Formal Amendment Process

- Article V sets out 2 methods for the proposal and 2 methods for the ratification of amendments.
- There are 4 possible methods of formal amendment – changes that become part of the written language of the constitution itself.

Federalism & popular sovereignty

- The formal amendment process emphasizes the federal character of the governmental system.
- The Supreme Court has held that a State cannot require an amendment proposed by Congress to be approved by a vote of the people of the State before it can be ratified by the State’s legislature.

Proposed Amendments

- The constitution places only one restriction on the subjects with which a proposed amendment may deal.
- When both houses of Congress pass a resolution proposing an amendment, Congress does not send it to the president to be signed or vetoed, though the Constitution would seem to require it.
- Congress proposes an amendment.
- The chief executive has no formal role in the amendment process, his or her political influence can affect the success or failure of any attempt to amend the Constitution.
- If a State rejects a proposed amendment, it is not forever bound by the action. Once a State has approved an amendment, that action cannot be undone.

Bill of Rights

- These rights were set out the great constitutional guarantees of freedom of belief and expression, of freedom and security of the person.

The later Amendments

- Each of the other amendments that have been added to the Constitution over the past 200 years also grew out of some particular set of circumstances.

Overview

This section is talking about what the amendments are and when some of them were ratified. Section 2 chapter three is also talking about the constitution and when it was passed.