



THE AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION



AMENDMENTS RANKED BY IMPORTANCE

- 1st Amendment: Without these freedoms, democracy could not function.
- 13th Amendment: Freedom is a basic human right, making this one of the most important amendments.
- 14th Amendment: It ensures fairness and equal treatment for everyone under the law.
- 5th Amendment: Everyone deserves due process and protection in the justice system.
- 6th Amendment: It helps ensure innocent people receive a fair trial.
- 4th Amendment: Privacy is essential, and the government should not invade it without good reason.
- 15th Amendment: Voting should never depend on a person's race.
- 19th Amendment: Giving women the right to vote was a major step toward equality.
- 26th Amendment: If you're old enough to serve your country, you're old enough to vote and decide the course of your country.
- 8th Amendment: Even people accused of crimes deserve humane treatment.
- 2nd Amendment: I support this right, but I also think it comes with great responsibility.
- 10th Amendment: States should be able to make decisions that best fit their communities.
- 24th Amendment: No one should have to pay in order to vote.
- 25th Amendment: A clear succession plan keeps the government stable during emergencies.
- 22nd Amendment: Term limits help prevent too much power in one person's hands.
- 17th Amendment: Citizens should choose their own senators.
- 27th Amendment: It helps keep Congress accountable to voters.
- 23rd Amendment: Washington, D.C., residents deserve a voice in presidential elections.
- 20th Amendment: It makes the transition of power more efficient.
- 7th Amendment: Jury trials in civil cases are important but affect fewer people.
- 9th Amendment: It protects rights that aren't specifically listed in the Constitution.
- 11th Amendment: It mainly affects how states can be sued, so it has less impact on everyday life.
- 16th Amendment: Taxes are necessary to fund the government, but they aren't a personal freedom.
- 21st Amendment: Repealing Prohibition was important, but it doesn't affect daily life as much today.
- 12th Amendment: It improved elections, but most people rarely think about it.
- 18th Amendment: It was later repealed, so its long-term impact was limited.
- 3rd Amendment: It protects an important principle, but it almost never affects modern life.

THE 27 AMENDMENTS

- 1st Amendment (1791): Freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition.
- 2nd Amendment (1791): Right to keep and bear arms.
- 3rd Amendment (1791): No forced quartering of soldiers in private homes.
- 4th Amendment (1791): Protection from unreasonable searches and seizures.
- 5th Amendment (1791): Due process, no self-incrimination, no double jeopardy.
- 6th Amendment (1791): Right to a speedy, public trial and a lawyer.
- 7th Amendment (1791): Right to a jury trial in civil cases.
- 8th Amendment (1791): No excessive bail, fines, or cruel and unusual punishment.
- 9th Amendment (1791): People have rights beyond those listed in the Constitution.
- 10th Amendment (1791): Powers not given to the federal government belong to the states or the people.
- 11th Amendment (1795): Limits lawsuits against states.
- 12th Amendment (1804): Separate election of the President and Vice President.
- 13th Amendment (1865): Abolishes slavery.
- 14th Amendment (1868): Citizenship, due process, and equal protection.
- 15th Amendment (1870): Voting rights cannot be denied because of race.
- 16th Amendment (1913): Allows a federal income tax.
- 17th Amendment (1913): Direct election of U.S. senators.
- 18th Amendment (1919): Established Prohibition.
- 19th Amendment (1920): Women's right to vote.
- 20th Amendment (1933): Sets new terms for the President and Congress.
- 21st Amendment (1933): Repeals Prohibition.
- 22nd Amendment (1951): Limits presidents to two terms.
- 23rd Amendment (1961): Gives Washington, D.C., electoral votes.
- 24th Amendment (1964): Bans poll taxes.
- 25th Amendment (1967): Presidential succession and vice presidential vacancies.
- 26th Amendment (1971): Lowers the voting age to 18.
- 27th Amendment (1992): Delays congressional pay raises until after the next election.

REAL-LIFE EXAMPLES

- 1st Amendment: A student peacefully protests at school.
- 2nd Amendment: A citizen legally owns a firearm.
- 3rd Amendment: Soldiers cannot be forced into private homes.
- 4th Amendment: Police need a warrant to search a home.
- 5th Amendment: A suspect chooses to remain silent.
- 6th Amendment: A defendant receives a speedy trial and a lawyer.
- 7th Amendment: A civil case is decided by a jury.
- 8th Amendment: A judge cannot set excessive bail.
- 9th Amendment: A married couple makes private family decisions.
- 10th Amendment: A state sets its own traffic laws.
- 11th Amendment: A state cannot usually be sued without its consent.
- 12th Amendment: Voters cast separate ballots for President and Vice President.
- 13th Amendment: Slavery is illegal.
- 14th Amendment: A child born in the U.S. is a citizen.
- 15th Amendment: A citizen cannot be denied the right to vote because of race.
- 16th Amendment: Workers pay federal income taxes.
- 17th Amendment: Citizens directly elect U.S. senators.
- 18th Amendment: Alcohol was illegal during Prohibition.
- 19th Amendment: Women vote in elections.
- 20th Amendment: A new President takes office on January 20.
- 21st Amendment: Alcohol becomes legal again.
- 22nd Amendment: A President serves no more than two terms.
- 23rd Amendment: Washington, D.C., residents vote for President.
- 24th Amendment: No poll tax is required to vote.
- 25th Amendment: The Vice President becomes President if needed.
- 26th Amendment: An 18-year-old votes in an election.
- 27th Amendment: Congressional pay raises take effect after the next election.

AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION (ARTICLE V)

Proposal Methods

A 2/3 vote in both the House and Senate proposes an amendment

A constitutional convention called by 2/3 of the state legislatures proposes an amendment

Ratification methods

3/4 of the state legislatures approve the amendment

3/4 of state conventions approve the amendment

MY PROPOSED AMENDMENT

I would propose an amendment protecting digital privacy. When the Constitution was written, the Founders could not have imagined phones, social media, or the internet. Today, so much of our personal information, such as our location, messages, photos, search history, and almost any and all online activity, is stored digitally. I believe people should have a constitutional right to control their personal data and be protected from unnecessary government surveillance. I also believe companies should be prohibited from collecting and sharing our information. As technology continues to advance, our privacy rights must advance with it.

