

The Bill of Rights



Family Tradition

It has become customary to display replicas of our country's founding documents including The Bill of Rights in libraries and offices at home and at work. This is done in recognition of the important principles that are the basis for the establishment of our form of government. The presence of this document in your home will stimulate conversations and discussion to aid full appreciation of the importance of this founding document to the survival of our great Nation.

Background

The Constitution was ratified by all States in June 1788. During the discussions leading to the ratification there were many heated debates about individual rights. Many felt the Constitution lacked protection for the rights of the Citizens¹. The Document considered to be The Bill of Rights is the draft version of 12 proposed Amendments to The Constitution. The Document was dated March 4, 1789. On September 25, 1789, the 12 Amendments were proposed to The First Congress. On December 15, 1791 Amendments 3 thru 12 were ratified by the required 3/4 vote. These 10 Amendments are considered to be The Bill of Rights. There is no Document containing just The 10 Ratified Amendments. The March 4, 1789 draft is The Document retained by **The National Archives**.

The Amendments that constitute The Bill of Rights are summarized as follows:

The First (not ratified) - Regulates the number of Representatives according to the population of the state, **The Second (not ratified)** - Senators and Representatives cannot increase their salaries during their present term of office, **The Third** - Freedom of Religion, Freedom of Speech, Freedom of the Press, Freedom of Assembly, Right to petition the Government for redress of grievances, **The Fourth** - Right to keep and bear Arms, **The Fifth** - No Soldier to be Quartered in any House in time of peace unless by consent of the owner, **The Sixth** - Freedom from unreasonable Search and Seizure, **The Seventh** - Provisions concerning Prosecution, Trial, and Punishment; Just Compensation for Property taken for public use, **The Eighth** - Right to Speedy and Public Trial, **The Ninth** - Right of Trial by Jury, **The Tenth** - Excessive Bail or Fines and Cruel Punishment prohibited, **The Eleventh** - All Rights to be retained By The People except those regulated in The Constitution, **The Twelfth** - The Powers reserved to the States or the People.