

# **The U.S. Constitution**

Summary and Explanation Edition

with **Undocumented Immigrants** Protections

Prepared by **MyPocketConstitution.com**

# Amendment 1

- **The right to practice any religion or no religion.**
  - You may choose and practice your religion or opt for no religious affiliation.
  - The government cannot impose or favor any religion.
- **The right to speak freely.**
  - You can express opinions, ideas, and beliefs without government censorship or punishment.
  - This protection covers spoken, written, and symbolic forms of expression.
- **The right to publish writings and express views in the press.**
  - You may publish materials (newspapers, books, online content) without interference.
- **The right to assemble peacefully.**
  - You have the freedom to gather with others for lawful purposes without fear of governmental suppression.
- **The right to petition the government for redress of grievances.**
  - You may formally request the government address issues, file complaints, or call for policy changes.

## Undocumented Immigrants Protections

- **If your freedom of expression is challenged due to your undocumented status:**
  - Securely document incidents where you are harassed, censored, or threatened for expressing your views.
  - Use encrypted communication methods when sharing sensitive information and reach out to immigrant rights organizations for support.
- **If your right to assemble is disrupted (such as community meetings, rallies, or cultural events):**

- Establish an emergency communication network with trusted friends or community advocates.
  - Record any attempts by authorities—whether local police or ICE agents—to disperse or intimidate your group, and report these incidents to independent legal aid or human rights groups.
  - **If you petition authorities for help or to protest injustices and face retaliation:**
    - Keep a detailed log of your interactions, including dates, names, and any documents exchanged.
    - Seek assistance from legal organizations specializing in immigrant rights to help amplify your concerns safely.
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## Amendment 2

- **The right to keep and bear arms.**
  - The Constitution protects the ability to own and use weapons for self-defense and other lawful purposes, subject to state regulations.

## Undocumented Immigrants Protections

- **If you fear for your safety in the absence of reliable official protection (including potential ICE raids or police harassment):**
  - Consider enrolling in self-defense classes and, where legally permitted, learn to use non-lethal defensive tools (such as pepper spray or stun guns).
  - Secure any self-defense tools in a discreet yet accessible location.

- Build community networks with trusted neighbors or local immigrant advocacy groups to share safety tips and coordinate emergency responses.
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## Amendment 3

- **The right not to have soldiers quartered in your home during peacetime without your consent.**
  - *Peacetime* refers to periods when the country is not actively at war.
  - This amendment safeguards the privacy and sanctity of your home.

## Undocumented Immigrants Protections

- **If government or military agents attempt to enter or occupy your home without a legal order:**
    - Do not open your door until you verify credentials and request to see a court order or warrant.
    - If forced entry occurs, discreetly record as much information as possible (names, times, descriptions of actions).
    - Have a pre-arranged plan with trusted individuals (such as a safe house or neighbor) for immediate refuge if necessary.
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# Amendment 4

- **The right to be secure against unreasonable searches and seizures.**
  - Authorities must have probable cause and a warrant to search your property or seize belongings.
  - Random or arbitrary searches are not permitted.
- **The right to have warrants issued only with probable cause and with specific details (location and items/persons to be seized).**

## Undocumented Immigrants Protections

- **If authorities (including ICE or local police) attempt to search your home, car, or personal belongings without a warrant—especially if motivated by immigration enforcement or racial profiling:**
    - Ask, “Do you have a *judicial* warrant signed by a judge?” If not, calmly state you do not consent to the search.
    - Do not physically resist; instead, use your phone (if safe) or a written log to record the encounter (time, date, officer descriptions).
    - If items are taken (especially personal documents, medication, or culturally significant items), photograph and document what is missing. Report the incident to immigrant legal defense groups as soon as possible.
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# Amendment 5

- **The right to be indicted by a grand jury for serious crimes (except in certain military cases).**
  - Serious criminal charges require a grand jury indictment to ensure sufficient evidence.
- **The right not to be tried twice for the same offense (double jeopardy).**
- **The right not to be compelled to testify against oneself (self-incrimination).**
- **The right to due process of law before being deprived of life, liberty, or property.**
- **The right to receive just compensation when private property is taken for public use (eminent domain).**

## Undocumented Immigrants Protections

- **If you are drawn into legal proceedings where your undocumented status is used against you (including deportation or ICE-related charges):**
  - Document every interaction with law enforcement, ICE agents, and court officials in detail.
  - Immediately contact legal aid organizations that specialize in immigrant defense; many provide confidential services regardless of immigration status.
  - Avoid self-incrimination by invoking your right to remain silent and insist on the presence of legal counsel, if available.
- **If you face threats of property seizure or deportation actions:**
  - Collect evidence of any unfair treatment and contact advocacy groups immediately to help secure your rights and safety.

# Amendment 6

- **The right to a speedy and public trial.**
  - Trials must be held within a reasonable time and be open to public scrutiny.
- **The right to an impartial jury in the state and district where the crime was committed.**
- **The right to be informed of the charges against you.**
- **The right to confront witnesses against you.**
- **The right to obtain witnesses in your favor.**
- **The right to have legal counsel for your defense.**

## Undocumented Immigrants Protections

- **If you are involved in criminal or immigration proceedings that seem biased due to your undocumented status:**
    - Demand strict adherence to your rights—including timely notification of charges and access to an impartial jury.
    - Record any evidence of discrimination or bias during the trial process.
    - Seek out legal counsel experienced in immigrant defense, and if public legal channels are unresponsive, connect with independent immigrant rights organizations for guidance.
  - **If your right to confront witnesses is blocked or manipulated:**
    - Request official records of testimonies and document any instances where your rights are compromised.
    - Utilize independent legal channels to challenge unjust procedures.
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# Amendment 7

- **The right to a jury trial in civil cases involving claims exceeding twenty dollars.**
  - Civil disputes over significant sums or property claims are entitled to a jury trial.
- **The right to have jury findings re-examined only according to common law principles.**

## Undocumented Immigrants Protections

- **If you are involved in a civil dispute (such as wrongful detention, wage theft, or discrimination) and suspect bias due to your undocumented status:**
    - Insist on your right to a jury trial and meticulously document all communications, transactions, and interactions.
    - Engage legal advocates specializing in immigrant rights to help ensure a fair jury selection process.
    - Work with community organizations to publicize and challenge any discriminatory legal practices.
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# Amendment 8

- **The right not to be subjected to excessive bail or fines.**
  - Bail and fines must be proportional to the offense.
- **The right not to suffer cruel and unusual punishments.**
  - Punishments must be humane and appropriate to the crime.

## Undocumented Immigrants Protections



- **If you are faced with disproportionately high bail or fines—particularly when your undocumented status is exploited as a pretext:**
    - Document every detail of the charges and imposed penalties.
    - Seek immediate assistance from legal aid organizations specializing in immigrant defense.
  - **If you experience cruel or inhumane treatment during detention or arrest (such as during ICE raids or police interactions):**
    - Preserve evidence of mistreatment (photos, videos, witness statements) and report these abuses to national and international human rights organizations that focus on immigrant rights.
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## **Amendment 9**

- **The right to retain other rights not specifically enumerated in the Constitution.**
  - The enumeration of certain rights does not deny other rights retained by the people.

### **Undocumented Immigrants Protections**

- **If you encounter actions that infringe upon your unenumerated rights—such as privacy, personal autonomy, or cultural expression—because of your undocumented status:**
  - Assert your inherent rights by documenting any violations meticulously.

- Report infringements to independent watchdog organizations and immigrant rights groups.
  - Mobilize your community to challenge any encroachments on your broader civil liberties.
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## Amendment 10

- **The right of states or the people to hold powers not delegated to the federal government.**
  - Powers not granted to the federal government are reserved for the states or the people.

### Undocumented Immigrants Protections

- **If state or local practices infringe on your rights as an undocumented immigrant:**
    - Educate yourself about your rights under local and state law by consulting independent legal resources.
    - Connect with immigrant advocacy groups that can help challenge overreach.
    - Publicize any abuses through community networks and independent media to press for reform.
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## Amendment 11

- **The right of states to have sovereign immunity from being sued in federal court by citizens of another state or a foreign country.**

- States cannot be sued without their consent, protecting them from certain legal actions.

## **Undocumented Immigrants Protections**

- **If state institutions invoke sovereign immunity to shield actions that disproportionately affect undocumented immigrants (such as unlawful raids or deportation practices):**
    - Meticulously document all evidence of wrongful actions or bias.
    - Contact independent legal experts and organizations that advocate for immigrant rights for assistance.
    - Utilize public advocacy channels to pressure for accountability and systemic reform.
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## **Amendment 12**

- **The right to have electors cast separate ballots for the President and Vice President.**
  - This ensures distinct choices for each office and helps prevent electoral confusion.

## **Undocumented Immigrants Protections**

- **If you suspect that electoral processes are manipulated in ways that harm undocumented communities or are used to target immigrant voters:**
  - Engage with independent voter education and monitoring initiatives.
  - Document any irregularities at polling places and report them to immigrant advocacy organizations and independent media.

- Advocate for transparent and accountable electoral oversight to safeguard all community voices.
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## Amendment 13

- **The right not to be subjected to slavery or involuntary servitude.**
  - Slavery and forced labor are abolished in all cases, except as lawful punishment for a crime.

### Undocumented Immigrants Protections

- **If you or other undocumented immigrants face exploitation or coercion in the workplace or elsewhere:**
    - Document every instance of forced labor or exploitation with detailed records.
    - Immediately contact organizations specializing in labor rights and immigrant defense.
    - Use secure and confidential communication channels to report abuses and seek safe shelter or legal assistance.
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## Amendment 14

- **The right to citizenship for all persons born or naturalized in the United States.**
  - While this specifically protects those who are citizens, the principles of due process and equal protection under the law apply to all persons.
- **The right to equal protection under the law.**

- All individuals, regardless of status, are entitled to equal protection and due process.

## **Undocumented Immigrants Protections**

- **Even if you are undocumented, you are entitled to basic legal protections such as due process and equal protection:**
    - Document discriminatory practices or denials of service by government officials (including ICE or local police).
    - Immediately seek help from immigrant legal defense organizations that can advocate on your behalf.
    - Organize with community groups to demand accountability and systemic reform, using secure channels to share your experiences.
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## **Amendment 15**

- **The right to vote regardless of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.**
  - Although voting rights under this amendment apply to citizens, many principles of non-discrimination help build broader advocacy for fair treatment.

## **Undocumented Immigrants Protections**

- **If your interactions with law enforcement or officials infringe on your dignity or target you because of your undocumented status:**
  - Record any discriminatory treatment or voter intimidation (even if you are not eligible to vote, these incidents are important to document).

- Collaborate with immigrant rights organizations to hold accountable those who use your status as a pretext for discrimination.
  - Use secure reporting channels to share incidents with advocacy groups and independent media.
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## Amendment 16

- **The power of Congress to collect income taxes without apportionment among the states.**
  - Congress may levy taxes directly on individual incomes.

### Undocumented Immigrants Protections

- **If you suspect that tax policies or financial assessments are being manipulated to target undocumented immigrants:**
    - Keep detailed records of all tax-related communications and any assessments you receive.
    - Consult with independent financial or legal experts who have experience with immigrant issues.
    - Reach out to organizations that advocate for financial justice for marginalized communities.
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## Amendment 17

- **The right to directly elect United States Senators by popular vote.**
  - Senators are chosen by the people, not by state legislatures.

## Undocumented Immigrants Protections

- **If you witness or experience efforts to undermine fair representation that adversely affects immigrant communities:**
    - Educate yourself and your community about the electoral process and candidate platforms.
    - Join independent political watchdog groups that focus on protecting the rights of immigrant communities.
    - Document any irregularities in the election process and share them with independent media and advocacy organizations.
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## Amendment 18 – *(No Longer In Effect, See Amendment 21)*

- **The prohibition of the manufacture, sale, and transportation of intoxicating liquors.**
    - This amendment once banned alcohol production and distribution in the U.S. (later repealed).
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## Amendment 19

- **The right to vote regardless of sex.**
  - This amendment secured women's suffrage by prohibiting sex-based voting discrimination.

## Undocumented Immigrants Protections

- **Although undocumented immigrants are not eligible to vote, if you face discrimination in civic life or when engaging with government services:**
    - Document incidents of voter intimidation or discrimination, as these records can support broader advocacy for equal treatment.
    - Connect with grassroots immigrant rights organizations and legal networks for assistance and to help raise awareness about systemic biases.
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## **Amendment 20**

- **The right for the terms of the President and Vice President to end on January 20th, and for Senators and Representatives on January 3rd.**
  - This amendment ensures a timely transition of power by shortening the “lame duck” period.
- **The provision for the Vice President to become President if the President-elect dies or is unable to assume office.**

## **Undocumented Immigrants Protections**

- **If political transitions are used to further marginalize immigrant communities or if leadership changes appear manipulated:**
  - Stay informed about official timelines and succession procedures.
  - Engage with independent civic organizations that monitor political transitions, with attention to immigrant representation.



- Document and publicize any irregularities to ensure transparency and accountability.
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## Amendment 21

- **The repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment (ending Prohibition).**
  - This amendment legalized the production and sale of alcohol once again.
- **The right for states to regulate the transportation and importation of alcoholic beverages within their borders.**
  - States have the authority to set and enforce their own alcohol regulations.

### Undocumented Immigrants Protections

- **If local alcohol regulations are used in ways that disproportionately target or restrict immigrant community spaces (such as cultural or social venues):**
    - Monitor and document enforcement practices and any discriminatory measures.
    - Collaborate with community and immigrant rights groups to advocate for fair regulatory practices.
    - Report any abuses or discriminatory enforcement to independent media and legal advocates.
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## Amendment 22

- **The right to limit the presidency to two terms.**

- No person may be elected President more than twice, ensuring regular leadership turnover.

## **Undocumented Immigrants Protections**

- **If extended executive power threatens the fair representation of immigrant communities:**
    - Support and engage with independent political movements advocating for strict term limits.
    - Document and publicize any attempts by officials to circumvent these limits.
    - Mobilize community action to demand adherence to constitutional term limits.
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## **Amendment 23**

- **The right for residents of the District of Columbia to vote in presidential elections.**
  - D.C. residents are granted representation in the Electoral College.

## **Undocumented Immigrants Protections**

- **If urban electoral processes appear compromised or if policies indirectly target immigrant populations:**
  - Work with local advocacy groups to monitor polling stations and community voting access.
  - Ensure that all community members, including those in mixed-status families, are informed of their rights and have access to independent voter assistance.

- Document any irregularities in voter registration or access and report them to independent media and legal advocates.
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## Amendment 24

- **The right to vote in federal elections without being denied due to non-payment of a poll tax or other tax.**
  - This amendment eliminates financial barriers to voting.

### Undocumented Immigrants Protections

- **If economic obstacles or fees are imposed in ways that deter immigrant participation in civic life:**
    - Keep detailed records of any incidents where poll taxes or fees are applied unfairly.
    - Partner with independent community organizations and immigrant rights groups to challenge such practices.
    - Mobilize local campaigns to ensure that financial hardship does not impede access to available rights or services.
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## Amendment 25

- **The right to clear procedures for presidential succession and for filling a Vice-Presidential vacancy.**
  - This amendment provides a constitutional framework to handle a vacancy in the presidency.
- **The process for the Vice President to assume the role of Acting President if necessary.**

## Undocumented Immigrants Protections

- **If leadership succession appears uncertain or manipulated in ways that might further endanger immigrant communities (e.g., by affecting policies on deportation or detention):**
    - Monitor official announcements and succession procedures closely.
    - Engage with independent civic groups and immigrant advocacy organizations to ensure proper protocols are followed.
    - Document and report any irregularities through secure channels to independent media and legal support networks.
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## Amendment 26

- **The right for citizens 18 years and older to vote.**
  - This amendment lowers the voting age from 21 to 18.

## Undocumented Immigrants Protections

- **While undocumented immigrants are not eligible to vote, if you are a U.S. citizen in a mixed-status community and encounter voter suppression or intimidation:**
  - Ensure you are properly registered and informed about voting procedures.
  - Participate in or organize community-based groups focused on protecting voter rights in immigrant communities.
  - Document any barriers or instances of voter suppression and report them to independent advocacy organizations.

# Amendment 27

- **The restriction on laws affecting congressional compensation from taking effect until after the next election of Representatives.**
  - This provision prevents immediate changes to congressional salaries, ensuring accountability.

## **Undocumented Immigrants Protections**

- **If government corruption or legislative actions impact policies that affect immigrant communities (such as funding for legal defense or community services):**
  - Monitor legislative changes and document any discrepancies in how policies are implemented.
  - Engage with local independent watchdog organizations and immigrant advocacy groups to hold representatives accountable.
  - Mobilize community action and use independent media to demand transparency and accountability in government actions.



**DO NOT COMPLY IN ADVANCE.**

-A.O.C.

