



We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquillity, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Article I.

Sec. 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Sec. 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

Representatives and electors shall have the same Qualifications as the electors of the several States, which may be increased, within One Year, preceding the respective elections, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free Persons, including those bound to service for a term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons. The electors in each State shall be chosen in the first meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in each State, as they shall be determined by the number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty thousand, but each State shall have at least one Representative, and until such number shall be ascertained, the State of New Hampshire shall be entitled to choose three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies.

The House of Representatives shall choose their Speaker, and other Officers, and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

Sec. 3. The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for six Years, and each Senator shall have one Vote.

Immediately after they shall be assembled in consequence of the first Election, they shall be divided into three Clases. The seats of the Senators of the first Class shall be vacated at the expiration of the second Year, of the second Class at the expiration of the fourth year, and of the third Class at the expiration of the sixth Year, so that one third may be chosen every second Year, and if vacancies happen by resignation, or otherwise, during the recess of the Legislature of any State, the Executive thereof may make temporary Appointments until the next meeting of the Legislature, which shall then fill such Vacancies.

No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen.

The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless they be equally divided. The Senate shall choose their other Officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the absence of the Vice President, and when he shall convene the Office of President of the United States.

The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments, when sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: and no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Judgment in cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from Office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of Honor, Trust or Profit under the United States: but the Party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and amenable to the ordinary Law, Judgment and Punishment, according to Law.



Art. 4. The times, places and manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State, by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the places of Senators.

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every Year, and such Meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by Law appoint a different Day;

Art. 5. Each House shall be the judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its own Members, and Majority of each shall constitute a Quorum to do business, but a smaller Number may determine by Consent of the Majority of the whole, in each House, and when such Question shall be put to a Yeas and Nays, the Affirmative in each House shall determine the Vote of the Proceedings, provided the Members be present in Person, and both the Concurrence of two thirds of a House shall be necessary to pass a Bill.

Each House shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and from time to time, publish the same, excepting such Parts as may in their Judgment require Secrecy; and the Yeas and Nays of the Members of either House on any Question shall, at the desire of one fifth of the Members, be entered on the Journal. Neither House, during the Session of Congress, shall, without the Consent of the other, adjourn for more than three Days, nor to any other Place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.

Art. 6. The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained in Law, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States. They shall in all Cases, except Treason, Felony, and Breach of the Peace, be privileged from Arrest during their Attendance at the Session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any Speech or Debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any Place.

The Senate or Representatives shall, during the Time for which they are elected, be appointed in any Civil Office under the Authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the Emoluments whereof shall have been increased, during such Time, and no Person holding any Office under the United States, shall be a Member of either House during the Continuance in Office.

Art. 7. All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments to the Bill. Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a Law, be presented to the President of the United States; if he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his Objections, to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the Objections at large on their Journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such Reconsideration two thirds of that House shall agree to pass the Bill, it shall be sent, together with the Objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two thirds of that House, it shall become a Law. But in all such Cases the Votes of both Houses shall be taken by Yeas and Nays, and the Names of the Persons voting for and against the Bill, shall be entered on the Journal of each House respectively. If any Bill shall not be returned by the President within ten Days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the same shall be a Law, in like Manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their adjournment prevent its Return, in which case it shall not be a Law.

Every Order, Resolution or Vote, to which the Concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary (except on a Question of Adjournment) shall be presented to the President of the United States and before the same shall take Effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by two thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the Rules and Limitations prescribed in the Case of a Bill.

Art. 8. The Congress shall have Power  
To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises, shall be uniform throughout the United States;

- To borrow Money on the Credit of the United States;
- To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;
- To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies, throughout the United States;
- To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coins, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;
- To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;
- To establish Post Offices and Post Roads;
- To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors, the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;
- To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court;
- To define and punish Piracies and Offences committed on the high Seas, and Offences against the Law of Nations;
- To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captives on Land and Water;
- To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;
- To provide and maintain a Navy;
- To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the Land and Naval Armies;
- To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;





to provide for organizing, raising and maintaining the Militia, and for governing each part of them as may be directed in the Acts of the United States respecting to the Militia respectively, the appointment of the Officers, and the authority of having the Militia according to the direction aforesaid of Congress. In execution of any Regulation in this respect, every such Troop, not exceeding ten, shall appear according to the provisions of the Acts, and the acceptance of Congress, become the seal of the Government of the United States; and to execute Acts of Congress, and all other Acts, and all the orders of the Legislature of the State, in which the same shall be, for the execution of Acts, the Judges, the Sheriffs, the Deeds, the Justices, and the several Buildings.

No such Act shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

Art. 9. The migration or restriction of any Persons among the States now existing, shall think free to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the Year one thousand eight hundred and eight, and a Tax or Duty may be imposed on such importation, not exceeding ten Dollars for each Person.

The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require. No Bill of Attainder or Ex Post Facto Law shall be passed.

No Capitation, or other direct Tax, shall be laid, unless in proportion to the Census or Enumeration herein before directed to be taken. No Tax or Duty shall be laid on Articles exported from any State. No Preference shall be given by any Regulation of Commerce or Revenue to the Ports of one State over those of another; nor shall Vessels bound to one Port only, be obliged to call at another.

No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all such Money shall be furnished from time to time.

No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States; and no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of Congress, accept any present, Emolument, Office or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince or foreign State.

Art. 10. No State shall enter into any Treaty, Alliance, or Confederation; grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, coin Money, emit Bills of Credit, make any Thing but Gold and Silver Coin a Tender or Payment of Debts, pass any Bill of Exemption, or any Bill which may impair the Obligation of Contracts, or grant any Title of Nobility.

No State shall, without the Consent of Congress, lay any Impost or Duty on Imports or Exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing its Inspection Laws and the duty of Tonnage; and no State or Empire or Exports, shall be for the Use of the Treasury of the United States; and all such Laws shall be subject to the Revision and Control of the Congress. No State shall, without the Consent of Congress, lay any Duty of Tonnage, any Impost or Duty on Imports or Exports, or any Duty on Vessels or on Commerce with another State, or with a foreign Power, or engage in War, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent Danger as will not admit of delay.

Art. 1. The Executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his Office during the Term of four Years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same Term, be elected as follows:

Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a number of Electors, equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress; but no Elector shall have a Residence in the State in which he holds an Office of Profit under the United States; shall be disqualified on Election.

The Electors shall meet in their respective States, and vote by Ballot for two Persons, of whom one at least shall not be an Inhabitant of the State in which they meet. And they shall make a List of all the Persons voted for, and of the number of Votes for each; which List they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the Seat of the Government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall, in the Presence of the Senate and the House of Representatives, open all the Certificates, and the Votes shall then be counted. Having the greatest Number of Votes shall be the President, if such Number be a Majority of the whole Number of Electors appointed; and if no one have that Number, then the House of Representatives shall immediately choose one of them for President; and if no Person have a Majority, then from the five highest Number on the List the same Number shall be chosen. In every Case after the Choice of the President, the Person having the greatest Number of Votes of the Electors shall be the Vice President, if there should remain two or more who have equal Votes, the Senate shall choose from them by Ballot the Vice President.

The Congress may determine the Time of choosing the Electors, and the Day on which they shall give their Votes, which Day shall be the same throughout the United States.

No Person except natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to that Age of thirty five Years, and seven Years a Natural born Citizen of the United States.





In case of the removal of the President from Office, or of his Death, Resignation or Inability to discharge the powers and Duties of the said Office, the same shall devolve on the Vice President, and the Congress may by Law provide for the case of Removal, Death, Resignation or Inability, both of the President and Vice President, declaring what Officer shall then act as President, and what Officer shall act accordingly, until the disability be removed, or a President shall be elected. The President shall, at stated times, receive for his Services, a Compensation which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that Period any other Emolument from the United States or any of them.

Before he enter on the Execution of his Office, he shall take the following Oath, or Oath of Office:  
 "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will, to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend, the Constitution of the United States."

SECT. 2. The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States, when called into the actual Service of the United States; he may require the opinion in writing of the principal Officer in each of the Executive Departments upon any subject relating to the Duties of their respective Offices, and he shall have the Power to grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offences against the United States, except in cases of Impeachment.

He shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make, declare, suspend, terminate, or to take the Oath of Office, and to grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, to make Treaties, to grant and receive Ambassadors and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States whom Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and also shall be established by Law. But the Congress may, by Law, vary the appointment of such Officers, as they think proper, in the President's favor, in the Oath of Law, or in the Oath of Oath.

The President shall have Power to fill up all Vacancies that may happen during the Absence of the Senate, by granting Commissions which shall expire at the End of their next Session.

SECT. 3. He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary Occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in case of disagreement between them with respect to the time of adjournment, he may adjourn them to such time as he shall think proper. He shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall commission all the Officers of the United States.

SECT. 4. The President, Vice President, and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and conviction of Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.

3.

SECT. 1. The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated times, receive for their Services, a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their continuance in Office.

SECT. 2. The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority, to all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls to all Cases of Admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction; to Controversies to which the United States shall be a Party, to Controversies between two or more States, between a State and Citizens of another State, between Citizens of different States, between Citizens of the same State claiming Lands under Grants of different States, and between a State, or the Citizens thereof, and foreign States, Citizens or Subjects.

In all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be Party, the supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations, as the Congress shall make.

The Trial of all Crimes, except in Cases of Impeachment, shall be by Jury; and such Trial shall be held in the State where the Crime was committed; but when not committed within any State, the Trial shall be at such Place or Places as the Congress may by Law have directed.

SECT. 3. Treason against the United States shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court.

The Congress shall have Power to declare the Punishment of Treason, but no Attainder of Treason shall work Corruption of Blood, or forfeiture except during the Life of the Person convicted.

4.

SECT. 1. Full Faith and Credit shall be given in every State to the public Acts, Records and judicial Proceedings, of every other State. And the Congress may by general Laws provide the manner in which such Acts, Records and Proceedings, shall be proved, and the effect thereof.

SECT. 2. The Citizens of each State shall be entitled to all Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the several States.  
 A Person charged in any State with Treason, Felony, or other Crime, who shall flee from Justice, and be found in another State, shall on Demand of the Executive Authority of the State from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the State having Jurisdiction of the Crime.



