





# SECTION V

**National Government**



# Tennesseans In National Government

## Introduction

Throughout the state's rich political heritage, Tennesseans have played important roles in shaping the character of our nation's government. Presidents Jackson, Polk and Johnson have called Tennessee home. Many other elected and appointed national offices have been held by Tennesseans, as well. Albert Gore, Jr. served as vice president; former Senator Howard Baker served as Republican leader of the U.S. Senate and White House chief of staff under President Ronald Reagan; current Senator Lamar Alexander served as Secretary of Education under President George H. W. Bush; former Senator Bill Frist served as majority leader of the U.S. Senate; Cordell Hull served as Secretary of State under President Franklin Roosevelt; the late Jo Byrns served as speaker of the United States House of Representatives, along with many others.

Today, Tennesseans remain influential in all levels of the federal government. This has proven to be an asset for Tennesseans, as the federal government has assumed an increasing role in many facets of state government. More than one-third of the state's annual budget is derived through federal programs. Individually, many Tennesseans are employed by the U.S. Government. Others rely on benefits received through the Social Security System, the Veterans Administration, and numerous other federal programs. The value of having fellow Tennesseans in national government is important to Tennessee.

Members of Congress carry out another vital role for Tennesseans in the federal government. The congressional delegation is not only responsible for making federal law and overseeing the administration of the U.S. Government, but it is heavily involved in assisting citizens in dealing with federal agencies. Members and their staffs spend a lot of time handling constituents' requests. The congressional delegation also is fundamental to the generation of the state government. Since federal law determines the way in which state government must operate in many areas, the interactions between state officials and members of congress are essential in providing the most effective and economical government services possible.

## United States Senate

The Senate is made up of 100 members, two popularly elected from each state of the Union. Senators are elected to six-year terms; one-third of the members stand for election every two years. The U.S. Constitution requires that members of the Senate be at least 30 years old and citizens of the United States for at least nine years. The vice president of the United States serves as president of the Senate.

Historically, the role of the Senate has changed continually as the nation has developed. Originally, the Constitution provided that members of the Senate would be elected by the state legislature, and it was felt by the framers of the Constitution that the Senate would take a secondary role in the Congress, more of a revisory capacity to the House of Representatives. It was also felt that the Senate would remain insulated from rapidly changing popular election of the members. The Senate has, however, remained distinctively different from the House of Representatives. This has resulted from tradition, as well as Constitutional differences.

The Constitution gives the Senate some powers that are not shared with the House of Representatives. Chief among them are the powers to advise and consent on treaties between our nation and foreign governments and confirm executive Cabinet members and federal judges appointed by the president.

With only 100 members, the Senate can afford to be more relaxed in conducting its legislative business. Also, because each senator is an “ambassador” from a sovereign state, he is afforded more deference and indulgence than any individual House member. The concept of “senatorial courtesy” allows each senator to exercise all of the prerogatives available to each member with the deferential respect of the other members. Traditionally, debate has been extensive in the Senate and the power to amend on the floor has remained very broad. The Senate may spend several days considering individual pieces of legislation.

The majority party elects a majority leader who becomes the central focus of partisan policy matters. The majority party also selects the committee chairmen and has control over most of the Senate staff.

## United States Senators

### Lamar Alexander (R)

*Dirksen Senate Office Building*

*Room 455*

*Washington, DC 20510*

*(202) 224-4944*

Lamar Alexander was born in Maryville, the son of a kindergarten teacher and an elementary school principal. He is a seventh generation Tennessean.

He is chairman of the Senate Republican Conference, ranking Republican on both the energy appropriations subcommittee and rules committee and co-chairman of the TVA caucus. He is the first Tennessee Governor elected to consecutive four-year terms and the only Tennessean ever popularly elected both governor and U.S. Senator.

Sen. Alexander has been U.S. Education Secretary, University of Tennessee president, and professor at Harvard’s School of Government. He chaired the National Governors’ Association and President Ronald Reagan’s Commission on Americans Outdoors. In private life, he helped found what has become the nation’s largest provider of worksite day care.

In his campaign for governor, Lamar Alexander walked 1,000 miles across Tennessee in his now famous red and black plaid shirt. Once elected, he helped Tennessee become the third largest auto producer and the first state to pay teachers more for teaching well.

He is a classical and country pianist and the author of seven books, including *Six Months Off*, the story of his family’s life in Australia after he was governor.

Lamar Alexander and Honey Buhler were married in 1969. They have four children and four grandchildren. He is a Presbyterian elder.

More about Lamar Alexander:

- He started Tennessee’s Governor’s Schools for outstanding high school students.
- The NCAA has named him one of the “100 Most Influential Student-Athletes” in its 100-year history.
- Lamar Alexander met Honey Buhler at a staff softball game when he worked for Sen. Howard H. Baker of Tennessee and she worked for Sen. John G. Tower of Texas.

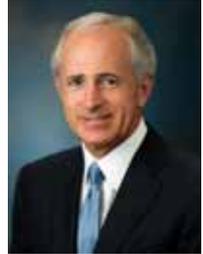


- While clerking for Judge John Minor Wisdom of the U.S. Court of Appeals in New Orleans he played trombone, tuba and washboard at night at “Your Father’s Moustache” on Bourbon Street.

### Bob Corker (R)

*185 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202) 224-3344*

Bob Corker grew up in Chattanooga, Tenn. He attended public schools, played sports, and from an early age learned to love and value hard work. He took his first job at age 13 picking up trash and spent his teenage years bagging ice, working at the Western Auto and putting in long hours as a construction laborer. Bob graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1974 with a degree in Industrial Management, and after working four years as a construction superintendent, he started his own construction company with \$8,000. The company grew as it quickly gained a reputation for meeting deadlines on time and under budget and eventually expanded to operations in 18 states. Over time, Bob’s business interests evolved to acquiring and developing commercial real estate. After traveling with his church on a mission trip to Haiti in his late twenties, Bob began to take a closer look at needs in his own community. He led the creation of Chattanooga Neighborhood Enterprise, a nonprofit organization that today has helped more than 10,000 families secure decent, fit and affordable housing through low-interest loans and personal training in home maintenance. In 1994, Bob was appointed Tennessee Commissioner of Finance and Administration, where he served for two years in the highest appointed office in state government. As commissioner, he tightened the state’s budget and helped move almost 40,000 Tennesseans off welfare and into jobs. In 2001, Bob was elected mayor of Chattanooga. He transformed Chattanooga’s waterfront – attracting \$2.1 billion of investment to revitalize the city – implemented merit bonus pay for teachers which dramatically raised student achievement in some of the city’s most challenged schools, and worked with local law enforcement officials to cut violent crime in half. On November 7, 2006, Bob was elected to serve the people of Tennessee in the United States Senate. He is a member of the Senate Committees on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; Energy and Natural Resources; and Foreign Relations; and the Special Committee on Aging. Bob and his wife, Elizabeth, have been married for more than 20 years and have two daughters, Julia and Emily. The Corker family lives in Chattanooga.



## United States House of Representatives

The U.S. House of Representatives is popularly elected every two years. Members must be 25 years old and must have been a citizen for at least seven years. The Constitution of the United States does not provide for the exact number of representatives; rather it leaves the matter up to Congress to determine. It does provide, however, that each state should have representation proportional to its population as part of the nation’s population. The apportionment is to be recalculated every 10 years when a nationwide census is conducted to determine population.

Originally the House had 65 members. As state populations grew in relation to one another and as new states entered the union, Congress added additional seats rather than reduce any existing state delegations. By 1910, the House had grown to 435 members. Numerous attempts were made to increase the size further but the House and Senate could not agree on what action should be taken. In 1929, a law was passed which permanently set the number of representatives

at 435 and provided for automatic reapportionment of these seats every 10 years. This process results in some states gaining seats and others losing seats depending on shifts in the population. In the 1971 reapportionment, Tennessee went from nine seats to eight. In 1981, the population proportions had shifted in the opposite direction, resulting in the return of a nine-member House delegation. The 1990 census population proportions again returned nine representatives from Tennessee to Congress. The drawing of districts within the state's boundaries is the responsibility of the General Assembly.

Unlike the Senate, the House of Representatives conducts its business through a complex system of rules and procedures. Debate is limited and the action taken in committees is much more difficult to modify through floor action. For the most part these differences are a result of the larger number of members, making organization a prerequisite to accomplishment. Action is much faster and party discipline has traditionally been more influential in shaping the nature of legislation.

The framers of the Constitution envisioned the House of Representatives as being more closely representative of the will and mood of the country. For this reason the Constitution provides that bills to create taxes must originate in the House. This was designed to protect the electorate from over-taxation or "unfair" taxes similar to those experienced under British rule.

## United States Congressmen

### Phil Roe (R)

*District 1*

*419 Cannon House Office Bldg Washington, DC 20515*

*(202) 225-6356*

Congressman Phil Roe represents the First Congressional District of Tennessee, which includes Carter, Cocke, Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, Hawkins, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, Washington, Jefferson and Sevier counties. A resident of Johnson City serving his second term in Congress, Phil has a strong work ethic that is committed to working on behalf of the First District, Tennessee and our nation.

A native of Tennessee, Phil was born on July 21, 1945 in Clarksville. He earned a degree in Biology with a minor in Chemistry from Austin Peay State University in 1967 and went on and to earn his Medical Degree from the University of Tennessee in 1970. Upon graduation, he served two years in the United States Army Medical Corps.



Congressman Roe serves on two committees that allow him to address and influence the many issues that are important to the First District students, teachers, veterans and workers:

**Education and the Workforce** - Serving as the Chair of the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions,

**Veterans' Affairs** - Serving on the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee and the Subcommittee on Health.

While these committees put the First Congressional District in a position to be at the forefront of many debates, Congressman Roe has been an active voice on taxes, government spending, energy, transportation and protecting our values.

As a physician, Congressman Roe has become an active player in the effort to reform our nation's health care system. He is a member of the Physicians' Caucus and the Health Caucus.

Prior to serving in Congress, Phil served as the Mayor of Johnson City from 2007 to 2009 and Vice Mayor from 2003 to 2007. As a physician, Phil ran a successful medical practice in Johnson City for 31 years, delivering close to 5,000 babies.

Phil and his wife Pam have three children: David C. Roe, John Roe, and Whitney Larkin. They are proud to have two grandchildren. Phil and Pam are members of Munsey United Methodist Church.

**John J. Duncan, Jr. (R)**

*District 2*

*2207 Rayburn House Office Building*

*Washington, DC 20515*

*(202) 225-5435*

United States Congressman John J. Duncan, Jr., was born July 21, 1947, in Lebanon, Tenn. After being raised in Knoxville and attending the area's public schools, he earned a Bachelor of Journalism degree from the University of Tennessee in 1969. Congressman Duncan then attended the George Washington University National Law Center in Washington, D.C., where he earned a law degree in 1973. In addition to his academic training, Congressman Duncan served in the United States Army National Guard. He enlisted in 1970 and rose to the rank of Captain before completing his service in 1987. In 1973, Congressman Duncan established a private law practice in Knoxville with Zane Daniel. He was appointed State Trial Judge by Tennessee Governor Lamar Alexander in 1981 and served in that capacity until 1988, when he was elected to Congress. Congressman Duncan currently sits on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, where he is Chairman of the Highways and Transit Subcommittee. He also holds a seat on the House Committee on Natural Resources, which retains jurisdiction over national parks and natural resources. Congressman Duncan's efforts to cut government waste, reduce taxes, and limit bureaucratic red tape have been recognized by various organizations and national news media such as ABC News, CBS News, FOX News, The Wall Street Journal, CNN and U.S. News and World Report. He has been named among the five most fiscally conservative Members of Congress by the National Taxpayers Union and is one of the few Members of Congress to receive the Citizens Against Government Waste Super Hero Award. In addition to his Washington office, Congressman Duncan maintains offices in Knoxville, Maryville and Athens. He has established a reputation for providing extensive constituent services and staying in touch with residents of the Second District by attending hundreds of public events and holding countless open-attendance constituent meetings each year. Although Congressman Duncan spends more time in East Tennessee than in Washington, he maintains one of the best attendance records in the entire Congress. Congressman Duncan lives in Knoxville and is an Elder at Eastminster Presbyterian Church. He is married to the former Lynn Hawkins of Sewanee, Tenn. They have four children (Tara, Whitney, John, and Zane) and five grandchildren.



**Chuck Fleischmann (R)***District 3**511 Cannon House Office Building**Washington, DC 20515**Phone: (202) 225-3271*

Congressman Chuck Fleischmann is a conservative Republican who represents the Third District of Tennessee. The District has 11 counties: Anderson, Bradley, Claiborne, Grainger, Hamilton, Jefferson, Meigs, Polk, Rhea, Roane and Union.

Chuck received his undergraduate degree in Political Science from the University of Illinois. He received both Phi Beta Kappa and Magna Cum Laude honors. He then went to the University of Tennessee Law School where he received his Doctor of Jurisprudence.

For 24 years Chuck and his wife ran a small business together in Chattanooga after they both graduated from law school at the University of Tennessee.

Chuck has served on the Board of the National Craniofacial Association and on the Board of the Cherokee Area Council of Boy Scouts of America. He served as the president of the Chattanooga Bar Association and chairman of the Chattanooga Lawyers Pro Bono Committee.

Over the past few years, Chuck saw the direction the country was headed in and decided he must do his part to make sure his children and grandchildren were still able to achieve the American dream.

Chuck serves on three committees that are vitally important to the residents of the 3rd District:

- House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
- House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
- House Committee on Natural Resources

Chuck and his wife, Brenda, live in Ooltewah, Tenn. with their three boys: Chuckie, Jamie and Jeffrey.

**Scott DesJarlais (R)***District 4**413 Cannon House Office Building**Washington, DC 20515**(202) 225-6831*

Congressman Scott DesJarlais represents the Fourth Congressional District of Tennessee, which includes Pickett, Fentress, Scott, Campbell, Morgan, Moore, Cumberland, White, Warren, Van Buren, Bledsoe, Sequatchie, Grundy, Franklin, Lincoln, Giles, Lawrence, Lewis, Maury, Coffee, and Marion counties. Also included are portions of Hickman, Williamson, and Roane counties.

As a resident of South Pittsburg, Tenn., Scott ran for office because he wanted to bring common sense and hometown, conservative values to Congress. Scott plans to use his first term in Congress to focus on returning fiscal discipline and accountability to Washington, reducing the size of government and finding ways to create jobs that will help to strengthen our nation's economy.

Scott earned degrees in Chemistry and Psychology from the University of South Dakota and went on to receive his Doctor of Medicine from the University of South Dakota School of Medicine.



Scott moved to Tennessee almost two decades ago to practice medicine at the Grand View Medical Center in Jasper.

As a doctor, Scott has seen firsthand the importance of an efficient, well run health care system and understands the importance of leaving health care decisions to patients and their physicians and not the bureaucrats in Washington.

Congressman DesJarlais serves on three committees that allow him to directly address and influence many issues that are important to the Fourth District, as well as play a vital role in shaping how the overall federal government functions:

- Oversight and Government Reform
- Education and Workforce
- Agriculture

Scott and his wife Amy, have three children: Tyler, Ryan and their little sister Maggie. The DesJarlais family are active members of the Epiphany Episcopal Church in Sherwood, Tenn. where Amy grew up.

### **Jim Cooper (D)**

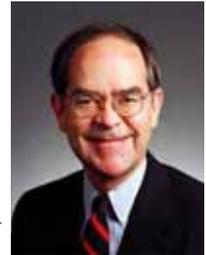
*District 5*

*1536 Longworth House Office Building*

*Washington, DC 20515*

*(202) 225-4311*

Representing Tennessee's Fifth Congressional District, Jim Cooper was born June 19, 1954, in Nashville, Tenn. He earned a B.A. in History and economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1975 as a Morehead Scholar and serving as co-editor of the Daily Tar Heel; a B.A./M.A. in politics and economics as a Rhodes Scholar from Oxford University in 1977; and a J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1980. He is married and has three children. From 1980-1982, he was an attorney with Waller, Lansden, Dortch, & Davis in Nashville, Tenn., until he was elected congressman for the Fourth Congressional District, serving from 1983-1995. During that time, he served on the Energy & Commerce and Budget Committees and the Small Business Subcommittee. His special legislative focus was on health care, literacy and other rural concerns, and he played leadership roles in major telecommunications, environmental and consumer legislation. From 1995-1999, he was managing director at Equitable Securities, a Nashville-based investment bank. From 1999-2002, he was founder and partner of Brentwood Capital Advisors LLC, where he sourced and raised funds for growing regional companies and businesses. Cooper was elected to his second stint in Congress in 2002, serving a more urban and suburban constituency in Nashville, Mt. Juliet, Lebanon, Ashland City, Pleasant View, and Pegram. As Fifth District Congressman, he serves on the Armed Services, and Oversight and Government Reform Committees. In 2011, he was named Ranking Member of the Armed Services Subcommittee on Oversight and Reform. He continues to teach as an adjunct professor at the Owen Graduate School of Management at Vanderbilt University, where he has taught a course on health care policy for more than twelve years.



**Diane Black***District 6**112th Congress**1531 Longworth House Office Building**Washington, DC 20515**202-225-4231*

As a nurse for more than 40 years, small business owner and former educator, Congressman Diane Black brings a unique perspective to her work in Washington.

From starting two family-owned businesses, Black understands how to balance a budget, invest and hire new employees and grow a company without the help of government. From her work in the health care field, Black learned first-hand the importance of high-quality care and the obstacles faced by both patients and providers. She began her career as an emergency room nurse, but also served as a long-term care nurse and worked as part of an outpatient surgery team.

She ran for office for the first time in 1998, when she was elected to the Tennessee House of Representatives, where Black immediately set to work for her constituents. Her first year in office, Black was instrumental in defeating the Governor's proposal for a state income tax and sparking a grassroots movement that encouraged fellow Tennesseans to protest the proposed hike.

Elected to the state senate in 2004, Black built on her reputation as a champion for children and seniors, traditional family values, fiscal responsibility, and small business owners. Black's legislative accomplishments include reforming the state's adoption laws, defunding Planned Parenthood and enacting stricter penalties for sex offenders, including bringing Tennessee into line with the federal "Adam Walsh Act." In the health care field, Black was instrumental in passing a bill providing more options for long term health care for seniors and the disabled, as well as tort reform legislation aimed at weeding out meritless medical malpractice lawsuits.

In 2006, Black was elected by her peers to serve as Chair of the Senate Republican Caucus – the first woman in Tennessee history to hold that title.

In 2010, Black was elected to represent Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District, which encompasses areas north, east and south of Nashville. Black came to Washington on a platform of conservative values, with particular focus on fiscal restraint and curbing government debt, and enacting market-based health care reform.

Upon coming to Congress, Black was elected by her fellow freshmen members of Congress to serve as the Freshman Class Representative to the Republican Policy Committee, a forum where Republicans can discuss and forward their legislative initiatives.

Black was also chosen as one of only two freshmen to serve on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, where the health care reform law as well as our nation's tax, trade and welfare laws will be debated and reformed. Black will serve on the Oversight and Human Resources Subcommittees on Ways and Means. Additionally, Black will also serve as a member of the House Budget Committee, where she will help craft the Federal Budget proposal from House Republicans, who are committed to cut and control government spending.

Born in Baltimore, Md., Black and her husband of 30 years, Dr. David Black have three grown children and six grandchildren. They moved to Tennessee 25 years ago and currently live in Gallatin. They attend Community Church in Hendersonville.



**Marsha Blackburn (R)***District 7**217 Cannon House Office Building**Washington, DC 20515**(202) 225-2811*

Marsha Blackburn is an established, conservative, results-oriented legislator who solves problems. She was sent to the U.S. House of Representatives at the start of the 108th Congress as the first female in Tennessee elected in her own right to the U.S. House. Blackburn was elected State Senator in 1998, becoming the first woman to represent Tennessee's 23rd Senate District. While in the Tennessee Senate, Blackburn led a statewide grassroots campaign to defeat the proposed state income tax. Her frequent appearances on talk radio and positive mention in national publications like the Wall Street Journal made her a recognized national anti-tax and government reform advocate. She quickly earned a reputation for keeping her legislative focus on defending and expanding individual freedom and free enterprise. Blackburn willingly accepts the responsibility of helping shape American fiscal policy as a member of the exclusive House Energy and Commerce Committee. On Energy and Commerce, Blackburn serves as Vice-Chair for the Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade; and is the only Tennessean on the Health Subcommittee, which is charged with reforming the nation's health care system. Representing both a portion of metropolitan Nashville and the suburbs of Memphis, Blackburn has strong ties with some of the nation's premier songwriters and performers. In 2003, Blackburn founded the Congressional Songwriters Caucus to give the nation's creative community access to Capitol Hill. The caucus focuses on the protection of intellectual property and tax policy. Blackburn has served as a Deputy Whip for the last two Congresses. Blackburn is a graduate of Mississippi State University, a small business owner, and native of Laurel, Mississippi. She was born on June 6, 1952. Marsha and Chuck Blackburn have been married for thirty-five years. They have two children, Mary Morgan Ketchel and Chad Blackburn, and two grandchildren.

**Stephen Fincher (R)***District 8**1118 Longworth House Office Building**Washington, DC 20515**Phone: (202) 225-4714*

Stephen Fincher, 37, is a managing partner in Fincher Farms, a West Tennessee based business farming cotton, corn, soybeans and wheat. Stephen has been a farmer in the family business his entire life, and lives in the Frog Jump community of Crockett County beside his father and brother.

At the age of nine, Stephen joined the singing ministry started by his grandmother, "The Fincher Family." The Finchers sing at more than 100 events annually, including church events, weddings, funerals and benefit events for various community, civic and charitable causes. The Finchers have performed at more than 2,000 community events in the last decade or so, almost all in the Eighth Congressional District.

Stephen has served as President of Alamo Dixie Youth Baseball and Crockett County Dixie Youth Baseball, as Chairman of the Board of the PPR Committee at Archer's Chapel United Methodist Church, and as President of United Methodist Men.

Stephen has raised money for dozens of community organizations and causes, including the Methodist Church, Dixie Youth Baseball, NOAH, Relay for Life, The Carl Perkins Child Abuse



Center, as well as many events for individuals or families in need. He is a Life Member of the NRA, and a member of Ducks Unlimited.

Stephen and his wife of 19 years, Lynn, have three children: John Austin, 14; Noah, 11; and Sarah, 7. They live in the Frog Jump community near Halls and are active in Archer's Chapel Methodist Church.

### **Stephen Ira Cohen (D)**

*District 9*

*1005 Longworth House Office Building*

*Washington, DC 20515*

*(202) 225-3265*

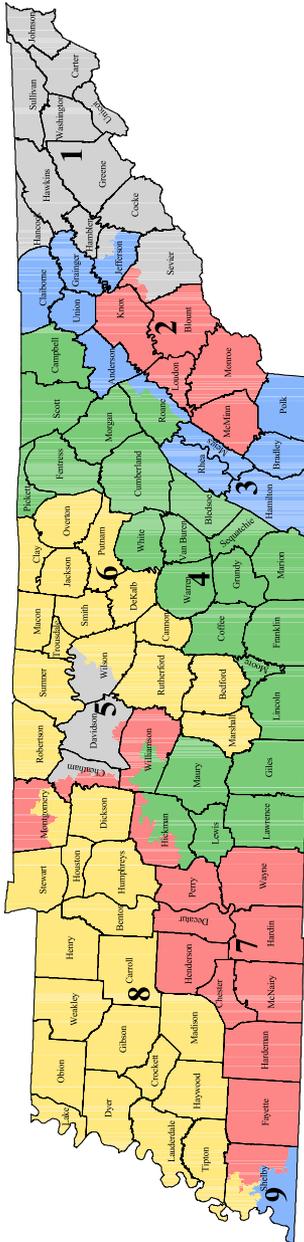
Representing the Ninth Congressional District, Stephen Ira "Steve" Cohen, a native Memphian, was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives November 7, 2006. Cohen is a member of the House Committee on the Judiciary, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and the Helsinki Commission. He is the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Courts, Commercial and Administrative Law. At the start of his second term, Cohen was chosen as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law. Upon becoming a member of Congress, Steve Cohen distinguished himself as a passionate, progressive and forthright voice, receiving national media recognition from *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *NBC Evening News*, *CNN*, *Air America*, and *The Daily Show* among many others for his strong stance against continuing the Iraq War, and as a proponent of an increased minimum wage, stem cell research, universal health care, increased funding of the COPS program and energy innovations and independence. During his first term, he sponsored H.Res. 194 which was the first official apology for slavery and Jim Crow laws passed by the House of Representatives. Cohen is a member of both the Progressive and Out of Iraq Caucuses. Elected to the Tennessee State Senate in 1982, Cohen represented the 30th Senatorial District for more than 24 years. Prior to his state Senate service, Cohen served as the legal advisor to the Memphis Police Department from 1976-1978, as vice president of 1977 Tennessee Constitutional Convention, as Shelby County Commissioner from 1978-1980, and as interim Shelby County General Sessions Court Judge in 1980. Known as the father of the Tennessee Lottery for his nearly two-decade fight to send a referendum on Tennessee's constitutional prohibition on lotteries to the people, Cohen passed legislation to implement the Lottery Corporation and establish the Lottery scholarship program. Cohen served on the National Conference of State Legislatures Executive Committee from 1998 to 2005, the Council of State Governments Executive Committee in 2002 and as a delegate to the 1980, 1992, 2004 and 2008 Democratic National Conventions. He served on the Platform Committee of the Democratic National Convention in 2000. As a state Senator, Cohen passed legislation creating the Tennessee Holocaust Commemoration Commission and served as an ex officio member of the Commission from 1984 through 2006. He is a lifetime member of the NAACP and has been a member of Circuit Playhouse, Inc. Board of Directors since 1977. Cohen has served on the Memphis/Shelby County Center City Commission, the Memphis College of Art Board of Trustees, and the Memphis Zoological Council. Cohen was named to *Business Tennessee* magazine "Power 100" in 2004 and again in 2007. Other honors include: 2009 110 Institute's Man of the Year; 2008 *The Vida* Foundation's D. Emelio Castelar Work Recognition Award (International Humanitarian Award presented in Madrid, Spain); Selected as one of the Forward 50 by *The Forward*, America's largest Jewish newspaper; 13th Annual Stone Awards Recipient: Most Outstanding Politician; Tennessee Communication Association's Communicator of the Year; Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Award of Excellence for Public Service; Tennessee Principals Association



“Friend of Education Award;” Alpha Kappa Alpha Beta Epsilon Omega Chapter AKAward For Outstanding Public Service in the Area of the Economic Keys to Success; Honorary Degree from LeMoyne-Owen College; 2007 Planned Parenthood “Bob James Award”; Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) Region IV Political Award; 2006 Tennessee Humane Association Legislative Achievement Award; 2002 Tennessee Human Rights Campaign Public Leadership Award; 2000 Tennessee Holocaust Commission Commendation. In August 2010, President Barack Obama signed into law legislation the Congressman authored. The measure – the Securing the Protection of Our Enduring and Established Constitutional Heritage (SPEECH) Act – will protect American authors, journalists and publishers from foreign defamation judgments that undermine the First Amendment and American due process standards. Cohen earned a B.A. from Vanderbilt University and a J.D. from The University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law. From 1978 until his election to Congress, Cohen had a private law practice in Memphis. Born on May 24, 1949 in Memphis, Steve Cohen is the son of Genevieve Cohen and the late Dr. Morris Cohen. To find out more about Congressman Cohen, visit his website at [cohen.house.gov](http://cohen.house.gov).

### U.S. House of Representatives Districts

Map shows approximate areas represented.



**District County**

- 1st - Carter, Cocke, Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, Hawkins, Jefferson in part, Johnson, Sevier in part, Sullivan, Union, Washington
- 2nd - Blount, Knox, Loudon, McMinn, Monroe, in part
- 3rd - Anderson, Bradley, Claiborne, Grainger, Hamilton, Jefferson in part, Meigs, Polk, Rhea, Roane in part, Union

**District County**

- 4th - Bledsoe, Campbell, Coffee, Cumberland, Fentress, Franklin, Giles, Grundy, Hickman in part, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Marion, Maury, Moore, Morgan, Pickett, Roane in part, Scott, Sequatchie, Van Buren, Warren, White, Williamson in part
- 5th - Cheatham in part, Davidson in part, Wilson in part
- 6th - Bedford, Cannon, Clay, DeKalb, Jackson, Macon, Marshall, Overton, Putnam, Robertson, Rutherford, Smith, Sumner, Trousdale, Wilson in part

**District County**

- 7th - Cheatham in part, Chester, Davidson in part, Decatur, Fayette, Hardeman, Hardin, Henderson, Hickman in part, McNairy, Montgomery in part, Perry, Shelby in part, Wayne, Williamson in part
- 8th - Benton, Carroll, Crockett, Dickson, Dyer, Gibson, Haywood, Henry, Houston, Humphreys, Lake, Lauderdale, Madison, Montgomery in part, Obion, Shelby in part, Stewart, Tipton, Weakley
- 9th - Shelby in part



**We the People**

insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the  
and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this

Section 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

of the United States  
promote the general  
Constitution for the United States

Article I

# United States Founding Documents

## The Constitution of The United States

### Preamble

We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

### Article. I.

**Section 1 — Legislative powers vested in Congress.** All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a congress of the United States, which shall consist of a senate and house of representatives.

**Section 2 — House of Representatives powers and duties.** [1.]\* The house of representatives shall be composed of members chosen every second year by the people of the several states and the electors in each state shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the state legislature.

[2.] No person shall be a representative who shall not have attained to the age of twenty-five years, and been seven years a citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of that state in which he shall be chosen.

[3.] Representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several states which may be included within this Union, according to their respective numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three-fifths of all other persons.† The actual enumeration shall be made within three years after the first meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent term of ten years, in such manner as they shall by law direct. The number of representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty thousand, but each state shall have at least one representative; and until such enumeration shall be made, the state of New Hampshire shall be entitled to choose three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

[4.] When vacancies happen in the representation from any state, the executive authority thereof shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies.

[5.] The house of representatives shall choose their speaker and other officers; and shall have the sole power of impeachment.

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\* Editor's Note: Brackets and numbers before clauses have been added throughout by editor.

† Modified or superseded by Amendments 14 and 16.

**Section 3 — Senate powers and duties.** [1.] The senate of the United States shall be composed of two senators from each state, chosen by the legislature thereof, for six years; and each senator shall have one vote.\*

[2.] Immediately after they shall be assembled in consequence of the first election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three classes. The seats of the senators of the first class shall be vacated at the expiration of the second year, of the second class at the expiration of the fourth year, and of the third class at the expiration of the sixth year, so that one-third may be chosen every second year; and if vacancies happen by resignation, or otherwise, during the recess of the legislature of any state, the executive thereof may make temporary appointments until the next meeting of the legislature, which shall then fill such vacancies.†

[3.] No person shall be a senator who shall not have attained to the age of thirty years, and been nine years a citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of that state for which he shall be chosen.

[4.] The Vice-President of the United States shall be president of the senate, but shall have no vote, unless they be equally divided.

[5.] The senate shall choose their other officers, and also a president pro tempore, in the absence of the Vice-President, or when he shall exercise the office of the President of the United States.

[6.] The senate shall have the sole power to try all impeachments. When sitting for that purpose, they shall be on oath or affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried the Chief Justice shall preside: and no person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present.

[7.] Judgment in cases of impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust or profit under the United States: but the party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to indictment, trial, judgment and punishment, according to law.

**Section 4 — Election of Senators and Representatives.** [1.] The times, places and manner of holding elections for senators and representatives, shall be prescribed in each state by the legislature thereof; but the congress may at any time by law make or alter such regulations, except as to the places of choosing senators.

[2.] The congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.‡

**Section 5 — Quorum, Journals, Meetings, Adjournments.** [1.] Each house shall be the judge of the elections, returns and qualifications of its own members, and a majority of each shall constitute a quorum to do business; but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the attendance of absent members, in such manner, and under such penalties as each house may provide.

[2.] Each house may determine the rules of its proceedings, punish its members for disorderly behavior, and, with the concurrence of two-thirds, expel a member.

[3.] Each house shall keep a journal of its proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such parts as may in their judgment require secrecy; and the yeas and nays of the members of either house on any question shall, at the desire of one-fifth of those present, be entered on the journal.

[4.] Neither house, during the session of congress, shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other place than in which the two houses shall be sitting.

**Section 6 — Compensation, Privileges, Disabilities.** [1.] The senators and representatives shall receive a compensation for their services, to be ascertained by law, and paid out of the treasury of the United States. They shall in all cases, except treason, felony and breach of the peace,

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\* Modified or superseded by Amendment 17.

† Modified or superseded by Amendment 17.

‡ Modified or superseded by Amendment 20.

be privileged from arrest during their attendance at the session of their respective houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any speech or debate in either house, they shall not be questioned in any other place.

[2.] No senator or representative shall, during the time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil office under the authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the emoluments whereof shall have been increased during such time; and no person holding any office under the United States, shall be a member of either house during his continuance in office.

**Section 7 — Procedure for passing bills and resolutions.** [1.] All bills for raising revenue shall originate in the house of representatives; but the senate may propose or concur with amendments as on other bills.

[2.] Every bill which shall have passed the house of representatives and the senate, shall, before it become a law, be presented to the President of the United States; if he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his objections to that house in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the objections at large on their journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such reconsideration two-thirds of that house shall agree to pass the bill it, shall be sent together with the objections, to the other house, by which it shall likewise be considered, and if approved by two-thirds of that house, it shall become a law. But in all such cases the vote of both houses shall be determined by yeas and nays, and the names of the persons voting for and against the bill shall be entered on the journal of each house respectively. If any bill shall not be returned by the President within ten days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the same shall be a law, in like manner as if he had signed it, unless the congress, by their adjournment, prevent its return, in which case, it shall not be a law.

[3.] Every order, resolution, or vote to which the concurrence of the senate and house of representatives may be necessary (except on a question of adjournment) shall be presented to the President of the United States; and before the same shall take effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by two-thirds of the senate and house of representatives, according to the rules and limitations prescribed in the case of a bill.

**Section 8 — Congressional powers.** [1.] The congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

[2.] To borrow money on the credit of the United States;

[3.] To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;

[4.] To establish an uniform rule of naturalization, and uniform laws on the subject of bankruptcies throughout the United States;

[5.] To coin money, regulate the value thereof, and of foreign coin, and fix the standard of weights and measures;

[6.] To provide for the punishment of counterfeiting the securities and current coin of the United States;

[7.] To establish post offices and post roads;

[8.] To promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries;

[9.] To constitute tribunals inferior to the Supreme Court;

[10.] To define and punish piracies and felonies committed on the high seas, and offenses against the law of nations;

[11.] To declare war, grant letters of marque and reprisal, and make rules concerning captures on land and water;

[12.] To raise and support armies, but no appropriation of money to that use shall be for a longer term than two years;

[13.] To provide and maintain a navy;

[14.] To make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces;

[15.] To provide for calling forth militia to execute the laws of the Union, suppress insurrections and repel invasions;

[16.] To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia, and for governing such part of them as may be employed in the service of the United States, reserving to the states respectively the appointment of the officers, and the authority of training the militia according to the discipline prescribed by congress;

[17.] To exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever, over such district (not exceeding ten miles square) as may, by cession of particular states, and the acceptance of congress, become the seat of government of the United States, and to exercise like authority over all places purchased by the consent of the legislature of the state in which the same shall be, for the erection of forts, magazines, arsenals, dockyards, and other needful buildings; and

[18.] To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

**Section 9 — Limitations on Congressional powers.** [1.] The migration or importation of such persons as any of the states now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the congress prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a tax or duty may be imposed on such importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each person.

[2.] The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in cases of rebellion or invasion the public safety may require it.

[3.] No bill of attainder or ex post facto law shall be passed.

[4.] No capitation, or other direct, tax shall be laid, unless in proportion to the census or enumeration hereinbefore directed to be taken.

[5.] No tax or duty shall be laid on articles exported from any state.

[6.] No preference shall be given by any regulation of commerce or revenue to the ports of one state over those of another: nor shall vessels bound to, or from, one state, be obliged to enter, clear, or pay duties in another.

[7.] No money shall be drawn from the treasury, but in consequence of appropriations made by law; and a regular statement and account of the receipts and expenditures of all public money shall be published from time to time.

[8.] No title of nobility shall be granted by the United States: and no person holding any office of profit or trust under them, shall, without the consent of the congress, accept of any present, emolument, office, or title, of any kind whatever, from any king, prince, or foreign state.

**Section 10 — Limitations on powers of states.** [1.] No state shall enter into any treaty, alliance, or confederation; grant letters of marque and reprisal; coin money; emit bills of credit; make any thing but gold and silver coin a tender in payment of debts; pass any bill of attainder, ex post facto law, or law impairing the obligation of contracts, or grant any title of nobility.

[2.] No state shall, without the consent of the congress, lay any imposts or duties on imports or exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing it's inspection laws: and the net produce of all duties and imposts, laid by any state on imports or exports, shall be for the use of the treasury of the United States; and all such laws shall be subject to the revision and control of the congress.

[3.] No state shall, without the consent of congress, lay any duty of tonnage, keep troops, or ships of war in time of peace, enter into any agreement or compact with another state, or with a foreign power, or engage in war unless actually invaded, or in such imminent danger as will not admit of delay.

## Article II

**Section 1 — The power of the executive, election and qualifications.** [1.] The executive power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his office during the term of four years, and, together with the Vice-President, chosen for the same term, be elected, as follows:

[2.] Each state shall appoint, in such manner as the legislature thereof may direct, a number of electors, equal to the whole number of senators and representatives to which the state may be entitled in the congress: But no senator or representative, or person holding an office of trust or profit under the United States, shall be appointed an elector.

[3.] The electors shall meet in their respective states, and vote by ballot for two persons, of whom one at least shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves. And they shall make a list of all the persons voted for, and of the number of votes for each; which list they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the government of the United States, directed to the president of the senate. The president of the senate shall, in the presence of the senate and house of representatives, open all the certificates, and the votes shall then be counted. The person having the greatest number of votes shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed; and if there be more than one who have such majority, and have an equal number of votes, then the house of representatives shall immediately choose by ballot one of them for President; and if no person have a majority, then from the five highest on the list the said house shall in like manner choose the President. But in choosing the President, the votes shall be taken by states, the representation from each state having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the states, and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice. In every case, after the choice of the President, the person having the greatest number of votes of the electors shall be the Vice-President. But if there should remain two or more who have equal votes, the senate shall choose from them by ballot the Vice-President.\*

[4.] The congress may determine the time of choosing the electors, and the day on which they shall give their votes; which day shall be the same throughout the United States.

[5.] No person, except a natural-born citizen, or a citizen of the United States, at the time of the adoption of this constitution, shall be eligible to the office of President; neither shall any person be eligible to that office who shall not have attained to the age of thirty-five years and been fourteen years a resident within the United States.

[6.] In case of the removal of the President from office, or of his death, resignation, or inability to discharge the powers and duties of the said office, the same shall devolve on the Vice-President, and the congress may by law, provide for the case of removal, death, resignation or inability, both of the President and Vice-President, declaring what officer shall then act as President, and such officer shall act accordingly, until the disability be removed, or a President shall be elected.

[7.] The President shall, at stated times, receive for his services, a compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the period for which he shall have been elected; and shall not receive within that period, any other emolument from the United States, or any of them.

[8.] Before he enters on the execution of his office, he shall take the following oath or affirmation: - "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

**Section 2 — Powers of the president.** [1.] The President shall be commander-in-chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the militia of the several states, when called into the actual service of the United States; he may require the opinion, in writing, of the principal officer in each of the executive departments, upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective

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\* Modified or superseded by Amendment 12.

offices, and he shall have power to grant reprieves and pardons for offenses against the United States, except in cases of impeachment.

[2.] He shall have power, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, to make treaties, provided two-thirds of the senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the senate, shall appoint ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, judges of the Supreme Court, and all other officers of the United States, whose appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by law: but the congress may by law vest the appointment of such inferior officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the courts of law, or in the heads of departments.

[3.] The President shall have power to fill up all vacancies that may happen during the recess of the senate, by granting commissions which shall expire at the end of their next session.

**Section 3 — Duties of the president.** He shall from time to time give to the congress information of the state of the Union, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary occasions, convene both houses, or either of them, and in case of disagreement between them, with respect to the time of adjournment, he may adjourn them to such time as he shall think proper; he shall receive ambassadors and other public ministers; he shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed, and shall commission all the officers of the United States.

**Section 4 — Impeachment.** The President, Vice-President, and all civil officers of the United States, shall be removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of, treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors.

### Article III

**Section 1 — Judicial power.** The judicial power of the United States, shall be vested in one Supreme Court, and in such inferior courts as the congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The judges, both of the Supreme Court and inferior courts, shall hold their offices during good behavior, and shall, at stated times, receive for their services, a compensation, which shall not be diminished during their continuance in office.

**Section 2 — Jurisdiction.** [1.] The judicial power shall extend to all cases, in law and equity, arising under this constitution, the laws of the United States, and treaties made, or which shall be made, under their authority; - to all cases affecting ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls; - to all cases of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction; - to controversies to which the United States shall be a party; - to controversies between two or more states; - between a state and citizens of another state; - between citizens of different states; - between citizens of the same state claiming lands under grants of different states, and between a state, or the citizens thereof, and foreign states, citizens or subjects.\*

[2.] In all cases affecting ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, and those in which a state shall be party, the Supreme Court shall have original jurisdiction. In all the other cases before mentioned, the Supreme Court shall have appellate jurisdiction, both as to law and fact, with such exceptions, and under such regulations as the congress shall make.

[3.] The trial of all crimes, except in cases of impeachment, shall be by jury; and such trial shall be held in the state where the said crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any state, the trial shall be at such place or places as the congress may by law have directed.

**Section 3 — Treason, proof and punishment.** [1.] Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying war against them, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort. No person shall be convicted of treason unless on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or on confession in open court.

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\* Modified or superseded by Amendment 11.

[2.] The congress shall have power to declare the punishment of treason, but no attainder of treason shall work corruption of blood, or forfeiture except during the life of the person attained.

## Article IV

**Section 1 — State's rights.** Full faith and credit shall be given in each state to the public acts, records, and judicial proceedings of every other state. And the congress may by general laws prescribe the manner in which such acts, records and proceedings shall be proved, and the effect thereof.

**Section 2 — Privileges and immunities, fugitives.** [1.] The citizens of each state shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of citizens in the several states.

[2.] A person charged in any state with treason, felony, or other crime, who shall flee from justice, and be found in another state, shall on demand of the executive authority of the state from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the state having jurisdiction of the crime.

[3.] No person held to service or labor in one state, under the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in consequence of any law or regulation therein, be discharged from such service or labor, but shall be delivered up on claim of the party to whom such service or labor may be due.

**Section 3 — Admission of new states.** [1.] New states may be admitted by the congress into this Union; but no new state shall be formed or erected within the jurisdiction of any other state; nor any state be formed by the junction of two or more states, or parts of states, without the consent of the legislatures of the states concerned as well as of the congress.

[2.] The congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this constitution shall be so construed as to prejudice any claim of the United States, or of any particular state.

**Section 4 — Guarantee of republican government.** The United States shall guaranty to every state in this Union a republican form of government, and shall protect each of them against invasion; and on application of the legislature, or of the executive (when the legislature cannot be convened) against domestic violence.

## Article V

**Section 1 — Constitutional amendments.** The congress, whenever two-thirds of both houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this Constitution, or, on the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the several states, shall call a convention for proposing amendments, which, in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three-fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the congress; provided, that no amendment which may be made prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any manner affect the first and fourth clauses in the ninth section of the first article; and that no state, without its consent, shall be deprived of its equal suffrage in the senate.

## Article VI

**Section 1 — Debts, treaties and oaths.** [1.] All debts contracted and engagements entered into, before the adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this Constitution, as under the confederation.

[2.] This Constitution, and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof; and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land; and the judges in every state shall be bound thereby, any thing in the Constitution or laws of any state to the contrary notwithstanding.

[3.] The senators and representatives before mentioned, and the members of the several state legislatures, and all executive and judicial officers, both of the United States and of the several states, shall be bound by oath or affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States.

## Article VII

**Section 1 — Original ratification.** The ratification of the conventions of nine states, shall be sufficient for the establishment of this Constitution between the states ratifying the same.

Done in convention by the unanimous consent of the states present the seventeenth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven and of the Independence of the United States of America the twelfth.

In Witness Whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names,\*

GEORGE WASHINGTON, President and Deputy from Virginia	
NEW HAMPSHIRE	NEW JERSEY
John Langdon	William Livingston
Nicholas Gilman	David Brearley
	William Patterson
MASSACHUSETTS	Jonathan Dayton
Nathaniel Gorham	
Rufus King	PENNSYLVANIA
	Benjamin Franklin
CONNECTICUT	Robert Morris
William Samuel Johnson	Thomas Fitzsimons
Roger Sherman	James Wilson
	Thomas Mifflin
DELAWARE	George Clymer
George Read	Jared Ingersoll
John Dickinson	Gouv. Morris
Jacob Broom	
Gunning Bedford, Jr.	NORTH CAROLINA
Richard Bassett	William Blount
	Hugh Williamson
MARYLAND	Richard Dobbs Spaight
James McHenry	
Daniel Carroll	SOUTH CAROLINA
Daniel of St. Thos. Jenifer	James Rutledge
	Charles Pinckney
VIRGINIA	Charles Cotesworth Pinckney
John Blair	Pierce Butler
James Madison, Jr.	
	GEORGIA
NEW YORK	William Few
Alexander Hamilton	Abraham Baldwin

ATTEST:

William Jackson, Secretary

\* The Constitution was declared in effect on the first Wednesday in March, 1789.

# Amendments To The Constitution of The United States†

## Preamble

THE Conventions of a number of the States having at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added: And as extending the ground of public confidence in the Government, will best insure the beneficent ends of its institution

RESOLVED by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, two thirds of both Houses concurring, that the following Articles be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, as Amendments to the Constitution of the United States, all or any of which Articles, when ratified by three fourths of the said Legislatures, to be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of the said Constitution; viz.:

ARTICLES in addition to, and Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America, proposed by Congress, and ratified by the Legislatures of the several States, pursuant to the fifth Article of the original Constitution.

## Amendment I

**Section 1 — Freedom of religion, of speech, of the press and right of petition.** Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

## Amendment II

**Section 1 — Right of people to bear arms not to be infringed.** 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.

## Amendment III

**Section 1 — Quartering of troops.** No soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

## Amendment IV

**Section 1 — Persons and houses to be secure from unreasonable searches and seizures.** The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

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† The first ten amendments, known as the Bill of Rights, were proposed by Congress on September 25, 1789, and declared in force on December 15, 1791.

## Amendment V

**Section 1 — Trials for crimes; just compensation for private property taken for public use.** No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment by a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself; nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

## Amendment VI

**Section 1 — Civil rights in trials for crimes enumerated.** In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

## Amendment VII

**Section 1 — Civil rights in civil suits.** In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars [\$20.00], the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise reexamined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

## Amendment VIII

**Section 1 — Excessive bail, fines and punishments prohibited.** Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

## Amendment IX

**Section 1 — Reserved rights of people.** The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

## Amendment X

**Section 1 — Powers not delegated, reserved to States and people respectively.** The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.

## Amendment XI

**Section 1 — Judicial power of United States not to extend to suits against a state.** The judicial power of the United States shall not be construed to extend to any suit in law or equity, commenced or prosecuted against one of the United States by citizens of another state, or by citizens or subjects of any foreign state. (Proposed by the 3rd Congress March 4, 1794. Proclaimed ratified by the president on January 8, 1798.)

## Amendment XII

**Section 1 — Present mode of electing president and vice president by electors.** The electors shall meet in their respective states, and vote by ballot for President and Vice-President, one of whom, at least, shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves; they shall name in their ballots the person voted for as President, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as Vice-President, and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as President, and of all persons voted for as Vice-President, and of the number of votes for each, which lists they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the government of the United States directed to the president of the senate; - The president of the senate shall, in the presence of the senate and house of representatives, open all the certificates and the votes shall then be counted; - The person having the greatest number of votes for President, shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed; and if no person have such majority, then from the persons having the highest numbers not exceeding three on the list of those voted for as President, the house of representatives shall choose immediately, by ballot, the President. But in choosing the President, the votes shall be taken by states, the representation from each state having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the states, and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice. And if the house of representatives shall not choose a President whenever the right of choice shall devolve upon them, before the fourth day of March next following, then the Vice-President shall act as President, as in the case of the death or other constitutional disability of the President. The person having the greatest number of votes as Vice-President, shall be the Vice-President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed, and if no person have a majority, then from the two highest numbers on the list, the senate shall choose the Vice-President; a quorum for the purpose shall consist of two-thirds of the whole number of senators, and a majority of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice. But no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of President shall be eligible to that of Vice-President of the United States. (Proposed by the 8th Congress on December 12, 1803. Ratified September 25, 1804.)

## Amendment XIII

**Section 1 — Slavery prohibited.** Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

**Section 2 — Congressional enforcement.** Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation. (Proposed by the 38th Congress on February 1, 1865. Ratified on December 18, 1865.)

## Amendment XIV

**Section 1 — Citizenship defined; privileges of citizens.** All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

**Section 2 — Apportionment of Representatives.** Representatives shall be apportioned among the several states according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each state, excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice-President of the United States, representatives in congress, the

executive and judicial officers of a state, or the members of the legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such state, being twenty-one years of age, and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion, or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such state.

**Section 3 — Disqualification for office; removal of disability.** No person shall be a senator or representative in congress, or elector of President and Vice-President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any state, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any state legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any state, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But congress may by a vote of two-thirds of each house, remove such disability.

**Section 4 — Public debt not be questioned; payment of debt and claims incurred in aid of rebellion forbidden.** The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any state shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slaves; but all such debts, obligations, and claims shall be held illegal and void.

**Section 5 — Congressional enforcement.** The congress shall have power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article. (Proposed by the 39th Congress on June 16, 1866. Ratified on July 28, 1868.)

## Amendment XV

**Section 1 — Right of certain citizens to vote established.** The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

**Section 2 — Congressional enforcement.** The congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation. (Proposed by the 40th Congress on February 27, 1869. Ratified on March 30, 1870.)

## Amendment XVI

**Section 1 — Taxes on income; Congress given power to lay and collect.** The congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several states, and without regard to any census or enumeration. (Proposed by the 61st Congress on July 12, 1909. Ratified on February 25, 1913.)

## Amendment XVII

**Section 1 — Election of United State Senators; filling of vacancies; qualifications of electors.** The senate of the United States shall be composed of two senators from each state, elected by the people thereof, for six years; and each senator shall have one vote. The electors in each state shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the state legislatures.

When vacancies happen in the representation of any state in the senate, the executive authority of such state shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies: provided, that the legislature of any state may empower the executive thereof to make temporary appointments until the people fill the vacancies by election as the legislature may direct.

This amendment shall not be so construed as to affect the election or term of any senator chosen before it becomes valid as part of the Constitution. (Proposed by the 62nd Congress on May 16, 1912. Ratified on May 31, 1913.)

## Amendment XVIII

**Section 1 — Manufacture, sale or transportation of intoxicating liquors, for beverage purposes, prohibited.** After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture, sale or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.

**Section 2 — Congress and the several states given concurrent power to pass appropriate legislation to enforce this article.** The Congress and the several states shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

**Section 3 — Provisions of article to become operative when adopted by three-fourths of the states.** This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the Legislatures of the several states, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the states by the Congress. (Proposed by the 65th Congress on December 17, 1917. Ratified on January 29, 1919, and going into full force and effect on January 16, 1920. This amendment was repealed by Amendment 21.)

## Amendment XIX

**Section 1 — The right of citizens to vote shall not be denied because of sex.** The right of the citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

**Section 2 — Congressional enforcement.** Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation. (Proposed by the 65th Congress on June 5, 1919, and declared in force on August 26, 1920.)

## Amendment XX

**Section 1 — Terms of president, vice president, senators and representatives.** The terms of the President and Vice-President shall end at noon on the twentieth day of January, and the terms of senators and representatives at noon on the third day of January, of the years in which such terms would have ended if this article had not been ratified; and the terms of their successors shall then begin.

**Section 2 — Time of assembling Congress.** The congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall begin at noon on the third day of January, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

**Section 3 — Filling vacancy in office of president.** If, at the time fixed for the beginning of the term of the President, the President elect shall have died, the Vice-President elect shall become President. If a President shall not have been chosen before the time fixed for the beginning of his term, or if the President elect shall have failed to qualify, then the Vice-President elect shall act as President until a President shall have qualified; and the congress may by law provide for the case wherein neither a President elect nor a Vice-President elect shall have qualified, declaring who shall then act as President, or the manner in which one who is to act shall be elected, and such person shall act accordingly until a President or Vice-President shall have qualified.

**Section 4 — Power of Congress in presidential succession.** The congress may by law provide for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the house of representatives may choose

a President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them, and for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the senate may choose a Vice-President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them.

**Section 5 — Time of taking effect.** Sections one and two shall take effect on the fifteenth day of October following the ratification of this article.

**Section 6 — Ratification.** This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states within seven years from the date of its submission. (Proposed by the 72nd Congress on March 3, 1932. Ratified on February 6, 1933.)

## Amendment XXI

**Section 1 — Repeal of prohibition amendment.** The eighteenth article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States is hereby repealed.

**Section 2 — Transportation of intoxicating liquors.** The transportation or importation into any State, Territory, or Possession of the United States for delivery or use therein of intoxicating liquors, in violation of the laws thereof, is hereby prohibited.

**Section 3 — Ratification.** This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by conventions in the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress. (Proposed by the 72nd Congress on February 20, 1933 and was declared in effect on December 5, 1933.)

## Amendment XXII

**Section 1 — Limiting terms of office of president.** No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice, and no person who has held the office of President, or acted as President, for more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected President shall be elected to the office of the President more than once. But this Article shall not apply to any person holding the office of President when this Article was proposed by the Congress, and shall not prevent any person who may be holding the office of President, or acting as President, during the term within which this Article becomes operative from holding the office of President or acting as President during the remainder of such term.

**Section 2 — Ratification.** This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress. (Proposed by the 80th Congress on March 24, 1947 and became effective on March 1, 1951.)

## Amendment XXIII

**Section 1 — Representation in Electoral College, District of Columbia.** The District constituting the seat of Government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as the Congress may direct:

A number of electors of President and Vice President equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives in Congress to which the District would be entitled if it were a State, but in no event more than the least populous State; they shall be in addition to those appointed by the States, but they shall be considered, for the purposes of the election of President and Vice President, to be electors appointed by a State; and they shall meet in the District and perform such duties as provided by the twelfth article of amendment.

**Section 2 — Congressional enforcement.** The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation. (Proposed by the 86th Congress on June 17, 1960 and ratified on April 3, 1961)

## Amendment XXIV

**Section 1 — Poll or other tax prohibited in voting for federal officers.** The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President, for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax.

**Section 2 — Enforcement.** The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation. (Proposed by the 87th Congress on August 29, 1962. Ratified on February 4, 1964.)

## Amendment XXV

**Section 1 — Succession to presidency.** In case of the removal of the President from office or of his death or resignation, the Vice President shall become President.

**Section 2 — Succession to vice presidency.** Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Vice President, the President shall nominate a Vice President who shall take office upon confirmation by a majority vote of both Houses of Congress.

**Section 3 — Disability of president; when vice president is acting president.** Whenever the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the Vice President as Acting President.

**Section 4 — Declaration of president's disability by vice president and other officers.** Whenever the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President.

Thereafter, when the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that no inability exists, he shall resume the powers and duties of his office unless the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive department or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit within four days to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office. Thereupon Congress shall decide the issue, assembling within forty-eight hours for that purpose if not in session. If the Congress, within twenty-one days after receipt of the latter written declaration, or, if Congress is not in session, within twenty-one days after Congress is required to assemble, determines by two-thirds vote of both Houses that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall continue to discharge the same as Acting President; otherwise, the President shall resume the powers and duties of his office. (Submitted to the Legislatures of the fifty States July 7, 1965. Ratified on February 23, 1967.)

### Amendment XXVI

**Section 1 — Right to vote to citizens eighteen years of age or older.** The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of age.

**Section 2 — Congressional enforcement.** The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation. (Proposed to the States by Congress on March 23, 1971. Ratified on July 5, 1971.)

### Amendment XXVII

**Section 1 — Compensation of senators and representatives.** No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened. (Proposed to the states by Congress on September 25, 1789, and ratified on May 18, 1992.)

