

**The American's Creed "I believe in the United States of America, as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes. I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies." — William Tyler Page,**

We Americans formed a government of the people, for the people in 1787 under our Constitution. A three branch Government which counter check each other to stop any one group from gaining too much power.

The Preamble our founding fathers wrote tells the purpose.

“We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, 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.”



**The Bill of Rights which are the first ten amendments to the Constitution** were approved in 1791 to give us specific freedoms. First Amendment guarantees the freedom of religion, of speech, of the press, of assembly, and of petition to the government for redress of grievances. Second Amendment gives the right to bear arms openly, Third Amendment freedom from quartering soldiers in a house without owner's consent Fourth Amendment protects people against unreasonable search and seizure. No searches without warrant or probable cause. This is also about privacy that people supposed to be entitled to have their homes and personal effects private and free from searches. Fifth Amendment no person shall be held for "a capital or otherwise infamous crime" without indictment, be twice put in "jeopardy of life or limb" for the same offense, be compelled to testify against himself, or "be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law." It also prohibits government from taking private property without "just compensation," Sixth Amendment guarantees the right of speedy and public trial by an impartial jury in all criminal proceedings and the right to have legal counsel for the accused and guarantees that the accused may require witnesses to attend the trial and testify in the presence of the accused. It also guarantees the accused a right to know the charges against him. Seventh Amendment guarantees right of trial by jury in almost all civil cases. Eighth Amendment. Excessive bail, fines "cruel and unusual" punishment prohibited.

#### Summary of the US Constitution

Article 1 of the constitution establishes the first of the three branches of the government, the Legislature called Congress, a two-part, body 1<sup>st</sup> the House of Representatives. The members of the House are divided among the states proportionally, giving more populous states more representatives. And 2<sup>nd</sup> the Senate. Each state has the exact same number of Senators, two each, regardless of the population. Congress must have a minimum number of members present in order to meet, and that it may set fines for members who do not show up. It says that members may be expelled, that each house must keep a journal to record proceedings and votes, and that neither house can adjourn without the permission of the other.

Article 2 establishes the second of the three branches of government, the Executive. the office of the President and the Vice-President. The President is commander-in-chief of the armed forces and of the militia (National Guard). Article 3 establishes the last of the three branches of government, the Judiciary. Section 1 establishes the Supreme Court, the highest court in the United States. Section 3 defines, without any question, what the crime of treason is. Article 4 concerns the states. Section 1 mandates that all states will honor the laws of all other states. Section 2 guarantees that citizens of one state be treated equally and fairly like all citizens of another. It also says that if a person accused of a crime in one state flees to another, they will be returned to the state they fled from. Section 4 ensures "representative democracy." Article 5 details the method of changing, the Constitution. Article 6 concerns the United States itself. First, it guarantees that the United States under the Constitution would assume all debts and contracts entered into by the United States under the Articles of Confederation. It sets the Constitution and all laws and treaties of the United States to be the supreme law of the country. Finally, it requires all officers of the United States and of the states to swear an oath of allegiance to the United States and the Constitution when taking office.

Article 7 method for ratification.