



#### RESPONSE TO FEDERAL OVERREACH

Nullifying Federal mandates means more than just a mere rhetorical statement or a resolution affirming the position of the legislature. To effectively nullify a federal law a state must take action to prevent federal enforcement of that law within the state.

#### THE TRADITION OF NULLIFICATION

Nullification has a long history in the American tradition and has been invoked in support of free speech, in opposition to war and fugitive slave laws, and more. These principles are currently being invoked in states around the country in response to unconstitutional Federal laws – left, right, and center.



#### ABOUT TENTH AMENDMENT CENTER

Thank you for your interest in Tenth Amendment Center, featuring comprehensive research coverage of key sovereignty issues and topics, and daily Tenth Amendment news and analysis.

The Tenth Amendment Center is a national think tank that works to preserve and protect the principles of strictly limited government through information, education, and activism. The center serves as a forum for the study and exploration of state and individual sovereignty issues, focusing primarily on the decentralization of federal government power.

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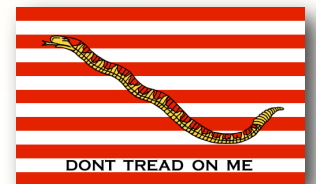
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# NULLIFYING FEDERAL MANDATES



#### 10TH AMENDMENT CENTER

When a state ‘nullifies’ a federal law, it is proclaiming that the law in question is void and inoperative, or ‘non-effective,’ within the boundaries of that state; or, in other words, not a law as far as the state is concerned.



# Principles of Nullification

## KENTUCKY & VIRGINIA RESOLUTIONS

In the Kentucky Resolutions of 1798, Thomas Jefferson wrote: “The several states composing the United States of America are not united on the principle of unlimited submission to their general government” and “where powers are assumed [by the general government] which have not been delegated, a nullification of the act is the rightful remedy.”

James Madison, in his Virginia Resolution of 1798, asserted the core premise of all nullification laws– that State governments not only have the right to resist unconstitutional Federal acts, but that, in order to protect liberty, they are “duty bound to interpose” or stand between the Federal government and the people of their state.

## NULLIFICATION BEGINS WITH YOU

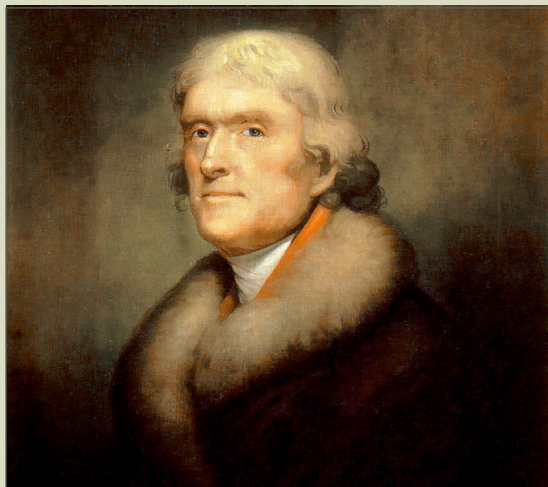
Nullification is not secession or insurrection, but neither is it unconditional or unlimited submission. Nullification is not something that requires any decision, statement or action from any branch of the federal government. Nullification is not the result of obtaining a favorable court ruling.

## RESISTANCE BEGINS AT HOME

Nullification begins with a decision made in your state legislature to resist a federal law deemed to be unconstitutional. It usually involves a bill, which is passed by both houses and is signed by your governor. In some cases, it might be approved by the voters of your state directly, in a referendum. It may change your state’s statutory law or it might even amend your state constitution. It is a refusal on the part of your state government to cooperate with, or enforce a particular federal law or regulation it deems to be unconstitutional.

## NO NEED FOR FEDERAL APPROVAL

Nullification is not the petitioning of the federal government to start doing or to stop doing anything. Nullification doesn’t depend on any Federal law being repealed. Nullification does not require permission from any person or institution outside of one’s own State. Nullification begins with you.



JAMES MADISON

THOMAS JEFFERSON

*The Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions of 1798 were written in response to the dreaded Alien and Sedition Acts, and the phrase, “Principles of ‘98” became shorthand for nullification and / or interposition. Over time, “The Principles of ‘98” would be invoked by many other states, many times for a variety of issues.*



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NULLIFICATION: IT’S OFFICIAL



THE UNTOLD HISTORY OF NULLIFICATION: RESISTING SLAVERY



THE STATES RIGHTS TRADITION NOBODY KNOWS