



**Fourth Quarter 2024**

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## **A Salute to the U.S. Constitution**

The ability to achieve financial security, to own property, to start a business and benefit from the protection of the law is a direct benefit of the Constitution of the United States, the most amazing document in our country's history.

Written in 1787 and approved by 12 of the original colonies in the following year (Rhode Island held out until 1790 and 11 attempts to ratify the Constitution within the state), it has been the highest law of the land for 236 years.

A major objective of the 1787 drafters was to prevent the tyranny of the majority and provide a voice for minority opinions. The brilliance of the Constitution is also the characteristic that most frustrates political parties and would-be leaders – the balance/division of powers between the legislature, the executive branch and the judicial.

If there was one thought the drafters of the Constitution shared, it was a distrust of a too powerful government and those who would seek power through government. The Constitution is more than a document on how our government is structured, it is also a means of assuring representation of the people, limiting the power of the legislative and executive branches and ensuring conformance to the principles of the Constitution through an independent Judiciary.

While the Constitution can be changed, and has been, the process is difficult. Over the past two centuries, more than 11,600 amendments to the Constitution have been proposed; 33 have been sent to the states for ratification and 27 have been approved.

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