

Bill of Rights

Congress OF THE United States

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

THE Senators of the several States, having at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire in order to prevent invasion of their rights, that further declaration and restriction should be added: Whereas extending the ground of public confidence in the Government, will best secure the benefit and end of the institution

RESOLVED 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: vizth

ARTICLES in addition to, and Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America, proposed by Congress, and ratified by the Legislatures of the several States, pursuant to the fifth Article of the original Constitution:

Article the first. After the first Enumeration required by the first Article of the Constitution, there shall be one Representation 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 Representation for every forty thousand, 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 Representation for every fifty thousand persons.

Article the second. No Tax, varying the Compensation for Services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an Election of Representatives shall have intervened.

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 person shall be seized of his person, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Article the sixth. The right of the people to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, who shall have been previously examined 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 defense.

Article the seventh. In suits at 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 eighth. Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

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

Article the tenth. 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.

Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg Speaker of the House of Representatives

John Adams, Vice President of the United States, and President of the Senate

John Beckley, Clerk of the House of Representatives
James B. Hays, Secretary of the Senate