

# The Bill of Rights

## The First 10 Amendments to the Constitution

- Protection against the \_\_\_\_\_
- The first ten amendments were added to protect citizen's rights against actions by the national government.
- The rights fall into three main categories:
  1. Individual freedoms
  2. Protections against government abuse of power
  3. Rights of citizens accused of crimes
- 1st Amendment
  - The **1st Amendment** guarantees freedom of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - This means that we all have the right to:
    - practice any religion we want to, to speak freely, to assemble (meet), to address the government (petition), to publish newspapers, TV, radio, Internet (press)
- Protections of Individual \_\_\_\_\_
  - Individual freedoms are outlined in the first amendment. They include the freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition.
  - \_\_\_\_\_: Every American is free to follow the religion of his/her choice, or not to practice any religion at all. This right also extends to the "\_\_\_\_\_ of - \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_", which means that government may not favor any religion or establish an official religion.
  - \_\_\_\_\_: Americans have the right to speak and write freely, to say what they believe. There are limits (ex. slander), but the law is intended to allow you to express your opinions, no matter how much other people may dislike or disagree with them.
  - \_\_\_\_\_: The government cannot control what may be printed. This right guarantees that people may criticize the government without fearing arrest. In this way, people are free to gather information and to hear different opinions. There are also some limits to this freedom as well (ex. libel).
  - \_\_\_\_\_: Citizens have the right to assemble, or meet together. A group may hold a demonstration or protest as long as their demonstration is peaceful and does not violate the rights of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - \_\_\_\_\_: A citizen has the right to ask a government representative to change a law, make a new law, or to solve problems that arise. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a request made by many citizens.
- Protections Against \_\_\_\_\_
  - The \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ amendments help protect citizens from abuse of power by police, judges, and other government officials.
  - \_\_\_\_\_: The \_\_\_\_\_ deals with the rights of citizens to own guns. The exact meaning of this amendment has been debated throughout our nation's history. The amendment states, "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."

- \_\_\_\_\_: The \_\_\_\_\_ **amendment** states that the government must obtain an owner's consent to use their house as living quarters for soldiers – except during wartime.
  - \_\_\_\_\_: The \_\_\_\_\_ **Amendment** allows that if the government takes away a citizen's property to use in public service, the owners must be paid a fair price. This is the clause of “\_\_\_\_\_” – the government has the power to take private property for public use.
  - \_\_\_\_\_: Under the \_\_\_\_\_ **amendment**, police officers cannot search a citizen or a citizen's home \_\_\_\_\_.
    - The police must obtain a \_\_\_\_\_ – written permission from a judge – to search citizens, their homes, or their belongings. The police must convince a judge that they are likely to find evidence of a crime.  - Protections of the \_\_\_\_\_
    - The rights of the accused are spelled out in the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ amendments. The protections offer \_\_\_\_\_ a process by which the government must treat accused persons fairly according to the law).
    - The \_\_\_\_\_ protects people from being held for committing a crime unless they are properly indicted, (accused)
      - You may not be tried twice for the same crime (\_\_\_\_\_)
      - You don't have to testify against yourself in court. (\_\_\_\_\_)
    - The \_\_\_\_\_ guarantees a speedy \_\_\_\_\_ (you can't be kept in jail for over a year without a trial)
      - an impartial jury (doesn't already think you are guilty)
      - that the accused can confront witnesses against them
      - the accused must be allowed to have a lawyer
    - The \_\_\_\_\_ guarantees the right to a speedy \_\_\_\_\_.
      - A civil trial differs from a criminal trial. A civil trial is when someone sues someone else. A criminal trial is when the state tries to convict someone of a crime.
  - \_\_\_\_\_: The \_\_\_\_\_ protects accused persons from unfair treatment. The amendment forbids the amount of bail from being unfairly high and protects people from “\_\_\_\_\_.” There is still debate over whether the death penalty can be considered cruel and unusual.
- Protections of \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_: states that citizens' rights are not limited to the ones listed in the Constitution. This amendment was added by James Madison, who was concerned that the Bill of Rights might be used to limit rights to only those listed specifically.
  - \_\_\_\_\_: declares that those powers not claimed by the federal government are reserved to the state governments.