

Freedom of Speech, Assembly, Petition

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Preamble to the Bill of Rights

*Congress of the United States

begun and held at the City of New-York, on Wednesday the fourth of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine.

THE Conventions of a number of the States, having at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added: And as extending the ground of public confidence in the Government, will best ensure the beneficent ends of its institution. RESOLVED by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, two thirds of both Houses concurring, that the following Articles be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, as amendments to the Constitution of the United States, all, or any of which Articles, when ratified by three fourths of the said Legislatures, to be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of the said Constitution; viz. ARTICLES in addition to, and Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America, proposed by Congress, and ratified by the Legislatures of the several States, pursuant to the fifth Article of the original Constitution.

Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg Speaker of the House of Representatives John Adams, Vice-President of the United States and President of the Senate.

Attest, John Beckley, Clerk of the House of Representatives. Sam. A. Otis Secretary of the Senate.

Amendment 1

- Freedom of Religion, Speech, and the Press (also Assembly and Petition)

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

----End of quote from <https://nccs.net/blogs/americas-founding-documents/bill-of-rights-amendments-1-10> ----

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CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN OF 1963

PREAMBLE

We, the people of the State of Michigan, grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of freedom, and earnestly desiring to secure these blessings undiminished to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this constitution.

Article I DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

Article 1. Sec. 3.

The people have the right peaceably to assemble, to consult for the common good, to instruct their representatives and to petition the government for redress of grievances.

Article 1. Sec. 5.

Every person may freely speak, write, express and publish his views on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of such right; and no law shall be enacted to restrain or abridge the liberty of speech or of the press.

---end of quote from <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-Constitution> ---

Definitions from Webster's 1828 "American Dictionary of the English Language"

<https://webstersdictionary1828.com/>

ABRIDG'ING, *participle present tense* shortening; lessening; depriving; debarring.

FREE'DOM, noun

1. A state of exemption from the power or control of another; liberty; exemption from slavery, servitude or confinement. freedom is personal, civil, political, and religious. [See Liberty.]

LIB'ERTY, noun [Latin *libertas*, from *liber*, free.]

1. Freedom from restraint, in a general sense, and applicable to the body, or to the will or mind. The body is at liberty when not confined; the will or mind is at liberty when not checked or controlled. A man enjoys liberty when no physical force operates to restrain his actions or volitions.

2. Natural liberty consists in the power of acting as one thinks fit, without any restraint or control, except from the laws of nature. It is a state of exemption from the control of others, and from positive laws and the institutions of social life. This liberty is abridged by the establishment of government.

3. Civil liberty is the liberty of men in a state of society, or natural liberty so far only abridged and restrained, as is necessary and expedient for the safety and interest of the society, state or nation. A restraint of natural liberty not necessary or expedient for the public, is tyranny or oppression. civil liberty is an exemption from the arbitrary will of others, which exemption is secured by established laws, which restrain every man from injuring or controlling another. Hence the restraints of law are essential to civil liberty.

The liberty of one depends not so much on the removal of all restraint from him, as on the due restraint upon the liberty of others.

In this sentence, the latter word liberty denotes natural liberty.

4. Political liberty is sometimes used as synonymous with civil liberty But it more properly designates the liberty of a nation, the freedom of a nation or state from all unjust abridgment of its rights and independence by another nation. Hence we often speak of the political liberties of Europe, or the nations of Europe.

5. Religious liberty is the free right of adopting and enjoying opinions on religious subjects, and of worshiping the Supreme Being according to the dictates of conscience, without external control.

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Definitions continued from Webster's 1828 "American Dictionary of the English Language"
<https://webstersdictionary1828.com/>

SPEECH, noun

1. The faculty of uttering articulate sounds or words, as in human beings; the **faculty of expressing thoughts by words or articulate sounds**. speech was given to man by his Creator for the noblest purposes.
2. Language; **words as expressing ideas**. The acts of God to human ears cannot without process of speech be told.
7. **Any declaration of thoughts**. I, with leave of speech implor'd, repli'd.

PRESS, noun

3. The **art or business of printing and publishing**. A free press is a great blessing to a free people; a licentious press is a curse to society.

PE'ACEABLY, adverb **Without war**; without tumult or commotion; without private feuds and quarrels.

1. Without disturbance; quietly; without agitation; without interruption.

ASSEM'BLE, verb transitive [Latin simul.]

To **collect a number of individuals or particulars into one place**, or body; to bring or call togethe(r); to convene; to congregate.

ASSEM'BLE, verb intransitive **To meet or come together**; to convene, as a number of individuals.

PETITION, noun [Latin petitio, from peto, to ask, properly to urge or press.]

2. **A formal request or supplication, verbal or written**; particularly, a written supplication from an inferior to a superior, **either to a single person clothed with power, or to a legislative or other body, soliciting some favor, grant, right or mercy**.
3. The paper containing a supplication or solicitation. Much of the time of our legislative bodies is consumed in attending to private petitions. The speaker's table is often loaded with petitions. Petitions to the king of Great Britain must contain nothing reflecting on the administration.

PETITION, verb transitive **To make a request to; to ask from; to solicit**; particularly, to make supplication to a superior for some favor or right; **as, to petition the legislature**; to petition a court of chancery.

Definitions continued from Webster's 1828 "American Dictionary of the English Language"
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REDRESS', verb transitive

1. To set right; to amend.

In yonder spring of roses, find what to redress till noon.

[In this sense, as applied to material things, Rarely used.]

2. To remedy; to repair; to relieve from, and sometimes to indemnify for; as, to redress wrongs; to redress injuries; to redress grievances. Sovereigns are bound to protect their subjects, and redress their grievances.

3. To ease; to relieve; as, she labored to redress my pain.

[We use this verb before the person or the thing. We say, to redress an injured person, or to redress the injury. The latter is most common.]

REDRESS', noun

1. Reformation; amendment.

For us the more necessary is a speedy redress of ourselves.

[This sense is now unusual.]

2. Relief; remedy; deliverance from wrong, injury or oppression; as the redress of grievances. We applied to government, but could obtain no redress

There is occasion for redress when the cry is universal.

3. Reparation; indemnification. [This sense is often directly intended or implied in redress]

4. One who gives relief.

Fair majesty, the refuge and redress of those whom fate pursues and wants oppress.

GRIE'VANCE, *noun* [from grief.] That which causes grief or uneasiness; that which burdens, oppresses or injures, implying a sense of wrong done, or a continued injury, and therefore applied only to the effects of human conduct; never to providential evils. The oppressed subject has the right to petition for a redress of grievances.