

The Constitution of the United States



Our Bill of Rights



The Constitution is your social contract – it spells out the process and procedures of your government. In addition, the Bill of Rights lists the “*natural rights*” that you have as a citizen. The Bill of Rights was added to the constitution as a result of political pressure brought to bear by citizens who felt that those natural rights should be spelled out in our country’s Constitution. Their efforts resulted in the first ten amendments to the Constitution. The Bill of Rights became an integral part of our constitution of the American Constitution.

- I. You have freedom of religion, speech, to publish, to peaceably assemble, and petition the Government for a redress of grievances.**
- II. As a well-regulated militia is necessary for the security of a free state, you have the right to keep and bear arms**
- III. No soldier can be quartered in your house without your consent during peace time and only by law in a time of war.**
- IV. The search and seizure of your property can only be undertaken when probable cause exists and a warrant must specify what is to be searched.**
- V. You can’t be prosecuted for a crime unless indicted by a Grand Jury and you can’t be prosecuted for the same charge twice, made to testify against yourself or deprived of your rights, and your property can’t be taken without just compensation.**
- VI. You have the right to a speedy trial, an impartial jury, to be informed of charges made against you, confront accusers, have witnesses testify in your behalf and have counsel for your defense.**
- VII. You have the right to a trial by jury.**
- VIII. You can’t have imposed upon you excessive bail and fines or be cruelly punished.**
- IX. The rights outlined in the constitution are not all inclusive of your rights as a citizen.**
- X. Powers not delegated to the national government, or prohibited by the states are reserved for the states and the people.**

Adopted on September 17, 1787