

BoldTruth.com Website Review

Website reviewed: [BoldTruth.com](https://boldtruth.com)

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1. Overall position

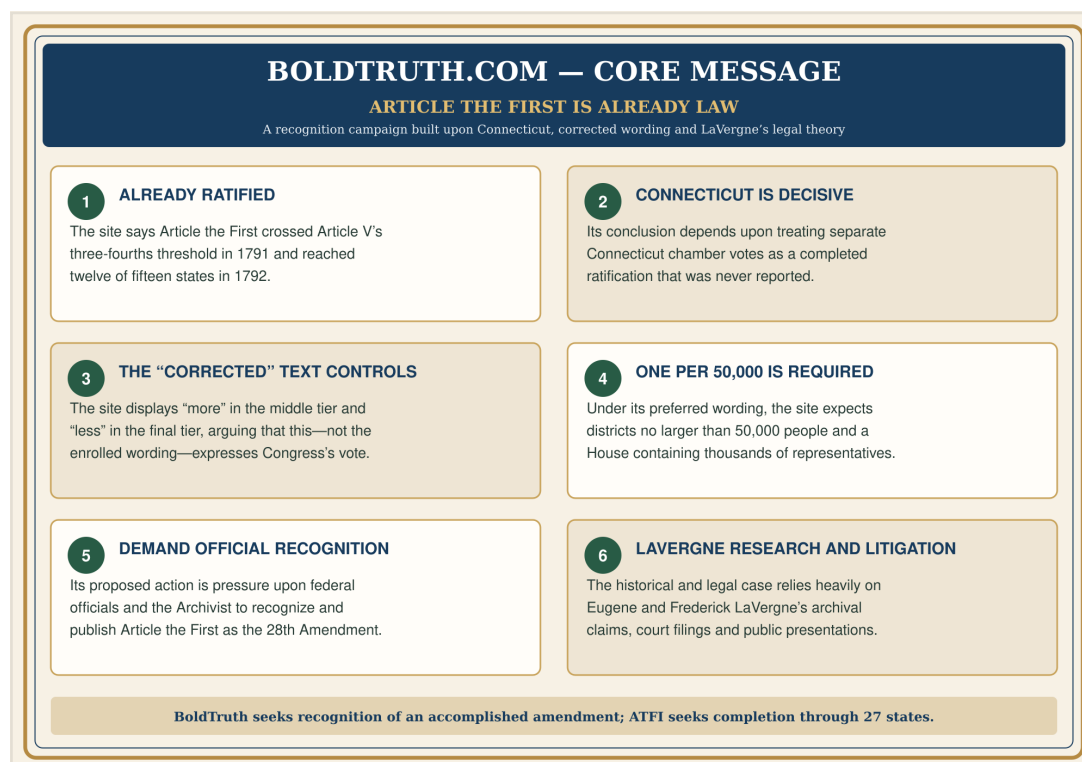
Despite its broad domain name, BoldTruth.com is overwhelmingly devoted to Article the First and the LaVergne theory that it was already ratified.

Its principal positions are:

- Article the First became constitutional law in either 1791 or 1792.
- Connecticut completed ratification even though its vote was not reported to Congress.
- Connecticut produces eleven of fourteen states in 1791.
- Kentucky then produces twelve of fifteen states in 1792.
- The three-fourths threshold, once crossed, cannot be reversed by subsequent statehood.
- A clerical or "scrivener's error" placed "more" and "less" in the wrong locations.
- The corrected congressional intention—not the enrolled text transmitted to the states—should control.
- Article the First requires districts containing no more than 50,000 people.
- The Archivist should recognize and publish it as the Twenty-Eighth Amendment.

- No additional state ratifications are necessary.
- Its historical and legal position relies heavily upon Eugene and Frederick LaVergne's research and litigation.

2. Core-message chart



3. Alignment with ATFI

BoldTruth.com aligns with ATFI in several areas:

- Article the First is treated as fundamentally important.
- The original Bill of Rights contained twelve proposed articles.
- Representation was placed before the familiar protections that became Amendments One through Ten.
- The existing 435-member House is considered

inadequate.

- Smaller districts would provide closer constituent access.
- The congressional wording history deserves investigation.
- The conference committee's "last line but one" instruction is significant.
- Connecticut's legislative records deserve examination.
- Kentucky's 1792 ratification is recognized.
- Article the Second's eventual ratification in 1992 demonstrates the continuing importance of proposals without deadlines.
- Historical documents and state records are essential.

The site also helped preserve awareness of the LaVergne research and the early litigation surrounding Connecticut.

4. Central difference from ATFI

The central difference concerns whether the constitutional process is already complete:

BoldTruth.com says Article the First is already the unrecognized Twenty-Eighth Amendment. ATFI documents eleven ratifications and proceeds toward completion through 27 additional states.

BoldTruth's conclusion depends upon two propositions that ATFI does not accept:

1. Connecticut completed a legally effective ratification.
2. A reconstructed "corrected" text can replace the

enrolled proposal transmitted to the states.

ATFI instead works from:

- the official enrolled language;
- the proposal actually sent to state legislatures;
- eleven documented state ratifications;
- no reliance upon Connecticut; and
- a practical plan for 27 additional states.

5. Verification findings

The twelve-state claim

BoldTruth says twelve of fifteen states had ratified Article the First by 1792:

- eleven states traditionally recognized in the historical record; plus
- Connecticut.

ATFI's completed state-by-state documentary research supports eleven ratifications. Connecticut did not complete a single agreed legislative act ratifying Article the First.

Without Connecticut, the calculation is:

- ten ratifications among fourteen states in 1791; and
- eleven ratifications among fifteen states after Kentucky.

Article the First therefore remained one state short in 1792.

The National Archives' official position is likewise that Article 1 was never ratified. [National Archives](#)

Connecticut

BoldTruth treats separate votes in Connecticut's two chambers as a completed ratification.

The difficulty is that:

- the chambers acted at different times;
- their positions were not incorporated into one completed legislative ratification;
- the later proceedings reflected disagreement over Article the First; and
- Connecticut did not transmit a completed ratification to the federal government.

Failure to notify Congress would not necessarily invalidate an otherwise completed ratification. But that does not resolve whether Connecticut's legislature completed the ratification in the first place.

ATFI's research conclusion stands:

Connecticut should not be counted, and ATFI's pathway should continue with 27 additional states.

The text displayed on BoldTruth

BoldTruth prominently displays this preferred arrangement:

- "nor more than one Representative for every forty thousand"; and
- "nor less than one Representative for every fifty thousand."

That is not the enrolled language transmitted to the states.

The official enrolled text says:

- “nor less than one Representative for every forty thousand”; and
- “nor more than one Representative for every fifty thousand.”

BoldTruth’s displayed version is a reconstruction of what it believes Congress intended. It should not be presented as the amendment the states actually received. [National Archives transcription](#)

What the states ratified

The site argues that the states ratified the language Congress intended rather than the language contained in the transmitted copies.

That is a substantial legal problem. Article V ratification concerns the proposal formally adopted by Congress and submitted to the states. Historical intentions and drafting instructions can assist interpretation, but they do not ordinarily substitute a different text for the enrolled proposal.

ATFI appropriately studies the wording error while seeking ratification of the proposal actually transmitted.

“Less” versus “more”

BoldTruth makes a useful contribution by drawing attention to the conference committee instruction describing “the last line but one.” That evidence helps explain how the wording difference may have occurred. However, the existence of the instruction does not conclusively establish:

- who made the error;
- whether the error was deliberate;

- that every state understood a different text;
- that a reconstructed version legally controls; or
- that the transmitted article can be rewritten without another constitutional process.

Required representation ratio

BoldTruth's 50,000-person district conclusion follows from its preferred "nor less than" final clause.

It does not follow from the enrolled "nor more than" language. Under the text actually transmitted, population divided by 50,000 functions as a maximum House size rather than a required minimum.

The site therefore reaches its thousands-of-representatives conclusion by substituting its reconstructed text for the enrolled article.

Jefferson's alleged rounding

The site suggests that Thomas Jefferson may have treated nine of thirteen states as satisfying three-fourths by rounding the required number downward.

Three-fourths of thirteen is 9.75. A constitutional threshold cannot ordinarily be met by rounding down to nine; ten states would be necessary.

Jefferson's tabulation is historically important, but it does not establish that Article the First became law with fewer than three-fourths of the states.

LaVergne litigation

The site relies substantially on the LaVergne litigation as part of its historical and legal argument.

The courts did not affirm that Article the First had been ratified. The litigation was dismissed without judicial

recognition of the claimed amendment. The decisions therefore cannot be cited as proof of the site's constitutional conclusion. [LaVergne decision](#)

The Archivist's role

BoldTruth says the Archivist needs to accept and publish Article the First as the Twenty-Eighth Amendment.

The Archivist has a certification and publication function after receiving official evidence that the constitutional threshold has been satisfied. The office does not independently cure incomplete state action or substitute disputed wording.

Because Connecticut's claimed ratification is contested and ATFI's records support only eleven states, certification cannot be treated as a merely neglected ministerial task.

House membership date

The site says Congress locked the House at 435 in 1911. The 1911 legislation set the House at 433 members and anticipated one additional member for Arizona and one for New Mexico, producing 435. The permanent automatic-apportionment system associated with maintaining 435 seats came through the 1929 legislation.

The broad historical concern is sound, but the 1911 and 1929 developments should be distinguished.

"Twelve amendments in the Bill of Rights"

Congress proposed twelve articles in 1789. Articles Three through Twelve became the ten amendments conventionally called the Bill of Rights in 1791. Article Two

later became the Twenty-Seventh Amendment. It is historically fair to discuss the twelve proposed Bill of Rights articles. It is not accurate to say that all twelve are presently ratified constitutional amendments.

Outdated calls to action

Much of the site's news and action material dates from 2012 through 2015. It still refers to former officials and campaigns as though they are current.

For example, it calls David Ferriero the current Archivist even though he left that office in 2022.

The website remains accessible, but its visible campaign material does not appear to have been systematically updated.

Sources and presentation

The site includes:

- state-ratification arguments;
- historical-document images;
- letters and correspondence;
- LaVergne court material;
- public-presentation videos;
- commentary from supporters; and
- links to related research.

Its presentation frequently combines documents, personal conclusions, legal assertions and advocacy without clearly distinguishing their evidentiary weight.

Tone

BoldTruth uses very certain and sometimes accusatory language. Officials and historians who reject its conclusion are portrayed as refusing obvious proof or

failing to perform their duties.

ATFI can acknowledge BoldTruth's research leads without adopting that tone. A respectful documentary approach is more consistent with ATFI's mission and more useful for education and legislative outreach.

6. ATFI comparison chart

HOW THE WORK COMPARES		
BOLDTRUTH.COM • ARTICLE THE FIRST INITIATIVE™		
The same historical subject—with opposing positions on status, controlling text and the path forward		
COMPARISON POINT	BOLDTRUTH.COM	ARTICLE THE FIRST INITIATIVE™
Primary focus	✓ Article the First and immediate recognition of a much larger House	✓ Article the First exclusively, with education preceding ratification
Present legal status	• Already ratified in 1791 or 1792; the unrecognized 28th Amendment	✓ Pending proposal to be completed through 27 additional states
Connecticut	• Counts separate chamber votes as a completed twelfth ratification	✓ Does not count or depend upon Connecticut
Controlling wording	• Uses a reconstructed "corrected" text, not the enrolled proposal sent to states	✓ Studies and seeks ratification of the proposal actually transmitted to states
House-size result	• Requires districts no larger than 50,000 and thousands of representatives	✓ Separates ratification from unresolved present-day implementation questions
Proposed action	• Demand recognition and publication by the Archivist and federal officials	✓ Education and practical ratification action in 27 additional states
State records	• Displays selected evidence supporting Connecticut and twelve-state theory	✓ Completed and published documentary research for eleven ratifying states
Sources and litigation	• Relies heavily on LaVergne research, litigation, correspondence and talks	✓ Prioritizes original congressional and state records while comparing claims
Current activity	• News and calls to action are largely dated 2012–2015	✓ Active classes, website, research, presentations and publications
Public tone	• Certain and accusatory; critics and officials are portrayed as refusing truth	✓ Evidence-centered and respectful of other contributors and resources
The central distinction		
BoldTruth says the constitutional process is already complete and demands federal recognition. ATFI does not count Connecticut and proceeds through education and 27 additional ratifications.		
✓ Central feature • Discussed or approached differently		

7. Final classification

An Article the First recognition website built around the LaVergne theory that Connecticut completed ratification and that corrected congressional intent controls over the enrolled text, leading it to claim Article the First is already the unrecognized Twenty-Eighth Amendment.

BoldTruth.com preserves important historical questions and helped publicize the Connecticut and wording disputes. Its final conclusion, however, conflicts directly with ATFI's completed state research, the enrolled text, the National Archives' position and ATFI's 27-state ratification mission.