

WELCOME

TO THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER ON INDEPENDENCE MALL IN HISTORIC PHILADELPHIA!

This guide highlights 10 of our favorite things to do and see at the museum. Follow along to make the most of your visit.

ON THE FIRST FLOOR

CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION: THE BATTLE FOR FREEDOM AND EQUALITY

- Learn about the story and significance of the new flag Abraham Lincoln raised at Independence Hall on February 22, 1821, when he stopped in Philadelphia while traveling to his inauguration.
- Listen to recordings of formerly enslaved people recorded during the Great Depression by the Works Progress Administration to preserve their life stories. Get insight into the experiences and hardships African Americans faced before and after emancipation, like Laura Smalley's account of her liberation on June 19, 1865.

THE 19TH AMENDMENT: HOW WOMEN WON THE VOTE

- Decades before the passage of the 19th Amendment, American women fought for the right to vote. Inspect ballot boxes from the period, discover where and when suffragists waged these battles, and learn about their victories.
- Step into March 3, 1913, and join the women who marched in the Woman Suffrage Procession in Washington, D.C., demanding the right to vote. Try on sashes, carry pro-suffrage banners, and take your photo as part of the procession.



THE SIDNEY KIMMEL THEATER

Don't miss a performance of *Freedom Rising*, an inspiring 17-minute experience which tells the story of "We the People" from the founding of our nation to the present.





ON THE SECOND FLOOR

SIGNERS' HALL

- Snap a selfie with iconic signers of the Constitution, such as George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and Alexander Hamilton, then join the delegates and sign the Constitution – or respectfully abstain, like the three dissenters (Elbridge Gerry, George Mason, and Edmund Randolph) who objected to the proposal.

GOVERNING THE NATION

- See the wheelchair used by Justin Dart Jr. on the day the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law. Dart organized and petitioned for passage of the ADA and was seated beside President George H.W. Bush as he signed it July 26, 1990.

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

- Discover the story of the famous armband behind the landmark student free speech case, Tinker v. Des Moines. The case began when Mary Beth Tinker and other students wore black armbands to school as a silent protest against the Vietnam War and were suspended for doing so. In 1969, the Supreme Court ruled that neither students nor teachers "shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate."

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

AMERICA'S FOUNDING

- Look at one of the rarest printings of the United States Constitution. Printed in 1787 by John Dunlap and David Claypoole, this is one of just 14 official copies of the nation's governing document known to exist.

KENNETH C. GRIFFIN GREAT HALL OVERLOOK

- Read the 45 words of the First Amendment written more than 100 feet wide across the Center's Kenneth C. Griffin Great Hall Overlook. Protecting fundamental freedoms – religious liberty, free speech, a free press, freedom of assembly, and the right to petition – the First Amendment is a pillar of American constitutional democracy.
- Find your state's flag or choose a new favorite design on the Overlook, where flags representing the 56 states and territories of the United States are displayed.