

The Constitution of The United States

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Preamble: We the people...form more perfect union...justice, tranquility, defense, general welfare.. blessings of liberty for posterity.

Article 1: The Legislature.

Section 1: Legislative powers are vested in a Senate, House of Representatives.

Section 2: Representatives and taxes apportioned among states...House of Representatives has power of impeachment of government officials for treason, high crimes and misdemeanors.

Section 3: Vice president is president of the Senate, votes only in ties.

Section 5: Each house determines it's rules of proceedings. Must publish except parts that, in their judgement, require secrecy.

Section 6: Except for felonies, Senators are privileged from arrest in, or in route to attendance.

Section 7: Bills to raise revenue originate in the House of Representatives, must pass identically in Senate.

Section 8: Congress has power to lay and collect taxes, provide for the common defense and welfare and to borrow and mint money. To regulate commerce with other nations and among the states. To promote the progress of science and the useful arts by securing their author's exclusive rights. (patents). To constitute tribunals inferior to the Supreme Court. To raise and support armies and declare war, make rules concerning captures on land or water. To make rules regulating the military. Power to call up National Guard. Power to make all laws necessary to carry into execution all the foregoing powers.

Section 9: May not suspend habeas corpus rights, except in cases of rebellion or invasion. Prohibit bills of attainder and ex post facto laws. No money to be drawn from treasury except that apportioned by law. Equal protection under law of states.

Section 10: Prohibits states from minting money, declaring war, taxing other states.

Article 2: The Executive

Section 1: The Presidential oath: "I shall faithfully execute the office of President.. preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution." President must be natural born, 35 years of age.

Section 2: President is commander in chief of the military when it is called into service by the legislative branch. Has power, by and with the consent of the Senate, to make treaties and appoint federal judges. Power to grant reprieves and pardons. Powers to grant recess appointments. Power to form cabinet.

Section 3: Must give congress information on the state of the union, and recommend such measures that he judges necessary and expedient. The President shall take care that the laws are faithfully executed.

Article 3: The Judiciary.

The Supreme Court is established. Judges terms on good behavior (life). Hears cases involving the Constitution, appeals from lower courts and special cases such as those involving foreign treaties. Defines treason.

Article 4: Full faith and credit. Equal protection and extradition rights among and between the states. Guarantees a republic form of government.

Article 5: Procedure to amend the Constitution.

Article 6: Oath for all three branches to support the Constitution as the supreme law of the land. Religious tests are not allowed.

Article 7: Ratification, followed by signatures of the delegates and amendments 1 through 10 (Bill of Rights).

Bill of Rights

Amendment I

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

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

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

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

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

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 VII

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 VIII

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

Amendment IX

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

Amendment X

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.