

United States Constitution

Amendments

1st Amendment

- Freedom of religion
- Freedom of speech
- Freedom of the press
- Freedom of assembly
- Freedom to petition

2nd Amendment

- Right to keep and bear arms

3rd Amendment

- No soldier shall, in time of peace, be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner

4th Amendment

- The right of people to be secure against unreasonable search and seizure
- Warrants shall only be issued upon probable cause

5th Amendment

- No person shall be held for a capital crime unless indicted by a Grand Jury
- No person shall face double jeopardy
- No person shall be compelled to testify against (incriminate) himself
- Due process of law shall be followed
- Private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation

6th Amendment

- The right of a speedy public trial, by a jury in the state where the crime was committed
- The right to be informed of the charges
- The right to confront and question witnesses against him
- The right to an attorney

7th Amendment

- Juries can decide civil cases

8th Amendment

- Allows defendants to post bail
- No excessive bail shall be required
- No cruel and unusual punishment

9th Amendment

- Rights listed in the Constitution are not the only rights citizens have

10th Amendment

- States and the people have additional powers beyond those mentioned in the Constitution

11th Amendment

- Judicial power of the U.S. shall not be used by a citizen of a foreign state against a citizen of the U.S.

12th Amendment

- Changed the election procedure for president and vice president
- Electors shall cast separate ballots for president and vice president
- Votes shall be opened and counted in front of both Houses of Congress
- If no majority: House chooses president & Senate chooses the vice president

Post-Civil War Amendments

13th, 14th, 15th

- 13th - Abolished slavery
- 14th - Redefined citizenship, and guaranteed African Americans their civil rights
- 15th - Guaranteed the right to vote regardless of race, color, or former slave

16th Amendment

- Gave Congress the power to collect income taxes

17th Amendment

- Required that senators be elected directly by the people instead of by the state legislature

18th Amendment

- Prohibits the manufacture, sale, and transportation of liquors

19th Amendment

- Gave the “right to vote” to women

20th Amendment

- Changed the date that the new president and Congress take office
- President takes office January 20th
- Congressional terms begin January 3rd

21st Amendment

- Prohibition was repealed
- Manufacture, sale, and transportation of liquors was now allowed

22nd Amendment

- Term limits for president:
 - President is limited to two terms in office
 - Either elected twice (or)
 - Elected only once if they fulfill 2 or more years of another elected president's term

23rd Amendment

- Washington, D.C. is allowed three electors in the selection of the President and Vice President of the U.S.

24th Amendment

- Poll tax was banned

25th Amendment

- Provides for filling the office of the vice president if a vacancy occurs, and it provides a way for the vice president to take over if the president is unable to perform his duties.

26th Amendment

- Gave 18-year-olds the right to vote in all elections.

27th Amendment

- Congressional pay raises cannot take effect until a new Congress meets.