

# The United States Constitution and Amendments

## 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 – Legislative Branch

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.

Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, regulate commerce, declare war, raise and support armies, and make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out these powers.

## Article II – Executive Branch

The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America.

The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy, make treaties with Senate approval, and appoint federal officers.

## Article III – Judicial Branch

The judicial Power of the United States shall be vested in one Supreme Court and such inferior Courts as Congress may establish.

Judges shall hold office during good behavior.

## Article IV – The States

Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of every other State.

The United States shall guarantee to every State a Republican Form of Government.

## Article V – Amendments

The Congress shall propose Amendments whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, or on application of the states.

Amendments shall be valid when ratified by three fourths of the states.

## Article VI – Supremacy Clause

This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof, shall be the supreme Law of the Land.

No religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust.

## Article VII – Ratification

The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution.

## The Amendments

1st Amendment – Freedoms of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition.

2nd Amendment – Right to bear arms.

3rd Amendment – No quartering of soldiers in homes.

4th Amendment – Protection from unreasonable searches and seizures.

5th Amendment – Due process, self-incrimination, double jeopardy.

6th Amendment – Rights of accused in criminal prosecutions.

7th Amendment – Right to jury trial in civil cases.

8th Amendment – No cruel and unusual punishment.

9th Amendment – Rights retained by the people.

10th Amendment – Powers reserved to the states.

13th Amendment – Abolished slavery.

14th Amendment – Citizenship and equal protection.

15th Amendment – Voting rights regardless of race.

16th Amendment – Income tax.

17th Amendment – Direct election of senators.

18th Amendment – Prohibition (repealed).

19th Amendment – Women's suffrage.

20th Amendment – Terms of office adjustments.

21st Amendment – Repealed Prohibition.

22nd Amendment – Presidential term limits.

23rd Amendment – Electoral votes for D.C.

24th Amendment – Abolished poll tax.

25th Amendment – Presidential succession.

26th Amendment – Voting age set at 18.

27th Amendment – Congressional pay changes delay.