

## U.S. Constitutional Timeline

- 930: Iceland convenes world's first legislature
- 979: Isle of Man founds world's oldest continuous Parliament
- 1215: Magna Carta, a charter of political and civil liberties, is signed by King John I of England
- 1265: England's first Parliament meets
- 1607: Jamestown Colony is founded in Virginia
- 1619: Virginia colonists create the first legislative assembly, the House of Burgesses
- 1619: First slaves arrive in North America
- 1620: Plymouth Colony established in Massachusetts
- 1635: Maryland Colony initiates a prototype of the U.S. Constitution
- 1639: Freemen of Connecticut adopt a constitution called the Fundamental Orders
- 1660: First Navigation Act is passed restricting colonial trade
- 1663: Second Navigation Act is passed restricting colonial trade
- 1664: Carolina and Maryland Colonies enact first slave codes
- 1669: Carolina Colony issues the Fundamental Constitution
- 1680: William Penn establishes Pennsylvania and his Form of Government
- 1689: English Bill of Rights is created
- 1709: Quakers erect a meeting house in Boston
- 1733: Parliament Restricts Free Trade Through the Molasses Act
- 1735: Peter Zenger wins his trial for freedom of the press
- 1739: Stono slave revolt in South Carolina foreshadows U.S. Constitutional and moral crises
- 1739: North America's Great Awakening heralds the Separation of Church and State
- 1750: Britain's Parliament passes the Iron Act to restrict American business
- 1754: Ben Franklin sets out his The Albany Plan of Union
- 1760: James Otis establishes precedent against illegal search and seizure, which leads to the Bill of Rights 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment
- 1765: Parliament passes the Stamp Act, which sparks to the American Revolution
- 1774: Parliament passes the Quartering Act, which eventually leads to the Bill of Rights 3<sup>rd</sup> Amendment
- 1774: Massachusetts creates the minutemen militia
- 1774: First Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia
- 1776: Declaration of Independence is written
- 1781: Articles of Confederation adopted by the states as the nation's first form of national government
- 1786: Shays' Rebellion points out the need for a strong national government
- 1787: The United States Constitution is written
- 1788: The states ratify the Constitution
- 1791: The states ratify Madison's Bill of Rights

- 1792: Congress passes the Militia Act organizing army
- 1793: Congress enacts the Fugitive Slave Act
- 1793: The Supreme Court rules in Chisholm v. Georgia, allowing citizens to sue states
- 1794: Congress passes the 11th Amendment, protecting states' rights
- 1794: The Whiskey Rebellion sets the pattern for protest and government response
- 1796: John Adams is elected the second president
  
- 1798: Congress passes the Alien and Sedition Acts, restricting 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment rights
- 1800: Thomas Jefferson is elected the third president
- 1800: Gabriel Prosser leads the first major slave revolt in U.S. history
- 1803: U.S. Supreme Court establishes doctrine of judicial review through Marbury v. Madison
- 1803: Jefferson purchases the Louisiana Territory from France, using the Constitution's implied powers concept and increasing the power of the presidency
- 1804: States ratify the 12<sup>th</sup> Amendment, providing for the election of the president and vice-president from the same party
- 1808: Importation of slaves to the United States ends
- 1810: Supreme Court establishes sanctity of contracts in Fletcher v. Peck
- 1816: Supreme Court expands binding principle of contracts in Dartmouth College v. Woodward
- 1823: James Monroe, the 5th president of the United States, issues Monroe Doctrine, stating the western hemisphere is off limits to Europe
- 1828: Andrew Jackson is elected seventh president of the United States and initiates the era of the common man in American politics
- 1846: Mexican American War Begins
- 1848: United States wins Mexican American war and receives New Mexico, Arizona and California from Mexico
- 1857: Supreme Court's 'Dred Scott Decision' pushes nation toward civil war
- 1861: Abraham Lincoln becomes the 16th president and guides the nation through the Civil War
- 1861: Southern states secede and America fights the Civil War
- 1865: Southern states are defeated and the union is preserved
- 1865: 13th Amendment is ratified, ending slavery
- 1868: 14th Amendment is ratified, defining citizenship and establishing Constitution's due process clause protecting citizens from states injustices
- 1870: 15th Amendment is ratified, guaranteeing citizens the right to vote
- 1872: Susan B. Anthony arrested for voting in presidential election
- 1875: Congress passes Civil Rights Act, protecting the political rights and civil liberties of blacks
- 1878: Amendment giving women the right to vote is defeated in Congress
- 1883: U.S. Supreme Court declares 1875 Civil Rights Act unconstitutional
- 1887: Congress passes the Interstate Commerce Act, creating the Interstate Commerce Commission

- 1888: Massachusetts adopts secret ballot in elections
- 1890: Louisiana passes 'Jim Crow law' requiring railroads to provide separate cars for Blacks and Whites
- 1890: Congress passes Sherman Anti-trust Act to regulate corporations
- 1896: In Plessy v. Ferguson, the U.S. Supreme Court decides that segregation is constitutional, making possible the South's repressive Jim Crow laws
- 1901: Theodore Roosevelt becomes the 26th president after McKinley assassination
- 1901: Minnesota mandates first statewide direct primary
- 1905: Wisconsin passes presidential primary law
- 1906: Congress passes the Hepburn Act giving enforcement power to the Interstate Commerce Commission
- 1913: 16th Amendment is ratified, creating the income tax
- 1913: 17th Amendment is ratified, allowing for the direct election of senators
- 1914: Woodrow Wilson is elected the 28th president of the United States and increases the power of the office
- 1914: Congress passes Clayton Anti-trust Act, regulating corporations
- 1917: Congress passes 18th Amendment, starting Prohibition
- 1917: United States enters World War I on the side of England and France
- 1919: Supreme Court limits free speech in Schenck v. U.S.
- 1920: 19th Amendment is ratified, giving women the right to vote
- 1933: Franklin Delano Roosevelt is elected 32nd president of the United States and institutes the New Deal which ends government's Laissez Faire economic policy
- 1933: 20th Amendment is ratified, changing the inauguration of the president, vice-president, senators and representatives from March to January
- 1933: 21st Amendment is ratified, ending Prohibition
- 1941: President Franklin Delano Roosevelt issues Executive Order 8802, barring discrimination in all defense contracts and establishing the committee of Fair Employment Practices to investigate all violations
- 1941: United States enters World War II on the side of the allies
- 1945: Harry S. Truman becomes 33rd president when Roosevelt dies in office
- 1948: President Harry Truman issues historic executive order, ending segregation in the United States armed forces
- 1950: Korean War begins
- 1951: 22nd Amendment is ratified, limiting the president to two terms in office
- 1954: U.S. Supreme Court strikes down segregation in Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas
- 1955: Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat to a white passenger on a Montgomery bus and starts Montgomery bus boycott
- 1957: Congress creates Civil Right Commission to investigate voting rights for blacks
- 1960-65: Civil Rights movement
- 1961: 23rd Amendment is ratified, giving citizens of Washington D.C. the right to vote in national elections
- 1961: Supreme Court prevents illegal search and seizure with Mapp v. Ohio

- 1962: Vietnam War begins
- 1963: Lyndon Baines Johnson becomes the 36th president of the United States after John Kennedy is assassinated and expands government involvement in social programs
- 1964: Congress passes the Civil Rights Act, barring discrimination against minorities in employment and places of public accommodation, protecting voting rights, and advancing school desegregation
- 1964: 24th Amendment is ratified, ending poll taxes in Federal elections
- 1964: Supreme Court requires Miranda warning in *Miranda v. Arizona*
- 1965: Congress passes the Voting Rights Act, outlawing registration tests and putting voter registration under control of the US government.
- 1965: President Johnson issues Executive Order 11246, enforcing affirmative action for the first time
- 1966: Department of Transportation is formed to replace the Interstate Commerce Commission
- 1967: 25th amendment is ratified, clarifying the line of succession for the presidency
- 1968: Congress passes the 1968 Civil Rights Act, forbidding discrimination in housing
- 1971: 26th Amendment is ratified, lowering the voting age to 18
- 1972: Title IX is passed, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex by schools and colleges
- 1973: Supreme Court rules abortions legal in *Roe v. Wade*
- 1974: Watergate conspiracy leads to the resignation of Richard Nixon, the nation's 37th president
- 1992: 27th Amendment is ratified, preventing automatic pay hikes for congress
- 2000: Supreme Court rules on elections in *Gore v. Bush*, giving the election to George Bush
- 2001: 9/11 Terrorists attack World Trade Center and Pentagon
- 2001: Congress passes Patriot Act, making it easier for government police agencies to track down terrorists
- 2003: Supreme Court rules (5-4) on the University of Michigan Law School's policy, that race can be one of many factors considered by colleges when selecting their students because it furthers "a compelling interest in obtaining the educational benefits that flow from a diverse student body"
- 2005: In a controversial decision, the Supreme Court expanded the states' power of eminent domain