

The Costs of Voting

1. **Dollar Costs.** No dollar costs may be imposed by fees or taxation. Amendment 24 to the U.S. Constitution rules out dollar costs:

Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President, for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax.

2. **Other costs.** While the Constitution prohibits monetary charges, this does not mean that voting is entirely without costs. Voters will incur opportunity costs. The opportunity costs of voting is what a voter gives up in choosing to vote. Here are some possible opportunity costs:
 - Time taken to register.
 - Time to find a voting location, or to vote via absentee ballot.
 - Time taken to vote, which may also mean lost wages for voters who miss work; or babysitting or transportation costs.
 - Time needed to investigate candidates and issues.