

Bryan W Brickner Resource Review

Resource reviewed by Patriot Penny

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I completed Brickner's review. His book strongly supports ATFI's educational purpose, but his central constitutional interpretation differs significantly from ATFI's ratification focus.

Brickner's overall position

Brickner argues that:

- Constitutional representation was central to the American Revolution and the meaning of "We the People."
- Article I's "one for every thirty Thousand" language already guarantees approximately one representative per 30,000 people.
- Congress began violating that guarantee in 1792 and eventually consolidated its power by capping the House at 435.
- Article the First would replace the 30,000 ratio with approximately one representative per 50,000 people.
- Eleven states historically ratified Article the First, leaving twenty-seven additional states needed today.
- Smaller districts would improve access, weaken incumbency, broaden participation and give more interests a voice.

- Four paths remain: enforce 30,000, ratify Article the First, adopt a new constitutional ratio or retain 435 representatives.

Where Brickner aligns with ATFI

- Article the First is unfinished and still eligible for ratification.
- Representation was considered fundamental.
- Article the First deserves concentrated public education.
- The twelve proposed articles should be studied together.
- The 435-seat House has distanced representatives from the people.
- Original records and founding-era debates matter.
- Article the First received eleven historical ratifications according to the traditional account.
- Twenty-seven additional states could complete ratification.
- The wording change from “less” to “more” is important.
- Smaller districts could strengthen citizen participation.

The central difference

Brickner’s first remedy is not ratification. It is enforcement of what he considers an existing constitutional guarantee of one representative per 30,000 people.

ATFI’s purpose is:

Education about Article the First followed by state-by-state action to complete its ratification.

Brickner therefore contributes major historical material, but his preferred legal route is different from ATFI's.

Important verification findings

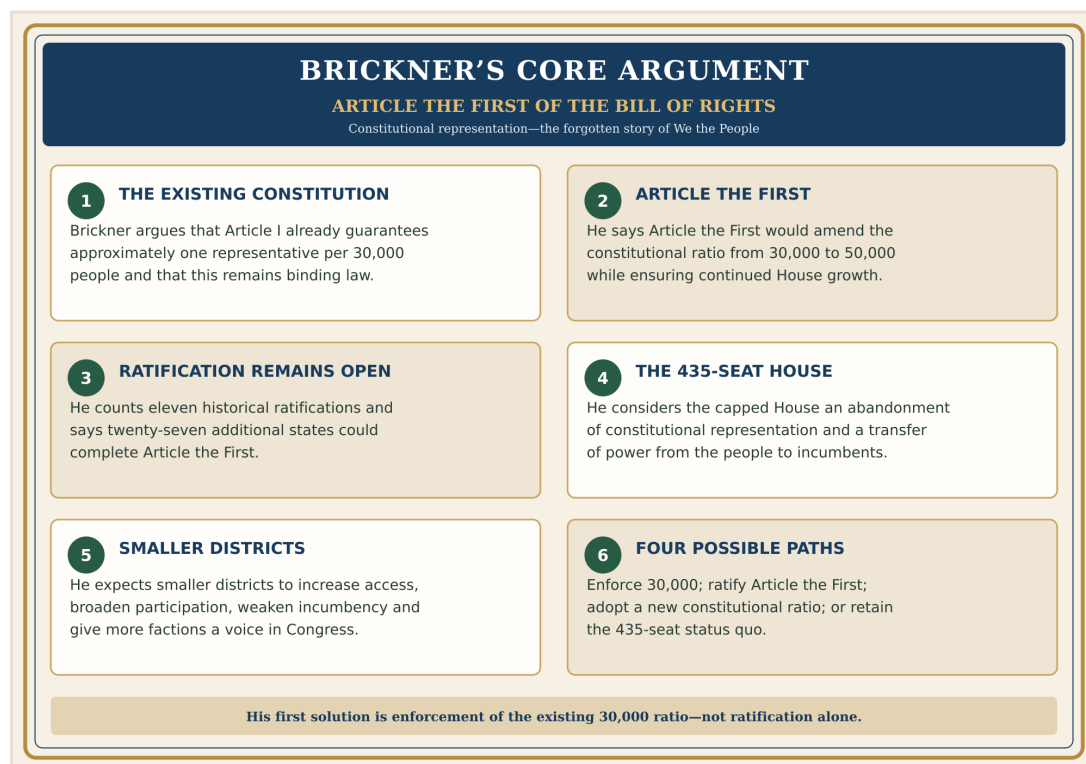
The uploaded book is the original 2006 edition; the PDF itself was created in 2012. Consequently, it predates later litigation addressing some of Brickner's arguments.

- Brickner interprets "shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand" as guaranteeing one representative for approximately every 30,000 people. The Supreme Court has instead treated this as a constitutional ceiling: Congress cannot create more than one representative per 30,000 people, but it is not compelled to create that many. [United States Department of Commerce v. Montana](#)
- The federal government made the same distinction in *Clemons v. Department of Commerce*, stating that a 435-member House is consistent with the 30,000 ceiling. [Justice Department filing](#)
- Brickner treats Article the First's "nor more than one Representative for every fifty thousand persons" as requiring districts no larger than 50,000. Grammatically, "nor more than one Representative" creates an upper limit on representatives—not a maximum district population. That is the source of the mathematical paradox Brickner does not address.
- He says Article the First established no upper limit

on House membership. That conclusion depends upon reversing the apparent operation of “nor more than.”

- His state-ratification table relies upon published compilations. It does not provide or independently examine each state’s original ratification record. This is precisely where ATFI’s state-by-state research adds something new.
- Brickner correctly treats Article the First as unratified and potentially still pending. The National Archives also identifies it as the earliest unratified amendment. [National Archives](#)

Brickner’s Core Argument



Brickner Compared with ATFI

HOW THE WORK COMPARES BRYAN W. BRICKNER • ARTICLE THE FIRST INITIATIVE™ Strong historical alignment—with an important difference in constitutional interpretation		
COMPARISON POINT	BRYAN W. BRICKNER <i>Article the first of the Bill of Rights</i>	ARTICLE THE FIRST INITIATIVE™
Primary focus	✓ Constitutional representation, with Article the First as a central subject	✓ Article the First exclusively
Article the First history	✓ Detailed historical account	✓ Central educational focus
Existing 30,000 language	● Treats one per 30,000 as an enforceable constitutional guarantee	✓ Distinguishes the constitutional ceiling from Article the First
Article the First's operation	● Treats 50,000 as the new ratio and a maximum district population	✓ Studies the enrolled language as transmitted to the states
"Less" versus "more"	● Notes the wording but does not trace the congressional change in depth	✓ Investigates the full wording change through the congressional record
Mathematical paradox	— Not examined as a paradox	✓ Explains the apparent contradiction and its present-day significance
State ratification research	● Provides a published vote table, not the individual state records	✓ Investigates original records state by state
Original documents	● Transcribes and cites documents; does not provide a visual archive	✓ Collects original documents and images for public examination
Primary proposed solution	● First: enforce the 30,000 ratio; ratification is the second option	✓ Education followed by completion of state ratification
Citizen action pathway	● Calls for 27 additional states but does not provide practical steps	✓ Develops a practical state-by-state ratification pathway
Continuing education	● Book and related author commentary provide continuing reference material	✓ Website, classes, presentations, book studies and publications
The central distinction Brickner's first remedy is enforcing a 30,000-person ratio under the existing Constitution. ATFI's concentrated objective is education followed by completion of Article the First's ratification.		
✓ Central feature • ● Discussed or approached differently • — Not examined		

Brickner is currently classified in our master chart as:
 A major Article the First and constitutional-representation resource that supports ratification as one possible solution, while primarily advocating enforcement of a 30,000-person representation ratio under the existing Constitution.