The 28th Amendment

What Should Our Next Amendment Be?

Ratification of the 19th Amendment in the State of Nevada, Feb. 7, 1920

2023 NINTH CIRCUIT CIVICS CONTEST

An essay and video contest for high school students in the western United States and Pacific Islands. Contest rules and entry instructions available at

https://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest

Entries accepted beginning January 4, 2023. Deadline for entries is March 13, 2023. Sponsored by the United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit.

† Plus! Travel and accommodations to attend the 2023 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference.
* May be subject to federal, state or local taxes unless exemptions apply.

THE 28TH AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION:

What Should Our Next Amendment Be?

The United States Constitution has three main functions. It creates a national government consisting of three branches—executive, legislative, and judicial. It divides governmental powers between the federal government and the states. It also protects individual liberties from the government.

Since the Constitution was ratified in 1789, more than 12,000 amendments have been proposed and many remain pending as partially approved. Only 27 amendments have been successfully ratified and incorporated into the U.S. Constitution. For example: The First Amendment (1791) protects the freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and the free exercise of religion. The First Amendment also prevents the government from favoring one religion over another. The 13th Amendment (1865) abolished slavery. The 19th Amendment (1920) guaranteed women the right to vote. Other amendments were proposed but have not been ratified, including banning flag burning, guaranteeing equal rights regardless of sex, electing the president by popular vote, curbing climate change, and guaranteeing the right to privacy.

What amendment would you propose for our Constitution? Why? How would you get your amendment ratified?

Individual students can express their thoughts and ideas in an essay of between 500 and 1,000 words. Individuals or teams of up to three students can produce a 3-5 minute video on the theme. A student may submit both an essay and a video, but only one of each.

The essay or video should **1) describe your proposed amendment and explain why it is needed today, supporting your argument with legal and/or historical examples; and 2) describe the process you would use to get your amendment ratified**.

The 2023 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest is open to high school students in nine western states and two Pacific island jurisdictions. Students from public, private, parochial and charter schools as well as homeschooled students of equivalent grade status may enter.

The United States District Court for the District of Nevada will conduct a local contest to select finalists for the circuit-wide competition. The contest is open to high school students throughout the State of Nevada. Local contest winners in each category also will receive prizes of $1,500 for 1st place, $850 for 2nd place, and $500 for 3rd place.

For more information about the district contest, please contact:
Sharon Hardin – (702) 464-5456 / Sharon_Hardin@nvd.uscourts.gov.

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Cover image: Governor Emmett D. Boyle of Nevada signing the resolution to ratify the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution on Feb. 7, 1920. The governor is surrounded by members of the women's suffrage movement. Library of Congress