

Congress of the United States,
begun and held at the City of New-York, on
Wednesday the fourth of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine.

OUR BILL OF RIGHTS IS 225 YEARS OLD

The Bill of Rights, added to the Constitution in 1791 as the first ten amendments, protects rights such as freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and the freedom to freely practice religion. The Constitution gives the government power; the Bill of Rights protects individual liberties. These two ideas have helped to make our Constitution the longest lasting of any nation in the world.

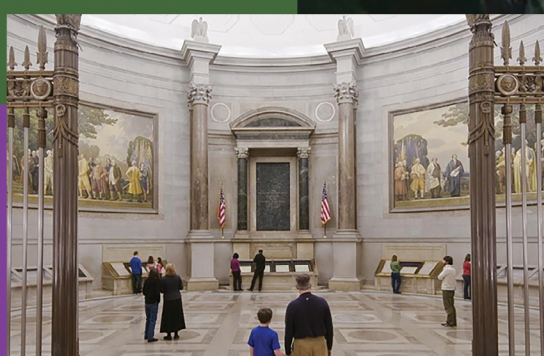
HOW DO WE AMEND?

Rarely before did a people have the ability to peacefully adapt and adjust their government. Before our Constitution's Article V, governments generally changed through war or violence, not votes. The Founders believed that the Constitution should be amended as the nation grew.

Proposing an amendment is easy, but two-thirds of both houses of Congress and three-fourths of the states must approve the change before it is added to the Constitution. That is why, out of more than 11,000 attempts, only 27 have been successful.

WHERE IS THE BILL OF RIGHTS?

The Bill of Rights has a permanent home at the National Archives in Washington D.C. It is on display every day in a grand hall called the Rotunda for the Charters of Freedom. It sits beside the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.



SOME THINGS TO KNOW:

ARTICLE V - Section of the Constitution that outlines the amending process
AMENDMENT - Changes made to the Constitution



THE BILL OF RIGHTS AND YOU



NATIONAL ARCHIVES
FOUNDATION