

CONSTITUTION

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
Section 1: Description. The legislative branch of government, or Congress, makes all the laws. It has two parts, or houses, the Senate and the House of Representatives.
Section 2: House of Representatives. Members of the House of Representatives serve a two-year term. They are elected by the people. Representatives must be at least 25 years old, citizens of the United States for at least seven years, and citizens of the state they represent. The number of representatives from each state depends on that state's population. In order to decide on the number of representatives from each state, the government must count the people every 10 years. This is called a census.
Section 3: The Senate. The Senate is made up of two senators from each state. Senators have a six-year term. Senators must be at least 30 years old, citizens of the United States for at least nine years, and citizens of the state they represent. The Vice-President of the United States is in charge of the Senate, but may only vote in case of a tie.
Sections 4-7: Rules. Instructions on how to operate both the House and the Senate are covered. Behavior of members, record keeping, pay, and how a bill becomes a law are covered.
Sections 8-10: Duties. The exact jobs of Congress are listed. Congress makes all money and trade laws. Congress decides how many people can become citizens of the United States and can declare war if necessary. Powers Congress and the states do not have are also listed.

Article II
EXECUTIVE BRANCH
Section 1: Description. The executive branch is made up of the President of the United States and those who help carry out laws passed by Congress. The President manages the government. A President and Vice-President are elected to a four-year term. A President must have been born in the United States, must be at least 35 years old, and must have lived in the United States for at least 14 years.
Sections 2-4: Duties. Some of the President's jobs include carrying out the laws made by Congress, responsibility for all the armed forces, pardoning crimes, and reporting to Congress at least once a year on what the nation is doing. The President makes treaties and appoints government leaders; the Senate must give its approval. If the President does wrong, he may be removed from office.

Article III
JUDICIAL BRANCH
Section 1: Description. The judicial branch of government is the federal court system. The Supreme Court is the nation's highest court. It has the final say in all matters of law. Judges are appointed, not elected to office.
Section 2: Duties. The federal courts have a say in all cases that are not entirely within the state.
Section 3: Treason. The crime of treason, trying to overthrow the government, is explained.
Article IV
THE STATES
Sections 1-4: Rules about the states. All states must accept acts, records, and laws of other states. A citizen of one state must be given the same rights as the citizens of another state he or she may be in. The governor of one state may send an accused criminal from another state back to that state for trial. New states may be added to the United States. The United States government will protect all states from enemies.
Article V
AMENDMENTS
 Making changes. The Constitution may be amended, or changed.
Article VI
HIGHEST LAW
 Above all others. The Constitution of the United States is the highest law in

the land. State laws must be under this law. All national and state lawmakers and offices must support the Constitution.
Article VII
PASSING THE CONSTITUTION
 Ratification. This Constitution becomes law when nine of 13 states ratify it, or approve it.
AMENDMENTS
 The first ten amendments are known as
THE BILL OF RIGHTS
Amendment I: Congress may not make rules to change freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, or the right of people to come together in a peaceful way or to send petitions to their government.
Amendment II: The people have the right to keep and bear arms.
Amendment III: During peacetime, the government cannot make citizens put up soldiers in their homes.
Amendment IV: People or their homes may not be searched unreasonably.
Amendment V: Persons accused of serious crimes have the right to a jury trial. They may not be forced to give evidence against themselves. Their lives, freedom, and property may not be taken from them unfairly. If the government takes a person's property for public use, it must pay the owner for it.
Amendment VI: Persons

accused of serious crimes have the right to a speedy and public trial. They must be told what they are accused of. They have the right to have a lawyer. They have the right to see and question those who accuse them.
Amendment VII: In most cases, there must be a right to a jury trial.
Amendment VIII: Punishment may not be cruel and unusual.
Amendments IX and X: If the Constitution does not give a certain right to the United States government, and also does not forbid a state government to have the right, then the states and the people have it.
Amendment XI: The power of the judicial branch is limited to certain kinds of cases.
Amendment XII: Electors vote for President and Vice-President separately.
Amendment XIII: Slavery may not exist in the United States.
Amendment XIV: People born in the United States or naturalized here are United States citizens. They are also citizens of the states they live in. States may not make laws that limit the rights of citizens of the United States. They may not take away a person's life or freedom of property unfairly. They must treat all people equally under the law.
Amendment XV: No citizen may be denied the

right to vote because of race.
Amendment XVI: Congress is allowed to pass an income tax law.
Amendment XVII: United States senators are elected by the people.
Amendment XVIII: Liquor may no longer be manufactured or sold in the United States.
Amendment XIX: No citizen may be denied the right to vote because of sex.
Amendment XX: Presidents start their new terms on January 20; Congress starts its new term on January 3.
Amendment XXI: The eighteenth amendment to this Constitution is repealed, or taken back.
Amendment XXII: Presidents are limited to two terms in office.
Amendment XXIII: Residents of Washington D.C., have the right to vote for President.
Amendment XXIV: Citizens need not pay a tax in order to vote for President, senators, or members of Congress.
Amendment XXV: In case the president becomes too ill to carry on the job, the Vice-President will take over as Acting President until the President is better.
Amendment XXVI: No citizen who is 18 years of age or older may be denied the right to vote because of age.



**Happy Birthday to
 The Constitution
 Know it, Live it**

