

The Bill of Rights

- Proposed in 1789
- Ratified in 1791

- Amendment 1** **Religious and Political Freedoms**
Freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition
- Amendment 2** **The Right to Bear Arms**
Right to bear arms [firearms] in a state militia
- Amendment 3** **Quartering of Soldiers**
In peacetime, citizens cannot be forced to house soldiers. Even in wartime, this can only be done in a lawful manner
- Amendment 4** **Search and Seizure**
People are protected from arrests, searches of their homes [property], or seizures of their property without good reason. Authorities must have a warrant or the owner's permission before they conduct a search or seize property.
- Amendment 5** **Due Process of Law**
People are protected from abuse by the legal system:
- Cannot be tried in a federal court without a formal indictment
 - Cannot be tried twice for the same crime (double jeopardy)
 - Accused persons cannot be forced to say something that might help convict them ["taking the 5th"]
 - Government cannot take away a person's life, liberty, or property without following correct legal procedures
 - Government cannot take away a person's property without paying a price for it [called eminent domain]
- Amendment 6** **Rights of the Accused**
Accused people have the right to:
- A prompt, public trial by a local jury
 - Know the charges against them
 - Face and question witnesses against them
 - Call witnesses to speak in their favor
 - Be represented by a lawyer
- Amendment 7** **Right to a Jury Trial**
When disputes involving more than \$20.00 are tried in federal courts, either side can insist on a jury trial. If both sides agree, they can choose not to have a jury. Once a jury reaches a decision, it cannot be simply overturned because a judge disagrees with the jury findings.
- Amendment 8** **Bails, Fines, and Punishments**
Bails, fines, and punishments must not be unreasonable, cruel, or unusual.

Amendment 9**Other Rights of the People**

The listing of certain rights in the Constitution [Bill of Rights] does not mean that these are the only rights the people have, nor does it make those other rights less important.

Amendment 10**Powers Reserved to the States or the People**

The federal government is granted certain powers under the Constitution. All other powers, except those denied to the states, belong to the states or to the people.