

*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.

## **Bill of Rights**

### **Amendment I**

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

### **Amendment II**

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

### **Amendment III**

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

### **Amendment IV**

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

### **Amendment V**

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

### **Amendment VI**

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

### **Amendment VII**

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

### **Amendment VIII**

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

### **Amendment IX**

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

### **Amendment X**

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people. Principles of Liberty.

## Principles of Liberty

**Principle 1** - *The only reliable basis for sound government and just human relations is Natural Law.*

**Principle 2** - *A free people cannot survive under a republican constitution unless they remain virtuous and morally strong.*

**Principle 3** - *The most promising method of securing a virtuous people is to elect virtuous leaders.*

**Principle 4** - *Without religion the government of a free people cannot be maintained.*

**Principle 5** - *All things were created by God, therefore upon him all mankind are equally dependent, and to him they are equally responsible.*

**Principle 6** - *All mankind were created equal.*

**Principle 7** - *The proper role of government is to protect equal rights, not provide equal things.*

**Principle 8** - *Mankind are endowed by God with certain unalienable rights.*

**Principle 9** - *To protect human rights, God has revealed a code of divine law.*

**Principle 10** - *The God-given right to govern is vested in the sovereign authority of the whole people.*

**Principle 11** - *The majority of the people may alter or abolish a government which has become tyrannical.*

**Principle 12** - *The United States of America shall be a republic.*

**Principle 13** - *A Constitution should protect the people from the frailties of their rulers.*

**Principle 14** - *Life and liberty are secure only so long as the rights of property are secure.*

**Principle 15** - *The highest level of prosperity occurs when there is a free-market economy and a minimum of government regulations.*

**Principle 16** - *The government should be separated into three branches.*

**Principle 17** - *A system of checks and balances should be adopted to prevent the abuse of power by the different branches of government.*

**Principle 18** - *The unalienable rights of the people are most likely to be preserved if the principles of government are set forth in a written Constitution.*

**Principle 19** - *Only limited and carefully defined powers should be delegated to government, all others being retained by the people.*

**Principle 20** - *Efficiency and dispatch require that the government operate according to the will of the majority, but constitutional provisions must be made to protect the rights of the minority.*

**Principle 21** - *Strong local self-government is the keystone to preserving human freedom.*

**Principle 22** - *A free people should be governed by law and not by the whims of men.*

**Principle 23** - *A free society cannot survive as a republic without a broad program of general education.*

**Principle 24** - *A free people will not survive unless they stay strong.*

**Principle 25** - *"Peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations -- entangling alliances with none."*

**Principle 26** - *The core unit which determines the strength of any society is the family; therefore the government should foster and protect its integrity.*

**Principle 27** - *The burden of debt is as destructive to human freedom as subjugation by conquest.*

**Principle 28** - *The United States has manifest destiny to eventually become a glorious example of God's law under a restored Constitution that will inspire the entire human race.*

Source: over 150 volumes of the Founding Fathers original writings, minutes, letters, biographies, etc. distilled into *The Five Thousand Year Leap*, by W. Cleon Skousen, published by National Center for Constitutional Studies, 1981