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Constitution bill of rights

‹ Signers up First Amendment › The Preamble to The Bill of RightsCongress of the United States begun and held at the City of New-York, on Wednesday the fourth of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine.THE Conventions of a number of the States, having at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added: And as extending the ground of public confidence in the Government, will best ensure the beneficent ends of its institution.RESOLVED by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, two thirds of both Houses concurring, that the following Articles be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, as amendments to the Constitution of the United States, all, or any of which Articles, when ratified by three fourths of the said Legislatures, to be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of the said Constitution; viz.ARTICLES in addition to, and Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America, proposed by Congress, and ratified by the Legislatures of the several States, pursuant to the fifth Article of the original Constitution.Note: The following text is a transcription of the first ten amendments to the Constitution in their original form. These amendments were ratified December 15, 1791, and form what is known as the “Bill of Rights.”Amendment ICongress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.Amendment IIA well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.Amendment IIINo Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.Amendment IVThe right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.Amendment VNo person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.Amendment VIIn all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.Amendment VIIIn Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.Amendment VIIIExcessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.Amendment IXThe enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.Amendment XThe powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people. Back to Main Page How Did it Happen? About the Document The first 10 amendments to the Constitution, known as the Bill of Rights, guarantee essential rights and civil liberties, such as the right to free speech, the right to bear arms, and the right to a fair trial, as well as protecting the role of the states in American government. Date Passed by Congress September 25, 1789. Ratified December 15, 1791. Full Text The Preamble to The Bill of Rights Congress of the United States begun and held at the City of New-York, on Wednesday the fourth of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine. THE Conventions of a number of the States, having at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added: And as extending the ground of public confidence in the Government, will best ensure the beneficent ends of its institution. 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Amendment V No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation. Amendment VI In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence. Amendment VII In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law. Amendment VIII Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted. 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Select LanguageEnglishFrenchSpanishItalianPortugueseGermanDutchRussianJapaneseChinese (Simplified)HindiArabicAfrikaansAlbanianAmharicArmenianAzerbaijaniBasqueBelarusianBengaliBosnianBulgarianCatalanCebuanoChichewaChinese (Traditional)CorsicanCroatianCzechDanishEsperantoEstonianFilipinoFinnishFrisianGalicianGeorgianGreekGujaratiHaitian CreoleHausaHawaiianHebrewHmongHungarianIcelandicIgboIndonesianIrishJavaneseKannadaKazakhKhmerKoreanKurdish (Kurmanji)KyrgyzLaoLatinLatvianLithuanianLuxembourgishMacedonianMalagasyMalayMalayalamMalteseMaoriMarathiMongolianMyanmar (Burmese)NepaliNorwegianPashtoPersianPolishPunjabiRomanianSamoanScottish GaelicSerbianSesothoShonaSindhiSinhalaSlovakSlovenianSomaliSudaneseSwahiliSwedishTajikTamilTeluguThaiTurkishUkrainianUrduUzbekVietnameseWelshXhosaYiddishYorubaZulu THE FOLLOWING is a simple-english version of The Bill of Rights, for easy study and translation into 180 world languages. The original transcript can be found online at the US National Archives. The Bill of Rights is a list of fundamental Civil Rights. The Constitution protects these rights, as they are explicitly declared in the first Ten Amendments to the Original US Constitution. These rights are so important, the States required that they be added before they agreed to adopt the Constitution as their new form of Government. Of special importance is the 10th Amendment, where it explicitly reiterates States Rights, after also being described inside the Constitution. It is mentioned twice because it is critically important. States Rights: All powers not delegated to the Federal Government by the Constitution, nor specifically prohibited to the States by the Constitution, are reserved for the States, or for the people. I: Freedom of Religion, Speech, Press, Assembly, and Petition Congress shall make no law: Establishing a religionProhibiting the free exercise of religionRestricting the freedom of speechRestricting the freedom of the press Restricting the right of the people to peaceably assemble Restricting the right of the people to petition the government for consideration of grievances. II: Right to Keep Weapons A well regulated Militia is necessary to secure a free State. The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be denied or restricted. III: Protection against Quartering Soldiers No owner of any house shall be forced to provide room and/or board for any soldier in time of peace, nor in time of war unless prescribed by law. IV: Freedom from Unreasonable Search and Seizure No one’s person, house, papers, or effects may be searched or seized except when presented with a legally issued warrant of probable cause supported by oath or affirmation and providing a description of the place to be searched and the persons or things to be seized. V: Rights of Persons Accused of a Crime No Person(s): May be charged with a capital or otherwise serious crime without indictment by a Grand Jury, except in military cases or when involving the militia when in service in a time or war or public danger. May be charged again for the same crime once the court finds him innocent (double jeopardy). Shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself. Shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law. Private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation. VI: Right to a Jury Trial in a Criminal Case In all criminal prosecutions the accused has the right: To a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury of the State and district in which the crime was committed as previously determined by law. To be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation against him. To confront the witnesses against him. To request the testimony of witnesses in his favor. To have the assistance of a lawyer for his defense. VII: Right to a Jury Trial in Civil Cases In all civil suits the accused has the right to a trial by jury. No case tried by jury shall be re-considered in any court of the United States other than by the rules of common law. VIII: Protection from Unfair Fines and Punishment Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted. IX: Other Rights of the People These certain rights listed in the Constitution shall not be interpreted in any way that would deny or devalue any other rights retained by the people. X: Powers of the States and the People All powers not delegated to the Federal Government by the Constitution, nor specifically prohibited to the States by the Constitution, are reserved for the States, or for the people. First AmendmentCongress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances. Second Amendment A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed. 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Fifteenth Amendment 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 race, color, or previous condition of servitude ... Nineteenth Amendment 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.

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