

# Civics EOC Exam Tutorials

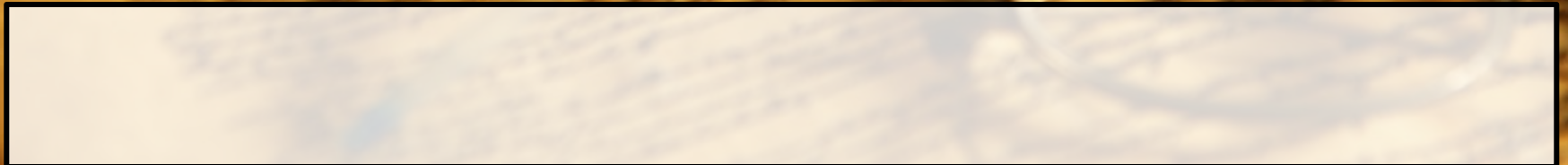
## Topic

# The Constitutional Amendment Process

# Benchmark

**Explain the Constitutional amendment process.**

**SS.7.C.3.5**





## Content Focus

- Students will recognize the methods used to propose and ratify amendments to the **U.S. Constitution**.
- Students will be able to identify the correct sequence of each amendment process.
- Students will identify the importance of a formal amendment process.
- Students will recognize the significance of the difficulty of formally amending the **U.S. Constitution**.

## Content Limits

- **Items will not ask students to recall the content of specific amendments.**
- **Items will not require students to be familiar with the historical context of any amendment.**



# Amendment

- A formal change to the Constitution

# Ratify

- To vote approval of

# Suffrage

- To right to vote

# Number of Amendments

- **Thousands of amendments have been considered over the years.**
- **Only 33 have received enough votes to be proposed.**
- **Of the 33 proposed, 27 have been ratified.**



## Difficulty

**The Framers of the Constitution knew that it would need to be amended for changing social conditions (like outlawing slavery), so they created a process for doing so.**

**The Constitution was delicately balanced; changing even a small detail can have a dramatic effect on government and society. So the Framers made sure the Constitution could not be amended without overwhelming support.**



# The Process

**Article V of the Constitution states the Amendment process. It has two steps.**



# Step 1: Proposal (National level)

➤ A 2/3 vote of both houses of Congress

OR

➤ A national convention called by 2/3 of state legislatures\* (the amendment is proposed at the convention)

\*No amendment has never been proposed in this manner.

## Step 2: Ratification (State level)

- **3/4 of the 50 state legislatures must vote to approve**
- OR**
- **3/4 of 50 special state conventions must vote to approve\***

**\*Only the 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment was ratified in this manner.**



Remember!

**2/3 Propose (National)**

**THEN**

**3/4 Ratify (State)**

## State Suffrage

**Article V prevents an amendment that deprives it of equal suffrage in the Senate. (In other words, each state gets two Senators; no amendment can change this without the state's consent.)**





## Question 1

This is considered a **LOW-DIFFICULTY** question.

**Which is the last step in amending the U.S. Constitution?**

- a. The voters approve the amendment in a national election.**
- b. The president signs the amendment in a public ceremony.**
- c. Three-fourths of the state legislatures ratify the amendment.**
- d. Two-thirds of both houses of Congress ratify the amendment.**



## Question 2

This is considered a LOW-DIFFICULTY question.

**Which government institution may vote on constitutional amendments?**

- a. bureaucracy**
- b. executive**
- c. judicial**
- d. legislative**

### Question 3

This is considered a MEDIUM-DIFFICULTY question.

The newspaper headline below describes an event in U.S. history.



Based on the headline, what happened before the event presented in image?

- Two-thirds of each house of Congress voted to support the amendment.
- The president rejected the amendment after Congress voted to support it.
- Three-fourths of each house of Congress voted to support the amendment.
- The president forwarded the amendment to the states after Congress voted to support it.



## Question 4

This is considered a **MEDIUM-DIFFICULTY** question.

The timeline below provides details about a constitutional amendment.

**1917:** Amendment prohibiting alcohol manufacture, sale or transportation voted on by Congress.

**1919:** 18th Amendment prohibiting alcohol manufacture, sale or transportation is ratified by the states.

**1933:** 21st Amendment reversing the 18th Amendment is added to the U.S. Constitution.

According to the timeline, what happened between 1919 and 1933?

- a. The 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment was approved by state ratifying conventions.
- b. The 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court.
- c. The 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment was vetoed by the president.
- d. The 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment was vetoed by Congress.

## Question 5

This is considered a **MEDIUM-DIFFICULTY** question.

The passage below was written by U.S. President Barack Obama in his 2006 book, *The Audacity of Hope*.

I see democracy as a conversation to be had... It provides us with a framework and rules, but all its machinery are designed to force us into a conversation.

Based on the passage, which statement about the amendment process would President Obama support?

- a. The ratification process allows the president to reflect public views.
- b. The ratification process allows governors to reflect public views.
- c. The U.S. Constitution is difficult to amend.
- d. The U.S. Constitution is easy to amend.



## Question 6

This is considered a HIGH-DIFFICULTY question.

The passage below is from an 1848 speech by Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

In the United States of America women [are] unrepresented in this government – our rights and interests are wholly overlooked.

Based on the passage, which action in the modern political system would Elizabeth Cady Stanton support?

- a. Amending the U.S. Constitution to extend suffrage
- b. Amending the U.S. Constitution to guarantee due process
- c. Congress enacting a law limiting freedom of speech rights
- d. Congress enacting a law limiting freedom of association rights