

As established in the Preamble, one of the U.S. Constitution's primary purposes is to "secure the blessings of liberty."

The Constitution of the United States establishes in the Preamble that among its primary purposes is to "secure the blessings of liberty." The Preamble reads: "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 ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

[View source](#)

Lawmakers, who formally swear that they will "support the Constitution of the United States," are obliged by their oaths to promote liberty in their policymaking.

[View source](#)

The framers of the Constitution provided multiple means to define and determine the scope of protected liberties.

The U.S. Constitution established essential liberties in the Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments, which protect against government intrusion on key freedoms, including the freedom of religion, speech, and press and the right to keep and bear arms.

[View source](#)

The structure of the U.S. Federal Government is based on the principle of the separation of powers, designed to help protect freedom by making sure that no single branch of government could unduly restrict liberty. Cornell's Legal Information Institution explains: "Separation of Powers in the United States is associated with the Checks and Balances system. The Checks and Balances system provides each branch of government with individual powers to check the other branches and prevent any one branch from becoming too powerful. For example, Congress has the power to create laws, the President has the power to veto them, and the Supreme Court may declare laws unconstitutional. Congress consists of two houses: the Senate and the House

of Representatives, and can override a Presidential veto with a 2/3 vote in both houses.”

[View source](#)

The Constitution gives the judicial branch a significant role in defining the scope of citizens’ liberties.

[View source](#)

The framers of the Constitution left much of the debate about liberty to the political process. Even the gravest violation of basic natural liberty in American history — slavery — was ultimately abolished by the political process, as well as of course by the Civil War, which was started and conducted by elected officials.

[View source](#)

The First Amendment protects the freedom of religion, speech, the press, peaceful assembly and petitioning the government.

The First Amendment, the first of the ten amendments that constitute the Bill of Rights, establishes some the most important freedoms of U.S. citizens. The amendment reads: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.”

[View source](#)

Related reading: “Freedom of Speech and the Press” – Geoffrey R. Stone and Eugene Volokh

[View source](#)

Related reading: “Frontiers for Free Speech” – Eugene Volokh

[View source](#)

The Second Amendment established the rights of citizens “to keep and bear arms.”

The Second Amendment protects the rights of citizens “to keep and bear arms.” The amendment reads: “A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.”

[View source](#)

The Supreme Court held in the landmark case *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008) that the "Second Amendment protects an individual right to possess a firearm unconnected with service in a militia, and to use that arm for traditionally lawful purposes, such as self-defense within the home."

[View source](#)

The Third Amendment forbids the government from forcing citizens to house soldiers against their will. It reads: “No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.”

[View source](#)

The U.S. Constitution enshrines the private property rights of citizens and protects them from “unreasonable searches and seizures.”

The Fourth Amendment forbids the government from subjecting citizens to "unreasonable searches and seizures." The amendment reads: “The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.”

[View source](#)

The Fifth Amendment provides that private property shall not "be taken for public use, without just compensation." The amendment reads: “No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due

process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.”

[View source](#)