

The Bill of Rights - Proposed in 1789 and enacted on December 15, 1791

1st Amendment

Protects the people's right to practice religion, to speak freely, to assemble (meet), to address the government and of the press to publish.

2nd Amendment

Protects the right to own guns.

3rd Amendment

Guarantees that the army cannot force homeowners to give them room and board.

4th Amendment

Protects the people from the government improperly taking property, papers, or people, without a valid warrant based on probable cause (good reason).

5th Amendment

Protects people from being held for committing a crime unless they are properly indicted, that they may not be tried twice for the same crime, and that you need not be forced to testify against yourself. It also contains due process guarantees.

6th Amendment

Guarantees a speedy trial, an impartial jury, and that the accused can confront witnesses against them, and that the accused must be allowed to have a lawyer.

7th Amendment

Guarantees a jury trial in federal civil court cases. This type of case is normally no longer heard in federal court.

8th Amendment

Guarantees that punishments will be fair, and not cruel, and that extraordinarily large fines will not be set.

9th Amendment

Simply a statement that other rights aside from those listed may exist, and just because they are not listed doesn't mean they can be violated.

10th Amendment

Says that any power not granted to the federal government belongs to the states.

Amendments passed once the Constitution was adopted.

11th Amendment - Enacted on February 7, 1795

Says how someone from one state can sue another state.

12th Amendment - Enacted on June 15, 1804

Redefines how the President and Vice-President are chosen by the Electoral College.

13th Amendment - Enacted on December 6, 1865

Abolished slavery in the entire United States.

14th Amendment - Enacted on July 9, 1868

People had rights on the federal level and on the state level, too. Dealt with civil war items.

15th Amendment - Enacted on February 3, 1870

Ensured that a person's race could not be used as criteria for voting.

16th Amendment - Enacted on February 3, 1913

Authorizes the United States to collect income taxes.

17th Amendment - Enacted on April 8, 1913

Shifted the choosing of Senators from the state legislatures to the people of the states.

18th Amendment - Enacted on January 16, 1919

Abolished the sale or manufacture of alcohol in the United States.

19th Amendment - Enacted on August 18, 1920

Ensures that sex could not be used as a criteria for voting.

20th Amendment - Enacted on January 23, 1933

Set new start dates for the terms of the Congress and the President.

21st Amendment - Enacted on December 5, 1933
Repealed the 18th Amendment.

22nd Amendment - Enacted on February 27, 1951
Set a limit on the number of times a President could be elected - two four-year terms.

23rd Amendment - Enacted on March 29, 1961
Grants the Washington D.C. the right to three electors in Presidential elections.

24th Amendment - Enacted on January 23, 1964
Ensured that no tax could be charged to vote for any federal office.

25th Amendment - Enacted on February 10, 1967
Establishes rules for a President who becomes unable to perform his duties while in office.

26th Amendment - Enacted on July 1, 1971
Ensures that any person 18 or over may vote.

27th Amendment - Enacted on May 7, 1992
Any law that increased the pay of legislators may not take effect until after an election.