



Constitutional Facts—Did You Know?

- * The U.S. Constitution was drafted and signed in just under 100 working days in the summer of 1787.
- * At one time or another 55 delegates attended the Constitutional Convention, but just 39 signed the completed document.

- * The youngest delegate to the Constitutional Convention was 26 year-old Jonathon Dayton of New Jersey. The oldest delegate was Pennsylvania's Benjamin Franklin, age 81. The average age of the delegates at the Constitutional Convention was 43. James Madison was 36, and Alexander Hamilton was 32.



- * Collectively, the convention delegates possessed significant political experience; eight had signed the Declaration of Independence, 44 had served in the Continental Congress, and six had served as state governors. There were 32 lawyers, three physicians, and two college presidents.
- * The U.S. Constitution was drafted in secrecy, behind guarded, locked doors.
- * The Constitution was penned on four sheets of parchment paper, measuring approximately 24 by 29 inches.
- * The Constitution contains a number of British spellings, such as “defence,” “chuse,” “labour,” and “controul.”
- * Contrary to popular belief, the following words or phrases do **not** appear in the United States Constitution: *checks and balances, education, Electoral College, eminent domain, executive agreement, executive order, executive privilege, freedom of association, God, immigration, judicial review, jury of peers, separation of powers, political party, primary election, presidential power of removal, right of privacy, right to remain silent, senatorial courtesy, slavery, or wall of separation between church and state.*
- * Pages one and four of the Constitution are on display under a bullet proof case at the National Archives in Washington, DC. After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the original Constitution was temporarily housed at Fort Knox for safekeeping.

“The Republic was not created by cowards; and cowards will not preserve it.”

—Elmer Davis (But We Were Born Free, 1954)