

Infographic for Immediate Release
 Sept. 17, 2021

Pennsylvania Celebrates Constitution Day

HARRISBURG – In recognition of Constitution Day, the Pennsylvania Courts today released an infographic highlighting fundamental information about both the federal and state constitutions.

The infographic is intended for use as an educational resource, providing a high-level comparison of the origins and purposes of both documents. A high-resolution file of the graphic is available for download at www.pacourts.us under [Media Resources](#).

Celebrating Constitution Day

Federal Constitution

Originally written in
 in the Pa. State House,
 known as Independence Hall. **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.



First Ten Amendments (Bill of Rights) enacted in **1791.**

Amended 17 more times (27 total).

Created **three branches** of government:

Executive (President) **L**egislative (Congress) **J**udicial (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,
 known as Independence Hall. **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:

Executive (Governor) **L**egislative (General Assembly) **J**udicial (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**.

The Pennsylvania Constitution **elaborates on issues surrounding 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 generally provides **more protection against unreasonable search and seizure** than the 4th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.



PA Courts InfoShare is a monthly product of the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) that visually highlights the work of the courts with interesting data and statistics obtained through the judiciary's case management systems, interactive dashboards and other research. Reproduction is permissible with source cited.



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Media contact: [Casey Scheffler](#), 610-425-1712