

# Amending the Constitution

## **METHOD 1**

- Congress proposes an amendment
- 2/3 of each house (287 of the 435- member House of Representatives, and 66 of the 100 Senators) to pass a proposed amendment.
- If approved it is sent to the states' legislatures. It takes 3/4 (38) states' approval of the amendment in order for it to be added to the Constitution.

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## **METHOD 2**

- A Constitutional Convention to be called for by 2/3 (33) of the state legislatures. At such a convention, one or more amendments can be proposed.
- Sent to the state legislatures (or state conventions) for approval – again, 3/4 of the state legislatures must approve. (*This method has not been used successfully*).

# Amendment 11

- Passed in 1795
- You cannot bring a state or the federal government to trial for criminal crimes.

## Amendment 12

- Discusses how the president is elected and extends the criteria to the office of the vice-president.