

We the People

of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquillity, provide for the common defence, 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.

Article 1

Section 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and seven Years, been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and including Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons. The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty thousand, but each State shall have at least one Representative, and until such Enumeration, there shall be a Ratio of one Representative for every thirty thousand Persons; but no State shall have less than three Representatives, and until such Enumeration, the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

There shall be a President of the United States, who shall hold his Office for four Years, and shall have the same Powers and Duties as are now vested in the President of the United States.

Section 3. The Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

Immediately after they shall be assembled in Congress, they shall choose one of their Number to be President, and one or more of their Number to be Vice Presidents, who shall hold their Office for four Years, and until they shall be chosen, the President of the United States shall continue in Office, and the Vice President shall continue in Office, until they shall be chosen.

No Person shall be a President who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

The President shall have the same Powers and Duties as are now vested in the President of the United States, and he shall have the same Powers and Duties as are now vested in the President of the United States.

The President shall have the Power to require the Attendance of any Member of either House, and to punish any Member of either House who shall neglect to attend, and to suspend any Member of either House who shall be guilty of any offence, and to pardon any Member of either House who shall be guilty of any offence, and to grant Reprieves and Pardons for all Crimes, except Treason, Felony, and Breach of the Peace, and to grant Reprieves and Pardons for all Crimes, except Treason, Felony, and Breach of the Peace, and to grant Reprieves and Pardons for all Crimes, except Treason, Felony, and Breach of the Peace.

Section 4. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every Year, and such Meeting shall be on the first Monday of December, unless they shall by Law appoint a different Day.

Section 5. Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its own Members, and a Majority of each shall constitute a Quorum to do Business, but a smaller Number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the Attendance of absent Members, in such Manner, and under such Penalties, as each House may provide.

Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly Behaviour, and with the Concurrence of two thirds expel a Member.

Each House shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such Parts as may in their Judgment require Secrecy, and the Yeas and Nays of the Members of either House in any Question shall, at the Desire of one fifth of that House, be recorded on the Journal.

Neither House during their Session of Congress, shall without the Consent of the other, adjourn for more than three Days, nor to any other Place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.

Section 6. The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States. They shall in all Cases, except Treason, Felony, and Breach of the Peace, be privileged from Arrest during their Attendance at the Session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same, and for any Speech or Debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other Place.

No Senator or Representative shall, during the Term for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil Office under the Authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the Emoluments whereof shall have been increased during such Term, and no Person holding any Office under the United States, shall be a Senator or Representative during his Continuance in Office.

Section 7. All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as to the Amount thereof, and shall have the Power to amend or reject any such Bill which shall have originated in the House of Representatives, and shall not be returned to the House of Representatives if the Senate insist on their Amendment.

United States; if he approve, he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his objections, to that House in which it shall have originated, in which the objections in full, on their Journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such Reconsideration two thirds of that House shall agree to pass the Bill, it shall become a Law. But in all such Cases the Votes of both Houses shall be determined by yeas and Nays, and the Names of the Persons voting for and against the Bill shall be entered on the Journal of each House respectively. If any Bill shall not be returned by the President within ten Days (excluding Sundays) after it shall have been presented to him, he shall be taken in like Manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their Adjournment prevent its Return, in which Case it shall not be a Law.

Every Order, Resolution, or Vote to which the Concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary (except in a Question of Adjournment) shall be presented to the President of the United States, and before the same shall take Effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by two thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the Rules and Limitations prescribed in the Case of a Bill.

Section 5. The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States, but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

- To borrow Money on the Credit of the United States;
- To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;
- To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the Subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;
- To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;
- To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;
- To establish Post Offices and post Roads;
- To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

- To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court;
- To define and punish Treason and Crimes committed on the high Seas, and Offences against the Law of Nations;
- To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captives on Land and Water;
- To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money is that they shall be for a longer Term than two Years;
- To provide and maintain a Navy;
- To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;
- To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;
- To provide for organizing, arming and disciplining the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;
- To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, except such as shall be delegated to some other (not extending to two square) as may be, to place of particular States, and the District of Columbia, in which the same shall be, to the Execution of Laws, Regulations, Orders, Rules, and other useful Buildings, — And
- To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

Section 9. The Privileges or Immunities of each State as any of the States now existing shall not be infringed, shall not be prohibited to the Congress pass to the States on Amendment eight hundred and eight, but a Tax is hereby may be imposed on such Importation not exceeding ten dollars for each Person.

- The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it.
- No Bill of Attainder or ex post facto Law shall be passed.
- No Capitation or other direct Tax shall be laid, unless in Proportion to the Census or Enumeration herein before provided to be taken.
- No State or State shall be bound in Contracts with a foreign State.
- No Preference shall be given by any Regulation of Commerce or Revenue to the Ports of one State over those of another, nor shall any Preference be given to any Port of one State over any other Port of the same State, in Commerce with another State.
- No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, except in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law, and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.
- No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States: And no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any foreign Prince, or foreign State.

Section 10. No State shall enter into any Treaty, Alliance, or Confederation, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, coin Money, emit Bills of Credit, grant any Thing but gold and silver Coins a Tender in Payment of Debts, grant any Bill of Attainder, ex post facto Law, Law impairing the Obligation of Contracts, or grant any Title of Nobility.

No State shall, without the Consent of Congress, lay any Imposts or Duties on Imports or Exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing its Inspection Laws, and the net Produce of all Duties and Imposts, laid by any State on Imports or Exports, shall be for the Use of the Treasury of the United States; and all such Laws shall be subject to the Revision and Control of Congress.

No State shall, without the Consent of Congress, lay any Duty of Tonnage, keep Troops, or Ships of War in time of Peace, enter into any Agreement or Compact with another State, or with a foreign Power, or engage in War, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent Danger as will not admit of Delay.

Article II.

Section 1. The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his Office during the Term of four Years, and together with the Vice President, chosen for the same Term, be elected, as follows.

Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress, but no Senator or Representative, or Person holding an Office of Profit or Trust under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector.

The Electors shall meet in their respective States, and vote by Ballot for one Person, whose Name is at least shall not be an Inhabitant of

the same State with themselves. And they shall make a list of all the Powers voted for, and of the Number of Votes for each person. And they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the Seat of the Government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate, in the Presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the Certificates, and the Votes shall then be counted. The Person having the greatest Number of Votes shall be the President, if such Number be a Majority of the whole Number of Electors appointed, and if there be more than one who have such Majority, and have an equal Number of Votes, then the House of Representatives shall immediately choose by Ballot one of them for President, and if there be more than one who have the same Number of Votes, the President shall be chosen by Ballot. But in choosing the Electors, the Votes shall be taken by States, the Apportionment from each State having one Vote; A quorum for this Purpose shall consist of a Member or Members from two thirds of the States, and a Majority of all the States shall be necessary to a Choice. In every Case, after the Choice of the President, the Person having the greatest Number of Votes of the Electors shall be the Vice President. But if there should remain but one who have equal Votes, the Electors shall choose from them by Ballot the Vice President.

The Congress may determine the Time of choosing the Electors, and the Day on which they shall give their Votes, which Day shall be the same throughout the United States.

No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President, neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and seven Years more.

In Case of the Removal of the President from Office, or of his Death, Resignation, or Inability to discharge the Duties of the said Office, the same shall devolve on the Vice President, and the Congress may by Law provide for the Case of Removal, Death, Resignation or Inability of the Vice President, and the President, declaring what Officer shall then act as President, and such Officer shall act accordingly, until the Disability be removed, or a President shall be elected.

The President shall, at stated Times, receive for his Services Compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the Period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that Period any other Emolument from the United States, or any of them.

Before he enters on the Execution of his Office, he shall take the following Oath, or affirmations—“I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.”

Section 2. The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States, when called into the actual Service of the United States; he may require the Opinion, in Writing, of the principal Officers in each of the executive Departments, upon any subject relating to the Duties of his Office, and he shall have Power to grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offences against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment.

He shall have Power by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur, and he shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint and discontinue, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States, whose Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which may be established by Law; but the Congress may by Law vest the Appointment of such inferior Officers, as they think proper, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments.

The President shall have Power to fill up all Vacancies that may happen during the Absence of his Choice, by granting Commissions which shall expire at the End of their next Session.

Section 3. He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary Occasions, on the Request of either House, and in Cases of Impeachment, deliver to either House of Congress, or to both, Messages, and he shall receive, as he shall think proper, all such Messages, Answers, and Returns as shall be directed to him; and he shall receive, as he shall think proper, all such Messages, Answers, and Returns as shall be directed to him; and he shall receive, as he shall think proper, all such Messages, Answers, and Returns as shall be directed to him.

Section 4. The President, Vice President, and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.

Article III.

Section 1. The judicial Power, of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.

Section 2. The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority; to all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls; to all Cases of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction; to Controversies to which the United States shall be a Party; to Controversies between two or more States, between a State and Citizens of another State, between Citizens of different States, between Citizens of the same State claiming Lands under Grants of different States, and between a State or Citizens of one State, and foreign Citizens, or Subjects.

In all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be Party, the supreme Court shall have original Jurisdiction. In all the other Cases before mentioned, the supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Congress shall make.

The Trial of all Crimes, except in Cases of Impeachment, shall be by Jury, and such Trial shall be held in that State where the said Crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any State, the Trial shall be at such Place or Places as the Congress may by Law direct.

Section 3. Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless he shall have been so convicted by a Jury.

The Congress shall have Power to declare the Punishment of Treason, but no Attainder of Treason shall work Corruption of Blood, or Impairment of the Inheritance of the Offender's Estate.

Article IV.

Section 1. Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of every other State. And all

Congress may be general Laws, provide the Manner in which such Elections and Returns shall be proved, and the Effect thereof.

Section 2. The Electors in each State shall be entitled to all Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the several States.

Section 3. No Person charged in any State with Treason, Felony, or other Crime, who shall flee from Justice, and be found in another State, shall on Demand of the Executive Authority of the State from which he fled, be removed to the State having Jurisdiction of the Crime.

Section 4. No State shall hold any Slave or Labour in any State, and a Slave or Labour shall not be carried into any State, on Consequence of any Law or Regulation therein, & discharged, from such Service or Labour, but shall be delivered upon Claim of the Party to whom such Service or Labour may be due.

Section 5. No State may be admitted by the Congress into this Union; but no new State shall be formed or erected within the Jurisdiction of any other State; nor any Part be severed by the Junction of two or more States, or Parts of States, without the Consent of the Legislatures of the States concerned as well as of the Congress.

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

Section 6. The United States shall guarantee to every State a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion, and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened) against domestic Violence.

Article V.

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by three fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, if the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress; Provided that no Amendment which may be made prior to the Year one thousand eight hundred and eighth shall in any Manner affect the first and fourth Clauses in the seventh Article, and that no State, without its Consent, shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in this Senate.

Article VI.

All Debts contracted and Engagements entered into, before the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this Constitution, as under the former.

This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.

The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification in any Office or public Trust under the United States.

Article VII.

The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States, shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the Same.

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Done in Convention by the unanimous Consent of the States present the seventeenth Day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty seven and of the Independence of the United States of America the Twelfth In witness whereof We have hereunto subscribed our Names.

attest William Jackson Secretary

- | | | | |
|----------------|--|---------------|---|
| Delaware | George Read
Gunning Bedford jun
John Dickinson
Richard Bassett
Jesse Boyce
James Wilson | New Hampshire | John Langdon
Nicholas Paine |
| Newland | John Hancock | Massachusetts | Nathaniel Gorham
Rufus King
William C. Cushing |
| Virginia | John Blair
James Madison | New York | Roger Sherman
Alexander Hamilton
John Jay |
| North Carolina | Wm. Blount
Richd. Dobson
J. Williams | New Jersey | David Mendenhall
John Witherspoon
Jonathan Dayton |
| South Carolina | Charles Cotesworth Pinckney
Charles Pinckney
John Rutledge | Connecticut | Samuel Huntington
Thomas Mifflin
Roger Sherman
James Smith
William Willoughby |
| Georgia | William Few
Abner Nash | | |

In Convention. Monday September 17th 1787.

Present

The States of

New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, the Straggling from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware,
Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

Resolved,

That the preceding Constitution be laid before the United States in Congress assembled, and that it is the Opinion of this Convention, that it should afterwards be submitted to a Convention of Delegates, chosen in each State by the People thereof, under the Recommendation of its Legislature, for their Assent and Ratification; and that each Convention assembling to ratify the same, should give Notice thereof to the United States in Congress assembled.

Resolved. That it is the Opinion of this Convention, that as soon as the Conventions of seven States shall have ratified this Constitution, the United States in Congress assembled, shall fix a Day on which Electors should be appointed by the States which shall have ratified the same, and a Day on which the Electors should assemble to vote for the President, and the Time and Place for commencing Proceedings under this Constitution. That after such Publication the Electors should be appointed, and all Senators and Representatives should meet on the Day fixed for the Election of the President, and should transmit their Votes certified, signed, sealed and directed, as the Constitution requires to the Secretary of the United States in Congress assembled, that the Senators and Representatives should convene at the Time and Place assigned, that the Senators should appoint a President of the House for the use & purpose of receiving, opening and counting the Votes for President, and that after he shall be chosen, the Congress together with the President, should, without Delay, proceed to execute this Constitution.

W. Jackson

By the unanimous Order of the Convention

John Jay