

The Pennsylvania Constitution as Compared to the United States Constitution

1. The US Constitution has no provision for protecting the environment.
2. US senators serve six-year terms; Pennsylvania senators serve four-years terms.
3. US senators must be 36 years old and representatives must be 25 years old. Pennsylvania senators must be 25 years old and representatives must be 21 years old.
4. The US Constitution has no provision regarding ineligibility because of criminal convictions.
5. The US Constitution has no provision for legislative reapportionment.
6. The US Constitution does not have specific detailed provisions regarding the procedure for introducing and enacting laws.
7. The US Constitution has no provision regarding education.
8. The US Constitution has no provision regarding workers' compensation.
9. The US Constitution has no provision regarding support for widows and orphans.
10. The US Constitution has no provision regarding classification of municipalities.
11. The US Constitution has no provision regarding land title registration.
12. The US Constitution has no provision regarding competitive bidding.
13. The US Constitution has no provision regarding change of venue.
14. The US Constitution has no provision regarding pensions.
15. The US Constitution has no provision regarding changing the location of the capital.
16. The US Constitution has no provision regarding appropriations for public assistance.
17. The US Constitution has no provision regarding appropriations for charitable organizations.
18. The US Constitution has no provision regarding delegation of powers.
19. The US Constitution has no provision regarding local and special laws.
20. The US Constitution does not specify any particular cabinet members.
21. The US Constitution has no provision for electing an attorney general.
22. The US Constitution has no provision for appointment of a secretary of education.
23. The US Constitution has no provision for a board of pardons.
24. The US Constitution has no provision for a partial veto.
25. The US Constitution has no provision regarding the terms of office of cabinet members.
26. The US Constitution has no provision establishing a unified judiciary or for establishing specific courts below the Supreme Court.
27. The US Constitution has no provision guaranteeing a right of appeal.
28. The US Constitution has no provision regarding judicial administration.
29. The US Constitution has no provision regarding judicial districts.
30. The US Constitution has no provision regarding qualifications of judges.
31. The US Constitution has no provision for election of judges.
32. The US Constitution has no provision for establishing a judicial qualification commission.
33. The US Constitution does not limit the terms of office of judges.
34. The US Constitution has no provision regarding retirement of judges.
35. The US Constitution has no provision regarding prohibited activities of judges.
36. The US Constitution has no provision for establishing a judicial conduct board.
37. The US Constitution specifies that impeachment must be for treason, bribery or other high crimes and misdemeanors. The Pennsylvania Constitution allows impeachment for any misbehavior in office.
38. The US Constitution has no specific provisions regarding tax exemptions.
39. The US Constitution has no provision regarding gas taxes.
40. The US Constitution has no provision requiring a balanced budget.
41. The US Constitution has no provisions regarding local government.
42. The US Constitution has no provision regarding private corporations.
43. Amendments to the US Constitution are voted on by state legislatures. Amendments to the Pennsylvania Constitution are voted on by the people.
44. The Pennsylvania Legislature does not have the powers enumerated in Article 1, Section 8 of the US Constitution.
45. No state has the powers enumerated in Article 1, Section 10 of the US Constitution.
46. There is no electoral college in Pennsylvania.

This list was generated by former Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Sandra Schultz Newman when she spoke to a group of teachers studying the two documents. She listed 46 differences and still left a few for the students to uncover.