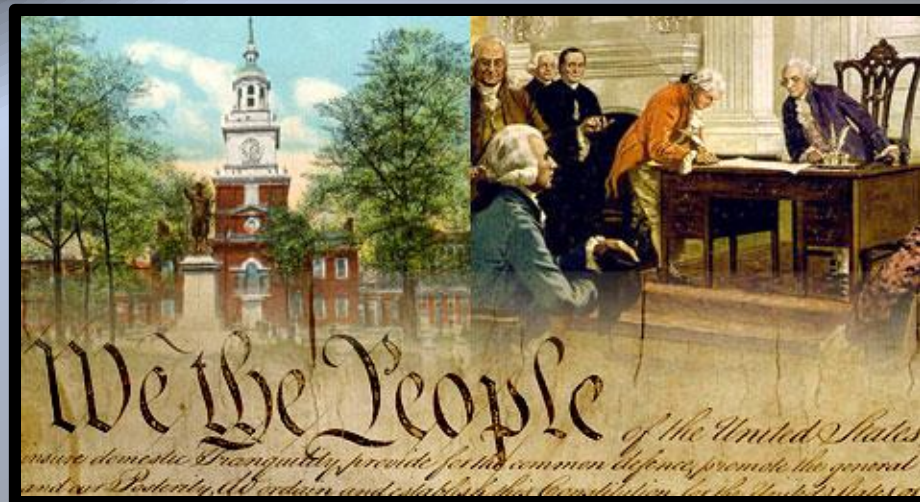


THE UNITED
STATES
CONSTITUTION:

PREAMBLE, STRUCTURE,
AND ARTICLES

INTRODUCTION TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

- WRITTEN IN PHILADELPHIA
- ORIGINAL INTENT WAS TO REVISE THE ARTICLES
- JAMES MADISON WAS THE “FATHER” OF THE CONSTITUTION
- 39 MEN SIGN IT IN 1787



INTRODUCTION TO THE U .S. CONSTITUTION THE PREAMBLE

TWO MAIN QUESTIONS FOUND IN THE
PREAMBLE:

1. WHY THEY ARE WRITING?
 - TO FORM A MORE PERFECT UNION
2. WHAT ARE THE GOALS TO BE REACHED?
 - ESTABLISH JUSTICE
 - INSURE DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY
 - PROVIDE FOR THE COMMON DEFENSE
 - PROMOTE THE GENERAL WELFARE
 - SECURE THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY

ARTICLE I

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

SECTION ONE – WHAT IS CONGRESS?

BICAMERAL LEGISLATURE

- THE JOB OF THIS BRANCH:
 - MAKE LAWS
- WHO'S PART OF THIS BRANCH?:
 - HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
 - SENATE

SECTION TWO

HOUSE OF

REPRESENTATIVES

- **NUMBER OF REPS BASED ON POPULATION**
- **REPRESENTATIVES SERVE A TWO YEAR TERM**

WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR A MEMBER OF THE U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES?

- **25 YEARS OLD**
- **7 YEAR CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES**
- **RESIDENT OF THE STATE ONE IS ELECTED IN**

ANNUAL SALARY = \$174,000

SECTION THREE

THE SENATE

- **2 SENATORS PER STATE (ALL STATES GET THE SAME AMOUNT)**
- **SENATOR'S TERM IS 6 YEARS**

WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR A SENATOR?

- **30 YEARS OLD**
- **9 YEAR CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES**
- **RESIDENT OF THE STATE ONE IS ELECTED IN**

ANNUAL SALARY = \$174,000

OTHER CONGRESSIONAL PRIVILEGES

- **SALARY**
- **TRAVEL EXPENSE ACCOUNT**
- **OFFICE IN D.C. AND THEIR STATE**
- **SPECIAL ALLOWANCE FOR STATIONARY, PHONE CALLS, FAXES**
- **PENSION**
- **SOME TAX EXEMPTIONS**
- **15% OF SALARY FOR SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**
- **UNLIMITED INCOME FROM BOOK ROYALTIES**

ARTICLE II

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

**THE JOB OF THIS BRANCH:
ENFORCE LAWS**

**WHO'S PART OF THIS BRANCH?
PRESIDENT**

VICE PRESIDENT

PRESIDENTS TERM IS 4 YEARS

**PRESIDENT'S CABINET (THE
PRESIDENTS ADVISORS)**

HOW IS THIS U.S. PRESIDENT ELECTED?

- **ELECTORS – PRESIDENTIAL VOTERS**
- **ELECTORAL COLLEGE – SYSTEM USED TO ELECT THE PRESIDENT, FOUNDERS DIDN'T WANT A PURE FORM OF DEMOCRACY, WANTED A REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY**
- **538 = TOTAL NUMBER OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS, MUST HAVE 270 TO BECOME PRESIDENT**
- **PURPOSE OF THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE – GIVE EACH STATE SOMEWHAT EQUAL REPRESENTATION**

WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR U.S. PRESIDENT?

- **35 YEARS OLD**
- **14 YEAR RESIDENT**
- **NATURAL BORN CITIZEN**

FYI:

- **1ST SEVEN PRESIDENTS WERE NOT NATURAL BORN**
- **YOUNGEST – TEDDY ROOSEVELT = 42**
- **YOUNGEST ELECTED – JOHN KENNEDY = 43**
- **OLDEST – RONALD REAGAN = 69**
- **TALLEST – ABRAHAM LINCOLN = 6FT 4 IN**
- **SHORTEST – JAMES MADISON = 5FT 4 IN**

ARTICLE III

JUDICIAL BRANCH

THE JOB OF THIS BRANCH:

INTERPRET LAWS/CONSTITUTION

WHO'S PART OF THIS BRANCH?

➤ **SUPREME COURT**

- **APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT**
- **LIFETIME TERM IN OFFICE**

➤ **OTHER FEDERAL COURTS**

FIRST SUPREME



**WILLIAM CUSHING, CHIEF JUSTICE JOHN
JAY, JOHN BLAIR, & JAMES WILSON**

ARTICLE IV RELATIONS AMONG THE STATES

ESTABLISHES:

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STATES

- **EACH STATE SHALL RESPECT LEGAL ACTION OF ANOTHER STATE (MARRIAGE LICENSES, SPEED LIMITS, FINES, DRIVERS LICENSE, COURT RULINGS)**
- **THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT GUARANTEES EACH STATE A REPUBLIC (REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY WHERE WE ELECT OFFICIALS TO REPRESENT OUR CONCERNS)**
- **THE GOVERNMENT WILL PROTECT US FROM INVASIONS**
- **NEW STATES WILL BE ADMITTED BY CONGRESS**

ARTICLE V

METHODS OF AMENDMENTS

ESTABLISHES:

AMENDMENT PROCESS

- **2/3 APPROVAL IN CONGRESS TO PROPOSE**
- **3/4 APPROVAL BY STATE LEGISLATURES TO RATIFY**

FYI:

- **OVER 4000 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS SINCE THE EARLY 1800S**
- **ONLY 27 HAVE BEEN RATIFIED**

ARTICLE VI

GENERAL PROVISIONS

ESTABLISHES: FEDERAL SUPREMACY

- **THE CONSTITUTION IS THE SUPREME LAW OF THE LAND**

***SECTION ONE* – COULD THE NEW GOVERNMENT EVADE DEBTS OWED AS A RESULT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR?**

- **NEW GOVERNMENT CANNOT EVADE OLD DEBTS**

***SECTION TWO* – IS THE FEDERAL LAW THE SUPREME LAW OF THE LAND?**

- **YES – STATE LAW CANNOT OVERRIDE A FEDERAL LAW**

***SECTION THREE* – ALL OFFICERS, STATE AND FEDERAL, MUST TAKE AN OATH TO SUPPORT THE U.S. CONSTITUTION**

- **CANNOT HAVE A RELIGIOUS REQUIREMENT AS PART OF THE OATH**

ARTICLE VII RATIFICATION

CONVENTION:

**CALLING OF DELEGATES FROM EACH
STATE TO RATIFY THE CONSTITUTION**

ESTABLISHES:

RATIFICATION PROCESS:

- **9 OUT OF 13 STATES HAD TO
APPROVE TO RATIFY**

CLOSURE

- ✓ CONSTITUTION WAS FINISHED
SEPTEMBER 17, 1787
- ✓ 55 TOTAL DELEGATES DURING THE
CONVENTION
- ✓ 42 WERE PRESENT ON THE FINAL DAY
BUT ONLY...
- ✓ 39 PEOPLE SIGNED THE
CONSTITUTION
- ✓ THE FOLLOWING TWO YEARS PROVIDED
DEBATE FOR RATIFICATION
- ✓ THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION TOOK
EFFECT APRIL 30, 1789 WHEN
GEORGE WASHINGTON WAS SWORN IN
AS PRESIDENT