

Chapter 12

The Constitution

Constitution Preamble

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquillity, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this CONSTITUTION for the United States of America.

Explanation

The preamble states the purpose for which the Constitution was written, which include establishing justice, providing for the defense, ensuring the general welfare, and securing the blessings of liberty – all very vague, noble, and far-reaching in scope.

Article I. The Legislative Branch

Section 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Congress is given the right and the power to make the laws for the nation. Congress consists of a Senate and a House of Representatives

Section 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

House of Representatives:
Members of the House of Representatives are to be elected every two years. The states can decide who may vote.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty-five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

Members of Congress must be 25 years old, citizens of the US for 7 years, and live in the state they represent.

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three-fifths of all other Persons.

Representatives and taxes shall be based upon population, which shall be determined by counting the number of free people in each state. Slaves shall count as three-fifths of a person in deciding the number of residents for this purpose.[Changed by Amendment XIV]

The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years alter the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall be by Law direct. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative: and until such enumeration shall be made, the State of New Hampshire shall be entitled to chuse three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies.

The House of Representatives shall chuse their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

Section 3. The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote.

Immediately after they shall be assembled in Consequence of the first Election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three Classes. The Seats of the Senators of the first Class shall be vacated at the Expiration of the second Year, of the second Class at the Expiration of the fourth Year, and of the third Class at the Expiration of the sixth Year, so that one-third may be chosen every second Year; and if Vacancies happen by Resignation, or otherwise, during the Recess of the Legislature of any State, the Executive thereof may make temporary Appointments until the next Meeting of the Legislature, which shall then fill such Vacancies.

No Person shall be a Senator who shall not

The first census will be taken within three year's of Congress' first meeting and every ten years thereafter. A census shall be taken every ten years to count the number of people in the state. Each state is entitled to no more than one representative for every 30,000 people [Today the number is approximately one per 500,000]. In the first Congress. New Hampshire shall have three representatives, Massachusetts eight, Rhode Island one, Connecticut five, New York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one. Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five. South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

State governors shall direct calling of elections to all vacancies in the House.

The House of Representatives shall choose its own speaker and other leaders. It shall vote on bills of impeachment.

The Senate

Each state shall have two senators who will serve for six years. Each senator will have one vote and will be elected by their own state legislatures. [Changed by Amendment XVII]

The senators will be divided into three classes. The first class will serve for six years, the second for four, the third for two. After that every senator will serve for six years.

have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been nine Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen.

The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless they be equally divided.

The Senate shall chuse their other Officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the absence of the Vice President, or when he shall exercise the office of the President of the United States.

The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that purpose they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Judgment in Cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from Office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of honor, Trust, or Profit under the United States: but the Party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment, and Punishment, according to Law.

Section 4. The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of Chusing Senators.

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every Year, and such Meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by Law appoint a different day.

Section 5. Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its

Senators must be at least 30 years old, citizens for 9 years, and residents of the states they represent.

The vice president of the United States shall be president of the Senate. He can only vote in the case of a tie.

The Senate can choose its other officers.

The Senate shall act like a court to try all cases of impeachment. Two-thirds of those senators present must vote guilty for a conviction.

Punishment for those found guilty in impeachment cases is removal from office. Those found guilty may not hold other offices in the United States, but may be tried and punished according to the law.

Elections and Meetings of Congress

The time, place, and manner of election for Senate and House shall be decided by each legislature, but may be changed by Congress, except for the place of choosing Senators.

Congress must meet at least once every year. Unless they decide otherwise, the first meeting of the year shall be the first Monday of December.

Elections, qualifications and rules for

own Members, and a Majority of each shall constitute a Quorum to do Business; but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the Attendance of absent Members, in such Manner, and under such Penalties, as each House may provide.

Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly Behavior, and, with the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member.

Each House shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such Parts as may in their Judgment require Secrecy; and the Yeas and Nays of the Members of either House on any question shall, at the Desire of one fifth of those Present, be entered on the Journal.

Neither House, during the Session of Congress, shall, without the Consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other Place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.

Section 6. The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States. They shall in all Cases, except Treason, Felony, and Breach of the Peace, be privileged from Arrest during their Attendance at the Session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any Speech or Debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other Place.

No Senator or Representative shall, during the Time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil Office under the Authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the Emoluments whereof shall have been increased, during such time; and no Person holding any Office under the United States shall be a Member of either House during his Continuance in Office.

Congress

Each house of Congress is judge of its own elections and qualifications; a quorum is 50 percent of the members.

Each house can make its rules for proceeding, requiring attendance, punish or expel unruly members and cannot adjourn for more than three days without consent of the other house.

Each House shall keep a journal of its procedures that it may publish from time to time, except those parts judged to call for secrecy

Neither house shall adjourn or relocate its meetings for more than three days unless the other house agrees.

Privileges and Restraints of Congress

Senators and representatives shall be paid for their services. Except for extreme cases, they shall be free from arrest while serving in Congress. Neither must they be forced to answer in court for what they say in official debate on the floor of Congress.

Neither senators nor representatives may take offices that were created while they served in Congress or for which they increased the salary.

Section 7 All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills.

Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a law, be presented to the President of the United States; If he approve, he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his Objections, to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the Objections at large on their Journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such Reconsideration two-thirds of that House shall agree to pass the Bill, it shall be sent, together with the Objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two-thirds of that House, it shall become a Law. But it all such Cases the votes of both Houses shall be determined by Yeas and Nays, and the Names of the Persons voting for and against the Bill shall be entered on the Journal of each House respectively.

If any Bill shall not be returned by the President within ten Days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the Same shall be a Law, in like Manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their Adjournment prevent its return, in which Case it shall not be a Law.

Every order, Resolution, or Vote to which the Concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary (except on a question of Adjournment) shall be presented to the President of the United States; and before the Same shall take Effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by two thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the Rules and Limitations prescribed in the Case of a Bill.

How Laws Are Made

Bills to raise money must start in the House of Representatives. However, the Senate may make amendments

Before any bill can become a law, it must be passed by both the House and the Senate and signed by the president. If both houses pass a bill over the objections of the president with a two-thirds vote of their members present, the bill becomes a law.

If a president fails to object to a bill within ten days after he has received it, it becomes a law without his signature, unless Congress has adjourned in the meantime.

A joint resolution, like a declaration of war, becomes a law and may be vetoed by the president in the same manner as a bill.

Section 8. The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow money on the credit of the United States;

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;

To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

To establish Post Offices and post Roads;

To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

To constitute Tribunals inferior to the Supreme Court;

To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and offenses against the Law of Nations;

To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;

To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval forces;

To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the

Powers Given to Congress

Congress has the power :

1. To impose and collect taxes, excises (includes processing tax), and duties (includes tariffs).
2. To borrow money.
3. To regulate trade with foreign countries, among the states, and with Indian tribes.
4. To establish rules for naturalization and for bankruptcy.
5. To coin money and fix a standard of weights and measures.
6. To provide for punishing counterfeiting.
7. To establish post offices and post roads.
8. To protect the Inventions and writings of inventors and authors through copyright laws.
9. To establish courts under the Supreme Court.
10. To punish piracy and other offenses on the high seas against international law.
11. To declare war and make rules for capturing enemy ships.
12. To raise and support armies, but not grant money to military for more than two years at a time.
13. To provide and support a navy.
14. To make rules for the armed forces on land and sea.
15. To provide for calling the state militia (now National Guard) to enforce the nation's laws, put down rebellions, and repel invasions.
16. To organize, arm, control, and govern the state militia, but the states shall appoint officers and train the military.

Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings;— And

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or officer thereof.

Section 9. The Migration or Importation of such Persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the Year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a tax or duty may be Imposed on such Importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each Person.

The privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it.

No Bill of Attainder or ex post facto Law shall be passed.

No capitation, or other direct, Tax shall be laid unless in Proportion to the Census or Enumeration herein before directed to be taken.

No Tax or Duty shall be laid on Articles exported from any State.

17. To make laws for an area or territory established for the purpose of becoming the nation's capital.

18. To make all laws needed to carry out the above and all other powers in the Constitution.

Powers Denied Congress

Congress may not prevent the further importation of slaves until 1808, but may place a tax on such importation of not more than \$10.00 per person.

Neither Congress nor the president may keep people In jail without their knowing the reason for their confinement, except in cases of rebellion or invasion.

Congress may not punish anyone without a trial by jury or pass a law punishing a person for an act that was legal before the law was passed.

No tax shall be placed, except in proportion to population. [Changed by Amendment XVI]

There will be no tax on exports.

No preference shall be given by any Regulation of Commerce or Revenue to the Ports of one State over those of another: nor shall Vessels bound to, or from, one State, be obliged to enter, clear, or pay Duties In another.

No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States: And no Person holding any office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State.

Section 10. No State shall enter into any Treaty, Alliance, or Confederation; grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal; coin Money; emit Bills of Credit; make any Thing but gold and silver Coin a Tender in Payment of Debts; pass any Bill of Attainder, ex post facto Law, or Law Impairing the Obligation of Contracts, or grant any Title of Nobility.

No State shall, without the Consent of the Congress, lay any Imposts or Duties on Imports or Exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing its inspection Laws: and the net Produce of all Duties and Imposts, laid by any State on Imports or Exports, shall be for the use of the Treasury of the United States; and all such Laws shall be subject to the Revision and Control of the Congress.

No State shall, without the Consent of Congress, lay any duty of Tonnage, keep Troops, or Ships of War in time of Peace, enter into any Agreement or Compact with another State, or with a foreign Power, or engage in War, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent Danger as will not admit of delay.

No preference shall be given to the ports of any state, nor shall ships be required to pay duties for entering other states.

Only money appropriated by Congress may be drawn from the Treasury.

Congress may not grant titles to anyone; nor may any officer of the government receive special grants from any foreign person or government official without the consent of Congress

Powers Denied State Governments

States may not make treaties with foreign countries, coin or print money without gold or silver to back it up, or in other ways scale down debts. Nor may they pass a bill of attainder, ex post facto law, or grant a title of Immunity.

Without Congress' consent (except under carefully restricted conditions) states may not tax imports or exports.

Without Congress' consent. no state may raise an army or navy, enter into contracts with other states or with foreign countries, or engage in war, unless invaded or about to be invaded.

Article II. The Executive Branch

Section 1. The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his office during the Term of four years, and, together with the Vice-President, chosen for the same Term, be elected, as follows:

Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress: but no Senator or Representative, or Person holding an office of Trust or Profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector.

The Electors shall meet in their respective States, and vote by Ballot for two persons, of whom one at least shall not be an Inhabitant of the same State with themselves. And they shall make a List of all the Persons voted for, and of the Number of Votes for each; which List they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the Seat of the Government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall, in the Presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the Certificates, and the Votes shall then be counted. The Person having the greatest Number of Votes shall be the President, if such Number be a Majority of the whole Number of Electors appointed; and if there be more than one who have such Majority, and have an equal Number of Votes, then the House of Representatives shall immediately chuse by Ballot one of them for President; and if no Person have a Majority, then from the five highest on the List the said House shall in like Manner chuse the President. But in chusing the President, the Votes shall be taken by States, the Representation from each State having one Vote; a quorum for this Purpose shall consist of a Member or Members from two-thirds of the States, and a Majority of all the States shall be necessary to a Choice. In every Case, after the Choice of the President, the Person having the greatest Number of

President and Vice-President

The power to enforce laws belongs to the president of the United States. He shall be chosen for a four year term, along with a vice-president, as follows:

Each state shall appoint a number of electors equal to the number of representatives and senators to which it is entitled.

The electors shall meet in their states and vote for two people for president. A record of the votes shall be sent to the Senate. The votes shall be counted in the presence of the senators and representatives. The person with the greatest number of votes shall be the president; the person with the second greatest number shall be vice-president. If no one person has a majority of votes, members of the House of Representatives shall elect the president, but each state shall have one vote. The candidate with the majority of states will become president; the candidate with the second largest number of states will become vice-president. [Changed by Amendment XII.]

Votes of the Electors shall be the Vice President. But if there should remain two or more who have equal votes, the Senate shall chuse from them by Ballot the Vice President.

The Congress may determine the Time of chusing the Electors, and the Day on which they shall give their Votes; which Day shall be the same throughout the United States.

No person except a natural-born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the same time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty-five years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.

In Case of the Removal of the President from Office, or of his Death, Resignation, or Inability to discharge the Powers and Duties of the said Office, the Same shall devolve on the Vice President, and Congress may by Law provide for the Case of Removal, Death, Resignation, or Inability, both of the President and Vice President, declaring what Officer shall then act as President and such Officer shall act accordingly, until the Disability be removed, or a President shall be elected.

The President shall, at stated Times, receive for his Services a Compensation which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the Period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that Period any other Emolument from the United States, or any of them.

Before he enter on the Execution of his Office, he shall take the following Oath or Affirmation: - "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will, to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States."

Section 2. The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States,

Congress may decide the day on which electors shall be chosen and the day on which they vote

To become president, a person must be 35 years of age, have been born in the US, and lived here for 14 years.

If the president dies, resigns, or cannot carry out his duties, the powers and duties of the office go to the vice-president. Congress can pass a law saying who receives these powers if both the president and vice-president die, resign, or are unable to perform their duties. [Modified by Amendment XXV]

The president shall receive a salary which shall neither be increased or decreased during his term of office

The president must swear to do his best to carry out the law and to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution.

The President's Powers

The president is commander-in-chief of the army and navy and of the militia, while it is in

when called into the actual Service of the United States; he may require the opinion, in writing, of the principal Officer in each of the executive Departments, upon any subject relating to the Duties of their respective Offices, and he shall have Power to Grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offenses against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment.

He shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States, whose Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by Law: but the Congress may by Law vest the Appointment of such inferior Officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments.

The President shall have Power to fill up all Vacancies that may happen during the Recess of the Senate, by granting Commissions which shall expire at the End of their next Session.

Section 3. He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in Case of Disagreement between them, with respect to the Time of Adjournment, he may adjourn them to such Time as he shall think proper; he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; he shall take care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the Officers of the United States.

Section 4. The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high

national service. He may require his chief officials (cabinet) to give him their opinions on carrying out their duties and may grant pardons, except in cases of Impeachment.

The president may make treaties, but two-thirds of the Senate present must agree. He may appoint ambassadors, Supreme Court Justices, and other officers of the government, with the advice and consent of the Senate. Congress, however, may give the power to appoint other officials to the president alone, the courts, or department heads.

The president may fill all vacancies that may occur during the time the Senate is not in session, but these terms expire at the end of the next session.

The President's Duties

The president shall occasionally inform Congress on the state of the nation and recommend laws he thinks are necessary. He may call special sessions of Congress. He shall receive ambassadors from foreign countries. He shall take care to see that the laws are faithfully and correctly carried out.

Impeachment of the President

The president and all officers under the US government may be removed from office if accused and found guilty of treason, bribery, or other high and minor crimes.

Crimes and Misdemeanors.

Article III. The Judicial Branch

Section 1. The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behavior, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services, a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.

Section 2. The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority; – to all Cases affecting ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls; – to all cases of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction; – to Controversies to which the United States shall be a Party; – to Controversies between two or more States; – between a State and Citizens of another State; – between Citizens of different States – between Citizens of the same State claiming Lands under Grants of different States, and between a State, or the Citizens thereof, and foreign States, Citizens, or Subjects.

In all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be Party, the supreme Court shall have original Jurisdiction. In all the other Cases before mentioned, the supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Congress shall make.

The trial of all Crimes, except in cases of Impeachment, shall be by Jury; and such Trial shall be held in the State where the said Crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any State, the Trial shall be at such Place or Places as the Congress may by Law have directed.

The Federal Courts

The power to try crimes under the Constitution is given to the Supreme Court and to such lower courts as Congress may establish.

Acts Covered by the Courts

The Supreme Court and others established by Congress may hear all cases arising under the Constitution, the laws of the United States, or treaties made by it. It may hear all the cases affecting ambassadors, etc., to cases involving the seas, and controversies involving states, their citizens, or foreign citizens.

The Supreme Court has original jurisdiction over cases which involve ambassadors, etc. or a state. Other cases may go to the Supreme Court by appeal from a lower court, if Congress provides for lower courts (which it has).

All other persons accused of a crime under federal law may have a trial by Jury, but may, if they wish, give up this right.

Section 3. Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court.

The Congress shall have power to declare the Punishment of Treason, but no Attainder of Treason shall work Corruption of Blood, or Forfeiture except during the Life of the Person attained.

Article IV. Relations Among the States

Section 1. Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of every other State. And the Congress may by general Laws prescribe the Manner in which such Acts, Records and Proceedings shall be proved, and the Effect thereof.

Section 2. The Citizens of each State shall be entitled to all Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the several States.

A Person charged in any State with Treason, Felony, or other Crime, who shall flee from Justice, and be found in another State, shall on demand of the executive Authority of the State from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the State having Jurisdiction of the crime.

No Person held to Service or Labour in one State, under the Laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in Consequence of any Law or Regulation therein, be discharged from such Service or Labour, but shall be delivered up on Claim of the Party to whom such Service or Labour may be due

Section 3. New States may be admitted by the Congress into this Union; but no new State shall be formed or erected within the Jurisdiction of any other State; nor any State be

Treason

Treason is defined as waging war against the United States, or giving aid and comfort to its enemies. A person can be convicted of treason only if two witnesses testify to the same action, or if the accused confesses in open court.

Congress can declare the punishment for treason, but the punishment cannot apply to the heirs of the guilty person.

Official Acts

Official acts in one state, such as wills, corporation charters, and court decisions, must be respected in all other states.

State's Duties to Each other

A citizen of one state may not be discriminated against by another state.

A person who has fled from one state to escape justice must be returned to that state.

Escaped slaves must be returned to the states from which they escaped. [Changed by Amendment XIII]

New States and Territories

Congress may admit new states to the Union.

formed by the Junction of two or more States, or parts of States, without the Consent of the Legislatures of the States concerned as well as of the Congress.

New states may be carved out of old states, only if the state legislature and Congress agree.

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

Congress may make rules and regulations for territories and for other property of the United States.

Section 4. The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened) against domestic violence.

Guarantees against Invasion, Dictator-ship, and Violence

The U.S. shall guarantee all states a representative form of government, protection against invasion, and (if requested by its legislature or, if the latter is not in session, by the state's governor) revolution.

Article V. Amending the Constitution

The Congress, whenever two-thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two-thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three-fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three-fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress; Provided that no Amendment which may be made prior to the Year One thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any Manner affect the first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth Section of the first Article; and that no State, without its Consent, shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in the Senate.

The Constitution can be amended whenever two-thirds of both houses of Congress propose an amendment and three-fourths of the state legislatures ratify it. The Constitution also may be amended by a convention called by the legislatures of two-thirds of the states and then ratified by three-fourths of the state legislatures

This Constitution will go into effect as soon as it is ratified by conventions in nine states, but no amendment can be made which will end the slave trade before 1808, or deprive any state of equal votes in the senate.

Article VI. Federal Credit and Federal Supremacy

All Debts contracted and Engagements entered into, before the Adoption of this Constitution,

Public Debts

All debts good against the government under

shall be as valid against the United States under this Constitution, as under the Confederation.

the Articles of Confederation must be paid under this Constitution.

This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.

Supremacy of the Constitution

The Constitution and both the laws and treaties made under it are the supreme law of the land, notwithstanding any state laws to the contrary.

The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by oath or Affirmation to support this Constitution; but no religious Test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public Trust under the United States.

Oaths of office

All officers of the government must be committed by an oath to uphold the Constitution. They may not be required to take a religious test or meet a religious qualification

Article VII. Ratification

The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the same.

The Constitution will go into effects soon as it is ratified by conventions in nine states.

Amendments to the Constitution

Amendment I. Freedom of Expression (1791)

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

Congress may not make a law either establishing a religion or preventing people from practicing theirs. Nor shall Congress prevent freedom of speech, press, peaceably assemble, or the right to express complaints against the government.

Amendment II. The Right to Keep Weapons (1791)

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. Because of the necessity of a well-regulated militia, the people's right to bear arms is protected

Amendment III. Stationing Soldiers (1791)

No Soldier shall, in time of peace, be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law. The government may not force people to house or feed soldiers in private homes during times of peace or in time of war, unless Congress provides for it by law.

Amendment IV. Search warrants (1791)

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized. A search warrant must be issued by a judge. There must be a good reason for its use, and the search must be limited to the place and things described in the warrant.

Amendment V. Rights of the Accused (1791)

No person shall be held to answer for a capital or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation. No person shall be held In a crime unless indicted by a grand jury (except under military jurisdiction in times of war or public danger). No person can be tried twice for the same offense; nor shall anyone in a criminal case be forced to testify against himself; nor be denied due process of law; nor may private property be taken for public use without fair compensation.

Amendment VI Rights of the Accused (1791)

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, People accused of crimes are entitled to a quick, public trial before an impartial jury in the area where the crime was committed. The accused shall be informed of the charges

which district shall have been previously ascertained 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 defence.

against them. They shall have the right to confront and cross-examine those who testify against them. They shall have the country's assistance in finding favorable witnesses. If they cannot afford to hire a lawyer, the country must provide one

Amendment VII. Jury Trial in Civil Cases (1791)

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 reexamined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

The right to a Jury trial is guaranteed in cases where the amount in question is greater than \$20.00.

Amendment VIII. Bail and Punishment (1791)

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

A person accused of a crime Is allowed to leave jail before trial after posting a reasonable bail. No such cruel and unusual punishments such as torture and beheading are allowed.

Amendment IX. Powers Reserved for the People (1791)

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

The people maintain rights even if they are not specifically listed in this Constitution

Amendment X. Powers Reserved for the States (1791)

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.

Powers not granted to the national government (see Article I, Section 8) or denied the states (see Article I, Section 10) remain with the states or the people.

Amendment XI. Suits Against States (1798)

The Judicial power of the United States shall not be construed to extend to any suit in law or equity, commenced or prosecuted against one of the United States by Citizens of another

A citizen who wishes to bring a suit against a state must bring this suit in the courts of the state being sued.

State, or by Citizens or Subjects of any Foreign State.

Amendment XII. Elections of President and Vice-President (1804)

The Electors shall meet in their respective States and vote by ballot for President and Vice-President, one of whom, at least, shall not be an inhabitant of the same State with themselves; they shall name in their ballots the person voted for as President, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as Vice-President, and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as President, and of all persons voted for as Vice-President, and of the number of votes for each, which lists they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate;—The President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates and the votes shall then be counted;—The person having the greatest number of votes for President, shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed; and if no person have such majority, then from the persons having the highest numbers not exceeding three on the list of those voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall choose immediately, by ballot, the President. But in choosing the President, the votes shall be taken by states, the representation from each state having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the states, and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice. And if the House of Representatives shall not choose a President whenever the right of choice shall devolve upon them, before the fourth day of March next following, then the Vice-President shall act as President, as in the case of the death or other constitutional disability of the President.—The person having the greatest number of votes as Vice-President, shall be the Vice-President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed, and if no person have a majority, then from the two

Each elector will cast one vote for president and one for vice-president, instead of two votes without distinguishing between their choices for president and vice-president.

The electors will meet in their states and vote for a president and a vice-president and record the votes for each. This list will be sent sealed to the president of the Senate at the place where the government meets. The Senate president will open the sealed ballots in the presence of the House and Senate, and the votes will be counted. (This amendment does not say who actually counts the ballots.) The person with the greatest number of votes will be president, if he has a majority; if no one has a majority, the election will immediately be thrown into the House of Representatives, which will choose among the top three candidates. Each state in the House casts only one vote. A quorum of two-thirds of the states is necessary to proceed, and the candidate must have a majority of all the votes cast. If there is no majority, and it is time for the president to take office, the vice-president will serve as president in his place.

The election of a vice-president in the case of no single candidate having a majority will essentially follow the same procedure, except the final vote will be thrown into the Senate rather than the House of Representatives.

highest numbers on the list, the Senate shall choose the Vice-President; a quorum for the purpose shall consist of two thirds of the whole number of Senators, and a majority of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice. But no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of President shall be eligible to that of Vice-President of the United States

Amendment XIII. Abolition of Slavery (1865)

Section 1. Neither slavery nor Involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their Jurisdiction. Slavery may no longer exist in the United States.

Section 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation Congress has the power to make laws to enforce this provision.

Amendment XIV. Rights of Citizens (initially former slaves)

Protected from the States (1868)

Section 1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the Jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of Life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its Jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws. All people (including former slaves) who were born in the U.S are citizens of the US and the states where they live. No state may make any law reducing the rights of American citizens, such as the right to vote in national elections and to travel. No state can deny anyone the procedural rights of Americans, such as the right of a fair trial; nor can the state make laws applying to separate groups on an unfair basis [Much of the meaning of this very important amendment has been expanded by 130 years of interpretation since it was passed in 1868.]

Section 2. Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice-President of the United States, Representatives in Congress, the Executive and Judicial officers of a State, or the members of the Legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such State, being If a state denies a portion of its voting age males the right to vote, its representation in Congress can be reduced by the percent of those who were denied the vote.

twenty-one years of age, and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion, or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such State.

Section 3. No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice-President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.

Section 4. The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any debts or obligation incurred in aid of Insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations, and claims shall be held illegal and void.

Section 5. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

All officials who violated their oath to support the Constitution by fighting with the South against the United States during the Civil War are disqualified from holding federal or state office. By a two-thirds vote of each house, Congress can remove this provision.

The debt of the government during the Civil War will be paid, but the Confederate debt will not be paid; nor shall any slave owner be paid for loss of their slaves.

Congress has the power to make laws to enforce these provisions.

Amendment XV. The Right to Vote (1870)

Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridge by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude—

No citizens may be denied the right to vote because they were once slaves.

Section 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation. Congress has the right to make laws to enforce these provisions.

Amendment XVI. Federal Income Tax (1913)

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.

Amendment XVII. Direct Election of Senators

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, elected by the people thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote. The electors in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State legislatures.

When vacancies happen in the representation of any State in the Senate, the executive authority of such State shall Issue writs of election to fill such vacancies: *Provided*, That the legislature of any State may empower the executive thereof to make temporary appointments until the people fill the vacancies by election as the legislature may direct.

This amendment shall not be so construed as to affect the election or term of any Senator chosen before it becomes valid as part of the Constitution

Amendment XVIII. Prohibition (1920)

Section 1 After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory

subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited

Section 2. The Congress and the several States shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Section 3. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

Both Congress and states have the power to enforce this ban.

This amendment will not take effect unless ratified by three-fourths of the states within seven years.

Amendment XIX. Woman Suffrage (1920)

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Citizens may not be denied the right to vote because of their sex.

Congress can make laws to enforce this provision.

Amendment XX. Terms of Presidents and Congressmen (1933)

Section 1. The terms of the President and Vice-President shall end at noon on the 20th day of January, and the terms of Senators and Representatives at noon on the 3d day of January, of the years in which such terms would have ended if this article had not been ratified; and the terms of their successors shall then begin.

Section 2. The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall begin at noon on the 3d day of January, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

Section 3. If, at the time fixed for the beginning of the term of the President, the President elect shall have died, the Vice-President elect shall become President. If a President shall not have been chosen before the time fixed for the beginning of his term, or if the President elect shall have failed to qualify,

The president's term of office ends at noon on January 20th; Congressional terms end on January 3rd.

Congress shall meet at least once a year, beginning on January 3rd, unless they choose a different date.

This amendment provides for the order of succession to the office of president in case the president-elect dies before taking office. The vice-president-elect will become president; If the vice-president is not qualified, Congress can by law decide who shall act as president or

then the Vice-President elect shall act as President until a President shall have qualified; and the Congress may by law provide for the case wherein neither a President elect nor a Vice-President elect shall have qualified, declaring who shall then act as President, or the manner in which one who is to act shall be selected, and such person shall act accordingly until a President or Vice-President shall have qualified.

Section 4. The Congress may by law provide for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the House of Representatives may choose a President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them, and for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the Senate may choose a Vice-President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them.

Section 5. Sections 1 and 2 shall take effect on the 15th day of October following the ratification of this article

Section 6. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission.

how the person to act as president will be elected

The House of Representatives can decide the order of succession to the office of president in case of the death of the person who otherwise would have become president; the Senate can do the same in case of the death of a person who otherwise would have become the vice-president

Sections 1 and 2 will take effect on the October 15th following ratification.

For this amendment to take effect, it must be ratified within seven years.

Amendment XXI. Repeal of Prohibition (1933)

Section 1. The eighteenth article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States is hereby repealed.

Section 2. The transportation or importation into any State, Territory, or possession of the United States for delivery or use therein of intoxicating liquors, in violation of the laws thereof, is hereby prohibited.

Section 3. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by conventions in the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress

The amendment prohibiting the sale of alcoholic beverages is repealed.

It is still illegal to take liquor to or possess liquor in states where state laws ban its use.

In order for this amendment to take effect, it must be ratified within seven years.

Amendment XXII. Two Term Limit for Presidents (1951)

No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice, and no person who has held the office of President, or acted as President, for more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected President shall be elected to the office of the President more than once.

The president may be elected to serve only two terms in office. He may be elected for only one term if he has already served more than two years of another president's unfilled term.

But this Article shall not apply to any person holding the office of President when this Article was proposed by the Congress, and shall not prevent any person who may be holding the office of President, or acting as President, during the term within which this Article becomes operative from holding the office of President or acting as President during the remainder of such term.

A sitting president at the time this amendment was proposed or passed is not barred from serving another term in office.

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress.

In order for this amendment to take effect, it must be ratified within seven years

Amendment XXIII. Voting in Washington, D.C. (1961)

Section 1. The District constituting the seat of Government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as the Congress may direct:

Voters in the District of Columbia may vote for presidential electors and may have as many but no more electors than the least populous state.

A number of electors of President and Vice-President equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives in Congress to which the District would be entitled if it were a State, but in no event more than the least populous State; they shall be in addition to those appointed by the States, but they shall be considered, for the purposes of the election of President and Vice-President, to be electors appointed by the State; and they shall meet in the District and perform such duties as provided by the twelfth article of amendment.

Section 2. The Congress shall have power to

Congress can make laws to enforce this

enforce this article by appropriate legislation. provision

Amendment XXIV. Elimination of Poll Tax in National Elections (1964)

Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President, for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax. Failure to pay a poll or other tax cannot be used to prevent any citizen from voting in a national election.

Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation. Congress can make laws to enforce this provision.

Amendment XXV. Presidential Disability and Succession (1967)

Section 1. In case of the removal of the President from office or of his death or resignation, the Vice-President shall become President. The president (as previously provided under the Constitution) shall be succeeded in office in case of death, removal, or resignation, by the vice-president.

Section 2. Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Vice President, the President shall nominate a Vice President who shall take the office upon confirmation by a majority vote of both houses of Congress. In case the office of vice-president is vacant, the president may appoint a candidate, who must be confirmed by majority vote of both houses of Congress.

Section 3. Whenever the President transmits to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives has written declaration that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the Vice President as Acting President. If the president cannot carry out his duties, he may assign the vice-president to take his place.

Section 4. Whenever the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, When the majority of cabinet and leaders of Congress determine the president is unfit, the vice-president can take his place.

the Vice President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President.

Thereafter, when the President transmits to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that no inability exists, he shall resume the powers and duties of his office unless the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit within four days to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office.

Thereupon Congress shall decide the issue, assembling within forty-eight hours for that purpose if not in session. If the Congress, within twenty-one days after receipt of the latter written declaration, or, if Congress is not in session, within twenty-one days after Congress is required to assemble determines by two-thirds vote of both houses that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall continue to discharge the same as Acting President; otherwise, the President shall resume the powers and duties of his office.

In case the president and cabinet disagree whether the president can assume his duties, Congress by a two-thirds vote will decide if he is fit.

Congress will decide the issue whether the President is unable to carry out his duties, and the Vice President will continue to carry out his duties unless Congress decides the President can.

Amendment XXVI. Vote for Eighteen Year-Old Citizens (1971)

Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State on account of age.

The minimum age in all elections is 18.

Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation

Congress can make laws to enforce this provision