

The ten amendments, known as the Bill of Rights, were passed by the first Congress of the United States and promptly ratified by the States.

Some of the states had refused to ratify the Constitution until assured that these amendments would be made part of it.

One hundred and seventy years of experience in government had made them determined to keep their hard earned freedoms.

The people were fearful that a strong central government would usurp their individual rights.

These are rights that Englishmen had won through the centuries, that the Colonists had declared in their Bills of Rights, and that a war had been fought to preserve.

Possessors of these rights wrote a Constitution for themselves, granting certain limited powers to government.

"This is a Christian Nation" was stated in a Supreme Court decision in 1892 (*The Church of the Holy Trinity vs. the United States*, 143 U. S. 457), thus affirming the religious foundation upon which our Republic was founded.



NATIONAL SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
National Defense Committee

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KNOW YOUR RIGHTS



UNDER YOUR CONSTITUTION



THE BILL OF RIGHTS



The First Ten Amendments of the Constitution of the United States of America

Amendment One

Freedom of Religion, of Speech, and of the Press

Congress 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 Two

Right to Keep and Bear Arms

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.

Amendment Three

Quartering of Soldiers

No 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 Four

Security from Unwarrantable Search and Seizure

The 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 Five

Rights of Accused in Criminal Proceedings

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 offense 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 Six

Right to Speedy Trial, Witnesses, etc.

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 defense.

Amendment Seven

Trial by Jury in Civil Cases

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 Eight

Bails—Fines—Punishments

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment Nine

Reservation of Rights of the People

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment Ten

Powers Reserved to States or People

The 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.



The first ten amendments were all proposed by Congress on September 25, 1789, and were ratified and declared in force on December 15, 1791.