

## Timeline of U.S. Constitution

- 1774: First meeting of the Continental Congress: delegates of the 13 colonies
- 1776: Revolution begins; Declaration of Independence in July
- 1776: Articles of Confederation adopted by Continental Congress; sent to 13 states for ratification
- 1781: ratified by 13 states, but followed by Continental Congress before that
- 1783: Treaty of Paris; peace treaty and independence from Britain
- 1783–1787: so-called Critical Period
- 1786–1787: Shays' Rebellion in Massachusetts
- May 1787: delegates of states meet in Philadelphia to draft new Constitution
- Sept 1788: U.S. Constitution ratified by 9 states; rest follow later
- March 1789: new government begins; meeting of the First Congress; George Washington as president
- 1789: First Congress adopts Bill of Rights (amendments 1 to 10 of Constitution)
- Dec. 1791: Amendments ratified by states; become part of the US Constitution