

Congress OF THE United States,

begun and held at the City of New-York, on

Wednesday the fourth of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine.



The United States
Bill of Rights

THE Conventions of a number of the States, having at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added; And as extending the ground of public confidence in the Government, will best ensure the beneficent ends of its institution.

RESOLVED by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, two thirds of both Houses concur, that the following Articles be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, as amendments to the Constitution of the United States, all, or any of which Articles, when ratified by three-fourths of the said Legislatures, to be valid to all intents and purposes, a part of the said Constitution; *viz.*

ARTICLES in addition to, and Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America, proposed by Congress, and ratified by the Legislatures of several States, pursuant to the fifth Article of the original Constitution.

Article the first. After the first enumeration required by the first article of the Constitution, there shall be one Representative for every 30,000 until the number shall amount to 100, after which the proportion shall be so regulated by Congress, that there shall be not less than 100 Representatives, nor less than one Representative for every 40,000 persons, until the number of Representatives shall amount to 200; after which the proportion shall be so regulated by Congress, that there shall not be less than 200 Representatives, nor more than one Representative for every 50,000 persons.

Article the second ... No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened.

Article the third 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.

Article the fourth..... 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.

Article the fifth 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.

Article the sixth 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.

Article the seventh .. 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 offence 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.

Article the eighth ... 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.

Article the ninth .. 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 common law.

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

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

Article the twelfth ... 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.

Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg Speaker of the House of
ATTORNEYS REPRESENTATIVES
John Adams, Vice-President of the United States, and President of
Senate.

John Beckley, Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Sam A. Otis, Secretary of the Senate.



About this digital edition

This e-book comes from the online library [Wikisource](#)^[1]. This multilingual digital library built by volunteers, is committed to developing a free accessible collection of publications of every kind: novels, poems, magazines, letters...

We distribute our books for free, starting from works not copyrighted or published under free license. You are free to use our e-books for any purpose (including commercial exploitation), under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported](#)^[2] license or, at your choice, those of the [GNU FDL](#)^[3].

Wikisource is constantly looking for new members. During the realization of this book, it is possible that we made some errors. You can report them at [this page](#)^[4].

The following users contributed to this book:

- Publius97
- Billinghamurst
- John Vandenberg
- Lookatthis
- George Orwell III
- Indyrl
- BirgitteSB
- Jecowa
- Avazina
- ResidentScholar
- Yann
- DarkFalls
- Markles
- Bookofjude
- Diego pmc
- Phe
- Shanel
- Yonatan
- Larrybob
- VengeancePrime
- Pathoschild
- Harpsichord246

- Jusjih
- Kathryn.rebecca42~enwikisource
- Neo-Jay
- Keeleysam
- Vinhtantran
- Pakman044
- Eliyak
- JoeyDay
- Sanbeg
- Zhaladshar
- JeepdaySock
- Tarmstro99
- Jack Merridew
- RockMFR
- Politicaljunkie
- JanInad

-
1. [↑](http://wikisource.org) <http://wikisource.org>
 2. [↑](http://www.creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0) <http://www.creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0>
 3. [↑](http://www.gnu.org/copyleft/fdl.html) <http://www.gnu.org/copyleft/fdl.html>
 4. [↑](http://wikisource.org/wiki/Wikisource:Scriptorium) <http://wikisource.org/wiki/Wikisource:Scriptorium>