

United States Amendments 1-27

1-10 The Bill of Rights: Limits on the Federal Government

1. Amendment I – Freedom of Religion, Speech and the Press; Rights of Assembly and Petition.
2. Amendment II - Right to Bear Arms. The amendment was adopted so that Congress could not disarm citizens.
3. Amendment III – Housing of Soldiers. No Quartering Grew directly out of the complaint against the British, who had forced people to take soldiers into their homes.
4. Amendment IV – Search and Seizure. You may not be searched or have property seized without probable cause and/or a search warrant.
5. Amendment V - Rights of the accused. (Self-incrimination, Double Jeopardy, Due Process, Just Compensation)
6. Amendment VI- Rights to a Fair Trial. (Speedy and Public Trial by Jury*, Tried in state where crime was committed, Informed of charges against accused, Witnesses, Right to a lawyer)
7. Amendment VII- Rights in Civil Cases. (Trial by jury in civil cases over \$20)
8. Amendment VIII – Cruel and Unusual Punishment. Bails, fines and punishments must be humane and fit the crime committed
9. Amendment IX – Rights Retained by the People. Any rights not listed in the Constitution are still protected
10. Amendment X – Powers Retained by the States and the People. States or people have all powers not given to national government. (ie: marriage)

11-12 The Growing Republic Amendments

11. Amendment XI – Lawsuits Against States. It is impossible for the citizen of one state to sue another state. (So, BillyBob in Arkansas can't sue whole state of Missouri)
12. XII – Election of President and Vice President (1804) Provides that members of the electoral college (called electors), vote for one person as president and one person as vice president.

13-15 The Civil War Amendments

13. Amendment XIII – Abolition of Slavery. Slavery is illegal
14. Amendment XIV- Civil Rights. Slaves receive Citizenship and protection of due process
15. Amendment XV –Black Suffrage. Blacks receive the right to vote...note that there is no mention of gender...

16-19 The Progressive Era Amendments

16. Amendment XVI – Income Taxes. Congress has the power to lay and collect taxes on incomes
17. Amendment XVII- Direct Election of Senators. The states have the power to directly elect senators to represent them. (before this, the state legislature decided who the senators were)
18. Amendment XVIII- Prohibition of Liquor (1919). Forbade people to make, sell, or transport liquor.
19. Amendment XIX- Women’s Suffrage. Gives women the power to vote
20. Amendment XX- Terms of President and Congress. Moves the date that newly elected presidents and members of Congress take office close to election time. President: January 20th, Congress: January 3rd
21. Amendment XXI-Repeal of Prohibition. Repeals the 18th amendment.
22. Amendment XXII- Limitation of Presidents to Two Terms. No person can be elected president more than twice.
23. Amendment XXIII- Suffrage in the District of Columbia. Allows citizens of Washington D.C. to vote in the presidential elections. However, they cannot vote for members of Congress.

24-26 The Civil Rights Amendments

24. Amendment XXIV-Poll Taxes. Forbids making voters pay a poll tax before they can vote in a national election.
25. Amendment XXV- Presidential Disability and Succession. If president is removed, dies, or resigns, the vice president becomes president. The president fulfills a vice president vacancy, by a majority vote of both Houses of Congress.
26. Amendment XXVI- Suffrage for 18-Year-Olds. Voting age moved to 18
27. Amendment XXVII- Congressional Pay Raises. Any increase in congressional pay does not go into effect until after the next regular election of the House of Representatives.