

DAR MANUAL FOR CITIZENSHIP

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INTRODUCTION

The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution was founded October 11, 1890. It was incorporated in the District of Columbia in 1891 and chartered in 1896 by Act of Congress of the United States for historic, educational and patriotic purposes.

The *DAR Manual for Citizenship*, which was compiled originally in 1920 for the National Society DAR by Mrs. George Maynard Minor, President General, was modeled upon the *Guide to the United States for Immigrants* published prior to 1920 by the Connecticut Daughters and their State organization for their pioneering work done to assist prospective United States citizens.

Over 12,000,000 copies have been supplied through DAR Chapters in the past. This book has been a great resource for candidates of U.S. Citizenship or those interested in U.S. History. The *DAR Manual for Citizenship* will continue to be accessible through this website.

DISCOVERY AND EXPLORATION OF AMERICA

In the fifteenth century, Europe began to explore alternative trade routes in order to sustain its demand for specific items from Asia such as spices and silks. The costs associated with the overland routes were soon greater than the costs associated with ocean routes. Navigating around the Cape of Good Hope in southern Africa was a dangerous and risky venture due to the strong ocean currents at that point.

In 1492 Christopher Columbus set out from Spain in order to find a new passageway to the Indian Ocean by heading west across an unexplored ocean. He surmised that in doing so, he could reach the Far East in good time and at less risk than the eastward voyages. When he finally reached land, he was sure that he had reached the Indies of the Far East, and he named those inhabitants that he met "Indians." In fact he had reached the islands of the Caribbean.

Within a relatively short period of time, many other explorers also found their way to this new land from various European nations, all claiming land for their respective sovereigns. In addition to the Spanish, the English, the French, the Portuguese, and the Norse all laid claim to lands in the western hemisphere inhabited by Native Americans (or "Indians"), who had no cultural understanding of ownership of land.

Settlement of this new land was encouraged through various means. Conditions in Europe were such that many were willing to risk everything in order to immigrate to a new land across the ocean. Social, political and economic reasons brought many settlers to the newly discovered continent. They wanted to escape persecution, to worship freely, and to make their own way in freedom. Some received tracts of land for settling in a given area.

But the risks of making the journey were tremendous and included the lengthy voyage to an unknown land, climate, topography, communication and relationships with the many Native American tribes, wildlife, and an uncertain food supply. Yet settlers came and persevered. They established themselves and a new nation.

In 1607, Jamestown became the first permanent English settlement in the colony of Virginia. Earlier attempts at establishing settlements on the Atlantic coast had been made, but these were not successful. By 1620, the English settlement of Plymouth was established in the colony of Massachusetts.

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AND FOUNDING FATHERS

The English settlements along the Atlantic coast were recognized as colonies and were thus subjects of the English king. The English viewed the colonies as a source of trade and revenue. Taxes were imposed on various items that the colonists used such as stamps for documents and imports of tea and cloth. Unfortunately, the colonists were not represented in the English parliament and thus were taxed without representation.

The English king, King George, also required that his troops who were serving in the colonies be quartered or housed by the colonists. The ill will which developed between the King and his subjects was exacerbated by this demand.

Over time unrest and dissension grew. Various voices in the colonies demanded that the colonies band together, unite against the English King, and establish their own independent government. Some questioned such actions and urged that discussions with the King continue in the hope that mediation would prevent military action. Opposing points of view brought conflict.

By 1775, the reasons for the establishment of an independent set of colonies were becoming clearer. Only the King had the power to make laws affecting the colonists. The British also imposed taxation without representation, the quartering of troops without the colonists' consent, the closing of harbors to trade with other nations, and the denial of petitions for relief from these hardships.

On April 18, 1775, British regulars (as the soldiers were known) marched on the towns surrounding Boston in order to capture the arsenals of the local militias. In doing so, they met with some of the local militias at Lexington and Concord. In the ensuing skirmish shots were exchanged signaling the start of the Revolutionary War. From that point the colonists united to form a military unit to face what was then the world's most powerful military. George Washington was chosen to lead the Continental Army comprised of citizens of all thirteen colonies – New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

Delegates from each colony convened the First Continental Congress in 1774 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to give voice to the independence movement. In 1776, at the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia, after much discussion and disagreement, the time had come to clearly define the reasons for independence. They asked Thomas Jefferson to use his gift of language to write a document to declare why the colonists wanted to separate from Great Britain.

The disagreements continued as the delegates debated the words so carefully drafted by Jefferson. It was Benjamin Franklin, statesman, inventor, and author of "Poor Richard's Almanac," who helped convince his fellow delegates that by signing the

document they would be committing their lives and fortunes to the cause of independence and forever separating from Great Britain.

That document, the Declaration of Independence, was finally adopted on July 4, 1776, by the fifty-six colonial representatives.

This document contains three basic principles:

- “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”
- “That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”
- “That whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.”

July 4, the birthday of the United States, is one of the most important American Holidays and is celebrated each year as Independence Day.

The Revolutionary War continued until October 19, 1781, when British General Lord Cornwallis surrendered to General George Washington at Yorktown, Virginia.

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

The text of the Declaration, which can be viewed at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., appears below:

The Unanimous Declaration of the Thirteen United States of America In Congress, July 4, 1776

"WHEN, in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly, all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained, and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the meantime exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavored to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies, without the Consent of our legislatures.

He has effected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation: For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us: For protecting them by a mock Trial from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States: For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world: For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent: For depriving us in many cases of the benefits of Trial by Jury: For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences: For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighboring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies: For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments: For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He abdicated Government here by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of cruelty and perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions. In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms. Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be a ruler of a free people. Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

WE THEREFORE, the REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, IN GENERAL CONGRESS, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by the authority of the good People of these colonies, solemnly PUBLISH and DECLARE, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be FREE and INDEPENDENT STATES; that they are absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connections between them and the State of Great Britain is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce and to do all other Acts and Things which INDEPENDENT STATES, may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our Sacred Honor."

John Adams (MA), Samuel Adams (MA), Josiah Bartlett (NH), Carter Braxton (VA), Charles Carroll of Carrollton (MD), Samuel Chase (MD), Abraham Clark (NJ), George Clymer (PA), William Ellery (RI), William Floyd (NY), Benjamin Franklin (PA), Elbridge Gerry (MA), Button Gwinnett (GA), Lyman Hall (GA), John Hancock (MA, President), Benjamin Harrison (VA), John Hart (NJ), Joseph Hewes (NC), Thomas Heyward, Jr. (SC), William Hooper (NC), Stephen Hopkins (RI), Francis Hopkinson (NJ), Samuel Huntington (CT), Thomas Jefferson (VA), Francis Lightfoot Lee (VA), Richard Henry Lee (VA), Francis Lewis (NY), Philip Livingston (NY), Thomas Lynch, Jr. (SC), Thomas McKean (DE), Arthur Middleton (SC), Lewis Morris (NY), Robert Morris (PA), John Morton (PA), Thomas Nelson, Jr. (VA), William Paca (MD), Robert Treat Paine (MA), John Penn (NC), George Read (DE), Caesar Rodney (DE), George Ross (PA), Benjamin Rush (PA), Edward Rutledge (SC), Roger Sherman (CT), James Smith (PA), Richard Stockton (NJ), Thomas Stone (MD), George Taylor (PA), Matthew Thornton (NH), George Walton (GA), William Whipple (NH), William Williams (CT), James Wilson (PA), John Witherspoon (NJ), Oliver Wolcott (CT), George Wythe (VA)

HISTORY OF THE CONSTITUTION

Creating a More Perfect Union ... the Foundations of Government:

Now that independence had been won, the 13 distinct colonies had to define a common system of government – one to which all would ascribe.

In 1781, the delegates to the Continental Congress wrote the Articles of Confederation. Unfortunately, this document was too weak, as the states (the former colonies) were not truly united. Each still desired to have a great deal of power. For example, each state minted its own currency and enforced its own laws about trade with other states, causing much confusion. The new country had no funds to maintain an army or a navy, and it had no power to make each state pay its share of the war debt.

The Founding Fathers realized that there must be a new document -- a Constitution -- which would define the foundations for government. They called for a Constitutional Convention to meet in Independence Hall in Philadelphia in the summer of 1787 with George Washington as Presiding Officer. They met in the same room in which the Continental Congress had adopted the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

All summer these leaders worked to define a supreme law for the country. Lengthy discussions took place as the delegates offered very strong opinions on the subject. Although George Washington said little, his influence was great. At one point when the delegates could not come to an agreement, Washington made a short speech which carried great weight. He said, "If, to please the people, we offer what we ourselves disapprove, how can we afterward defend our work? Let us raise a standard to which the wise and honest can repair; the event is in the hands of God."

After meeting during those hot summer months, the Founding Fathers finally defined a system of checks and balances in which the various branches of government would be subject to each other. The three branches of government would be defined as the executive, the legislative, and the judicial. The head of the government would not be known as a "king" but as a "president."

In September 1787, a constitution was presented to each of the 13 colonies for ratification. The Constitution, while reflective of the many diverse opinions, still was not acceptable to all for what it declined to specify. As each colony considered the document and its ramifications, it became clear that the process of ratification would not be easy. By June 1788, nine of the thirteen colonies had approved ratification. Other states soon followed when assured that the lack of specific individual rights would be addressed.

The Federalists, who supported ratification, and the Anti-Federalists, who feared the great power being ascribed to the new federal government, used their powers of

persuasion to convince state conventions of their positions. The Federalists understood that the lack of a bill of rights would impede the ratification process. James Madison, using the Virginia Bill of Rights as a model, wrote ten amendments, or changes, to the Constitution, which we now call the "Bill of Rights."

It was through the Federalist efforts of James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay, through their published essays collectively known as "The Federalist Papers," that these amendments were accepted and ultimately the Constitution was ratified.

Once the colonies approved the constitution, they became states. General George Washington was elected the first President of the United States of America and was henceforth known as "the Father of Our Country."

The Constitution is known as the *supreme law* of the land because everyone is protected by the law, everyone must obey the law, no one is above the law, and no law can be made which contradicts or opposes the Constitution. Along with the Bill of Rights, the Constitution clearly defines our representative form of government and protects the basic rights of all Americans.

THE BILL OF RIGHTS

In 1791, two years after the Constitution of the United States of America had been adopted, the first ten amendments written by James Madison were approved. The *Bill of Rights* was given this name because it guarantees the rights and liberties of individual citizens. Among the liberties guaranteed by the *Bill of Rights* are freedoms of speech, of the press, and of religion. A person may say what he chooses, and print what he chooses, as long as he does not say untruths that may hurt another. A person may also worship his religion as he chooses or he may decline to do so. People may meet together at will and petition their government to right grievances.

The Federal Government is forbidden by *The Bill of Rights* to interfere in the right of the people to keep and bear arms. It may not quarter soldiers in anyone's home. Each person's house shall be free against search except when, under oath, a warrant is secured from the court to search for a definite person or definite papers and for specific items. Property may not be taken without just payment.

A person does not have to answer a charge that he or she has committed a capital crime unless so indicted by a grand jury. He cannot be tried for the same charges twice, if once acquitted of those charges. He cannot be made to witness against himself. He can hear what witnesses against him say and he can be helped to secure witnesses on his behalf. He may not be deprived of their liberty except according to law. He must be told what charges are made against him, and he can demand a speedy and public trial by a jury in the district where the crime was committed. He is entitled to help in his defense. Excessive bail, excessive fines and cruel or unusual punishments are forbidden.

The *Bill of Rights* provides that other rights not named also belong to the people, and that all powers not given to the United States government by the Constitution are kept by the states or by the people. When *The Bill of Rights* was adopted, another great step was taken in securing to the people the rights, privileges, and protections of self-government.

The Constitution may be changed by the passage of amendments. The Constitution itself tells how to do this. The Congress whenever necessary may propose amendments, or the legislatures of the several states may call a convention for proposing amendments. In either case, such amendments, when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the states, become part of the Constitution.

The Constitution currently has 27 amendments.

THE CONSTITUTION

The 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.”

Let us look at each part of the Preamble.

We the People of the United States—The people define the idea of self-government as the power belongs to the people.

In order to form a more perfect Union—To be a strong nation, the states must be united.

In order to establish Justice—In our country all citizens are equal before the law. All must obey the law. The Constitution planned for courts of justice and trial by jury to protect the innocent, punish the law breaker, and aid all people to settle their disputes with just and peaceful laws.

In order to insure domestic Tranquility— Peace is to be found throughout the United States.

To provide for the common defence—Our Government provides for an army and navy to defend the country.

To promote the general Welfare—The Constitution safeguards the general welfare, meaning the well-being, of all the people of the United States.

To secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity—The Declaration of Independence declared that the people had certain rights, not to be taken from them, that these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The Constitution established a government designed to protect these rights.

A STUDY OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

(The Constitution was submitted by the Constitutional Convention of September 17, 1787. Nine of the thirteen states had to sign it before it could become law. It became effective on March 4, 1789.)

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 ONE

SECTION ONE

Legislative Power

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.

SECTION TWO

House of Representatives, How Constituted, Power of Impeachment

1. The House of Representatives shall be composed of members chosen every second year by the people of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous branch of the State Legislature.
2. No person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained the age of twenty five years, and been seven years a citizen of the United States, and shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.
3. [Representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other persons.]¹ The actual enumeration shall be made within three years after the first meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent term of ten years, in such manner as they shall be law direct. The number of Representatives shall

not exceed one for every thirty thousand, but each State shall have at least one Representative; and until such enumeration shall be made, the State of New Hampshire shall be entitled to choose three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

4. When vacancies happen in the representation from any State, the executive authority thereof shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies.

5. The House of Representatives shall choose their speaker and other officers; and shall have the sole power of impeachment.

SECTION THREE

The Senate, How Constituted, Impeachment Trials

1. [The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the legislature thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote.]²

2. Immediately after they shall be assembled in consequence of the first election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three classes. The seats of the Senators of the first class shall be vacated at the expiration of the second year, of the second class at the expiration of the fourth year, and of the third class at the expiration of the sixth year, so that one third may be chosen every second year; [and if vacancies happen by resignation, or otherwise, during the recess of the legislature of any State, the executive thereof may make temporary appointments until the next meeting of the legislature, which shall then fill such vacancies.]³

3. No person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the age of thirty years, and been nine years a citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen.

4. The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no vote, unless they be equally divided.

5. The Senate shall choose their other officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the absence of the Vice President, or when he shall exercise the office of President of the United States.

6. The Senate shall have the sole power to try all impeachments. When sitting for that purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: and no person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two thirds of the members present.

7. Judgement in cases of impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust or profit under the United States: but the party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to indictment, trial, judgment, and punishment, according to law.

SECTION FOUR

Elections of Senators and Representatives

1. The times, places, and manner of holding elections for Senators and Representatives shall be prescribed in each State by the legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by law make or alter such regulations [except as to the places of choosing Senators].⁴

2. [The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.]⁵

SECTION FIVE

Quorum, Journals, Meetings, Adjournments

1. Each House shall be the judge of the elections, returns, and qualifications of its own members, and a majority of each shall constitute a quorum to do business; but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the attendance of absent members, in such manner, and under such penalties as each House may provide.

2. Each House may determine the rules of its proceedings, punish its members for disorderly behavior, and, with the concurrence of two thirds, expel a member.

3. Each House shall keep a journal of its proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such parts as may in their judgment require secrecy; and the yeas and nays of the members of either House on any question shall, at the desire of one fifth of those present, be entered on the journal.

4. Neither House, during the session of Congress, shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.

SECTION SIX

Compensation, Privileges, Disabilities

1. The Senators and Representatives shall receive a compensation for their services, to be ascertained by law, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States. They shall

in all cases, except treason, felony and breach of the peace, be privileged from arrest during their attendance at the session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any speech or debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other place.

2. No Senator or Representative shall, during the time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil office under the authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the emoluments whereof shall have been increased during such time; and no person holding any office under the United States shall be a member of either House during his continuance in office.

SECTION SEVEN

Procedure in Passing Bills and Resolutions

1. All Bills for raising revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with amendments as on other bills.

2. Every bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it becomes a law, be presented to the President of the United States; if he approves he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his objections, to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the objections at large on their journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such reconsideration two thirds of that House shall agree to pass the bill, it shall be sent, together with the objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two thirds of that House, it shall become a law. But in all such cases the votes of both Houses shall be determined by yeas and nays, and the names of the persons voting for and against the bill shall be entered on the journal of each House respectively. If any bill shall not be returned by the President within ten days [Sundays excepted] after it shall have been presented to him, the same shall be a law, in like manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their adjournment prevent its return, in which case it shall not be a law.

3. Every order, resolution, or vote to which the concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary [except on a question of adjournment] shall be presented to the President of the United States; and before the same shall take effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by two thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the rules and limitations prescribed in the case of a bill.

SECTION EIGHT

Powers of Congress

The Congress shall have power:

1. To lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;
2. To borrow money on the credit of the United States;
3. To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes;
4. To establish an uniform rule of naturalization, and uniform laws on the subject of bankruptcies throughout the United States;
5. To coin money, regulate the value thereof, and of foreign coin, and fix the standard of weights and measures;
6. To provide for the punishment of counterfeiting the securities and current coin of the United States;
7. To establish post offices and post roads;
8. To promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times for authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries;
9. To constitute tribunals inferior to the Supreme Court;
10. To define and punish piracies and felonies committed on the high seas, and offenses against the law of nations;
11. To declare war, grant letters of marque and reprisal, and make rules concerning captures on land and water;
12. To raise and support armies, but no appropriation of money to that use shall be for a longer term than two years;
13. To provide and maintain a navy;
14. To make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces;
15. To provide for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the Union, suppress insurrections and repel invasions;
16. To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia, and for governing such part of them as may be employed in the service of the United States, reserving to the States, respectively, the appointment of the officers, and the authority of training the militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

17. To exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever, over such district (not exceeding ten miles square) as may, by cession of particular States, and the acceptance of Congress, become the seat of the government of the United States, and to exercise like authority over all places purchased by the consent of the legislature of the State in which the same shall be, for the erection of forts, magazines, arsenals, dock-yards, and other needful buildings; - and

18. To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

SECTION NINE

Limitations upon Powers of Congress

1. The migration or importation of such persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a tax or duty may be imposed on such importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each person.

2. The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in cases of rebellion or invasion the public safety may require it.

3. No bill of attainder or ex post facto law shall be passed.

4. No capitation, or other direct, tax shall be laid, unless in proportion to the census or enumeration herein before directed to be taken.

5. No tax or duty shall be laid on articles exported from any State.

6. No preference shall be given by any regulation of commerce or revenue to the ports of one State over those of another: nor shall vessels bound to, or from, one State, be obliged to enter, clear, or pay duties in another.

7. No money shall be drawn from the treasury, but in consequence of appropriations made by law; and a regular statement and account of the receipts and expenditures of all public money shall be published from time to time.

8. No title of nobility shall be granted by the United States: And no person holding any office of profit or trust under them, shall, without the consent of the Congress, accept of any present, emolument, office, or title, of any kind whatever, from any king, prince, or foreign state.

SECTION TEN

Restrictions upon Powers of States

1. No State shall enter into any treaty, alliance, or confederation; grant letters of marque and reprisal; coin money; emit bills of credit; make any thing but gold and silver coin a tender in payment of debts; pass any bill of attainder, ex post facto law, or law impairing the obligation of contracts, or grant any title of nobility.
2. No State shall, without the consent of the Congress, lay any imposts or duties on imports or exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing its inspection laws; and the net produce of all duties and imposts, laid by any State on imports or exports, shall be for the use of the treasury of the United States; and all such laws shall be subject to the revision and control of the Congress.
3. No State shall, without the consent of Congress, lay any duty of tonnage, keep troops, or ships of war in time of peace, enter into any agreement or compact with another State, or with a foreign power, or engage in war, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent danger as will not admit of delay.

ARTICLE TWO

SECTION ONE

Executive Power, Election, Qualifications of the President

1. The executive power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his office during a term of four years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same term, be elected, as follows:
2. Each State shall appoint, in such manner as the legislature thereof may direct, a number of Electors, equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives, to which the State may be entitled in the Congress: but no Senator or person holding an office of trust or profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector.
3. [The Electors shall meet in their respective States, and vote by ballot for two persons, of whom one at least shall not be an inhabitant of the same State with themselves. And they shall make a list of all the persons voted for, and of the number of votes for each; which list 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 be then counted. The person having the greatest number of votes shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed; and if there be more than one who have such majority, and have an equal number of votes, then the House of

Representatives shall immediately choose by ballot one of them for President; and if no person have a majority, then from the five highest on the list the said House shall in like manner choose 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. In every case, after the choice of the President, the person having the greatest number of votes of the Electors shall be the Vice President. But if there should remain two or more who have equal votes, the Senate shall choose from them by ballot the Vice President.]⁶

4. The Congress may determine the time of choosing the Electors, and the day on which they shall give their votes; which day shall be the same throughout the United States.

5. No person except a natural born citizen, or a citizen of the United States, at the time of the adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the office of President; neither shall any person be eligible to that office who shall not have attained to the age of thirty five years, and been fourteen years a resident within the United States.

6. In case of the removal of the President from office, or of his death, resignation, or inability to discharge the powers and duties of the said office, the same devolve on the Vice President, and the Congress may by law provide for the case of removal, death, resignation or inability, both of the President and Vice President, declaring what officer shall then act as President, and such officer shall act accordingly, until the disability be removed, or a President shall be elected.

7. The President shall, at stated times, receive for his services, a compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that period any other emolument from the United States, or any of them.

8. Before he enters on the execution of his office, he shall take the following Oath of Affirmation:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

SECTION TWO

Powers of the President

1. The President shall be Commander-in-Chief of the army and navy of the United States, and of the militia of the several States, when called into actual service of the United States; he may require the opinion, in writing, of the principal officer in each of the executive departments, upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices, and he shall have power to grant reprieves and pardons for offenses against the United States, except in cases of impeachment.

2. He shall have power, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to make treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, judges of the Supreme Court, and all other officers of the United States, whose appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by law: but the Congress may by law vest the appointment of such inferior officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the courts of law, or in the heads of departments.

3. The President shall have power to fill up all vacancies that may happen during the recess of the Senate, by granting commissions which shall expire at the end of their next session.

SECTION THREE

Duties of the President

He shall from time to time give to the Congress information of the state of the union, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may on extraordinary occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in case of disagreement between them with respect to the time of adjournment, he may adjourn them to such time as he shall think proper; he shall receive ambassadors and other public ministers; he shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed, and shall commission all officers of the United States.

SECTION FOUR

Impeachment

The President, Vice President, and all civil officers of the United States, shall be removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors.

ARTICLE THREE

SECTION ONE

Judicial Power, Tenure of Office

The judicial power of the United States shall be vested in one Supreme Court, and in such inferior courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The judges, both of the Supreme and inferior courts, shall hold their offices during good behavior and shall, at stated times, receive for their services, as compensation, which shall not be diminished during their continuance in office.

SECTION TWO

Jurisdiction

1. The judicial power shall extend to all cases, in law and equity, arising under this Constitution, the laws of the United States, and treaties made, or which shall be made, under their authority; -- to all cases affecting ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls; --to all cases of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction; --to controversies to which the United States shall be a party: -- to controversies between two or more States; -- between a State and citizens of another State; --between citizens of different States; -- between citizens of the same State claiming lands under grants of different States, and [between a State, or the citizens thereof and foreign States, citizens or subjects.]⁷
2. In all cases affecting ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, and those in which a State shall be party, the Supreme Court shall have original jurisdiction. In all other cases before mentioned, the Supreme Court shall have appellate jurisdiction, both as to law and fact, with such exceptions, and under such regulations as the Congress shall make.
3. The trial of all crimes, except in cases of impeachment, shall be by jury; and such trial shall be held in the State where the said crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any State, the trial shall be at such place or places as the Congress may by law have directed.

SECTION THREE

Treason, Proof and Punishment

1. Treason against the United States shall consist only in levying war against them, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort. No person shall be convicted of treason unless on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or on confession in open court.
2. The Congress shall have power to declare the punishment of treason, but no attainder of treason shall work corruption of blood or forfeiture except during the life of the person attainted.

ARTICLE FOUR

SECTION ONE

Faith and Credit among States

Full faith and credit shall be given in each State to the public acts, records, and judicial proceedings of every other State. And the Congress may by general laws prescribe the manner in which such acts, records and proceedings shall be proved, and the effect thereof.

SECTION TWO

Privileges and Immunities, Fugitives

1. The citizens of each state shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of citizens in the several States.
2. A person charged in any State with treason, felony, or other crime, who shall flee from justice, and be found in another State, shall on demand of the executive authority of the State, from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the State having jurisdiction of the crime.
3. No person held to service or labor in one State, under the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in consequence of any law or regulation therein, be discharged from such service or labor, but shall be delivered up on claim of the party to whom such service or labor may be due.

SECTION THREE

Admission of New States

1. New States may be admitted by Congress into this Union, but no new State shall be formed or erected within the jurisdiction of any other State; nor any State be formed by the junction of two or more States, or parts of States, without the consent of the legislatures of the States concerned as well as of the Congress.
2. The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States, and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to prejudice any claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

SECTION FOUR

Guarantee of Republican Government

The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a republican form of government, and shall protect each of them against invasion; and on application of the legislature, or of the executive (when the legislature cannot be convened) against domestic violence.

ARTICLE FIVE

Amendment to the Constitution

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.

ARTICLE SIX

Debts, Supremacy, Oath

1. All debts contracted and engagements entered into, before the adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this Constitution, as under the Confederation.
2. This Constitution, and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof, and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land; and the judges in every State shall be bound thereby, anything in the Constitution or laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding.
3. The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the members of the several State legislatures, and all executive and judicial officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office of public trust under the United States.

ARTICLE SEVEN

Ratification and Establishment

1. The ratification of the conventions of nine States, shall be sufficient for the establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the same.
2. Done in Convention by the unanimous consent of the States present the seventeenth day of September in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty seven and of the Independence of the United States of America the twelfth. In witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names.

¹ Modified in Article 14, Sec. 2, Amendments.

² Modified in Article 17, Amendments.

³ Modified in Article 17, Amendments.

⁴ Provisions changed by Article 17, Amendments.

⁵ Provision changed by Article 20, Sec. 2, Amendments.

⁶ This Clause superseded by Article 12, Amendments.

⁷ Clause changed by Article 11, Amendments.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Articles in addition to, and amendment of, the Constitution of the United States of America, proposed by Congress, and ratified by the legislatures of the several States, pursuant to the Fifth Article of the original Constitution.

[The first ten Amendments, popularly known as The Bill of Rights, were proposed by Congress, September 25, 1789, and were ratified and declared in force on December 15, 1791.]

AMENDMENT ONE

Freedom of Religion, of Speech, and of the Press

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 TWO

Right to Keep and Bear Arms

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 THREE

Quartering of Soldiers

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 FOUR

Security from Unwarrantable Search and Seizure

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 FIVE

Rights of Accused in Criminal Proceedings

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 on 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 SIX

Right to Speedy Trial, Witnesses, etc.

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 SEVEN

Trial by Jury in Civil Cases

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 EIGHT

Bails—Fines—Punishments

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

AMENDMENT NINE

Reservation of Rights of the People

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

AMENDMENT TEN

Restriction of Judicial Power

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.

[The first ten Amendments, popularly known as The Bill of Rights, were proposed by Congress, September 25, 1789, and were ratified and declared in force on December 15, 1791.]

AMENDMENT ELEVEN

Restriction of Judicial Power

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.

[Proposed by Congress on September 5, 1794; declared ratified on January 8, 1798.]

AMENDMENT TWELVE

Election of President and Vice President

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 on 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 the 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 the President shall be eligible to that of Vice President of the United States.

[Proposed by Congress on December 12, 1803; declared ratified September 25, 1804.]

AMENDMENT THIRTEEN

SECTION ONE

Abolition of Slavery

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, of any place subject to their jurisdiction.

SECTION TWO

Power to Enforce This Article

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

[Proposed by Congress on February 1, 1865; declared ratified on December 18, 1865.]

AMENDMENT FOURTEEN

SECTION ONE

Citizenship Rights Not to Be Abridged by States

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 TWO

Apportionment of Representatives in Congress

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 THREE

Persons Disqualified from Holding Office

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 FOUR

What Public Debts Are Valid

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 FIVE

Power to Enforce This Article

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

[Proposed by Congress on June 16, 1866; declared ratified on July 28, 1868.]

AMENDMENT FIFTEEN

SECTION ONE

Negro Suffrage

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 TWO

Power to Enforce This Article

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

[Proposed by Congress on February 27, 1869; declared ratified on March 30, 1870.]

AMENDMENT SIXTEEN

Authorizing Income Taxes

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.

[Proposed by Congress on July 31, 1909; declared ratified on February 25, 1913.]

AMENDMENT SEVENTEEN

Popular Election of Senators

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

[Proposed by Congress on May 15, 1912; declared ratified on May 31, 1913.]

AMENDMENT EIGHTEEN

SECTION ONE

National Liquor Prohibition

[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.]²

SECTION TWO

Power to Enforce This Article

[The Congress and the several States shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.]³

SECTION THREE

Ratification within Seven Years

[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.]⁴

[Proposed by Congress on December 19, 1917; declared ratified on January 29, 1919.]

AMENDMENT NINETEEN

Woman Suffrage

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 sex.

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

[Proposed by Congress on June 5, 1919; declared ratified on August 26, 1920.]

AMENDMENT TWENTY

SECTION ONE

Terms of Office

The terms of the President and Vice President shall end at noon on the twentieth day of January, and the terms of Senators and Representatives at noon on the third 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 TWO

Time of Convening Congress

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall begin at noon on the third day of January, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

SECTION THREE

Death of President-Elect

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-elect 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 FOUR

Election of the President

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 FIVE

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

SECTION SIX

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.

[Proposed by Congress on March 3, 1932; declared ratified on February 6, 1933.]

AMENDMENT TWENTY-ONE⁵

SECTION ONE

National Liquor Prohibition Repealed

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

SECTION TWO

Transportation of Liquor into "Dry" States

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 THREE

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.

[Proposed by Congress on February 20, 1933; declared ratified on December 5, 1933.]

AMENDMENT TWENTY-TWO

SECTION ONE

Limitation of Presidential Tenure of Office

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 the President more than once. But this Article shall not apply to any person holding the office of President when this Article was proposed by the 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 TWO

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.

[Proposed by Congress on March 24, 1947; declared ratified on March 1, 1951.]

AMENDMENT TWENTY-THREE

SECTION ONE

Electors for the District of Columbia

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

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

[Proposed by Congress on June 16, 1960; declared ratified on April 3, 1961.]

AMENDMENT TWENTY-FOUR

SECTION ONE

Poll Tax Banned

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 TWO

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

[Proposed by Congress on August 27, 1962; declared ratified on February 4, 1964.]

AMENDMENT TWENTY-FIVE

SECTION ONE

Vacancy in Office of President

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

SECTION TWO

Vacancy in the Office of Vice President

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 the majority vote of both Houses of Congress.

SECTION THREE

President's Declaration of His Inability

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 FOUR

Other Declarations, Decision of Congress, Resumption of Office

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 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.

[Proposed by Congress on July 7, 1965; declared ratified February 23, 1967.]

AMENDMENT TWENTY-SIX

SECTION ONE

Suffrage Granted at Age Eighteen

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 TWO

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

[Proposed by Congress on March 23, 1971; declared ratified on July 5, 1971.]

AMENDMENT TWENTY-SEVEN

No laws, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and

Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened.

[Ratification completed May 7, 1992.]

¹ Article 21, Amendments, was the first to require ratification not by legislatures but by conventions.

² Ratified 1/16/1919; repealed 12/1/1933, by Article 21, Amendments.

³ Ratified 1/16/1919; repealed 12/1/1933, by Article 21, Amendments.

⁴ Ratified 1/16/1919; repealed 12/1/1933, by Article 21, Amendments.

⁵ Article 21, Amendments, was the first to require ratification not by legislatures but by conventions.

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS

The First Ten Amendments (1791) – These are the Bill of Rights which guarantee the rights of the people.

1st Amendment (1791) – freedom of religion, of speech, of the press, to assemble peaceably, to petition for redress of grievances

2nd Amendment (1791) – right to keep and bear arms

3rd Amendment (1791) – soldiers shall not be quartered in any house without consent of the owner

4th Amendment (1791) – right against unreasonable search and seizure; probable cause needed for warrants

5th Amendment (1791) – grand jury required for capital crimes; guarantee against double jeopardy; right to compensation for property used for public use

6th Amendment (1791) – right to a speedy and public trial; right to defense counsel

7th Amendment (1791) – facts tried by a jury shall not be overturned; only rules of law can be appealed

8th Amendment (1791) – no excessive bail or cruel and unusual punishments

9th Amendment (1791) – rights listed in the Constitution shall not deny others retained by the people

10th Amendment (1791) – powers not delegated to the federal government are reserved to the states or to the people

11th Amendment (1798) – A State may not be sued in a Federal court by a citizen of another State or a foreign country.

12th Amendment (1804) – Citizens are to vote for President and Vice President separately.

13th Amendment (1865) – Slavery is prohibited in the United States.

14th Amendment (1868) – Any person born or naturalized in the United States is a citizen. No State can take the privileges of citizenship away from such a person.

15th Amendment (1870) – No citizen loses his vote because of race, color or previous condition of servitude.

16th Amendment (1913) – Congress has the power to set taxes on income.

17th Amendment (1913) – United States Senators shall be elected directly by the people and not by the State Legislatures.

18th Amendment (1919) – Manufacture, sale or transportation of intoxicating liquors is forbidden in the United States. (This prohibition amendment is no longer in effect.)

19th Amendment (1920) – Women have the right to vote on an equal basis with men.

20th Amendment (1933) – The President and Vice President shall take office on January 20th and Congress shall convene each year on January 3rd.

21st Amendment (1933) – The 18th Amendment prohibiting the manufacture, sale or transportation of intoxicating liquors is repealed.

22nd Amendment (1951) – No President shall be elected to office more than twice.

23rd Amendment (1961) – Electors are authorized for the District of Columbia.

24th Amendment (1964) – Poll tax banned as a requirement of eligibility to vote in Federal elections.

25th Amendment (1967) – Methods for filling vacancies in the offices of President and Vice President.

26th Amendment (1971) – Extending the right to vote to citizens eighteen years of age and older.

27th Amendment (1992) – Regulates compensation for services of Senators and Representatives.

GROWTH OF DEMOCRACY IN THE POST REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD

With the Revolution ended, and the foundations of government in place, the new nation began to grow. In 1803, during Thomas Jefferson's term of presidency, he successfully negotiated the Louisiana Purchase – the purchase of a tract of land extending from Louisiana northward and westward – basically doubling the geographic size of the new United States. As immigrants continued to arrive to these shores, additional land was needed upon which they could settle.

This land area, however, was populated by Native Americans. As the early settlers arrived and displaced the Natives Americans, these native peoples moved westward adapting their cultures to the new geographic features. Later settlers were faced with establishing their land rights with cultures that did not recognize that land could and should be owned. The inevitable conflicts led to a series of Indian Wars with various tribes during the 19th century. These tribes included the Apache, the Cherokee, the Iroquois, the Seneca, the Mohawk, the Navajo, the Sioux, the Seminole, the Cheyenne, the Shawnee, the Mohegan, the Huron, the Oneida, the Lakota, just to name a few. Other tribes lived peaceably with the settlers.

The War of 1812

The War of 1812, commonly known as the Second War of Independence, was fought with Britain from 1812 until 1815. In the twenty-nine years since the United States gained its independence from Britain, relations between the two nations were strained. However, the greatest international problems arose as war was waged between Britain and France. To prevent any semblance of American shipping assisting the French cause, Britain blockades ports with its navy. The resulting seizures of American shipping quickly raised loud cries of retaliation.

The administrations of the various presidents during this time met with limited success in mediating a favorable outcome. The imposition of additional British naval blockades severely restricted trade to a greater degree. Searches of ships on the high seas for deserters led to the British navy to unfairly impress American seamen into British service.

Soon all trade exports were banned and American shipping was confined to the coast. By June 1812 war had been declared. By January of 1815 victory had been declared over the British forces. Once again, the British forces had been resisted – and victory declared.

The Mexican War 1845-48

War continued to play an important role in the history of America. As settlers continued moving westward, inevitable conflicts arose. In 1836, Texas fought for and won its independence from Mexico. Although considered a part of Mexico, this land had been

settled by American immigrants. Soon the independence movement gave way to a movement to accept Texas as a state in the United States. As Mexico never recognized the independence of Texas, the United States desired to claim all the area north of the Rio Grande. The Mexican government viewed the annexation of Texas as a sufficient cause for war.

On March 3, 1845, the resolution calling for the annexation of Texas was passed and Texas became a state in December 1845. Mobilizing its manpower and military materiel, the United States' forces defended its territory. Eventually by February 1848, a peace treaty was signed. The areas of New Mexico and California were ceded to the United States, Mexico recognized the loss of the territory of Texas, and they agreed to the Rio Grande as its border. The United States agreed to assume the claims of its citizens against Mexico and paid the Mexican government \$15 million in its efforts to achieve fiscal stability.

The Civil War

The Civil War erupted in 1861, pitting the northern states against the southern states of the Union due to differing opinions of slavery and the right of states to govern themselves. The success of the southern states' agrarian economy was based on the use of slave labor, a practice introduced in the colonies from the earliest days. The industrial economy of the northern states was driven by an abundance of resources including water which generated power to operate mills and factories.

The question of slavery was one that the Founding Fathers had considered at the beginning of this nation. Some considered the practice of importing human beings from Africa to this nation in order to be sold as a piece of property as immoral. Others considered this form of acquiring human labor essential to ensuing economic success. However, the moral question of slavery was one upon which even the Founding Fathers could not achieve consensus.

It was under these circumstances that Abraham Lincoln was elected President in 1860. The fervent attitudes of southern states to exercise their own states' rights and to maintain the institution of slavery opposed the northern attitudes of the need to maintain the Union and the immorality of slavery. Lincoln understood the need to preserve the Union if this nation were to survive. He also understood that the issue of slavery had to be addressed. On January 1, 1863, he issued the Emancipation Proclamation freeing all slaves in those states in open rebellion against the United States. It was his adherence to what he thought was the right course of action at that time that led to his assassination in 1865. Eventually, the cruelty of the war cost more than 600,000 soldiers their lives and led to the destruction of the southern economy.

Continued Growth: Reconstruction through the 19th Century

The years following the Civil War were equally as turbulent. The processes of reconstructing the southern economy, of assimilating free former slaves into the social fabric of this nation, and of moving forward from a war time economy to one of industrialization were difficult. The railroad and steel industries grew at a rapid pace. Additionally, a major influx of immigrants found their way to this nation's shores, bringing with them their languages, cultures, and religions.

The Spanish-American War

In the world at large, conflicts continued to rage from time to time. At some of those times, the turmoil took place near the U.S. borders. The Spanish-American War was fought on the island of Cuba April 25 - August 12, 1898. The island had been ruled by Spain – and the desire of the Cubans for their own independence had grown over time. The American government wanted to discourage foreign involvement in nations close to its borders and joined in the conflict to achieve victory. It was during this time that the United States began assuming a broader role in maintaining peace and stability in the western hemisphere.

World War I and World War II

Military conflicts have not been unheard of during the 20th century. World War I, or the Great War, involved many European countries as well as the United States during 1914-1918 – all because of the assassination of a national leader. President Woodrow Wilson oversaw the U.S. involvement during this time.

The years of the economic Great Depression of the early 1930's led to great financial uncertainties throughout the world. Political unrest soon led to the establishment of certain governments intent on extending their dominance over other nations. World War II followed during 1939-1945. Germany, along with the other Axis powers of Italy and Japan, attacked and overtook numerous European governments. France and Britain joined forces with the Americans and these Allied forces countered the Axis advances.

During this time Franklin D. Roosevelt was re-elected to an unprecedented 4th term as the American President. General Dwight Eisenhower, commander of the Allied Forces, became known to many as an able commander and was later elected President in his own right. The United States soon found itself dominant in world affairs after the Allied powers defeated the Axis powers.

During this time many political and social voices were heard by people throughout the nations of the world. Leaders came to power, some espousing democratic ideals while others espoused socialist or communist ideals. Inevitably, this led to more conflict. After suffering through the military destruction of World War II, nations chose not to engage openly in armed conflict. However, these nations engaged in espionage and

the spread of propaganda or disinformation to their enemies during this Cold War. The Soviet Union came to symbolize the eastern nations' communist ideals, while the United States symbolized the western nations' democratic ideals.

The Korean War

The Korean War took place in the years 1950-1953. The advent of communist forces in Asia became an international concern particularly to the United States. Fearful of any advancement of communism in the world, American forces engaged in military action with their treaty ally, South Korea, and succeeded in halting the spread on the Korean peninsula.

The 1960's and the Vietnam War

The decade of the 1960's was a period of great societal change within the United States. Women, youth, African Americans and those who perceived that they had been neglected or discriminated against by those in power began to voice their opinions. Questions were raised about the legitimacy of any armed conflict, about the inadequate and segregated educational systems in existence throughout the nation, about the inequitable rules applied to those wanting to exercise their constitutional right to vote, and about perceived restrictions to economic opportunities for some citizens.

It was at this time that Martin Luther King, a young Black Baptist preacher from the state of Georgia which had perpetuated the institution of slavery for many years, gave voice to many who were intimidated into remaining silent. He encouraged peaceful disobedience in order to bring about the societal change that he knew had to take place.

Within this cultural turmoil, the United States became involved militarily in Southeast Asia with the intent to preserve a separate non-communistic government in South Vietnam. From 1964 through 1973, young male American troops were drafted to serve in the military. Unfortunately, the high rate of casualties raised great public outcry that led to the eventual withdrawal of the United States and the fall of South Vietnam. Soon the changing political situation eventually led to the discontinuation of the draft.

Today, young males are required to register for selective military service on their 18th birthdays. This does not mean that military service is mandatory. It is simply a precaution for the military in the event that such a draft should ever become necessary in the future.

The Gulf War

The reality of acquiring energy resources to maintain and expand the industrial needs of the American economy became a military objective during the Persian Gulf War. Kuwait, an American ally and major source of petroleum resources, was invaded by its

Arab neighbor, Iraq. The United States responded militarily to show its willingness to stand by its allies with military operations as needed and Iraq was forced to withdraw.

September 11, 2001

The terrorist attack on the citizens of the United States by Islamic militants on September 11, 2001, changed the way of life for many. National boundaries no longer characterized conflicts. What was once understood to be military with established governments was redefined. The citizens of all nations came to realize that military action could take place at any time in any location by groups not nationally affiliated.

GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Through the years, the men and women who have come to America have contributed their lives and cultures to enrich this country. They have helped to build America into the great country it has become with “a government of the people, by the people and for the people,” a republican or representative government.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

The Constitution provides for three branches in the national government – the executive, the legislative, and the judicial -- and details the powers of each branch. Those powers not expressly mentioned in the Constitution were reserved for the states or the people themselves. These three branches of government act as checks and balances on each other so that not any one branch shall have too much power. The federal government has the constitutional authority to print money, to declare war, to make treaties, and to create an army.

The Legislative Branch – The Constitution provides that the legislative branch, Congress, shall have two parts, a Senate and a House of Representatives. Congress meets in the United States Capitol, Washington, D.C., and makes the laws which govern this nation.

The Senate shall be comprised of two Senators from each State for a total of 100 Senators. Each Senator is elected for six years and he or she represents all of the citizens of the state in which he lives. He must be at least 30 years old, a citizen of the United States for at least nine years and a resident of the state that elects him or her. Territories of the United States and the District of Columbia are not states; hence they have no representatives in the Senate.

The number of Representatives of each state in Congress is determined by the population of the state, except that each state is entitled to one Representative regardless of population. Some states may have one representative while others may have many more than that. There are a total of 435 Representatives in Congress. A Representative is elected for two years. He or she must be 25 or more years old, must have been a citizen for at least seven years and must live in the State that elects him.

To find the name of your U.S. Senator or Congressman, please follow these links: www.house.gov and www.senate.gov.

The Executive Branch – This branch of government is made up of the President and his Cabinet and other assistants. It is the responsibility of the President to see that the laws passed by Congress are executed or carried out. Because he is the head of our Nation and the chief of the executive branch of the government, he is called the Chief Executive.

The Constitution provides that the President shall be elected for four years. No President shall be elected to office more than twice. He or she takes office January 20th of the year after the election. He or she must be a citizen of the United States by birth, at least 35 years old and have lived in the United States for fourteen years.

The President is not elected by the people directly. Instead, the people in each State vote for Electors at the regular elections in November of the election year. These Electors, called the Electoral College, meet in their respective states and vote by ballot for a President and a Vice President. These ballots are sent to the United States Senate where they are counted.

The President's duties include those of Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces of the United States. Under the Constitution and by legislation, he or she negotiates treaties with other nations and appoints people to office. The Senate must approve all treaties and all appointments made by the President. When Congress passes a law, the President may agree with it and pass it or he or she may veto it -- that is, he or she does not approve the law. If the Congress wishes, it may vote again on the law. If two-thirds of the members vote for it the second time, it becomes a law over the President's veto.

The Vice President must have the same qualifications as the President. If the President dies or is removed from office, the Vice President takes his or her place. If both the President and Vice President die or are removed from office, the Speaker of the House becomes President. The duty of the Vice President is to preside over the Senate. (Follow the link to www.house.gov for the name of the Speaker of the House.)

The President has a group of fifteen advisors called his Cabinet. They are appointed by the President but the appointments must be approved by the Senate. The Cabinet members are:

1. Secretary of State
2. Secretary of the Treasury
3. Secretary of Defense
4. The Attorney General
5. Secretary of Interior
6. Secretary of Agriculture
7. Secretary of Commerce
8. Secretary of Labor
9. Secretary of Health and Human Services
10. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
11. Secretary of Transportation
12. Secretary of Energy
13. Secretary of Education
14. Secretary of Veterans' Affairs
15. Secretary of Homeland Security

The Judicial Branch – This branch of government consists of the Supreme Court and a number of lower courts. The work of these courts is to interpret or explain the Constitution and the Federal laws. The Supreme Court also studies laws passed by Congress to see that they agree with the principles in the Constitution. People who do not obey the laws passed by Congress may be tried by the Federal Courts. If they are found guilty they are subject to penalty as set forth by law, such as fine or imprisonment, or both.

The Constitution provides for one United States Supreme Court which meets in Washington, D.C. This, the highest tribunal in the land, is composed of nine Justices -- a Chief Justice and eight Associate Justices. The members of the Supreme Court are appointed for life by the President and must be approved by the Senate. The decisions of the Supreme Court, which are by majority vote are final and cannot be appealed to any other court.

To find the names of all the U.S. Supreme Court justices, please follow this link:
www.supremecourtus.gov.

STATISTICS OF THE FIFTY STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

NAME	CAPITOL	DATE OF ADMISSION TO UNION	NUMBER OF* CONGRESSMEN (HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES)
Alabama	Montgomery	1819	7
Alaska	Juneau	1959	1
Arizona	Phoenix	1912	9
Arkansas	Little Rock	1836	4
California	Sacramento	1850	53
Colorado	Denver	1876	7
Connecticut	Hartford	1788	5
Delaware	Dover	1787	1
District of Columbia		1790	1**
Washington			
Florida	Tallahassee	1845	27
Georgia	Atlanta	1788	14
Hawaii	Honolulu	1959	2
Idaho	Boise	1890	2
Illinois	Springfield	1818	18
Indiana	Indianapolis	1816	9
Iowa	Des Moines	1846	4

Kansas	Topeka	1861	4
Kentucky	Frankfort	1792	6
Louisiana	Baton Rouge	1812	6
Maine	Augusta	1820	2
Maryland	Annapolis	1788	8
Massachusetts	Boston	1788	9
Michigan	Lansing	1837	14
Minnesota	St. Paul	1858	8
Mississippi	Jackson	1817	4
Missouri	Jefferson City	1821	8
Montana	Helena	1889	1
Nebraska	Lincoln	1867	3
Nevada	Carson City	1864	4
New Hampshire	Concord	1788	2
New Jersey	Trenton	1787	12
New Mexico	Santa Fe	1912	3
New York	Albany	1788	27
North Carolina	Raleigh	1789	13
North Dakota	Bismarck	1889	1
Ohio	Columbus	1803	16
Oklahoma	Oklahoma City	1907	5
Oregon	Salem	1859	5
Pennsylvania	Harrisburg	1787	18
Rhode Island	Providence	1790	2
South Carolina	Columbia	1788	7
South Dakota	Pierre	1889	1
Tennessee	Nashville	1796	9
Texas	Austin	1845	36
Utah	Salt Lake City	1896	4
Vermont	Montpelier	1791	1
Virginia	Richmond	1788	11
Washington	Olympia	1889	10
West Virginia	Charleston	1863	3
Wisconsin	Madison	1848	8
Wyoming	Cheyenne	1890	1

{Each State is represented by 2 Senators} 435

** Delegates

STATE GOVERNMENT

The Constitution defines the powers of the federal government and then clearly states that all other powers are reserved for the states or the people. State governments, divided into legislative, executive, and judicial branches, oversee the education of its youth, provide protection through police departments, provide safety through fire departments, issue drivers' licenses, and approve zoning and land usage.

The state legislatures make the state laws. Each legislature has two houses¹ which are usually named the Senate and the Assembly. The members of these legislatures are elected by the people. Their terms of office vary in different states.

The executive branch of state government provides that the laws passed by the legislature are enforced. The chief executive officer, the Governor, is elected by the people. His or her term varies from two to four years in different states.

The judicial branch is composed of the state courts. These courts apply the laws to the cases which come before them. These courts differ as to their names and the classes of cases which they consider. For example, there are courts in all the states which deal with crimes. Other courts take care of only civil cases. There are higher courts to which the people may carry cases on appeal.

Each state has as much authority as every other state in the Union. It may be a new state, the population may be very small, but the state is as free to use its authority as the oldest or largest state. We live in a Union of States of equal rights. The states cannot destroy the Union and the national government has no authority to destroy the states.

¹ One exception, Nebraska, is unicameral.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Self-government is one of the principles of American democracy. In order that the people may take active part in the government of their own community, each state is divided into counties. There are over 3,000 counties in the United States.

Each county has its own government system which provides laws, courts of justice, and administration for local affairs, among which are police and fire protection, education, health, welfare and other programs of local service.

Towns and cities are other forms of local government which function in much the same manner and for the same purposes as county governments. Towns and cities are formed where many people live in a particular area and demand more services than those provided in less populated sections. Towns, cities and counties form election districts in which the people elect local citizens to represent their communities in the State Assembly.

Every man and woman should be proud to know that he or she has a share in the government of his community. Each one should try to prepare himself to take an honest, active part in the management of his town or city or county.

Political System: Two Major Parties

The American political system has evolved over time into a two major party system – the Democrats and the Republicans. Other political parties do exist but they may not always be active in all elections.

Candidates for office typically register their party affiliation when they consent to be nominated for an office. Or, they may register as an independent, which means they decline to be affiliated with one of the major parties.

The decision to align or not align with a particular political party is an individual decision – one made after considering each party's tenets or statements of policy.

PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES

<i>President</i>	<i>Birthplace</i>	<i>In Office</i>	<i>Party</i>
1 George Washington	VA	1789-1797	
2 John Adams	MA	1797-1802	Federalist
3 Thomas Jefferson	VA	1801-1809	Dem.-Rep
4 James Madison	VA	1809-1817	Dem.-Rep
5 James Monroe	VA	1817-1825	Dem.-Rep
6 John Quincy Adams	MA	1825-1829	Nat. Rep.
7 Andrew Jackson	SC	1829-1837	Democratic
8 Martin Van Buren	NY	1837-1841	Democratic
9 William H. Harrison	VA	1841	Whig
10 John Tyler	VA	1841-1845	Whig
11 James K. Polk	NC	1845-1849	Democratic
12 Zachary Taylor	VA	1849-1850	Whig
13 Millard Fillmore	NY	1850-1853	Whig
14 Franklin Pierce	NH	1853-1857	Democratic
15 James Buchanan	PA	1857-1861	Democratic
16 Abraham Lincoln	KY	1861-1865	Republican
17 Andrew Johnson	NC	1865-1869	Republican
18 Ulysses S. Grant	OH	1869-1877	Republican
19 Rutherford B. Hayes	OH	1877-1881	Republican
20 James A. Garfield	OH	1881	Republican
21 Chester A. Arthur	VT	1881-1885	Republican
22 Grover Cleveland	NJ	1885-1889	Democratic
23 Benjamin Harrison	OH	1889-1893	Republican
24 Grover Cleveland	NJ	1893-1897	Democratic

25	William McKinley	OH	1897-1901	Republican
26	Theodore Roosevelt	NY	1901-1909	Republican
27	William H. Taft	OH	1909-1913	Republican
28	Woodrow Wilson	VA	1913-1921	Democratic
29	Warren G. Harding	OH	1921-1923	Republican
30	Calvin Coolidge	VT	1923-1929	Republican
31	Herbert Hoover	IA	1929-1933	Republican
32	Franklin D. Roosevelt	NY	1933-1945	Democratic
33	Harry S. Truman	MO	1945-1953	Democratic
34	Dwight D. Eisenhower	TX	1953-1961	Republican
35	John F. Kennedy	MA	1961-1963	Democratic
36	Lyndon B. Johnson	TX	1963-1969	Democratic
37	Richard M. Nixon	CA	1969-1974	Republican
38	Gerald R. Ford	NE	1974-1977	Republican
39	James E. Carter, Jr.	GA	1977-1981	Democratic
40	Ronald W. Reagan	IL	1981-1989	Republican
41	George H. W. Bush	MA	1989-1993	Republican
42	William J. Clinton	AR	1993-2001	Democratic
43	George W. Bush	TX	2001-2009	Republican
44	Barack H. Obama	HI	2009-2017	Democratic
45	Donald J. Trump	NY	2017-2021	Republican
46	Joseph R. Biden Jr.	DE	2021-	Democratic

THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES

The Flag of the United States is sometimes called the Stars and Stripes, the Star-Spangled Banner and sometimes (affectionately) "Old Glory." Its seven red and six white stripes represent the first thirteen colonies; a field of blue with fifty stars represents the Union of fifty States. One star was added for each State when admitted to the Union.

With reference to the design of the Flag, George Washington said, "We take the stars and blue union from Heaven, the red from our mother country, separating it by white stripes, thus showing we have separated from her, and the white stripes shall go down to posterity representing liberty."

On June 14, 1777, Congress adopted the following resolution:

"Resolved, that the Flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white: that the union be thirteen stars, white on a blue field, representing a constellation."

Flag Code Regulations
United States Code
Revised 1985
99th Congress, 1st Session

Conduct During Playing of National Anthem

During rendition of the national anthem when the flag is displayed, all present except those in uniform should stand at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. Men not in uniform should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Persons in uniform should render the military salute at the first note of the anthem and retain this position until the last note. When the flag is not displayed, those present should face toward the music and act in the same manner they would if the flag were displayed there.

Display and Use of Flag

The following codification of existing rules and customs pertaining to the display and use of the flag of the United States of America is established for the use of such civilians or civilian groups or organizations as may not be required to conform with regulations promulgated by one or more executive departments of the Government of the United States.

Time and Occasions for Display

It is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flagstaffs in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed twenty-four hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness.

The flag should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.

The flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement, except when an all-weather flag is displayed.

The flag should be displayed on all days, especially on New Year's Day, January 1; Inauguration Day, January 20; Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, the third Monday in January; Lincoln's Birthday, February 12; Washington's Birthday, third Monday in February; National Vietnam War Veterans Day, March 29; Easter Sunday (variable); Mother's Day, second Sunday in May; Armed Forces Day, third Saturday in May; Memorial Day (half-staff until noon), the last Monday in May; Flag Day, June 14; Independence Day, July 4; National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, July 27; Labor Day, first Monday in September; Constitution Day, September 17; Columbus Day,

second Monday in October; Navy Day, October 27; Veterans Day, November 11; Thanksgiving Day, fourth Thursday in November; Christmas Day, December 25; and such other days as may be proclaimed by the President of the United States; the birthdays of States (date of admission); and on State holidays.

The flag should be displayed daily on or near the main administration building of every public institution.

The flag should be displayed in or near every polling place on election days.

The flag should be displayed during school days in or near every schoolhouse.

Position and Manner of Display

The flag, when carried in a procession with another flag or flags, should be either on the marching right; that is, the flag's own right, or, if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line.

The flag should not be displayed on a float in a parade except from a staff, or as provided in subsection of this section.

The flag should not be draped over the hood, top, sides, or back of a vehicle or of a railroad train or a boat. When the flag is displayed on a motorcar, the staff shall be fixed firmly to the chassis or clamped to the right fender.

No other flag or pennant should be placed above or, if on the same level, to the right of the flag of the United States of America, except during church services conducted by naval chaplains at sea, when the church pennant may be flown above the flag during church services for the personnel of the Navy.

The flag of the United States of America, when it is displayed with another flag against a wall from crossed staffs, should be on the right, the flag's own right, and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.

The flag of the United States of America should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of States or localities or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs.

When flags of States, cities, or localities, or pennants of societies are flown on the same halyards with the flag of the United States, the latter should always be at the peak. When the flags are flown from adjacent staffs, the flag of the United States should be hoisted first and lowered last. No such flag or pennant may be placed above the flag of the United States or to the United States flag's right.

When flags of two or more nations are displayed, they are to be flown from separate staffs of the same height. The flags should be of approximately equal size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in time of peace.

When the flag of the United States is displayed from a staff projecting horizontally or at an angle from the window sill, balcony, or front of a building, the union of the flag should be placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half-staff. When the flag is suspended over a sidewalk from a rope extending from a house to a pole at the edge of the sidewalk, the flag should be hoisted out, union first, from the building.

When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right, that is, to the observer's left. When displayed in a window, the flag should be displayed in the same way, with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street.

When the flag is displayed over the middle of the street, it should be suspended vertically with the union to the north in an east and west street or to the east in a north and south street.

When used on a speaker's platform, the flag, if displayed flat, should be displayed above and behind the speaker. When displayed from a staff in a church or public auditorium, the flag of the United States of America should hold the position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and in the position of honor at the clergyman's or speaker's *right* as he faces the audience. Any other flags so displayed should be placed on the left of the clergyman or speaker or to the right of the audience.

The flag should form a distinctive feature of the ceremony of unveiling a statue or monument, but it should never be used as the covering for the statue or monument.

The flag, when flown at half-staff, should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. On Memorial Day the flag should be displayed at half-staff until noon only, then raised to the top of the staff. By order of the President, the flag shall be flown at half-staff upon the death of principal figures of the United States Government and the Governor of a State, territory, or possession, as a mark of respect to their memory. In the event of the death of other officials or foreign dignitaries, the flag is to be displayed at half-staff according to Presidential instructions or orders, or in accordance with recognized customs or practices not inconsistent with law. In the event of the death of a present or former official of the government of any State, territory, or possession of the United States, the Governor of that State, territory, or possession may proclaim that the National flag shall be flown at half-staff. The flag shall be flown at half-staff thirty days from the death of the President or a former President; ten days from the day of death of the Vice President, the Chief Justice or a retired Chief Justice of the United States, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives; from the day of death

until interment of an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, a Secretary of an executive or military department, a former Vice President, or the Governor of a State, territory, or possession; and on the day of death and the following day for a member of Congress. As used in this subsection --

When the flag is used to cover a casket, it should be so placed that the union is at the head and over the left shoulder. The flag should not be lowered into the grave or allowed to touch the ground.

When the flag is suspended across a corridor or lobby in a building with only one main entrance, it should be suspended vertically with the union of the flag to the observer's left upon entering. If the building has more than one main entrance, the flag should be suspended vertically near the center of the corridor or lobby with the union to the north, when entrances are to the east and west or to the east when entrances are to the north and south. If there are entrances in more than two directions, the union should be to the east.

Respect for Flag

No disrespect should be shown to the flag of the United States of America; the flag should not be dipped to any person or thing. Regimental colors, State flags, and organization or institutional flags are to be dipped as a mark of honor.

The flag should never be displayed with the union down, except as a signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property.

The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water, or merchandise.

The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.

The flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding, or drapery. It should never be festooned, drawn back, nor up, in folds, but always allowed to fall free. Bunting of blue, white and red, always arranged with the blue above, the white in the middle, and the red below, should be used for covering a speaker's desk, draping the front of the platform, and for decoration in general.

The flag should never be fastened, displayed, used, or stored in such a manner as to permit it to be easily torn, soiled, or damaged in any way.

The flag should never be used as a covering for a ceiling.

The flag should never have placed upon it, nor on any part of it, nor attached to it any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or drawing of any nature.

The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.

The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. It should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions or handkerchiefs and the like, printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discard. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff or halyard from which the flag is flown.

No part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen, and members of patriotic organizations. The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing. Therefore, the lapel flag pin, being a replica, should be worn on the left lapel near the heart.

The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

THE LIBERTY BELL



The Liberty Bell was originally hung in the tower of the State House (later Independence Hall) June 7, 1753. This quotation from the Bible, Leviticus 25:10, is inscribed on the Bell: "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof." On September 18, 1777, it was taken to Allentown, Pennsylvania, to prevent its capture by the British. It was stored in the basement of Zion Reformed Church until the next year when it was brought back to Philadelphia.

Year after year it rang out on the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and tolled when the great leaders of our Country died. The bell cracked sometime between 1817 and 1846.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

A pledge is a solemn promise. Allegiance means unalterable faithfulness. In this pledge we solemnly promise that we will be faithful in thought, word and deed to the Country and to the Flag for which it stands.

The Flag is the symbol of our freedom and our faith. We pledge our allegiance with thankful hearts that we are privileged to live under its protection.

This Republic is one nation. It cannot be divided. It gives liberty and justice to all its inhabitants.

The Pledge of Allegiance should be rendered by standing at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. When not in uniform, men should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Persons in uniform should remain silent, face the flag, and render the military salute.

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

(The National Anthem)

Oh say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming,
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

Oh thus be it ever when freemen shall stand
Between their loved homes and the war's desolation!
Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the heav'n-rescued land
Praise the Pow'r that hath made and preserved us a Nation.
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto, "In God is our Trust!"
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

On September 5, 1814, Francis Scott Key, a native of Carroll County, Maryland, who was practicing law in Georgetown, was sent to secure the freedom of Dr. William Beanes of Baltimore, a prisoner on a British ship. Key witnessed the British shelling of Fort McHenry on the night of September 13. At daybreak, Francis Scott Key, overjoyed to see the “Stars and Stripes” still flying, wrote a poem on the back of an envelope, titled “The Defence of Fort McHenry.”

The Americans were put ashore after the battle, and Francis Scott Key revised the poem. It was printed in *The Baltimore Patriot*, September 21, 1814, and later set to music, re-titled “The Star-Spangled Banner.” By Act of Congress March 3, 1931, it became our National Anthem, the first and last verses of which appear above.

THE STATUE OF LIBERTY

Liberty Enlightening the World, in New York Harbor, was the gift of the people of France to the United States. The American people contributed the money for the Statue's pedestal. Liberty was dedicated in 1886. The colossal figure was the masterpiece of the French sculptor, Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi.

Liberty's torch has been a symbol of welcome to millions of immigrants. The Statue's height from foundation of pedestal to torch is 305 feet. The torch-bearing arm is 42 feet long; the hand is 16 feet; the index finger is 8 feet; and the fingernail is 13 x 10 inches. Four hundred and fifty thousand pounds of copper plate and wrought iron were used to make the Statue.



Rededication of the Statue of Liberty was made on July 4, 1986, after a complete restoration which was made possible by the contributions of many citizens.

MAPS OF THE UNITED STATES

The map shown below depicts the 50 states, the state capitols, the federal capitol, and neighboring countries.



Source: Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection

The map shown below depicts the geographic features of the United States including the longest rivers, adjacent bodies of water, and neighboring countries.



This map is based on public domain works from the U.S. Dept. of State and the CIA World Fact Book.

BECOMING A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Source: Department of Homeland Security, Office of Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) website: www.uscis.gov/citizenship

A foreign citizen or national may become a citizen of the United States in one of two ways. If he or she is born within the territory of the United States or born to U.S. citizen parents, then he is a native born citizen. He or she may also be naturalized. (It should be noted that a foreign child legally adopted by a U.S. citizen and who immigrates to the United States may achieve immediate citizenship per the Child Citizenship Act passed by Congress in 2000.)

Naturalization is the administrative process by which a foreign citizen or national becomes an American citizen after fulfilling specific requirements as established by Congress. These requirements include:

1. a period of continuous residence and physical presence in the United States;
2. residence in a particular USCIS District prior to filing;
3. an ability to read, write, and speak English;
4. a knowledge and understanding of U.S. history and government;
5. good moral character;
6. attachment to the principles of the U.S. Constitution; and,
7. favorable disposition toward the United States.

Those interested in attaining U.S. citizenship are encouraged to contact the Citizenship and Immigration Services field office nearest them for more complete information. Or, please follow this link: www.uscis.gov/citizenship for more information about the naturalization process.

THE OATH OF AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP

(Taken when naturalized)

Once approved for citizenship, applicants are required to take the following oath:

"I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of

evasion; so help me God. In acknowledgement whereof I have hereunto affixed my signature.”

This Oath of Citizenship you take is a solemn statement that you call upon God to witness, that you absolutely give up of your own free will your citizenship in any other country and your allegiance to any foreign ruler whose subject you have been. You promise on your honor that you will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States against all enemies. You do this of your own free will, keeping back nothing in your mind.

If you take this Oath with the intention to deceive, you are a traitor to the country you have adopted.

If you take this oath in true faith, you are a true citizen of the United States of America. You are not an Italian-American. You are not a Spanish-American. You are not a German-American, nor any other kind of a hyphenated American. **YOU ARE AN AMERICAN.**

There is no prouder title than “Citizen of the United States of America.” It is now yours. **YOU ARE AN AMERICAN.**

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF CITIZENSHIP

Of utmost importance to every American citizen is the preservation of the form of government under which we live. Through the provisions of our republican or representative form of government, people have the right to form political parties based on democratic participation. A political party is an unincorporated voluntary association of persons which sponsors certain ideas of government or maintains certain political principles or beliefs in the public policies of the government, and which is formed for the purpose of urging the adoption and execution of such principles in government affairs through officers of like beliefs. It has been said that the people have an inalienable right to organize and operate political parties and that this right may not unreasonably be interfered with by the legislature. Self-preservation is an inherent right of political parties as well as of individuals.

Governments do not preserve themselves. They continue to survive and grow only through the watchfulness of all the citizens. It is therefore our solemn duty as citizens of the United States to conduct ourselves so that the American form of government is preserved and passed on to coming generations.

The right to vote is one of the most cherished privileges of an American citizen, but with that privilege comes responsibility. It is your right. Each citizen may register to vote in the community where he establishes his home in the place so designated. No citizen may vote in more than one community.

Vote intelligently at all primary and general elections. Under our system of government the people elect their legislators and other public officers by voting at election polls on election days. Each citizen is free to vote by secret ballot for the candidate or candidates of his choice. He should learn all he can about the candidates and choose those he believes best qualified and who will be of greatest service to his community, the state and the nation.

A good citizen is an informed citizen. Study, read and learn as much as possible about the United States, its government, its people and its way of life. As citizens, you will be asked to participate in the governmental process – how you choose to participate is up to you.

Pay the required taxes to support government operations. (Federal and state income taxes are due April 15 of each year.) It is important to know how those funds are used for your benefit – and the benefit of others.

Serve with honor as a federal employee if asked to do so. You may be asked to defend this nation should the need arise.

Hold public office if qualified and chosen by the voters.

Serve on a jury when called on to do so by a court.

Obey all laws. Respect the Flag.

Learn to recognize un-American propaganda when you see it, hear it, or read about it. As an American, learn why you should speak out against such propaganda.

Understand the basic economic principles (such as supply and demand) which support the market economy of the United States.

Live in a way that will uphold American ideals and show others how to live in the same way.

AMERICAN FEDERAL HOLIDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

New Year's Day (legal holiday)	January 1
Martin Luther King Jr. Day (legal holiday)	Third Monday in January
Lincoln's Birthday (legal holiday in many states)	February 12
Washington's Birthday (legal holiday)	Third Monday in February
Washington's Birthday (traditional)	February 22
Memorial (Decoration) Day (legal holiday)	Last Monday in May
Flag Day	June 14
Independence Day (legal holiday)	July 4
Labor Day (legal holiday)	First Monday in September
Citizenship/Constitution Day	September 17
Columbus Day (legal holiday)	October 11
Veterans (Armistice) Day (legal holiday)	November 11
Election Day	First Tuesday after the first Monday in November (legal holiday in some states)
Thanksgiving Day (legal holiday)	Fourth Thursday in November
Christmas (legal holiday)	December 25