

CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PREAMBLE

ARTICLE I

SECTION 1

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 hereby ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

SECTION 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

SECTION 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

SECTION 3. The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for a Term of six Years; and they shall be divided so that, when they meet, one may have expired, one may be in the second Year, and one in the third Year.

SECTION 4. The Times, Places, and Manner of holding the Elections of Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may, at any time, by Law, make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Times of holding Elections for Representatives.

SECTION 5. Each State shall have one Vote. Representatives and Senators shall be chosen in the most equitable Manner, with the greatest Attention to the Weight and Number of Free Persons in each State; and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature. No State shall be deprived of equal Representation in the Senate by any Act of its Legislature. Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons in each State, three fifths of all other Persons who are held as Servants within their respective Jurisdictions, excluding Indians not taxed.

SECTION 6. The Congress shall assemble at least once in every Year, and the Meeting of the Legislature of each State shall be a requisite Condition to the adjournment of the Congress.

