

OUTLINE OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

7 Articles: L E J - S A \$ R

Amendments: Bill of Rights + 17 more = 27

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 defense, 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 1: **L**egislative Branch *[Use these main topics to label your own copy of the Constitution.]*

- Section 1: CREATES ALL LAWS / Congress a two-house system
- 2: House of Representatives [435] – age 25, Census to determine population for number of Representatives and TAXES per each 13 states / 2 yr term / power of impeachment
- 3: Senate [100] – age 30, 2 senators per state / 6-yr term / VP of U.S. is Pres of Senate
- 4: Elections -- when, how, where: each state decides / Congress meets each Dec [now Jan 3]
- 5: Rules of Order – a majority makes a quorum; keeps a journal [“Congressional Record”]
- 6: Pay, Privileges – paid out of treasury
- 7: How Bills Become Law – Pres signs or vetoes after both house pass a law
- 8: 20 Powers ONLY – tax, borrow, foreign commerce, post offices, declares war, armies, etc.
- 9: Powers Forbidden to Congress – (can NOT abolish *habeas corpus*) no bill of attainder, no *ex post facto* laws, no titles of nobility, no capitation tax
- 10: Powers Forbidden to States – no treaties, no coining money, no titles, no foreign relations, etc.

Article II: **E**xecutive Branch

- Section 1: Elections – Electors elect Pres, Term 4 yrs, age 35, succession, natural born citizen, OATH
- 2: Powers – Commander-In-Chief, Pardons, Treaties, appts ambassadors, Judges, Congress vacancies
- 3: Duties – State of the Union, budget, Execute laws (a power), spokesperson for U.S.
- 4: Impeachment – is removed from office for conviction of treason, bribery, high crimes, misdemeanors

Article III: **J**udicial Branch

- Section 1: Federal Courts, Judges – ONE supreme court with inferior courts, “lifetime” job
- 2: Jurisdiction – “appellate jurisdiction” (appeals), guarantees trial by jury
- 3: Treason – defined, needs testimony of two, cannot extend to family

Article IV: **S**tates

- Section 1: States’ Rights, Duties – public acts, records, & judicial recognized by all states
- 2: Citizenship Rights – a criminal in one state can be arrested in another & sent back
- 3: Admitting new states – Legislatures of states must agree on terms
- 4: Guarantees States a republican government & protection from invasion & domestic violence

Article V: **Amenendment** – Proposals: 2/3 of Congress OR 2/3 States for Convention; ¾ State Legislatures approve

Article VI: **Supremacy Clause** – All Debts paid / Constitution & Treaties supreme laws/ No Religious tests

Article VII: **Ratification** – 9 out of 13 states’ conventions must approve this Constitution, DATE: _____

Amendments

BILL OF RIGHTS (first ten amendments) – all ratified in **1791**

- 1.** Freedom of religion, speech, press, to assemble, petition
- 2.** Right to keep and bear arms (guns)
- 3.** US Soldiers cannot take over your home during war or peace
- 4.** Safety of person, papers, homes--Search Warrant needed
- 5.** Protection of accused – grand jury a must, cannot be forced to be a witness against self; protection of liberty and Private Property
- 6.** Rights to speedy and public trial, impartial jury, be informed of problem, meet witnesses against him, be given a lawyer
- 7.** Trial by Jury in suits
- 8.** No excessive bail / fines or cruel punishment
- 9.** Enumerated Rights do not deny other rights of the people
- 10.** All other powers are given to states / people
- 11.** Immunity of States
- 12.** Pres & VP elected separately
- 13.** No more Slavery
- 14.** “Anchor Babies”, Property Rights
- 15.** Minority Right to Vote
- 16.** Income Tax
- 17.** Election of Senators by people instead of State Legislatures
- 18.** “Prohibition” – it’s illegal to sell/drink alcohol
- 19.** Women’s Right to Vote
- 20.** New dates, transition of new Pres
- 21.** Now lawful to sell/drink alcohol (18th Amendment repealed)
- 22.** President’s Tenure – no more than 2 terms
- 23.** Electors allowed for Wash DC
- 24.** Non-taxpayers can vote
- 25.** Presidential death or disability succession
- 26.** Voting age lowered to 18 [1963]
- 27.** No Congressional pay changes for Congress currently serving (1992)