

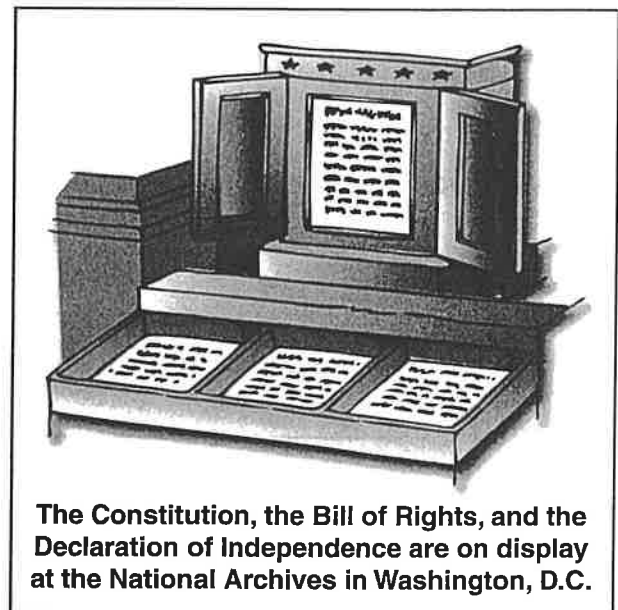
THE AMENDMENTS

Introduction

As you studied earlier, the path to amending the Constitution is a difficult one. Throughout the past 200 years, many, many amendments have been suggested in Congress. Of those, only 27 amendments have become part of the Constitution.

The contents of the amendments are very different. The first amendments deal with rights that many felt should have been included in the main body of the Constitution. These first ten amendments are called the Bill of Rights. Other amendments deal with changes in American society over the years, such as slavery and prohibition. Finally, other amendments change sections of the Constitution.

Below is a chart briefly describing the Amendments:



The Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the Declaration of Independence are on display at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

<u>Amendment</u>	<u>Year Ratified</u>	<u>Description</u>
I	1791	Freedom of religion, press, speech, assembly, petition
II	1791	Right to bear arms
III	1791	Quartering of soldiers
IV	1791	Unreasonable searches and seizures
V	1791	Right of due process of law, no double jeopardy
VI	1791	Right to a public trial, right to a lawyer
VII	1791	Right to a jury trial
VIII	1791	Excessive bail, no cruel and unusual punishment
IX	1791	Rights not listed in the Constitution
X	1791	Rights to the people and states
XI	1798	Lawsuits against states
XII	1804	Presidential/vice presidential elections
XIII	1865	Abolition of Slavery
XIV	1868	Former slaves granted citizenship
XV	1870	Black suffrage
XVI	1913	Income tax
XVII	1913	Direct election of senators
XVIII	1919	Prohibition of alcoholic beverages
XIX	1920	Women's suffrage
XX	1933	Lame duck period
XXI	1933	Repeal of prohibition
XXII	1951	Limit of two terms as president
XXIII	1961	Suffrage for District of Columbia
XXIV	1964	Abolition of poll taxes
XXV	1967	Presidential succession
XXVI	1971	Eighteen-year-old vote
XXVII	1992	Limits on Congressional pay raises