

# **Amendments to the U.S. Constitution**

# Amending Constitution

## Propose an Amendment

- **2/3 Both houses of Congress**
- **2/3 States in convention**

## Ratify the Amendment

- **3 /4 of States approve**
- **2 /4 States approve at National Convention**

# **The Bill of Rights**

## **First Ten Amendments**

**Originally the Bill of Rights only applied to the U.S. government and did not apply to the state governments. The Founding Fathers were afraid that the U.S. Government might become too powerful and take away the freedom of the people and the freedom of the states.**

**The States could make their own rules about the rights of the citizens. If the state you lived in wanted to limit your free speech, they could.**

# **First Amendment – (Four Freedoms)**

- 1. Freedom of Religion**
- 2. Freedom of Speech**
- 3. Freedom of the Press**
- 4. Freedom of Assembly**

# 1st Freedom of Religion

- **Establishment Clause**

*The U.S. Government cannot establish 1 church for the nation*

- **Free Exercise Clause**

*The U.S. Government cannot keep you from practicing your religion*

## 1<sup>st</sup> Freedom of Speech

- *You have the right to express your opinions*

## 1<sup>st</sup> Freedom of Press

- *Government cannot censure news media*

## 1<sup>st</sup> Freedom of Assembly

- *People can assemble in groups and petition the government*

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment**

**Right to Bear Arms and own a gun**

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Amendment**

**No Quartering of Soldiers except in time of war.**

# 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment

## Searches and Seizures

- **No unlawful searches, seizures of property or arrests**
- **Need search warrant that says what is to be searched or taken and who is to be arrested and why**



# 5<sup>th</sup> Amendment

## Life, liberty & property

- No federal trial for serious crime without the ok of a Federal Grand Jury
- No double jeopardy  
(Can't be tried twice for same crime)  
(Can be tried in Federal and State court)

## ***5<sup>th</sup> Amendment Continued***

- **Civil suits are ok for the same crime**
- **Can't be forced to testify against yourself  
(you do not have to talk to the police)**
- **Eminent Domain is okay**

# 6<sup>th</sup> Amendment

## Rights of Accused persons

- **Speedy trial**
- **Trial by peers (jury trial)**
- **Trial in district or state where crime was committed**
- **Must be present when witnesses speak against you in court**

# 6<sup>th</sup> Amendment *(continued)*

## Rights of Accused persons

- Can force witnesses to speak for you in court
- Right to a lawyer

# 7<sup>th</sup> Amendment

## Right to a Jury Trial

- In cases over \$20. either side can ask for jury trial
- Can have jury trial in civil cases as well as criminal
- Judges are limited in power to interfere with jury decisions.

# 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment

## Excessive Bail or Punishment

- No excessive bail
- No excessive punishment
- No cruel or unusual punishment such as whipping or torture

# 9<sup>th</sup> Amendment

## All Other Rights

- The enumeration of certain rights does not deny other rights that the people have

*just because a right is not listed in the Constitution does not mean you don't have that right*

# 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment

## Rights of States and People

- Power not specifically delegated to the U.S. is reserved to the people or states.

*The only power the U.S. has is the power specifically given to it in the Constitution*



# 11<sup>th</sup> Amendment

## Limits on the Federal Courts

- **Cannot sue a state in a federal court**
- **People from foreign countries cannot sue a state in a federal court.**

# 12<sup>th</sup> Amendment

## Choosing President and Vice P.

- Pres. and Vice Pres. will be elected as a team
- Sets certain election rules for Presidential Elections
- Electoral College rules
- Rules when Congress elects Pres. and Vice Pres.

# 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment

## Abolish Slavery

- **No slavery or involuntary servitude**

# 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment

## Citizenship and Equal Protection

- If you are born in the U.S. you are automatically a citizen
- The law must be applied equally to everyone

*14<sup>th</sup> Amendment made Bill of Rights and other Amendments apply to states as well as U.S.*

# 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment

## Black Suffrage

- African American men given the right to vote
- Can't bar someone from voting on basis of race

## **16<sup>th</sup> Amendment**

**Federal Income tax authorized**

## **17<sup>th</sup> Amendment**

**Senators elected by people  
instead of state legislatures**

## **18<sup>th</sup> Amendment**

**All forms of liquor abolished in the U.S.**

## **19<sup>th</sup> Amendment**

**Woman's suffrage – Women finally got right to vote**

# 20<sup>th</sup> Amendment

## Lame Duck Amendment

- **Congress and President take office in January following the November instead of March following the election**



# 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment

## Repeal Prohibition

- **Repeal 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment and made liquor legal again in the U.S.**
- **States could still make their own laws regarding liquor**

# 22<sup>nd</sup> Amendment

## Term Limits for President

- Can only run for president twice

*Reaction against President Franklin Roosevelt who ran 4 times breaking a tradition*

## **23<sup>rd</sup> Amendment**

- **Gave people of Washington D.C. the right to vote for President**

## **24<sup>th</sup> Amendment**

- **No poll tax**
- **Can't charge a tax for voting**

# 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment

## Presidential Disability and Succession

- Established who would take office if the President was disabled or died.
- Vice President – Speaker of House – Secretary of State – then other cabinet officials

## **26<sup>th</sup> Amendment**

**Extended voting rights to 18 year olds**

## **27<sup>th</sup> Amendment**

**Congressional Pay**

**If Congress gives itself a pay raise does not take effect until next Congressional Session.**