

Chapter 8 Section 3: Changing the Constitution (pages 259-261)

In this section, we will:

- Describe how to amend the Constitution.
- Name the rights that the Bill of Rights protects.
- Explain how later amendments expanded democratic rights.

Key vocabulary terms this section

- First Amendment
- Second Amendment
- incriminate
- civil
- Civil War Amendments
- Nineteenth Amendment
- Twenty-sixth Amendment

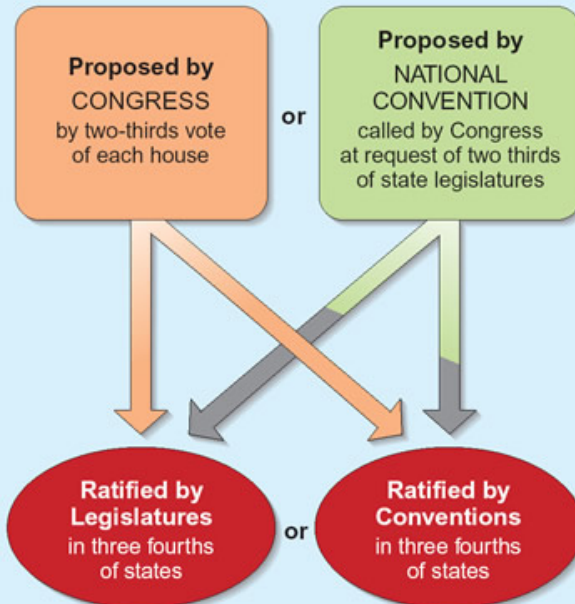
The Amendment Process

- Framers did not want to make it too easy to amend the Constitution.
- Article V outlines two ways to **propose** an amendment:
 - 1) An amendment may be proposed by 2/3 of the House and the Senate;
 - 2) Or by a national convention called by Congress at the request of 2/3 of the state legislatures.
- an amendment can also be **ratified** in two ways:
 - 1) an amendment may be approved by the legislatures of 3/4 of the states;
 - 2) or an amendment may be approved by special conventions in 3/4 of the states.

Amendments
w/ James Earl Jones
1:40



Methods of Amending the Constitution



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Skills

The amendment process requires two steps: proposal and ratification.

- 1. Comprehension** (a) Can an amendment proposed by Congress be ratified by state conventions? (b) Can an amendment proposed by a national convention be ratified by state legislatures?
- 2. Critical Thinking**
Evaluating Information
Which method of proposing an amendment seems more difficult? Explain.

The Bill of Rights

- In 1791, the Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments, became part of our Constitution.
- **First Amendment** protects basic individual liberties. Freedom of religion, speech and the press. Also guarantees the right to assemble peacefully and to petition the government to change its policies.
- **Second, Third and Fourth Amendments** reflect the colonists' experiences under British rule. The **Second Amendment** protects the right to bear arms.
- the **Third Amendment** says that Congress cannot force citizens to house troops in their homes.
- the **Fourth Amendment** protects Americans from unlawful searches and seizures.
- Amendments Five through Eight deal with the rights of those accused of a crime. The **Fifth Amendment** says that people cannot be forced to **incriminate**, or give evidence against themselves.
- The **Sixth Amendment** guarantees the right to a speedy public trial by an impartial, or fair, jury.
- The **Seventh Amendment** provides for juries for civil, or non-criminal trials.
- The **Eighth Amendment** forbids judges from ordering excessive bail or fines or cruel and unusual punishments.
- the **Ninth Amendment** makes clear that a citizen's rights are not limited to those in the Constitution.
- the **Tenth Amendment** reaffirmed the framers' plan to create a **limited government**. It says that all powers not given to the national government or denied to the states are reserved for the states or for the people.

Later Amendments

- Since 1791, the Constitution has been changed only _____ times!!!!
- Later amendments reflect changing attitudes about equality and the expansion of democracy.
- The 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments are known as the **Civil War Amendments**.

13th Amendment: abolished slavery.

14th Amendment: guaranteed citizenship to former slaves.

15th Amendment: declared that states may not deny the vote to any citizen on the basis of "race, color, or previous condition of servitude."

- other amendments further expanded voting rights.
- the **19th Amendment** gave women the right to vote in 1920.
- the **26th Amendment** lowered the minimum voting age from 21-18 in 1971.