our idea.

Worse, it does our reform an injustice by reducing it to something that fits on the same agenda as "how much to pay the dog-catcher this year." This lack of boldness, this absence of vision, more than anything is what makes our "movement" constipated.

If we want Georgism to be the law of the land, then that's what we have to say to people. Yes, amend the Constitution of the U.S. and every nation, so as to end taxes and disburse rent. Only then can we live by our beliefs.