

# FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

*Note:* The first ten amendments to the United States Constitution make up the Bill of Rights.

## Amendment I

- Congress is not allowed to make laws that favor one religion, force the practice of a religion, oppose any religion, or prohibit religion.
- Congress cannot stop you from practicing your religion the way you want.
- Congress is not allowed to keep you from saying whatever you want, even if you are criticizing the government or political figures like the president.
- Congress cannot keep the press (newspapers, websites, television, radio, and other media) from presenting ideas, opinions, and news.
- Congress cannot prevent you from meeting peacefully, even if you are protesting the government.

## Amendment II

You are allowed to have your own firearms if they follow federal and state regulations.

## Amendment III

You do not have to allow soldiers in your house unless the government passes a law that specifically says you must.

## Amendment IV

The government does not have the right to search your house, your person, or your things unless they have permission from a judge to do so.

## Amendment V

- You cannot be tried for a crime unless a Grand Jury meets and decides that there is enough evidence to take you to trial.
- If you go to trial and are determined to be innocent, the government cannot make you go to trial for that same crime again.
- You do not have to say anything that could indicate that you are guilty at a trial. You may choose not to say anything at all.
- The government cannot kill you, put you in jail, or fine you unless you are convicted of a crime during a trial in which all the proper legal steps were followed.
- The government is not allowed to take your house or your things unless they pay you a fair price.
  - *There are exceptions to this in times of war.*

### **Amendment VI**

- If you are arrested and charged with a crime, you have the right to have your trial soon and in public.
- You have the right to a trial by a jury of people local to your area.
- You have the right to see, hear, and ask questions of the people witnessing against you.
- You have the right to a lawyer. If you cannot pay for one, the government will hire one for you.

### **Amendment VII**

You have the right to a jury in a civil case, which is a case between two people instead of one person and the government.

### **Amendment VIII**

- The government cannot force you to pay too much money in bail or fines.
- The government is not allowed to issue cruel or unusual punishments, like torture, for a crime.

### **Amendment IX**

You have more rights than those listed in the Bill of Rights. The Constitution protects many more individual and civil rights.

### **Amendment X**

Any powers not given to Congress in the Constitution are left to the states and the people.

*U.S. Const. amend. I–X.*