THE UNITED STATES 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 defense, 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.  
Section 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.  
Section. 2.  
Clause 1: 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.  
Clause 2: No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of 25 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.  
Clause 3: 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 choose 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.  
Clause 4: When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority  
thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies.  
Clause 5: The House of Representatives shall choose their Speaker and other Officers; and shall  
have the sole Power of Impeachment.  
Section. 3.  
Clause 1: 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.  
Clause 2: 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.  
Clause 3: 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.  
Clause 4: The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no  
Vote, unless they be equally divided.  
Clause 5: 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.  
Clause 6: The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that  
Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. 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.  
Clause 7: 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.  
Section. 4.  
Clause 1: 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 the Places of choosing Senators.  
Clause 2: 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.  
Section. 5.  
Clause 1: 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.  
Clause 2: 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.  
Clause 3: 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.

Clause 4: 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.  
Section. 6.  
Clause 1: 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.  
Clause 2: 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 whereof shall have been increased during such time; and no Person  
holding any Office under the United States, shall be a Member of either House during his  
Continuance in Office.  
Section. 7.  
Clause 1: All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the  
Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills.  
Clause 2: Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall,  
before it become a Law, be presented to the President of the United States; If he approve he shall  
sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his Objections to that House in which it shall have  
originated, who shall enter the Objections at large on their Journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If  
after such Reconsideration two thirds of that House shall agree to pass the Bill, it shall be sent,  
together with the Objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if  
approved by two thirds of that House, it shall become a Law. But in all such Cases the Votes of  
both Houses shall be determined by yeas and Nays, and the Names of the Persons voting for and  
against the Bill shall be entered on the Journal of each House respectively. If any Bill shall not be  
returned by the President within ten Days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to  
him, the Same shall be a Law, in like Manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their  
Adjournment prevent its Return, in which Case it shall not be a Law.  
Clause 3: Every Order, Resolution, or Vote to which the Concurrence of the Senate and House of  
Representatives may be necessary (except on a question of Adjournment) shall be presented to the  
President of the United States; and before the Same shall take Effect, shall be approved by him, or  
being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by two thirds of the Senate and House of  
Representatives, according to the Rules and Limitations prescribed in the Case of a Bill.  
Section. 8.  
Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to  
pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but  
all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;  
Clause 2: To borrow Money on the credit of the United States;  
Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the  
Indian Tribes;

Clause 4: To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of  
Bankruptcies throughout the United States;  
Clause 5: To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of  
Weights and Measures;  
Clause 6: To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the  
United States;  
Clause 7: To establish Post Offices and post Roads;  
Clause 8: 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;  
Clause 9: To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court;  
Clause 10: To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offences  
against the Law of Nations;  
Clause 11: To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning  
Captures on Land and Water;  
Clause 12: To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a  
longer Term than two Years;  
Clause 13: To provide and maintain a Navy;  
Clause 14: To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;  
Clause 15: To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress  
Insurrections and repel Invasions;  
Clause 16: 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;  
Clause 17: To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not  
exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of  
Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority  
over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be,  
for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings;--And

Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the  
foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United  
States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.  
Section. 9.  
Clause 1: 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.  
Clause 2: The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases  
of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it.  
Clause 3: No Bill of Attainder or ex post facto Law shall be passed.  
Clause 4: No Capitation, or other direct, Tax shall be laid, unless in Proportion to the Census or  
Enumeration herein before directed to be taken.  
Clause 5: No Tax or Duty shall be laid on Articles exported from any State.  
Clause 6: No Preference shall be given by any Regulation of Commerce or Revenue to the Ports 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.  
Clause 7: No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations  
made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public  
Money shall be published from time to time.  
Clause 8: No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States: And no Person holding any  
Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any  
present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State.  
Section. 10.  
Clause 1: No State shall enter into any Treaty, Alliance, or Confederation; grant Letters of Marque  
and Reprisal; coin Money; emit Bills of Credit; make any Thing but gold and silver Coin a Tender  
in Payment of Debts; pass any Bill of Attainder, ex post facto Law, or Law impairing the  
Obligation of Contracts, or grant any Title of Nobility.  
Clause 2: No State shall, without the Consent of the Congress, lay any Imposts or Duties on  
Imports or Exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing it's inspection Laws:  
and the net Produce of all Duties and Imposts, laid by any State on Imports or Exports, shall be for  
the Use of the Treasury of the United States; and all such Laws shall be subject to the Revision and  
Control of the Congress.  
Clause 3: No State shall, without the Consent of Congress, lay any Duty of Tonnage, keep Troops,  
or Ships of War in time of Peace, enter into any Agreement or Compact with another State, or with  
a foreign Power, or engage in War, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent Danger as will not  
admit of delay.

Article. II.  
Section. 1.  
Clause 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  
Clause 2: 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 the Congress: but no Senator or Representative, or Person holding an Office of Trust or  
Profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector.  
Clause 3: 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 of the United States, 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, the Representation from each State having one Vote; 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 of the Electors 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.  
Clause 4: The Congress may determine the Time of choosing the Electors, and the Day on which  
they shall give their Votes; which Day shall be the same throughout the United States.  
Clause 5: 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.  
Clause 6: In Case of the Removal of the President from Office, or of his Death, Resignation, or  
Inability to discharge the Powers and Duties of the said Office, the Same shall devolve on the Vice-  
President, and the Congress may by Law provide for the Case of Removal, Death, Resignation or  
Inability, both of the President and Vice President, declaring what Officer shall then act as  
President, and such Officer shall act accordingly, until the Disability be removed, or a President  
shall be elected.  
Clause 7: The President shall, at stated Times, receive for his Services, a Compensation, which  
shall neither be increased nor diminished during the Period for which he shall have been elected,

and he shall not receive within that Period any other Emolument from the United States, or any of  
them.  
Clause 8: Before he enter on the Execution of his Office, he shall take the following Oath or  
Affirmation:--"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President  
of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the  
Constitution of the United States."  
Section. 2.  
Clause 1: 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; he  
may require the Opinion, in writing, of the principal Officer in each of the executive Departments,  
upon any Subject relating to the Duties of their respective Offices, and he shall have Power to grant  
Reprieves and Pardons for Offences against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment.  
Clause 2: He shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make  
Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and  
with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and  
Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States, whose  
Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by Law: but the  
Congress may by Law vest the Appointment of such inferior Officers, as they  
think proper, in the President alone, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments.  
Clause 3: The President shall have Power to fill up all Vacancies that may happen during the  
Recess of the Senate, by granting Commissions which shall expire at the End of their next Session.  
Section. 3.  
He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and  
recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he  
may, on extraordinary Occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in Case of  
Disagreement between them, with Respect to the Time of Adjournment, he may adjourn them to  
such Time as he shall think proper; he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; he  
shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the Officers of the  
United States.  
Section. 4.  
The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from  
Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and  
Misdemeanors.  
Article. III.  
Section. 1.  
The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior  
Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the  
supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated  
Times, receive for their Services, a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their  
Continuance in Office.  
Section. 2.  
Clause 1: The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this  
Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their

Authority;--to all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls;--to all Cases  
of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction;--to Controversies to which the United States shall be a  
Party;--to Controversies between two or more States;--between a State and Citizens of another  
State; --between Citizens of different States, --between Citizens of the same State claiming Lands  
under Grants of different States, and between a State, or the Citizens thereof, and foreign States,  
Citizens or Subjects.  
Clause 2: In all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in  
which a State shall be Party, the supreme Court shall have original Jurisdiction. In all the other  
Cases before mentioned, the supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and  
Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Congress shall make.  
Clause 3: The Trial of all Crimes, except in Cases of Impeachment, shall be by Jury; and such Trial  
shall be held in the State where the said Crimes shall have been committed; but when not  
committed within any State, the Trial shall be at such Place or Places as the Congress may by Law  
have directed.  
Section. 3.  
Clause 1: Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in  
adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason  
unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court.  
Clause 2: The Congress shall have Power to declare the Punishment of Treason, but no Attainder of  
Treason shall work Corruption of Blood, or Forfeiture except during the Life of the Person  
attainted.  
Article. IV.  
Section. 1.  
Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and judicial  
Proceedings of every other State. And the Congress may by general Laws prescribe the Manner in  
which such Acts, Records and Proceedings shall be proved, and the Effect thereof.  
Section. 2.  
Clause 1: The Citizens of each State shall be entitled to all Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in  
the several States.  
Clause 2: A Person charged in any State with Treason, Felony, or other Crime, who shall flee from  
Justice, and be found in another State, shall on Demand of the executive Authority of the State  
from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the State having Jurisdiction of the Crime.  
Clause 3: No Person held to Service or Labour in one State, under the Laws thereof, escaping into  
another, shall, in Consequence of any Law or Regulation therein, be discharged from such Service  
or Labour, but shall be delivered up on Claim of the Party to whom such Service or Labour may be  
due.  
Section. 3.  
Clause 1: New States may be admitted by the Congress into this Union; but no new State shall be  
formed or erected within the Jurisdiction of any other State; nor any State be formed by the  
Junction of two or more States, or Parts of States, without the Consent of the Legislatures of the  
States concerned as well as of the Congress.

Clause 2: The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations  
respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this  
Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any  
particular State.  
Section. 4.  
The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government,  
and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the  
Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened) against domestic Violence.  
Article. V.  
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; Provided that no Amendment which  
may be made prior to the Year One thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any Manner affect the  
first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth Section of the first Article; and that no State, without its  
Consent, shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in the Senate.  
Article. VI.  
Clause 1: All Debts contracted and Engagements entered into, before the Adoption of this  
Constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this Constitution, as under the  
Confederation.  
Clause 2: This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance  
thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States,  
shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any  
Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.  
Clause 3: The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several  
State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the  
several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious  
Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.  
Article. VII.  
The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States, shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this  
Constitution between the States so ratifying the Same.  
done in Convention by the Unanimous Consent of the States present the Seventeenth Day of  
September in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven and of the  
Independence of the United States of America the Twelfth In witness whereof We have hereunto  
subscribed our Names,  
GO WASHINGTON--Presidt. and deputy from Virginia  
[Signed also by the deputies of twelve States.]  
Delaware  
 Geo: Read

Gunning Bedford jun  
 John Dickinson  
 Richard Bassett  
 Jaco: Broom  
Maryland  
 James MCHenry  
 Dan of ST ThoS. Jenifer  
 DanL Carroll.  
Virginia  
 John Blair--  
 James Madison Jr.  
North Carolina  
 WM Blount  
 RichD. Dobbs Spaight.  
 Hu Williamson  
South Carolina  
 J. Rutledge  
 Charles 1ACotesworth Pinckney  
 Charles Pinckney  
 Pierce Butler.  
Georgia  
 William Few  
 Abr Baldwin  
New Hampshire  
 John Langdon  
 Nicholas Gilman  
 Massachusetts  
 Nathaniel Gorham  
 Rufus King  
Connecticut  
 WM. SamL. Johnson  
 Roger Sherman  
New York  
 Alexander Hamilton  
New Jersey  
 Wil: Livingston  
 David Brearley.  
 WM. Paterson.  
 Jona: Dayton  
Pennsylvania  
 B Franklin  
 Thomas Mifflin  
 RobT Morris  
 Geo. Clymer  
 ThoS. FitzSimons  
 Jared Ingersoll

James Wilson.  
 Gouv Morris  
 Attest William Jackson Secretary  
http://www.house.gov/Constitution/Constitution.html