|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **#** | **What Does it Mean?** |
| [1st](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution) | The [government](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Government) may not set an official [state religion](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_religion). It also may not keep people from having [freedom of religion](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_of_religion), [freedom of speech](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_of_speech), [freedom of the press](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_of_the_press), [freedom of assembly](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_of_assembly), or the [right to petition](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Right_to_petition) the government to fix problems. |
| [2nd](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution) | 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. |
| [3rd](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Third_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution) | Makes it illegal for [soldiers](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soldier) to [stay in private homes](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quartering_Acts) during [peace](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peace) times without the owners' [permission](https://simple.wiktionary.org/wiki/permission). |
| [4th](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fourth_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution) | The government cannot search your house or seize things you own without being fairly sure you are doing something illegal |
| [5th](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fifth_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution) | The government may not just take a person's home or [land](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land) without paying them. Before a person is charged with a [crime](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime), a [grand jury](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_jury) must [agree that there is enough evidence](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indictment) to send him to [trial](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trial). The person has [due process](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Due_process) [rights](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rights). He does not have to say anything that would [make him seem guilty](https://simple.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Self-incrimination&action=edit&redlink=1). If he is found not guilty once, he cannot be [tried again for the same crime](https://simple.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Double_jeopardy&action=edit&redlink=1). |
| [6th](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sixth_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution) | When a person is charged with a crime, they have a right to a fair, quick trial, decided by a [jury](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jury). The trial must be public (not secret). They have the right to be told what they are being charged with; ask their accuser questions; call [witnesses](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Witness) to [testify](https://simple.wiktionary.org/wiki/testify) for them; and get a [lawyer](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lawyer). |
| [7th](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seventh_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution) | People have the right to a trial by jury in some [lawsuits](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lawsuit). |
| [8th](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eighth_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution) | Makes it illegal to give people [cruel and unusual punishments](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cruel_and_unusual_punishment), or very large [fines](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fine) or [bail](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bail) |
| [9th](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninth_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution) | Says that the Constitution did not include every right that Americans have. If rights were not listed in the Constitution, that does not mean that Americans do not have those rights. |
| [10th](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tenth_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution) | Says that the [federal](https://simple.wiktionary.org/wiki/federal) government only has the [powers that the states or the Constitution gave](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federalism_in_the_United_States) to it. The states have power over everything that was not assigned to the federal government in the Constitution. |

**Amendments 11–27 (XI–XXVII)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **#** | **What Does it Mean?** | **Ratification Proposed:**[[4]](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_amendments_to_the_United_States_Constitution#cite_note-gpo-5) | **Ratified On:**[[4]](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_amendments_to_the_United_States_Constitution#cite_note-gpo-5) | **Ratification Took:** |
| [11th](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eleventh_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution) | The states cannot be [sued](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lawsuit) by people who live in other states or countries; the states can only be sued by their own citizens. | March 4, 1794 | February 7, 1795 | 11 months 3 days |
| [12th](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twelfth_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution) | Changed the way the [President](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_the_United_States) and the [Vice President](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vice_President) are elected | December 9, 1803 | June 15, 1804 | 6 months 6 days |
| [13th](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thirteenth_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution) | Made [slavery](https://simple.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Slavery_in_the_United_States&action=edit&redlink=1) illegal in the United States. Also made [involuntary servitude](https://simple.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Involuntary_servitude&action=edit&redlink=1) (being forced to work, often for very little pay) illegal, except as [punishment](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punishment) for a [crime](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime). | January 31, 1865 | December 6, 1865 | 10 months 6 days |
| [14th](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fourteenth_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution) | Promises [due process](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Due_process) rights before taking away "life, liberty, or [property](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Property)" (the [Due Process Clause](https://simple.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Due_Process_Clause&action=edit&redlink=1)).  \*\*\***Incorportation Doctrine**  Promises the country will give everyone "the equal protection of the laws" (the [Equal Protection Clause](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Equal_Protection_Clause)).  Says that all people born in the U.S. or [naturalized](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naturalization) here are citizens. | June 13, 1866 | July 9, 1868 | 2 years 0 months 26 days |
| [15th](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fifteenth_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution) | Gave African-Americans and ex-[slaves](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slave) [the right to vote](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suffrage). Orders that no one should be unable to vote because of their [race](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Race_(sociology)), skin color, or having been a slave in the past. | February 26, 1869 | February 3, 1870 | 11 months 8 days |
| [16th](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sixteenth_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution) | Allows Congress to start and collect an [income tax](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Income_tax) | July 12, 1909 | February 3, 1913 | 3 years 6 months 22 days |
| [17th](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seventeenth_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution) | Allows the people to [elect](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Election) [United States Senators](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Senate) by direct vote | May 13, 1912 | April 8, 1913 | 10 months 26 days |
| [18th](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eighteenth_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution) | Made it [illegal to make or sell](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prohibition_Era) [alcohol](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alcoholic_drink) in the United States. **Repealed on December 5, 1933** | December 18, 1917 | January 16, 1919 | 1 year 0 months 29 days |
| [19th](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nineteenth_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution) | Gives women [the right to vote](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_suffrage_in_the_United_States) | June 4, 1919 | August 18, 1920 | 1 year 2 months 14 days |
| [20th](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twentieth_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution) | Changes the date when the terms (times in office) begin, for the President and Vice President (to January 20), and United States Senators and [Representatives](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_House_of_Representatives) (to January 3).  **\*\*Lame Duck Amendment** | March 2, 1932 | January 23, 1933 | 10 months 21 days |
| [21st](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twenty-first_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution) | **Repeals the Eighteenth Amendment**, making alcohol legal in the U.S. again. Allows each state to decide for itself whether to make alcohol illegal or make rules to control it. | February 20, 1933 | December 5, 1933 | 9 months 15 days |
| [22nd](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twenty-second_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution) | [Limits](https://simple.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Term_limits&action=edit&redlink=1) the number of times that a person can be elected president. A person cannot be elected president more than twice. If a person has served more than two years of a term to which someone else was elected (for example, if the President died and the Vice President took over for him), that person cannot be elected more than once. | March 24, 1947 | February 27, 1951 | 3 years 11 months 6 days |
| [23rd](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twenty-third_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution) | Gives [Washington, D.C.](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington,_D.C.) electors in the [Electoral College](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electoral_College). D.C. gets as many electors as the state with the least number of people. (3) | June 16, 1960 | March 29, 1961 | 9 months 12 days |
| [24th](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twenty-fourth_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution) | Makes it illegal to keep people from voting because they have not paid a [poll tax](https://simple.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Poll_tax_(United_States)&action=edit&redlink=1) or any other tax.[[d]](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_amendments_to_the_United_States_Constitution#cite_note-11) | September 14, 1962 | January 23, 1964 | 1 year 4 months 27 days |
| [25th](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twenty-fifth_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution) | Makes rules about who would become president if the President became disabled or died. Also makes rules about who would become Vice President if he had to take over for the President or died. | July 6, 1965 | February 10, 1967 | 1 year 7 months 4 days |
| [26th](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twenty-sixth_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution) | Lowers the legal voting age to 18, allowing 18- to 20-year-old United States citizens to vote.  Vietnam! | March 23, 1971 | July 1, 1971 | 3 months 8 days |
| [27th](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twenty-seventh_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution) | Says that if there are changes to Congress's [salaries](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salary), they will not take effect until the next election of [Representatives](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_House_of_Representatives). | September 25, 1789 | May 7, 1992 | 202 years 7 months 12 days |