

The CIVIL SOCIETY TUTORIAL PROJECT

BUILD COMMUNITY

The Goal of Civil Society



www.forgeleadership.org

UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

1787

“We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common Defense, 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.”

The CIVIL SOCIETY TUTORIAL PROJECT

We are devoted to serving servant-leaders and centers of excellence within higher education, business, government, and nonprofit organizations to accelerate the transference of the essential disciplines of civil society necessary to self-governing free people.

We are dedicated to delivering virtuous leadership professional development for local government, faith, education, service, business, and civic leaders to refamiliarize the next generation with essential leadership character ethics, unite leaders in a collaborative culture, and equip leaders to effectively enrich their communities together.

CHARACTER + COLLABORATION = COMMUNITY

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TO HOPEFUL COMMUNITY BUILDERS

Did you know that character-based collaboration was an essential leadership habit of our first American community builders? America’s frontier was such an unpredictable place that a deep respect for character-revealing collaboration became a community-building leadership prerequisite—a habit that became essential to diverse folks pursuing self-government shoulder to shoulder.

Early life in this self-governing America was full of risks and diversity. Leadership habits that were not as vital in the homogenous Old World were essential in the New World. Fresh thinking produced an exceptional American way, enabling diverse, liberated people to jointly navigate between two magnetic shores: chronic dependency on others and selfish individualism. The American way became the path on which citizens of independent consciences built interdependent community.

American citizenship calls people of conscience to strive to live together civilly. The outcome of this civil society is the “more perfect Union” that “establishes Justice, insures domestic Tranquility, provides for the common Defense, promotes the general Welfare and secures the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity.” This constitutional promise is the bedrock principle for civic leaders building neighborhoods and nations today. It is a civic outcome so lofty that America requires every elected officeholder to take a solemn public oath before God and neighbor to pursue it.

For community leaders to tirelessly build and re-build good communities, good communities must be populated by good citizens who are co-laboring in good character. Citizens and community leaders pursue this challenging goal in a manner that optimizes both individual liberty and the common good.

A quote from a rural pastor—misattributed to Abraham Lincoln for years—described this challenging civic paradox in a memorable way: “You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift. You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong. You cannot help the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer. You cannot further the brotherhood of man by encouraging class hatred. You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich. You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than you earn. You cannot build character and courage by taking away man’s initiative and independence. You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves.”

Good community-builders understand this tough logic. In a self-governing civil society, community-building requires an accurate view of the nature of people, the primacy of empowered institutions (family, education, places of worship, the market, etc.), and the role of limited government. The sense of community transforms America's promise into America's practice, and building community is every public servant's job, one that comes with a set of challenges.

Build Community is the final booklet in the Civil Society Tutorial Series. We hope you find it helpful to demystify the hidden foundations of the truly good community and to provide a roadmap for leading citizens to follow.

Join Us

Rev. William J. H. Boetcker, Ten Cannots, 1916, quoted in Matthew Brown, "Fact check: Viral quote about helping poor often misattributed to Abraham Lincoln," USA Today, last modified August 27, 2020, <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/factcheck/2020/08/27/fact-check-quote-helping-poor-misattributed-abraham-lincoln/5633565002/>.

BUILDING COMMUNITY *the AMERICAN WAY*

MAKING THE CASE: INTRODUCTION and PRE-SUPPOSITIONS

OUR INTENDED AUDIENCE FOR THIS GUIDE:

This guide was designed with two community-builder leadership groups in mind: 1) local elected officials, and 2) non-elected community builders. Both are civic leaders. This second influential group comprises leading citizens who may labor in the faith, nonprofit, education, health care, or market sectors. While civic leadership may not be this latter group's occupation, building community is always their co-occupation. We hope this guide creates a better pathway to unite these two vital groups.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ESSENTIAL DOCUMENTS:

"We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common Defense, 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."

— US Constitution, 1787

It does leaders good to set the example by reviewing the essential American community documents. This will help leaders remain true to our nation's mission.

The preamble to the US Constitution gives the lofty motivating vision for establishing community. It follows that good community-building principles should leverage this same logic. Therefore, we provide a copy of the United States Constitution and Lincoln's community-healing Gettysburg Address in the Appendix and encourage civic leaders to reread these and other essential US documents as part of your experience with this leadership-learning resource.

OUR UNABASHED DUAL MOTIVATION FOR GOOD COMMUNITY ACTION:

American elected, appointed, or volunteer civic leaders possess an unabashed dual (versus divided) motivation to advance both self and community.

Our founders never denied this paradox, and it can certainly produce uncomfortable tension. Rather, the founders conceived of a community where both motivations would create a fruitful collaborative tension and a compassionate community outcome. This guide is therefore neither for civic mercenaries (“it’s all about me”) or civic martyrs (“it’s all about them”), but for civic missionaries, those who choose to temporarily disadvantage themselves to permanently advantage the community.

This is the unique American Way.

GOOD COMMUNITY DEFINED:

For purposes of simplifying this guide, we have adopted the following definition of good community:

A community is good when its civic (elected and non-elected) leaders strive to co-practice, co-build, and co-experience an imperfect, but integrating culture in which: 1) conscience is cultivated, 2) character is built, 3) collaboration is sought, 4) liberty is respected, and 5) true pluralism among diverse groups and institutions is honored.

Notice what good community is not: It is not about government laboring alone.

Community is not grounded in manipulation, deception, or power. American civic leaders who operate out of these popular but toxic perspectives are, knowingly or unknowingly, inhibiting good community, if not destroying it.

It is also important to note that everyone has special interests. We can advocate the merits of our particular interests by speaking of our position with truth and compassion. Nothing could be more American!

Rather, what Americans logically object to is unconscionable, low-character expressions emanating from individuals or special interest groups. When such low-character manifestations become chronic, either retaliatory anger or cynicism results, fueling disengagement from the community.

Indeed, the American way encourages contending for what is right or true in the public square in civil ways. This is, in fact, good community behavior. Remaining silent when your conscience is convicted is un-American. But equally un-American is attempting to repress or suppress a conscionable expression through the use of unconscionable means, such as physical threats or knowingly conveying half-truths.

THE UNIQUE AMERICAN CONCEPT: CIVIL SOCIETY

In a self-governing republic, there are two levels of leadership. One is relatively small in scale: the elected public servants themselves. The ultimate leadership of the nation resides in the second level, the enfranchised (educated, informed, and engaged) electorate, who directly lead or influence the leading of every other type of voluntary American social institution: faith, nonprofit, business, health care, education, etc. This American way is known as civil society. In a civil society, everyone lives under the same social implication: the elected and the electorate will reap the self-government they sow.

Therefore, civic leaders are the frontline workers in sowing the overarching promise of a self-governing republic: a wholesome community.

Therefore, community leaders should be diligent in advancing the shared principles that govern community building, not in contradicting them. These principles are amplified here: conscience, character, collaboration, liberty, and pluralism.

GOOD COMMUNITY PRINCIPLES of CIVIL SOCIETY

A GOOD COMMUNITY PRIZES CONSCIENCE

Americans living in a community have a high view of conscience and its ability to affirm what is right or true. For instance, while imperfect, we cherish courtrooms for resisting notions of what might be popular or convenient in order to discover the truth. We can’t imagine courtrooms that would be committed to anything less than discovering and acting on the truth. However, while conscience is an attribute imparted to every human being, all of us struggle to act on it consistently. Therefore, prizing and cultivating conscience is essential in a self-governing community.

A GOOD COMMUNITY PRIZES CHARACTER

Because of conscience (which is sensitive and operative in the vast majority of Americans), there is a shared basis for otherwise diverse people to be commonly compelled. Defined character ethics, such as honesty, compassion, respect, justice, and liberty, create a conscience-convicting common ground among individuals and, therefore, within society. Citizens connect with and even unite with others when we appeal to the conscience.

A GOOD COMMUNITY PRIZES COLLABORATION

Americans go it alone—together. Rugged individualism is tempered in America with an irresistible conviction that, ultimately, we need one another. As a result, we tend not only to respect co-laboring but also to participate in it regularly. Sometimes, our efforts to collaborate fall short. Here’s why: true collaboration requires both parties to strive toward high character. If one party operates out of high character and the other does not, we get a weak relationship that fractures under pressure. That is why so many coalitions, councils, boards, marriages, and other unions are breached—for lack of character, not lack of competency.

A GOOD COMMUNITY PRIZES LIBERTY IN COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY

True liberty is a perfect paradox. It is the confounding notion that our enduring public freedoms are secured only when we citizens place ourselves voluntarily in bondage to the pursuit of conscience-convicting virtue. Good communities require virtue-striving individuals because a lack of virtue creates an unfruitful tension in society. Indeed, we have a simple choice: police control or self-control. It has been said, “Our choice is between more cops or more conscience.” Collaborative community blossoms when citizens of conscience contend for truth with high character—together.

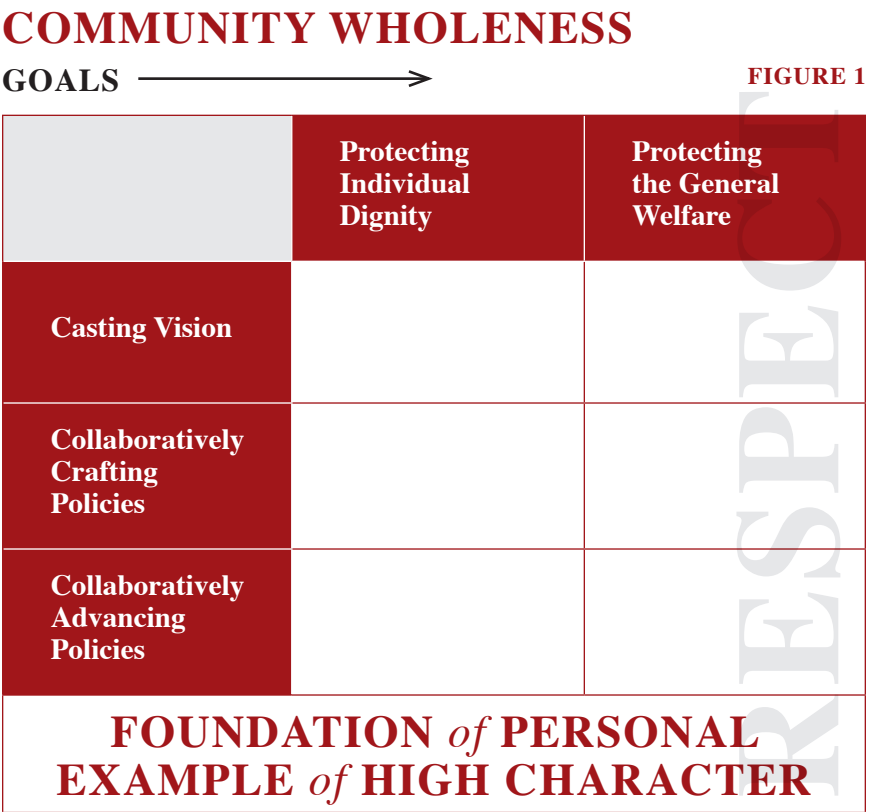
A GOOD COMMUNITY PRIZES TRUE PLURALISM

By definition, a truly pluralistic society contends for truth by allowing, even promoting, the civil expression of broad and diverse conscionable viewpoints. The single caveat is that truth must ultimately be most prized even if it is not what is convenient, popular, easy, affordable, politically correct, eloquent, or enforceable.

In such a fiercely open forum, truth is an invitation that is irresistible. Community builders should contend for and defend this public square—and fight for a free press that accurately chronicles it. Such contending and defending was the action of the Founding Fathers. See “A Good Community Self-Assessment” in Appendix 2.

PUTTING GOOD COMMUNITY PRINCIPLES INTO PRACTICE: THE FRAMEWORK FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY THE UNIQUE MISSION OF THE ELECTED CIVIC LEADER

The purpose of the governing civic leader is to cast a vision, set goals, and act to collaboratively craft and advance policies that bring wholeness to the entire community. Leaders achieve this by navigating a paradox: protecting the dignity of individuals while promoting the general welfare of the citizenry. Accomplishing these ends, while exercising a personal example of high character, is paramount to securing the trust of citizens. This can be illustrated by the following model (Figure 1):



DEFINING THESE CATEGORIES

COMMUNITY WHOLENESS:

A community that is unified, just, and compassionate—resulting in an experience of harmony, prosperity, and well-being

PROTECTING INDIVIDUAL DIGNITY:

Creating opportunities for individuals to realize their full potential to be counted and heard, and to participate, grow, and find purpose in their lives

PROMOTING THE GENERAL WELFARE:

Empowering the entire community toward stability and harmony among all its citizens and pursuing common public initiatives equitably

CASTING VISION:

The process of assessing the current condition in light of a preferred future and describing a realistic path from here to there

COLLABORATIVELY CRAFTING POLICIES:

Establishing authentic relationships among individuals and peer institutions for the purpose of creating well-informed, strategic policies to accomplish the vision

COLLABORATIVELY ADVANCING POLICIES:

Maintaining authentic relationships among individuals and peer institutions for the purpose of implementing, monitoring, and evaluating policies designed to accomplish the vision

PUTTING GOOD COMMUNITY PRINCIPLES INTO PRACTICE:

THE FRAMEWORK FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY (CONT.)

HOW THE ELECTED CIVIC LEADER INTERACTS WITH ALL CIVIC LEADERS

Effective civic leadership requires more than just a right mission. It also requires a deep understanding of the context of that leadership. An elected civic leader never acts alone, but instead acts in the rich context of many other community leaders—priests, pastors, parents, deans, CEOs, etc. At the same time, an elected leader, unlike their unelected counterparts, is a sworn, “facilitating authority,” who must protect individual dignity and promote the general welfare.

Such an elected leader is “facilitating,” because other institutions exist within society with their own leadership and scope of authority. “Authority” comes into play because the institutional leaders have an inherent respect for elected civic leaders, who balance societal order.

This interrelationship of institutions creates a perfectly designed tension between the individual scope of authority within a particular institution and the interdependent nature of all those institutions within the society.

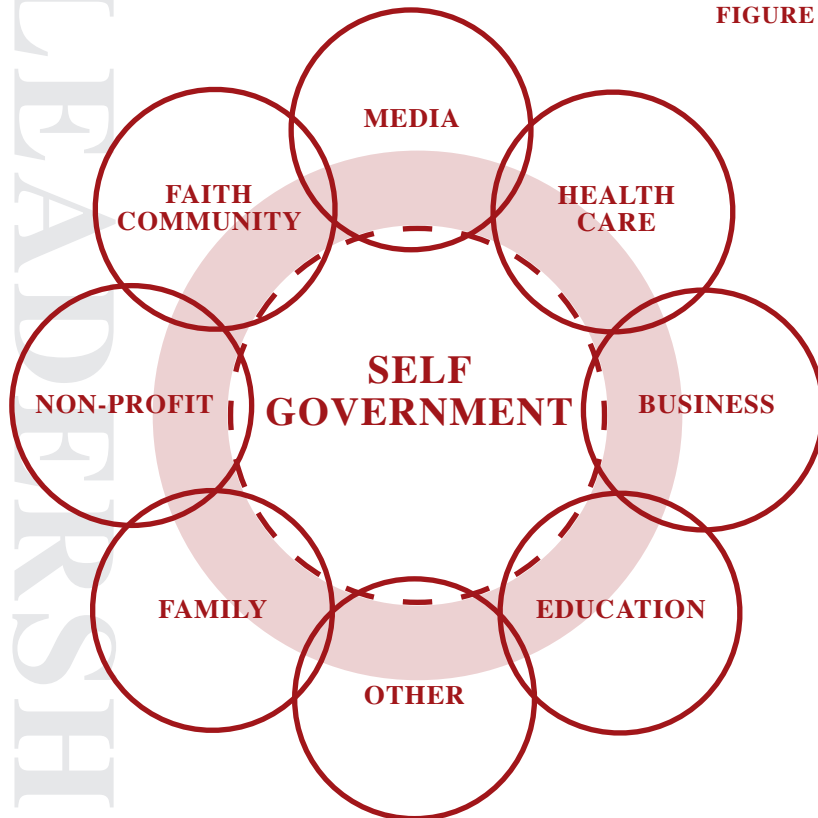
This design requires the elected civic leader to play both a prescriptive (preferred) and corrective (if necessary) role in navigating toward good community.

The prescriptive role of the elected civic leader is to facilitate character-based collaboration among the non-elected civic leaders of the community. The result of this is the crafting and implementation of just policies to protect individual dignity and promote the general welfare of the whole community, while respecting and expecting that all civic leaders are pursuing community wholeness. This can be best illustrated by the graphic on the facing page (Figure 2).

The inner circle represents the role of government as a unique sector in society, charged with facilitating civil order among all other sectors. But note, while it intersects with every other sphere, that intersection is limited. Conversely, the expanded circle of government, the shaded area, represents the secondary or corrective role of government.

In this mode, government plays a corrective role in the life of particular institutions deemed to be mishandling their scope of authority. Mishandling occurs when an institution fails to abide by existing law or when it adopts practices that damage individual dignity or the general welfare of society. It is within this shaded area where much of America's contention exists as to what role government should play on any given issue at any given time. It is important to note even within this corrective role that government still has limits to its sphere of authority.

FIGURE 2



THE GOOD COMMUNITY OUTCOME: COMMUNITY WHOLENESS

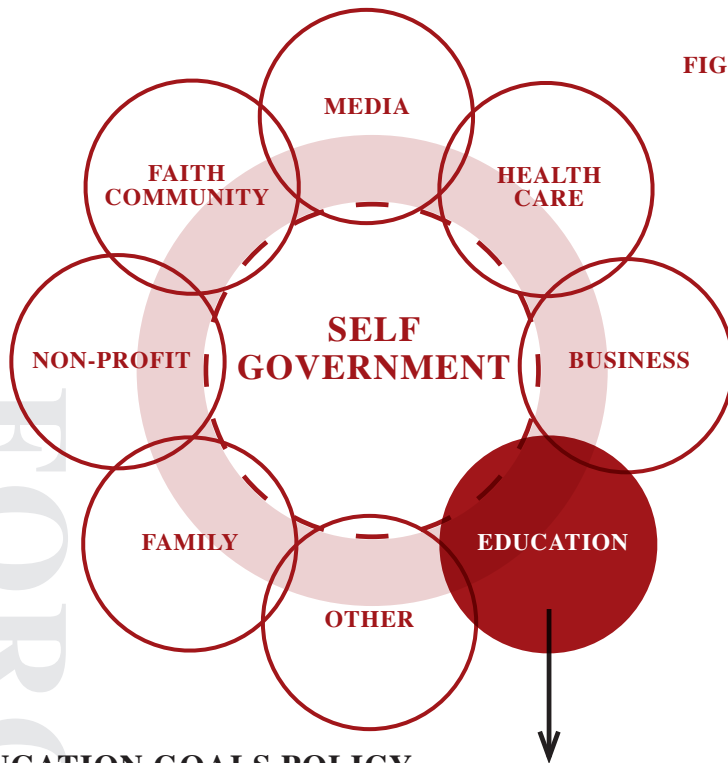
As example-setting civic leaders fulfill the mission of civic leadership, they encourage other civic leaders within the community to adopt a similar approach to leadership within their sphere of authority (Figure 3). As this happens, the synergy deepens the movement toward authentic community wholeness.

On the way to this community wholeness are many challenges, broken people, and even broken institutions. One of the greatest challenges to building or rebuilding community effectively is to gain and encourage an accurate view of individuals who are moving from brokenness to wholeness, as well as of whole institutions that need equal and patient intervention. What is the elected and non-elected civic leader's role in this regard? This question brings out the liveliest and often contentious discussions among American conservatives, liberals, communitarians, and libertarians—a proper treatment of which is beyond the scope of this guide.

However, a tool to help all civic leaders think more concisely about where they might start to gain consensus is included on page 13. This simple framework titled “Ten Convictions of Empowered Citizens” is a provocative resource for auditing outcomes in a community's culture and then reflecting on how these outcomes can best be nurtured. The question then becomes: How can multiple community sectors cooperate best to accomplish this outcome today?

UNITY

FIGURE 3



EDUCATION GOALS POLICY

	Protecting Individual Dignity	Protecting the General Welfare
Casting Vision		
Collaboratively Crafting Policies		
Collaboratively Advancing Policies		

**FOUNDATION of PERSONAL
EXAMPLE of HIGH CHARACTER**

TEN CONVICTIONS of EMPOWERED CITIZENS

OUTCOMES FOR GOOD COMMUNITY BUILDERS

Generally speaking, healthy American communities are typified by the convictions of empowered citizens. The following shared convictions co-advanced, co-advocated, and co-pursued by your community's governing leaders, faith leaders, educational leaders, media leaders, business leaders, etc.?

- 1** Pursue, protect, and apply character ethics with all people.
- 2** Become informed and vote one's conscience.
- 3** Promote and prize education and the arts.
- 4** Honor marriage, and parent with a vision of a preferred future for one's children.
- 5** Learn from history, cherish justice, and strive to honor the law.
- 6** Participate, innovate, and create opportunity in the free market.
- 7** Take personal responsibility for one's spiritual, emotional, physical, and financial health.
- 8** Volunteer and sacrifice for others.
- 9** Promote both the rights and the responsibilities of all peoples by maintaining and participating in civic dialogue through a free press.
- 10** Advocate these basic citizen characteristics without hesitation or apology.

MY COMMUNITY / NEIGHBORHOOD WHOLENESS

QUICK ASSESSMENT

In the company of some other trusted, elected, or volunteer community-building colleagues, discuss the “Community Wholeness Model.”

What proficiencies and/or deficiencies do you see within your current community leadership? Do you believe your civic leaders understand the concept of good community as explained? How could you help them gain an accurate view of this concept? Be honest: strive to speak the truth with compassion.

PROTECTING INDIVIDUAL DIGNITY:

Our civic leaders create opportunities for the individual to realize their full potential to be counted and heard, and to participate, grow, and find purpose in their life.

Areas of Celebration:

Areas of Concern:

PROMOTING THE GENERAL WELFARE:

Our civic leaders empower the entire community to advance stability and harmony among all of its citizens and to pursue common public initiatives equitably.

Areas of Celebration:

Areas of Concern:

CASTING VISION:

Our civic leaders actively and accurately assess the current condition in light of a preferred future and describe a realistic path from here to there.

Areas of Celebration:

Areas of Concern:

COLLABORATIVELY CRAFTING POLICIES:

Our civic leaders build effective collaborations of individuals and peer institutions for the purpose of crafting well-informed, strategic policies to accomplish the vision.

Areas of Celebration:

Areas of Concern:

COLLABORATIVELY ADVANCING POLICIES:

Our civic leaders, likewise, build effective collaborations of individuals and peer institutions for the purpose of effectively implementing, monitoring, and evaluating policies designed to accomplish the vision.

Areas of Celebration:

Areas of Concern:

“I apprehend no danger to our country from a foreign foe.... Our destruction, should it come at all, will be from another quarter. From the inattention of the people to the concerns of their government, from their carelessness and negligence, I must confess that I do apprehend some danger.”

— Daniel Webster

APPENDIX 1

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

Ratified 1789

Article I

Section 1

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section 2

The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons. The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative; and until such enumeration shall be made, the State of New Hampshire shall be entitled to chuse three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New-York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three. When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies.

When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies.

The House of Representatives shall chuse their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

Section 3

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote.

Immediately after they shall be assembled in Consequence of the first Election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three classes. The Seats of the Senators of the first Class shall be vacated at the Expiration of the second Year, of the second Class at the Expiration of the fourth Year, and of the third Class at the Expiration of the sixth Year, so that one third may be chosen every second Year; and if Vacancies happen by Resignation or otherwise, during the Recess of the Legislature of any State, the Executive thereof may make temporary Appointments until the next Meeting of the Legislature, which shall then fill such Vacancies.

No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been nine Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen.

The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless they be equally divided.

The Senate shall chuse their other Officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the Absence of the Vice President, or when he shall exercise the Office of President of the United States.

The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Judgment in Cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from Office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of honor, Trust or Profit under the United States: but the Party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment and Punishment, according to Law.

Section 4

The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of chusing Senators.

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every Year, and such Meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by Law appoint a different Day.

Section 5

Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its own Members, and a Majority of each shall constitute a Quorum to do Business; but a smaller Number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the Attendance of absent Members, in such Manner, and under such Penalties as each House may provide.

Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly Behaviour, and, with the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member.

Each House shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such Parts as may in their Judgment require Secrecy; and the Yeas and Nays of the Members of either House on any question shall, at the Desire of one fifth of those Present, be entered on the Journal.

Neither House, during the Session of Congress, shall, without the Consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other Place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.

Section 6

The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States. They shall in all Cases, except Treason, Felony and Breach of the Peace, be privileged from Arrest during their Attendance at the Session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any Speech or Debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other Place.

No Senator or Representative shall, during the Time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil Office under the Authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the Emoluments whereof shall have been encreased during such time; and no Person holding any Office under the United States, shall be a Member of either House during his Continuance in Office.

Section 7

All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills.

Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a Law, be presented to the President of the United States; If he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his Objections to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the Objections at large on their Journal,

and proceed to reconsider it. If after such Reconsideration two thirds of that House shall agree to pass the Bill, it shall be sent, together with the Objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two thirds of that House, it shall become a Law. But in all such Cases the Votes of both Houses shall be determined by yeas and Nays, and the Names of the Persons voting for and against the Bill shall be entered on the Journal of each House respectively. If any Bill shall not be returned by the President within ten Days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the Same shall be a Law, in like Manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their Adjournment prevent its Return, in which Case it shall not be a Law.

Every Order, Resolution, or Vote to which the Concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary (except on a question of Adjournment) shall be presented to the President of the United States; and before the Same shall take Effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by two thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the Rules and Limitations prescribed in the Case of a Bill.

Section 8

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow Money on the credit of the United States;

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;

To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

To establish Post Offices and post Roads;

To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court;

To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offences against the Law of Nations;

To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;

To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings;—And

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

Section 9

The Migration or Importation of such Persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the Year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a Tax or duty may be imposed on such Importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each Person.

The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it.

No Bill of Attainder or ex post facto Law shall be passed.

No Capitation, or other direct, Tax shall be laid, unless in Proportion to the Census or enumeration herein before directed to be taken.

No Tax or Duty shall be laid on Articles exported from any State.

No Preference shall be given by any Regulation of Commerce or Revenue to the Ports of one State over those of another: nor shall Vessels bound to, or from, one State, be obliged to enter, clear, or pay Duties in another.

No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States: And no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State.

Section 10

No State shall enter into any Treaty, Alliance, or Confederation; grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal; coin Money; emit Bills of Credit; make any Thing but gold and silver Coin a Tender in Payment of Debts; pass any Bill of Attainder, ex post facto Law, or Law impairing the Obligation of Contracts, or grant any Title of Nobility.

No State shall, without the Consent of the Congress, lay any Imposts or Duties on Imports or Exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing it's inspection Laws: and the net Produce of all Duties and Imposts, laid by any State on Imports or Exports, shall be for the Use of the Treasury of the United States; and all such Laws shall be subject to the Revision and Controul of the Congress.

No State shall, without the Consent of Congress, lay any Duty of Tonnage, keep Troops, or Ships of War in time of Peace, enter into any Agreement or Compact with another State, or with a foreign Power, or engage in War, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent Danger as will not admit of delay.

Article II

Section 1

The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his Office during the Term of four Years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same Term, be elected, as follows

Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress: but no Senator or Representative, or Person holding an Office of Trust or Profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector.

The Electors shall meet in their respective States, and vote by Ballot for two Persons, of whom one at least shall not be an Inhabitant of the same State with themselves. And they shall make a List of all the Persons voted for, and of the Number of Votes for each; which List they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the Seat of the Government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall, in the Presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the Certificates, and the Votes shall then be counted. The Person having the greatest Number of Votes shall be the President, if such Number be a Majority of the whole Number of Electors appointed; and if there be more than one who have such Majority, and have an equal Number of Votes, then the House of Representatives shall immediately chuse by Ballot one of them for President; and if no Person have a Majority, then from the five highest on the List the said House shall in like Manner chuse the President. But in chusing the President, the Votes shall be taken by States, the Representation from each State having one Vote; A quorum for this Purpose shall consist of a Member or Members from two thirds of the States, and a Majority of all the States shall be necessary to a Choice. In every Case, after the Choice of the President, the Person having the greatest Number of Votes of the Electors shall be the Vice President. But if there should remain two or more who have equal Votes, the Senate shall chuse from them by Ballot the Vice President.

The Congress may determine the Time of chusing the Electors, and the Day on which they shall give their Votes; which Day shall be the same throughout the United States.

No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.

In Case of the Removal of the President from Office, or of his Death, Resignation, or Inability to discharge the Powers and Duties of the said Office, the Same shall devolve on the Vice President, and the Congress may by law provide for the Case of Removal, Death, Resignation or Inability, both of the President and Vice President, declaring what Officer shall then act as President, and such Officer shall act accordingly, until the Disability be removed, or a President shall be elected.

The President shall, at stated Times, receive for his Services, a Compensation, which shall neither be encreased nor diminished during the Period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that Period any other Emolument from the United States, or any of them.

Before he enter on the Execution of his Office, he shall take the following Oath or Affirmation:— I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.

Section 2

The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States, when called into the actual Service of the United States; he may require the Opinion, in writing, of the principal Officer in each of the executive Departments, upon any Subject relating to the Duties of their respective Offices, and he shall have Power to grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offences against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment.

He shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States, whose Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by Law: but the Congress may by Law vest the Appointment of such inferior Officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments.

The President shall have Power to fill up all Vacancies that may happen during the Recess of the Senate, by granting Commissions which shall expire at the End of their next Session.

Section 3

He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary Occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in Case of Disagreement between them, with Respect to the Time of Adjournment, he may adjourn them to such Time as he shall think proper; he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the Officers of the United States.

Section 4

The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.

Article III

Section 1

The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services, a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.

Section 2

The Judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority;—to all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls;—to all Cases of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction;—to Controversies to which the United States shall be a Party;—to Controversies between two or more States;—between a State and Citizens of another State;—between Citizens of different States,—between Citizens of the same State claiming Lands under Grants of different States, and between a State, or the Citizens thereof, and foreign States, Citizens or Subjects.

In all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be Party, the supreme Court shall have original Jurisdiction. In all the other Cases before mentioned, the supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Congress shall make.

The Trial of all Crimes, except in Cases of Impeachment, shall be by Jury; and such Trial shall be held in the State where the said Crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any State, the Trial shall be at such Place or Places as the Congress may by Law have directed.

Section 3

Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court.

The Congress shall have Power to declare the Punishment of Treason, but no Attainder of Treason shall work Corruption of Blood, or Forfeiture except during the Life of the Person attainted.

Article IV

Section 1

Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of every other State. And the Congress may by general Laws prescribe the Manner in which such Acts, Records and Proceedings shall be proved, and the Effect thereof.

Section 2

The Citizens of each State shall be entitled to all Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the several States.

A Person charged in any State with Treason, Felony, or other Crime, who shall flee from Justice, and be found in another State, shall on Demand of the executive Authority of the State from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the State having Jurisdiction of the Crime.

No Person held to Service or Labour in one State, under the Laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in Consequence of any Law or Regulation therein, be discharged from such Service or Labour, but shall be delivered up on Claim of the Party to whom such Service or Labour may be due.

Section 3

New States may be admitted by the Congress into this Union; but no new State shall be formed or erected within the Jurisdiction of any other State; nor any State be formed by the Junction of two or more States, or Parts of States, without the Consent of the Legislatures of the States concerned as well as of the Congress.

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

Section 4

The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened) against domestic Violence.

Article V

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress; Provided that no Amendment which may be made prior to the Year One thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any Manner affect the first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth Section of the first Article; and that no State, without its Consent, shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in the Senate.

Article VI

All Debts contracted and Engagements entered into, before the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this Constitution, as under the Confederation.

This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.

The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.

Article VII

The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States, shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the Same.

Amendment 1 - Freedom of Religion, Press, Expression. Ratified 12/15/1791.
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.

Amendment 2 - Right to Bear Arms. Ratified 12/15/1791.
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.

Amendment 3 - Quartering of Soldiers. Ratified 12/15/1791.
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.

Amendment 4 - Search and Seizure. Ratified 12/15/1791.
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.

Amendment 5 - Trial and Punishment, Compensation for Takings. Ratified 12/15/1791.
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 offense 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.

Amendment 6 - Right to Speedy Trial, Confrontation of Witnesses. Ratified 12/15/1791.
In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

Amendment 7 - Trial by Jury in Civil Cases. Ratified 12/15/1791.
In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment 8 - Cruel and Unusual Punishment. Ratified 12/15/1791.
Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment 9 - Construction of Constitution. Ratified 12/15/1791.
The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment 10 - Powers of the States and People. Ratified 12/15/1791.
The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

Amendment 11 - Judicial Limits. Ratified 2/7/1795.
The Judicial power of the United States shall not be construed to extend to any suit in law or equity, commenced or prosecuted against one of the United States by Citizens of another State, or by Citizens or Subjects of any Foreign State.

Amendment 12 - Choosing the President, Vice-President. Ratified 6/15/1804.
The Electors shall meet in their respective states, and vote by ballot for President and Vice-President, one of whom, at least, shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves; they shall name in their ballots the person voted for as President, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as Vice-President, and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as President, and of all persons voted for as Vice-President and of the number of votes for each, which lists they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate; The President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates and the votes shall then be counted; The person having the greatest Number of votes for President, shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed;

and if no person have such majority, then from the persons having the highest numbers not exceeding three on the list of those voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall choose immediately, by ballot, the President. But in choosing the President, the votes shall be taken by states, the representation from each state having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the states, and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice. And if the House of Representatives shall not choose a President whenever the right of choice shall devolve upon them, before the fourth day of March next following, then the Vice-President shall act as President, as in the case of the death or other constitutional disability of the President.

The person having the greatest number of votes as Vice-President, shall be the Vice-President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed, and if no person have a majority, then from the two highest numbers on the list, the Senate shall choose the Vice-President; a quorum for the purpose shall consist of two-thirds of the whole number of Senators, and a majority of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice. But no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of President shall be eligible to that of Vice-President of the United States.

Amendment 13 - Slavery Abolished. Ratified 12/6/1865.

1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.
2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment 14 - Citizenship Rights. Ratified 7/9/1868.

1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

2. Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice-President of the United States, Representatives in Congress, the Executive and Judicial officers of a State, or the members of the Legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such State, being twenty-one years of age, and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion, or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such State.

3. No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice-President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.

4. The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void.

5. The Congress shall have power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Amendment 15 - Race No Bar to Vote. Ratified 2/3/1870.

1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.
2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment 16 - Status of Income Tax Clarified. Ratified 2/3/1913.

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.

Amendment 17 - Senators Elected by Popular Vote. Ratified 4/8/1913.

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, elected by the people thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote. The electors in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State legislatures.

When vacancies happen in the representation of any State in the Senate, the executive authority of such State shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies: Provided, That the legislature of any State may empower the executive thereof to make temporary appointments until the people fill the vacancies by election as the legislature may direct.

This amendment shall not be so construed as to affect the election or term of any Senator chosen before it becomes valid as part of the Constitution.

Amendment 18 - Liquor Abolished. Ratified 1/16/1919. Repealed by Amendment 21, 12/5/1933.

1. After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.

2. The Congress and the several States shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

3. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

Amendment 19 - Women's Suffrage. Ratified 8/18/1920.

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment 20 - Presidential, Congressional Terms. Ratified 1/23/1933.

1. The terms of the President and Vice President shall end at noon on the 20th day of January, and the terms of Senators and Representatives at noon on the 3d day of January, of the years in which such terms would have ended if this article had not been ratified; and the terms of their successors shall then begin.

2. The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall begin at noon on the 3d day of January, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

3. If, at the time fixed for the beginning of the term of the President, the President elect shall have died, the Vice President elect shall become President. If a President shall not have been chosen before the time fixed for the beginning of his term, or if the President elect shall have failed to qualify, then the Vice President elect shall act as President until a President shall have qualified; and the Congress may by law provide for the case wherein neither a President elect nor a Vice President elect shall have qualified, declaring who shall then act as President, or the manner in which one who is to act shall be selected, and such person shall act accordingly until a President or Vice President shall have qualified.

4. The Congress may by law provide for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the House of Representatives may choose a President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them, and for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the Senate may choose a Vice President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them.

5. Sections 1 and 2 shall take effect on the 15th day of October following the ratification of this article.

6. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission.

Amendment 21 - Amendment 18 Repealed. Ratified 12/5/1933.

1. The eighteenth article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States is hereby repealed.

2. The transportation or importation into any State, Territory, or possession of the United States for delivery or use therein of intoxicating liquors, in violation of the laws thereof, is hereby prohibited.

3. The article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by conventions in the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

Amendment 22 - Presidential Term Limits. Ratified 2/27/1951.

1. No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice, and no person who has held the office of President, or acted as President, for more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected President shall be elected to the office of the President more than once. But this Article shall not apply to any person holding the office of President, when this Article was proposed by the Congress, and shall not prevent any person who may be holding the office of President, or acting as President, during the term within which this Article becomes operative from holding the office of President or acting as President during the remainder of such term.

2. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress.

Amendment 23 - Presidential Vote for District of Columbia. Ratified 3/29/1961.

1. The District constituting the seat of Government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as the Congress may direct: A number of electors of President and Vice President equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives in Congress to which the District would be entitled if it were a State, but in no event more than the least populous State; they shall be in addition to those appointed by the States, but they shall be considered, for the purposes of the election of President and Vice President, to be electors appointed by a State; and they shall meet in the District and perform such duties as provided by the twelfth article of amendment.

2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment 24 - Poll Tax Barred. Ratified 1/23/1964.

1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President, for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax.

2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment 25 - Presidential Disability and Succession. Ratified 2/10/1967.

1. In case of the removal of the President from office or of his death or resignation, the Vice President shall become President.

2. Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Vice President, the President shall nominate a Vice President who shall take office upon confirmation by a majority vote of both Houses of Congress.

3. Whenever the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the Vice President as Acting President.

4. Whenever the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President.

Thereafter, when the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that no inability exists, he shall resume the powers and duties of his office unless the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive department or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit within four days to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office. Thereupon Congress shall decide the issue, assembling within forty eight hours for that purpose if not in session. If the Congress, within twenty one days after receipt of the latter written declaration, or, if Congress is not in session, within twenty one days after Congress is required to assemble, determines by two thirds vote of both Houses that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall continue to discharge the same as Acting President; otherwise, the President shall resume the powers and duties of his office.

Amendment 26 - Voting Age Set to 18 Years. Ratified 7/1/1971.

1. The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.

2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment 27 - Limiting Congressional Pay Increases. Ratified 5/7/1992.

No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened.

APPENDIX 2

A GOOD COMMUNITY SELF-ASSESSMENT

SCORE YOURSELF ON THIS QUICK REVIEW

1 —————> 5 —————> 10
DISAGREE UNSURE AGREE

- ___ **1** American citizens should prize, reinforce, and cultivate conscience.
(See the Gettysburg Address and Emancipation Proclamation)
- ___ **2** American citizens should prize high character.
(See the Leadership Character Building Guide)
- ___ **3** American citizens should prize authentic collaboration.
(See the Leader's Collaboration Building Guide)
- ___ **4** American citizens should prize liberty in collaborative community.
(See the Bill of Rights)
- ___ **5** American citizens should prize true pluralism.
(See the Federalist Papers)
- ___ **6** The "Good Community Principles" reveal the American way to build community.
(See the US Constitution)

TOTAL SCORE

A score of under 30 might suggest a need to rethink through what community-building means to you.

A score of 30–50 might suggest that "Good Community Building" is "You."

A score over 50 suggests that you should advocate the cause of civil society to others.

APPENDIX 3

THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

*Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
November 19, 1863*

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate — we can not consecrate — we can not hallow — this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us — that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion — that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain — that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom — and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

*Source: Abraham Lincoln, Address at the Dedication of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania [Gettysburg Address] Online by Gerhard Peters and John T. Woolley, The American Presidency Project
<https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/node/201980>.*

APPENDIX 4

RESOURCES FOR FURTHER STUDY

THE CIVIL SOCIETY TUTORIAL SERIES

UncommonSense®: The Character Ethics Framework

Build Character: Leadership Character Ethics

Build Collaboration: Character-Based Collaboration

Good Citizens: A Guide to Dual Citizenship for Disciples of Christ

CIVIL SOCIETY

Democracy in America, Alexis De Tocqueville, Mentor Books

The Essential Civil Society Reader, Don Eberly, Editor, Rowman & Littlefield

The American Way, Alan Carlson, ISI Books

Tocqueville on American Character, Michael Ledeen, St. Martin's Press

The Content of America's Character, Don Eberly, Madison Books

Building a Healthy Culture, Don Eberly, Erdmans' Press

Educating Citizens, Colby, Ehrlich, Beaumont, Stephens, Jossey-Bass

The Burden of Freedom, Myles Monroe, Creation House

A Patriot's Handbook, Caroline Kennedy, Hyperion

The American Cause, Russel Kirk, ISI Books

Divided By Faith, Michael Emerson and Christian Smith

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

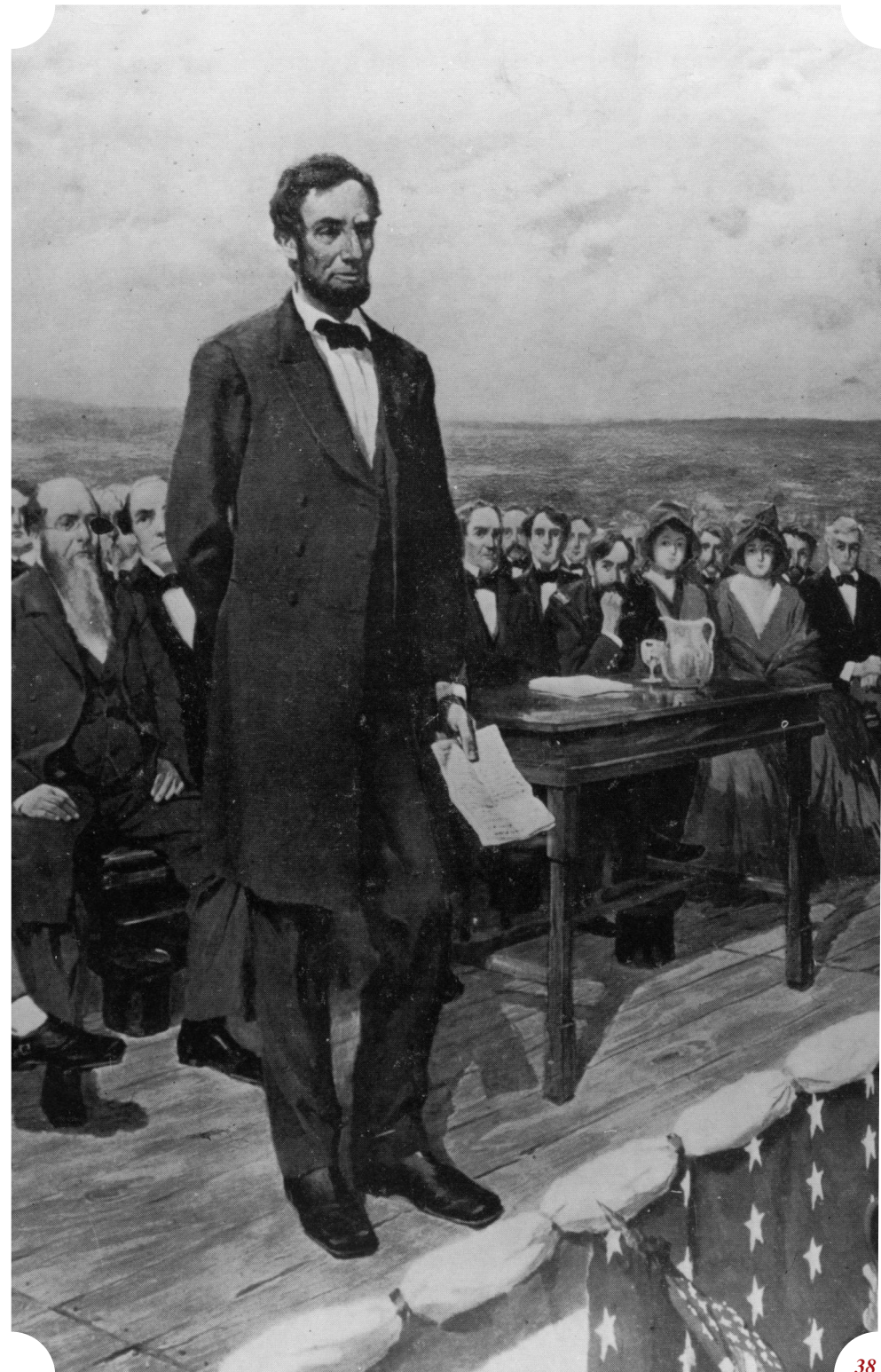
The American Values Coalition: www.AmericanValues.org

The Christian Community Development Association: www.cdda.org

The National Community Development Association: www.ncdaonline.org

The Search Institute: www.Search-Institute.org

"It is part of the American character to consider nothing as desperate—to surmount every difficulty by resolution and contrivance." — Thomas Jefferson





www.forgeleadership.org