

Making Amends

Explaining the
constitutional
amendment process

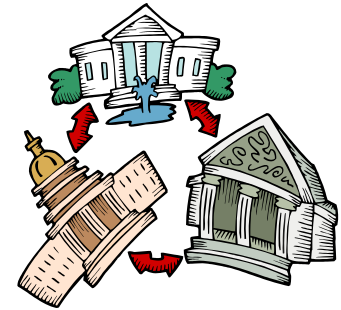
Benchmarks

SS.7.C.3.5 Explain the
constitutional amendment
process.



Review: What is **a constitution**?

- Provides a framework for government
 - Outlines responsibilities and powers
- Limits government authority
- Protects the rights of the people



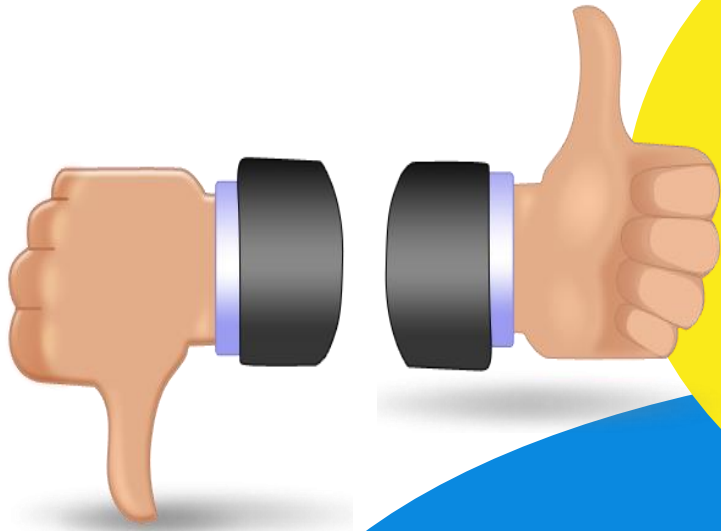
Think of a constitution as a rule book for government.

What is an amendment?

Amendments are changes or additions to a document.



Why is having a formal amendment process important?



Give a thumbs up or thumbs down if you think each proposal passed or failed as an amendment to the U.S. Constitution!

IS IT IN THE CONSTITUTION?

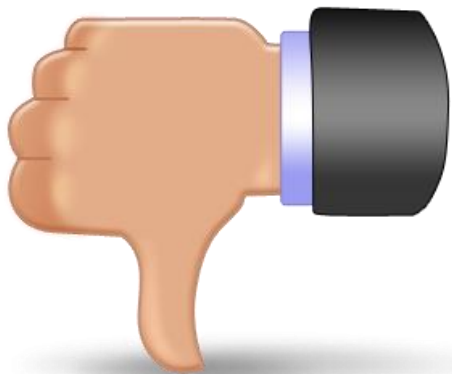
Thumbs up or down?

1947: the income tax maximum for an individual should not exceed 25%;



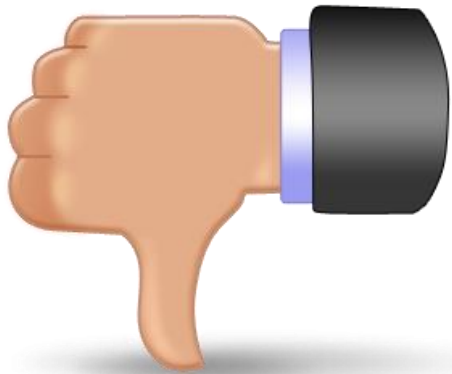
Is it in the Constitution?

1971: American citizens should have the
alienable right to an environment free of
pollution



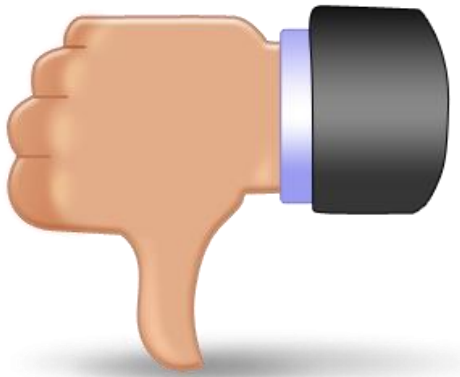
Is it in the Constitution?

1876: The forbidding of religious leaders from occupying a governmental office or receiving federal funding



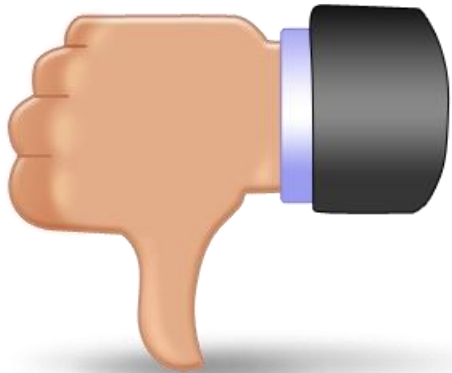
Is it in the Constitution?

1916: All acts of war should be put to a national vote. Anyone voting yes had to register as a volunteer for service in the United States Army



Is it in the Constitution?

1914: Finding divorce to be illegal



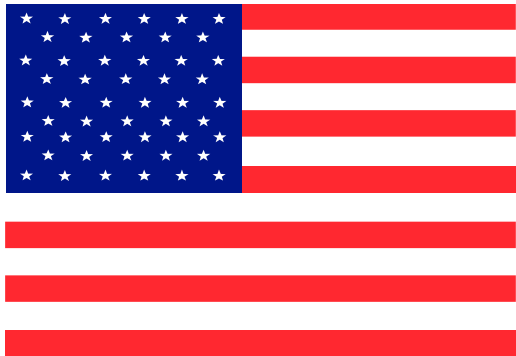
Did you know?

- Approximately 10,000 amendments have been proposed in Congress since 1789.
- The success rate of an amendment to become part of the U.S. Constitution is less than 1%.

Did you know?

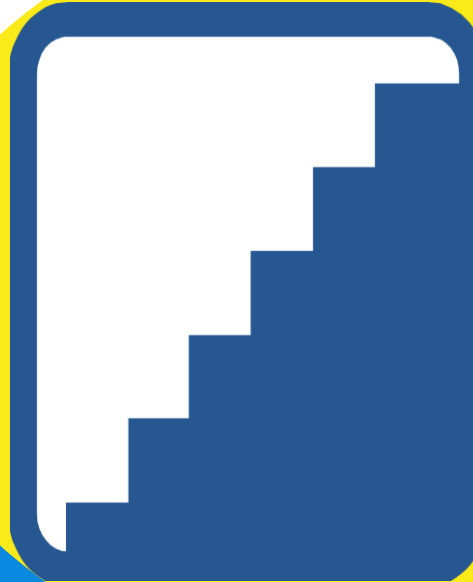
India has the longest written Constitution of any sovereign country in the world

- 444 Articles, 12 schedules, 94 amendments



U.S. Constitution is the shortest

- 7 Articles and 27 Amendments



STEPS IN THE AMENDMENT PROCESS

Two Part Process

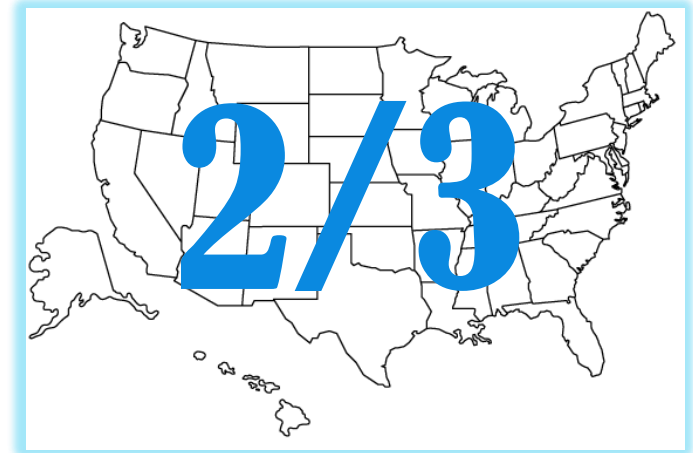
There are two parts to the constitutional amendment process. See Article 5 of the US Constitution.

1. Part One: Proposal Process
2. Part Two: Ratification Process



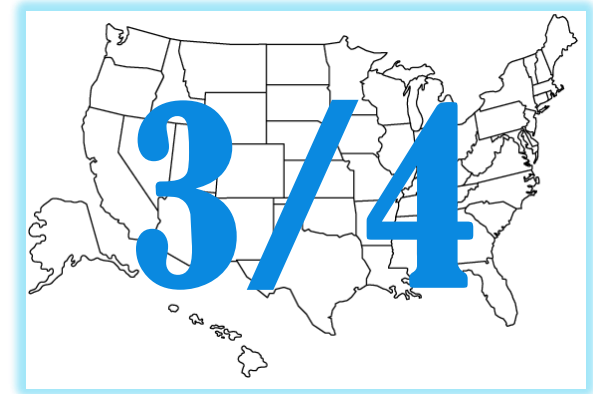
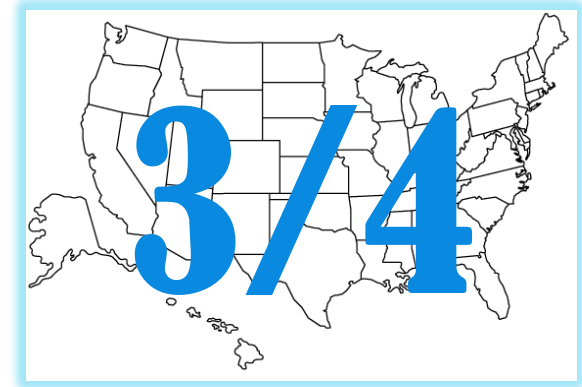
Proposing Amendments to the U.S. Constitution

- Consent of $2/3$ of both houses of Congress
- Constitutional convention (never been used)
 - $2/3$ of the legislatures of the states call a convention



Approving (Ratifying) Amendments to the U.S. Constitution

- Ratified by $\frac{3}{4}$ of state legislatures
- Ratified by $\frac{3}{4}$ of constitutional conventions



Amending the U.S. Constitution

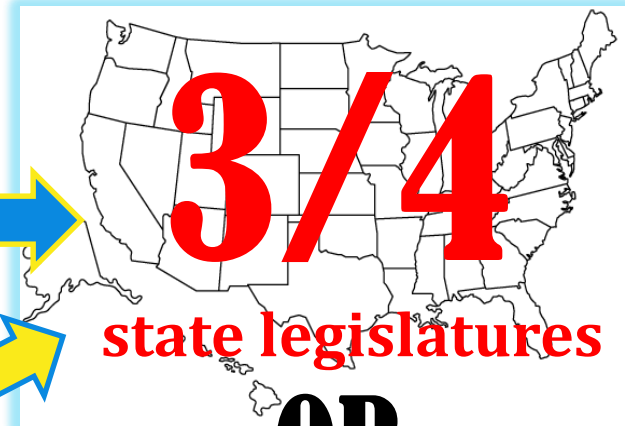
Proposal



OR



Ratification



OR



What would you add?

- Each group will come to a consensus on their idea to amend the U.S. Constitution.
 - At least 2/3 of your group will need to agree on the topic.
- Complete the Constitutional Amendment Proposal Form.
- Outline your proposal on the piece of chart paper and post the proposal on the wall.

Time to Ratify...or not.

- You will now get to vote on the proposals presented.
- Things to consider:
 - Does it impact everyone in the country?
 - Does it support the common good?
 - Is there a financial impact?
 - Are there other ways this issue can be addressed?
 - Is the proposal fair?
 - Is it necessary and appropriate?

**DID ANY PROPOSALS RECEIVE
 $\frac{3}{4}$ OF THE CLASS VOTE?**

Proposed Ideas for 28th Amendment

"Congress shall make no law that applies to the citizens of the United States that does not apply equally to the Senators and Representatives; and, Congress shall make no law that applies to the Senators and Representatives that does not apply equally to the citizens of the United States."

Checking for Understanding

Which is the last step in amending the U.S. Constitution?

- A. The voters approve the amendment in a national election.
- B. The president signs the amendment in a public ceremony.
- C. Three-fourths of the state legislatures ratify the amendment.
- D. Two-thirds of both houses of Congress ratify the amendment.