

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

(ARTICLES 1-10 are known as the **BILL OF RIGHTS**)

- Prohibits government from infringing on certain human rights -

“No provision in our constitution ought to be dearer to man than that which protects the rights of conscience against the enterprises of civil authority.”

- Thomas Jefferson

<< ----- CONSERVATIVE (Concentration of Power) ----- << <u>SOCIAL HIEARCHY / ORDER</u>		>> ----- LIBERAL (Dispersion of Power) ----- >> <u>EQUALITY / MOVEMENT</u>			
REPUBLICAN PARTY (Republican Platform 2016)		AMENDMENTS (U.S. CONSTITUTION)		DEMOCRATIC PARTY (Democratic Platform 2016)	
RIGHT WING	MODERATE			MODERATE	LEFT WING
1. FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND RELIGION					
	<p>Every time we sing, “God Bless America,” we are asking for help. We ask for divine help that our country can fulfill its promise. We pledge to defend the religious beliefs and rights of conscience of all Americans and to safeguard religious institutions against government control. The Free Exercise Clause is both an individual and a collective liberty protecting a right to worship God according to the dictates of conscience. We value the right of America’s religious leaders to preach, and Americans to speak freely, according to their faith. We support the right of the people to conduct their businesses in accordance with their religious beliefs. We support the public display of the Ten Commandments and further affirm the rights of religious students to engage in voluntary prayer at public school events and to have equal access to school facilities. We . . . call for an end to the so-called Fairness Doctrine, and support free-market approaches to free speech unregulated by government. To protect religious liberty we will ensure that faith-based institutions, especially those that are vital parts of underserved neighborhoods, do not face discrimination by government</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>[. . . but no religious test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any office or public trust under the United States (Article 6)]</p>	<p>Democrats know that our nation, our communities, and our lives are made vastly stronger and richer by faith in many forms and the countless acts of justice, mercy, and tolerance it inspires. We believe in lifting up and valuing the good work of people of faith and religious organizations and finding ways to support that work where possible. We support a progressive vision of religious freedom that respects pluralism and rejects the misuse of religion to discriminate. We will do everything we can to protect religious minorities and the fundamental right of freedom of religion. Democrats will always fight to end discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, language, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. We need to promote civility and speak out against bigotry and other forms of intolerance that have entered our political discourse. We will support strong legislatures, independent judiciaries, free press, vibrant civil society, honest police forces, religious freedom, and equality for women and minorities.</p>		

2. BEARING ARMS

We uphold the right of individuals to keep and bear arms, a natural inalienable right that predates the Constitution and is secured by the Second Amendment. Lawful gun ownership enables Americans to exercise their God-given right of self defense for the safety of their homes, their loved ones, and their communities. We support firearm reciprocity legislation to recognize the right of law-abiding Americans to carry firearms to protect themselves and their families in all 50 states. We oppose ill-conceived laws that would restrict magazine capacity or ban the sale of the most popular and common modern rifle. We oppose federal licensing or registration of law-abiding gun owners, registration of ammunition, and restoration of the ill-fated Clinton gun ban.

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.

We can respect the rights of responsible gun owners while keeping our communities safe. To build on the success of the lifesaving Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, we will expand and strengthen background checks and close dangerous loopholes in our current laws; repeal the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA) to revoke the dangerous legal immunity protections gun makers and sellers now enjoy; and keep weapons of war—such as assault weapons and large capacity ammunition magazines (LCAM's)—off our streets. (We must) ensure guns do not fall into the hands of terrorists, intimate partner abusers, other violent criminals, and those with severe mental health issues. There is insufficient research on effective gun prevention policies.

4. SEARCH AND SEIZURE

We call for strict limitations on the use of aerial surveillance on U.S. soil, with the exception of patrolling our national borders for illegal entry and activity. We oppose any attempts by government to require surveillance devices in our daily lives, including tracking devices in motor vehicles. No matter the medium, citizens must retain the right to communicate with one another free from unlawful government intrusion.

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.

5. RIGHTS OF PERSONS

. . . that when private property is not secure, freedom is at risk. The government at every level must always pay just compensation whenever it takes private property to achieve a compelling public use, with the money coming from the budget of the agency performing the taking. This includes the taking of water rights and the taking of property by environmental regulations that destroy or diminish the property's value. With the rise of the digital economy, it has become even more critical that we protect intellectual property rights and preserve freedom of contract rather than create regulatory barriers to creativity, growth, and innovation.

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of 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 offence 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.

6. RIGHTS OF ACCUSED IN CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS

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.		
7. CIVIL TRIALS				
		In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.		
8. FURTHER GUARANTEES IN CRIMINAL CASES				
		Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.		

9. ENUMERATED RIGHTS

(Article 9) codifies the principle that our national government derives its power from the governed and that all powers not delegated to the government are retained by the people. We welcome to our ranks all citizens who are determined to reclaim the rights of the people that have been ignored or usurped by the federal and intrusive state governments.

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

10. RESERVED POWERS

The states and the people retain authority over all unenumerated powers. We pledge to restore the proper balance and vertical separation of powers between the federal government and state governments. We call upon Congress to help a Republican president to reduce and ultimately eliminate this system of conditioned grants so that state and local taxpayers can decide for themselves what is best for their own communities.

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.

12. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

We oppose the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact and any other scheme to abolish or distort the procedures of the Electoral College.

The Electors shall meet in their respective states, and vote by ballot for President and Vice-President. . . 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.		
14. RIGHTS GUARANTEED: PRIVILEGES & IMMUNITIES OF CITIZENS, DUE PROCESS, EQUAL PROTECTION				
		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.		
15. RIGHTS OF CITIZENS TO VOTE				
	We support state efforts to ensure ballot access for the elderly, the handicapped, military personnel, and all legitimate voters. We urge state and local officials to take all appropriate steps to allow voters to cast their ballots in a timely manner. we support legislation to require proof of citizenship when registering to vote and secure photo ID when voting.	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.	We must restore the full protections of the Voting Rights Act. We will bring our democracy into the 21st century by expanding early voting and vote-by-mail, implementing universal automatic voter registration and same day voter registration, ending partisan and racial gerrymandering, and making Election Day a national holiday. We will restore voting rights for those who have served their sentences. And we will continue to fight	

			against discriminatory voter identification laws, which disproportionately burden young voters, diverse communities, people of color, low-income families, people with disabilities, the elderly, and women.	
19. WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE RIGHTS				
		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 sex.		
24. ABOLITION OF POLL TAX				
		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.		
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26. REDUCTION OF VOTING AGE				
		The right of citizens of the United States, who are 18 years of age or older, to vote, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of age.		

