

The Bill of Rights

A Contract between the Federal Government and Each Individual Citizen of the United States

They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety!

Benjamin Franklin

ORIGINAL AMENDMENTS:

1. 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
of the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and
to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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 offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb;
- nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be 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.
6. 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.
7. 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 reexamined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.
 8. Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.
 9. The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.
 10. 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.

ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS ON INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS:

11. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States or any place subject to their jurisdiction. (1865)
13. All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside.
14. No State shall make or enforce any laws which shall abridge the privileges or

immunities of citizens of the United States;
nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due
process of law;

nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Also, prohibited abridging the right to vote for all male citizens 21 years old or
older except for participation in rebellion, or other crime. (1868)

15. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by
the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition
of servitude. (1870)
19. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by
the United States or by any State on account of sex. (1920)
26. The right of citizens of the United States who are eighteen years of age or older, to
vote shall not be denied or abridged by the Unites States or by any State on
account of age. (1971)