

## Constitutional Amendments and Congress

5 of the 27 amendments to the U.S. Constitution have changed the role of Congress from its original description in Article I. Each of these five amendments are listed below. Click on the links, read the text of the amendment, then click on the explanation provided to complete the graphic organizers below.

Summarize this amendment in your own words.	Why was this amendment added to the Constitution?
All powers not delegated to Congress are reserved to the states	Part of the Bill of Rights; help with ratification; limit government power
How did it change Congress?	What's the impact?
Ensures that Congress cannot exercise any power not already delegated to it	Maintains a limited government

[10th Amendment](#)

Summarize this amendment in your own words.	Why was this amendment added to the Constitution?
Defines citizenship and the impacts of that on representation	Post Civil War/Reconstruction
How did it change Congress?	What's the impact?
Nullifies % clause and changes Congressional representation Disallows service if participate in insurrection Gives Congress power to enforce	Changes balance of power between states with changes to representation numbers in the House

[14th Amendment](#)

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Summarize this amendment in your own words.	Why was this amendment added to the Constitution?
Income Tax	Clarified power of Congress in regards to taxes that had come up through Supreme Court cases
How did it change Congress?	What's the impact?
Clarified/Expanded their enumerated taxing power	Currently still have an income tax

### 16th Amendment

Summarize this amendment in your own words.	Why was this amendment added to the Constitution?
Direct election of U.S. Senators	Allowed for more popular sovereignty/voter voice in the U.S. government
How did it change Congress?	What's the impact?
Made the two U.S. Senators from each state popularly elected	More responsive to constituents

### 17th Amendment

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<p>Summarize this amendment in your own words.</p> <p>If Congress gives themselves a raise, it takes effect after the next Congressional election</p>	<p>Why was this amendment added to the Constitution?</p> <p>Clarify long needed language regarding Congressional pay</p>
<p>How did it change Congress?</p> <p>Makes any approved pay raises not take effect until after the next Congressional election which may not impact everyone voting to pass the measure</p>	<p>What's the impact?</p> <p>Prevents Congress from giving themselves a raise on the spot Ensures their interests are in the best interest of the nation and not self</p>

### 27th Amendment

In summary, how did these amendments change the structure, function, or process of the legislative branch from its original description in Article I of the Constitution?

The Congress over time expanded to encompass the voices of more American citizens, in theory making it more responsive to the constituents they represent. The enumerated powers in Article I, Section 8 were also clarified and further defined to ensure the principles of limited government, separation of powers, and checks and balances continued to effectively work within this branch.