

Reviewing the Preamble with Primary Sources

Center for Legislative Archives

Document 1. Petition for Universal Suffrage, [NAID 306684](#)

A PETITION
FOR
UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

The undersigned, Women of the United States, respectfully ask an amendment of the Constitution that shall prohibit the several States from disfranchising any of their citizens on the ground of sex.

In making our demand for Suffrage, we would call your attention to the fact that we represent fifteen million people—one half the entire population of the country—intelligent, virtuous, native-born American citizens; and yet stand outside the pale of political recognition.

The Constitution classes us as “free people,” and counts us *whole* persons in the basis of representation; and yet are we governed without our consent, compelled to pay taxes without appeal, and punished for violations of law without choice of judge or juror.

The experience of all ages, the Declarations of the Fathers, the Statute Laws of our own day, and the fearful revolution through which we have just passed, all prove the uncertain tenure of life, liberty and property so long as the ballot—the only weapon of self-protection—is not in the hand of every citizen.

Therefore, as you are now amending the Constitution, and, in harmony with advancing civilization, placing new safeguards round the individual rights of four millions of emancipated slaves, we ask that you extend the right of Suffrage to Woman—the only remaining class of disfranchised citizens—and thus fulfil your Constitutional obligation “to Guarantee to every State in the Union a Republican form of Government.”

As all partial application of Republican principles must ever breed a complicated legislation as well as a discontented people, we would pray your Honorable Body, in order to simplify the machinery of government and ensure domestic tranquillity, that you legislate hereafter for persons, citizens, tax-payers, and not for class or caste.

For justice and equality your petitioners will ever pray.

NAMES.	RESIDENCE.
Eludy Stanton	New York
Susan B. Anthony	Brochester - N.Y.
Antoinette Brown Blackwell	New York
Luz Stone	Newark N. Jersey
Joanna S. Morse	48 Livingston. Brooklyn

(Excerpt) “The undersigned, Women of the United States, respectfully ask an amendment of the Constitution that shall prohibit the several States from disenfranchising any of their citizens on the ground of sex.

In making our demand for Suffrage, we would call your attention to the fact that we represent fifteen million people — one half of the population...”

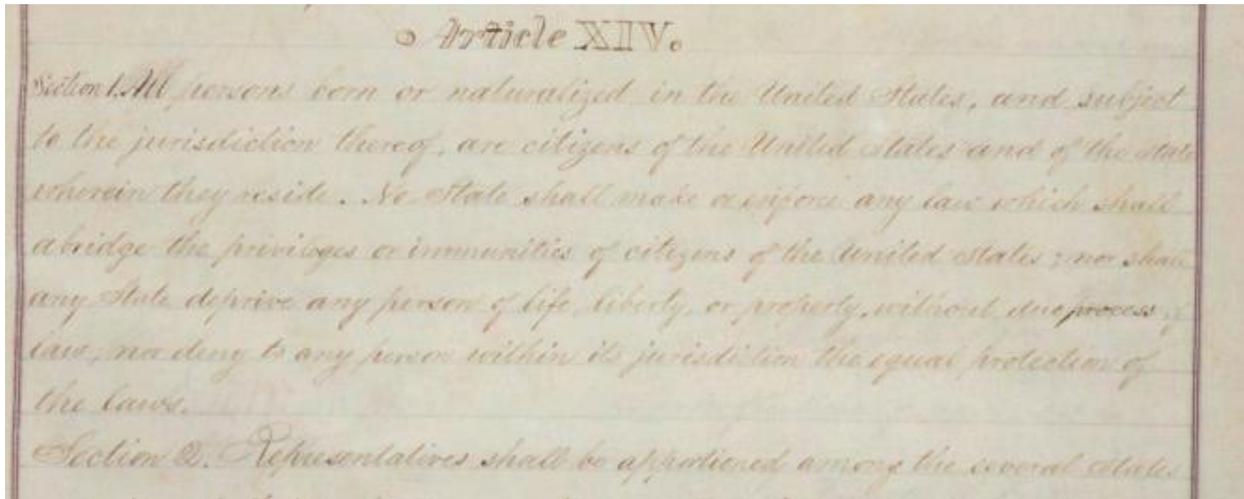
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Document 2. 14th Amendment, [NAID 1408913](#)



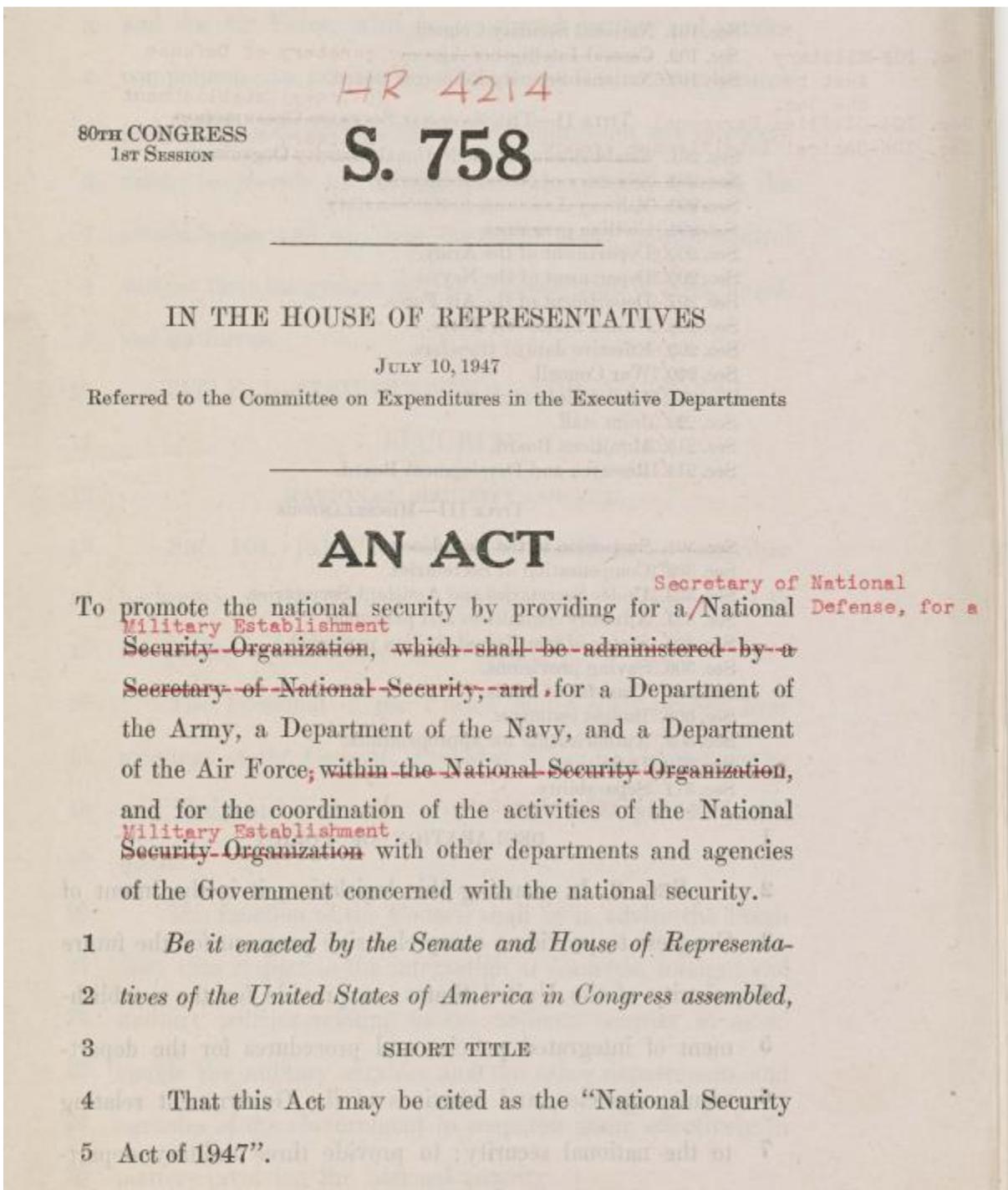
(Excerpt) "Article XIV

Section 1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

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Document 3. National Security Act of 1947, [NAID 25465645](#)



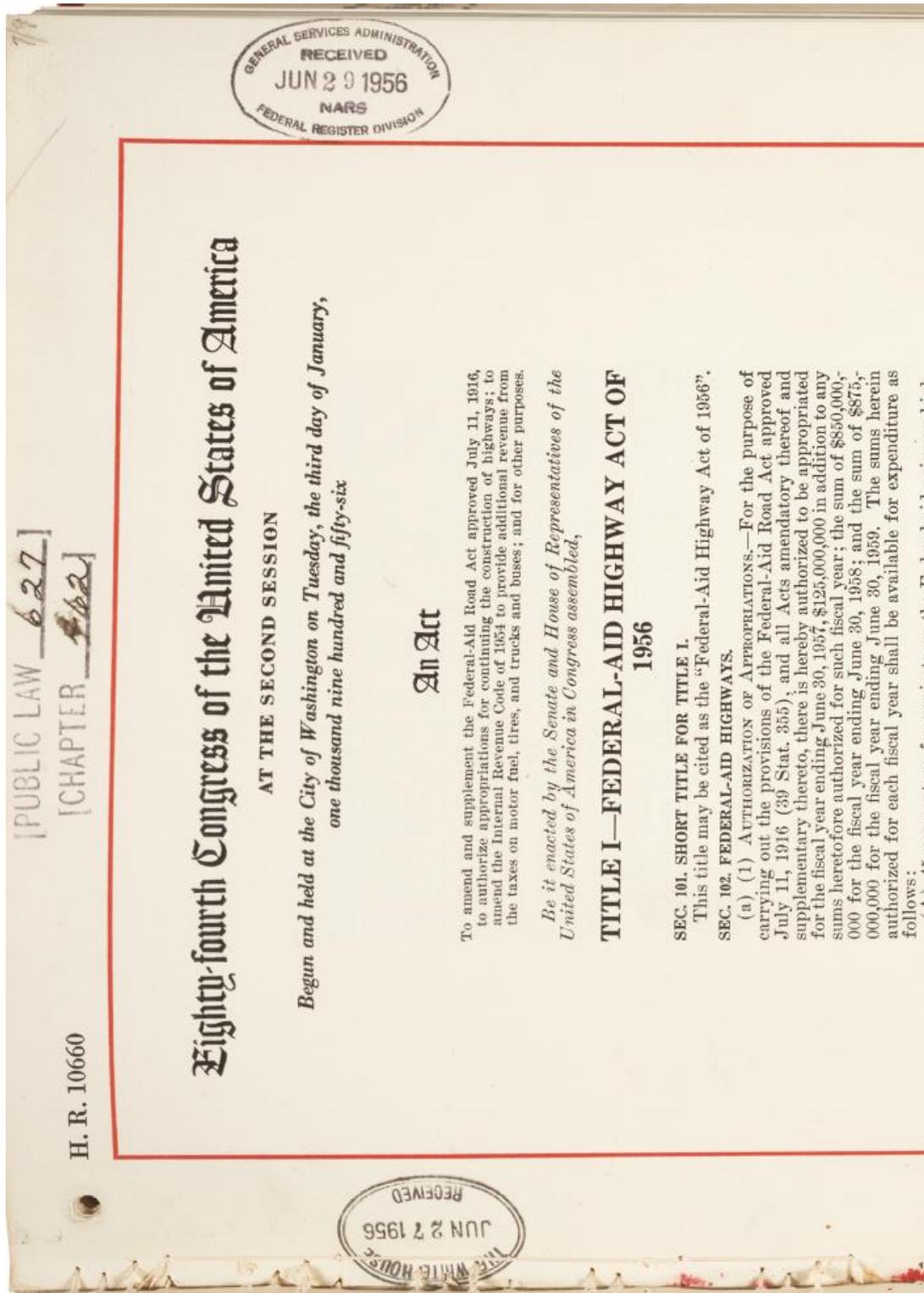
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Document 4. National Interstate and Defense Highway Act, [NAID 5730930](#)



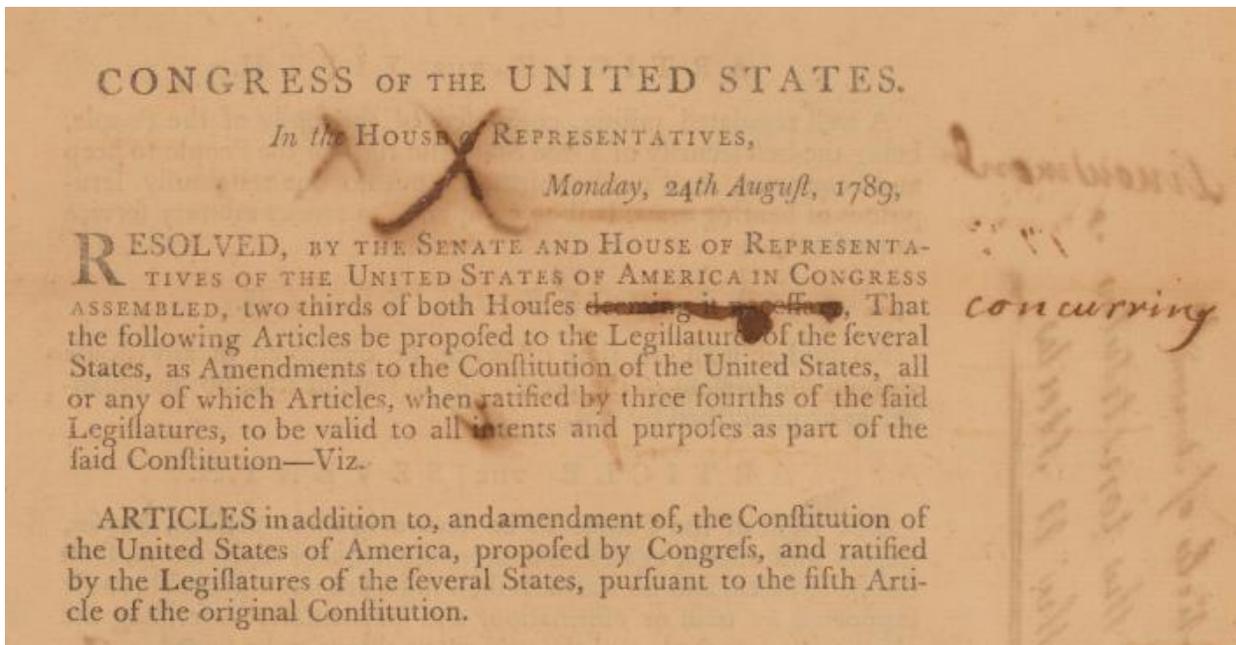
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Document 5. Senate Revisions to House Proposed Amendments to the U.S. Constitution (Bill of Rights), [NAID 3535588](#)



(Excerpt)

“Congress of the United States

Monday, 24th August, 1789

Resolved, By the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled, two thirds of both Houses concurring. That the following articles be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States as Amendments to the constitution of the United States, all or any of which Articles, when ratified by three fourths of the said Legislatures, to be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the said Constitution.

Articles in addition to, and amendment of, the Constitution of the United States of America, proposed by Congress, and ratified by the Legislatures of the several States, pursuant to the fifth Article of the original Constitution.”

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Document 6. Complaint in Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, [NAID 6997520](#)

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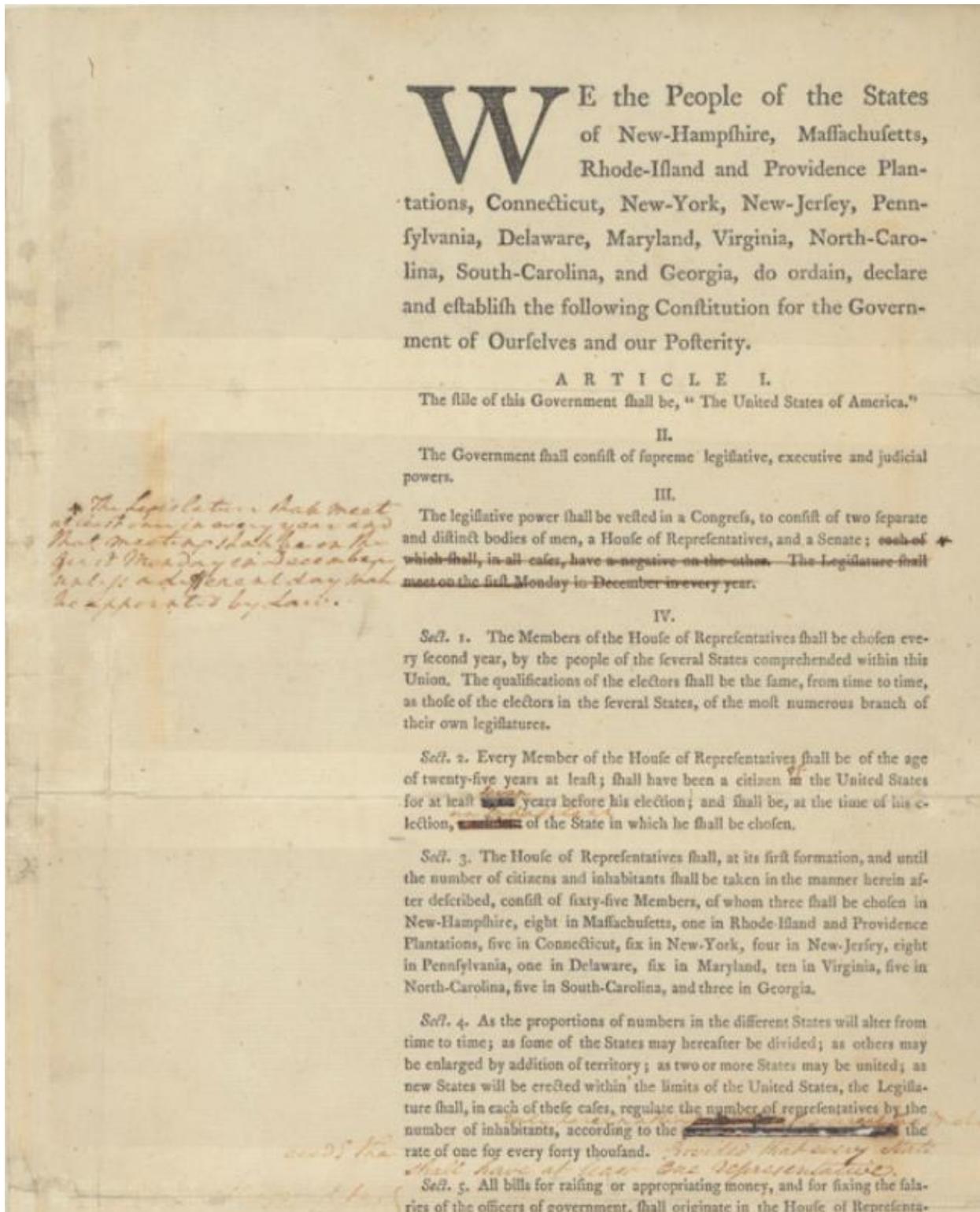
HARRY M. WASHINGTON, Clerk

By: *[Signature]* Deputy

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Document 7. George Washington's Draft of the Constitution, [NAID 1501555](#)



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Document 8. "Freedom from Fear," [NAID 513538](#)



Freedom from Fear

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Document 9. Transcript of the Emancipation Proclamation, 1863, [NAID 299998](#)

Transcript of Emancipation Proclamation (1863)

By the President of the United States of America:

A Proclamation.

Whereas, on the twenty-second day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, a proclamation was issued by the President of the United States, containing, among other things, the following, to wit:

"That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free; and the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom.

