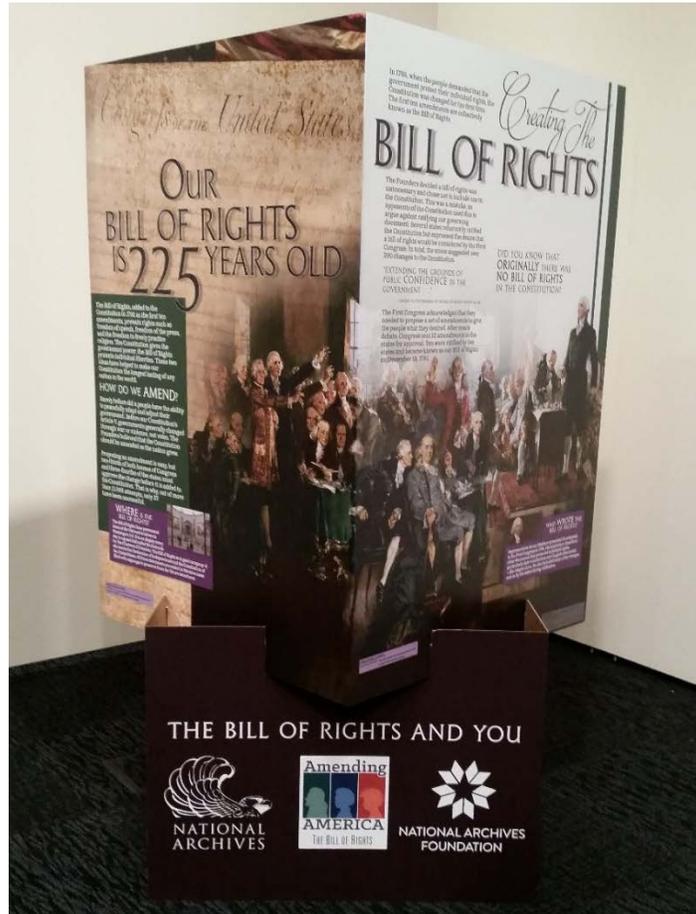


The Bill of Rights and You

Pop Up Exhibit



Resource Guide

Created by the National Archives Traveling Exhibits Service (NATES). Presented in part by AT&T, Seedlings Foundation, and the National Archives Foundation, and in collaboration with the Federation of State Humanities Councils.



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Exhibition Description

The National Archives Traveling Exhibits Service (NATES) commemorates the 225th anniversary of the ratification of the Bill of Rights with *The Bill of Rights and You*. This pop-up exhibit spotlights one of the most remarkable periods in American history. Simple messages convey the importance of the Bill of Rights, its history and implementation, and its impact today. The small, unit-based temporary pop-up exhibition is constructed of cardboard, ships flat, and can be easily set up with no tools.

Our Bill of Rights

This panel introduces visitors to the Bill of Rights and the amending process. It provides information about where the Bill of Rights is located.

Creating the Bill of Rights

The Constitution sent to the states for ratification had no Bill of Rights. Visitors will learn how our First Congress debated on the need for and their ultimate decision to include rights-related amendments to the Constitution, including which ones the states ratified.

Know Your Rights

Visitors can discover how the revolutionary Bill of Rights protects individual rights today and how the 14th amendment ratified 75 years later was used to incorporate those rights, thereby expanding their protections to more Americans.

Make a Change

Shows examples of how Americans have used, and continue to use, their First Amendment rights.

The Bill of Rights and You is organized by the National Archives and Records Administration, and traveled by the National Archives Traveling Exhibits Service (NATES). This exhibition was developed in collaboration with the National Archives' National Outreach Initiative to commemorate the 225th Anniversary of the Bill of Rights. The exhibition is presented in part by AT&T, Seedlings Foundation, and the National Archives Foundation and in collaboration with the Federation of State Humanities Councils.

Assembly and Display

The Bill of Rights and You is designed to be lightweight, easy to set-up, and versatile. You can use this pop-up unit in any public area—no walls are necessary.

Set-up

The unit will ship in four pieces—two for the top and two for the bottom. The two bottom and two top pieces attach using an adhesive strip. Peel the backing and press together. Note: the adhesive can only be used once so ensure proper placement before attaching.

Once the two parts have been assembled simply slide the top portion onto the bottom using the slots provided. The corner of panels “Our Bill of Rights” and “Creating the Bill of Rights” should overhang the credits “The Bill of Rights and You.” The corner of panels “Know Your Rights” and “Make a Change” should overhang the credits “Presented in Part by.”

Suggested Display

The unit should be placed in a visible high-traffic area with room for people to walk all the way around the unit. The total assembled size is 66 1/2" high by 32" wide. The total footprint is approximately 45" sq.

Although the four panels of the unit can be read independently, there is an ideal flow for the exhibit. If possible, face the unit so that guests encounter the panels in the following order:

- Our Bill of Rights
- Creating the Bill of Rights
- Know Your Rights
- Make a Change

Other Display Options

Wrap a pole or column. If space is an issue, you may affix the two parts around a structural support.

Display on a wall. If you cannot accommodate the unit assembled, affix the panels to a wall. This is also an option for after the initial display. The text of each panel is designed to stand alone so individual panels may be utilized for a future event or activity.

Exhibit Script

It is the 225th anniversary of the Bill of Rights!

The Bill of Rights, added to the Constitution in 1791 as the first 10 amendments, protects rights such as freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and the freedom to freely practice religion. The Constitution gives the government power; the Bill of Rights protects individual liberties. These two ideas have helped to make our Constitution the longest lasting of any nation in the world.

How do we amend?

Rarely before did a people have the ability to peacefully adapt and adjust their government. Before our Constitution's Article V, governments generally changed through war or violence, not votes. The Founders believed that the Constitution should be amended as the nation grew. Proposing an amendment is easy, but two-thirds of both houses of Congress *and* three-fourth of the states must approve the change before it is added to the Constitution. That is why, out of more than 11,000 attempts, only 27 have been successful.

Where is the Bill of Rights?

The Bill of Rights has a permanent home at the National Archives in Washington D.C. It is on display every day in a grand hall called the Rotunda for the Charters of Freedom. It sits beside the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.

“I do not conceive that we are any more inspired—have more wisdom—or possess more virtue than those who will come after us. The power under the Constitution will always be with the people.”

—George Washington, 1787

Article V

Section of the Constitution which outlines the amending process

Amendment

Changes made to the Constitution

Creating the Bill of Rights

In 1789, when the people demanded that the government protect their individual rights, the Constitution was changed for the first time. The first 10 amendments are collectively known as the Bill of Rights.

Did you know that originally there was no Bill of Rights in the Constitution?

The Founders decided a bill of rights was unnecessary and chose not to include one in the Constitution. This was a mistake, as opponents of the Constitution used this to argue against ratifying our governing document. Several states reluctantly ratified the Constitution but expressed the desire that a bill of rights would be considered by the First Congress. In total, the states suggested over 200 changes to the Constitution.

“Extending the grounds of public confidence in the government . . .”

The First Congress acknowledged that they needed to propose a set of amendments to give the people what they desired. After much debate, Congress sent 12 amendments to the states for approval. Ten were ratified by the states and became known as our Bill of Rights on December 15, 1791.

Who Wrote the Bill of Rights?

Representative James Madison presented 19 proposals to the First Congress in 1789. His inspiration came from other documents that protected individual rights, particularly state constitutions and English documents—like the Magna Carta. He also included many of the changes sent in by the states during ratification.

Ratification

The process through which the states approve documents or amendments proposed by Congress

Know Your Rights

The Bill of Rights, the first 10 amendments to the Constitution, protects the rights of American citizens. In total, these 10 amendments contain 28 individual rights.

1. Freedom to freely practice religion
1. Freedom of speech
1. Freedom of the press
1. Right to peacefully assemble
1. Right to petition
2. Right to bear arms
3. Soldiers cannot be housed in private homes in peacetime
4. Forbids unreasonable search and seizure
5. Right to due process and protection against double jeopardy and self-incrimination
6. Right to a speedy trial, impartial jury and representation by an attorney
7. Right to jury in civil cases
8. No excessive fines or cruel and unusual punishment
9. Protection of rights not listed
10. Powers not granted to the government retained by the states and the people
14. Although it is not part of the Bill of Rights, this amendment is vitally important because it allowed the Supreme Court to apply the rights in the first 10 amendments to the states. Originally, the Bill of Rights applied only to the Federal government.

“We might as well require a man to wear still the coat which fitted him when a boy, as civilized society to remain ever under the regimen of their barbarous ancestors.”

—Thomas Jefferson, 1816

Incorporation

Throughout the 20th century, the Supreme Court used the Due Process Clause of the 14th Amendment to apply most of the Bill of Rights to the states thereby expanding the protections under the Bill of Rights—a process known as incorporation.

Make a Change

For many Americans, exercising our First Amendment rights defines what it means to be American. Americans have used the five rights protected by the First Amendment to exercise their beliefs, speak their mind, and even influence Federal law. Some of the most important changes in American history began with American citizens speaking, printing, or gathering to demand change.

Protecting Religious Freedom

The right to freely practice religion is an important part of American democracy. In a nation of diverse cultures, ethnicities, and religions, the First Amendment ensures that each American's beliefs are protected and that the government will not pass any law establishing a religion.

Speaking out Against Inequality

The Constitution did not allow women to vote until 1920. Despite this, women used their rights to speech, press, petition, and assembly to demand full voting rights. These continual efforts led to the 19th Amendment, which officially changed the Constitution to provide women the ability to vote, although women of color still faced barriers to voting throughout the 20th century.

Marching against Discrimination

African-American civil rights leaders used their First Amendment rights to protest discrimination. Civil rights activists, like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., brought national attention to the discrimination of African Americans, resulting in a series of Civil Rights Acts.

Petitioning for Change

Americans have the right to petition, or communicate, with the government. Petitions can be signed documents, but today petitioning has also gone digital. You can petition online at the *We the People* website through Whitehouse.gov. If a petition receives 100,000 signatures in 30 days, the administration will respond.

Suffrage

The right to vote

Reference Resources

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Sobel, Syl. *The Bill of Rights: Protecting our Freedom Then and Now*. Hauppauge: Barron's, 2008.

Sonneborn, Liz. *The United States Constitution (Documenting U.S. History)*. Chicago: Heinemann Library, 2012.

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Programming

An exhibition is more than a display, it is a conversation starter. Developing programming around the exhibition allows you to grow your audience, engage with your visitors, and make connections in your community. There are many ways to engage your community with the exhibition. Here are some examples to get you started.

Collaborate

Think creatively, how can you put together a program that offers your audience something they cannot find online? It might be that your institution has limited resources. You are not alone. Partnering with other local organizations can be beneficial and enrich experiences for both the public and the institution—allowing you to offer something that you could not have done alone.

It is best to first familiarize yourself with the exhibition subject. Then, think about how to relate the topic to your current audience. Is there an audience you would like to reach? Think about who in the community currently serves that audience. Contact local organizations and secure some commitments. You will likely find a variety of groups in your community who will have an interest in this exhibition, such as those listed below:

- Civics education organizations
- Local political offices
- Courthouses and City Hall
- Law offices
- Historic interest groups (reenactors, round tables, book clubs)
- Other museums that interpret the Revolutionary period
- Local public libraries
- Elementary schools, high schools, and universities
- Local theaters

Collaborate with partnering organizations in the planning stages of your programming. Different types of institutions will bring different things to the table, so communicating early will help you determine the best fit for everyone.

Localize

The exhibit gives your institution an opportunity to offer something new to your community. Explore ways to tie the subject into your institution. Feature an item in your collection that relates to a right outlined in the Bill of Rights. Tell the story of a local individual that used their amendment rights to affect change. Or simply use the exhibit to start a conversation about what the Bill of Rights means to the people in your community. Collect their stories and display them in your facility or online. Making the exhibition locally relevant is key to a successful exhibition.

Here are just a few ideas to explore:

Involve local experts

Research who in your community has expertise in the subject matter. Ask a local historian to give a lecture or host a discussion session. Invite an author to hold a book signing. Partner with a historical interest group to stage a reenactment. Inviting local experts to partner with your organization is a great way to expand the reach of the exhibition and your institution.

Bring the topic to the present

The Bill of Rights impacts our everyday lives, so make the exhibition relevant to your visitors in the present. Give the community a voice in your programming by simply hosting a discussion. Explore your community's experiences with their amendment rights. Educate your visitors about the legal implications of the Bill of Rights by inviting local politicians and lawyers to speak about them.

Hold a film festival

Find films that relate to the topic. Think of subject in broad terms. Begin with Revolutionary War drama, hold a discussion afterwards about the accuracies and inaccuracies present in the film. This is a great way to start a discussion about historical memory and its impact on our lives. Get creative—show a film that explores how Americans use their amendment rights.

NOTE: If you wish to present public film showings at your own site, please be sure to clear the rights through a recognized licensing agent.

Lesson Plans

Online Primary Sources and Learning Activities on DocsTeach

<https://www.docsteach.org/topics/amendments>

DocsTeach is the online tool for teaching with documents from the National Archives. On this special topic page, educators can:

Explore records in the holdings of the National Archives that relate to:

- The Amendment Process
- Creating the Bill of Rights
- Concepts found in the Bill of Rights such as Freedom of Speech, Freedom of the Press, Trial by Jury, etc.

Find online primary source-based teaching activities that promote historical thinking, including:

- The Constitution at Work
- The First Amendment
- Search Warrants and the 4th Amendment
- Extending Suffrage to Women
- Prohibition and Its Consequences
- and Several More!

FREE eBooks

<http://archives.gov/publications/ebooks/>

- Congress Creates the Bill of Rights App
- “Amending America” eBook
- eCatalog for the National Archives exhibit “Amending America”

FREE Video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c_wbxHmSQKc

“Amending America: How Do We Amend?”

Animated video documenting the process of amending the Constitution.

Glossary

Amend

To alter, modify, rephrase, or add to or subtract from by formal procedure.
Article V of the Constitution allows us to change, or amend, the Constitution.

American Revolution

The war between Great Britain and its American colonies, 1775–83, by which the colonies won their independence.

Articles of Confederation

The first constitution of the 13 American states, adopted in 1781 and replaced in 1789 by the Constitution of the United States

Article V

Describes the process how the Constitution can be amended.

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.”

Bill of Rights

A formal statement of the fundamental rights of the people of the United States, incorporated in the Constitution as Amendments 1–10, and in all state constitutions.

Federalism

A system of government in which power is divided between a national (federal) government and various regional governments. As defined by the United States Constitution, federalism is a fundamental aspect of American government, whereby the states are not merely regional representatives of the federal government, but are granted independent powers and responsibilities. With its own legislative branch, judicial branch, and executive branch states are empowered to pass, enforce, and interpret laws, provided they do not violate the Constitution.

The First Congress

The Congress of the United States established by the Constitution met for the first time at New York City’s Federal Hall on March 4, 1789. It is arguably the most important Congress in U.S. history. To this new legislature fell the responsibility of passing all the legislation needed to implement the new system, solving the difficult political questions left by the Constitutional Convention, setting up the rules and procedures of the House and Senate, and establishing the roles of its officers such as Speaker of the House and President of the Senate.

Incorporation

When the Bill of Rights was ratified in 1791, its protections of Americans' rights constrained only the Federal Government. State governments could still encroach on fundamental rights such as free speech or press. It was not until the 20th century that the Supreme Court began to interpret the Due Process Clause of the 14th Amendment to require that states also protect individual rights. Case by case over decades, the Supreme Court ruled that most of the Bill of Rights applied to the states—a process referred to as “incorporation.”

Joint Resolution

A resolution adopted by both branches of a bicameral legislative assembly and requiring the signature of the chief executive to become law.

Ratify

To confirm by expressing consent, approval, or formal sanction.

For constitutional amendments, after an amendment is proposed by Congress three-fourths of states need to approve or ratify it before it can be added to the Constitution.

Suffrage

The right to vote, especially in a political election. Five of the 27 amendments to the Constitution have expanded suffrage for citizens.

United States Constitution

The fundamental or organic law of the United States, framed in 1787 by the Constitutional Convention. It went into effect March 4, 1789.

Questions? Contact us!

The National Archives Traveling Exhibits Service (NATES) offers affordable traveling exhibits for museums, libraries, historic sites, and cultural centers that engage and inspire diverse audiences. These exhibits draw from the holdings of the National Archives—a national network of Federal archives, Presidential libraries, and records centers.

For more than 25 years, the National Archives has traveled high quality museum exhibits to institutions across the country. We offer exhibits in all shapes and sizes to fit a variety of needs and hosting institutions. Whether you are looking for a small, inexpensive exhibit, a large, original document-based exhibit, or a high-impact single document, NATES can help you. View our current exhibits at www.archives.gov/exhibits/nates/.

Contact us at NATES@nara.gov or 816.268.8088 for more information on how to host a National Archives exhibit.

Addendum: The 27 Ratified Amendments

Amendment I—Protects freedom of religion, speech, and press, and the right to assemble and petition

Passed by Congress September 25, 1789. Ratified December 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 II—Protects the right to bear arms

Passed by Congress September 25, 1789. Ratified December 15, 1791.

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 III—Does not allow soldiers to be housed in private homes in peacetime

Passed by Congress September 25, 1789. Ratified December 15, 1791.

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 IV—Forbids unreasonable searches and seizures

Passed by Congress September 25, 1789. Ratified December 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 V—Compels due process of law, including protection against self-incrimination

Passed by Congress September 25, 1789. Ratified December 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 VI—Protects the rights of the accused

Passed by Congress September 25, 1789. Ratified December 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 defense.

Amendment VII—Preserves the right to trial by jury in civil cases

Passed by Congress September 25, 1789. Ratified December 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 reexamined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment VIII—Bans cruel and unusual punishment

Passed by Congress September 25, 1789. Ratified December 15, 1791.

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

Amendment IX—Secures to the people rights that are not listed in the Constitution

Passed by Congress September 25, 1789. Ratified December 15, 1791.

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

Amendment X—Reserves rights not delegated to the federal government to the states and the people

Passed by Congress September 25, 1789. Ratified December 15, 1791.

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 XI—Clarifies rules for lawsuits against states

Passed by Congress March 4, 1794. Ratified February 7, 1795.

Note: Article III, section 2, of the Constitution was modified by amendment 11.

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 XII—Revises presidential election procedures

Passed by Congress December 9, 1803. Ratified June 15, 1804.

Note: A portion of Article II, section 1 of the Constitution was superseded by the 12th amendment.

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 case of the death or other constitutional 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.

**Superseded by section 3 of the 20th amendment.*

Amendment XIII—Abolishes slavery

Passed by Congress January 31, 1865. Ratified December 6, 1865.

Note: A portion of Article IV, section 2, of the Constitution was superseded by the 13th amendment.

Section 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.

Section 2.

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

Amendment XIV—Defines citizenship, due process, and equal protection under the law

Passed by Congress June 13, 1866. Ratified July 9, 1868.

Note: Article I, section 2, of the Constitution was modified by section 2 of the 14th amendment.

Section 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.

Section 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.

Section 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.

Section 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.

Section 5.

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

**Changed by section 1 of the 26th amendment.*

Amendment XV—Provides for the right to vote regardless of race

Passed by Congress February 26, 1869. Ratified February 3, 1870.

Section 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--

Section 2.

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

Amendment XVI—Gives Congress the power to collect income taxes

Passed by Congress July 2, 1909. Ratified February 3, 1913.

Note: Article I, section 9, of the Constitution was modified by amendment 16.

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.

Amendment XVII—Establishes the direct election of senators

Passed by Congress May 13, 1912. Ratified April 8, 1913.

Note: Article I, section 3, of the Constitution was modified by the 17th amendment.

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 XVIII—Prohibits the manufacture or sale of alcohol (Prohibition)

Passed by Congress December 18, 1917. Ratified January 16, 1919. Repealed by amendment 21.

Section 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.

Section 2.

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

Section 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 XIX-- Provides for the right to vote regardless of gender

Passed by Congress June 4, 1919. Ratified August 18, 1920.

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 XX—Sets new date for the beginning of presidential and congressional terms

Passed by Congress March 2, 1932. Ratified January 23, 1933.

Note: Article I, section 4, of the Constitution was modified by section 2 of this amendment. In addition, a portion of the 12th amendment was superseded by section 3.

Section 1.

The terms of the President and the 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.

Section 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.

Section 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

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.

Section 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.

Section 5.

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

Section 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 XXI—Repeals the 18th Amendment (Prohibition)

Passed by Congress February 20, 1933. Ratified December 5, 1933.

Section 1.

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

Section 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.

Section 3.

This 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 XXII—Limits the president to two terms of office

Passed by Congress March 21, 1947. Ratified February 27, 1951.

Section 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 some other person was elected President shall be elected to the office of President more than once. But this Article shall not apply to any person holding the office of President when this Article was proposed by 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.

Section 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 XXIII—Gives the residents of the District of Columbia the right to vote for president

Passed by Congress June 16, 1960. Ratified March 29, 1961.

Section 1.

The District constituting the seat of Government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as 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.

Section 2.

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

Amendment XXIV—Prohibits poll taxes

Passed by Congress August 27, 1962. Ratified January 23, 1964.

Section 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.

Section 2.

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

Amendment XXV—Defines presidential succession

Passed by Congress July 6, 1965. Ratified February 10, 1967.

Note: Article II, section 1, of the Constitution was affected by the 25th amendment.

Section 1.

In case of the removal of the President from office or of his death or resignation, the Vice President shall become President.

Section 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.

Section 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.

Section 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.

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 XXVI—Provides for the right to vote to citizens age 18 or older

Passed by Congress March 23, 1971. Ratified July 1, 1971.

Note: Amendment 14, section 2, of the Constitution was modified by section 1 of the 26th amendment.

Section 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.

Section 2.

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

Amendment XXVII—Delays congressional pay raises until after the next election

Originally proposed Sept. 25, 1789. Ratified May 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.