

27 AMENDMENTS

SCAVENGER HUNT

EXPLORE THE EXHIBITS TO LEARN HOW THE CONSTITUTION HAS CHANGED!

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER



FIRST FLOOR

THE CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION: THE BATTLE FOR FREEDOM AND EQUALITY

- **Find the 13th Amendment on display.** This amendment abolished slavery or “involuntary servitude,” except under one condition. *What is that exception?*
- The **14th Amendment** established equal protection of the law, so that all people may exercise their constitutional rights, and prevented states from denying these rights to citizens. In 1874, Black citizens petitioned the government asking Congress to prohibit the discriminatory enforcement of state laws. **Find the petition.** *Which state’s citizens filed this petition?*
- **The 15th Amendment** finally wrote into the Constitution that voting cannot be denied based race, color, or previous condition of servitude. This led to the first Black men to serve in Congress. **Find the portrait of the first Black Senator.** *Who was he?*

THE 19TH AMENDMENT: HOW WOMEN WON THE VOTE

- Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott exercised their 1st Amendment rights by organizing a women’s convention in 1848 in Seneca Falls, New York. At the convention, they wrote and published the **Declaration of Sentiments**, which addressed the rights denied to women. *What concerns did they have? Share one of the statements. What were they trying to achieve?*
- In 1875, a **suffragist** — an activist for women’s right to vote — was **denied the ability to register to vote.** In a court case, she argued that women are U.S. citizens, and that voting is a “privilege” of citizenship protected by the 14th Amendment. *Who was she? What was the Supreme Court’s decision?*
- The final state to vote in favor of ratifying the 19th Amendment was Tennessee, and the tie-breaking vote was cast by **Harry T. Burn**, who was expected to vote against suffrage. One woman was behind Harry changing his mind. **Find the letter he received that made him change his mind and vote in favor of women’s suffrage.** *Who was the letter from?*

AMERICAN TREASURES

- On June 8, 1789, **James Madison** introduced a series of amendments to the Constitution that would go on to be known as the Bill of Rights. **Find the newspaper that reported on his proposal.** *How many amendments were in his first draft?*

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SECOND FLOOR

THE STORY OF WE THE PEOPLE

- Presidential candidates Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr tied the vote in the competitive election of 1800. To hopefully prevent future deadlocks, the 12th Amendment changed the way the Electoral College chooses the president and vice president. **Find the voting booths and step inside.** *Which two historic presidents were in your matchup? Which parties did each of them represent?*
- All 27 amendments have been first proposed by Congress, then sent out to the states for the next step in the ratification process. **Find the scale model of the U.S. Capitol where Congress sits, then look up at the glass panels. Find Article 5 of the Constitution.** *What fraction of the states have to ratify a proposed amendment in order for it to be added to the Constitution?*

SIGNERS' HALL

- Three delegates refused to sign the proposed Constitution, arguing that it needed a Bill of Rights. One even said he would “sooner chop off his right hand” rather than sign the document! **Find the statues of these dissenters.** *Who made that statement?*
- One delegate, the only **signer from New York**, argued that a Bill of Rights was not necessary, and potentially even dangerous. **Find his statue.** *Who was this person?*

CONSTITUTING LIBERTY

What happened to **James Madison's 'Article the Second,'** the second amendment in the original draft of the Bill of Rights? When was it finally ratified and added to the Constitution? What amendment number is it?

