

# COMMON SENSE

January 10, 1776

*an update for*

## 2026



***July 4, 2026***

marks the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday  
of the document which  
declared the *independence*  
of the 13 brand new  
United States of America  
from the tyrannical rule  
of a despotic monarch.

We are *determined* to reach  
this milestone as an intact Democratic Republic.

July 4, 1776

We hold these truths to  
be self-evident, that all  
men are created equal,  
that they are endowed by  
their Creator with certain  
unalienable rights,  
that among these are  
Life, Liberty, and the  
Pursuit of Happiness.

You just read the second sentence of the Declaration of Independence.

Here's an excerpt from the famous pamphlet from 1776 which helped inspire the colonists to support the American Revolution, Thomas Paine's "Common Sense." It also inspired the the pamphlet you have in your hands right now. If you replace "Whig & Tory" with "left" and "right" in the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, his advice to the colonists could just as well apply to us today.

We invite you to enjoy these excerpts in this pamphlet from a few of our Founding documents, and check out our suggested resources for navigating the turbulent times our country is facing.

Thomas Paine:  
**COMMON SENSE**  
January 10, 1776

WHEREFORE, instead of gazing at each  
other with suspicious or doubtful curiosity,  
let us hold out to his neighbor the hearty hand  
of friendship, and unite in drawing a line,  
which, like an act of oblivion, shall bury in forgetfulness every former dissension.

Let the names of Whig and Tory be extinct;  
and let none other be heard among us,  
than those of a good citizen;  
an open and resolute friend;  
and a virtuous supporter of the  
**RIGHTS OF MANKIND AND**  
**THE FREE AND INDEPENDANT**  
**STATES OF AMERICA.**

"*We The People*" are the first three words of the United States Constitution. ***The PEOPLE*** decided to back the revolution against a king, and ***the PEOPLE*** created a "more perfect" union, our country, the USA.

It is sad that there are influential forces both within the current administration, as well as the media, who appear to want to divide Americans and turn them against each other. Left, right, liberal, aliens, gay, Christian, MAGA, etc.

We are NOT each other's enemies. We are being turned against each other very effectively. By a campaign of mis-information and violence against our cities intended to disrupt, to panic, to shock, and to ignore the rule of law.

(The King of England tried this in 1776. Exactly the same thing. For 5 years. It didn't work. Kings never learn.)

# The 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment to the Constitution #1 of the Bill of Rights

*"Congress shall make no law –  
respecting an establishment Of religion,  
or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;  
or abridging the freedom of speech,  
or of the press; or the right of the  
people peaceably to assemble,  
and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."*

People ask, "what can I do?"

Here are some things YOU can do:

## **Avoid isolation**

Talk with other people-share things you've experienced or learned or heard in the last few weeks and months.

Reach out to more distant friends and relatives. Find and celebrate what Americans have in common.

## **Assemble peacefully**

### Avoid Civil Disobedience and Violence.

Peaceful public speech and demonstrations in public spaces are guaranteed rights under the Constitution. Public demonstrations are a time-honored way for people to let those in power know how they feel. But they are not without risk. Walk away from any situation that seems unstable or volatile.

## **Petition the Government**

### Contact your representatives in Congress

NOW, IN PERSON and BY PHONE. Repeatedly. (Email is not very effective.)

*You can find names, addresses and phone numbers at [congress.gov](http://congress.gov). Your state's Governor and Attorney General should also be made aware of your opinions. There's no reason you can't contact a member of Congress from another state, like the place you grew up, or went to college.*

## **Stay informed**

### Get information from more than one source

There is no one source of news and information that is both complete and unbiased. NOT ONE. It is imperative that Americans be as fully informed as possible during this critical time in our history.

*Here are some trustworthy information sources – All non-profit, non-partisan, and non-governmental.*

Try them alongside your normal media sources for just one week:

### **Know What's Happening**

The news – thoughtfully assembled & clearly presented – Left, Right and Center

[AllSides.com](http://AllSides.com)

### **Know the Facts**

ALL the facts and data you need, directly from U.S. Government databases.

[USAfacts.org](http://USAfacts.org)

### **Know the US Constitution**

[constitutioncenter.org](http://constitutioncenter.org)

The National Constitution Center and  
The Interactive Constitution App

# The Preamble to the U.S. Constitution

We the People of the United States,  
The **PEOPLE** have decided to  
create a new nation

in Order to form a more perfect Union,  
with a new form of government,

establish Justice,  
notice the first thing listed, the  
highest priority- **JUSTICE for all**

insure domestic Tranquility,  
a common set of laws to bind the states,  
and a source of unity for the people  
provide for the common defence,

The 13 colonies would not have achieved  
independence and would not survive  
without national military forces

promote the general Welfare,

The government had a role to play  
in the well-being of its people

and secure the Blessings of Liberty

Liberty could only be secured by  
the 'Rule of Law,' that is, a set of  
agreed upon rules, rather than the  
whims and emotions of either one  
human being, or worse, a mob

to ourselves and our Posterity,

The intent was to give birth to a nation  
that would endure for generation

do ordain and establish

37 representatives of the **PEOPLE**  
ratify a document that would  
**ESTABLISH A NEW NATION**

this Constitution for the  
United States of America.

**CREATED FOR THE EXPRESS  
PURPOSE OF PROVIDING  
JUSTICE AND LIBERTY FOR  
ALL OF ITS PEOPLE,**

by means of Three co-equal branches of government, and the elected representation of the people.

September 17, 1787  
Philadelphia, PA

Do you feel like something more alarming happens every day? That's because it was planned that way. Our current events were laid out in advance and are being supported by a small minority of the American people. A majority of Americans DO NOT support the actions of our current administration.

We believe wholeheartedly in our Constitution, which created a government OF, BY, AND FOR THE PEOPLE, and support petitioning the government for change by legal means. You have just taken a look at what you are entitled to. YOU HAVE AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF POWER to effect change non-violently.

Historically, in other countries where authoritarianism has taken over, many if not most of the population didn't even notice what was happening until it was too late to speak up, and too late to exercise democratic processes.

#### KNOW YOUR PROTEST RIGHTS:

1. You don't need a permit to protest in streets or on sidewalks if you're not obstructing traffic or access to buildings.
2. You have the right to photograph anything in plain view, including police.
3. If stopped by the police, ask if you're free to go. If yes, calmly walk away.
4. If arrested, ask for a lawyer immediately. Don't sign, say, or agree to anything without a lawyer present.
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*From the American Civil Liberties Union*

[francesmarshall.org](http://francesmarshall.org)

Bringing enthusiastic, informed  
Americans together for  
the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of the  
Declaration of Independence  
on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026

