

The Constitution of the United States

**by James Madison, Alexander Hamilton,
Benjamin Franklin, George Washington
and 35 others**

With a Side-by-Side Translation in Simple English

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Scene at the Signing of the Constitution of the United States

By Howard Chandler Christy — 1940

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A Note from Elizabeth Claire

Thank you for your interest in the Constitution. It is the foundation for the government of the United States.

The Constitution was written in 1787. This was four years after the U.S. signed a peace treaty with Great Britain. This peace treaty gave the thirteen British colonies their independence. They formed a new country, the United States of America.

The men who wrote the Constitution are called our “Founding Fathers.” Some of them were: George Washington, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, Gouverneur Morris, and Benjamin Franklin.

The Founding Fathers took ideas from many places. They took parts from their state constitutions. They took parts of Britain’s *Magna Carta*. They studied the governments of ancient Greece and Rome. They got ideas from philosophers such as Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Charles de Montesquieu and Thomas Paine. They used some ideas from Iroquois Indians union of tribes.

Cover painting: “The Signing of the Constitution” by Chandler Howard Christie hangs in the House of representatives...Courtesy TeachingAmericanHistory.com

Fifty-five delegates from twelve states met in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in May 1787. These delegates had come to fix the Articles of Confederation. The Articles of Confederation had held the states together during the War for Independence. However, it was not strong enough to hold the states together after that.

Soon the delegates saw that the Articles of Confederation could not be fixed. They had to write a completely new plan of government. They wanted the new government to be strong. But they did not want it to be *too* strong. They did not ever want someone like King George III to have power over them . . . or their children or grandchildren.

The delegates talked about their ideas for many months. They disagreed on many things. They had to compromise to make sure all of the states would join the union.

The language of the Constitution is difficult. The sentences are very long. There are words that are not used today. There are still parts of the Constitution that are not very clear.

I hope this little book will help you to understand what a treasure our Constitution is. Since 1787, many people have died to protect this Constitution. When a person becomes president, or any government officer, he or she promises to protect the Constitution.

Elizabeth Claire

Pages 4, 5, and 6 give a short summary of the Constitution.

On pages 7 to 43, the complete words of the United States Constitution are on the *left* side of the page. This is *the* legal document. On the *right* side of those pages, you can read a “translation” into simple English.

Summary

The Preamble(beginning words) of the Constitution tells why it was written.

The Constitution has seven parts, called “Articles.”

Article I (one)

Article One is about the **Congress**. Article One tells who may become a representative, and who may become a senator. It tells all the powers that Congress has. It tells things that the Congress may not do. It tells what the states may not do.

Article II (Two)

Article Two is about the President and the Executive Branch of government. It tells who may become President and vice president. It tells the powers of the president.

It tells how the President will be elected. Part of Article II was later changed to make the election system work better. It tells what will happen if the President dies or cannot do his job. It tells the duties and powers of the President. It tells how Congress can remove a president or vice president if they commit any serious crimes.

Article III (Three)

Article Three is about the court system of the United States. It tells who appoints judges and how long they may serve. It tells what kinds of cases the Supreme Court may try.

Article IV (Four)

Article Four tells how the states are related. It tells how new states may become part of the United States. It guarantees a republican form of government to all states. (A government in which the leaders are chosen by the voters.) It guarantees that the federal government will protect all of the states against any enemy.

Article V (Five)

Article Five tells how Congress and the states may change the Constitution by adding amendments.

Article VI (Six)

Article Six tells that the United States will pay its debts. It tells that the Constitution will be the Supreme Law of the Land. All the judges in all of the states must use the Constitution to decide cases in law.

Article VII (Seven)

Article Seven tells how the states can ratify (agree to) the Constitution.

George Washington was President of the Convention. He signed the Constitution. Thirty-eight delegates from 12 states also signed it on September 17, 1787. This date is now called Constitution Day.

Eleven states soon ratified the Constitution. Two more states ratified the Constitution after the Bill of Rights was added.

Amendments

There are 27 amendments (additions or changes) to the Constitution. These amendments changed some of the earlier articles.

The first ten amendments tell some of the rights of the people. They are called the Bill of Rights.

The red italic text in the simple Constitution means that it had been changed by an amendment.

THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

(The Preamble)

We the People of the United States,
in Order to form a more perfect Union,
establish Justice,
insure domestic Tranquility,
provide for the common defence,
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.

The United States Constitution in simple English

The Introduction

We the people of the United States have made
this Constitution for many reasons:

We want to make our union of states
stronger and better.

We want to be sure there is justice for all
the people.

We want the people and the states to get
along peacefully.

We want to defend all of the states against
any enemies.

We want to make the U.S. a good place to
live.

We want to be sure that we (and the children
and grandchildren who come after) us will
always enjoy freedom.

That's why we have agreed to this
Constitution for the United States of
America.

§ 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.

§ Section 2

Clause 1: 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.

Clause 2: 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.

ARTICLE I

§ Section 1

This Constitution gives Congress the power to make laws for the United States. Congress will be the legislative branch of government. Congress will have two parts: A Senate and a House of Representatives.

§ Section 2

Clause 1: The members of the House of Representatives will be elected every two years. The people in the states shall elect them.

The right to vote for representatives will be given to the people in each state who have the right to vote for state lawmakers in the state's larger Legislative House.

Clause 2:

A representative to Congress must be 25 years old or older and be a citizen for at least seven years. He must live in the state that elects him.

Clause 3: 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.

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 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 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.

Clause 3: States with more people will have more representatives. They will pay more taxes to the federal government.

We will count all of the free people, and add three fifths of the number of people who are slaves. We'll use this number to tell how many representatives a state will have. It will determine how much tax each state will pay, too.

The term "free people" includes the people who are temporary servants. "Free people" does not include Indians, who we don't tax. (changed by the 14th Amendment)

We will count people within 3 years after the first Congress meets.

After that, we will count the people every ten years. Congress will decide how the counting shall be done.

There will be one representative for every 30,000 people. However, each state will have at least one representative.

Until they actually count all the people, the states will have the following number of representatives:

New Hampshire: 3

Massachusetts: 8

Rhode Island and Providence Plantations: 1

Connecticut: 5

New York: 6

New Jersey: 4

Pennsylvania: 8

Delaware: 1

Maryland: 6

Virginia: 10

North Carolina: 5

South Carolina: 5

Georgia: 3

Clause 4: When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies.

Clause 5: The House of Representatives shall choose their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

§ Section. 3.

Clause 1: 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.

Clause 2: 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.

Clause 4: When a representative of a state dies, or resigns or is removed from office, the governor of that state shall call for an election. The people can elect a new representative.

Clause 5: The representatives in the House of Representatives will choose a leader, called a Speaker. They will choose other officers for themselves. The House of Representatives has the power to accuse their members of crimes. Only the Representatives in the House of Representatives may remove one of their members.

§ Section 3

Clause 1: The Senate will have two senators from each state. *The legislatures of the states will chose its senators for six years. [See the 17th Amendment for a change in this rule.]* Each senator will have one vote.

Clause 2: The first group of senators who are elected will not all serve for six years. After the election, they will be divided as equally as possible into three groups:

The first group of senators will serve just two years. The second group of senators will serve four years. The third group of senators will serve six years. That way, in the future, every two years, one third of all the senators will be chosen. After that, all senators will be elected for a term of six years.

If a senator resigns or dies, or is removed from office, then the legislature of the state may choose a new senator in his place. If the legislature is not meeting at that time, the governor may appoint someone to be a temporary senator. When the legislature meets again, it will elect new senator. [See the 17th Amendment for a change in this rule.]

Clause 3: No Person shall be a Senator who shall not 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.

Clause 4: The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless they be equally divided.

Clause 5: 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 President of the United States.

Clause 6: 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.

Clause 7: 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.

Clause 3: A person must be at least 30 years old to be a senator. The person must have been a citizen of the United States for nine years. He must live in the state where he is elected senator.

Clause 4: The vice president of the United States shall be president of the senate. He shall not vote, except when there is an equal number of Yes votes and No votes.)

Clause 5: The Senate shall choose other officers. They shall choose a person to be in charge of the meetings when the vice president is not there. (That person is called the president *pro tempore* [for a time].) The president *pro tempore* will preside over the senate when the vice president is absent, or when the vice president is acting as president of the United States

Clause 6: The Senate shall act as a jury to try all impeachments (accusations against a president, judge, etc.) The Senate will listen to the facts and arguments and make decisions. When the senators are trying an impeachment, they shall promise that they will do this job (trial of an impeachment) carefully and honestly.

The Chief Justice will preside over the Senate if the person who is impeached is the president of the United States. Two thirds of the senators who are present must agree in order to convict a person who is impeached.

Clause 7. The person who is convicted in an impeachment can have only these punishments: Remove the person from his position; take away the right to be elected to any other position or get any other job working for the government. The person who is convicted by the senate may also be indicted, tried, judged, and punished according to law in another court.

§ Section. 4.

Clause 1: 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.

Clause 2: 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. (Changed by the 20th Amendment)

§ Section. 5.

Clause 1: Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its 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.

Clause 2: Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly Behaviour, and, with the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member.

Clause 3: 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.

§ Section 4

Clause 1: Each state's legislature will decide where, when, and how to hold elections for senators and representatives. However, Congress may make a new law or change the time, place, and manner (except the place where the Senators are chosen).

Clause 2: The members of Congress will meet to work at least once each year on the first Monday in December. If they want to set up a different day, they can. (Changed by the 20th Amendment)

§ Section 5

Clause 1: The Senate and The House of Representatives shall judge if their own members are qualified and if they have been properly elected.

In order to pass a law or do business, more than half of a house must be present. Members may compel absent members to come to the meeting. Each house may set up a system of penalties for members who do not come to work.

Clause 2: Each house can decide how they want to do their work. They can make rules for behavior, and punish members for bad behavior. If two thirds of the members of a house agree, they can expel (kick out) a member.

Clause 3: Each house will keep a written record or journal of the work that they do, and the laws that they pass. They will publish this journal from time to time. They may decide that some parts should be secret. If one fifth of the members present ask to write down everyone's vote, then each member's vote will be written in the journal: Yea or Nay. (Yes or No)

Clause 4: 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.

Clause 1: 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.

Clause 2: 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.

§ Section. 7.

Clause 1: 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.

Clause 4: While Congress is in session, one house may not take time off from work for more than 3 days unless the other house says it is OK with them. Neither house will meet where they don't usually work unless the other house agrees.

§ Section 6

Clause 1: Senators and Representatives shall be paid for their services. They will vote on how much they will be paid. The money will come from the Treasury of the United States.

Senators and representatives cannot be arrested while they are in Congress while it is in session, or going to or coming from their house of Congress...unless they have committed treason, a serious crime, or a breach of the peace. Senators and representatives may not be arrested or questioned for any speech or debate in either house. They shall not be questioned about their speech or debate in any other place.

Clause 2: Senators and representatives may not be appointed to any other government job that was created during the time they were in office. They may not be appointed to any job that had an increase in pay during the time they were in office.

An officer in the Army or other military branch of the U.S. government may not be a member of the House of Representatives or a senator at the same time.

§ Section 7.

Clause 1: Bills for raising taxes shall be started in the House of Representatives. The Senate may propose amendments or agree with the house's bill just as it does on other bills.

Clause 2: 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 in 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.

Clause 3: 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.

Clause 2: After a bill passes both the House of Representatives and the Senate, it shall go to the President. If the president approves the bill, he shall sign it. (Then it shall become a law.) But if the president doesn't approve of the bill, he shall write his reasons for objecting to the bill and send it back to the House or the Senate (wherever the bill started.) Then the House or the Senate will write the president's objections in their journal. They will discuss the law again.

If two thirds of that house votes for the bill, after considering it again, then it shall go to the other house, along with the objections that the president wrote. That House shall consider the law again and vote again. If two thirds of that house also votes for the bill, then it will become a law. In these cases, each lawmaker's name will be written in the record, and next to his name, it will say if he voted yes or no for the bill.

The president has ten days to sign a bill that comes to him from Congress. If the president does not sign a bill and does not return a bill to Congress in ten days (not counting Sundays) then the bill will become a law *without* his signing it. If Congress has gone home during those ten days, the president cannot return the bill to them with his objections. Then it will *not* become a law.

Clause 3: All of the resolutions or orders or votes that Congress makes (except for adjourning (stopping work) shall then go to the President of the United States. None of those orders or votes will become law or go into effect until the president approves of it. Or, if the president does not approve of it, but two thirds of both the Senate and the House of Representatives pass it, it shall become a law.

§ Section. 8.

Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

Clause 2: To borrow Money on the credit of the United States;

Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

Clause 4: To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;

Clause 5: To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

Clause 6: To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

Clause 7: To establish Post Offices and post Roads;

§ Section 8 (The powers of Congress)

Clause 1: Congress has the power to decide what taxes to create (such as taxes on things imported into the country, or taxes on products made within the country, and to collect these taxes to pay for the country's debts, and to pay for the defense and general welfare of the United States. All such taxes shall be the same in all places in the U.S.

Clause 2: Congress may borrow money on the credit of the United States.

Clause 3: Congress may make rules about trading with foreign countries. They may make rules about trading among the states and with the Indian tribes.

Clause 4: Congress shall set up rules for immigrants to become naturalized citizens: these rules will be the same in every state. Congress shall set up laws about bankruptcies that are the same in all of the states.

Clause 5: Congress has the power to coin money. They have the power to decide the value of the coins and the value of foreign coins compared to American coins. Congress has the power to set up a standard for weights and measures.

Clause 6: Congress shall decide the punishments for anyone who makes false (counterfeit) coins or bank notes of the United States.

Clause 7: Congress shall create post offices and special post roads.

Clause 8: 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;

Clause 9: To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court;

Clause 10: To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offences against the Law of Nations;

Clause 11: To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;

Clause 12: To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

Clause 13: To provide and maintain a Navy;

Clause 14: To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

Clause 15: To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;

Clause 8: Congress shall promote science and useful arts by giving copyrights to authors and patents to inventors. This will give authors and inventors the rights to their own writings and discoveries or inventions for a limited period of time, and prevent others from using them without payment for that period of time.

Clause 9. Congress shall set up the courts lower than the Supreme Court.

Clause 10. Congress shall make laws about piracy and punish pirates (people who steal things from ships on the oceans,) and punish people who break international law.

Clause 11. Congress has the power to declare war. It has the power to tell our armies they can cross an international border to take action against an attack. Congress has the power to make rules about capturing people or property, either on land or on sea.

Clause 12. Congress has the power to raise and pay for armies. Congress may not vote for money for armies for a term longer than two years.

Clause 13. Congress shall have the power to create and pay for a navy.

Clause 14. Congress shall have the power to make rules for the government and regulation of the Army and Navy.

Clause 15. Congress shall have the power to call up the militia (state army), to enforce national laws, to fight against rebellion and fight against any army that invades the United States.

Clause 16: 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 Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

Clause 17: 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

Clause 18: 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.

Clause 1: 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.

Clause 2: 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.

Clause 16: Congress shall have the power to organize, arm (give weapons to), and discipline the militia (state army). They have the power to govern the part of the militia that is used in the service of the national government. Congress shall let each state appoint officers for its own militia. The states will have the authority to train the militia in the way that Congress describes.

Clause 17. Congress shall have the power to make all laws for the district that will be set up to be the capital of the United States. The district shall be created from land that states give up. This area will not be larger than ten miles square. The district will become the capital and the place where the government of the United States works. Congress shall have authority over it all, and be able to build forts, places to store guns and ammunition, docks, and other necessary buildings.

Clause 18. Congress shall have the power to make all the laws that are needed and suitable to carry out the powers that we just mentioned and for all the other powers that this Constitution gives the government or any part of it.

§ Section 9

Clause 1: Congress may not stop states from bringing in slaves before the year 1808. However, Congress may put a tax on importing such people, but not over \$10 for each person that is imported.

Clause 2: People may not be kept in jail without a hearing by a judge, unless there is a rebellion or invasion and it is necessary for public safety.

Clause 3: No Bill of Attainder or ex post facto Law shall be passed.

Clause 4: No Capitation, or other direct, Tax shall be laid, unless in Proportion to the Census or Enumeration herein before directed to be taken. (Changed by the 16th Amendment)

Clause 5: No Tax or Duty shall be laid on articles exported from any State.

Clause 6: 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.

Clause 7: 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.

Clause 8: 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.

Clause 3: There shall be no law that makes a person guilty of a crime without the person having a trial. There shall be no law that makes something illegal after it has already been done, when it was not illegal when it was done.

Clause 4: There shall be no personal tax or other direct tax unless it is in proportion to the numbers of people in the state, as counted by the census. (Changed by the 16th Amendment)

Clause 5. There shall be no tax on things exported from any state.

Clause 6. The ports of all of the states shall be treated equally in regulations or taxes. Ships going to or from one state shall not have to enter any other state's port or pay taxes to enter the port of another state.

Clause 7. The money in the U.S. Treasury cannot be taken out or spent except when Congress passes a law to do it. From time to time, Congress will publish a regular statement and account of the income and expenses of all public money.

Clause 8. The United States will not give anyone any titles such as king, prince, earl, baron, duke, etc. No one who is serving in any office of the U.S. government shall accept any presents or pay or job or title of any kind from any foreign country or ruler.

§ Section. 10.

Clause 1: 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.

Clause 2: 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 it's 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 Controul of the Congress.

Clause 3: 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.

ARTICLE II.

§ Section 1.

Clause 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

§ Section 10.

Clause 1: States shall not make treaties with other countries. They may not grant permission to a foreign country's army to cross their borders. They may not coin money or print paper money. States may not ask for anything except gold and silver coin for payments of debts. States may not pass any laws that convict a person of a crime without a trial. States may not make laws that make things illegal after the things were done, or any laws that reduce the obligations in a contract, or give any one any titles such as king, prince, duke, baron, earl, etc.

Clause 2: States may not (unless Congress agrees) pass or collect taxes on imports or exports, except taxes that are absolutely necessary for inspection laws. The tax money from any of these duties made by the states (after paying for its expenses) are for the national treasury. All the laws that states make like these may be changed or controlled by Congress.

Clause 3: States may not, unless Congress agrees, tax ships, keep soldiers or ships of war in time of peace, or enter into any agreement with another state or foreign country, or go to war, unless the state is actually invaded and in such immediate danger that there is no time to get Congress to approve.

ARTICLE II

§ Section I.

Clause 1: There shall be an executive branch of the government. The power for this branch is held by a president of the United States. His term of office will be four years, and so will the term of the vice president. This is how he will be elected:

Clause 2: 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.

Clause 3: 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

Clause 2: Each state will have a number of electors to choose the president. *Each state will decide how to choose those electors.*

The number of electors for a state is equal to the total number of senators and representatives the state has in Congress.

Senators and representatives may not be electors. Also, no one who holds an office of trust or profit with the United States government may be an elector.

Clause 3: In each state, the state's electors shall meet. *They shall vote for two people, using written ballots.*

These two people must be from two different states. The electors shall make a list of all the persons they voted for, and write down the number of votes each one got. The electors shall sign this list and certify it. Then they shall seal it, and send it to the Congress of the United States. The envelope shall be directed to the president of the senate.

The president of the senate shall open the envelope with the certified votes in front of all the senators and representatives of Congress. Then the votes shall be counted.

The person who got the greatest number of votes shall be the president, if he has a majority of the votes. If there is a tie, and another person also has a majority of votes, then the House of Representatives shall choose (by written ballot) one of them to be the president. If no person has a majority of the votes, then the House of Representatives shall choose the president from the five people on the list who got the highest number of votes.

In choosing a president in this way, each state shall have one vote. At least two thirds of all the states must have members present to vote. A ma-

Number of 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. (Changed by the 12th Amendment)

Clause 4: 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.

Clause 5: No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the 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.

Clause 6: 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 the 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.

majority of all the states shall be necessary to make the choice of president.

After the president is chosen, then the person having the second greatest number of votes of the electors shall be the vice president. If there are two or more persons with the same number of votes, then the Senate shall choose the vice president. (Changed by the 12th Amendment)

Clause 4: Congress may decide the date that the states choose their electors and decide the day when the electors will send in their votes. That day will be the same everywhere in the United States.

Clause 5: Only a person who was born in the United States or who was a citizen of the United States at the time that the Constitution is adopted may become president of the United States. The president must be thirty-five years of age or older. He must have lived inside the United States for at least fourteen years.

Clause 6: The vice president shall have the powers of the president and do the president's jobs in case the president is removed from office, or he dies, or resigns, or is unable to do the job.

Congress may make a law saying who shall do the president's job and have his powers, in case both the president and vice president are removed from office, die, resign or are unable to do the job. That person shall act as president until the president is able to do the job, or the vice president is able to serve as president, or until a new president is elected.

Clause 7: 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.

Clause 8: 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.

Clause 1: The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States, 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 Offences against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment.

Clause 2: 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

Clause 7. The president shall get paid for his service at certain times. This payment may not be increased or decreased while he is president. During that time, he shall not receive any other salary or wages from the United States, or from any of the states.

Clause 8: The president shall take an oath of office before he takes over his job:

"I promise most sincerely and truthfully that I will do my job as president of the United States, and I will, to the best of my ability, keep, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.

§ § Section 2.

Clause I: The president shall be in charge of the Army and Navy of the United States and of the armies of each of the states when they are called up to serve the U.S.

The president may ask for the written opinions of the top officers in each of the executive departments on any topic that relates to their duties.

The president shall have the power to delay the execution of a criminal. He has the power to pardon people who have been convicted of any crime against the United States but not in the case of an impeachment.

Clause 2: The president shall have the power to make treaties with other countries. However, two thirds of the Senators must approve of the treaty before it becomes part of our law.

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.

Clause 3: 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;

The president shall appoint ambassadors and other public ministers and consuls and the Judges of the Supreme Court and all other officers of the United States that shall be set up by law,..except for those offices that this Constitution lists other ways of selecting. He will hear advice from the Senate, and must have their consent to make these appointments.

Congress may make a law to let the President appoint less important officers in the courts or the heads of departments without needing approval of the Senate.

Clause 3: The president shall have the power to appoint people to offices that become vacant during the time that the Senate is not in session. In this case, he shall appoint them for a short time only. Their terms shall end at the end of the next session of the Senate.

§ Section 3.

From time to time, the president shall tell Congress about the conditions in the United States. He shall recommend laws, taxes, and other measures that he thinks are necessary.

The president may call both Houses or either one of them when there is a very important reason for them to be in session.

The President may decide on the time of stopping work when the two houses disagree about when to adjourn.

The president shall greet and talk with ambassadors from other countries, and other public officers

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 Crimes and Misdemeanors.

ARTICLE. III.

§ 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 Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services, a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.

He shall make sure that all the laws that Congress passes are executed (put into practice, and enforced.)

The president shall give commissions to the officers of the United States.

§ Section 4.

The president or vice president or any of the officers of the United States can be removed from office in this way: They can be impeached for treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors. If they are convicted, then they can be removed from office. (impeached = accused by the House of Representatives, then tried in the Senate)

ARTICLE III

§ Section 1.

There shall be a Supreme Court that holds the judicial power of the United States. There shall also be lower courts, that Congress may set up from time to time.

The judges of the Supreme Court and the lower court shall serve for life, as long as they behave well.

They shall get a salary, which may not be decreased (made lower) while they are in office.

§ Section. 2.

Clause 1: 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.** (See Amendment 11)

Clause 2: 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.

§ Section 2.

Clause 1: The power of the United States courts shall extend in the following areas:

All cases in law and equity that are covered by the Constitution, the laws of the United States, and its treaties.

All cases that affect ambassadors, public ministers and consuls,

All cases of law about that concerns ships at sea, and ships in ports of the U.S.

It shall extend to controversies between the United States and others

It shall extend to controversies between two or more states

between a state and citizens of another state,

between citizens of two different states,

between citizens of the same state claiming lands under grants of different states

and between a state, or a citizen of a state and foreign states, citizens, or people.
(Changed by the 11th Amendment)

Clause 2: The Supreme Court shall be the correct place to try all cases that affect ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls and those cases in which a state is the party bringing the case to court, or is being brought to court.

The Supreme Court shall be a court to appeal to (after decisions made in lower courts) in law and fact in all other cases mentioned before. Congress may make some exceptions to this.

Clause 3: 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.

§ Section. 3.

Clause 1: 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.

Clause 2: 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 attainted.

ARTICLE IV

§ 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.

Clause 3: Crimes shall be tried by a jury, except for cases of impeachment of government officials.

The trials for crimes shall be in the state where the crime was committed. If the crime was not committed in any of the states, the trial shall be in a place that Congress chooses.

§ Section 3:

Clause 1: Treason against the United States means engaging in war against the United States, or fighting on the side of the U.S.'s enemies, or giving help, support, or assistance to the enemies of the United States.

A person cannot be convicted of treason unless there are two witnesses that have seen or been present at an actual action of the accused person. Or the person confesses in court in front of a judge and the public.

Clause 2: Congress shall have the power to decide the punishment for treason. However, they may not pass a law declaring that a person has committed treason. They may not punish a person who is convicted of treason by punishing his family or his heirs. They may not take property except during the life of the person convicted of treason.

ARTICLE IV

§ Section I.

Each state shall respect the laws and records and court decisions of all the other states. Congress may make laws to tell the way each state's laws and records and court decisions shall be proved, and what affect they have.

§ Section. 2.

Clause 1: The Citizens of each State shall be entitled to all Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the several States.

Clause 2: 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.

Clause 3: 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. Ended by Amendment 13/

§ Section. 3.

Clause 1: 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 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.

Clause 2: 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.

§ Section 2.

Clause 1: The citizens of each state shall have the same rights and protections as the citizens of all of the states.

Clause 2: A person who has been charged in one state with treason, or another serious crime and runs away to a different state shall be brought back to the state in which the crime was committed, if the governor of that state demands it.

Clause 3: A person who is a slave in one state who escapes to another state shall not be free from his condition of slavery or bondage. The state to which he came shall send him back to the person who owns him or to the person he owes service to. (Slavery ended by Amendment 13)

§ Section 3.

Clause 1: Congress may take new states into the Union. They can't form a new state from part of another state, or by joining two states together, unless those states and Congress agree.

Clause 2: Congress shall have the power to make all necessary rules and regulations about the territories and property that belongs to the United States.

Nothing in this Constitution changes the claims the United States has on its property or any state has on its property.

§ 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.

ARTICLE. V.

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.

§ Section 4.

The United States guarantees that each state shall have a republican form of government (a government in which laws are made by representatives of the people). The United States shall protect each state against invasion by a foreign country. If a state's legislature asks for help, the United States shall protect a state against violence within that state. If the legislature cannot meet, then the governor of the state may for the protection.

ARTICLE V.

The Constitution can be changed.

When two thirds of both houses of Congress find it necessary to make a change or add something to the Constitution, they shall write up an amendment. They shall send a copy of the amendment to each of the states.

The states may call special conventions to discuss the amendment and vote on it. If three fourths of the states agree, then the amendment shall become part of this Constitution.

Another way to amend the Constitution is when two thirds of the states' legislatures ask Congress to set up a convention for suggesting amendments. Any amendment made by the convention must then be ratified by three fourths of all of the states.

One exception is this: There may not be an amendment before 1808 to change Clauses 1 and 4 in Article I, **Section 9**. (about importing slaves.) Also, no state may lose the right to have an equal number of votes in the Senate.

ARTICLE. VI.

Clause 1: All Debts contracted and Engagements entered into, before the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this Constitution, as under the Confederation.

Clause 2: 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.

Clause 3: 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.

ARTICLE. VII.

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

Done in Convention by the Unanimous Consent of the States present the Seventeenth Day of September in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven and of the Independence of the United States of America the Twelfth In witness whereof We have hereunto subscribed our Names,

ARTICLE VI.

Clause 1: The United States shall pay the debts that were contracted before this Constitution. The U.S. shall honor the contracts that it agreed to under the Articles of Confederation.

Clause 2: This Constitution, and the laws that are made according to it, and all the treaties which shall be made under it shall be the supreme law of the land.

The judges in every state shall use this Constitution as their guide when they make decisions, no matter what it may say in the constitution or laws of any of the states.

Clause 3: The senators and representatives, and the members of the state legislatures, and all executive and judicial officers of the states and of the United States shall promise to support this Constitution.

However, there shall not be a religious requirement for any officer of public trust under the United States.

ARTICLE VII

When nine states approve of the Constitution in their conventions, then this Constitution shall be set up as the government for the states that have ratified it.

This Constitution was created in this convention with the agreement of all of the states which were present on the 17th day of September, 1787 A.D., and the twelfth year of the Independence of the United States of America.

GO WASHINGTON—President. and
deputy from Virginia

[Signed also by the deputies of twelve
States.]

Delaware

Geo: Read, Gunning Bedford jun
John Dickinson, Richard Bassett
Jaco: Broom

Maryland

James MCHenry, Dan of ST ThoS. Jenifer
DanL Carroll.

Virginia

John Blair, James Madison Jr.

North Carolina

WM Blount, RichD. Dobbs Spaight.
Hu Williamson

South Carolina

J. Rutledge, Charles 1ACotesworth Pinckney
Charles Pinckney, Pierce Butler.

Georgia

William Few, Abr Baldwin

New Hampshire

John Langdon, Nicholas Gilman

Massachusetts

Nathaniel Gorham, Rufus King

Connecticut

WM. SamL. Johnson, Roger Sherman

New York

Alexander Hamilton

New Jersey

Wil: Livingston, David Brearley.
WM. Paterson, Jona: Dayton

Pennsylvania

B Franklin, Thomas Mifflin
RobT Morris, Geo. Clymer
ThoS. FitzSimons, Jared Ingersoll
James Wilson, Gouv Morris

Witness: William Jackson, Secretary

We sign our names as witnesses:

. George WASHINGTON, President and delegate
from Virginia

Delaware

George Read, Gunning Bedford Jr.
John Dickinson, Richard Bassett
Jacob Broom

Maryland

James MCHenry
Dan of ST ThoS. Jenifer
Daniel Carroll.

Virginia

John Blair, James Madison Jr.

North Carolina

William Blount, Hugh Williamson
Rich D. Dobbs Spaight.

South Carolina

J. Rutledge
Charles I.A. Cotesworth Pinckney
Charles Pinckney, Pierce Butler.

Georgia

William Few, Abraham Baldwin

New Hampshire

John Langdon, Nicholas Gilman

Massachusetts

Nathaniel Gorham, Rufus King

Connecticut

William Samuel Johnson
Roger Sherman

New York

Alexander Hamilton

New Jersey

William Livingston, David Brearley.
William. Paterson, Jona: Dayton

Pennsylvania

B. Franklin, Thomas Mifflin
Robert T. Morris, George Clymer
Thomas. FitzSimons
Jared Ingersoll, James Wilson.
Gouveneur Morris

Witness: William Jackson, Secretary

Amendment 1 - . Ratified 12/15/1791.

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.

Amendment 2 - Right to Bear Arms. Ratified 12/15/1791. Note

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 - Quartering of Soldiers. Ratified 12/15/1791. Note

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 - Search and Seizure. Ratified 12/15/1791.

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.

Amendment 1.

Congress may not pass a law that sets up or favors any religion. It will not make any laws to limit the free practice of a religion. It will not make any laws to limit freedom of speech, freedom of the press, or the people's right to gather together peacefully.

Congress will not make any law to limit the right of the people to ask the government to change laws that they find harmful to them.

Amendment 2.

Because a free state needs to have an army that is well regulated, people have the right to keep and carry weapons (guns, etc.) for their security and self-defense. Congress shall not make any laws to limit that right.

Amendment 3.

During any time that the nation is at peace, homeowners do not have to let soldiers stay in their homes unless they (the homeowners) agree to it. If the country is at war, Congress may pass a law that tells when people must have soldiers in their homes.

Amendment 4.

People shall be safe from unreasonable searches of their bodies, homes, papers, and properties by the government. The government may not search or take things from a person's home without a warrant (a written order from a judge). The judges will give out warrants only when facts show that there is a good reason for the search. The warrant shall describe the place to be searched, and the things or the persons that may be taken.

Amendment 5 - Ratified 12/15/1791.

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.

Amendment 6 - Ratified 12/15/1791.

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, 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.

Amendment 5.

No one will be put on trial for a serious crime (such as a crime with the punishment of death) unless a grand jury indicts him (decides that he should go on trial for a crime). During time of war, if the person is in service in the army, navy, or militia, there may be exceptions to this rule.

The government can not put a person in danger of losing life or an arm or a leg more than one time for a crime. (A person who is accused of a serious crime cannot be tried again for that crime after a jury has found him not guilty.)

No accused person shall be forced to answer questions about doing a crime. An accused person does not have to say that he is guilty in any criminal case.

No accused person shall lose his life, liberty or property except through a trial in a court, or other process of law.

The government may not take a person's private property for public use unless they pay a fair price for it.

Amendment 6.

A person who is accused of a crime has the right to a speedy trial, that is open to the public. The jury that is chosen to hear that trial shall not be prejudiced in advance against the person whom they will be trying. The jurors will live in the same state and the same district where the crime was committed.

The accused person shall be told the reason he is accused, and be told what his crime is. He will be able to see and hear the witnesses against him.

The accused person shall have the right to get witnesses for his defense, and compel them to appear in court. He shall have the right to have an attorney to help him in the trial.

Amendment 7 - Ratified 12/15/1791.

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 re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment 8 - Ratified 12/15/1791.

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

Amendment 9 - Construction of Constitution.
Ratified 12/15/1791.

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

Amendment 10 - Powers of the States and People. Ratified 12/15/1791. Note

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.

Amendment 11 - . Ratified 2/7/1795. Note History

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

Amendment 7.

In a lawsuit for an amount greater than twenty dollars, a person has the right to a trial by jury. Facts that are tried and decided by a jury shall not be re-examined in any court of the United States, except according to rules of the common law.

Amendment 8.

An accused person shall not have to pay too large an amount of money for bail (a guarantee that he will return for trial) before his trial, or pay fines that are too large for the crime. A person shall not be punished in a cruel or unusual manner.

Amendment 9

This Constitution has listed certain rights of the people. That doesn't mean that the people do not have other rights, that are not mentioned.

Amendment 10

Powers that this Constitution does not give to the United States and does not prohibit the states from having, belong to the states or to the people.

Amendment 11

The courts of the United States do not have power to make decisions in cases between citizens of one state against another state, or in cases between a state and people from another country..(People in one state who want to sue another state cannot use the national U.S. courts for this.)

Amendment 12 - Choosing the President, Vice-President. Ratified 6/15/1804.

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.

Amendment 12

(This amendment changes the way that the president and vice president are elected [Article II, Section 1.]

The electors in each state shall meet in their own states and vote by ballot for president and vice president. The two candidates may not both be from the same state. The electors will vote first for president, and in another ballot, vote for vice president.

They will make two lists: one will be of all the persons that were voted for for president, and the number of votes that each received. The other list will be of all the persons voted for for vice president, and all the votes that each received.

The electors will sign, certify, and seal the lists. They will send them to the capital of the United States, addressed to the President of the Senate.

The President of the Senate shall open all the certified envelopes in a room with all of the Senators and Representatives. The votes shall then be counted.

The person who got the most votes for president will be president if he has gotten a majority of all the votes. But if no one has gotten a majority of the votes for president, then the House of Representatives shall immediately vote for one of the two or three persons who got the most votes, and that person shall be president. In doing this, each state gets one vote. There must be members present from two thirds of the states, and a majority of all of the states are necessary to choose the president.

If the House of Representatives does not choose a president before the next March 4, then the vice president shall act as president, as in the case of the death or 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 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 13 - Slavery Abolished. Ratified 12/6/1865. History

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.

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

Amendment 14 - Citizenship Rights. Ratified 7/9/1868. Note History

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.

The person who got the majority of votes for vice president will be vice president. If no one got the majority of votes of the electors, then the Senate will choose the vice president from the two people who got the most votes. There must be two thirds of all the senators present to have them choose the vice president. A majority of all the senators is needed to choose the vice president.

A person who is not qualified to be president by the rules of the Constitution may not become vice president.

Amendment 13.

1. There shall be no slavery or forced labor in the United States, except as punishment for a crime that the person has been convicted of in a court of law. Slavery may not exist in the United States or any place that belongs to the U.S.

2. Congress will have the power to make laws to enforce this amendment.

Amendment 14.

All people who are born or naturalized (go through the process of becoming citizens) in the United States and who are not citizens of some other country are citizens of the United States, and of the state they live in.

States may not make laws or enforce any laws which limit or lessen the privileges and rights of the citizens of the United States.

States may not take a person's life, liberty, or property without going through the steps required by law.

States may not deny any person within it the equal protection of the laws.

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 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.

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.

2. The number of representatives that each state has shall depend on the number of people in that state. The whole number of people shall be counted to determine how many representatives a state shall send to Congress. The number shall not include Indians who are not taxed.

If a state has limits on men aged 21 or older who can vote for electors for president, vice president, representatives, governor, state lawmakers and judges, then that state shall have fewer representatives in Congress. The number will be reduced based on the ratio of male citizens with no right to vote to the whole number of male citizens age 21 years or older in that state.

(Except: Do not count those males 21 years and older who had the right to vote taken away from them because they fought against the United States, or did some other crime.)

3. Certain people shall lose the right to vote for electors for president or vice president, and also lose the right to hold the office of senator or representative or any United States office. The men losing these rights are men who had taken an oath to support the Constitution of the United States and later joined in the rebellion against the United States, or who helped the enemies of the United States. (These would be men who had been members of Congress or officers of the U.S. or members of the state government or judges before the Civil War.)

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 debt 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.

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

Amendment 15 - Ratified 2/3/1870.

1. 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 race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

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

Amendment 16 - Ratified 2/3/1913.

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.

4. The United States will pay all of its debts that were authorized by law. This will include promises to pay pensions and bounties for people who joined the army to fight against the rebellion (the army of the Confederacy).

But the United States, and none of the individual states shall pay any debt that was for the purpose of fighting in a rebellion against the United States. The United States will not pay any claim for the freeing of any slave. All debts of this kind are illegal and not valid.

5. Congress can make laws to enforce this amendment.

Amendment 15

1. The United States (or any state) may not deny or limit a person's right to vote because of their race, color, or the fact that the person was previously a slave.

2. Congress may make any laws to enforce this amendment.

Amendment 16

Congress has the power to decide on and collect taxes on incomes that people have, no matter where they get their income. This income tax does not have to depend on any census of people in a state, or be apportioned among the states.

Amendment 17 - Senators Elected by Popular Vote. Ratified 4/8/1913.

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 18 - Liquor Abolished. Ratified 1/16/1919. Repealed by Amendment 21, 12/5/1933. History

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.

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

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.

Amendment 17. The electors in each state who vote for the senators from that state will have the same requirements as the state has for electors of the most numerous branch of the state legislature. (Before, state legislatures elected the senators.)

When there is a vacancy (a senator dies, resigns, or is removed from office,) the governor of the state shall call for an election to vote for a new senator. The legislature in a state may vote to let the governor make a temporary appointment until the people vote for a new senator.

This amendment doesn't affect the term of any senator who was chosen before the amendment was ratified as part of this Constitution.

Amendment 18.

It shall be illegal to make, sell, transport, import, or export intoxicating liquors in all territories of the United States, starting one year after this amendment is ratified. (I.e. starting January 16, 1920.)

2. Congress and each state shall have the power to make laws to enforce this amendment.

3. This amendment will not be effective unless it is ratified by the legislatures of the states within seven years from the date it was sent to them.

(Repealed by the 21st Amendment)

Amendment 19 - Women's Suffrage. Ratified 8/18/1920. History

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.

Amendment 20 - Presidential, Congressional Terms. Ratified 1/23/1933. History

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 3rd 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.

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.

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, 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.

Amendment 19.

The United States and the individual states may not deny or limit the right to vote just because a person is female.

Congress has the power to make laws to enforce this amendment.

Amendment 20

The terms of the President and vice president shall end at noon on January 20 of the year that their terms would have ended anyway, (in March) and the terms of the newly elected president and vice president shall begin.

The terms of senators and representatives shall end at noon on January 3 (of the years in which their terms would normally end). The terms of the newly elected senators and representatives shall begin.

2. Congress shall meet at least once a year. This meeting shall begin at noon, on January 3, unless Congress votes to begin on a different day.

3. If the person who was elected president dies before his term as president begins, then the vice president shall become president.

If no president has been chosen by January 20, or if the person who was elected doesn't have the qualifications that this Constitution requires, then the vice president shall act as president until a president is qualified.

Congress may make a law to say what happens in the case that both the president elect and the vice president aren't qualified. Congress shall say who shall act as president, or say how to select someone to act as president. That person shall act as president until a president or vice president meets the qualifications.

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.

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

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.

Amendment 21 - Amendment 18 Repealed. Ratified 12/5/1933. History

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

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.

3. The 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.

Amendment 22 - Ratified 2/27/1951.

1. 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

4. Congress may make a law that tells what will happen if any of the top three vote getters should die (That the House of Representatives may choose among for president if no person gets a majority of the vote). Congress may make a law that tells what will happen in the case where any of the persons that the Senators might choose a vice president from shall die.

5. Sections 1 and 2 will become law on October 15 after this Amendment is ratified.

6. It will take three fourths of the state legislatures to ratify this amendment. If they don't do it within seven years from the day that Congress sends it to the states, then it will not become part of the Constitution.

Amendment 21

The eighteenth amendment to the Constitution is repealed.

People in any state, territory or possession of the United States may make, sell, and transport intoxicating drinks. Except they may not do this in or to states that have laws against it.

This amendment will not go into effect unless it is ratified by conventions in the states within seven years.

Amendment 22.

1. A person shall not be elected president more than two times.

If a vice president becomes president (on the death or removal of the president) and serves more than two years as president, then he can only be elected as president one time.

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.

2. 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.

Amendment 23 - Ratified 3/29/1961.

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 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 a State; and they shall meet in the District and perform such duties as provided by the twelfth article of amendment.

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

This article would not stop the person who is president now (Harry S. Truman) from being elected president two or more times.

2. This amendment will not become part of the Constitution unless three fourths of the state legislatures ratify it within seven years.

Amendment 23.

The capital city (the District of Columbia) shall have the right to choose electors for President and Vice President. They shall have the number of electors that they would be entitled to if the district were a state, but this number shall not be more than the state with the fewest people. These electors shall be in addition to the electors that the states have, and they shall be counted for the purposes of electing a president and vice president. They shall meet and vote as it is explained in the 12th amendment. Congress shall decide how the electors are chosen.

2. Congress shall have the power to make laws to enforce this amendment.

Amendment 24 - Ratified 1/23/1964.

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

Amendment 25 - Ratified 2/10/1967.

1. In case of the removal of the President from office or of his death or resignation, the Vice President shall become President.
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.
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.
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, the Vice President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President.

Amendment 24.

The United States and each state shall not make people pay a special tax in order to vote for President or vice president or for Senator or Representative in Congress or in any primary election for those officers.

2. Congress shall have the power to make laws to enforce this amendment.

Amendment 25

1. In case the president dies, resigns, or is removed from office, the vice president shall become president.
2. In case the vice president dies, resigns, or is removed from office, the president may nominate a new vice president. The majority of both houses of Congress must vote to approve of this nomination.
3. If the president is unable to do the jobs he is supposed to do, he may write about this to the president pro tem of the Senate and to the Speaker of the House. Then the vice president shall act as president. The vice president will continue acting as president until the president sends a letter saying he is now able to do his duties.
4. If the president is unable to do his duties, and is not able to send a written letter to Congress, (from severe illness for example) then the Vice President and a majority of the principle officers of the executive department (the Cabinet) may send a letter to the president pro tem of the Senate and to the speaker of the House. The letter should say that the president is not able to do his duties. Then the vice president shall immediately act as president.

After that, if the president sends a written letter to the Congress saying that he *is* able to do his duties, he shall go back to doing his job.

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 department 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.

Amendment 26 - Ratified 7/1/1971.

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 by any State on account of age.

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

Amendment 27 - Limiting Changes to Congressional Pay. Ratified 5/7/1992.

No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened.

The vice president and the other officers have four days to send a letter saying that the president is *not* able to do his duties. Then Congress shall decide if the president is able or not able to do his duties. They will come together within 48 hours unless they are already in session.

Congress shall have up to 21 days to decide whether the president is able or unable to do his job. If they decide he cannot do his job, then the Vice president shall act as president. Otherwise, the president shall go back to doing his job.

Amendment 26.

1. Citizens who are eighteen years of age or older may not have the right to vote denied because of their age.
2. Congress may make laws to enforce this amendment.

Amendment 27.

A law that raises or lowers the salary of the Senators and Representatives will not go into effect until after the next election of representatives.