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| THE 27 AMENDMENTS TO THE  UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION |

Throughout American history, “We the People” have amended our Constitution 27 times—transforming it in important ways. Through the Article V amendment process, we often make it a “more perfect” document. In this activity, you will learn more about key periods of constitutional change and explore the 27 amendments to the Constitution.

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**The Founding era amendments: 1791 – 1804**

Gave us our first 12 amendments, including the Bill of Rights!

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| Amendment | Read the amendment  on the *Interactive Constitution.* | Summarize the amendment in your own words. | What are three to five key words or terms associated with this amendment? | What were some factors that led to this amendment being added to the Constitution? |
| First Amendment  1791 | [Text of the Amendment](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/amendment/amendment-i)  Common Interpretations:  - [Establishment Clause](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/interpretation/amendment-i/interps/264)  - [Free Exercise Clause](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/interpretation/amendment-i/interps/265)  - [Free Speech and Press](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/interpretation/amendment-i/interps/266)  - [Assembly and Petition](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/interpretation/amendment-i/interps/267) |  |  |  |
| Second Amendment  1791 | [Text of the Amendment](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/amendment/amendment-ii)  [Common Interpretation](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/interpretation/amendment-ii/interps/99) |  |  |  |
| Third Amendment  1791 | [Text of the Amendment](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/amendment/amendment-iii)  [Common Interpretation](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/interpretation/amendment-iii/interps/123) |  |  |  |
| Fourth Amendment  1791 | [Text of the Amendment](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/amendment/amendment-iv)  [Common Interpretation](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/interpretation/amendment-iv/interps/121) |  |  |  |
| Fifth Amendment  1791 | [Text of the Amendment](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/amendment/amendment-v)  Common Interpretations:  - [Criminal Procedure Clauses](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/interpretation/amendment-v/clauses/632)  - [Due Process Clause](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/interpretation/amendment-v/clauses/633)  - [Takings Clause](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/interpretation/amendment-v/clauses/634) |  |  |  |
| Sixth Amendment  1791 | [Text of the Amendment](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/amendment/amendment-vi)  [Common Interpretation](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/interpretation/amendment-vi/interps/127) |  |  |  |
| Seventh Amendment  1791 | [Text of the Amendment](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/amendment/amendment-vii)  [Common Interpretation](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/interpretation/amendment-vii/interps/125) |  |  |  |
| Eighth Amendment  1791 | [Text of the Amendment](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/amendment/amendment-viii)  [Common Interpretation](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/interpretation/amendment-viii/clauses/103) |  |  |  |
| Ninth Amendment  1791 | [Text of the Amendment](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/amendment/amendment-ix)  [Common Interpretation](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/interpretation/amendment-ix/interps/131) |  |  |  |
| 10th Amendment  1791 | [Text of the Amendment](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/amendment/amendment-x)  [Common Interpretation](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/interpretation/amendment-x/interps/129) |  |  |  |
| 11th Amendment  1795 | [Text of the Amendment](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/amendment/amendment-xi)  [Common Interpretation](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/interpretation/amendment-xi/interps/133) |  |  |  |
| 12th Amendment  1804 | [Text of the Amendment](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/amendment/amendment-xii)  [Common Interpretation](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/interpretation/amendment-xii/interps/171) |  |  |  |

**Reconstruction era amendments: 1865 – 1870 (There was a 60+ year gap between the Founding and Reconstruction eras.)**

Gave us three transformational amendments that many scholars argue represent our nation’s “Second Founding.”

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| 13th Amendment  1865 | [Text of the Amendment](https://constitutioncenter.org/the-constitution/amendments/amendment-xiii)  [Common Interpretation](https://constitutioncenter.org/the-constitution/amendments/amendment-xiii/interpretations/137) |  |  |  |
| 14th Amendment  1868 | [Text of the Amendment](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/amendment/amendment-xiv)  Common Interpretations:  - [Citizenship Clause](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/interpretation/amendment-xiv/clauses/700)  - [Due Process Clause](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/interpretation/amendment-xiv/clauses/701)  - [Equal Protection Clause](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/interpretation/amendment-xiv/clauses/702)  - [Enforcement Clause](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/interpretation/amendment-xiv/clauses/703)  - [Privileges or Immunities Clause](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/interpretation/amendment-xiv/clauses/704) |  |  |  |
| 15th Amendment  1870 | [Text of the Amendment](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/amendment/amendment-xv)  [Common Interpretation](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/interpretation/amendment-xv/interps/141) |  |  |  |

**The Progressive era: 1913 – 1920 (There was a 40+ year gap between the Reconstruction and Progressive eras.)**

Gave us the 16th–19th Amendments.

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| Amendment | Read the amendment  on the *Interactive Constitution.* | Summarize the amendment in your own words. | What are three to five key words or terms associated with this amendment? | What were some factors that led to this amendment being added to the Constitution? |
| 16th Amendment  1913 | [Text of the Amendment](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/amendment/amendment-xvi)  [Common Interpretation](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/interpretation/amendment-xvi/interps/139) |  |  |  |
| 17th Amendment  1913 | [Text of the Amendment](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/amendment/amendment-xvii)  [Common Interpretation](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/interpretation/amendment-xvii/interps/147) |  |  |  |
| 18th Amendment  1919 | [Text of the Amendment](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/amendment/amendment-xviii)  [Common Interpretation](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/interpretation/amendment-xviii/interps/169) |  |  |  |
| 19th Amendment  1920 | [Text of the Amendment](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/amendment/amendment-xix)  [Common Interpretation](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/interpretation/amendment-xix/interps/145) |  |  |  |

**Modern era: 1933 – 1992 (It’s been over 30 years since the last amendment!)**

Added the remaining eight amendments, little by little, between 1933 and 1992.

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| Amendment | Read the amendment  on the *Interactive Constitution.* | Summarize the amendment in your own words. | What are three to five key words or terms associated with this amendment? | What were some factors that led to this amendment being added to the Constitution? |
| 20th Amendment  1933 | [Text of the Amendment](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/amendment/amendment-xx)  [Common Interpretation](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/interpretation/amendment-xx/interps/153) |  |  |  |
| 21st Amendment  1933 | [Text of the Amendment](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/amendment/amendment-xxi)  [Common Interpretation](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/interpretation/amendment-xxi/interps/151) |  |  |  |
| 22nd Amendment  1951 | [Text of the Amendment](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/amendment/amendment-xxii)  [Common Interpretation](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/interpretation/amendment-xxii/interps/149) |  |  |  |
| 23rd Amendment  1961 | [Text of the Amendment](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/amendment/amendment-xxiii)  [Common Interpretation](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/interpretation/amendment-xxiii/interps/155) |  |  |  |
| 24th Amendment  1964 | [Text of the Amendment](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/amendment/amendment-xxiv)  [Common Interpretation](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/interpretation/amendment-xxiv/interps/157) |  |  |  |
| 25th Amendment  1967 | [Text of the Amendment](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/amendment/amendment-xxv)  [Common Interpretation](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/interpretation/amendment-xxv/interps/159) |  |  |  |
| 26th Amendment  1971 | [Text of the Amendment](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/amendment/amendment-xxvi)  [Common Interpretation](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/interpretation/amendment-xxvi/interps/161) |  |  |  |
| 27th Amendment  1992 | [Text of the Amendment](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/amendment/amendment-xxvii)  [Common Interpretation](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/interpretation/amendment-xxvii/interps/165) |  |  |  |