

The Constitution (Amendments 11-27)

The Constitution: Amendments 11-27

Constitutional Amendments¹ 1-10 make up what is known as The Bill of Rights.

Amendments 11-27 are listed below.

AMENDMENT XI

5 Passed² by Congress March 4, 1794. Ratified³ February 7, 1795.

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

The Judicial power of the United States shall not be construed⁴ to extend to any suit in law⁵ or equity⁶, commenced⁷ or prosecuted⁸ against one of the United States by Citizens of another State, or by Citizens or Subjects of any Foreign State.

10 AMENDMENT XII

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

Note: A portion of Article II, section 1 of the Constitution was superseded⁹ by the 12th amendment.

The Electors shall meet in their respective¹⁰ states and vote by ballot¹¹ 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
15 for as President, and in distinct¹² 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 certify¹³, and transmit sealed¹⁴ to the seat of the government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate; -- the President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates and the votes shall then be counted; -- The person having the greatest number
20 of votes for President, shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed¹⁵; and if no person have such majority, then from the persons having the highest numbers not exceeding¹⁶ 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 quorum¹⁷ for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the states, and a
25 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 devolve¹⁸ upon them, before the fourth day of March next following, then the Vice-President shall act as President, as in case of the death or other constitutional disability of the President. --]* The person having the greatest number of votes as Vice-President, shall be the Vice-President, if such number be¹⁹ a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed, and if no person have a majority, then from the two highest
30 numbers on the list, the Senate shall choose the Vice-President; a quorum for the purpose shall consist of two-thirds of the whole number of Senators, and a majority of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice. But no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of President shall be eligible to that of Vice-President of the United States.

*Superseded by section 3 of the 20th amendment.

AMENDMENT XIII

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

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

Section 1.

Neither slavery nor involuntary²⁰ servitude²¹, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly²² convicted²³, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

40 Section 2.

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

AMENDMENT XIV

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

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

45 Section 1.

All persons born or naturalized²⁴ 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 abridge²⁵ the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive²⁶ any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law²⁷; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

50 Section 2.

Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice-President of the United States, Representatives in Congress, the Executive and Judicial officers of a State, or the members of the Legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of
55 such State, being twenty-one years of age,* and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion, or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such State.

Section 3.

60 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 oath²⁸, 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 insurrection²⁹ or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two-thirds
65 of each House, remove such disability.

Section 4.

The validity³⁰ of the public debt³¹ of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred³² for payment of pensions and bounties³³ 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
70 against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation³⁴ of any slave; but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void³⁵.

Section 5.

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

*Changed by section 1 of the 26th amendment.

75 AMENDMENT XV

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

Section 1.

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of³⁶ race, color, or previous condition of servitude--

80 Section 2.

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

AMENDMENT XVI

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

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

- 85 The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived³⁷, without apportionment³⁸ among the several States, and without regard to any census³⁹ or enumeration⁴⁰.

AMENDMENT XVII

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

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

- 90 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 requisite⁴¹ for electors of the most numerous branch of the State legislatures. When vacancies⁴² happen in the representation of any State in the Senate, the executive authority of such State shall issue⁴³ writs⁴⁴ of election to fill such vacancies: Provided, That the legislature of any State may empower the executive thereof to make temporary appointments until
95 the people fill the vacancies by election as the legislature may direct.

This amendment shall not be so construed as to affect⁴⁵ the election or term of any Senator chosen before it becomes valid⁴⁶ as part of the Constitution.

AMENDMENT XVIII

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

100 Section 1.

After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture⁴⁷, sale, or transportation of intoxicating⁴⁸ liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage⁴⁹ purposes is hereby prohibited.

Section 2.

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

Section 3.

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of the several States, as provided⁵⁰ in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

110 AMENDMENT XIX

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

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

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

115 AMENDMENT XX

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

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

Section 1.

- 120 The terms of the President and the Vice President shall end at noon on the 20th day of January, and the terms of Senators and Representatives at noon on the 3d day of January, of the years in which such terms would have ended if this article had not been ratified; and the terms of their successors shall then begin.

Section 2.

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall begin at noon on the 3d day of
125 January, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

Section 3.

If, at the time fixed for the beginning of the term of the President, the President elect⁵¹ 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
130 President until a President shall have qualified; and the Congress may by law provide for the case wherein neither a
President elect nor a Vice President shall have qualified, declaring who shall then act as President, or
the manner in which one who is to act shall be selected, and such person shall act accordingly until a President or Vice
President shall have qualified.

Section 4.

135 The Congress may by law provide for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the House of
Representatives may choose a President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them, and for the case
of the death of any of the persons from whom the Senate may choose a Vice President whenever the right of choice
shall have devolved upon them.

Section 5.

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

Section 6.

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the
legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission.

AMENDMENT XXI

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

Section 1.

The eighteenth article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States is hereby repealed⁵².

Section 2.

The transportation or importation into any State, Territory, or Possession of the United States for delivery or use
150 therein of intoxicating liquors, in violation of the laws thereof, is hereby prohibited.

Section 3.

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by conventions
in the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the
States by the Congress.

155 AMENDMENT XXII

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

Section 1.

No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice, and no person who has held the office of
President, or acted as President, for more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected President
160 shall be elected to the office of President more than once. But this Article shall not apply⁵³ to any person holding the
office of President when this Article was proposed⁵⁴ by Congress, and shall not prevent any person who may be
holding the office of President, or acting as President, during the term within which this Article becomes operative
from holding the office of President or acting as President during the remainder of such term.

Section 2.

165 This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress.

AMENDMENT XXIII

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

170 **Section 1.**

The District constituting the seat of Government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as Congress may direct: A number of electors of President and Vice President equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives in Congress to which the District would be entitled if it were a State, but in no event more than the least populous⁵⁵ State; they shall be in addition to those appointed by the States, but they shall be considered, for the
175 purposes of the election of President and Vice President, to be electors appointed by a State; and they shall meet in the District and perform such duties as provided by the twelfth article of amendment.

Section 2.

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

AMENDMENT XXIV

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

Section 1.

The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President, for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay poll tax or other tax.

185 **Section 2.**

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

AMENDMENT XXV

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

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

190 **Section 1.**

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

Section 2.

Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Vice President, the President shall nominate a Vice President who
195 shall take office upon confirmation by a majority vote of both Houses of Congress.

Section 3.

Whenever the President transmits to the President pro tempore⁵⁶ of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that he is unable to discharge⁵⁷ 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
200 President as Acting President.

Section 4.

Whenever the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties
205 of his office, the Vice President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President.

Thereafter, when the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that no inability exists, he shall resume⁵⁸ 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 latter⁵⁹ written declaration, or, if Congress is not in session, within twenty-one days after Congress is required to assemble, determines by two-thirds vote of both Houses that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall continue to discharge the same as Acting President; otherwise, the President shall resume the powers and duties of his office.

AMENDMENT XXVI

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

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

Section 1.

The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.

Section 2.

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

AMENDMENT XXVII

Originally proposed Sept. 25, 1789. Ratified May 7, 1992.

No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of representatives shall have intervened.

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¹**amendment** change to a law that is still being discussed – ²**to pass** to approve, accept or to be approved, accepted by a group having authority by voting – ³**to ratify** to make an agreement official by signing it – ⁴**to construe** to interpret – ⁵**suit in law** legal case – ⁶**equity** fairness, right judgement – ⁷**to commence** to begin, start – ⁸**to prosecute** to accuse sb. by bringing a case against that person in a court – ⁹**to supersede** to replace sth. – ¹⁰**respective** here: individual – ¹¹**ballot** system of secret voting – ¹²**distinct** separate, different – ¹³**to certify** to formally declare – ¹⁴**to seal** to mark a document to prevent it from being opened by the wrong person – ¹⁵**appointed** here: nominated – ¹⁶**to exceed** to go beyond what is allowed – ¹⁷**quorum** minimum number of people who must be present at a meeting before official decisions can be made – ¹⁸**to devolve** to be transferred or passed to sb. – ¹⁹**be** correct: is – ²⁰**involuntary** forced, unintentional – ²¹**servitude** state of being forced to work for sb. and having no freedom – ²²**duly** in the correct way – ²³**to convict** to declare in a court of law that sb. is guilty – ²⁴**to naturalize** to become a citizen of a country – ²⁵**to abridge** to cut down, reduce – ²⁶**to deprive** to take away – ²⁷**due process of law** following proper legal rules and procedures – ²⁸**to take an oath** to have formally sworn (to God) to tell the truth – ²⁹**insurrection** revolt, rebellion – ³⁰**validity** having legal force – ³¹**debt** money which is owed – ³²**to incur** to receive sth. bad as a result of one's actions – ³³**bounty** sum of money paid as a reward – ³⁴**emancipation** release – ³⁵**void** legally unusable, unacceptable, invalid – ³⁶**on account of** because of – ³⁷**to derive** to get sth. from sth. – ³⁸**apportionment** here: proportional sharing – ³⁹**census** official counting of a country's population – ⁴⁰**enumeration** counting – ⁴¹**needed, required** – ⁴²**vacancy** unfilled position or post – ⁴³**to issue** to send out, provide – ⁴⁴**writ** formal legal written order to do sth. – ⁴⁵**to affect** to have influence on sth. – ⁴⁶**valid** legally usable or acceptable – ⁴⁷**manufacture** here: production – ⁴⁸**to intoxicate** to make sb. drunk – ⁴⁹**beverage** any type of drink – ⁵⁰**to provide** to give – ⁵¹**(president) elect** person who has been voted (to be president), but has not yet started work – ⁵²**to repeal** to put an official end (to a law) – ⁵³**to apply** to relate to – ⁵⁴**to propose** to suggest – ⁵⁵**populous** having a lot of people living there – ⁵⁶**pro tempore** temporarily, for a short time – ⁵⁷**to discharge** here: to carry out, exercise – ⁵⁸**to resume** to start sth. again after a pause – ⁵⁹**latter** here: the second of two things already mentioned