



# Constitution Day September 17, 2018

Don't be a dum-dum, learn about our  
Constitution!



“Let our government be like that of the solar system. Let the general government be like the sun and the states the planets, repelled yet attracted, and the whole moving regularly and harmoniously in several orbits.”

— **John Dickinson**  
(Delaware Delegate), 1787

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The U.S. Constitution has 4,400 words. It is the oldest and shortest written Constitution of any major government in the world.

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“Too many people expect wonders from democracy, when the most wonderful thing of all is just having it.”

— **Walter Winchell**

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The Constitution was "penned" by Jacob Shallus, A Pennsylvania General Assembly clerk, for \$30 (\$830 today).

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“In a democracy, the individual enjoys not only the ultimate power but carries the ultimate responsibility.”

— **Norman Cousins**

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Since 1952, the Constitution has been on display in the National Archives Building in Washington, DC. Currently, all four pages are displayed behind protective glass framed with titanium. To preserve the parchment's quality, the cases contain argon gas and are kept at 67 degrees Fahrenheit with a relative humidity of 40 percent.

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“Man’s capacity for justice makes democracy possible, but man’s inclination to injustice makes democracy necessary.”

— **Reinhold Niebuhr**

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The oldest person to sign the Constitution was Benjamin Franklin (81). The youngest was Jonathan Dayton of New Jersey (26).

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When the Constitution was signed, the United States population was 4 million. It is now more than 327 million. Philadelphia was the nation's largest city, with 40,000 inhabitants.

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“A free government is a complicated piece of machinery, the nice and exact adjustment of whose springs, wheels, and weights, is not yet well comprehended by the artists of the age, and still less by the people.”

— **John Adams to  
Thomas Jefferson,**  
May 19, 1821

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James Madison was the only delegate to attend every meeting. He took detailed notes of the various discussions and debates that took place during the convention.

The journal that he kept during the Constitutional Convention was kept secret until after he died. It (along with other papers) was purchased by the government in 1837 at a price of \$30,000 (that would be \$695,000 today). The journal was published in 1840.

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