

Unlocking the Keys to the Constitution



WE, the People of the United States, in order to form
a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide
for the common defence, 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

Sec. 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.

Sec. 2. 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.

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.

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 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.

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

The House of Representatives shall choose their Speaker and other officers; and they shall have the sole power of impeachment.

Sec. 3. 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.

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 authority of the same shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies.

The Senate shall have the sole power of impeachment.

Sec. 4. The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises; to pay the debts and provide for the common defence and general welfare of the United States; to borrow money on the credit of the United States.

To regulate commerce with foreign nations, among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

To establish a uniform rule of naturalization, and uniform laws on the subject of bankruptcies throughout the United States.

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

To provide for the punishment of counterfeiting the securities and current coin of the United States.

To establish post offices and post roads.

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.

To constitute tribunals inferior to the supreme court.

To define and punish piracies and felonies committed on the high seas, and offences against the law of nations.

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

To raise and support armies: but no appropriation of money to that use shall be for a longer term than two years.

To provide and maintain a navy.

To make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces.

To provide for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the union, suppress insurrections and repel invasions.

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.

II.

Sec. 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 in the following manner.

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 Congress; but no Senator or Representative shall be an elector, nor shall any person holding an office of trust or profit under the United States.

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, 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.

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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 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.

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

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.

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We the People

- What does the preamble say about the United States?
- What impact did the Virginia plan have on the Constitution?
- How did changes to the Virginia Plan impact the format of the government?

What documents lead to the phrase that opens the Constitution?

Scan the QR code or visit
TPSWaynesburg.delivr.com/18lc



Taxation

- Why did individuals have reservations about taxation?
- Why was the three-fifths compromise so controversial?

What influenced the way that taxation would be handled in the constitution?

Scan the QR code or visit
TPSWaynesburg.delivr.com/18ld



Representation

- How was representation determined?
- Have changes been made to the requirements of a representative?

What influenced this kind of representation?

Scan the QR code or visit
TPSWaynesburg.delivr.com/18ld



War Powers

- How was the military to be organized?
- Who was to be the commander in chief of the military?

Where else are war powers addressed in the constitution?

Scan the QR code or visit
TPSWaynesburg.delivr.com/18ld3



Unlocking the Keys to the Constitution

An Interactive Poster Activity

Use the United States Constitution, the United States Constitution Guide, and the links to the online interactive, Creating the Constitution, found throughout this worksheet to assist you in completing the following questions.

We the People:

❖ Visit the following webpage for help in answering these questions:

- TPSWaynesburg.delivr.com/18lci

1. What does the preamble say about the United States?

2. What impact did the Virginia plan have on the Constitution?

3. How did changes to the Virginia Plan impact the format of the government?

Representation:

❖ Visit the following webpage for help in answering these questions:

- TPSWaynesburg.delivr.com/18lct

1. How was representation determined?

2. Have changes been made to the requirements of a representative?

Taxation:

❖ Visit the following webpage for help in answering these questions:

- TPSWaynesburg.delivr.com/18ldc

1. Why did individuals have reservations about taxation?

2. Why was the three-fifths compromise so controversial?

War Powers:

❖ Visit the following webpage for help in answering these questions:

- TPSWaynesburg.delivr.com/18ld3

1. How was the military to be organized?

2. Who was to be the commander and chief of the military?

Executive:

❖ Visit the following webpage for help in answering these questions:

- TPSWaynesburg.delivr.com/18lds

1. Where did the idea of the executive branch come from?
2. What were the concerns about having an individual lead the nation?
3. How does the Constitution address these concerns



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ARTICLE I.

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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 forty 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 chuse 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.

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

The House of Representatives shall choose their Speaker and other officers; and they shall have the sole power of impeachment.

Sec. 3. 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.

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.

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.

The Vice-President of the United States shall be, ~~elector~~, President of the senate, but shall have no vote, unless they be equally divided.

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 President of the United States.

The Senate shall have the sole power to try all impeachments. When sitting for that purpose, they shall be on oath. 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.

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.

Sec. 4. 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 places of choosing senators.

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.

Sec. 5. 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.

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

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.

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 that in which the two houses shall be sitting.

Sec. 6. 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, 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.

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

United States Constitution Guide

Examining the Key Topics in the Constitution

United States Constitution Preamble excerpt

Committee of Detail Report in the Federal Convention, August 1787

This is a transcription of excerpts from the Committee of Detail Report in the Federal Convention, August 1787, prior to revisions.

Committee of Style Report in the Federal Convention, September 1787

This is a transcription of excerpts from the Committee of Style Report in the Federal Convention, August 1787, including emendations in the hand of George Washington at the Convention.

“We the People of the States
of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode-
Island and Providence Plantations,
Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey,
Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland,
Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina,
and Georgia, do ordain, declare and
establish the following Constitution for the
Government of Ourselves and our
Posterity.”

“We, the People of the United States,
in order to form a more perfect union. . . .”

United States Constitution Executive Branch excerpts

Committee of Detail Report, August 1787

Article X, Section 1. “The Executive Power of the United States shall be vested in a single person. His stile shall be, "The President of the United States of America;" and his title shall be, "His Excellency." He shall be elected by joint-ballot by the Legislature to which election a majority of the votes of the members present shall be required. He shall hold his office during the term of seven years; but shall not be elected a second time.”

Committee of Style Report, September 1787

Article II. Sect. 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:

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 Congress: . . . 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.”

United States Constitution War Powers excerpts

Committee of Detail Report, August 1787

Article VII, Section 1 "All debts contracted and engagements entered into by, or under the authority of Congress shall be valid against the United States under this Constitution as under the Confederation. The Legislature of the United States shall have the power to . . .

To declare war;

To raise and support armies;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces

To make laws for organising, 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 the United States.

To establish uniform laws on the subject of bankruptcies.

Committee of Style Report, September 1787

Article I, Section 8 "The Congress shall have power . . .

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

To raise and support armies: but no appropriation of money to that use shall be for a longer term than two years.

To provide and maintain a navy.

To make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces.

**United States Constitution
War Powers excerpts (continued)**

Committee of Detail Report, August 1787

To provide for calling forth the militia, in order to execute the laws of the Union, enforce treaties, suppress insurrections, and repel invasions; . . ."

Article X, Section 2 "[The executive] shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States"

Committee of Style Report, September 1787

To provide for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the union, suppress insurrections and repel invasions."

Article II, Section 2 "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: . . ."

United States Constitution Representation excerpts

Committee of Detail Report, August 1787

Article III "The legislative power shall be vested in a Congress to consist of two separate and distinct bodies of men, a House of Representatives and a Senate; The legislature shall meet at least once in every year; and that meeting shall be on the final Monday in December, unless a different day shall be appointed by law.

Article IV Sect. 1. The Members of the House of Representatives shall be chosen every second year, by the people of the several States comprehended within this Union.

Sect. 4. . . .the Legislature shall, in each of these cases, regulate the number of representatives by the number of inhabitants, according to provisions [rate for direct taxation] herein made at the [not exceeding the] rate of one for every forty thousand. [Provided that every state shall have at least one representative.]

Committee of Style Report, September 1787

Article I "Sect. 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.

Sect. 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of members chosen every second year by the people of the several states, . . .

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.

United States Constitution
Representation excerpts (continued)

Committee of Detail Report, August 1787

Article V Sect. 1. The Senate of the United States shall be chosen by the Legislatures of the several States. Each Legislature shall chuse two members. Vacancies happening by refusals to accept resignations, or allowance, may be supplied by the Legislature of the State in the representation of which such vacancies shall happen, or by the Executive thereof until the next meeting of the Legislature. Each member shall have one vote."

Committee of Style Report, September 1787

Sect. 3 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."

**United States Constitution
Taxation excerpts**

Committee of Detail Report, August 1787

Article VII "Sect. 3. The proportion of direct taxation shall be regulated by the whole number of white and other free citizens and inhabitants, of every age, sex and condition, including those bound to servitude for a term of years, and three fifths of all other persons not comprehended in the foregoing description, (except Indians not paying taxes) which number shall, within three years after the first meeting of the Legislature, and within the term of every ten years afterwards, be taken in such manner as the said Legislature shall direct.

Sect. 4. No tax or duty shall be laid by the Legislature on articles exported from any State;

Committee of Style Report, September 1787

Article I, Section 2. "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 number of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three-fifths of all other persons.

Section 8. The Congress shall have the power To lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises; to pay the debts and provide for the common defence and general welfare of the United States: but all duties, imports, and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

**United States Constitution
Taxation excerpts (continued)**

Committee of Detail Report, August 1787

The migration or importation of such persons as the several States , now existing, shall think proper to admit shall not be prohibited by the Legislature prior to the year 1808.— but a tax or duty may be imported on such importation not exceeding Ten dollars for each Person.

Sect. 5. No capitation tax shall be laid, unless in proportion to the census herein before directed to be taken."

Committee of Style Report, September 1787

Section 9. 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.

No capitation tax shall be laid, unless in proportion to the census or enumerations herein before directed to be taken.

No preference shall be given by any regulation of commerce or revenue to the Port 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.

No tax or duty shall be laid on articles exported from any state."