The U.S. Citizenship Test
As a Window into
Advanced Civics

Tony Saunders
<tsaunders@wyattfirm.com>
Constitution

• Adopted in 1787 by the Second Continental Congress
• Ratified in 1788
• Primary Drafter - James Madison
• Supreme Law of the Land
• 4,543 words
• Some unique spellings
Introduction

• “We the people…."
• 6 stated purposes
Article I - Congress

- **Section 1** - creates House & Senate
- Great Compromise
- **Section 2** - House of Representatives
- Qualifications
- Representatives based on population
- 3/5 Compromise
- Power of Impeachment
Article I - Congress (continued)

- **Section 3**: Senate
- Originally chosen by state legislatures
- Staggered Terms
- Qualifications
- VP is President of Senate
- President Pro Tempore
- Conducts Impeachment Trials
Article I - Congress (continued)

- **Section 4** - Conduct of elections left to the states
- **Section 5** - Congressional Record
- **Section 6** - Compensation
- No arrest while in session
- **Section 7** - Revenue Spending Bills originate in House
- 2/3 to overrule veto
- Law without President’s signature
Article I - Congress (continued)

- **Section 8** - Power to pass laws
- Commerce Clause
- Lay taxes - Affordable Care Act Case
- Establish lower courts
- Declare War
- **Section 9** - Writ of Habeas Corpus
- No Bill of Attainder
- No Expos Facto Laws
- **Section 10** - Limits on states
Article II - Presidency - Executive

- Section 1 - 4 year term
- Electoral College - 270 votes needed
- # Senators + House of Representatives = Delegates
- Qualifications for President
- Oath of office
• **Section 2** - Commander in Chief
• Treaties
• **Section 3** - State of Union
• Impeachment Grounds
Article III - Judiciary

- Section 1 - Supreme Court
- Section 2 - Judicial power
- Impeachment Trial in Senate
- Section 3 Treason
Article IV

- **Section 1** - Full faith and credit clause
- **Section 2** - Privileges and Immunities clause
- **Section 3** - Admission of new states
- **Section 4** - Duty to protect states
Article V - Amendments

• 2/3 each house + 3/4 states ratify
• Constitutional Convention
Article VI

• Supremacy Clause
Article VII

- Ratification by 9 states
Federalist Papers

• Originally called “The Federalist”
• Drafters: Madison, Jay & Hamilton
• Purpose: convince New York to ratify
• Published by “Publius”
Drafter: Alexander Hamilton

• Founder of Federalist Party
• Established 1st 2 national banks
• Action combated international slave trade
• Killed by Aaron Burr in dual
Drafter: James Madison

- 4th President
- Viewed as “Father of Constitution”
- Primary drafter of Constitution & Bill of Rights
- Helped organize Constitutional Convention
- Put forth VA Plan
Drafter: John Jay

- 1st Chief of Justice of the Supreme Court
- Helped negotiate Treaty of Paris
- Led Federalist Party
Bill of Rights

- 1. Religion, Speech, Press, Right to Assemble
- 2. Right to bear arms
- 3. No quartering of troops
- 4. No unreasonable search & seizure
- 5. Due process / No testimony against yourself / Eminent Domain
- 6. Right to an attorney / Speedy trial 😊
- 7. Right to jury
- 8. No cruel & unusual punishment / no excessive bail
- 9. Bill of Rights do not exclude other rights
- 10. States rights