

# ROD

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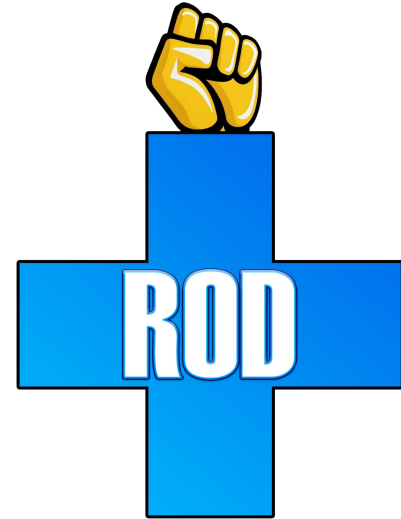
Presents

# What Is the U.S. Constitution?

*The Foundation of Our Government*

*A clear breakdown of America's founding document.*

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Created on 06.10.2025



# What Is It?

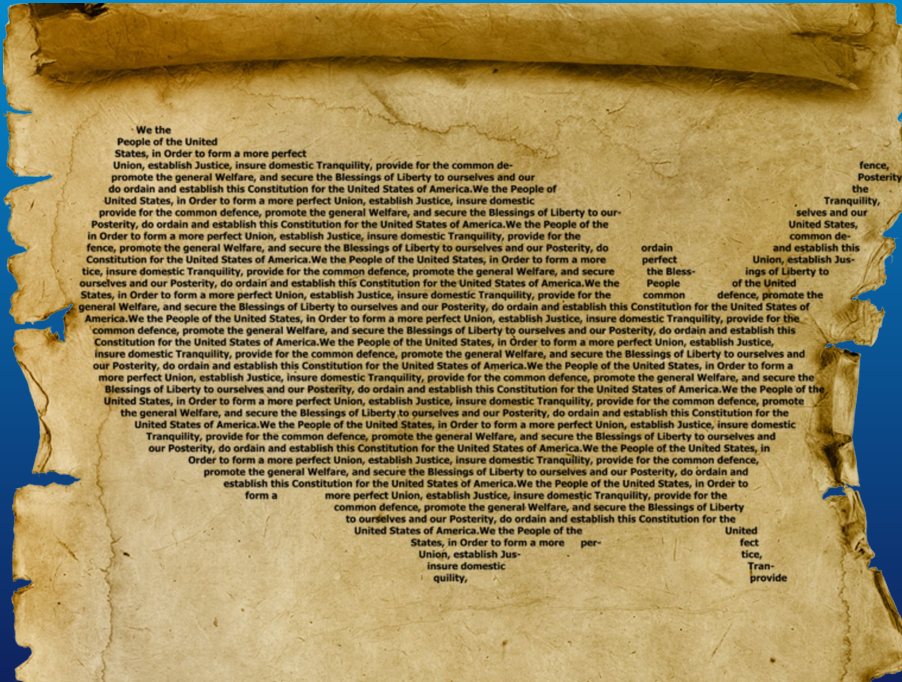
- A written framework for how the U.S. government works
- Signed in 1787, effective in 1789
- Highest law in the land — all other laws must follow it



# Why Was It Created?

- Replaced the weak Articles of Confederation
- Aimed to create a stronger federal government while protecting states' rights
- Balanced power between branches and people

# Key Parts of the Constitution



➤ *Preamble*: Introduces the purpose

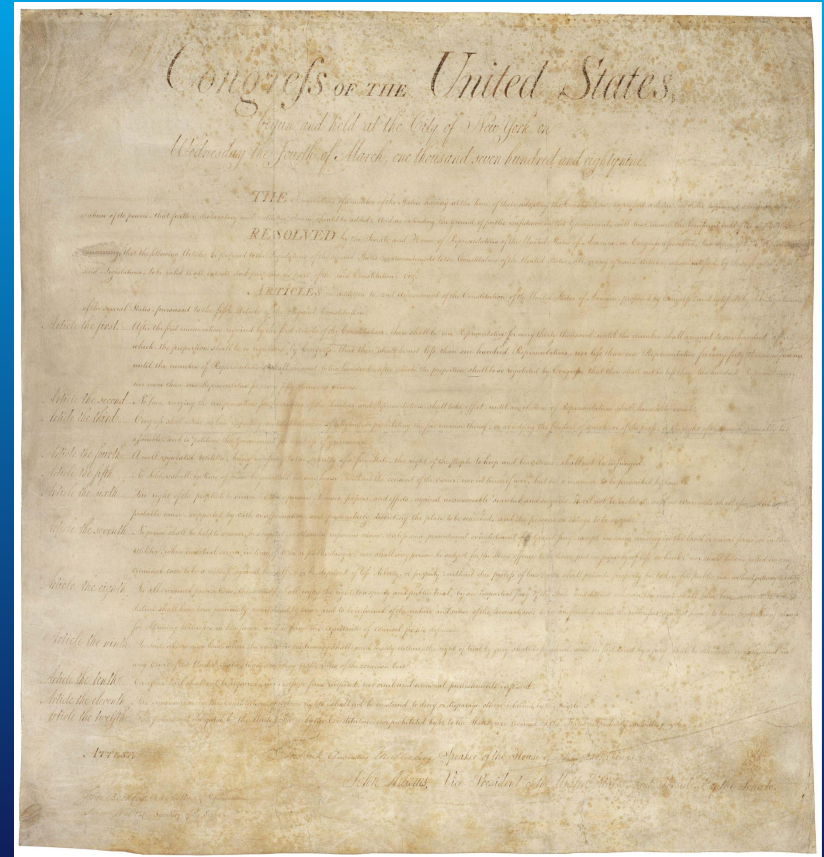
➤ *7 Articles*: Outline government structure

▸ Legislative, Executive, Judicial, State powers, Amendments, Supremacy, Ratification

➤ *27 Amendments*: Additions/changes (first 10 = Bill of Rights)

# The Bill of Rights

- First 10 amendments
- Protect individual freedoms (speech, religion, press, due process, etc.)
- Ratified in 1791 after pressure from the states



# The Bill of Rights

## The Bill of Rights (Amendments 1-10)

### 1 First Amendment

Freedoms:

- Religion
- Speech
- Press
- Assembly
- Petition the government

### 2 Second Amendment

Right to Bear Arms:

- The right to own and carry weapons

### 3 Third Amendment

No Quartering of Soldiers:

- You don't have to let soldiers live in your home (especially in peacetime)

### 4 Fourth Amendment

Protection from Unreasonable Searches and Seizures:

- Government needs a warrant or good reason to search you or your property

### 5 Fifth Amendment

Rights in Criminal Cases:

- No double jeopardy (can't be tried twice for the same crime)
- No self-incrimination ("I plead the Fifth")
- Right to due process
- Government must pay if it takes your property (eminent domain)

### 6 Sixth Amendment

Right to a Fair Trial:

- Speedy and public trial
- Impartial jury
- Know the charges against you
- Right to a lawyer and to call witnesses

### 7 Seventh Amendment

Right to a Jury in Civil Cases:

- You can have a jury trial in civil (non-criminal) cases

### 8 Eighth Amendment

No Cruel or Unusual Punishment:

- Protects against excessive bail or fines
- No cruel punishments

### 9 Ninth Amendment

Other Rights Exist:

- Just because a right isn't listed doesn't mean people don't have it

### 10 Tenth Amendment

States' Rights:

- Powers not given to the federal government go to the states or the people



# Living Document



- Can be amended to reflect new values or issues
- Interpretation evolves through courts (especially the Supreme Court)



# Why It Still Matters Today



Defines your rights and freedoms

➤ Your Rights

▷ *Protects freedom of speech, religion, and more.*



Sets limits on government power

➤ Limits Power

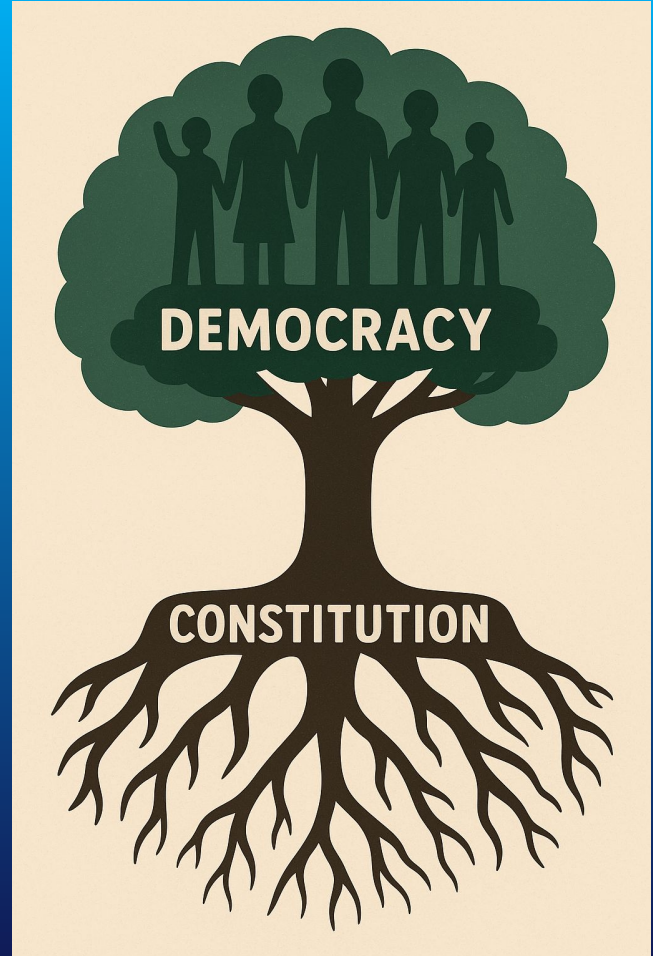
▷ *Stops abuse of authority.*



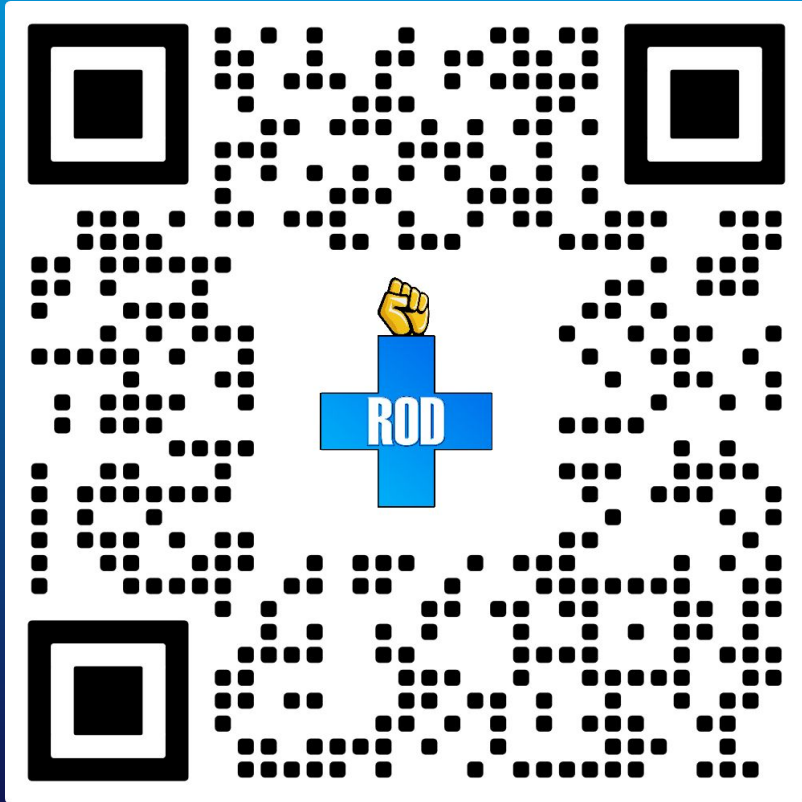
Guides every law, ruling, and policy decision

➤ Guides the Rules

▷ *Used in all laws and court decisions.*



# Thank you!



*"Thank you for your time and passion — we hope you'll be the heroes who come to our rescue and join the mission!"*

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