A Citizen's Voice:
Don't take the Constitution lightly

The Constitution is a somewhat sacred American document, the political equivalent to the Bible, Torah or Quran; it is a combination of the spiritual goals of freedom and independence and the political means to enforce them. As such, sacrifice should not be committed lightly.

As of now, the ban in Article II, Section 1, Clause V of the U.S. Constitution states that “no person except a natural born citizen of the United States is eligible to that Office.”

Hatch, a Republican from Utah, proposed an amendment that would state “a person who is a citizen of the United States, who has been for 20 years a citizen of the United States and is not ineligible to that Office (the presidency) by reason of not being a native born citizen of the United States.”

Austrian born actor-turned-politician Arnold Schwarzenegger has declared his support for such an amendment, as has his in-law Senator Richard Lugar, who has been a leading force in the Senate Judiciary Committee in recent years.

Hatch’s contention that America should no longer be divided into native born citizens, no matter where they were born into, is not widely accepted. In many cases, naturalized citizens are more much cognizant of the unique freedoms this country offers. Perhaps they would do the office more justice than those of us who are simply used to the U.S.

Regardless of historians, such a caution is not outdated. Now more than ever before, America is the most feared and hated nation in the world.

The Constitution could no longer be fixed this country’s problems; it is the duty of the Framers to start the Constitution and start anew.

In addition, how would a foreign-born candidate handle dealing with his or her birth country? Think about how emotionally attached people are to their nation-alities; whether you are Irish-American, African-American, Italian-American or you simply call yourself American, you are aware of your past. It affects everyone. How much more deeply would it affect one who was actually born in that country? Whether a naturalized citizen loves or hates their place of birth, that country deeply affects them. I do not think that one would be able to separate oneself from such emotions and make a rational decision.

Any amendment must pass by a two-thirds vote in the House of Representatives and the Senate. It would also have to be ratified by three-fourths of state legislatures or constitutional conventions. In other words, it is difficult to pass an amendment and it is unlikely that such a vote would come to pass, but it is possible.

It is time for politicians to stop concentrating on issues that concern only politicians and start thinking about the country they are supposed to serve. Stop talking about altering the Constitution and start fixing this country’s problems; America deserves it.

This Week in History:

April 17, 1790 — Benjamin Franklin dies.

April 18, 1775 — Paul Revere warns the American colonists that “the British are coming.”