

CONSTITUTION AND CITIZENSHIP DAY

SEPTEMBER 17TH



Constitution Day, is an American federal observance that recognizes the adoption of the United States Constitution and those who have become U.S. citizens. It celebrates the signing of the U.S. Constitution in Philadelphia on September 17, 1787

When the Constitution was ratified, women could not legally own land or property, and married women had no legal claim to their spouse's money or children. It was not until August 26, 1920 when the Nineteenth Amendment was added to the Constitution that white women were allowed to vote in elections at every level. The 19th Amendment states: *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.*

However, obstacles like poll taxes, literacy tests and other discriminatory state voting laws would keep Black women (and men) disenfranchised for a further 45 years, until the Voting Rights Act was signed into law on August 6, 1965. It was not until 1943 and the passage of the Magnuson Act that Chinese immigrants could begin naturalizing as U.S. citizens.

In 1923, the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was first introduced. It states: *Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.* On January 27, 2020, Virginia became the 38th State to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment ("ERA") making it the 28th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

The ERA ensures United States laws embraces equality for everyone, thereby providing equal rights and protections to all human beings. If you want to learn about the ERA's Journey to become the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/ERAJourney>

A 2020 8 ½ x 11 PDF version of the United States Constitution with the 28th Amendment can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/US-Constitution-2020>

A 2020 5 x 4 PDF Pamphlet version can be found here <https://tinyurl.com/US-Constitution-Pamphlet>

For quantities over 500, of the Pamphlet, contact Curt Lepper at Rapid Press 203-348-8884 or curt@rapidpressct.com.

This 2020 version is in commemoration of the ratification of The Equal Rights Amendment. It is being provided by an informal group of women's rights advocates carrying on the work of their foremothers that started over a century ago. Please share this version far and wide!