

Amendment Process

01

Amendment Proposal

Method 1

2/3 of both houses of congress vote to propose the amendment



OR

Method 2

2/3 of the national convention vote to propose an amendment requested



Method 1:

An amendment can be proposed when two-thirds of both the houses of representatives and the Senate vote in favor of it. This is the most common way amendments originate.

Method 2:

Two-thirds of state legislatures call for a national convention to propose an amendment. This method has never been used in U.S. history.

02

Amendment Ratification

Method 1

Approved by ¾ of state legislatures



OR

Method 2

Approved by conventions held in ¾ of the States



Method 1:

After being proposed, an amendment must be approved by three-fourths of state legislatures in order to officially become a part of the constitution. This has been used on 26/27 of the amendments.

Method 2:

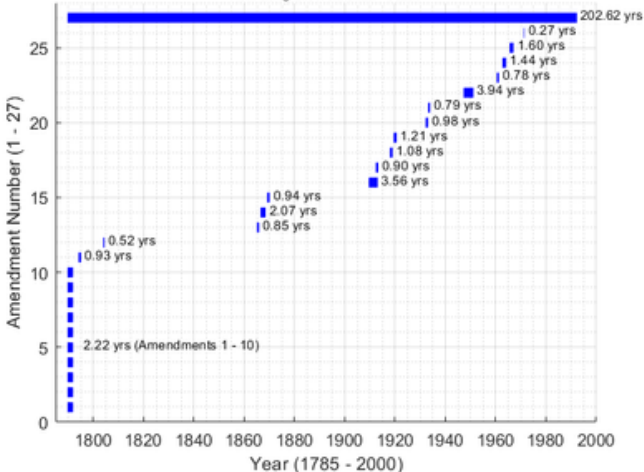
The amendment can be ratified by conventions held in 75% of the states. This method has only been used once to repeal prohibition (21st amendment).

Amendment Created!!



U.S. Constitutional Amendments:

How Long Did Ratification Take?



Graph created by Ella Niemann using historical amendment ratification data

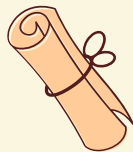
Graph notes:

- Showcases how long each amendment took to be ratified from proposal to ratification
- Factors like political context, national momentum, and public pressure influenced the process.

AMENDMENT ORIGINATION

U.S. CONSTITUTIONAL

After the failure of the Articles of Confederation, the U.S. Constitution was adopted in 1787 to create a stronger and more flexible national government. Article V outlines how the Constitution can be amended to adapt over time.



BILL OF RIGHTS

The first ten amendments, known as the Bill of Rights, were ratified in 1791. They protect individual liberties—such as freedom of speech, religion, and due process—and were introduced to address Anti-Federalist concerns about centralized power.



THE LAST OF THEM

Subsequent amendments responded to changing social, political, and cultural conditions—abolishing slavery, expanding voting rights, and modernizing governance. Each amendment reflects the nation's evolving values and priorities.

