## Amending the Constitution

The ability to change the Constitution.

**Article V:**

The Congress, whenever two-thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this Constitution.

- The 19th Amendment, passed in 1920, gave women the right to vote.
- State legislatures may also propose amendments, but none has ever succeeded in gaining enough support to ask Congress to call a vote.
- Over 9,000 amendments have been introduced in Congress, many of which have been similar proposals. Congress has formally proposed amendments only 33 times.

## Admission of New States

Territories may be admitted as new states to the Union.

**Article IV: Section 3, Clause 1:**

New States may be admitted by Congress into this Union; but no new State shall be formed or erected within the jurisdiction of any other State.

- 37 states were added to the Union after the original 13. Alaska and Hawaii were the last two states admitted, in 1959.

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### Introduction of Amendments vs. Final Proposal

**Amendments introduced:** 9000+

**Amendments proposed:** 33

**Washington Chronicle**

*Alaska Is 49th State in Union* January 3, 1959