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10TH AMENDMENT

Multiple Choice Quiz

ABOUT THIS QUIZ



10th Amendment

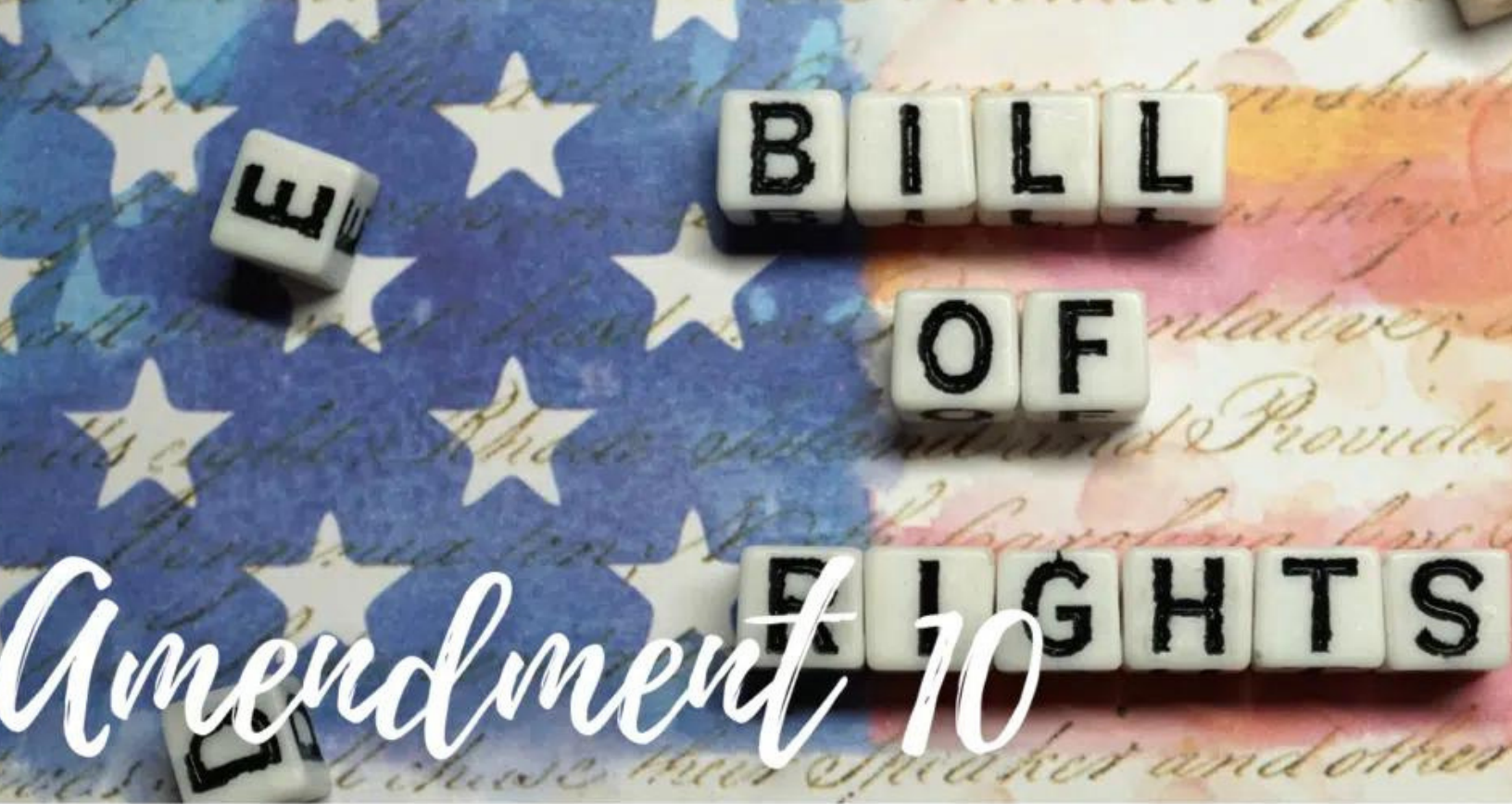
This quiz is about the 10th Amendment of the Constitution.

All questions have 4 possible answers of which only 1 is correct.

You may read the article over the next few pages to freshen up before taking the quiz!

At the back of the book, will be an answer sheet.

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Amendment 10 is perhaps the simplest amendment of all 27, and definitely of the first 10 amendments in the Bill of Rights.

What is the 10th Amendment?

The 10th Amendment simply says that any powers that aren't mentioned in the constitution as belonging to the government belong to the states themselves.

Read on to find out what this actually means.

Introduction

In simple terms, the 10th Amendment to the US Constitution sets out the limits to the powers of the Federal government. It states that any powers that the Constitution does not give to the federal government are the responsibility of the states themselves.

These “powers” fall into three categories:

Expressed Powers

Expressed Powers are sometimes referred to as “enumerated powers”. These are the powers given to Congress by the US Constitution.

Included among these powers is the right to:

- Declare war
- Print paper money and mint coinage
- Issue regulations to control foreign trade and the trade carried on between the states
- Run a postal service
- Control the granting of patents

What are Reserved Powers

Reserved powers are those given to individual states. Reserved powers examples include:

- calling and holding elections
- organizing police provision
- issuing licenses for a range of things such as hunting, marriage, and driving

The states also have a responsibility to ratify amendments proposed to the US Constitution.

Shared Powers

Shared, or concurrent, powers are those that are the responsibility of both the state governments and the federal government.

Raising taxes is one of the most important of these. Taxes are needed at the local state level to cover the cost of police departments, fire departments, and a variety of public facilities.

The federal government needs tax income to provide military services and a whole range of national commitments.

Crossover between state and federal laws

Where there exist both federal and state laws that are similar, then the federal law will take precedence over the state law. Sometimes conflict can occur where the state law disagrees with the federal law. There are several examples of this situation occurring recently, including drug enforcement.

Why was the 10th Amendment necessary?

Although the predecessor to the US Constitution, the Articles of Confederation made clear that each state would retain its freedom and sovereignty, it was felt that the matter needed clarifying in the Constitution itself.

James Madison, who was the architect of the first ten Amendments included in the Bill of Rights knew that the states needed to feel confident about the limits of federal powers. He introduced the 10th Amendment so that there would be no doubt as to the separation between states' powers and federal powers.

Critics of the 10th Amendment

The 10th Amendment was criticized as being unnecessary and superfluous when Madison proposed it. It seems, though, that he was reacting to suggestions being made by the states themselves, and felt that it would be a better idea to include an amendment that clarified the division of powers between the federal government and the states.

Madison appealed to the Senate to pass the amendment on the grounds that there was no harm in doing so. He felt that precision in the matter was better than upsetting the states.

Senate Approved the 10th Amendment

The 10th Amendment passed the Senate and was then sent to the House of Representatives for their approval. The Senate clerk felt it appropriate to add the phrase “or to the people” at the end of the text. The circumstances of that addition being made are not known.

The 10th Amendment is the last of the ten Amendments that comprise the United States Bill of Rights.

The 10th amendment was proposed to the legislatures by the First Congress on September 25, 1789. was ratified by the following States, and the notifications of ratification by the Governors thereof were successively communicated by the President to Congress:

New Jersey, November 20, 1789;
Maryland, December 19, 1789;
North Carolina, December 22, 1789;
South Carolina, January 19, 1790;
New Hampshire, January 25, 1790;
Delaware, January 28, 1790;
New York, February 24, 1790;
Pennsylvania, March 10, 1790;
Rhode Island, June 7, 1790;
Vermont, November 3, 1791;
Virginia, December 15, 1791.

Ratification was completed on December 15, 1791.

The amendments were subsequently ratified by the legislatures of:

Massachusetts, March 2, 1939;
Georgia, March 18, 1939;
Connecticut, April 19, 1939

Multiple Choice Quiz

1. According to the 10th Amendment, who do powers belong to that aren't specifically designated to the federal government?

- A. Citizens
- B. Armed forces
- C. States
- D. Municipalities

2. Which of the following is not a type of power described in the US Constitution?

- A. Innate
- B. Expressed
- C. Reserved
- D. Shared

3. What is another name for expressed powers?

- A. Implied
- B. Enumerated
- C. Necessary and proper
- D. Self-evident

4. Which of the following is not an expressed power given to Congress?

- A. Declaring war
- B. Printing money
- C. Running the postal service
- D. Calling and holding elections

5. Which of the following is not a reserved power given to the states?

- A. Calling and holding elections
- B. Organizing police forces
- C. Declaring war
- D. Issuing licenses for hunting, marriage, and driving

6. Who is responsible for ratifying amendments proposed to the constitution?

- A. States
- B. Citizens
- C. Counties
- D. Congress

7. Which of the following is a shared power, given to both the federal government and state governments?

- A. Declaring war
- B. Maintaining the postal system
- C. Regulating interstate commerce
- D. Taxation

8. What Founding Father was most responsible for the development and writing of the Bill of Rights?

- A. George Washington
- B. James Madison
- C. Thomas Jefferson
- D. John Adams

9. Which of the following was a reason for the Bill of Rights?

- A. Limitation of federal power
- B. Limitation of state power
- C. Limitation of an individual citizen's power
- D. Limitation of the armed forces' power

10. What are shared powers, as presented in the US Constitution?

- A. Powers shared by the legislative and executive branches
- B. Powers shared by the judicial and legislative branches
- C. Powers shared by the state and federal governments
- D. Powers shared by the citizens and federal government

11. What are expressed powers, as presented in the US Constitution?

- A. Powers given to the states
- B. Powers given to Congress
- C. Powers given to individual citizens
- D. Powers given to municipalities

12. What are reserved powers, as presented in the US Constitution?

- A. Powers given to Congress
- B. Powers given to the armed forces
- C. Powers given to the president
- D. Powers given to the states

13. How many amendments make up the Bill of Rights?

- A. 8
- B. 10
- C. 12
- D. 14

14. Which of the following was not a common critique or observation of the 10th Amendment?

- A. It was unnecessary and superfluous
- B. It was developed on behalf of the states
- C. It was a necessary clarification of the division between state and federal power
- D. It was too long

Multiple Choice Quiz Answers

1. C
2. A
3. B
4. D
5. C
6. A
7. D
8. B
9. A
10. C
11. B
12. D
13. B
14. D