

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**

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

1st Freedom of Speech

- *You have the right to express your opinions*

1st Freedom of Press

- *Government can censure news media*

1st Freedom of Assembly

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

2nd Amendment

Right to Bear Arms and own a gun

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

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

- 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 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 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.

13th Amendment

Abolish 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

17th Amendment

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

18th Amendment

All forms of liquor abolished in the U.S.

19th Amendment

Woman's suffrage – Women finally got right to vote

20th Amendment

Lame Duck Amendment

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

21st Amendment

Repeal Prohibition

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

23rd Amendment

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

24th Amendment

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

25th 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

26th Amendment

Extended voting rights to 18 year olds

27th Amendment

Congressional Pay

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