

The Constitution

Federal Constitution

Originally written in
in the Pa. State House. **1787**

Required **nine of the 13 states** to become binding.

On June 21, 1788 the 9th state (New Hampshire) ratified it.

The U.S. Constitution became effective in March 1789.

We the People



First Ten Amendments (Bill of Rights) enacted in

1791.

Amended 17 more times (27 total).

Created **three branches** of government:

I Executive (President) **I** Legislative (Congress) **I** Judicial (U.S. Supreme Court)

All inferior federal courts are authorized by Article III of the Constitution, but created by statute.

Established the **Separation of Powers, Checks and Balances** and **Federalism**.

Provides **individual rights** and **protections**.

Pennsylvania Constitution

Originally written in
in the Pa. State House. **1776**



Co-Authored by **Benjamin Franklin**, who was also a delegate to the U.S. Constitutional Convention 11 years later.

Amended five times, the current Pa. Constitution was **approved by the voters in 1968.**

Created **three branches** of government:

I Executive (Governor) **I** Legislative (General Assembly) **I** Judicial (Pa. Supreme Court)

Article V of the Pa. Constitution **established the Pa. Supreme Court** along with the state's **two intermediate appellate courts, trial courts** and a minor judiciary system of **magisterial district courts**.

Pennsylvania Constitution provides **more details than the federal constitution**, such as public education, public assistance, qualifications for judges, etc.

Provides more **rights and protections than the federal constitution**.

For example, Pa. Constitution Art. 1, Sec. 8 provides **more protection against unreasonable search and seizure** than the 4th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.