

## Resources on the Constitution

***Amendments to the Constitution: A Brief Legislative History.*** Prepared for the use of the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Committee on the Judiciary, United States Senate. October 1985. 133 pp. Senate Print 99-87. Out of print.

Contains the text of each amendment to the Constitution along with the background that led to its proposal and its legislative and ratification history. There are appendices that provide the number of constitutional amendments introduced over time, a list of proposed amendments not ratified, and congressional votes on amendments (all information is current through 1984).

***American Constitutional Law***, 3rd ed., vol. 1. Laurence H. Tribe. Foundation Press. 2000. 1,470 pp.

The preeminent treatise in its field. Volume 1 concentrates on the Constitution's provisions for separation of powers, federalism, and other structural matters. Volume 2, which is yet to be published, will concentrate on individual rights.

***The Complete Bill of Rights: The Drafts, Debates, Sources, and Origins.*** Neil H. Cogan. Oxford University Press. 1997. 708 pp.

This book is a record of the debate over the Bill of Rights. It presents each clause of the Bill of Rights in its finished form, and then traces it backward to its origins. Sources cited include state convention proposals; state, colonial, and English constitutional texts; sources in case law and treatises; and diaries, correspondence, newspapers, pamphlets, and congressional debates.

***Constitution of the United States of America: Analysis and Interpretation, with Annotation of Cases Decided by the Supreme Court of the United States to June 1992.*** Prepared by the Congressional Research Service. 1996. 2,444 pp. Senate Document 103-6. ***The Constitution of the United States of America: Analysis and Interpretation of Cases Decided by the Supreme Court of the United States to June 28, 2000*** (2000 pocket-part supplement). Prepared by the Congressional Research Service. 2000. 189 pp. Senate Document 106-27. Also [available](#) on the Web.

Commonly known as *The Constitution Annotated*. Analyzes and interprets the Constitution with annotations of Supreme Court cases. *The Constitution Annotated* is available as both a Web page and a book. The book version, which is also available on the Internet, is published every ten years as a Senate document, and cumulative supplements are issued every two years. Copies are distributed upon publication to all congressional offices, and additional copies may be purchased from the Government Printing Office.

***The Constitution of the United States of America as Amended: Unratified Amendments, Analytical Index.*** Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office. January 31, 2000. 98 pp. House Document 106-214.

Includes the full text of the Constitution as well as descriptions of amendments that were not ratified by the states. Also includes a topical index to the Constitution.

***The Constitution of the United States, Including the Bill of Rights, and the Declaration of Independence: A Guide to Obtaining Copies.*** Jesus H. Campos. Congressional Research Service. July 12, 2002. 5 pp. [CRS Report 98-68](#).

Lists resources that contain the text of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. Many of these resources are available in public or school libraries or on the Internet. Also lists resources that sell these documents in various languages and formats (including posters and copies on paper that looks like parchment).

***Constitutional Amendments, 1789 to the Present.*** Kris E. Palmer. Gale Group. 2000. 716 pp.

Contains essays on the social and political contexts in which each constitutional amendment originated. The essays include the significant events, issues, figures, movements, and judicial or legislative actions relating specifically to an amendment's implementation and interpretation. There is a separate chapter on unratified amendments.

***The Constitutional Law Dictionary.*** 2 vols. Ralph C. Chandler et al. ABC-CLIO. Main volumes no longer in print, but supplements to update the main volumes are issued periodically.

Volume 1     ***Individual Rights***         1985         507 pp.

Volume 2     ***Governmental Powers*** 1987         719 pp.

Volume 1 summarizes landmark Supreme Court decisions and defines over 200 terms relating to individual rights, such as free speech, capital punishment, separation of powers, *Civil Rights Act of 1964*, and *Brown v. Board of Education*. Volume 2 is set up similarly but focuses on concepts such as judicial, executive, and legislative power; federalism; commerce and taxing and spending power; state economic regulation and due process; and the contract clause.

***Encyclopedia of the American Constitution***, 2nd ed. 6 vols. Edited by Leonard W. Levy. Macmillan Reference USA. 2000. 3,200 pp.

Contains scholarly articles in the following subject areas: doctrinal concepts of constitutional law, people, judicial decisions, public acts, and executive orders. Articles vary in depth of treatment. Appendices include a case index and primary documents.

***Encyclopedia of Constitutional Amendments, Proposed Amendments, and Amending Issues, 1789-1995.*** John R. Vile. ABC-CLIO. 1996. 427 pp.

Contains more than 400 encyclopedia-style entries on ratified or proposed constitutional amendments, major constitutional reforms introduced outside of Congress, influential individuals and organizations, and Supreme Court decisions. There are several appendices that provide the text of the Constitution, dates amendments were proposed and ratified, number of amendments by decade, and most popular amending proposals by year and key events. There is an extensive bibliography.

***A Practical Companion to the Constitution: How the Supreme Court Has Ruled on Issues from Abortion to Zoning.*** Jethro K. Lieberman. University of California Press. 1999. 796 pp.

Contains more than 1,000 short essays on the meaning of the Constitution as the Supreme Court has interpreted it. The essays are arranged in alphabetical order by topic (so if you are looking for information on abortion, you look at that topic, not the Fourteenth Amendment). The book is extensively cross-referenced and indexed so that even a reader with only a minimal knowledge of the Constitution or constitutional law can find relevant topic areas.