

Amazing Amendments



Review the amendment process below, then answer the questions that follow.

THE AMENDMENT PROCESS

2/3 of Congress (made up of the House of Representatives and the Senate) proposes an amendment.

2/3 of state legislatures ask for a meeting to propose an amendment.

A special convention is called and the amendment is proposed.

3/4 of state legislatures ratify (accept) the amendment.
OR
3/4 of special state conventions ratify (accept) the amendment.

AN AMENDMENT IS MADE!

QUESTIONS:

1. What branch of the federal government is able to propose an amendment?

2. How many states are needed to make up the 3/4 majority that can ratify an amendment?

3. If you were a member of a state legislature, what would you need to do to get an amendment ratified?



Rarely Ratified

- ✓ Thousands of amendments have been proposed since the Constitution was written, but only 27 have been ratified.
- ✓ All 27 ratified Amendments were proposed by Congress. There has never been an amendment proposed by the states.
- ✓ The Twentieth Amendment, which set the date for the beginning and ending of presidential and congressional terms, is the only amendment ever to be ratified by 100 percent of the states.
- ✓ Between 1989 and 1999, Congress proposed more than 850 amendments!
- ✓ Failed amendments that have been debated by Congress:
 - Changing the voting age to 16
 - Eliminating income tax
 - Making English the official language
 - Providing moments of silence in schools
 - Changing the way amendments are ratified