



LITTLEPATRIOTS



# The Constitution of the United States & the Bill of Rights



We  
secure domestic  
and our Posterity

Art. 1. All legislative Powers be  
vested in Representatives.  
Sec. 2. The House of Representatives  
shall have the Qualifications requisite  
Person shall be a Representative  
shall not, when elected, be an  
Representative.



## Preamble

**We the People** of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

### ★ DID YOU KNOW? ★

The words "We the People" are an important reminder that the power of the government rests in the people.





## Article I

### Section 1: Congress

*All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.*

### Section 2:

#### *The House of Representatives*

*The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several*

### ★ DID YOU KNOW? ★

Articles I, II, and III divide power between the different branches of government. The legislative, executive, and judicial branches each have separate and independent powers. This prevents a person or branch from becoming too powerful.





States, and the Electors in **each** State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the **Age of twenty five Years**, and been **seven Years a Citizen of the United States**, and who shall not, when elected, be an **Inhabitant of that State** in which he shall be chosen.

#### A REPRESENTATIVE MUST BE



YEARS  
OLD

---



YEARS AS  
U.S. CITIZEN

---



LIVE IN STATE  
WHERE CHOSEN

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons. The actual

Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but **each State shall have at Least one Representative**; and until such enumeration shall be made, the State of New Hampshire shall be entitled to choose three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New-York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies.

**The House of Representatives shall choose their Speaker** and other Officers; and shall have the **sole Power of Impeachment**.

### Section 3: The Senate

The **Senate** of the United States shall be composed of **two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature** thereof, for six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote.

Immediately after they shall be assembled in Consequence of the first Election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three Classes. The Seats of the Senators of the first Class shall be vacated at the Expiration of the second Year, of the second Class at the Expiration of the fourth Year, and of the third Class at the Expiration of the sixth Year, so that one third may be chosen every second Year; and if Vacancies happen by Resignation, or otherwise,

#### ★ DID YOU KNOW? ★

Each state has two Senators, regardless of its population, so each state is represented equally in the Senate. Initially, Senators were chosen by state legislatures, but with the passage of the 17th Amendment in 1913, Senators began being elected by the people of each state.



during the Recess of the Legislature of any State, the Executive thereof may make temporary Appointments until the next Meeting of the Legislature, which shall then fill such Vacancies.

No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been nine Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen.

**V.P. CAN VOTE IN THE  
SENATE TO BREAK A TIE**



50



50



The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless they be equally divided. The Senate shall choose their other Officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the Absence

of the Vice President, or when he shall exercise the Office of President of the United States. The Senate shall have the **sole Power to try all Impeachments.**

When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation.

When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of **two thirds of the Members** present.



Judgment in Cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from Office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of honor, Trust or Profit under the United States: but the Party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment and Punishment, according to Law.

★ **DID YOU KNOW?** ★

After the House votes to convict—with a simple majority vote—the Senate “tries” the impeachment. In the Senate, the bar is much higher, because a full two-thirds of the members are required to convict, rather than just 51 percent!



## Section 4: Elections

The Times, Places, and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall **be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof**; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of choosing Senators.

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every Year, and such Meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by Law appoint a different Day.



## Section 5: Powers and Duties of Congress

Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its own Members, and a Majority of each shall constitute a Quorum to do

### ★ DID YOU KNOW? ★

Election procedures are generally run by states, rather than Congress — giving the officials closer to the people the ability to set rules and regulations that fit their state's needs.



*Business; but a smaller Number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the Attendance of absent Members, in such Manner, and under such Penalties as each House may provide.*

*Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly Behavior, and, with the **Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member.***



WHO HAS BEEN EXPELLED?

6

U.S. HOUSE

15

U.S. SENATE

*Each House shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such Parts as may in their Judgment require Secrecy; and the Yeas and Nays of the Members of either House on any question shall, at the Desire of one fifth of those Present, be entered on the Journal.*

Neither House, during the Session of Congress, shall, without the Consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other Place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.

### **Section 6: Rights and Disabilities of Members**



The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States. They shall in all Cases, except Treason, Felony, and Breach of the Peace, be privileged from Arrest during their Attendance at the Session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any Speech or Debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other Place.

No Senator or Representative shall, during the Time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil Office under the Authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the Emoluments whereof shall have



been increased during such time; and no Person holding any Office under the United States, shall be a Member of either House during his Continuance in Office.

## **Section 7: Legislative Process**

**All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other bills.**

Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a Law, be **presented to the President of the United States**; If he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with

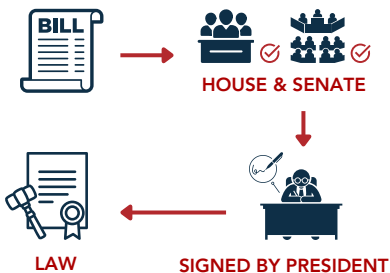
### ★ DID YOU KNOW? ★

The Founding Fathers knew that taxes were never popular—so they required that all bills for raising revenue originate in the House of Representatives, whose members are “closer” to the people and have shorter terms, so they have to worry more about reelection and will be incentivized to keep taxation from becoming excessive!



his Objections to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the Objections at large on their Journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such Reconsideration two thirds of that House shall agree to pass the Bill, it shall be sent, together with the Objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two thirds of that House, it shall become a Law. But in all such Cases the Votes of both Houses shall be determined by yeas and Nays, and the Names of the Persons voting for and against the Bill shall be entered on the Journal of each House respectively. If any Bill shall not be

## HOW BILL BECOME LAW



returned by the President within ten Days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the Same shall be a Law, in like Manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their Adjournment prevent its Return, in which Case it shall not be a Law.

Every Order, Resolution, or Vote to which the Concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary (except on a question of Adjournment) shall be presented to the President of the United States; and before the Same shall take Effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by two thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the Rules and Limitations prescribed in the Case of a Bill.

## **Section 8: Powers of Congress**

**The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all**

*Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States:*



*To borrow Money on the credit of the United States;*

*To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;*



Bankruptcy

*To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;*



**DID YOU KNOW?**



Article I is the longest part of the Constitution. This is because the Framers thought the Legislative Branch would be the largest and most powerful branch so they wrote out the powers of the Congress, and the limits to those powers, in the Constitution.





*To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;*

*To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;*



*To establish Post Offices and post Roads;*

*To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;*



*To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court;*



*To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offenses against the Law of Nations;*

*To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;*



*To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;*

*To provide and maintain a Navy;*



*To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;*



*To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;*

*To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;*

*To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by...*

the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings;—And

**To make all Laws which shall be necessary** and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.



## **Section 9: Powers Denied Congress**

The Migration or Importation of such Persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit,



shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the Year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a Tax or duty may be imposed on such Importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each Person.

The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it.

No **Bill of Attainder** or **ex post facto Law** shall be passed.

No Capitation, or other direct, Tax shall be laid, unless in Proportion to the Census or enumeration herein before directed to be taken.

★ DID YOU KNOW? ★

This bars the government from punishing a party for a crime by passing a law, rather than holding a trial. It also means that Congress cannot pass a law declaring that something somebody already did was now illegal, and then punishing them for it—the action had to be illegal at the time it was done!



*No Tax or Duty shall be laid on Articles exported from any State.*

*No Preference shall be given by any Regulation of Commerce or Revenue to the Ports of one State over those of another: nor shall Vessels bound to, or from, one State, be obliged to enter, clear, or pay Duties in another.*

*No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.*



**No Title of Nobility** shall be granted by the United States: And no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall,



**DID YOU KNOW?**



The Founding Fathers were worried about returning to a monarchy, so they expressly put into the Constitution nobody should be given a title of nobility like King or Prince.



without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State.

### **Section 10:**

#### **Limit the Power of the States**

**No State shall enter into any Treaty, Alliance, or Confederation;** grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal; coin Money; emit Bills of Credit; make any Thing but gold and silver Coin a Tender in Payment of Debts; pass any Bill of Attainder, ex post facto Law, or Law impairing the Obligation of Contracts, or grant any Title of Nobility.

#### ★ DID YOU KNOW? ★

The Constitution essentially bars individual states from engaging in things like making treaties with foreign nations, creating their own money, or putting taxes on imports or exports, because these are federal functions which make more sense for the national government to execute. Just think, if all 50 states had their own treaties or types of money, our country would be thrown into chaos!



**No State shall, without the Consent of the Congress, lay any Imposts or Duties on Imports or Exports**, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing it's inspection Laws: and the net Produce of all Duties and Imposts, laid by any State on Imports or Exports, shall be for the Use of the Treasury of the United States; and all such Laws shall be subject to the Revision and Control of the Congress.

No State shall, without the Consent of Congress, lay any Duty of Tonnage, keep Troops, or Ships of War in time of Peace, enter into any Agreement or Compact with another State, or with a foreign Power, or engage in War, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent Danger as will not admit of delay.





## Article 2

### Section 1

The **executive Power** shall be vested in a **President of the United States of America**. He shall hold his Office during the **Term of four Years**, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same Term, be elected, as follows

**Each State shall appoint**, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of **Electors**, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress: but no Senator or Representative, or Person holding an Office of Trust or Profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector.

*The Electors shall meet in their respective States, and vote by Ballot for two Persons, of whom one at least shall not be an Inhabitant of the same State with themselves. And they shall make a List of all the Persons voted for, and of the Number of Votes for each; which List they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the Seat of the Government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall, in the Presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the Certificates, and the Votes shall then be counted. The Person having the greatest Number of Votes shall be the President, if such Number be a Majority of the whole Number of Electors*

★ DID YOU KNOW? ★

In Article II of the Constitution, the electoral college system is laid out in detail, meaning that the president is chosen by the number of states he wins in proportion to their electoral representation, rather than a raw popular vote.



appointed; and if there be more than one who have such Majority, and have an equal Number of Votes, then the House of Representatives shall immediately choose by Ballot one of them for President; and if no Person have a Majority, then from the five highest on the List the said House shall in like Manner choose the President. But in choosing the President, the Votes shall be taken by States, the Representation from each State having one Vote; A quorum for this Purpose shall consist of a Member or Members from two thirds of the States, and a Majority of all the States shall be necessary to a Choice. In every Case, after the Choice of the President, the Person having the greatest Number of Votes of the Electors shall be the Vice President. But if there should remain two or more who have equal Votes, the Senate shall choose from them by Ballot the Vice President.

The Congress may determine the Time of choosing the Electors, and the Day on which they shall give their Votes;

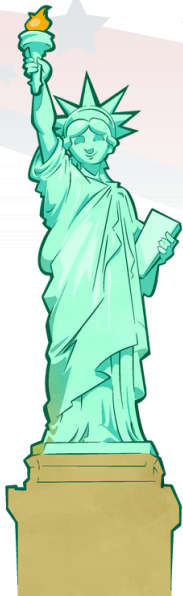
which Day shall be the same throughout the United States.

No Person except a **natural born Citizen**, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the **Age of thirty five Years**, and been **fourteen Years a Resident** within the United States.



In Case of the Removal of the President from Office, or of his Death, Resignation, or Inability to discharge the Powers and Duties of the said Office,





the **Same shall devolve on the Vice President**, and the Congress may by Law provide for the Case of Removal, Death, Resignation or Inability, both of the President and Vice President, declaring what Officer shall then act as President, and such Officer shall act accordingly, until the Disability be removed, or a President shall be elected.

The President shall, at stated Times, receive for his Services, a Compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the Period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that Period any other Emolument from the United States, or any of them.

Before he enter on the Execution of his Office, he shall take the following Oath or Affirmation:—"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."



## Section 2

The President shall be **Commander in Chief** of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the

### ★ DID YOU KNOW? ★

George Washington took the first Oath of Office and added, "So help me God" at the end of the Oath. This has set the precedent for every President since to say.



several States, when called into the actual Service of the United States; he may require the Opinion, in writing, of the principal Officer in each of the executive Departments, upon any Subject relating to the Duties of their respective Offices, and he shall have Power to grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offences against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment.

He shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to **make Treaties**, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall **nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate**, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States, whose Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by Law: but the Congress may by Law vest the Appointment of such inferior Officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments.

The President shall have Power to fill up all Vacancies that may happen during the Recess of the Senate, by granting Commissions which shall expire at the End of their next Session.

### Section 3

He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the **State of the Union**, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary Occasions, convene



DID YOU KNOW?



Originally, the State of the Union was delivered to Congress in writing. Now, it is a grand yearly event full of pomp and circumstance in which the president addresses both Houses of Congress, as well as the Supreme Court justices, members of the military, and other special guests.

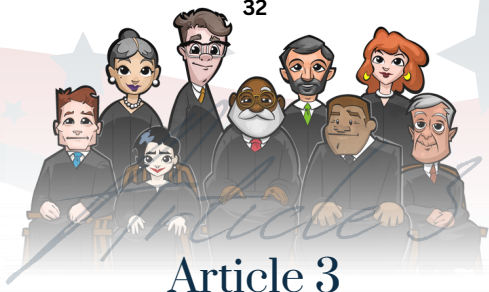


both Houses, or either of them, and in Case of Disagreement between them, with Respect to the Time of Adjournment, he may adjourn them to such Time as he shall think proper; he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the Officers of the United States.

#### **Section 4**

The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.





## Article 3

### Section 1

*The **judicial Power** of the United States, shall be vested in one **supreme Court**, and in such **inferior Courts** as the **Congress** may from time to time **ordain and establish**. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services, a*

### ★ DID YOU KNOW? ★

The Founding Fathers made it so that judges and justices could not have their pay diminished and received lifetime appointments. The idea was that these protections would allow them to focus on the law, and keep them from having to bend to the political pressures of the time!



Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.

## Section 2

The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority;—to all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls;—to all Cases of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction;—to Controversies to which the United States shall be a Party;—to Controversies between two or more States;— between a State and Citizens of another State,—between Citizens of different States,—between Citizens of the same State claiming Lands under Grants of different States, and between a State, or the Citizens thereof, and foreign States, Citizens or Subjects.

In all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be Party,

the supreme Court shall have original Jurisdiction. In all the other Cases before mentioned, the supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Congress shall make.

The Trial of all Crimes, except in Cases of Impeachment, shall be by Jury; and such Trial shall be held in the State where the said Crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any State, the Trial shall be at such Place or Places as the Congress may by Law have directed.

### Section 3

Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort.





No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court.

The Congress shall have Power to declare the Punishment of Treason, but no Attainder of Treason shall work Corruption of Blood, or Forfeiture except during the Life of the Person attainted.



## Article 4

### Section 1

**Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State** to the public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of every other State. And the Congress may by

general Laws prescribe the Manner in which such Acts, Records and Proceedings shall be proved, and the Effect thereof.

## Section 2

The Citizens of each State shall be entitled to all **Privileges and Immunities of Citizens** in the several States.

A Person charged in any State with Treason, Felony, or other Crime, who shall flee from Justice, and be found in another State, shall on Demand of the executive Authority of the State from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the State having Jurisdiction of the Crime.



DID YOU KNOW?



This clause of the Constitution restricts states from discriminating against citizens of other states, emphasizing that we are all American citizens as well as citizens of our states.



No Person held to Service or Labour in one State, under the Laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in Consequence of any Law or Regulation therein, be discharged from such Service or Labour, but shall be delivered up on Claim of the Party to whom such Service or Labour may be due.

### Section 3

**New States may be admitted by the Congress into this Union;** but no new State shall be formed or erected within the Jurisdiction of any other State; nor any State be formed by the Junction of two or more States, or Parts of States, without the Consent of the Legislatures of the States concerned as well as of the Congress.

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

## Section 4

The **United States** shall guarantee to every State in this Union a **Republican Form of Government**, and shall protect each of them against **Invasion**; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened) against domestic Violence.



## Article 5

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for

proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress; Provided that no Amendment which may be made prior to the Year One thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any Manner affect the first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth Section of the first Article; and that no State, without its Consent, shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in the Senate.

★ DID YOU KNOW? ★

Article V explains how to amend the Constitution. There are two ways: Congress can propose amendments for the states to approve or the legislatures of two-thirds of the states, or 34 states, can call a convention to propose an amendment to the Constitution. The Constitution has 27 amendments and they all have been approved, or ratified, using the first way.





## Article 6

*All Debts contracted and Engagements entered into, before the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this Constitution, as under the Confederation.*

*This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and*



**DID YOU KNOW?**



Article VI explains that the laws of the federal government are the “supreme law of the land.” This means that if there is a conflict with state law, the Constitution and federal laws take priority.



the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.

The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.



## Article 7

The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States, shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the Same. The Word, "the," being interlined

between the seventh and eighth Lines of the first Page, The Word "Thirty" being partly written on an Erasure in the fifteenth Line of the first Page, The Words "is tried" being interlined between the thirty second and thirty third Lines of the first Page and the Word "the" being interlined between the forty third and forty fourth Lines of the second Page.

Attest William Jackson Secretary  
done in Convention by the Unanimous  
Consent of the States present the  
Seventeenth Day of September in the  
Year of our Lord one thousand seven  
hundred and Eighty seven and of the  
Independence of the United States of  
America the Twelfth In witness whereof  
We have hereunto subscribed our  
Names: G. Washington, President and  
deputy from Virginia.

★ DID YOU KNOW? ★

39 Founding Fathers signed the Constitution, but that did not mean it was a done deal. Each state was given six months to meet and vote on the proposed Constitution. Rhode Island was the last state to ratify the Constitution on May 29, 1790.





# Bill of Rights

## Congress OF THE United States,

*began and held at the City of New York, on*  
*Wednesday, the fourth of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine.*

**T H A T** *Conventions of a number of the States having, at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added: And as extending the ground of public confidence in the Government, will best insure the beneficent ends of its institution.*

**R E S O L V E D**, by the SENATE and HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA in Congress assembled, *two thirds of both Houses concurring, That the following Articles be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, as Amendments to the Constitution of the United States; all, or any of which articles, when ratified by three fourths of the said Legislatures, to be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of the said Constitution, etc.*

**A R T I C L E S** in addition to, and Amendments of the Constitution of the United States of America, proposed by Congress, and ratified by the Legislatures of the several States, pursuant to the Ninth Article of the Original Constitution.

**Article the first** ..... *After the first enumeration required by the first Article of the Constitution, there shall be one Representative for every thirty thousand, until the number shall amount to one hundred, after which the proportion shall be so regulated by Congress, that there shall be not less than one hundred Representatives, nor less than one Representative for every forty thousand persons, until the number of Representatives shall amount to two hundred, after which the proportion shall be so regulated by Congress, that there shall not be less than two hundred Representatives, nor more than one Representative for every fifty thousand persons. [Not Ratified]*

**Article the second** ..... *No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened. [Not Ratified]*

**Article the third** ..... *Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.*

**Article the fourth** ..... *A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.*

**Article the fifth** ..... *No Soldier shall, in time of peace, be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.*

**Article the sixth** ..... *The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.*

**Article the seventh** ..... *No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case, to be a witness against himself; nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation.*

**Article the eighth** ..... *In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defence.*

**Article the ninth** ..... *In suits or common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact, tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.*

**Article the tenth** ..... *Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.*

**Article the eleventh** ..... *The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.*

**Article the twelfth** ..... *The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.*

ATTEST

*John Beckley, Clerk of the House of Representatives*  
*From A Bill*

*Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg, Speaker of the House of Representatives*  
*John Adams, Vice-President of the United States, and President of the Senate*

## ★ DID YOU KNOW? ★

The first ten amendments to the Constitution are called the Bill of Rights and they protect our God-given freedoms and individual rights. They were ratified by the states on December 15, 1791. The Constitution may never have passed if the Framers hadn't promised to add a Bill of Rights. The Anti-Federalists wanted the rights of citizens included.





## ***Amendment 1: Freedom of Religion, Speech, and Press***

*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of **religion**, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the **freedom of speech**, or of **the press**; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.*

### ★ DID YOU KNOW? ★

The First Amendment secures the right of the people to establish and practice their religion freely and to speak their ideas and opinions. It also protects the rights of the people to hold meetings and petition the government. It ensures the press the right to publish news and ideas.



## **Amendment 2:** **The Right to Bear Arms**

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, **the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.**



## **Amendment 3:** **No Forced Housing of Soldiers**

**No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house,** without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.



★ **DID YOU KNOW?** ★

The Framers wanted to protect the people's individual right to own and carry weapons. They wanted to make sure people were able to protect themselves and their country against any threat, including tyranny.





## **Amendment 4: Right Against Unreasonable Search and Seizures**

*The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.*

## **Amendment 5: Right to Due Process of Law, No Double Jeopardy or Self-Incrimination**

*No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in*



cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the **same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or**

**limb**; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.



### DID YOU KNOW?



The Fifth Amendment ensures that the government cannot take away a person's life, liberty, or property without a fair process, or "due process." A person in a criminal trial cannot be forced to testify against him or herself during trial which is where the phrase, "**plead the fifth**" came from. A person also cannot be charged with the same crime twice - this is called double jeopardy.



## **Amendment 6: Right to a Fair Trial for Criminal Cases**

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a **speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury** of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the **Assistance of Counsel for his defence.**

## **Amendment 7: Right to a Trial by Jury in Non-criminal Cases**

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be



**DID YOU KNOW?**



A person accused of a crime has a right to a speedy trial with a fair jury. The accused also has a right to be defended by a lawyer.



preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

### **Amendment 8: Right Against Cruel and Unusual Punishment**

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, **nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.**

### **Amendment 9: Rights Kept by the People**



The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, **shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.**

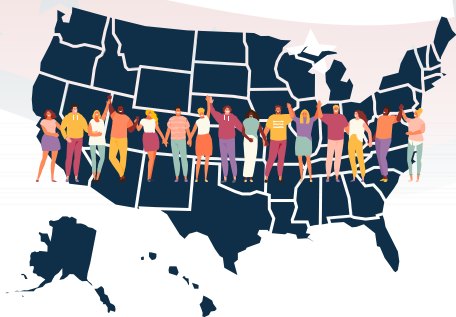


**DID YOU KNOW?**



The 9th Amendment says that people have other rights even if they are not listed in the Constitution.





## ***Amendment 10: Powers Kept By the States and the People***

*The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.*

### ★ DID YOU KNOW? ★

The 10th Amendment states the federal government only has the powers listed in the Constitution. If it's not listed, the power belongs to the state or the people.









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The Constitution of the United States of America and the Bill of Rights presented by Little Patriots, an educational program for kids created by the American Cornerstone Institute, a nonprofit organization founded by Dr. Ben Carson.

Little Patriots provides free online resources for families and teachers to educate children on civics lessons, history, and American values.

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