

Introduction to Amendments

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



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Amending Process

Propose an Amendment

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



Ratify the Amendment

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

The Bill of Rights

First Ten Amendments

Originally Bill of rights only applied to the United States as a whole.

Did not apply to individual states

Each state could make its own laws about free speech, or religion, etc

Four Freedoms

First Amendment – (Four Freedoms)

Freedom of Religion



Freedom of Speech

Freedom of the Press

Freedom of Assembly

1st Amend Religion

1st Freedom of Religion

- **Establishment Clause**
The U.S. Government cannot establish one church for the entire nation 🔔
- **Free Exercise Clause**
The U.S. Government cannot keep you from practicing your religion

1st Amend Speech

Freedom of Speech

- ***You have the right to express your opinions***
- ***This right is not absolute***
Cannot slander someone
Cannot endanger someones safety

1st Amend Press

Freedom of Press

- ***Government cannot censure news media***

Right is not absolute 📢

No child porn

No slander

1st Amend - Assembly

Freedom of Assembly

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

There are limitations

Cannot form a mob to endanger public safety or threaten people

2nd Amendment

Right to Bear Arms (own a gun)

There are city, state and U.S. laws that attempt to control guns.



Example: You may own a gun but not bring it into certain cities

Some automatic weapons are banned


3rd Amendment

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



4th 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

5th 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)

5th 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**

6th 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**

6th Amendment *Continued*

Rights of Accused persons

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

7th 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.**

8th Amendment

No Excessive Bail or Punishment

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

9th Amendment

All Other Rights to the people

- **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

10th Amendment

Rights of States and People


- **Power not specifically delegated (given) 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

11th Amendment

Limits on the Federal Courts

- **Cannot use the U.S. courts to sue states**
- **Cannot sue a  state in a federal court**
- **People from foreign countries cannot sue a state in a federal court.**

12th 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.**

Civil War Amendments

Civil War Amendments

- **13 End slavery**
- **14 Equal protection and citizenship**
- **15 Black Suffrage**

13th Amendment

Abolished slavery

- **No slavery or involuntary servitude**



14th 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**

14th Amendment made Bill of Rights and other Amendments apply to states as well as U.S.

15th Amendment

Black Suffrage

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

16th Amendment

Federal Income tax authorized

- **Before the 16th Amendment there were no U.S. taxes or an IRS.**



17th Amendment

Election of U.S. Senators

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



18th Amendment


Prohibition

All forms of liquor abolished in the U.S.



19th Amendment

Woman's Suffrage

- **Voting cannot be denied to a person on the basis of gender**
- **Women finally  got right to vote**


20th Amendment

Lame Duck Amendment

- **After Congress and the President are elected, they take office in January instead of March.**

21st Amendment

Repealed Prohibition

- **Repeal 18th Amendment and made liquor legal again in the U.S.** 
- **States could still make their own laws regulating liquor**

22nd Amendment

Term Limits for President

- **Can only run for president twice**

Reaction against  President Franklin Roosevelt who ran 4 times, breaking a tradition established by George Washington

23rd Amendment

Voting rights for people of Washington D.C.

- **Gave people of Washington D.C. the right to vote for President and Vice President**
- **Since Washington D.C. is not a state they do not have Senators or Representatives in Congress**

24th Amendment

No Poll Tax

- **The states cannot charge a tax for voting or registering to vote**



25th Amendment

Presidential Disability and Succession

- **Establishes who will take office if the President is disabled or dies.**
- **Vice President – Speaker of House – Secretary of State – then other cabinet officials**

26th Amendment


Voting Rights for 18 year olds

**Extended voting rights to 18
year olds**



27th Amendment

Congressional Pay

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

Thanks

***Thanks, from the
Founding Fathers and
Mr. Schneemann
(Pancho)***