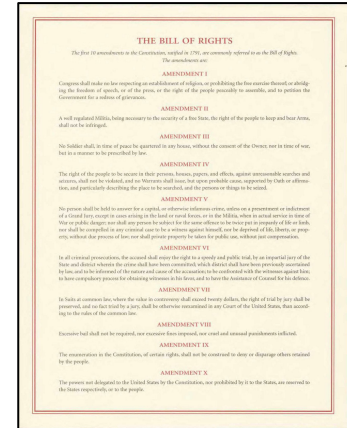
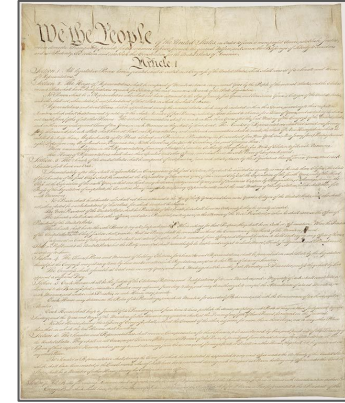
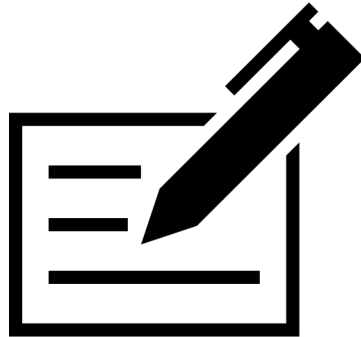


Amending the U.S. Constitution

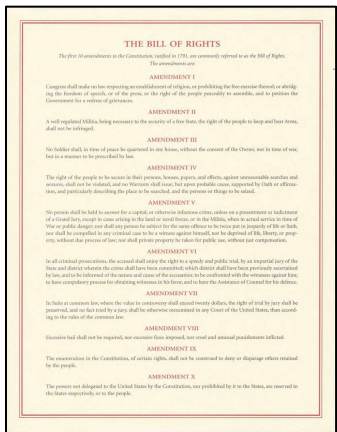


Amendment

an official change made to a document, in
this case the U.S. Constitution



Some Reasons for Amending the Constitution



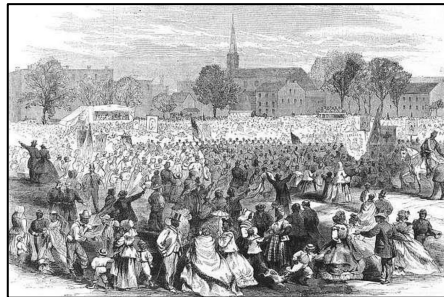
**To protect
individual rights**

(Bill of Rights)



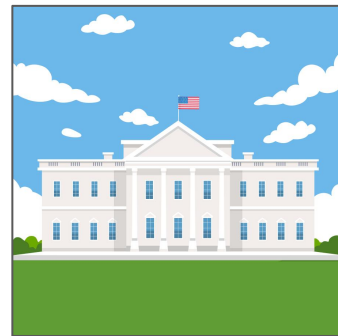
**To expand voting
rights**

**(15th, 19th, 24th,
26th)**



To abolish slavery

(13th)



**Changes to
governmental
structure, function,
powers**

**(11th, 12th, 17th,
20th, etc.)**

Example: The 14th Amendment

The 14th amendment defined citizenship and was added after the Civil War to protect civil rights. This ensured former slaves were officially given the rights guaranteed in the Declaration of Independence and protected in the Constitution. States that did not guarantee all citizens these rights could be punished by the national government. The amendment also included an “equal protections” requirement, to ensure states did not treat freed slaves differently than other citizens of their states.

It took two years after proposing the amendment for it to be ratified in 1868.

How is the Constitution amended?

1

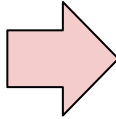
Proposal



2/3 vote from both houses
of Congress

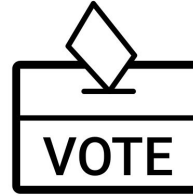
OR

Constitutional convention
called by 2/3 of the states

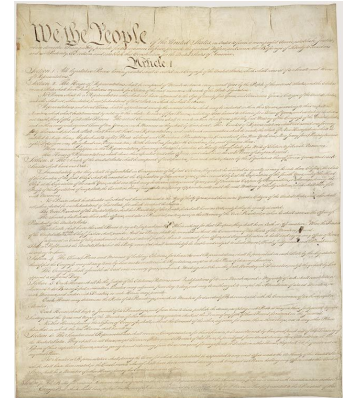
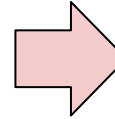


2

Ratification



Passage by 3/4 of the 50
states



Almost Amendments...

- The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) in 1972 would have guaranteed equal rights for women specifically in areas of divorce, property, employment, and other matters.
- The Titles of Nobility Amendment (1810) would strip citizenship from any citizen who accepted titles such as “emperor, king, prince, or foreign power”.
- The Child Labor Amendment (1924) would have allowed Congress to prohibit, limit, or regulate labor of any person under 18.
- In 1893, one amendment was proposed that would rename the United States to the “United States of the Earth”.
- In 1933, an amendment was proposed that would outlaw millionaires. Any income past the point of \$1 million dollars would be applied to the national debt.
- In 1876, an amendment was proposed that would eliminate the office of the president and replace it with a 3-person Roman-style committee.

Sources

1. [“edit , document , note , writing , review icon”](#) by BECRIS is licensed under [CC BY 3.0](#)
2. [“Voting, politics, election”](#) by charlie is free for commercial use
3. [“Constitution page 1”](#) from the National Archives is under the Public Domain
4. [“19th Amendment”](#) from the National Archives is under the Public Domain
5. [“The Bill of Rights”](#) from the National Archives has no known copyright restrictions
6. [“Florida topographic map”](#) by Eric Gaba is licensed under [CC BY-SA 3.0](#)
7. [“Celebration of The Abolition of Slavery in the District of Columbia by the Colored People, in Washington, April 19, 1866”](#) from the New York Public Library is under the Public Domain
8. [“business , information , message , note , pen , pencil , write icon”](#) from Freeicons is a free icon
9. Almost Amendments from:
<https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/five-unusual-amendments-that-never-made-it-into-the-constitution#:~:text=Some%20of%20th,ose%20proposed%20amendments,approval%20or%20state%20convention%20process>