

Amendment 1: Freedom of speech

Freedom of speech, press, religion, and peaceable assembly ensures that individuals can share their ideas peacefully without the possibility of government interference or punishment.

Justification

The notion of freedom of speech is one of the most fundamental principles of a free nation. It is arguably the most important safeguard against the formation of a tyrannical government [1]. Freedom of speech is also crucial because almost any new idea—whether beneficial or not—will inevitably face opposition from certain groups, particularly from older generations. Therefore, having an amendment that protects people’s right to express and share their ideas, no matter how wrong, immoral, or radical those ideas may seem, is essential for societal growth and progress. However, this should not be confused with condoning acts of violence, disruption of societal systems, or radical movements that harm others.

Citation

[1] <https://www.thefire.org/news/arguments-freedom-many-reasons-why-free-speech-essential>

Amendment 2: Case-specific jury selection

The right to a fair trial with a jury of peers specific to the case. When technical expertise is required to understand the case, the jury should be selected from a group of individuals with relevant technical knowledge.

Justification

Some legal cases involve expertise in specific areas. For example, a patient might sue a medical doctor, or an individual might sue a vehicle company due to a mechanical failure. In these cases, assistance from expert companies is typically sought to explain complex decisions or technical details. However, conveying such specialized information to a jury without prior expertise in the field can be challenging within the limited timeframe of a trial. Furthermore, the expert companies are usually hired by a side of the trial which can lead to bias judgment. Therefore, it's essential that the jury is selected in a way that includes representatives with relevant background knowledge in the field [1].

Citation

[1] <https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/sustainability/juries-must-be-instructed-bad-outcomes-aren-t-always-negligence>

Amendment 3: Right to Privacy

A protection against government and private entities to access a person's data and information without their consent.

Justification

With the advancement of technology, the concept of privacy has expanded beyond physical property. Access to people's data can enable companies and governments to manipulate individuals' thoughts and ideologies [1].

Citation

[1] <https://www.americanbar.org/advocacy/global-programs/news/2024/importance-digital-privacy-emerging-technology/>

Amendment 4: Presidential immunity restriction

The removal of absolute presidential immunity restriction.

Justification

I think presidents, just like any other citizen should be responsible for their actions. Although there are some potential benefits for presidents taking decisions without the fear of lawsuits, this gives them too much power. The Trump vs. United States case at 2024 showed the significant hardship of countering this [1].

Citation

[1] <https://www.justsecurity.org/97781/three-flaws-supreme-court-immunity/>

Amendment 5: The number of justices on the Supreme Court and their selection criteria

The number of judges should be fix to 9 judges and they should be picked by a vote from all alive presidents.

Justification

The dynamic possibility for changing the number of Supreme Court justices has encouraged efforts by various factions to add judges when a president aligned with their interests is in office. The current selection criteria also give too much power to the political party of the sitting president. Therefore, implementing an election system that involves more individuals who have previously earned the trust of the United States

population could help balance the selection process [1]. This can provide more checks and balances for the Supreme court like the idea of congress

Citation

[1] <https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/why-does-the-supreme-court-have-nine-justices>

Amendment 6: Right to healthcare

People should have access to the healthcare they need, regardless of their financial status.

Justification

For individuals to be truly free, able to make decisions, and pursue happiness, they need to be healthy. Therefore, providing citizens with the healthcare they need is as fundamental as the right to free speech. This problem appears to be worsening, as some resources indicate that Medicare reimbursements are not increasing adequately compared to inflation. [1]

Citation

[1] <https://www.aha.org/press-releases/2024-05-02-new-aha-report-hospitals-and-health-systems-continue-face-rising-costs-economic-pressure>

Most Plausible Amendment

Amendment 6 is the most likely to be accepted. Although the idea might seem impossible to implement at first glance, most people understand the necessity of having a healthcare system that supports everyone and recognizes healthcare as a basic need. Unlike other materialistic possessions that are harder to justify, and in some cases might reduce motivation (similar to the Covenant of Work [Week 3, Slide 8] that could result in reduced productivity), the idea of healthcare for all is easier to justify.