

SRW October 2023

The Constitution is the foundation of this Republic. It was written by educated men who studied the history of the past and applied it to a new form of government. I would like to review with you the articles of this great document in an abbreviated form.

ARTICLE I:

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.

Section 2: Requirements for the House of Representatives: Twenty-five years of age, be a citizen of the United States for seven years, be an inhabitant of the state of which he represents. Representatives shall have a term of two years, there shall be one representative for every 30,000 inhabitants, but each state shall have at least one. This will be the largest house of the legislature and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

Section 3: Requirements for the Senate: Thirty years of age, be a citizen of the United States for nine years, be an inhabitant of the state of which he represents. Senators shall have a term of six years. There shall be two Senators from each state. The vice-president of the United States shall be the President of the Senate with no vote unless there is a tie vote of the Senators. The Senate shall have the power to try all impeachments. The judgment shall not extend further than to removal from office, and disqualification to and enjoy any Office of honor, Trust or Profit in the United States.

Section 4 is about the election of the legislators, Section 5 discusses how business should be conducted, Section 6 discusses compensation of their services, Section 7 states that bills to raise revenue shall originate in the House, but either body can propose amendments, Section 8 empowers congress to do only 17 things: Eight concerning national defense, six with respect to commerce, and the remainder about territories. Section 9 states that there shall be no tax or duty on any article traded between states, no title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States. Section 10 discusses what commitments separate states can not do such as keep troops or ships, enter into treaties, etc., with other countries.

ARTICLE II

Section 1: Discusses the electoral college and the process of electing a president for a four year term. The candidate must be a natural born citizen or a citizen of the United States at the time of the adoption of the Constitution, be 35 years old and been a resident of the United States for 14 years. The oath the new presidents take is included in the Constitution: " 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: Enumerates the duties of the President. Some of these include being Commander in Chief of the US military; can with the consent of the Senate make treaties and appoint ambassadors.

Section 3: Sets up the annual report by the president in a State of the Union address to both houses of Congress. Also, he shall receive Ambassadors and see that the laws are faithfully executed.

Section 4: 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. Pertains to the power of one Supreme Court and other courts which the Congress sets up, and hold their offices during good behavior.

Section 2. Lists the content of the cases the Supreme Court will hear.

Section 3. Treason against the United States shall consist only in levying war against states or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort. The testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or a confession in open court, are needed before a person can be convicted of treason.

ARTICLE IV:

Section 1. Full faith and credit shall be given in each state to the public acts, records, and judicial proceedings of every other state as prescribe by the Congress.

Section 2. A person charged with a crime must be adjudicated in the state in which the crime was committed.

Section 3. New states may come into the Union, but cannot be part of another state or combination thereof.

Section 4. The United States shall guarantee to every state in the union a republican form of government and shall protect each of them against invasion, etc.

ARTICLE V:

The procedure for proposing amendments to the Constitution. (1) Two-thirds of both Houses of Congress or the legislatures of two-thirds of the States in Convention. (2) The new amendment must be ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the states.

ARTICLE VI

(1) All debts contracted and engagements entered into before the adoption of this Constitution shall be valid against the United States under this Constitution. (2) This Constitution, laws of this land and all treaties made shall be the supreme law of the land and the judges in every state are bound thereby. (3) All government officials shall be bound by an Oath of Affirmation to support the Constitution, but no religious test shall ever be required.

ARTICLE VII

This Constitution was agreed to unanimously by the representatives present on 17 September 1787. The ratification of nine states would be sufficient for the establishment of this Constitution.

Attested by William Jackson, Secretary. The first signer, followed by thirty-eight others, was George Washington, president and deputy from Virginia.

We shall be ever thankful for these writers of this Constitution of the United States of America.