

CONFLICT AND EQUALITY: Voting Rights and Changing Views of Citizenship

The Constitution is the supreme law of the United States.

Who is a citizen of the United States? Who can vote? Do rights expand and contract?

Amendment 14 - Citizenship Rights. Ratified 7/09/1868.

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.

1. Who is a citizen?
2. If an 18 year old can vote, why wait until age 21 for some rights?
3. Do prisoners have the right to vote? In prison? After release?

Amendment 15 - Race No Bar to Vote. Ratified 2/3/1870

1. 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.
2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

1. Why was this amendment needed?
2. Did this amendment mean automatic voting rights for people of color?
3. What about the rights of women of color?

Amendment 19 - Women's Suffrage. Ratified 8/18/1920.

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. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

1. Did this amendment give women equal rights?

Proposed Equal Rights Amendment:

Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Section 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

1. Would this amendment help women have equal rights?
2. What are the obstacles to passage of the ERA?
3. If it passed, would women have to register to vote at age 18?
4. If it passed, would men and women have to share bathrooms?

Germantown High proposed constitutional amendments? Think of amendments you would like to add and argue for! Be creative!

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

How to amend the US Constitution.

Article V - Amendment

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; [omitted].

Agree on the wording of a Joint Resolution of Congress:

US Senate votes: 2/3 vote require

US House of Representatives votes: 2/3 vote required

[Or, 2/3 of the states propose the amendment at a constitutional convention of the states.]

Then the legislatures of the States ratify the amendment:3/4 required

What is the role of the President?

Do the citizens of Washington, D.C live in a state with a vote that counts?