

ArticleTheFirst.net Website Review

Website reviewed: ArticleTheFirst.net

Review date: August 30, 2026 by PatriotPenny76

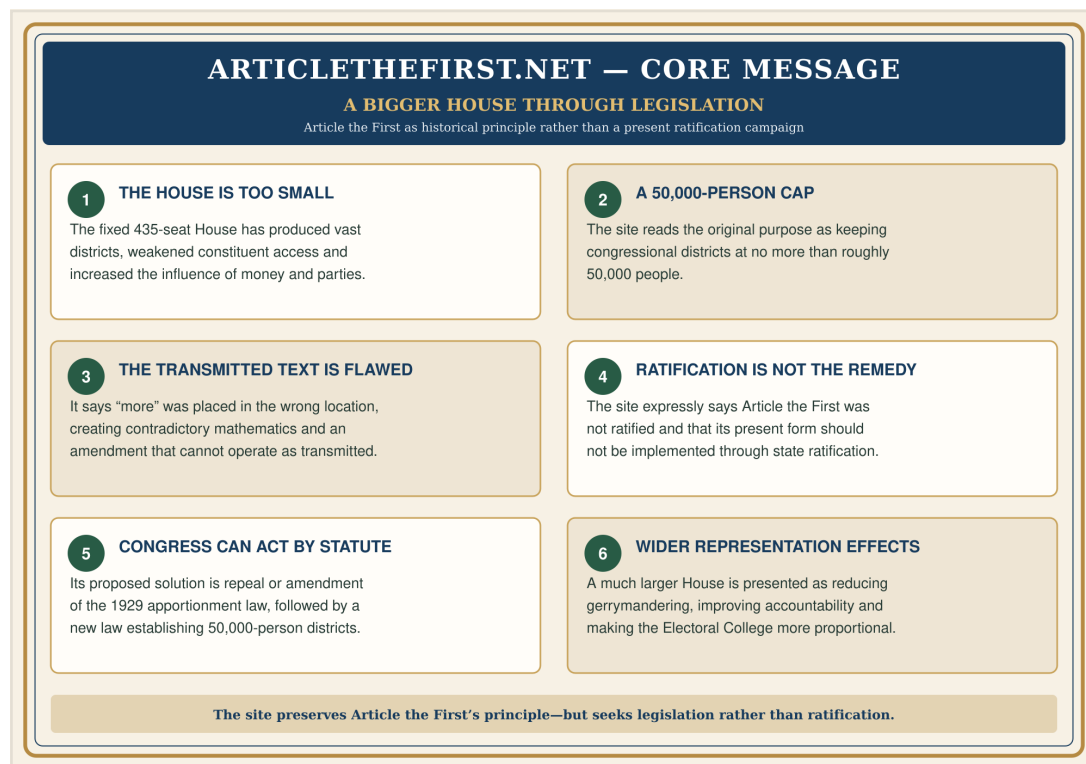
1. Overall position

ArticleTheFirst.net concentrates on the problem created by an undersized House of Representatives. Its central argument is:

- Congressional districts have become far too large because the House remains fixed at 435 members.
- Article the First expressed the Founders' intention to keep representatives close to the people.
- The intended final standard was approximately one representative for every 50,000 people.
- The word "more" was allegedly inserted in the wrong location during the final congressional process.
- This produced a mathematical contradiction in the version transmitted to the states.
- Consequently, the site considers the transmitted amendment dysfunctional and unsuitable for present-day ratification.
- Its proposed remedy is for Congress to change federal apportionment law and establish districts containing no more than approximately 50,000 people.
- A larger House would, according to the site, improve accountability, reduce campaign costs and gerrymandering, lessen special-interest influence, and make the Electoral College more proportional.

The website therefore preserves the representational principle behind Article the First while rejecting completion of the transmitted amendment as the practical solution. [ArticleTheFirst.net research notes](#)

2. Core-message chart



3. Alignment with ATFI

ArticleTheFirst.net aligns with ATFI in several important areas:

- Article the First deserves serious public attention.
- The existing 435-member House provides inadequate representation.
- Smaller districts would bring representatives closer to their constituents.
- The congressional history of the House, Senate and conference committee matters.
- The "less" versus "more" wording change deserves

investigation.

- The mathematical contradiction should be explained to the public.
- Original congressional journals and documents are valuable evidence.
- The 1929 apportionment legislation was a major turning point in representative government.
- A substantially larger House could improve citizen access and electoral accountability.

The House historian confirms that the 1929 act established a permanent apportionment method associated with maintaining the House at 435 members.

[U.S. House history.](#)

4. Central difference from ATFI

This is a fundamental difference in remedy:

ArticleTheFirst.net seeks the principle of Article the First through congressional legislation. ATFI seeks to educate the public and complete ratification through 27 additional states.

ArticleTheFirst.net says:

- Article the First was never ratified.
- The transmitted language is mathematically dysfunctional.
- State ratification is unnecessary.
- Congress can repeal or amend the existing apportionment law.
- A new federal law can establish the desired 50,000-person districts.

ATFI's foundation is:

- Article the First remains pending because Congress

placed no deadline upon it.

- The amendment sent to the states is the proposal presently available for ratification.
- Education and documentary research come first.
- State legislatures can complete the constitutional process.
- Ratification by 27 additional states is the goal.
- Questions about implementation should be studied without replacing ratification with an ordinary statute.

This makes ArticleTheFirst.net highly relevant to ATFI's research, but it is not pursuing ATFI's ratification mission.

5. Verification findings

Ratification status

The site's statement that Article the First was never ratified agrees with the National Archives' official position. The National Archives says Article 1 was never ratified and reproduces the enrolled language containing "nor more than." [National Archives](#)

ATFI differs by emphasizing that the proposal remains pending and can still be completed, not by claiming it is already part of the Constitution.

Number of ratifying states

ArticleTheFirst.net says Article the First was ratified by twelve states, but its accompanying list contains only eleven state names. ATFI's completed state-by-state documentary research supports eleven ratifications—not

twelve. The original records for those states are available in the ATFI State Ratification Records archive.

This is an internal numerical error on ArticleTheFirst.net, not an unresolved question for ATFI.

One passage says Article the First fell short of "four-fifths approval." That is incorrect. The congressional resolution and Article V establish a three-fourths ratification threshold. The National Archives' transcription expressly says the articles would become valid when ratified by three-fourths of the state legislatures.

Virginia's date

The site gives Virginia's ratification date as November 3, 1789. That date needs documentary verification. The commonly recognized date for Virginia's ratification of the Bill of Rights is December 15, 1791.

ATFI should rely on Virginia's original legislative record rather than carrying the website's date into its archive without qualification.

The mathematical contradiction

The site correctly identifies an apparent contradiction at a population of eight million:

- The House would have to contain at least 200 representatives.
- "Nor more than one Representative for every fifty thousand" would appear to limit the House to no more than 160 representatives.

The contradiction is real under that literal reading.

However, describing the amendment as permanently

“unusable” is an interpretation, not an uncontested historical fact. ATFI is studying whether the clause has a coherent present-day application after the population has moved far beyond that narrow transitional range.

The alleged drafting error

The site provides valuable attention to the difference between:

- “the last line but one,” and
- “the last place of the said first article.”

That documentary difference deserves careful study.

However, the further suggestion that James Madison probably sabotaged the amendment is speculative.

Evidence that the language changed does not by itself establish who caused it or whether the cause was deliberate.

ATFI can use the documentary discovery without adopting the sabotage conclusion.

Congressional legislation

The site is correct that Congress possesses statutory authority to increase the size of the House. Ratification is not legally necessary merely to enlarge the House or change apportionment law.

However, legislation and constitutional ratification accomplish different things:

- A statute can be altered by a later Congress.
- A ratified constitutional amendment establishes a constitutional standard beyond ordinary legislative discretion.

Therefore, federal legislation could produce a larger

House, but it would not complete Article the First or provide the same constitutional protection.

Fifty thousand as a prescribed result

The website consistently presents 50,000 as a maximum district population. That reflects its interpretation of the amendment's intended purpose.

ATFI should distinguish between:

- the historical intention behind the different drafts;
- the exact language transmitted to the states;
- the legal result of ratifying that language today; and
- an independently enacted 50,000-person apportionment statute.

Effects on gerrymandering and the Electoral College

A larger House would mathematically increase the number of presidential electors and reduce the relative weight of each state's two senatorial electors. Smaller districts might also make some forms of gerrymandering more difficult.

Claims that it would eliminate gerrymandering, remove special-interest influence, or restore public trust are projected benefits rather than guaranteed results.

Sources and organization

The website contains:

- transcriptions of historical language;
- selected congressional journal images;
- apportionment history;
- court materials;
- electoral calculations;

- references to outside articles and organizations.

It is a useful research collection, but the material is concentrated on long pages and does not provide a clearly organized state-by-state primary-document archive. Some conclusions are presented alongside speculation without always distinguishing between the two.

6. ATFI comparison chart

HOW THE WORK COMPARES ARTICLETHEFIRST.NET • ARTICLE THE FIRST INITIATIVE™ Shared concern for representation—with different remedies, research goals and scope		
COMPARISON POINT	ARTICLETHEFIRST.NET	ARTICLE THE FIRST INITIATIVE™
Primary focus	✓ Article the First and a much larger House are central	✓ Article the First exclusively
Present legal status	● Unratified and dysfunctional in the form sent to the states	✓ Pending proposal capable of completion by additional states
Proposed remedy	● Federal apportionment legislation; expressly says ratification is unnecessary	✓ Education followed by ratification in 27 additional states
50,000-person districts	✓ Treats the ratio as the intended maximum district population	✓ Studies the amendment's actual text before prescribing implementation
"Less" versus "more"	● Says "more" was inserted at the wrong location in the final instructions	✓ Investigates the congressional record without making blame foundational
Mathematical paradox	● Treats the transmitted formula as irreconcilable and unusable	✓ Explains the contradiction and studies its present-day legal significance
State records	● Gives a ratification list, but does not display a record for every state	✓ Builds a state-by-state documentary ratification archive
Original documents	✓ Uses selected journal pages, images, court materials and historical sources	✓ Builds public access to congressional and state primary documents
Practical action	● Directs reform toward Congress and a new apportionment statute	✓ Develops education and practical state-by-state ratification materials
Wider scope and tone	● Also covers the Electoral College, 17th Amendment and sabotage theories	✓ Independent, evidence-centered and respectful toward other contributors
The central distinction ArticleTheFirst.net seeks the 50,000-person principle through a new act of Congress. ATFI's mission is education, documentary research and completion of ratification by the states.		
✓ Central feature • ● Discussed or approached differently		

7. Final classification

An Article the First educational and congressional-reform website that documents the wording controversy and

advocates a 50,000-person district standard, but treats the transmitted amendment as dysfunctional and seeks federal legislation rather than state ratification.

ArticleTheFirst.net contributes valuable congressional-history questions, historical images, mathematical analysis and representation arguments. Its central remedy, however, differs directly from ATFI's foundation, goal and mission.