

United States Constitution**Bill of Rights****Amendment 1**

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.

Amendment 2

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.

Amendment 3

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.

Amendment 4

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.

Amendment 5

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.

Amendment 6

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.

Amendment 7

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.

Amendment 8

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

Amendment 9

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

Amendment 10

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.

Amendments to the US Constitution

Bill of Rights (1792) [Amendments 1-10]

1. Freedom of speech, press, assembly, religion, and petition.
2. Right to keep and bear arms.
3. Limitation on quartering of soldiers.
4. Limitations on search and seizure (police need a search warrant).
5. Right to due process of the law, including protection against self-incrimination – also states you can't be charged twice for the same crime.
6. Right of person accused of a crime, including a speedy trial and the right to be represented by a lawyer.
7. The right of citizen to a trial by jury.
8. Protects against unfair bail, fines, and cruel and unusual punishment.
9. Citizens are entitled to rights not specifically listed in the constitution (like the right to privacy).
10. Powers not in the constitution are reserved to the state governments or to the people.
11. (1798) Rules for lawsuits against the states.
12. (1804) New method of electing the President and Vice President (amends the electoral college).
16. (1913) Gives the federal government the power to collect income taxes.
17. (1913) People were given the power to directly elect senators.
18. (1919) Prohibition of alcohol (repealed by the 21st Amendment).
19. (1920) Protects voting rights for ALL people – regardless of gender (gave women the right to vote).
20. (1933) Changes the appointment date of the President to January to prevent a “lame duck” presidency. Also changed the appointment date for Congressional representatives to prevent “lame duck” Congress.
21. (1933) Repeals the 18th Amendment (ended Prohibition of alcohol).
22. (1951) Limits the President to two terms.
23. (1961) Right of the people of the District of Columbia to vote for electors for President and Vice President.
24. (1964) Eliminates the poll tax (means that people no longer had to pay to vote).
25. (1967) Succession of the Presidency in case of a vacancy or disability.
26. (1971) Changed the voting age to 18 years old (from 21 years old).
27. (1992) No pay increase for Senators and Representatives during current term of office.

Reconstruction Amendments [13-15] Post Civil War Period

13. (1865) Abolishes (bans) slavery.
14. (1868) Guarantees due process and equal protection of all citizens (protected the rights of former slaves and guaranteed them citizenship).
15. (1870) Protects voting rights for ALL men – regardless of race (gave African American men the right to vote).

Methods of Amending the Constitution

- Most Amendments have been passed by a proposal by Congress (2/3 vote of both houses) and Ratification by ¾ vote of state legislatures.
- The 21st Amendment was passed by a proposal by Congress (2/3 vote of both houses) and Ratification by constitutional conventions in ¾ of the states.