

2023 Freedom's Light Constitution Bee Outline

Declaration

The Declaration of Independence

What does the Declaration of Independence do?

The Declaration of Independence is one of the most amazing documents in all of history! Written mostly by Thomas Jefferson, this document (1) declares America was going to be an independent nation from England and would no longer be under the rule of King George III, (2) it gives the reasons they were declaring their independence, and (3) it lists their 27 grievances against the British government.

Every principle in the Constitution is found in the Declaration.

As Jefferson said, "The law should restrain men from injuring one another but leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits."

Why is it so important?

The Declaration and Constitution are based on the Laws of Nature and Nature's God. The founders knew we needed our laws based on what they called "right reason aligned with nature", based on a moral compass and based on a foundation that is universal, unchanging and everlasting, not determined by men's passions.

What are the 8 principles of freedom and liberty that Jefferson put in the first 2 paragraphs of the Declaration?

The role of the government is to protect the rights of the people.

Self government

Established on the laws of Nature & Nature's God

Founded on Self-evident truths

Each person is equal in rights, justice, value & protection

Each have right to life, liberty and property ownership

Rights are unalienable.

Power lies in the consent of the people (governed)

What is the proper role of the Government?

To protect the freedoms of the people.

Who is supposed to govern us?

America is founded on Self Government.

Which people are entitled to special rights?

All men are created equal, not the same, but equal in value and treatment.

Who gets to have extra protection or justice from the government?

We are all equal in rights, justice and equal protection.

Who has the power to take our rights away?

Because our rights come from the Creator, they are inalienable and can't be taken without the offender coming under judgment of the Creator.

What are our unalienable rights?

Most notable unalienable rights are Life, Liberty, and property ownership, pursuing one's talents and potential.

Who was the first to sign the Declaration and why?

It was signed first by John Hancock, and he signed his name large enough so the King of England could read it without his spectacles!

The founders studied history, philosophy and the different forms of government that had been used to rule over people around the world. **They chose a Republic over all other forms of government including a democracy!**

According to the Declaration of Independence our rights come from our Creator. This is important because it is stating that since man does not give us our liberties man does not have the power to take them away.

There are 3 different places that refer to the divine power of the Creator.

After the completion of the Constitutional Convention, Dr Benjamin Franklin was asked by Mrs. Powell who was standing near, "Well doctor, What have you given us, a republic or a monarchy?" Dr Franklin answered, "A Republic, ma'am, if you can keep it."

The purpose of the Constitution is to **limit the powers of the Federal government**, and to **list the power it has specifically**. The only place in the Constitution that the **federal** government requires the states (that created it) to do something is in **Article 4 Section 4**. It **requires** every **state** to provide a '**REPUBLICAN**' form of government.

There are **2 things** that both a **Republic and a Democracy** have in common. They are both ruled by the people, and both elect representatives.

There are several important **differences** between a Republic and a Democracy:

A **Republic**:

is governed by the **rule of law**.

has a written Constitution that **protects** the rights of every **individual** regardless of station or status.

elected officials take an **oath** to uphold the Constitution, the rule of law.

protects the minority so the majority cannot take away the unalienable rights of anyone.

A **Democracy**:

is ruled by the majority of people, also known as "**Mob rule**."

only protects the rights of the **majority**, there is **no protection** for the rights of the **minority**.

is rule by the majority so the majority has the power to take the liberties away from the minority.

the individual or any group of individuals that are in a minority have **no protection against the unlimited power of the majority**.

There is no need for an oath because the people are not ruled by law nor by principle, they are ruled by the changing and **fluid will** of the majority or mob.

The Preamble to the U.S. Constitution

What is the Preamble?

The preamble is a summary of the purpose of the Constitution and the intentions the Founders established for the people both then and now:

To form a more perfect union

To establish justice

To insure domestic tranquility

To **provide** for the common defense

To **promote** the general welfare

Secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity

When a law is passed, the law makers should ask themselves, "Do I have a right to use force against my neighbor to achieve this goal? "Would I be willing to forcibly take his property, or lock him in jail for failing to obey this law? If not, he should vote against it.

ARTICLES 1-3

Section I

The U.S. Constitution Articles 1, 2, 3

What is so great about the Constitution?

It is the greatest export of the United States is the US Constitution.

The genius of the Constitution is the principles including **checks & balances & the separation of power.**

Who created the Federal government?

This document & the federal government were **created by the states** to protect the rights of every individual. It is the foundation of America's guiding principles that created the most prosperous and free nation in the world.

It is the **supreme law of the land** by which the federal government is bound and government officials in every state are bound.

If a law is in conflict with the Constitution, which one supersedes?

Neither Congress nor any state may **make laws in conflict** with the Constitution.

Each state also has its own constitution to govern their state.

Before the US Constitution was created, no other nations had a written constitution. Now, every nation in the world except 3, has created a constitution using ours as a template.

The Articles of the U.S. Constitution

How many articles are there in the Constitution?

The Constitution is divided into seven articles; each article covers a specific responsibility and power. If you want to have some fun, ask someone who is running for office, and about to take an oath to uphold the constitution, how they feel about the 8th article and see what they say. Then you will know if they will be able to uphold their oath or not.

Why did the Founders want separated powers?

The principle of “separation of powers” was implemented in dividing the federal government up into 3 branches each having very specific and different powers.

Article I: Legislative Branch of the U.S. government

What is Article I about?

The legislative branch is known as Congress and is made up of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

This branch makes laws but only regarding **20 specific powers** granted to them. They are not to make laws regarding anything outside those 20 powers as listed in Article 1, section 8, clauses 1-18.

The House of Representatives

What is the job of Representatives and what are the qualifications?

Members of the House are to **represent the people** of their states. They are elected by the people to represent them.

A person must be **25 years** old to serve in the House & been a citizen for at least **7 years** & live in the state they run to represent.

The term of office for members of the House is **two** years because the Founding Fathers wanted these representatives to answer to the people they represent frequently. After two years, the people have the power to elect new leaders if they are dissatisfied.

Which is the only body with power to impeach?

Only the House has the power to impeach a president.

The United States has 435 representatives. The number of representatives from each state is determined by population and can change depending on the population of the state.

States with higher populations have more representatives.

If one state gains a representative, another state loses one.

Fun facts: Seven states have only one representative: (Alaska, Delaware, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wyoming).

California has the highest number of representatives (52), down from 53 last year. This is the first time in California's history they have lost a seat.

What if both the Pres and the Vice Pres were killed or died?

The Speaker of the House presides over the House. He or she is the next in line behind the vice president to the succession of the presidency.

Members of the House vote to determine the Speaker of the House. No one can be sworn in until the speaker is elected.

Which branch of government has the power to tax?

All bills dealing with **taxes must originate in the House** because taxation affects the people directly.

Why did the Founders decide to separate from England?

Taxation without representation was the 17th of the 27 grievances the colonists had against Great Britain. That means there were 16 reasons even more pressing that they were upset about. The king took their governors away and replaced them with his own. He took many of their unalienable rights as stated in the Declaration and didn't allow them to govern themselves.

The Senate

The United States has 100 senators.

Why does each state have the same amount of Senators regardless of size?

Each state has **two** senators, regardless of population because the Senators job was to protect each state from the federal government. The House were to represent the people by population and the Senate to represent each State so the size was irrelevant. This is how they got the small states and the big states to come together. They all got something they wanted but not everything they wanted.

Washington, DC does not have any senators because it is a city not a state as stated in the Constitution. Article 1 section 8 clause 17 states the federal government can only own 20 miles square, for the seat of the Government.

The term of office for senators is six years, the man or woman must be at least 30 yrs old & be a citizen for at least 9 yrs & live in the state they run to represent.

The vice president is also the president of the Senate. He or she votes only if there is a tie.

A Senator's responsibility is to act as a **sentinel to "protect** his or her state from the federal government and make sure the federal government does not take away the powers of the states. They were not originally intended to represent the people as that is the job of the Representatives.

A law must be passed by both houses to become law.

Only the Senate has the power to try a president for impeachment.

When is the only time the Senate acts as a judge?

The only time anyone acts as a judge, who is not a judge, is during an impeachment. Senators only function as judges during a presidential impeachment trial.

A presidential impeachment is an official hearing to investigate possible wrongdoing by the president. The Senate acts as judges to determine if there is enough evidence to convict and remove the official from office.

If a president is convicted by 2/3 of the members of the Senate present at an impeachment, he or she is removed from office and prohibited from future service. They may also be tried by a civil or criminal court & receive additional penalties if they are found guilty of a crime.

Article 1 Section 7

All bills regarding taxation must originate in the House.

Article 1 Section 8

The **General Welfare clause & Common Defense clause** state that the federal government can **only** legislate regarding the enumerated or listed powers -

James Madison " The powers delegated to the federal government are FEW and DEFINED."

Where are the 20 enumerated powers of Congress found?

Article 1 Section 8 lists the Enumerated 20 powers of Congress:

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Tax and spend | Pay the debts of the US |
| Power to borrow | Regulate commerce |
| Establish postal system | Pass copyright & patent laws |
| Establish federal courts | Punish crimes on the high sea |
| Declare war | Raise & finance armed forces |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Establish rules to become a citizen | Coin & regulate money |
| Standardize weights & measures | Punish counterfeiting |
| Establish bankruptcy laws | Call up militias |
| Administer the seat of the government | Administer federal land |

Congress is responsible for raising and supporting the Army and the Navy.
 Pass laws to implement the above powers of Congress

Which is the only body of government that has the power to declare war & why?

Congress is the only body of government that may **declare war** against another nation because they are a large body and their children would be the ones to go to war.

No state may declare war or enter into a treaty with another nation. The power to declare war and sign treaties is given to the federal government.

If Congress cannot meet, the executive branch has power to follow through on the federal government's guarantee to protect each state against invasion.

The federal government can only own 10 miles sq of the seat of the government, (now Washington DC) and Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dockyards, & needful buildings.

What does Article 1 Section 8 clause 18 do?

That is where the Necessary & Proper clause states that Congress also has power to pass laws that are necessary & proper to fulfill or carry out the 20 enumerated powers that were just listed.

General Welfare Clause Powers

- 2) borrow Money
- 3) regulate commerce
- 4) establish rules of naturalization
- 5) coin money
- 6) punish counterfeiting
- 7) establish post offices & post roads
- 8) protect exclusive rights & copyrights patents
- 9) constitute inferior courts
- 17) control DC & federal lands approved by states

Common Defense Clause Powers

- 10) define & punish piracies & felonies

- 11) declare war
- 12) raise & support armies
- 13) provide & maintain a navy
- 14) make rules for land & naval forces
- 15) call forth the militia to execute laws, suppress
insurrections & repel invasions
- 16) organize, arm and discipline militia

Clause 18 states that all the laws which shall be necessary & proper for implementing the prior listed powers.

What does Article 1 Section 9 list?

Article 1 Section 9 lists the powers that Congress is **forbidden**.

****They had to end the importation of slaves by 1808.***

The Founders attempted to end slavery by limiting importation of slaves in the year 1808 & by taxing slavery.

What is Habeas Corpus?

Habeas Corpus cannot be suspended or removed. Habeas Corpus is a legal recourse that allows a person who believes they are being held without a valid cause to go before a judge to determine if the detention is lawful. The Constitution protects this right.

What is a Bill of Attainder?

Congress cannot pass a Bill of Attainder or ex post facto law.

Bill of attainder is a law that singles out an individual or group for punishment without a trial. The king would accuse someone he didn't like of a crime and then seize their property.

What is Ex Post Facto?

Ex post facto is a law that makes illegal an act that was legal when committed or makes the act retroactively illegal. Congress is forbidden to pass an ex Post Facto.

States do not have the power to do any of the 20 powers that are given to Congress, without their consent.

In the original constitution, Congress could not tax people directly, they could only tax the states. The 16th Amendment changed that, giving Congress power to tax people directly on their incomes.

Article 1 Section 10 limits the powers of the states.

Congress must meet at least once every year.

Section II.

Article II: Executive Branch

What is Article II about?

Article II is the Executive branch of the U.S. government

Who is in the Executive branch?

The executive branch consists of the president, vice president and his or her cabinet. Their responsibility is to enforce the laws.

What is the power of the Executive Branch?

Their responsibility is to enforce the laws.

How long does the Pres and V Pres serve in a term?

The term of office for the president is four years.

In the original Constitution, how was the president elected?

The president is elected by electors.

How long is the term of office for the President and V President?

The term of office for the president is four years.

How was the President elected in the original Constitution?

The Founders created the Electoral College to choose a president.

Why did the Founders think the Electoral College was a superior way to elect the President over the popular vote?

The founders did not want ANYONE to run to be the president. They did not want anyone to seek this office. They wanted electors who represented the people to submit names of the best people to choose from. The original constitution did not include the popular vote to elect the President.

In fact, did you know that originally, no one could run to be the president?!

Each state elects delegates, electors, to go to the Electoral College. The number of electors is the total of all Representatives and Senators combined. Originally, the electors submitted, to the US Congress, the names of 2 people they thought had good character and would be an honorable president.

Then the Senate president (Vice President) counts all of the Electors votes and the person with the most votes becomes the president. This is a summary of the process, and it has been changed many times over the years.

The president is elected by electors, not the people.

Each state elects delegates go to the Electoral College

Can a candidate win the popular vote of all individuals in the United States but still lose the election based on the electoral vote?

Yes, The number of electoral votes always determines who the president will be, regardless of the popular vote. They did not want high population cities or states to take control of the presidency.

Did you know that if we used the popular vote without the Electoral College, the 10 most populated states could determine the outcome of the Presidential election?

Because more than half of the population of the entire United States live in 10 states, they could always choose the president. The Founders did not want to have a small group or minority of people take over the elections, they wanted to have representatives from all across the nation choose the President.

What are the reasons the Founders created the Electoral College instead of a democratic popular election?

The president was to represent the nation and national interests.

They did not want someone to seek the office of president & they were confident the electors would choose an honorable, qualified person.

The founders were concerned a tyrant would be able to manipulate the public opinion and get into power. They felt that when people of honor submitted names of other people of honor that would be a safety shield against tyrannical leaders.

The founders also believed that because the Electoral College was a group that met only once they would not be able to be manipulated over time.

What are the qualifications to run for President?

The president must be a natural-born citizen.

Why was that important to the Founders?

The Founding Fathers felt someone born a citizen would be more likely to have the interests of the United States at heart. They wanted to protect the nation from foreign influences or from anyone who would have other allegiances.

One must be at least 35 years old to serve as president of the United States, and have lived in America for 14 consecutive years.

Who is the commander in Chief of the U.S. Army and Navy?

The president is the commander in Chief of the military.

How long is the term of office for a president?

It is 4 yrs and originally there was no term limit, but the 22nd Amendment changed it to up to 2 terms.

If the president dies, who becomes the president?

The vice president may serve for the remainder of the president's term in office and may still be elected to serve up to two additional terms, if the time remaining in the original president's term was less than two years.

Can the President, Vice President or civil Officers ever be removed from office?

They can be removed by impeachment & conviction of Treason, Bribery or other high crimes.

Remember, the **House charges** them with impeachment, then the **Senate holds the trial** and decides if they should be removed from office. It is the only time the Senate acts as judge.

Section III

Article III: Judicial branch of the U.S. government

What is Article III about?

Article III is the judicial branch & is made up of the judges appointed to the Supreme Court.

Who appoints the Judges?

The president chooses a candidate to be a judge and then the Senate has a hearing to decide if they will give consent. A Supreme Court judge is appointed by the President and then approved by the Senate.

What does the Supreme Court do?

Their job is to interpret the law and make sure it is aligned with the Constitution. They may declare acts of the executive or legislative branches to be unconstitutional.

How long does the Constitution say is the term of office for a Supreme Court judge?

The constitution states that a judge holds his or her position during good behavior. That may be for life, depending on the judges behavior.

When is the only time a citizen does NOT have a right to a trial by jury?

Every citizen has a right to a trial by jury, except in cases of impeachment. Trial by jury is an important check on the federal government. It protects citizens from tyranny by the federal government by placing power in the hands of the people instead of government officials.

Requirements to run for each office:

| | Representative | Senator | Pres & V Pres |
|------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Age | 25 yrs old | 30 yrs old | 35 yrs old |
| Term | 2 yrs | 6 yrs | 4 yrs |
| Live in US | 7 yrs | 9 yrs | 14 yrs & born in the USA |

ARTICLES 4-7

Article IV: State and Federal duties

What is Article IV about?

Article IV explains the duties of cooperation of the states with each other and with the federal government.

It defines states' powers. States do NOT have rights. Rights are endowed by the Creator to individual people. States and businesses are created by man and given powers, but do not have rights.

It ensures cooperation between the states when sharing public records, extraditing criminals and honoring the laws of the other states.

Citizens from other states are to receive the same privileges & immunities as those from their own state.

What is the only thing the Constitution requires the states to do?

It requires each state to provide a Republican Form of Government.

It also confirms it is the federal government's responsibility to protect each state against invasion.

New states may receive admission into the union with approval from Congress, according to 2 rules:

No state may be created inside another state.

Two states may not merge together to make one state without federal and state approval.

It provides Congress with power to oversee the territory or property belonging to the US.

It protects the states by preventing the federal government from dismembering a state or joining states together without their consent.

Article V: The Amendment Process

What is Article V about?

It explains the right of the people to change the Constitution by using the amendment process and lays out 2 ways it can happen.

How many ways are there to make changes to the Constitution?

There are 2 ways to change the Constitution. The 1st method, (the one used for every amendment passed so far) is Congress proposes an amendment & if 2/3 of each the House and the Senate vote for it, they present it to the states. Then each state decides whether or not they want to ratify it and if 3/4 of all the states vote for it, it becomes an amendment and is added to the Constitution.

This makes it so even a minority of states can stop an amendment from being passed.

The 2nd way is if all the state legislatures apply to Congress to call a convention for proposing amendments. If an amendment is approved, it has to be sent to the states for ratification and must be passed by $\frac{3}{4}$ of the states to be added to the Constitution.

Although this method has never been used, several states have passed legislation to propose amendments.

No amendment made before 1808 can affect Article 1 section 9 clause 1 & 4, and no state shall be deprived of their suffrage (vote).

How many times have we changed the Constitution?

There are 27 amendments but the first 10 are the Bill of Rights which did not change the Constitution, but made clear the principles already in it. We have made changes to our Constitution 17 times.

Article VI: The U.S. Constitution is the supreme law of the land.

What is Article VI about?

Article VI states the Constitution is the supreme law of the land. That means any laws Congress passes or anything the President or a judge does is invalid if it does not align with the Constitution. The Constitution is supreme to anything else.

It also states that any debts already incurred before the ratification of the Constitution are valid & honored by the U.S. The Revolutionary War was expensive and brought a great deal of debt. The Founders were clear about how they felt about debt and what they wanted to do with it.

The Founders insisted we pay our debts for the following reasons:

- Debts must be paid in order to have public Morality.
- Debt always ends in having to tax the people which puts them into bondage.
- Debt has a very negative effect on national prosperity
- Once debt is incurred it is easy to continue to take on more debt and harder to preserve the limits imposed by a free constitution.

It also prevents states from making laws that conflict with the Constitution stating they would be invalid.

All treaties made must be done in pursuance of (in alignment with) the Constitution and under the authority of the US.

Judges in every state shall be bound to the Constitution.

All federal and state Senators, Representatives, Legislators, executive officers and judges must take an oath to uphold the Constitution, not their own conscience.

There cannot be a religious test required as a qualification to hold any office..

Article VII: Ratification Process

What is Article VII about?

It is about the requirements to ratify the Constitution. The ratification process is the official approval and acceptance of the Constitution.

It states the Constitution may be ratified when 9 of the 13 colonies in the Constitutional Convention voted to approve it, but they really wanted every state to accept and ratify.

The federal government uses the same process to approve a state joining the union.

The Constitution was ratified by the necessary 9 states on Sept 17, 1787 but was ratified by all 13 states when Rhode Island finally signed on in May 1790.

The Bill of Rights (the 1st 10 amendments) was ratified in 1791.

The Bill of Rights is **NOT a list the rights of the people**. The founders knew they could never list all of our rights and did not want to risk leaving anything off and not have it protected.

It **IS** a list of the specific rights the federal government **CANNOT** restrict nor pass laws to restrict. It guarantees protection **from** the federal government of those specific rights and makes clear the **limitations on the federal government**.

The Bill of Rights

How many Amendments are in the Bill of Rights?

There are 10 amendments that make clear what the limited powers of the Federal government are and what the government must protect.

What rights does **Amendment 1** protect?

It states Congress cannot make any laws restricting our rights to freedom of **religion, speech, press, redress or assemble**.

This means that Congress **must protect our right to**:

- exercise your religion and your faith or conscience without prohibition.
- speak our minds and say what we want, even if others do not like it or agree with it.
- have a free press that can circulate news, even if it is unfavorable to those holding positions.
- gather or assemble in groups.
- petition the government, to be heard and express concerns when they feel justice has not been served.

CONTEXT:

Freedom of Religion The Pilgrims and Puritans did not have religious liberty in England and suffered great persecution for their beliefs. The Founders believed that no one could be free without religious liberty and the right of conscience.

Freedom of Speech The Founders were not allowed to speak against the king without suffering serious consequences. They wanted to protect peoples' right to speak openly about issues and concerns they had with the government and others. Does that mean that people have a right to use hate speech? What about saying things that make others feel bad or don't like?

Why do we need protection of speech if you can only say things that others like? The point of free speech is to be able to discuss and debate every idea without fear of reprisal.

Freedom of the Press This freedom allows people to publish their opinions and information without the government stopping them. This may be through any type of media including the newspaper, radio, TV, printed pamphlets, or online. This does not allow one to take the freedom of others by publishing or printing lies about people to damage their reputation (this is called defamation) or copying someone else's work (copyright law).

Right to Assemble This freedom gives people the right to gather in groups as long as they are peaceable. The government must allow people to gather on public property. This allows people to hold protests and rallies against the government calling for changes. In some cases, the government may get involved in order to protect the safety of the citizens. Permits may be required to hold large protests, but the requirements for the permits cannot be too difficult to meet and must be required for all organizations, not just some of them.

Right to Redress or Petition the Government The right to petition the government was important enough to the Founding Fathers to include in the First Amendment. They wanted a way for the people to officially bring issues to the government. This right allows individuals or special interest groups to lobby the government and to sue the government if they feel they have been wronged.

"The Religion then of every man must be left to the conviction and conscience of every man: and it is the right of every man to exercise it as these may dictate." —James Madison, 1785.

"Driven from every other corner of the earth, freedom of thought and the right of private judgment in matters of conscience direct their course to this happy country as their last asylum." —Samuel Adams, Speech on August 1, 1776.

"While we are contending for our own liberty, we should be very cautious not to violate the conscience of others, ever considering that God alone is the judge of the hearts of men, and to Him only in this case are they answerable." —George Washington, in a letter to Benedict Arnold.

"Conscience is the most sacred of all property." —James Madison, 1792.

What rights does Amendment 2 protect?

It states that it is essential to our liberty to have a well regulated Militia and forbids Congress from infringing on the rights of the people to keep and bear arms or guns.

CONTEXT: It was the citizen farmers that had to defend themselves against their own government when the British soldiers marched from Boston Harbor to Lexington and Concord and opened fire against them known as "The shot heard around the world". They understood that freedom could only be held by the people if they had the power to defend themselves with the same power the government had so they wanted to be sure that power could never be taken from the people.

What rights does Amendment 3 protect?

It states No soldiers shall be quartered, or housed in your home without your permission. During the war Soldiers would move in and take over the Colonists homes without the permission of the homeowners because they were under the control of the King.

What rights does Amendment 4 protect?

People have the right to privacy in their homes, papers, effects (all their stuff) and their persons - the government can't search you, your body, or your stuff without your consent or a search warrant.

What rights does Amendment 5 protect?

It is the protection of rights in criminal cases. No double jeopardy, a person can't be tried twice for the same crime, you don't have to testify against

yourself, everyone gets due process, the government can't take your property without compensating you for it.

What rights does Amendment 6 protect?

It gives protection in criminal cases. Everyone is entitled to a speedy trial by a jury of peers, the right to be told what crime they are being accused of, and be able to meet and answer the accuser, as well as to be able to obtain witnesses in their favor and to have a lawyer defend one's self.

What rights does Amendment 7 protect?

Protection of rights in civil cases and trial by jury.

What rights does Amendment 8 protect?

Protection from excessive bail or fines, and any cruel or unusual punishment.

What rights does Amendment 9 protect?

Rights are retained by the people even if they are not mentioned, listed or referred to in the Constitution or the Bill of Rights.

Just because a right is not mentioned in the Constitution or the Bill of Rights, does not mean the people do not have it, the rights are retained by the people regardless.

What rights does Amendment 10 protect?

All powers that are not specifically delegated to the federal government, or not specifically prohibited to the states, are the powers of the states and the people.

There are 27 amendments which means that the Constitution has been changed 17 times. No, not 27 times, because the Bill of Rights did not change the Constitution, it did not list the rights of the people. It clearly forbids the federal government from passing laws restricting these rights.

Amendment 11 - Prohibits the federal courts from hearing certain lawsuits against states.

Amendment 12 - Changed the Vice President from being elected by the second highest vote

Amendment 13 - Ended slavery! Finally!

Amendment 14 - Protection of civil rights for all

Amendment 15 - Forbids racial discrimination in voting.

Amendment 16 - Congress imposes income tax directly to citizens.

Amendment 17 - Changes the way Senators are elected from being elected by the state legislators to being elected by the citizens.

Amendment 18 - Prohibition, the manufacture, sale and transport of alcoholic beverages.

Amendment 19 - Women's suffrage

Amendment 20 - Sets the dates at which federal government elected offices end and also defines who succeeds the president if the president dies.

Amendment 21 - Repeals the 18th amendment, and the prohibition of alcohol.

Amendment 22 - President cannot run more than 2 terms

Amendment 23 - Allows Washington DC to have electors to vote for President

Amendment 24 - Instituting the popular vote for President

Amendment 25 - Allows the Vice President to become the President in the event of death, resignation, removal from office or impairment that prevents the current president from fulfilling his or her duties.

Amendment 26 - Changes the voting age from 21 to age 18 yrs old. During WWII, President Franklin Roosevelt lowered the minimum age for the military draft to 18 thus the slogan - "Old enough to fight, old enough to vote".

Amendment 27 - Prohibits any law that changes the salary of Congress from taking effect until following the start of the next election.