

United States Constitution

Preamble

(spells out the 6 goals of the new government under the Constitution)

Preamble

- 1) Form a more perfect union
- 2) Establish Justice
- 3) Insure domestic tranquility
- 4) Provide for the common defense
- 5) Promote the general welfare
- 6) Secure the blessings of liberty

Article I

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

- Sec 1. All legislative powers are given to the Congress of the US
 - Consists of a Senate & House of Representatives

Article I

- Sec 2. House of Representatives
 - Serve 2 year terms
 - Chosen by the people of the states
 - 25 years of age
 - Citizen of US for 7 years
 - Citizen of state electing him
 - The number of members each state has in the House is based on the population of state.
 - 1929 - Size of House fixed at 435 members

Article I

Sec 2 (cont.)

- House of Reps.
 - Each state gets a minimum of one rep.
(numbers will be adjusted every 10 years)
 - When vacancies happen in representation of a state, the governor will fill vacancy
 - House of reps. Will choose their Speaker
 - House of reps. Have sole Power of Impeachment

Article I

- Sec 3. Senate
- Senate of US will be composed of 2 Senators from each state
 - Serve 6 year terms
 - Each Senator will have one vote
 - Senators chosen by state legislatures until 1913 (17th Amendment)

Article I

Sec 3 (cont.)

Senate

- One-third of senators are up for re-election every second year

Senators:

Must be 30 years of age

Citizen of US for 9 years

Vice President will be President of Senate, but have no vote unless tied

Article I

Sec 3 (cont.)

- Senate will choose their officers and a “President Pro Tempore”
- Senate has sole power to try all impeachments
- On trial of President, Chief Justice will preside, and president will not be convicted without 2/3 majority
- Impeachment trial can remove from office

Article I

- Sec 4. Times, places, and manner of holding elections will be decided individual state legislatures, but Congress may pass laws to alter those (except place of choosing Senators)

Article I

- Sec 5.
- Each House shall be the Judge of Elections Returns & Qualifications
- Majority of each house will constitute a quorum to do business
- Each house may determine its own rules of proceedings

Article I

Sec 5 (cont.)

- Each house may punish its members for disorderly behavior, and may expel a member with 2/3 majority vote
- Each house will keep a journal of its proceedings, with recorded votes, and will be published from time to time
- Must have permission of other house to adjourn for more than 3 days

Article I

- Sec 6. Senators & Reps. shall be paid by US Treasury
- No senators or reps will be allowed to hold a civil office of the US at the same time

Article I

- Sec 7. All bills for raising Revenues shall originate in the House of Representatives
- A bill must pass both houses, and before it can become Law must be signed by President
- A president may veto a bill and return it to the originating house

Article I

Sec 7 (cont.)

- Congress may “override” a veto with a 2/3 majority vote in Both houses

Article I

- Sec 8. Congress shall have power to:
 - Lay & collect taxes to pay debts
 - Provide for the common defense
 - Provide for general welfare of US
 - Borrow money
 - Regulate trade between states, other countries, and Indian tribes
 - Establish laws on Naturalization & Bankruptcies

Article I

Sec 8 (cont.)

- Coin money
- Set standard weights & measures
- Establish Post Offices
- Patent laws
- Declare War
- Raise & support armies
- Provide & maintain a navy

Article I

Sec 8 (cont.)

- Call forth militia to execute Laws
- Make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution... the laws and powers of this government (ELASTIC CLAUSE)

Article I

- Sec 9. Privilege of the “Writ of Habeas Corpus” shall not be suspended
- No “Bill of Attainder” or “ex post facto law” shall be passed. No tax or duty shall be laid on articles exported from another state

Article I

- Sec 10. No state shall enter into any Treaty, Alliance, or Confederation.
- Lists powers that are denied to the state governments