

Thirty-Thousand.org Website Review

Website reviewed: [Thirty-Thousand.org](https://thirtythousand.org)

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1. Overall position

Thirty-Thousand.org describes itself as a nonpartisan nonprofit organization established in 2004. Its primary purpose is researching and teaching the benefits of smaller, equally populated congressional districts.

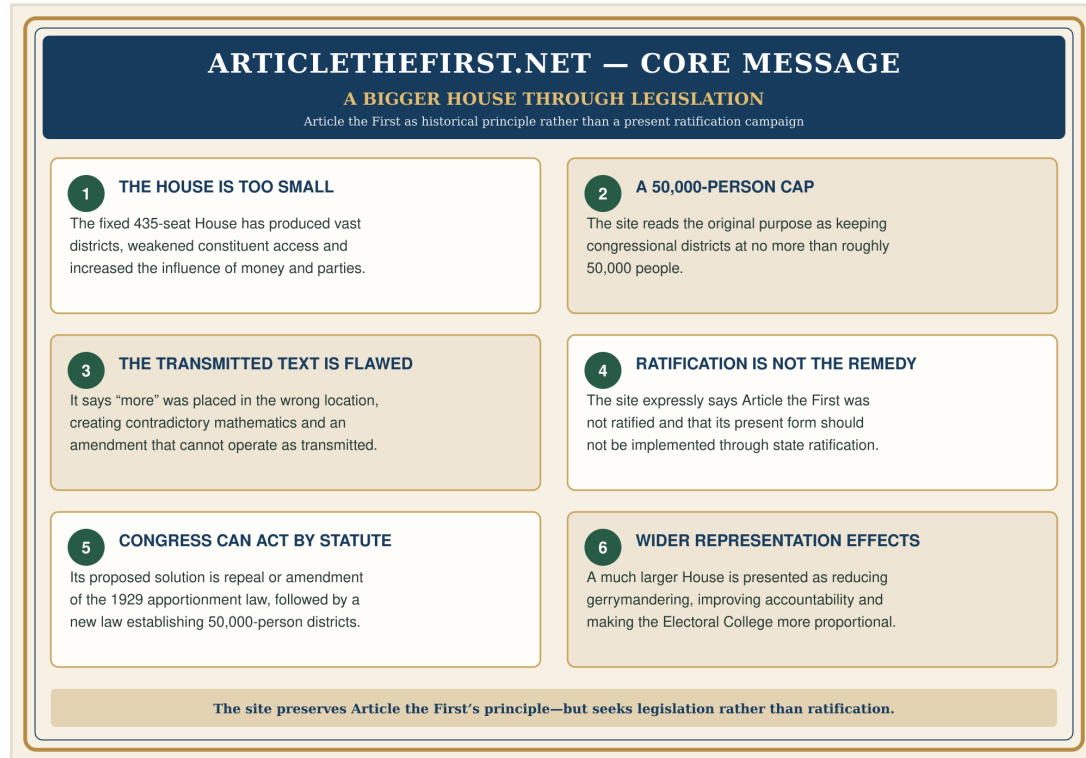
Its core positions are:

- The House of Representatives should expand continually with population.
- One representative for every 30,000 people is its ideal ratio and the source of its name.
- Districts between approximately 30,000 and 50,000 people would provide substantially closer representation.
- A larger House would reduce special-interest influence, weaken incumbency advantages, lessen gerrymandering, encourage political competition and improve citizen equality.
- Article the First provides important evidence of the Founders' intention, but it is only one part of the organization's larger representation program.
- The organization distinguishes between an "intended" version containing "nor less than" and a "defective" transmitted version containing "nor more than."
- Its current position is that the proposal actually

transmitted to the states should not be ratified.

- Its website offers a nine-section educational program, mathematical charts, historical sources, articles, a forum and a zoomable Bill of Rights.

2. Core-message chart



3. Alignment with ATFI

Thirty-Thousand.org has considerable common ground with ATFI:

- Both recognize the importance of Article the First.
- Both believe the present 435-member House provides inadequate representation.
- Both teach that the House was expected to increase with population.
- Both examine the 17 articles approved by the House and the twelve sent to the states.

- Both consider the “less” versus “more” wording difference historically significant.
- Both explain the three mathematical tiers.
- Both recognize the mathematical contradiction between eight and ten million people.
- Both use historical documents, congressional records and visual explanations.
- Both emphasize education before political action.
- Both recognize eleven documented state ratifications and do not count Connecticut.
- Both see closer representation as beneficial to citizen participation and accountability.

Thirty-Thousand.org’s mathematical explanations are among its most valuable contributions to the overall research.

4. Central difference from ATFI

The central difference is decisive:

Thirty-Thousand.org expressly advises against ratifying Article the First as transmitted. ATFI exists to educate and then complete its ratification in 27 additional states.

Thirty-Thousand.org’s primary goal is a vastly larger House with smaller and more equal districts. Article the First is used as historical evidence supporting that goal, but the organization considers its actual text defective.

ATFI’s primary goal is Article the First itself:

- education;
- documentary research;
- public understanding;
- collaborative study; and

- state-by-state ratification.

Thirty-Thousand.org is also a formal organization with a broader nine-part political reform program. ATFI is an independent initiative focused exclusively on Article the First.

5. Verification findings

Current ratification position

Thirty-Thousand.org's August 2026 article states plainly that it believes it "makes perfect sense to not ratify" Article the First as written. This is not an inference—it is the website's current published position. [Enduring Textual Illusion](#)

That position distinguishes it sharply from ATFI even though the two projects share substantial research interests.

Effect of the transmitted wording today

Thirty-Thousand.org makes an important mathematical point about the text actually sent to the states.

Using the 2020 apportionment population, it calculates that ratification would allow Congress to select a House size between:

- a minimum of 200 representatives; and
- a maximum of approximately 6,622 representatives.

Under a literal reading, "nor more than one Representative for every fifty thousand" establishes a maximum number of representatives, not a minimum number that Congress is obligated to provide.

This supports one of ATFI's important discoveries: The eight-to-ten-million mathematical impossibility was

a transitional population problem. It does not create the same impossibility at today's population.

Thirty-Thousand.org and ATFI can agree on that mathematical finding while reaching different conclusions about whether the amendment should now be ratified.

Thirty thousand versus fifty thousand

The website's ratio position contains two connected standards:

- 1:30,000 is its ideal and the Constitution's maximum permissible representative density.
- 1:50,000 is treated as the minimum House size intended by the earlier House language.

Therefore, Thirty-Thousand.org does not merely advocate one representative for every 50,000. Its ideal House would be even larger—approaching one representative for every 30,000 people.

"Intended" versus "defective"

The website labels the earlier House language the "intended version" and the enrolled language the "defective version." The texts and mathematical consequences can be documented. However, calling one the exclusive intention of Congress goes beyond the documents themselves.

The record establishes that:

- the House considered language containing "nor less than";
- the Senate considered a different formula;
- a conference committee proposed another

- change;
- the final enrolled proposal contained “nor more than”; and
- that enrolled language was approved and transmitted to the states.

ATFI can present Thirty-Thousand.org’s “intended versus defective” interpretation without treating that terminology as an uncontested historical fact.

House chronology

The website describes the intended version as passing the House on August 21, 1789. ATFI’s congressional timeline identifies August 24, 1789 as the date the House approved and transmitted its seventeen proposed articles to the Senate.

August 21 reflects an earlier stage of House consideration. The distinction between preliminary agreement and final House approval should be maintained.

Mathematical paradox

Thirty-Thousand.org provides a particularly clear explanation of the paradox:

- Between eight and ten million people, the final clause produces a maximum below the amendment’s minimum of 200.
- Once the population exceeds ten million, that direct impossibility disappears.
- At modern population levels, the final clause operates as a ceiling on House membership.

This is a strong research contribution and should be acknowledged positively.

State ratification record

Thirty-Thousand.org's current forum material recognizes eleven state ratifications and says Connecticut, Georgia and Massachusetts did not ratify the twelve proposed articles during the original period.

Eleven States Ratified

This agrees with ATFI's completed state-by-state research. ATFI's distinction is that it has assembled and published the original state records in a dedicated public archive.

Older forum posts discussing whether Connecticut completed ratification represent participant discussions, not the organization's present settled conclusion.

Counterfactual claims

The site asserts that the intended version would "undoubtedly" have been ratified if it had been sent to the states. That is a plausible argument, but it cannot be historically proven. It remains a counterfactual conclusion.

Likewise, language suggesting "crafty parliamentary legerdemain" indicates suspicion but does not establish who caused the wording change or whether it was deliberate.

Proposed political benefits

The site connects House enlargement with:

- reducing corruption;

- overcoming incumbency;
- eliminating gerrymandering;
- ending the political duopoly;
- achieving citizen equality;
- restoring fiscal responsibility; and
- reducing federal spending.

These are reasoned projections rather than guaranteed consequences. They broaden the site well beyond Article the First and help explain why its mission differs from ATFI's narrower purpose.

Research quality and current activity

Thirty-Thousand.org is actively maintained. It contains material updated during 2025 and 2026, including analysis of current congressional activity concerning Article the First.

Its strengths include:

- extensive mathematical explanation;
- charts and visual demonstrations;
- detailed footnotes;
- long-form educational material;
- historical sources;
- a blog and discussion forum; and
- sustained research dating back to 2004.

Some pages mix documented facts, organizational interpretations and speculative conclusions. Those categories should be separated when ATFI uses the site as a research resource.

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

A long-established research and education organization advocating dramatically smaller congressional districts and a vastly larger House, with unusually detailed Article the First mathematics, but which now expressly opposes ratifying the proposal actually transmitted to the states.

Thirty-Thousand.org is one of the strongest research resources in this comparison, particularly for understanding the mathematical wording. Its mission and ATFI's mission overlap significantly in education and representation, but ultimately lead to opposite conclusions about ratification.

