



To amend the U.S. Constitution, you must first propose and then ratify an amendment. To propose an amendment, you have two options: Congress or the states. For Congress to propose an amendment, you need a two-thirds vote in both chambers. To propose an amendment via the states, two-thirds of the state legislatures must call a convention to propose the amendment. To ratify a proposed amendment requires a three-quarters vote of the states.

Six Steps to Amend the U.S. Constitution via Convention

- ❑ **Step 1.** Thirty-four states apply for a convention. Two-thirds of the state legislatures (34) must pass resolutions that apply for a convention to propose an amendment(s).
- ❑ **Step 2.** Congress must issue a convention call. Congress must count the state applications, verify that there are 34 that call for a convention to propose the same amendment(s), then set the time/place for the convention and the amendment(s) that can be voted on/proposed.
- ❑ **Step 3.** The states commission their convention delegations. Each state legislature must commission its delegation by specifying such details as the number of delegates, who they are and what amendment(s) they are authorized to vote on.
- ❑ **Step 4.** The convention proposes the amendment. Once the convention has been convened, the delegations from all 50 states must propose the amendment via a simple majority vote of 26 or more states. Each state, regardless of its size, gets one vote.
- ❑ **Step 5.** Congress selects the mode of ratification. Congress must decide whether ratification will be carried out by the state legislatures or ratification conventions in each state capitol. Then it sends the amendment to the states for ratification.
- ❑ **Step 6.** Thirty-eight states must ratify the amendment. Three-quarters of the states (38) must ratify the amendment before it becomes a part of the U.S. Constitution.

Article V of the U.S. Constitution: “The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress ...”