

What does the Constitution mean to me in Syracuse, Utah?

The constitution is the foundation of our country. Our constitution is the oldest written Constitution that is still in operation. This document is the main source that we build everything from such as rights, amendments, and our freedom. The constitution establishes everything that we have here in the U.S. This establishes that all citizens are created equal, meaning we all have the same rights and privileges. The constitution gives us these rights, and we must constantly protect them. The preamble is the introduction to the constitution... and it outlines key parts to this constitution.

We the people of the United States...

The constitution gives me is a chance to vote when I turn eighteen. Our country is a democracy where all the citizens get a say in how this government is run and who runs it. A democracy is a type of government that involves everyone. At age eighteen, you have the right to vote. When you vote, you can have a say in who is going to run America. You get to vote for senators, representatives and the president too. In a democracy, you can have a say in what happens to the country. The people come before the leaders. Meaning the people are the priority here. The people here in the U.S are allowed to suggest things that the president can do in the country. In Syracuse, it is important for everyone to vote and to be a part of the process.

...In order to form a more perfect union...

Other countries try to copy this important document because it has been so successful for our democracy. However, changes have been made in our countries constitution such as giving women the

Ben Cheney

right to vote, abolishing slavery and changing the voting age to 18. As our country continues to grow and change, the constitution changes to form a more perfect union. These changes to the constitution are not easy. I am 15 years old, and in 3 years I will be able to vote. This will be a big responsibility to learn about ideas that the candidates have for our country. I will also be able to vote in Syracuse City's election and helping shape its future.

...Establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility...

The constitution ensures its citizens the right to a trial, the right to justice. Living here in Syracuse, we have been blessed with peace. But this peace remains as long as people are doing their part. Simple acts in the neighborhood such as abiding by the speed limit, using a cross-walk, stopping for school buses, and are willing to help make our community a better place.

...Promote the general welfare...

I can obtain an education here in Syracuse, Utah to help my future. My education is important to me and I work hard in school, along with this, my religion is also important to me. The right to choose what religion you want to go worship and what faith you want to express is key to the constitution. In Syracuse we are expressing the freedom of religion by having a temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints being built in our city boundaries. I marvel as each day goes by when the workers install the electrical equipment, and the bricks that go on the temple making it closer to being done and creating a place where many will go and worship. It is the constitution that has protected the freedom of religion that has allowed this beautiful building to go into our community.

Ben Cheney

...Secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity...

I have lived here in Syracuse, Utah, all my life. My family has a small farm here in Syracuse that was once owned by my great-great-grandfather. This land was passed down from him to my great-grandfather, then to my grandfather, now to my generation. We farm alfalfa, cantaloupe, watermelon and pumpkins on it every year. The 14th amendment states, “No state should deprive any person of life, liberty or property.” We can keep the farmland and pass it on to the next generations to come. The constitution includes this right, the right to own land and use it as the family sees fit. My family farm is still a family farm in Syracuse because we have the constitution to protect it.

...Establish this constitution for the United States of America.

The constitution establishes three separate branches of government to lead our country. Here in Syracuse, we have three separate branches with a system of checks and balances as well. We elect a mayor, city council and various committees. They each have their own checks and balances. Just like the constitution says, one branch cannot have more power than the other branch.

Even though we have all these rights, we still need to act like responsible citizens in this country. We must watch what we say. We must watch what we do. We have a lot of rights here as U.S citizens, and we must use these rights responsibly. The constitution gives us these rights and we must use and protect them responsibly while living in Syracuse.

Ben Cheney

References

The Constitution of the United States: A transcription

<https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution-transcript>

Ben Cheney