* Seventeenth Amendment: The Seventeenth Amendment was ratified in 1913, and this called for the direct election of United States Senators. Before direct election, state legislatures chose Senators from each state. The Progressive Party fought for direct election because there was a great dissatisfaction with the current process. Corrupt political groups, deadlock votes, and empty seats had caused arguments and delayed legislation in the Senate; therefore, there was a call to reform the process in which Senators were chosen to make the process fair and organized. Furthermore, the voting process was not private, and corrupt politicians would persuade, threaten, and bribe people to vote for them. The Seventeenth Amendment required that there be two Senators from each state, and they would serve six year terms. Each senator would have one vote in decision making and the Electoral College. When there is a vacant seat in the Senate, it is the state’s executive officer’s responsibility to hold an individual election to fill the seat.[[1]](#footnote-1)

1. United States Senate. Accessed September 7, 2012. http://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/common/briefing/Direct\_Election\_Senators.htm. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)