

The U.S. Constitution & The 28th Amendment

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The United States Constitution is one of the oldest working constitutions in the world. It has been the outline of our government for over 200 years now. If the Constitution was never ratified by all states, it would be a different country today. The Constitution is the most important document in our government, and an addition that I propose as the 28th amendment should be free college for everyone.

The Constitution is our plan of government, which we can change to make it better with amendments. In 1787, they had the Constitutional Convention to create a new government after the failure of the Articles of Confederation. When they made the Constitution, there needed to be nine out of the thirteen states to ratify it to start using the new Constitution. Delaware was the first state to ratify the Constitution on December 7, 1787, with New Hampshire being the ninth state to ratify on June 22, 1788.¹ The Constitution Congress assigned March 9, 1789 as the starting date for operating under the new Constitution. By the time we were operating under the Constitution, North Carolina and Rhode Island were the only two states that did not ratify it yet, Rhode Island was the final state to ratify.

If there was to be a 28th amendment, it should be free college, or at least affordable college. There are multiple pros and multiple cons to free college that can impact our lives. Some pros are, student debt will not destroy younger generations' lives, more lower-income students can make it to graduation and get a good job, and students might have a little more freedom picking their majors. Some of the cons are, the money for college needs to come from somewhere, most likely taxes like European countries, younger people might not know how to

¹ "The Constitution," The White House, accessed December 5, 2019, <http://whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/the-constitution/>.

handle their finances, and college might not seem as important.² With student debt being eliminated with free college, people after they graduate will not be in debt for twenty plus years. On the other hand though, the money to send them to college will need to come from somewhere, meaning taxes will most likely get jacked up.

Free college would be a good amendment in my opinion. The pros and cons are pretty equal so it all depends on which you feel outweighs the other by a little bit. Free college gives everybody an equal chance to succeed in life. Although taxes might be jacked up because of it, by paying those taxes you are giving the younger generations a chance to make their lives good instead of working in a general store or McDonald's their entire lives, unless that's how you want to live. More people would be able to get degrees for the things they love to do because some things like engineering, you need to spend almost two-hundred thousand dollars on college without scholarships. Unemployment would be even lower than it is now, since people would want to work to make good money since they were able to get a good degree without being in a lot of debt.

The Constitution is the most important document in our government, and an addition that I propose as the 28th amendment should be free college for everyone. The Constitution has been used for 230 years, almost 231 years, and has been strong the entire time because of amendments. If it hadn't been ratified, the United States would not be how it is today. The United States Constitution is one of the oldest working constitutions in the world.

² Ellen Andersen, "Should College Be Free: Pros And Cons - College Raptor," College Raptor Blog, last modified September 12, 2016, <http://collegeraptor.com/find-colleges/articles/affordability-college-cost/pros-cons-tuition-free-college/>.

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