

AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION – Sample Answers

Important Terms	amendment	a change to a constitution
	propose	to officially suggest something
	ratify	to confirm by expressing consent or approval



Amendment
PROPOSAL
Methods

2/3 of both houses of Congress: the Senate and the House of Representatives.

This method has been used **27** times.

OR

2/3 of the state legislatures submit an application to Congress. Congress then calls a convention where states can propose amendments.

This method has been used **0** times.



Amendment
RATIFICATION
Methods

3/4 of the state legislatures vote to ratify the proposed amendment.

OR

Conventions vote to ratify the proposed amendment in 3/4 of the states.

What is the difference between an amendment and a law?

Amendments and laws use different processes for passage. Amendments involve Congress and state legislatures. Laws are passed by both houses of Congress and approved by the president. Amendments change the structure, function or powers of the government. Laws are rules passed by Congress and govern people's behavior or conduct.