American Civics Committee
Elementary Media Center, Twin River Public School
PO Box 640
Genoa, NE 68640
Monday, April 21, 2025 7:25 PM

Alex Cornwell:	Absent
John Nelson:	Present
John Reeg:	Present
Jennifer Swantek:	Present
Chelsa Thompson:	Present
Jeremy Vetick:	Present

1. Meeting Called to Order

1.1. Roll Call

1.1.1. Excused/Unexcused Absences

1.2. Open Meeting Law

1.3. Meeting Properly Published and Posted

2. Special meeting for the purpose of fulfilling statutory requirements over civics.

2.1. Review of Nebraska State Statute 79-724 and Board Policy 2002

2.2. Review Twin River Public School's compliance with state statute and board policy.

3. Adjourn

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Jennifer Swantek, Board President

_____

John Reeg, Board Secretary

1st amendment

The first amendment protects the rights of:

- No one can make you follow a certain religion
  - Freedom of religion- you can follow any religion you want
  - Freedom from religion- you have the right to not follow any religion at all
- You have the right to state your opinion with your words
  - You can say your opinion on whatever topic you want and no one can tell you that your wrong
- You can also state your opinion using the media freely
  - You have the right to put your opinion on social media without anyone taking it down

1st amendment

Importance of the 1st amendment:

★ It gives citizens a lot of freedoms so that they can help to make the U.S. a better place and also so that people feel that they have the freedoms that everyone loves to have.

Life would be very different without the 1st amendment:

★ If we didn't have the first amendment the U.S. wouldn't have all of the freedoms that we are allowed to have in order to make a difference in the U.S. and the government and president would have a lot of power

The 10 Amendments

By Myah and Jenna

1st amendment

- A group of people can get together freely
  - You can hold meetings, sit-ins, protests, boycott's, etc.
- You can go to the government and try to change the way they do something
  - You can get multiple people to sign something to take to the government so that that thing can be changed

2nd amendment

Why is this important:

1. Because you would have no self defense
2. Couldn't hunt during hunting season
3. It is one of the most common ways of self defense
4. There would be more crime without it:
    a. Such as school shootings, and breaking in or entering, more stealing
5. Government buildings would be unsafe

3rd amendment

Importance of the 3rd amendment:

- It is important because it gives people the right so that their homes don't get intruded in

How the U.S. would be different:

- If we didn't have this amendment soldiers would have homes if in need during a war
- People would be really mad if their home got invaded in by soldiers

2nd amendment

Allows you to own or have firearms:

a. Able to have firearms

1. it gives you the right to protect yourself, it allows you to have firearms:
    a. such as if there was an intruder breaking into your home you would be able to have self defense
    b. Or during hunting season you would have the right to have a firearm
2. Without this we would have no self defense:

a. If someone would break into your home you wouldn't have anything to protect you

B. during hunting season you wouldn't be able to hunt

3rd amendment

The third amendment protects the right of:

- If during a war a soldier needed a place to stay then a soldier would not be able to stay in a house unless the owners of that house say that they can
- Owners cannot be forced to provide a home to soldiers
- Soldiers can't barge into homes making owners of that home let them stay there

4th amendment

1. Without this amendment police would be able to come in your house anytime and they would be able to search it
2. They could do whatever they want without permission by the law
    a. So they could search your house at anytime in they day whenever they want
3. They would need to tell the government
4. So you would have to prepare
5. If they had no reasoning they could go through your house without your permission

5th amendment

- Someone cannot have their house or property taken away if it would be used for something for the public without being paid for it
    - If a town needed a place for hospitality or anything like that they cannot take your property away from you and use it unless you tell them you can
- No one can be a witness against themself in a trial
- No defendant can be forced to talk in a trial

4th amendment

Have to have a warrant to search your house:

1. The government can't search your house without a warrant
    a. They have to have reasoning to search your house
2. If they don't have a warrant they can't search your house
3. This gives less powers to the police
    a. So they can't overrule you they have to follow the laws too
4. Unreasonable searches
    a. They have to have done or be convicted of wrongdoing
    b. you have to have done or have something illegal

5th amendment

The 5th amendment protects the rights of:

- No one can have their rights taken away unless they have violated the due process of law
    - The due process of law protects people's rights so that they are treated fairly in trial
- No one can be tried for a crime twice
    - If someone breaks a law or commits a crime, they cannot be tried for that same crime a second time

6th Amendment

Rights in trials:

1. This amendment gave citizens rights during a trial
2. So if they convict you of wrongdoing you could try against it and prove you are not guilty
3. You also have the right to a speedy trial
4. They are also allowed to have witnesses to help you win the trial but they could go against you

6th amendment

1. So I can't go to jail for doing nothing
2. They have to have a reasoning to put me in jail
3. So if i'm in a case they won't convict me of anything until they know the whole story
4. And they have to get other people's opinions
    a. They would need to hear someone else's story
    b. Their point of view
5. You can get a lawyer to help you out
    a. They can help you win your case

5th amendment

Importance of the 5th amendment:

- It protects the basic rights of people that are either a witness or a defendant in a trial

Life in the U.S. without the 5th amendment:

- If we didn't have the 5th amendment then trails would not run smoothly and also the people that would be a part of a trail would have no rights and no equality

6th amendment

1. This amendment is very important
2. So that you don't get charged for something you didn't do
    a. So if you get convicted of a crime that you didnt do you could try against it
    b. You can also have witnesses
3. Speeding ticket
    a. They cant put you in jail for a speeding ticket
4. They have to listen to the whole story before they can convict you of anything they can't just put you in jail

7th amendment

Importance of the 7th amendment:

- It is important because if we didn't have it then if someone went to a trial and they wanted to have more than just one

The U.S. without the 7th amendment:

- If we didn't have the 7th amendment then one judge would have way to much power

8th amendment

1. It helps you in your case
2. You don't have to pay so much money for little cases
3. They cant torture you to death for doing something
   a. Like they did in the medieval times
4. They can give you more power when it comes to court
   a. So they can't make you do something that is out of the ordinary
5. They can't make you do ridiculous things for a punishment
   a. Such as things that don't make sense

7th amendment

The 7th amendment protects the rights of:

- People are allowed to have a jury trial
  - A jury trial is when a jury, which is a group of people, decide if a person is guilty or innocent instead of just one person

8th amendment

They cant over fine you:

1. They can't make you pay a lot of money for bail or excessive bail
   a. They cant charge you a bunch of money for no reason
2. This protects you from unusual punishments and over excessive bail
   a. They can't make you do weird things to get out of a punishment
3. They cant put you in jail for little cases
   a. Such as a speeding ticket or littering

9th amendment

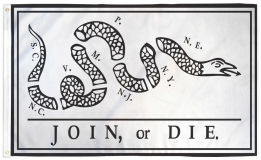
They don't count the rights that are not listed in the constitution:

1. People have more rights than just the ones listen in the constitution
2. They can't change the constitution
3. They made a bill of right for citizens
4. They want to make sure that the constitution is read correctly
    a. It means that they want the constitution to be understood
5. They don't want the constitution to be mistakenly read
6. They want to make sure that citizens of the US understand the constitution

10th amendment

The 10th amendment protects the rights of:

- The powers that are not specifically listed in the constitution and given to the federal government, but are also not specifically denied by the states, those powers will always go to the states
    - Marriage laws
    - Divorce laws
    - Adoption



8th amendment

1. Without this life would be scary
    a. You would have to be scared to break the law or accidentally doing something illegal
2. You could've been killed for a parking ticket or speeding ticket
3. They would be able to take your things without your permission
    a. So if they think that you are part of a crime or doing something wrong they would take your things
4. You could be punished with something or killed for an unfair or unreasonable reason
5. But this amendment does not correlate with the death penalty

9th amendment

1. Without this amendment i would know nothing about the constitution and my rights
    a. I wouldn't know the right that i have as a citizen of the US
2. Or if i went to court i they would have to thoroughly go through the constitution so they don't get wrongly accuse me of anything
3. There would be no knowledge of things that are being done wrong

10th amendment

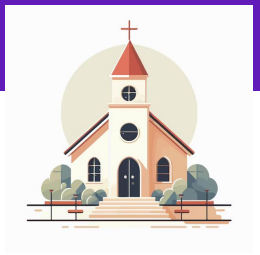
Importance of the 10th amendment:

- It is important because it gives the states rights that are needed at a certain level but not to the point were the federal/local governments should get to deal with them

U.S. without the 10th amendment:

- Without this amendment then things like marriage and adoption would be way too easy to be a forced thing and if someone doesn't have consent or if someone adopts a kid then it could be a bad home that the kid would go too and it wouldn't be good

Amendment 1



Freedoms including:

- Religion
- Expression
- Assembly
- Right to Petition

It doesn't allow Congress to make one religion more superior than another.

It allows someone to practice their religion without the government saying they can't express their religion (Free Exercise Clause).

The Free Exercise Clause also protects people's actions.

Amendment 1

This amendment is important because it gives people more freedom and puts limits on the government.

It would be different in today's world because we wouldn't be as free and we would have a more dictatorship government.

At the Constitutional Convention, they tried not to talk about religion.

Bill of Rights

Created by Samantha and Macy

Amendment 1

The Religious Clause separates the church and state .

There is a test known as the Lemon Test or the Establishment Clause.

This amendment protects any religion and it's practices. It also protects expression, assembly, and the right to petition.

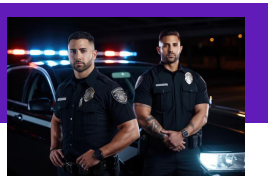
Most colonies had a religion that was specifically in that state.

Amendment 2

The 2nd amendment is important because the right to bear arms allows Americans with the ability to protect themselves and self defend themselves.

America would be different without this amendment because no one would have a weapon in their possession so they would not be able to protect themselves and there probably would be less murders.

Amendment 4



- Rights
  - Does not allow the government to conduct unreasonable searches and seizures
    - The government can not just have a police officer search you or your thing without a search warrant
    - The government also can not just take your things from your property either.

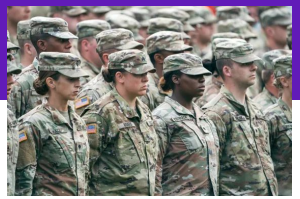
Amendment 2

- Rights
  - Allows States to create a militia
  - Gives people the right to bear arms
    - This means that people are allowed to have a gun in their possessions.

The government is able to lessen some of the powers of gun manufacturers.

The government thought the people should be able to protect themselves and their loved ones from harm.

Amendment 3



- Stops the government from putting soldiers in people's homes

Can only do if the owner consents.

Gives the people more privacy.

The 3rd Amendment protects property owners privacy from soldiers.

It is important because it gives people more property.

It would be different in today's world because that is against our rights now and would be unconstitutional.

Amendment 5

- Gives freedoms to convicted criminals
- The right to prove themselves either innocent

  or guilty

An indictment says a person is not guilty until they find enough evidence to say guilty or innocent.

A grand jury is a group of people that decide if you are guilty or not.

Amendment 6

- Rights
  - Speedy Trial
    - To have a trial without delay
  - Jury Trial
    - To be trialed in front of a jury
  - Public Trial
  - Be told of the charges
  - Confrontation clause
    - It is right that the criminal
  - To have an attorney defend the criminal

The freedoms are giving convicted people more of a chance to say why they are innocent.

Amendment 4

The 4th Amendment is important because it makes sure that people feel safe and do not have to worry about being violated by the government.

America would be different without this amendment because there would be cops everywhere and people would not feel safe or comfortable.

Amendment 5

Double Jeopardy doesn't let anyone be guilty of the same crime twice.

Not everything follows the jeopardy rule.

The 5th Amendment defends you from self-incrimination.

The government has to do a lot of research before they find someone guilty (due process) . The convicted person's rights are protected by the 5th Amendment.

It would change our current world because it protects the convicted.

Amendment 7

Civil procedure is when the government has to look into

A civil trial.

A civil trial is when someone sues another.

Limited jurisdiction is when they can only do a case of one specific thing.

The laws of the state make up the state court.

Amendment 8

- Rights
  - That the court can't make someone pay excessive bail
    - This means that the court can't make someone pay 1 million dollars for jaywalking
  - The court cannot issue a cruel or unusual punishment
    - This means that the court cannot sentence some to death for a speeding ticket

Amendment 6

The freedoms the 6th Amendment protects are the rights the criminals get.

The 6th Amendment is important because it makes sure that the criminals get their rights.

It would be different in today's world because if we didn't have it, then criminals wouldn't be able to defend themselves.

Amendment 7

Federal courts use limited jurisdiction to look into a case.

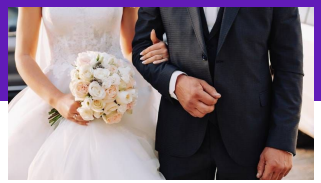
The 7th Amendment can not rule over civil courts, but can rule over federal courts.

The freedoms from the 7th Amendment is to give rights to a convicted person.

It is important because then the convicted would not have a jury trial.

It would change today's world because then a lot more people would be convicted.

Amendment 9



- If it is not illegal, then it is not a law

Rights that are stated:

- Birth rights
- Voting
- No segregation

Rights that are not stated

- Privacy
- Marriage

Federalism is a type of government when 2 different governments rule over a country or a private territory

Amendment 9

The freedoms the 9th Amendment protects are the powers that aren't in the Constitution.

It is important because the rights that aren't written are then still rights.

Our world today would be different because then we would have a lot less freedom and rights than we do today.

Amendment 8

The 8th Amendment is important because it makes sure that an accused citizen is protected from harsh punishments or bail

Without the 8th Amendment, America would be so different because there would be more death punishments and the bail would be very high all of the time.

Amendment 9

The national government and the state government can make laws.

Article 1, Section 8 states powers that are only for the federal government.

Reserved powers are specifically for the state governments because they are more local.

Concurrent powers are powers that both the federal government and the state governments have.

Amendment 10

The 10th Amendment is important because we need to know what to do with all of the other rights people have and who will control them if the federal government doesn't.

America would be so different without the 10th Amendment because the federal government would have all the power over the states and the other rights may not be carried out.

Amendment 10

- The 10th Amendment
  - states that whatever powers that are not shared in the constitution go to the state's government or the people in the USA
    - These include powers that change a family: Marriage, divorce, or adoption
  - Was created to explain more in depth the equality of power between the states and the federal government.

Twin River Public Schools - American Civics Update

- Offer Pledge of Allegiance every morning for students to partake in if they choose.
- Veterans Day program offered in November to celebrate those who served in our community.
- Citizenship test is offered in both 8th grade and at the High School level for students.
- Juniors attend county government day in Fullerton, to learn more about the local government.