

Nomology Part 2: Let's read the whole friggin thing

Ologies Podcast

July 9, 2019

Oh heeey, it's that person who's too chicken to post on Nextdoor but would like to urge you to stop shooting illegal fireworks into the trees. Especially since 4th of July was last week, Alie Ward! Back with a follow-up episode of *Ologies*. You thought, "Wait...wasn't this bitch giving us a bonus episode about the Constitution? Where was it?" Well, it was smoldering over the coals all holiday weekend here in America. Truth be told, I spent the long weekend cleaning out my parent's shed in the woods, and I got filthy, and I have some new bruises, but I feel tough and I loved every minute. I also ate scrambled eggs out of leftover hot dog buns. Let me tell you, that's a damn breakfast miracle right there, my babies.

Okay, anyway, Nomology Part 2. It is here, so if you're brand new to *Ologies* – and thank you *New York Times* and *Wired Magazine* this week – this is a weird one because it's a part 2 to last week's episode. So, it's kind of like when two people are in a horse costume, but this is only me in the ass end running around with no head [*horse neighing*] because the nomology guest: Professor Franita Tolson was in the first half. Now it's just me, I'm just bringin' up the rear, literally reading you a very, very old document. So, if this is your first ever episode of *Ologies*, start elsewhere. Just pick another one, pick another episode. Or at least start with last week's Part 1.

You're just about to get, in this one, gently walloped with all of the words of the United States Constitution, and when I say you – I mean myself also. Because guess what? I've never read the thing. I don't know what it says, yet these words govern my civil liberties and the 2020 election is just sitting on the edge of our beds like a specter and the best thing any of us can do is just know what the bejeebers is happening in the government. My hope is that maybe by reading this together, one ologite out there will run for an office. I don't know, city council... mayor of a tiny seaside hamlet... President of Earth... maybe student government, it doesn't matter to me. Except that it does, very deeply.

So, I'll be reading the Constitution with some inserts just to clarify what the hell it means. Then we'll be back with a regularly scheduled episode about bleach next week. So finally, all of your chemistry itches will be scratched... well, some of them.

Okay, but before we get cracking on this. Two things:

Thank you to all of your ears and your hearts for listening to this show, for buying *Ologies*-related products at OlogiesMerch.com, and also, for free, for rating and subscribing, for telling a friend. Some of you leave me reviews which you know I sneak peeks at every week, and I read one like a creep so that I can lovingly regurgitate it back to you. Like this week from *DBW84* who says that they:

... want to play Magic the Gathering with Alie Ward (That's me!) and that (my) brainscape is a playground of neurosis and critically incisive snark that they can play in all day.

And I feel attacked and seen by them, so thank you.

Also, I'm just going to throw out a thank you to Raymond from California who says that "*Ologies* satisfies like a good sneeze," because I really like a good sneeze also.

Okay, Nomology: the study of laws continues. So last week we heard from Professor Franita Tolson from USC's Gould School of Law. A Constitutional law scholar who makes me want to be smarter,

and be more well-informed, and who inspired this epic reading of the US Constitution. I'm a little bit nervous. [deep breath] We're going to do this. So, if you haven't heard Part 1 yet, it's waiting for you. Go listen and hop on back to finish this one up.

To recap; the US Constitution was drafted in 1787. It was ratified in 1788, it went into effect 1789, and then the Bill of Rights – the first 10 amendments – were created in 1789 for a bunch of people who objected to Federalism. They were ratified in 1791 and then there are 17 more amendments that were just created and passed over the years.

So, buckle the hell up as I now deliver to you on a silver platter, albeit ever so slightly patinated, but still cherished, all 7,591 words of the United States Constitution, including amendments, for this Part 2 of Nomology.

[colonial fife and drum music plays in background]

Okay, let's get into this, Ward. Alright, breathe in. America, I'm going to understand you so hard right now. Okay, so, the Preamble, aka "why are we even writing this," goes:

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Article I

Section 1

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

So, they're saying, "We're calling this business collectively: Congress." Okay, Section 2. This is about the House of Representatives. Different states have different numbers of reps. So, Wyoming, you have half a million residents, Rhode Island has double that and is only 1,200 square miles. Now, Los Angeles County, where I live, is 4,000 square miles and has 10 million people, which is why you can order a pizza and it will come to you faster than an ambulance, and I'm speaking from experience. Anyway. State representation, back to it!

Section 2

The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

Hmm. He... Fine...

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons.

More on that part later. [angry sigh]

The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative; and until such enumeration shall be made, the State of New Hampshire shall be entitled to choose three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New-York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies.

The House of Representatives shall choose their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

Okay, so what does that mean? So, to be a senator, you have to be 25, there are two-year terms, and the number of members of the House are issued according to population. Now, did you catch that racism regarding Indigenous and Black people? Yep? It's just a reminder that plenty of folks writing this owned people. More on that later. Okay. The Leader of the House is the Speaker of the House, picked by the members, and right now that's Nancy Pelosi. Now, this person is second in line to the Presidency. Should a pterodactyl screech as a blur through the sunset and eat both Don Trump and Michael Pence. [pterodactyl screech] ["Who does this?"] Section 3.

But let's talk Senate, people. Each state gets two Senators, Wyoming gets two, Rhode Island gets two, LA county? Hmm, they have to share two with the other 39 million Californians. Kind of like having one bathroom in a sorority house. The best idea? Maybe not. Now the Senate, let's proceed. Also, whenever you hear the word 'he', just replace it with your mind with 'he or she' or even better: 'they'. And just... try to breathe through it. I'm going to read it verbatim as it was written so that we can use it as fuel to get fired up about continuing to change things. Okay? Great.

This is Article 1, Section 3; about the Senate.

Section 3

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for 6 Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote.

Now, this is going to change later.

Immediately after they shall be assembled in Consequence of the first Election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three Classes. The Seats of the Senators of the first Class shall be vacated at the Expiration of the second Year, of the second Class at the Expiration of the fourth Year, and of the third Class at the Expiration of the sixth Year, so that one third may be chosen every second Year; and if Vacancies happen by Resignation, or otherwise, during the Recess of the Legislature of any State, the Executive thereof may make temporary Appointments until the next Meeting of the Legislature, which shall then fill such Vacancies.

No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been nine Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen.

The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless they be equally divided.

The Senate shall choose their Officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the Absence of the Vice President, or when he shall exercise the Office of President of the United States.

The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on the Oath or Affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Judgment in Cases of impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from Office and disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of honor, Trust, or Profit under the United States: but the Party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment, and Punishment, according to Law.

So, Article 1 Section 3 means in summation: Senators, you gotta be at least 30, you serve for six years, each state has two of them, and the Vice President leads the Senate and doesn't vote unless there's a tie. Also, this one will get a little tweaked in the Amendments. Just hold your horses, [horse neighing] but also that laid down some law for Impeachment. Okay.

Section 4

The Times, Places, and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of chusing Senators.

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every Year, and such Meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by Law appoint a different Day.

So, the Congress is elected according to State rules, and – kind of like gutter cleaning and PAP smears – they gotta do it at least once a year, folks. They gotta do it at least once a year, it's just good practice.

Section 5

Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns, and Qualifications of its own Members, and a Majority of each shall constitute a Quorum to do Business; but a smaller Number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the Attendance of absent Members, in such Manner, and under such Penalties as each House may provide.

I'll explain this in a minute.

Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly Behaviour, and, with the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member.

Each House shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such Parts as may in their Judgment require Secrecy; and the Yeas and Nays of the Members of either House on any question shall, at the Desire of one fifth of those Present, be entered on the Journal.

Neither House, during the Session of Congress, shall, without the Consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other Place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.

So, what does that one mean? This means Congress needs a minimum number of people showing up and it can fine you for not showing up, kind of like a library book. Members can be given ye old boot, if they're jerks, if they're disorderly, and each House can keep a log of the dealings and the votes. The House and Congress can't peace out and adjourn without the permission of the other

one. Kind of like if you show up at a party with someone, you shouldn't Irish goodbye without at least telling them, because it's just rude. Okay.

Section 6

The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States. They shall in all Cases, except Treason, Felony, and Breach of the Peace, be privileged from Arrest during their Attendance at the Session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any Speech or Debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other Place.

No Senator or Representative shall, during the Time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil Office under the Authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the Emoluments whereof shall have been increased during such time; and no Person holding any Office under the United States, shall be a Member of either House during his Continuance in Office.

So, what does this one mean? Members of Congress have to get paid; they can't be detained going to or from Congress, and they can't have multiple government gigs while holding office. Just like, do the one, they're saying, that's enough. Okay, let's move on. Article 1 Section 7, this is how Bills become Laws. [School House Rock!: America- I'm Just a Bill, "He signed you Bill, now you're a law."] It's kind of like reading rules for a board game; it's annoying until you get how it works. So, the Constitution says:

Section 7

All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills.

Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it becomes a Law, be presented to the President of the United States; If he approve, he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his Objections to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the Objections at large on their Journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such Reconsideration two thirds of that House shall agree to pass the Bill, it shall be sent, together with the Objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two thirds of that House, it shall become a Law. But in all such Cases the Votes of both Houses shall be determined by Yeas and Nays, and the Names of the Persons voting for and against the Bill shall be entered on the Journal of each House respectively. If any Bill shall not be returned by the President within ten Days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the Same shall be a Law, in like Manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their Adjournment prevent its Return, in which Case it shall not be a Law.

I'll explain that in a second.

Every Order, Resolution, or Vote to which the Concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary (except on a question of Adjournment) shall be presented to the President of the United States; and before the Same shall take Effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by two thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the Rules and Limitations prescribed in the Case of a Bill.

What is that gobbledygook? Bills have to pass the House and the Senate, but all Bills have to pass both Houses of Congress in the exact same form – same words. Now Bills that pass both Houses are

sent to the President. The President can either sign the bill, making it a law, or nope it, [“Yeeahh... naw.”] in which case it gets kicked back to Congress. And if two-thirds of the folks in both Houses Yes it, it supersedes that Presidential “uh-uh.” [“Sucka!”] If the President ignores it and doesn’t Veto or sign it, it becomes a Law after 10 days, but if Congress adjourns and the President doesn’t sign it, it’s Vetoed. Got it? Cool. Let’s move on!

Section 8

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow Money on the credit of the United States;

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;

To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

To establish Post Offices and post Roads;

To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court;

To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offences against the Law of Nations;

To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;

To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings; —And

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

So, what does that mean? Congress can establish an Army and Navy, they can make some post offices, they can make some courts, they can declare wars, and they can raise cash. Fighting! Laws! Money! Postcard stamps! All the essential ingredients for a nation.

Now, Section 9 coming up puts limits on Congress.

Section 9

The Migration or Importation of such Persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the Year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a Tax or duty may be imposed on such Importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each Person.

The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it.

More on that in a second.

No Bill of Attainder or ex post facto Law shall be passed.

No Capitation, or other direct, Tax shall be laid, unless in Proportion to the Census or enumeration herein before directed to be taken.

No Tax or Duty shall be laid on Articles exported from any State.

No Preference shall be given by any Regulation of Commerce or Revenue to the Ports of one State over those of another: nor shall Vessels bound to, or from, one State, be obliged to enter, clear, or pay Duties in another.

No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

Now, this next part is in the news a lot.

No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States: And no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State.

Okay, so what does all that mean? So, the Writ of *Habeas Corpus* can't be suspended, and I'm like "Okay, I don't know what that means." I don't even know what a Writ of *Habeas Corpus* was, and truth be told, I had to look up how to pronounce that, but it sounds like a Norwegian metal band or a horror movie set in the medieval village.

I looked it up, and one legal glossary says that it translates in Latin to 'you shall have the body in court', and it means that it's something used to bring a prisoner or other detainee, like in institutionalized mental patient, before the court to determine if the person's imprisonment or detention is lawful. So that can't be suspended.

Also, laws after the fact are also a No, as are State preferences, money lifted from the Treasury without a law, because duh. Also, let's not give ourselves titles like the Queen of Ohio or the Marquis du Bakersfield. Not in this dang country you don't! Moving on.

Section 10

No State shall enter into any Treaty, Alliance, or Confederation; grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal; coin Money; emit Bills of Credit; make any Thing but gold and silver Coin a Tender in Payment of Debts; pass any Bill of Attainder, ex post facto Law, or Law impairing the Obligation of Contracts, or grant any Title of Nobility.

No State shall, without the Consent of the Congress, lay any Imposts or Duties on Imports or Exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing its inspection Laws: and the net Produce of all Duties and Imposts, laid by any State on Imports or Exports, shall be for the Use of the Treasury of the United States; and all such Laws shall be subject to the Revision and Controul of the Congress.

No State shall, without the Consent of Congress, lay any Duty of Tonnage, keep Troops, or Ships of War in time of Peace, enter into any Agreement or Compact with another State, or with a foreign Power, or engage in War, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent Danger as will not admit of delay.

That means that States can't make Navies or declare war, they can't make their own money or otherwise just kind of wild out as outlined above. States can, however, encourage residents to get thinly drawn outlines of their borders tattooed on personages of residents as a pledge of allegiance to their United States territory of birth. It's not a rule, but y'all know I love a tattoo image search and I just googled 'state tattoo' and I will say: California, home to what some might call justified narcissism [*clip of Best Coast, "The Only Place": We've got the ocean, got the babes, got the sun, we've got the waves...*] seems to be the most prominent in all of the state tattoo returns with Texas edging in as maybe a close second.

But I just want to give some major creative points to the folks who got the entire US map tattooed on them with just empty state boundaries filled in as they're visited. That's, legitimately, hella cute. It's hella cute! But the biggest kudos goes to the man on RateMyInk.com who submitted, for our enjoyment and our judgment: his state's outline, situated in his moist, hairy armpit and emblazoned with the script 'Garden State'. So, New Jersey, you win.

Did you like Article I of the Constitution? Great! Let's do Article II next and establish the Executive or Presidential branch of the Government. Again, every time you hear the word 'he', just replace it in your mind with 'they'. Remember, things only change when we make some noise.

Article II

Section 1

The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his Office during the Term of four Years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same Term, be elected, as follows.

Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress: but no Senator or Representative, or Person holding an Office of Trust or Profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector.

Now, this all was changed later. But:

The Electors shall meet in their respective States, and vote by Ballot for two Persons, of whom one at least shall not be an Inhabitant of the same State with themselves. And they shall make a List of all the Persons voted for, and of the Number of Votes for each; which List they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the Seat of the Government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall, in the Presence of the

Senate and House of Representatives, open all the Certificates, and the Votes shall then be counted. The Person having the greatest Number of Votes shall be the President, if such Number be a Majority of the whole Number of Electors appointed; and if there be more than one who have such Majority, and have an equal Number of Votes, then the House of Representatives shall immediately chuse by Ballot one of them for President; and if no Person have a Majority, then from the five highest on the List the said House shall in like Manner chuse the President. But in chusing the President, the Votes shall be taken by States, the Representatives from each State having one Vote; a quorum for this Purpose shall consist of a Member or Members from two thirds of the States, and a Majority of all the States shall be necessary to a Choice.

Now, this part is cute:

In every Case, after the Choice of the President, the Person having the greatest Number of Votes of the Electors shall be the Vice President. But if there should remain two or more who have equal Votes, the Senate shall chuse from them by Ballot the Vice President.

The Congress may determine the Time of chusing the Electors, and the Day on which they shall give their Votes; which Day shall be the same throughout the United States.

No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.

It continues, and this little part is going to be changed later:

In Case of the Removal of the President from Office, or of his Death, Resignation, or Inability to discharge the Powers and Duties of the said Office, the Same shall devolve on the Vice President, and the Congress may by Law provide for the Case of Removal, Death, Resignation or Inability, both of the President and Vice President, declaring what Officer shall then act as President, and such Officer shall act accordingly, until the Disability be removed, or a President shall be elected.

Again, spoiler alert, we'll address that in an Amendment later.

The President shall, at stated Times, receive for his Services, a Compensation, which shall neither be encreased nor diminished during the Period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that Period any other Emolument from the United States, or any of them.

Before he enter on the Execution of his Office, he shall take the following Oath or Affirmation:—"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

To recap Article II Section 1, which was a whopper. There is a Pres, there is a Vice Pres, and the Electoral College picks them both. The number of electors in each State is the number of Senators- which is two- plus the number of House Reps which depends on the population.

Now, the Founding Fathers thought that this would protect us from a tyrant manipulating the minds of the people and also, the slave-holding South used it as a way to attain electoral votes, by counting each human they owned as three-fifths of a person, yet of course not allowing those people to vote. So more on all this when we get to the 12th Amendment. Also, back then, the Vice President was the runner-up of the race, kind of Justin Guarini, or Clay Aiken, or Adam Lambert.

Just runners up on a long-running America's [*in dubious tone*] Most Trusted Person Onstage Contest we call the United States, but what can the President do? I'm glad you asked, that's why there's Section 2 of Article II.

Section 2

The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States, when called into the actual Service of the United States; he may require the Opinion, in writing, of the principal Officer in each of the executive Departments, upon any Subject relating to the Duties of their respective Offices, and he shall have Power to grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offences against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment.

He shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States, whose Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by Law: but the Congress may by Law vest the Appointment of such inferior Officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments.

The President shall have Power to fill up all Vacancies that may happen during the Recess of the Senate, by granting Commissions which shall expire at the End of their next Session.

So, what does all this mean? The President; Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces and of the Militia of all the States. President can pardon criminals, can pick judges, and SCOTUS members, and also makes treaties. Another perk? There's a bowling alley in the White House, did you know that? So, if you like influencing millions of peoples' civil liberties for decades to come and also bowling, maybe the Office of the President is for you. [*"You think you're going bowling now?!"*]

Now, let's get to Section 3 of Article II; more about the President.

Section 3

He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary Occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in Case of Disagreement between them, with Respect to the Time of Adjournment, he may adjourn them to such Time as he shall think proper; he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the Officers of the United States.

So, what does Section 3 mean? Duties of the Leader of America include: give a State of the Union address why don'tcha? Hang out with some Ambassadors, give an address to Congress if they need it. Make sure the laws are carried out and generally, please, don't be an evil turd. I added the last part [*"You did?"*]

Speaking of, this next article talks about a little thing called the Impeachment.

Section 4

The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.

So, though we like to think of Impeachment as 300 million people breaking up with you all at once, it's actually just the first half of the dumping process. Now, Andrew Johnson, the VP who slid into the Presidential role when Lincoln was assassinated, was both super racist and also impeached, but he stayed in office because of one vote in the Senate and he escaped the consequences that two-thirds Senate majority would've brought on.

Oh, Bill Clinton was also impeached for lying about being a predatory saxophone-wielding horndog [clip of Bill Clinton: "But I want to say one thing to the American people. I want you to listen to me. I'm going to say this again. I did not have sexual relations with that woman."] But he was acquitted, and he remained in office. So just in case you think Impeachment is the finish line, just know, it's really like the starting blocks, but it's still exciting.

Hey! Let's talk about the Judicial Branch! Okay, let's!

Article III

Section 1

The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services, a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.

So, SCOTUS for life and they can't get a pay cut while they still have a job. Now, this next part is about the kinds of cases they'll hear.

Section 2

The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority;—to all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls;—to all Cases of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction;—to Controversies to which the United States shall be a Party;—to Controversies between two or more States;— between a State and Citizens of another State,—between Citizens of different States,—between Citizens of the same State claiming Lands under Grants of different States, and between a State, or the Citizens thereof, and foreign States, Citizens or Subjects.

In all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be Party, the supreme Court shall have original Jurisdiction. In all the other Cases before mentioned, the supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Congress shall make.

The Trial of all Crimes, except in Cases of Impeachment, shall be by Jury; and such Trial shall be held in the State where the said Crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any State, the Trial shall be at such Place or Places as the Congress may by Law have directed.

So, what does this Section 2 mean? The SCOTUS hears some federal cases and others by appeal; and in criminal court, we'll leave it up to a jury. Now, spoiler alert, this will be changed via Article 11 in 1795, more on that later. Hey, what's treason? Oh, it's this:

Section 3

Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of

Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court.

The Congress shall have Power to declare the Punishment of Treason, but no Attainder of Treason shall work Corruption of Blood, or Forfeiture except during the Life of the Person attainted.

Hmm, that's treason! ["Yeeerrrr out!"] Article 4 is about the states and what happens in Vegas does not stay in Vegas. If you're married there, it applied to the other states. And if you run away from one state after committing a crime, they shall drag ye arse back to the state in which thou hast crimed.

Article IV

Section 1

Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of every other State. And the Congress may by general Laws prescribe the Manner in which such Acts, Records and Proceedings shall be proved, and the Effect thereof.

Section 2

The Citizens of each State shall be entitled to all Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the several States.

A Person charged in any State with Treason, Felony, or other Crime, who shall flee from Justice, and be found in another State, shall on Demand of the executive Authority of the State from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the State having Jurisdiction of the Crime.

If you run away from one state, they'll drag you back. Now, this last part;

No Person held to Service or Labour in one State, under the Laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in Consequence of any Law or Regulation therein, be discharged from such Service or Labour, but shall be delivered up on Claim of the Party to whom such Service or Labour may be due.

Now that last clause was about fugitive slaves. In case you forgot that this was written in a time when only white men made laws and owning people was okay by the Law. This next section is about new States.

Section 3

New States may be admitted by the Congress into this Union; but no new State shall be formed or erected within the Jurisdiction of any other State; nor any State be formed by the Junction of two or more States, or Parts of States, without the Consent of the Legislatures of the States concerned as well as of the Congress.

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

Section 4

The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened) against domestic Violence.

So that section meant: Reminder everyone, we have a democracy here, not Kings or Queens, if anyone effs with one State, the federal government will clap back in that State's honor. Okay, so how do we change this Constitution? That is what Article 5 is all about.

Article V

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; Provided that no Amendment which may be made prior to the Year One thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any Manner affect the first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth Section of the first Article; and that no State, without its Consent, shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in the Senate.

So, that article says that the Constitution is the laws by which we make the other laws and that before taking office, you have to super promise, via oath, that you're not going to dick over our country.

Now, the last article in this main Constitution that was put out in 1789, says:

Article VI

All Debts contracted and Engagements entered into, before the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this Constitution, as under the Confederation.

This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.

The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.

Now, the last article in this original Constitution is about ratifying it or making it into law. Which is cute, like when a character breaks the fourth wall and winks at the camera [“Oohhh yeah.”]

Article VII

The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States, shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the Same.

DONE in Convention by the Unanimous Consent of the States present the Seventeenth Day of September in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven and of the Independence of the United States of America the Twelfth. In WITNESS whereof We have hereunto subscribed our Names,

Signed G. Washington, President and Deputy from Virginia. President is spelled “Presidt.” They had some typos... even though they weren't typing, it's fine. And then a bunch of other dead guys signed it. So, while this is the end of the original document, don't worry, we futz with it. We amended it 27 times so far! So, before we get to constitutional glow-ups and makeovers, let's have a quick few words from sponsors of this show who make it possible to make another donation to our

Nomologist Dean Franita Tolson's cause of choice, the American Civil Liberties Union. The ACLU is a non-profit organization whose mission is to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties guaranteed to every person in this country by the constitution and the laws of the United States.

A donation was made to them, which was made possible by the following things that I like.

[Ad Break]

Okay, let's get down and dirty with the Bill of Rights which was ratified December 1791, just a little preamble business up top.

Congress of the United States begun and held at the City of New-York, on Wednesday the fourth of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine.

THE Conventions of a number of the States, having at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added: And as extending the ground of public confidence in the Government, will best ensure the beneficent ends of its institution.

RESOLVED by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, two thirds of both Houses concurring, that the following Articles be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, as amendments to the Constitution of the United States, all, or any of which Articles, when ratified by three fourths of the said Legislatures, to be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of the said Constitution; viz

ARTICLES in addition to, and Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America, proposed by Congress, and ratified by the Legislatures of the several States, pursuant to the fifth Article of the original Constitution.

Remember, the fifth article was like "how do we amend this thing." This is how we do it. Okay, so let's dive into the first amendment.

Amendment 1

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

So, Amendment 1: freedom of religion, speech, we can meet up all we want, we can call the government out on its own horse shit, and we can have a free press. Sounds good! We're starting out with a bang.

Well, shoot. Speaking of explosions.

Amendment 2

A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

That is the Second Amendment in its entirety. Now, apparently there is a debate about whether this was meant for individuals bearing arms or for States, but fast forward and here we are.

According to a recent *Washington Post* article, Americans made up 4% of the world's population but owned about 46% of the entire global stock of 857 million civilian firearms. So that's nearly 400 million guns, which are more guns than there are people, in this country. A *Time* magazine article from January noted that American civilians owned more guns than those held by civilians in the other top 25 countries combined. So, if you ever think your life is boring, just remember, we're another era's *Black Mirror* episode. So that's cool! Okay. ["Woah!"]

Amendment 3

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner; nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

So this means you don't have to let a soldier crash on your couch, but there are sites like UniformDating.com and MilitaryCupid if you want one sleeping in your bed. ["Heeey."]

Amendment 4

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

[Jay-Z's "99 Problems, "Well, my glove compartment is locked, so is the trunk in the back. And I know my rights, so you gon' need a warrant for that..."] But Caleb Mason; a law professor at South Western University stated in a 2012 Gawker article about Jay-Z's "99 Problems."

If this essay serves no other purpose, I hope it serves to debunk for any readers who persist in believing in the myth that locking your trunk will keep the cops from searching it.

It's completely 100% wrong. There's no warrant requirement for car searches. The Supreme Court has declared unequivocally [*chipmunk voice: "unequivocally"*] that because cars are inherently mobile, it is reasonable under the 4th Amendment for the police to search the car, the whole car, and everything in the car, including containers, whenever they have probable cause to believe that the car contains evidence of a crime. So, flimflam has been debunked. [*squishy splat*]

So, on to Amendment 5. What happens if you went to the Shawn Carter School of Law and were smuggling illegal exotic lizards in the trunk and wound up arrested? Well...

Amendment 5

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

So, you have to be properly indicted, you can't be hauled back and tried for the same lizard crime twice, you don't have to testify against yourself and spill all the beans about your lizard caper, and the law can't steal all your stuff. As you read the Constitution, you can certainly see that it was written by a people who had been boned by monarchies and had good intentions to protect folks from some power-hungry ogres.

Now, Amendment 6, your lizard trial. [*theme from The People's Court: "dun-un un"*]

Amendment 6

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

So, what does Amendment 6 mean? Quick trial, fair jury, cross-examination, the right to a lawyer, that's what I gathered.

Amendment 7

In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

So, Amendment 7 is about federal jury trials, it's not really used anymore from what I gather. And that 20-spot, back then was worth about 350 dollars. Speaking of dollars:

Amendment 8

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

This next amendment, 9, is about rights that aren't listed here but can still be violated.

Amendment 9

The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment 10

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

Now, Amendment 10 has been debated a bit and some folks think it's redundant, but it means that the power not granted to the federal government belongs to the States or to the People. From what I've read, this was to appease anti-federalists who worried that the federal government would be too up in the State's beeswax.

So, then that is the Bill of Rights. Now, the next 17 amendments dribbled in over the course of, like, 200 years. Let's very briefly get to know them, kind of like speed dating. Except with your rights. [cat call whistle]

Amendment 11 - Ratified February 7, 1795

The Judicial power of the United States shall not be construed to extend to any suit in law or equity, commenced or prosecuted against one of the United States by Citizens of another State, or by Citizens or Subjects of any Foreign State.

This is an adjustment to Article III Section 2, it's about how a citizen of one State can file a suit against another State.

The next amendment is about the selection of Vice President. Remember, Vice President used to just be runner up.

Amendment 12 - Ratified June 15, 1804

The Electors shall meet in their respective states and vote by ballot for President and Vice-President, one of whom, at least, shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves; they shall name in their ballots the person voted for as President, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as Vice-President, and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as President, and of all persons voted for as Vice-President, and of the number of votes for each, which lists they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate; -- the President of the Senate shall, in the

presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates and the votes shall then be counted; -- The person having the greatest number of votes for President, shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed; and if no person have such majority, then from the persons having the highest numbers not exceeding three on the list of those voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall choose immediately, by ballot, the President. But in choosing the President, the votes shall be taken by states, the representation from each state having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the states, and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice. [And if the House of Representatives shall not choose a President whenever the right of choice shall devolve upon them, before the fourth day of March next following, then the Vice-President shall act as President, as in case of the death or other constitutional disability of the President. --] The person having the greatest number of votes as Vice-President, shall be the Vice-President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed, and if no person have a majority, then from the two highest numbers on the list, the Senate shall choose the Vice-President; a quorum for the purpose shall consist of two-thirds of the whole number of Senators, and a majority of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice. But no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of President shall be eligible to that of Vice-President of the United States.

And if you're like, "Is that how it goes?" hold tight. That last part will get reworked by part of the 20th Amendment. But, let's move on to Amendment 13, this is a big one.

Amendment 13 - Ratified December 6, 1865

Section 1

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Section 2

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

So next time anyone mentions the 13th Amendment, just know it's a very important one. It should make your heart heavy, but also make you feel like kicking ass for a change. Now, this next one is also a biggie, and it forms the basis for landmark cases like Brown V. Board of Education, on cases about segregation, and on Roe V. Wade. It was drafted to address citizenship rights and equal protection of the laws in the Reconstruction era after the Civil War and abolition. So, here is the 14th.

Amendment 14 - Ratified July 9, 1868

Section 1

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Section 2

Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed. But

when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice-President of the United States, Representatives in Congress, the Executive and Judicial officers of a State, or the members of the Legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such State, being twenty-one years of age...

More on those voting details later.

... and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion, or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such State.

Section 3

No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice-President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.

Section 4

The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void.

Section 5

The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

That was Amendment 14, it was a doozie, it's a big one, it's a good one to know. Reread it if you get the chance.

Amendment 15 - Ratified February 3, 1870

Section 1

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 race, color, or previous condition of servitude--

Section 2

The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Moving on, Amendment 16, income tax is going to happen regardless of the population of your State.

Amendment 16 - Ratified February 3, 1913

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.

Amendment 17, this was ratified in 1913 and it tweaks Article I, Section 3 of the Constitution. It's about Senators.

Amendment 17 - Ratified April 8, 1913

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, elected by the people thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote. The electors in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State legislatures.

When vacancies happen in the representation of any State in the Senate, the executive authority of such State shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies: Provided, That the legislature of any State may empower the executive thereof to make temporary appointments until the people fill the vacancies by election as the legislature may direct.

This amendment shall not be so construed as to affect the election or term of any Senator chosen before it becomes valid as part of the Constitution.

From what I've read, that means that the People of the State choose the Senators. Now, this next one is about hooch, it's about goggle juice, it's about that devil's waterfall.

Amendment 18 - Ratified January 16, 1919

Section 1

After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.

Ah yes, the Prohibition.

Section 2

The Congress and the several States shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Section 3

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

Spoiler alert, this will be repealed in a few more amendments. Life is an experiment, we try things, we see how they go. Cut bangs, text your crush, we're all gonna die. Also, as long as you're feeling empowered, let's talk about finally recognizing women as having agency, functioning brains, and being human people who could vote.

Amendment 19 - Ratified August 18, 1920

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.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Yeah, 150 years after this thing was written they were like "Nnn... Fine, ladies can be people." If you need to pause this to break something, you just go for it. I get it.

This next one is about swearing Presidents and what to do if the President *does* get eaten by a pterodactyl.

Amendment 20 - Ratified January 23, 1933

Section 1

The terms of the President and the Vice President shall end at noon on the 20th day of January, and the terms of Senators and Representatives at noon on the 3rd day of January, of the years in which such terms would have ended if this article had not been ratified; and the terms of their successors shall then begin.

Section 2

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall begin at noon on the 3rd day of January, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

Section 3

If, at the time fixed for the beginning of the term of the President, the President elect shall have died, the Vice President elect shall become President. If a President shall not have been chosen before the time fixed for the beginning of his term, or if the President elect shall have failed to qualify, then the Vice President elect shall act as President until a President shall have qualified; and the Congress may by law provide for the case wherein neither a President elect nor a Vice President shall have qualified, declaring who shall then act as President, or the manner in which one who is to act shall be selected, and such person shall act accordingly until a President or Vice President shall have qualified.

Section 4

The Congress may by law provide for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the House of Representatives may choose a President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them, and for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the Senate may choose a Vice President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them.

Section 5

Sections 1 and 2 shall take effect on the 15th day of October following the ratification of this article.

Section 6

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission.

Who! Okay, is all this talk about death making you thirsty? Well, you're in luck, because here comes the 21st Amendment.

Amendment 21 - Ratified December 5, 1933

Section 1

The 18th article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States is hereby repealed.

That Prohibition thing? *Fuhgeddaboutit!* Screw it, we're fine. Let's drink again.

Section 2

The transportation or importation into any State, Territory, or Possession of the United States for delivery or use therein of intoxicating liquors, in violation of the laws thereof, is hereby prohibited.

Section 3

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by conventions in the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

Okay, so after 14 years of illegality, go ahead and have a drink. It's the Great Depression, everything's depressing. You might as well be hungover, I suppose. Now, if you're pinning for past Presidents, this next Amendment will kill your dreams by setting some term limits.

Amendment 22 - Ratified February 27, 1951

Section 1

No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice, and no person who has held the office of President, or acted as President, for more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected President shall be elected to the office of President more than once. But this Article shall not apply to any person holding the office of President when this Article was proposed by Congress, and shall not prevent any person who may be holding the office of President, or acting as President, during the term within which this Article becomes operative from holding the office of President or acting as President during the remainder of such term.

Section 2

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress.

Okay, term limits, there you go. That was Amendment 22. Now, Amendment 23 throws a bone, or three, to DC.

Amendment 23 - Ratified March 29, 1961

Section 1

The District constituting the seat of Government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as Congress may direct:

A number of electors of President and Vice President equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives in Congress to which the District would be entitled if it were a State, but in no event more than the least populous State; they shall be in addition to those appointed by the States, but they shall be considered, for the purposes of the election of President and Vice President, to be electors appointed by a State; and they shall meet in the District and perform such duties as provided by the twelfth article of amendment.

Section 2

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

So, Washington DC, they get three votes in the electoral congress. Amendment 24, also about voting, it's all about not charging a poll tax.

Amendment 24 - Ratified January 23, 1964

Section 1

The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President, for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay poll tax or other tax.

Section 2

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

So next time it's election day, if for no other reason, just go because it's a free activity. Also, when I vote in the November elections, my neighbors sometimes have a bowl of leftover Halloween candy out. And, fun trivia, Jordan Peele goes to my polling place and that's exciting.

Amendment 25 is all about the line to the presidential throne. This is a long one. It was passed after JFK's assassination. But in the event of a pterodactyl, I guess it's good we have it ironed out.

Amendment 25 - Ratified February 10, 1967

Section 1

In case of the removal of the President from office or of his death or resignation, the Vice President shall become President.

Section 2

Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Vice President, the President shall nominate a Vice President who shall take office upon confirmation by a majority vote of both Houses of Congress.

Section 3

Whenever the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the Vice President as Acting President.

Section 4

Whenever the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President.

Whenever the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President.

Thereafter, when the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that no inability exists, he shall resume the powers and duties of his office unless the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive department or of such other body as Congress may

by law provide, transmit within four days to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office. Thereupon Congress shall decide the issue, assembling within forty-eight hours for that purpose if not in session. If the Congress, within twenty-one days after receipt of the latter written declaration, or, if Congress is not in session, within twenty-one days after Congress is required to assemble, determines by two-thirds vote of both Houses that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall continue to discharge the same as Acting President; otherwise, the President shall resume the powers and duties of his office.

There you go! That's who's driving the boat if something goes down.

Alright, Amendment 26 is among the most quickly passed, it was in response to the Vietnam War and being eligible for the draft, but not having a voice to vote. So, Amendment 26, second to last one.

Amendment 26 - Ratified July 1, 1971

Section 1

The right of citizens of the United States, who are 18 years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.

Section 2

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

And lastly [drumroll] Amendment 27, proposed in 1789, it took over 200 freaking years to ratify.

Amendment 27 - Ratified May 7, 1992.

No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of representatives shall have intervened.

It's about salaries for Representatives.

We did it! We made it! We read the goldarn Constitution! Are you proud? I'm proud of us. [*That, my friends, is the sound of applause!*] Next time someone brags about reading *Infinite Jest*, be like, "You know what? I listened to *Ologies* Nomology Part 2. We read the goddamn Constitution."

So, ask smart people stupid questions. Fight for your rights, fight for the rights of others, and make some noise until things change. Now as Franita Tolson said: "We're only doing as well as the least fortunate people in our society." And as Frederick Douglass said: "Power concedes nothing without a demand."

So, go out, maybe seek office? What if you did that? Just think about it. So, thank you so much for listening this far, I'm so proud that you did. Thanks for sticking with me through that old town road ride through history and I'll see you next week. We'll learn what the hell bleach is and how it works.

Now, Franita Tolson is at [@ProfTolson](#) on Twitter. We are [@Ologies](#) on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). I'm [@AlieWard](#) on [both](#). More info about all of this is up at [AlieWard.com/Ologies/Nomology](#). Merch is available at [OlogiesMerch.com](#). Thank you, Shannon Feltus and Boni Dutch of the charming and hilarious podcast *You Are That*, for managing that. Thank you, Erin Talbert and Hannah Lipow for adminning the [Ologies Podcast Facebook group](#). Thank you, Steven Ray Morris, for editing this one. Slapping it all together overnight. Thank you, Jarrett Sleeper, for putting scrambled eggs into brioche hotdog buns. It's really good. The theme song was written by Nick Thorburn.

If you stick around to the very end of the episode, you know I tell you a secret. A week or two ago, I went to Hawaii on a squidding expedition with Sarah McAnulty. And, either the way I was sitting on the plane working on my laptop, or squidding, or something, I tweaked a muscle in my neck so badly that I had to go into Urgent Care because they thought maybe it was meningitis caused by rat lungworm, which is apparently pretty prevalent in slugs on the island. And I will tell you, I touched more than one slug. So I thought, "I wonder if this is going to be fatal meningitis."

Turns out, it's not. It's a pulled muscle. They gave me some muscle relaxers which didn't even work. Anyway, I'm recording this, and it hurts... so much. So, I just wanted you to know, not only did I just read out 7,500 words of the Constitution, I was in excruciating pain throughout. I hope that didn't come through. [*pained laughter*] This hurts so much. Okay. [*pained laughter*] This sucks so bad.

That's it, that's my secret: apparently you can hurt yourself going squidding. There is a lot of looking down into the water and it is a neck strain, but I wouldn't have changed a thing. It was the best. I had a dream that I was squidding and I saw many, many squids in the water. Anyway, okay, that is it. Please run for office, please attend some protests, write to your Senators, make some noise. Thank you for listening to the Constitution. You matter, and it matters.

Okay, berbye.

Transcribed by Lisa Z

Some links which may be of use:

Read more about Franita's work [here](#)

A donation went to the American Civil Liberties Union. Learn more at www.aclu.org

[Take a gander at The Constitution](#)

[Constitution transcript](#)

[Bill of Rights breakdown](#)

[2018 Voter turnout](#)

[SCOTUSBlog](#)

[Know your justices](#)

[Supreme Court Justices demographics](#)

[Shitty SCOTUS Instagram](#)

[Fast facts](#)

[Progressivism](#)

[Worcester vs. Georgia aka Andrew Jackson being a tool](#)

[Grandfather Clause](#)

[Civil rights footage with Dr. King](#)

["It's rigged" clip](#)

["I wrote my way out"](#)

Henry Louis Gates Jr. PBS documentary "[Reconstruction: America After the Civil War](#)"

[13th Amedndment](#)

[National Popular Vote](#)

[Frederick Douglas 1857 speech](#)

For comments and inquiries on this or other transcripts, please contact OlogiteEmily@gmail.com