

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, 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.

ARTICLE I

Section 1: All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist 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.

No person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained the age of 25 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.

~~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.~~¹ The actual enumeration shall be made within three years after the first meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent term of ten years, in such manner as they shall by law direct. The number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every 30,000, 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 choose 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 choose 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,~~² for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote.

Immediately after they shall be assembled, in consequences 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

¹ Changed by Section 2 of the Fourteenth Amendment.

² Changed by the Seventeenth Amendment.

40 expiration of the sixth year, so that one third may be chosen every second year; ~~and~~
 41 ~~if vacancies happen by resignation, or otherwise, during the recess of the legislature~~
 42 ~~of any state, the executive thereof may make temporary appointments until the next~~
 43 ~~meeting of the legislature, which shall then fill such vacancies.~~³

44 No person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained the age of 30 years, and
 45 been nine years a citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be
 46 an inhabitant of that state for which he shall be chosen.

47 The Vice-President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall
 48 have no vote, unless they be equally divided.

49 The Senate shall choose their other officers, and also a President *Pro Tempore*, in
 50 the absence of the Vice-President, or when he shall exercise the office of President
 51 of the United States.

52 The Senate shall have the sole power to try all impeachments. When sitting for that
 53 purpose, they shall be on oath or affirmation. When the President of the United
 54 States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: and no person shall be convicted
 55 without the concurrence of two thirds of the members present.

56 Judgment in cases of impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from
 57 office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust, or profit,
 58 under the United States; but the party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and
 59 subject to indictment, trial, judgment, and punishment according to law.

60 Section 4: The times, places, and manner of holding elections for Senators and
 61 Representatives, shall be prescribed in each state by the legislature thereof; but the
 62 Congress may at any time by law make or alter such regulations, except as to the
 63 places of choosing Senators.

64 The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall be
 65 ~~on the first Monday in December,~~⁴ unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

66 Section 5: Each House shall be the judge of the elections, returns, and qualifications of its own
 67 members, and a majority of each shall constitute a quorum to do business; but a
 68 smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the
 69 attendance of absent members, in such manner, and under such penalties, as each
 70 House may provide.

71 Each House may determine the rules of its proceedings, punish its members for
 72 disorderly behavior, and, with the concurrence of two thirds, expel a member.

73 Each House shall keep a journal of its proceedings, and from time to time publish
 74 the same, excepting such parts as may, in their judgment, require secrecy; and the
 75 yeas and nays of the members of either House on any question, shall, at the desire
 76 of one fifth of those present, be entered on the journal.

³ Changed by the Seventeenth Amendment.

⁴ Changed by the Twentieth Amendment.

77 Neither House, during the session of Congress, shall, without the consent of the
78 other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other place than that in which
79 the two Houses shall be sitting.

80 Section 6: The Senators and Representatives shall receive a compensation for their services, to
81 be ascertained by law, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States. They
82 shall, in all cases, except treason, felony, and breach of the peace, be privileged
83 from arrest during their attendance at the session of their respective Houses, and in
84 going to, and returning from, the same; and for any speech or debate in either
85 House, they shall not be questioned in any other place.

86 No Senator or Representative shall, during the time for which he was elected, be
87 appointed to any civil office under the authority of the United States, which shall
88 have been created, or the emoluments whereof shall have been increased during
89 such time; and no person holding any office under the United States, shall be a
90 member of either House during his continuance in office.

91 Section 7: All bills for raising revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the
92 Senate may propose or concur with amendments as on other bills.

93 Every bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate,
94 shall, before it becomes a law, be presented to the President of the United States; if
95 he approves he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his objections, to that
96 House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the objections at large on
97 their journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such reconsideration two thirds
98 of that House shall agree to pass the bill, it shall be sent, together with the
99 objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if
100 approved by two thirds of that House, it shall become a law. But in all such cases
101 the votes of both Houses shall be determined by yeas and nays, and the names of
102 the persons voting for and against the bill shall be entered on the journal of each
103 House respectively. If any bill shall not be returned by the President within 10 days
104 (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the same shall be a
105 law in like manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their adjournment
106 prevent its return, in which case it shall not be a law.

107 Every order, resolution, or vote, to which the concurrence of the Senate and House
108 of Representatives may be necessary (except on a question of adjournment), shall
109 be presented to the President of the United States; and before the same shall take
110 effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by
111 two thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the rules and
112 limitations prescribed in the case of a bill.

113 Section 8: The Congress shall have power:

114 To lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises, to pay the debts, and provide
115 for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties,
116 imposts, and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

117 To borrow money on the credit of the United States;

118 To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with
119 the Indian tribes;

- 120 To establish a uniform rule of naturalization, and uniform laws on the subject of
121 bankruptcies throughout the United States;
- 122 To coin money, regulate the value thereof, and of foreign coin, and fix the standard
123 of weights and measures;
- 124 To provide for the punishment of counterfeiting the securities and current coin of
125 the United States;
- 126 To establish post offices and post roads;
- 127 To promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing, for limited times,
128 to authors and inventors, the exclusive right to their respective writings and
129 discoveries;
- 130 To constitute tribunals inferior to the Supreme Court;
- 131 To define and punish piracies and felonies committed on the high seas, and offenses
132 against the law of nations;
- 133 To declare war, grant letters of marque and reprisal, and make rules concerning
134 captures on land and water;
- 135 To raise and support armies; but no appropriation of money to that use shall be for
136 longer term than two years;
- 137 To provide and maintain a navy;
- 138 To make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces;
- 139 To provide for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the Union, suppress
140 insurrections and repel invasions;
- 141 To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia, and for governing
142 such part of them as may be employed in the service of the United States, reserving
143 to the states respectively, the appointment of the officers, and the authority of
144 training the militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;
- 145 To exercise exclusive legislation, in all cases whatsoever, over such district (not
146 exceeding 10 miles square) as may, by cession of particular states, and the
147 acceptance of Congress, become the seat of the government of the United States,
148 and to exercise like authority over all places purchased by the consent of the
149 legislature of the state in which the same shall be, for the erection of forts,
150 magazines, arsenals, dockyards, and other needful buildings. And
- 151 To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution
152 the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the
153 government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.
- 154 Section 9: The migration or importation of such persons as any of the states now existing shall
155 think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the year
156 1808; but a tax or duty may be imposed on such importation, not exceeding 10
157 dollars for each person.
- 158 The privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus* shall not be suspended, unless when in
159 cases of rebellion or invasion the public safety may require it.

160 No bill of attainder of ex post facto law shall be passed.

161 No capitation, or other direct tax, shall be laid, unless in proportion to the census or
162 enumeration herein before directed to be taken.

163 No tax or duty shall be laid on articles exported from any state. No preference shall
164 be given by an regulation of commerce or revenue to the ports of one state over
165 those of another; nor shall vessels bound to, or from, one state be obliged to enter,
166 clear, or pay duties in another.

167 No money shall be drawn from the treasury, but in consequence of appropriations
168 made by law; and a regular statement and account of the receipts and expenditures
169 of all public money shall be published from time to time.

170 No title of nobility shall be granted by the United States; and no person holding any
171 office of profit or trust under them, shall, without the consent of the Congress,
172 accept of any present, emolument, office, or title of any kind whatever, from any
173 king, prince, or foreign state.

174 Section 10: No state shall enter into any treaty, alliance, or confederation; grant letters of
175 marque and reprisal; coin money; emit bills of credit; make any thing but gold and
176 silver coin in tender in payment of debts; pass any bill of attainder, ex post facto
177 law, or law impairing the obligation of contracts, or grant any title of nobility.

178 No state shall, without the consent of the Congress, lay any imposts or duties on
179 imports or exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing its
180 inspection laws; and the net produce of all duties and imposts, laid by any state on
181 imports or exports, shall be for the use of the Treasury of the United States; and all
182 such laws shall be subject to the revision and control of the Congress. No state
183 shall, without the consent of Congress, lay any duty of tonnage, keep troops, or
184 ships of war, in time of peace, enter into any agreement or compact with another
185 state, or with a foreign power, or engage in war, unless actually invaded, or in such
186 imminent danger as will not admit of delay.

187 *ARTICLE 2*

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

191 Each state shall appoint, in such manner as the legislature thereof may direct, a
192 number of electors equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives to
193 which the state may be entitled in the Congress; but no Senator or Representative,
194 or person holding an office of trust or profit under the United States, shall be
195 appointed an elector.

196 ~~The electors shall meet in their respective states, and vote by ballot for two persons;~~
197 ~~of whom one at least shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves.~~
198 ~~And they shall make a list of all the persons voted for, and of the number of votes~~
199 ~~for each; which list they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the~~
200 ~~government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate. The~~
201 ~~President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of~~
202 ~~Representatives, open all the certificates, and the votes shall then be counted. The~~
203 ~~person having the greatest number of votes shall be the President, if such number be~~

204 ~~a majority of the whole number of electors appointed; and if there be more than one~~
 205 ~~who have such majority, and have an equal number of votes, then the House of~~
 206 ~~Representatives shall immediately choose by ballot one of them for President; and~~
 207 ~~if no person have a majority, then from the five highest on the list the said House~~
 208 ~~shall in like manner choose the President. But in choosing the President, the votes~~
 209 ~~shall be taken by states, the representation from each state having one vote; a~~
 210 ~~quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two thirds of~~
 211 ~~the states, and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice. In every~~
 212 ~~case, after the choice of the President, the person having the greatest number of~~
 213 ~~votes of the electors shall be the Vice President. But if there should remain two or~~
 214 ~~more who have equal votes, the Senate shall choose from them by ballot the Vice~~
 215 ~~President.~~⁵

216 The Congress may determine the time of choosing the electors, and the day on
 217 which they shall give their votes; which day shall be the same throughout the
 218 United States.

219 No person except a natural-born citizen, or a citizen of the United States, at the time
 220 of the adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the office of President;
 221 neither shall any person be eligible to that office who shall not have attained the age
 222 of 35 years, and been 14 years a resident within the United States.

223 ~~In case of the removal of the President from office, or of his death, resignation, or~~
 224 ~~inability to discharge the powers and duties of the said office, the same shall~~
 225 ~~devolve on the Vice President, and the Congress may by law provide for the case of~~
 226 ~~removal, death, resignation, or inability, both of the President and Vice President,~~
 227 ~~declaring what officer shall then act as President, and such officer shall act~~
 228 ~~accordingly until the disability be removed, or a President shall be elected.~~⁶

229 The President shall at stated times receive for his services a compensation, which
 230 shall neither be increased nor diminished during the period for which he shall have
 231 been elected, and he shall not receive within that period any other emolument from
 232 the United States or any of them.

233 Before he enter on the execution of his office, he shall take the following oath or
 234 affirmation:

235 "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President
 236 of the United States, and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and
 237 defend the Constitution of the United States."

238 Section 2: The President shall be Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy of the United
 239 States, and of the militia of the several states, when called into the actual service of
 240 the United States; he may require the opinion, in writing, of the principal officer in
 241 each of the executive departments, upon any subject relating to the duties of their
 242 respective offices, and he shall have power to grant reprieves and pardons for
 243 offenses against the United States, except in cases of impeachment.

⁵ Superseded by the Twelfth Amendment.

⁶ Modified by the Twenty-fifth Amendment.

244 He shall have power, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to make
 245 treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate,
 246 and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint ambassadors,
 247 other public ministers and consuls, judges of the Supreme Court, and all other
 248 officers of the United States, whose appointments are not herein otherwise provided
 249 for, and which shall be established by law. But the Congress may by law vest the
 250 appointment of such inferior officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in
 251 the courts of law, or in the heads of departments.

252 The President shall have power to fill up all vacancies that may happen during the
 253 recess of the Senate, by granting commissions which shall expire at the end of their
 254 next session.

255 Section 3: He shall, from time to time, give to the Congress information of the state of the
 256 Union, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge
 257 necessary and expedient. He may on extraordinary occasions, convene both
 258 Houses, or either of them; and in case of disagreement between them, with respect
 259 to the time of adjournment, he may adjourn them to such time as he shall think
 260 proper. he shall receive ambassadors and other public ministers. He shall take care
 261 that the laws be faithfully executed; and shall commission all the officers of the
 262 United States.

263 Section 4: The President, Vice-President, and all civil officers of the United States, shall be
 264 removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of, treason, bribery, or
 265 other high crimes and misdemeanors.

266 *ARTICLE 3*

267 Section 1: The judicial power of the United States shall be vested in one Supreme Court, and
 268 in such inferior courts as the Congress may, from time to time, ordain and establish.
 269 The judges, both of the Supreme and inferior courts, shall hold their offices during
 270 good behavior; and shall, at stated times, receive for their services, a compensation,
 271 which shall not be diminished during their continuance in office.

272 Section 2: The judicial power shall extend to all cases, in law and equity, arising under this
 273 Constitution, the laws of the United States, and treaties made, or which shall be
 274 made, under their authority; to all cases affecting ambassadors, other public
 275 ministers, and consuls; to all cases of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction; to
 276 controversies to which the United States shall be a party; to controversies between
 277 two or more states, between a state and citizens of another state, between citizens of
 278 different states, between citizens of the same state claiming lands under grants of
 279 different states, and between a state, or the citizens thereof, and foreign states,
 280 citizens, or subjects.

281 In all cases affecting ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, and those in
 282 which a state shall be party, the Supreme Court shall have original jurisdiction. In
 283 all other cases before mentioned, the Supreme Court shall have appellate
 284 jurisdiction, both as to law and fact, with such exceptions, and under such
 285 regulations, as the Congress shall make.

286 The trial of all crimes, except in cases of impeachment, shall be by jury; and such
 287 trial shall be held in the state where the said crimes shall have been committed; but

288 when not committed within any state, the trial shall be at such place or places as the
289 Congress may by law have directed.

290 Section 3: Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying war against them, or
291 in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort. No person shall be
292 convicted of treason unless on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act,
293 or on confession in open court.

294 The Congress shall have power to declare the punishment of treason, but no
295 attainder of treason shall work corruption of blood, or forfeiture, except during the
296 life of the person attainted.

297 *ARTICLE 4*

298 Section 1: Full faith and credit shall be given in each state to the public acts, records, and
299 judicial proceedings of every other state. And the Congress may by general laws
300 prescribe the manner in which such acts, records, and proceedings shall be proved,
301 and the effect thereof.

302 Section 2: The citizens of each state shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of
303 citizens in the several states.

304 A person charged in any state with treason, felony, or other crimes, who shall flee
305 from justice, and be found in another state, shall, on demand of the executive
306 authority of the state from which he fled, be delivered up to be removed to the state
307 having jurisdiction of the crime.

308 ~~No person held to service or labor in one state, under the laws thereof, escaping into~~
309 ~~another, shall, in consequence of any laws or regulation therein, be discharged from~~
310 ~~such service or labor, but shall be delivered up on claim of the party to whom such~~
311 ~~service or labor may be due.⁷~~

312 Section 3: New states may be admitted by the Congress into this Union; but no new state shall
313 be formed or erected within the jurisdiction of any other state; nor any state be
314 formed by the jurisdiction of two or more states or parts of states, without the
315 consent of the legislatures of the states concerned, as well as of the Congress.

316 The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and
317 regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States;
318 and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to prejudice any claims of
319 the United States, or of any particular state.

320 Section 4: The United States shall guarantee to every state in this Union a republican form of
321 government, and shall protect each of them against invasion; and on application of
322 the legislature, or of the executive (when the legislature cannot be convened),
323 against domestic violence.

324 *ARTICLE 5*

325 The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall
326 propose amendments to this Constitution, or, on the application of the legislatures
327 of two thirds of the several states, shall call a convention for proposing

⁷ Superseded by the Thirteenth Amendment.

328 amendments, which, in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part
 329 of this Constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three fourths of the several
 330 states, or by conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of
 331 ratification may be proposed by the Congress; provided that no amendment, which
 332 may be made prior to the year 1808, shall in any manner affect the first and fourth
 333 clauses in the ninth section of the first article; and that no state, without its consent,
 334 shall be deprived of its equal suffrage in the Senate.

335 *ARTICLE 6*

336 All debts contracted, and engagements entered into, before the adoption of this
 337 Constitution, shall be as valid against the United States, under this Constitution, as
 338 under the Confederation.

339 This Constitution, and the laws of the United States which shall be made in
 340 pursuance thereof, and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the
 341 authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land; and the judges,
 342 in every state, shall be bound thereby, anything in the constitution or laws of any
 343 state to the contrary notwithstanding.

344 The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the members of the
 345 several state legislatures, and all executive and judicial officers, both of the United
 346 States and of the several states, shall be bound, by oath or affirmation, to support
 347 this Constitution; but no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to
 348 any office or public trust under the United States.

349 *ARTICLE 7*

350 The ratification of the conventions of nine states shall be sufficient for the
 351 establishment of this Constitution between the states so ratifying the same.

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 354 Done in convention by the unanimous consent of the states present the seventeenth
 355 day of September in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-
 356 seven and of the Independence of the United States of America the twelfth. In
 357 witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names,

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 359 George Washington, President
 360 and deputy from Virginia

361
 362 Attested by William Jackson,
 363 Secretary

364 **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

365 John Langdon
366 Nicholas Gilman

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368 **MASSACHUSETTS**

369 Nathaniel Gorham
370 Rufus King

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372 **CONNECTICUT**

373 William Samual Johnson
374 Roger Sherman

375

376 **NEW YORK**

377 Alexander Hamilton

378

379 **NEW JERSEY**

380 William Livingston
381 David Brearley
382 William Paterson
383 Jonathan Dayton

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385 **PENNSYLVANIA**

386 Benjamin Franklin
387 Thomas Mifflin
388 Robert Morris
389 George Clymer
390 Thomas FitzSimons
391 Jared Ingersoll
392 James Wilson
393 Gouvenour Morris

394 **DELAWARE**

395 George Read
396 Gunning Bedford, Jr.
397 John Dickinson
398 Richard Bassett
399 Jacob Broom

400

401 **MARYLAND**

402 James McHenry
403 Dan of St. Thomas Jenifer
404 Daniel Carroll

405

406 **VIRGINIA**

407 John Blair
408 James Madison, Jr.

409

410 **NORTH CAROLINA**

411 William Blount
412 Richard Dobbs Spaight
413 Hu Williamson

414

415 **SOUTH CAROLINA**

416 J. Rutledge
417 Charles Cotesworth Pinckney
418 Charles Pinckney
419 Pierce Butler

420

421 **GEORGIA**

422 William Few
423 Abraham Baldwin

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AMENDMENT 1

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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.

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AMENDMENT 2

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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.

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AMENDMENT 3

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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.

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AMENDMENT 4

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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.

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AMENDMENT 5

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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 offenses 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.

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AMENDMENT 6

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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, 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 defense.

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AMENDMENT 7

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In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed 20 dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved; and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise re-examined in any court of the United States than according to the rules of the common law.

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AMENDMENT 8

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

465 *AMENDMENT 9*

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

468 *AMENDMENT 10*⁸
469 (15 December 1791)

470 The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited
471 by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively or to the people.

472 *AMENDMENT 11*
473 (7 February 1795)

474 The judicial power of the United States shall not be construed to extend to any suit
475 in law or equity, commenced or prosecuted against one of the United States by
476 citizens of any state, or by citizens or subjects of any foreign state.

477 *AMENDMENT 12*
478 (15 June 1804)

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

501 The person having the greatest number of votes as Vice-President shall be the Vice-
502 President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed;
503 and if no person have a majority, then from the two highest numbers on the list the

⁸ The first ten amendments are known as The Bill of Rights. They were passed and added to the Constitution all at the same time.

504 Senate shall choose the Vice-President. A quorum for the purpose shall consist of
505 two thirds of the whole number of Senators, and a majority of the whole number
506 shall be necessary to a choice.

507 But no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of President shall be eligible
508 to that of Vice-President of the United States.

509 *AMENDMENT 13*
510 (6 December 1865)

511 Section 1: Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for a crime
512 whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United
513 States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

514 Section 2: Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

515 *AMENDMENT 14*
516 (9 July 1868)

517 Section 1: All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction
518 thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No
519 state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities
520 of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life,
521 liberty, or property, without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its
522 jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

523 Section 2: Representatives shall be apportioned among the several states according to their
524 respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each state, excluding
525 Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of
526 electors for President and Vice-President of the United States, representatives in
527 Congress, the executive and judicial officers of a state, or the members of the
528 legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such state, being 21
529 years of age, and citizens of the United States, or in anyway abridged, except for
530 participation in rebellion or other crimes, the basis of representation therein shall be
531 reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the
532 whole number of male citizens 21 years of age in such state.

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

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

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

549 *AMENDMENT 15*
550 (3 February 1870)

551 Section 1: The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by
552 the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of
553 servitude.

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

555 *AMENDMENT 16*
556 (3 February 1913)

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

560 *AMENDMENT 17*
561 (8 April 1913)

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

566 When vacancies happen in the representation of any state in the Senate, the
567 executive authority of such state shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies:
568 Provided, That the legislature of any state may empower the executive thereof to
569 make temporary appointments until the people fill the vacancies by election as the
570 legislature may direct.

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

573 *AMENDMENT 18*
574 (Ratified 16 January 1919; Repealed by the Twenty-first Amendment, 5 December 1933)

575 ~~Section 1: After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture, sale, or~~
576 ~~transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the~~
577 ~~exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to the~~
578 ~~jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.~~

579 ~~Section 2: The Congress and the several states shall have concurrent power to enforce this~~
580 ~~article by appropriate legislation.~~

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

585 *AMENDMENT 19*
586 (18 August 1920)

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

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

590 *AMENDMENT 20*
 591 (23 January 1933)

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

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

599 Section 3: If, at the time fixed for the beginning of the term of the President, the President-
 600 elect shall have died, the Vice-President-elect shall become President. If a
 601 President shall not have been chosen before the time fixed for the beginning of his
 602 term, or if the President-elect shall have failed to qualify, then the Vice-President-
 603 elect shall act as President until a President shall have qualified; and the Congress
 604 may by law provide for the case wherein neither a President-elect nor a Vice-
 605 President-elect shall have qualified, declaring who shall then act as President, or the
 606 manner in which one who is to act shall be selected, and such person shall act
 607 accordingly until a President or Vice-President shall have qualified.

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

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

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

618 *AMENDMENT 21*
 619 (5 December 1933)

620 Section 1: The 18th article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States is hereby
 621 repealed.

622 Section 2: The transportation or importation into any state, territory, or possession of the
 623 United States for delivery or use therein of intoxicating liquors, in violation of the
 624 laws thereof, is hereby prohibited.

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

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AMENDMENT 22
(27 February 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. 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.

AMENDMENT 23
(29 March 1961)

Section 1: The district constituting the seat of government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as the Congress may direct: A number of electors of President and Vice-President equal to the whole number of Senators and Representative 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 the President and Vice-President, to be electors appointed by a state; and they shall meet in the district and perform such duties as provided by the 12th article of amendment.

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

AMENDMENT 24
(23 January 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.

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

AMENDMENT 25
(10 February 1967)

Section 1: In case of the removal of the President from office or his death or resignation, the Vice-President shall become 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 office upon confirmation by a 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 his 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.

671 Section 4: Whenever the Vice-President and a majority of either the principal officers of the
 672 executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide,
 673 transmit to the President *Pro Tempore* of the Senate and the Speaker of the House
 674 of representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge
 675 the powers and duties of his office, the Vice-President shall immediately assume
 676 the powers and duties of the office as Acting President.

677 Thereafter, when the President transmits to the President *Pro Tempore* of the Senate
 678 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that no
 679 inability exists, he shall resume the powers and duties of his office unless the Vice-
 680 President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive
 681 departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit within
 682 four days to the President *Pro Tempore* of the Senate and the Speaker of the House
 683 of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge
 684 the powers and duties of his office. Thereupon Congress shall decide the issue,
 685 assembling within 48 hours for that purpose if not in session. If the Congress,
 686 within 21 days after receipt of the latter written declaration, or, if Congress is not in
 687 session, within 21 days after Congress is required to assemble, determines by two-
 688 thirds vote of both houses that the President is unable to discharge the powers and
 689 duties of his office, the Vice-President shall continue to discharge the same as
 690 Acting President; otherwise, the President shall resume the powers and duties of his
 691 office.

692 **AMENDMENT 26**

693 (1 July 1971)

694 Section 1: The right of citizens of the United States, who are 18 years of age or older, to vote
 695 shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of age.

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

697 **AMENDMENT 27**

698 (Passed by Congress and submitted to the states in 1972; failed to be ratified by the legislatures
 699 of the required thirty-eight states by 30 June 1982.)

700 ~~Section 1: Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States~~
 701 ~~or by any state on account of sex.~~

702 ~~Section 2: Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions~~
 703 ~~of this article.~~

704 **AMENDMENT 27**

705 (Written by James Madison this amendment was passed by Congress in 1789 and sent to the
 706 states for approval with no deadline for ratification. Six states had ratified it by 1792, and Ohio
 707 ratified the amendment in 1873. After a long interval, Wyoming approved the amendment in
 708 1978. Credit for reviving interest in the ancient proposed amendment is given to Gregory D.
 709 Watson, a student of government at the University of Texas in Austin, who drew public attention
 710 to the amendment and urged consideration by state legislatures. A ground swell of legislative
 711 action grew in the 1980s and culminated on May 7, 1992, when Michigan's legislature approved
 712 the measure, becoming the 38th state to do so. The 27th Amendment was certified as valid by
 713 the Archivist of the United States on May 18, 1992. On May 20, the U. S. House of
 714 Representatives recorded its approval by a vote of 414 to 3, and the Senate backed the measure
 715 by a vote of 99 to 0.)

716 Section 1: No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and
717 Representatives shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have
718 intervened

719 In convention Monday, September 17, 1787

720 Present the States of

721 New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Mr. Hamilton from New York, New Jersey,
722 Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

723 Resolved:

724 That the preceding Constitution be laid before the United States in Congress assembled, and that
725 it is the opinion of this Convention of Delegates, chosen in each State by the people thereof,
726 under the recommendation of its legislature, for their assent and ratification; and that each
727 convention assenting to, and ratifying the same, should give notice thereof to the United States in
728 Congress assembled. Resolved, that it is the opinion of this convention, that as soon as the
729 conventions of nine states shall have ratified this Constitution, the United States in Congress
730 assembled should fix a day on which electors should be appointed by the states which shall have
731 ratified the same, and a day on which the electors should assemble to vote for the President, and
732 the time and place for commencing proceedings under this Constitution.

733 That after such publication the electors should be appointed, and the Senators and
734 Representatives elected: That the Electors should meet on the day fixed for the election of the
735 President, and should transmit their votes certified, signed, sealed and directed as the
736 Constitution requires, to the Secretary of the United States in Congress assembled, that the
737 Senators and Representatives should convene at the time and place assigned; that the Senators
738 should appoint a President of the Senate, for the purpose of receiving, opening and counting the
739 votes for President; and, that after he shall be chosen, the Congress, together with the President,
740 should, without delay, proceed to execute this Constitution.

741 By the unanimous order of the Convention.

742 George Washington,
743 President

744
745 William Jackson,
746 Secretary