

United States Constitution and Amendments

The organization of the U.S. Constitution.

Article I -The Legislative branch

- ↳ It establishes the qualifications, powers (national government powers including the necessary & proper clause), rules, and operating procedures for Congress.
- ↳ The process of how a bill becomes a law is explained.
- ↳ It also included a list of powers prohibited Congress (Article 9) and the states (Article 10).
- ↳ Also included is a discussion of the impeachment process and the process for punishing or expelling a member of Congress.

Article II - The Executive branch

- ↳ It establishes the rules and operating procedures and the powers of the presidency. Also including the Electoral College and mention of grounds for impeachment.

Article III - The Judicial branch

- ↳ It discusses the powers and structure of the judicial branch.

Article IV

- ↳ Included here is the full faith and credit clause, the privileges and immunities clause, the process of admitting new states, and federal government guarantees to the states.

Article V

- ↳ This discusses the amendment process.

Article VI

- ↳ Included here is the supremacy clause and a prohibition of any religious test for office.

Article VII

- ↳ The ratification process for the U.S. Constitution is explained in this section.

Amendments to the U.S. Constitution

1st Amendment 1791

- ↳ Freedom of religion
- ↳ Freedom of speech
- ↳ Freedom of press
- ↳ Right to petition the government for a redress of grievances
- ↳ Two implied rights: freedom of association and the right to demonstrate.

2nd Amendment 1791

- ↳ Right to keep and bear arms.

3rd Amendment 1791

- ↳ Prohibits forced quartering (housing) of soldiers during peacetime

4th Amendment 1791

- ↳ Protection against "unreasonable search and seizure".
- ↳ Sets out requirements for search warrants based on probable cause.

5th Amendment 1791

- ↳ Sets out rules for indictment by grand jury and eminent domains
- ↳ Forbids punishment without due process
- ↳ Prohibits self-incrimination and double jeopardy

6th Amendment 1791

- ↳ Guarantees speedy trial for criminal offences
- ↳ Right to legal council for accused
- ↳ Right to question witnesses
- ↳ Right to know charges against him/her

7th Amendment 1791

- ↳ Assures trial by jury in civil cases.

8th Amendment 1791

- ↳ Forbids excessive bail or fines
- ↳ Forbids cruel and unusual punishment

9th Amendment 1791

- ↳ Declares that the listing of individual rights in the Constitution and Bill of Rights is not meant to be comprehensive.
- ↳ Other rights not specifically mentioned are retained by the people.

10th Amendment 1791

- ↳ Reserves for the states (or for the people) any powers the Constitution did not delegate to the United States, nor prohibit the states from exercising

11th Amendment 1795

- ↳ Clarifies judicial authority over foreign nationals
- ↳ Limits the ability of citizens to sue states in federal courts and under federal law.

12th Amendment 1804

- ↳ Changed the method of presidential elections to encompass the Electoral College

13th Amendment 1865

- ↳ Abolish slavery nationwide.

14th Amendment 1868

- ↳ Defines a set of guarantees for citizenship
- ↳ Prevents states from denying a person the due process and the equal protection of law.

15th Amendment 1870

- ↳ Prohibits consideration of ethnicity, color or previous status as a qualification for voting.

16th Amendment 1913

- ↳ Allows for a federal income tax

17th Amendment 1913

- ↳ Changed the method of selecting US Senators from being chosen by the state legislature to being elected by the voters.

18th Amendment 1919

- ↳ Prohibits manufacture, transportation and distribution of alcohol. **Repealed in 1933*

19th Amendment 1920

- ↳ Gave women the right to vote.

20th Amendment 1933

- ↳ Changes details of congressional and presidential terms and of presidential succession.

21st Amendment 1933

- ↳ Repeals the 18th Amendment (Prohibition)

22nd Amendment 1951

- ↳ Put a two-term limit on the president (or not more than 10 years).

23rd Amendment 1961

- ↳ Grants presidential electors to DC

24th Amendment 1964

- ↳ Banned the use of the poll tax in national elections.

25th Amendment 1967

- ↳ Provided provisions for filling a vacancy in the vice presidency and provisions if the president becomes "unable to discharge the powers and duties" of the office.

26th Amendment 1971

- ↳ Established the voting age nationwide to be 18 years of age.

27th Amendment 1992

- ↳ Any change (an increase or decrease) of congressional pay goes into effect only after the next election for that offices (House or Senate) representative.