Amending America If We Love the Constitution So Much, Why Do We Keep Trying to Change It

By Jerome Agel

University Press of Kansas. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 415 pages. Dimensions: 9.2in. x 6.0in. x 0.9in. Even as we marvel at the grandeur of our constitutional system, we cant resist tinkering with it. Amending America tells the dramatic story of how, over the past 206 years, the American people have reshaped the Constitution to meet the countrys changing needs. It describes how we have adopted 27 amendments since 1789-and debated and rejected 10,000 more. A provocative examination of one of Americas most important yet least-known democratic tools, Amending America brings to life events in our history that continue to resonate today as, as various politicians have set their hearts on amendments to balance the budget, to ban abortion, or to allow school prayer. A wonderful book . . . A magnificent treasure trove of American history. Arthur R. Miller, Bruce Bromley Professor of Law, Harvard Law School. A skillfully rendered, comprehensive, and engaging study of Article Vs procedures for amending the Constitution. Washington Post Instructive and fascinating. The book is thorough, erudite, and packed with the anecdotes that make our political past so enjoyable to review. Minneapolis Star Tribune. Admirably illuminates the complex and remarkable history of the American...

Reviews

This book might be worth a study, and superior to other. It can be writter in easy words and phrases and never confusing. I am just happy to inform you that here is the greatest ebook i have got read within my personal daily life and may be he best pdf for actually.

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Complete information for publication fans. Better then never, though i am quite late in start reading this one. Its been written in an extremely straightforward way in fact it is just soon after i finished reading this ebook in which basically altered me, change the way i believe.

-- Ellie Stark
If we try really hard, we can keep it to a great big goose egg! So what changed? First, we should understand what the actual process is. In order to have an amendment to the Constitution ratified, we have two initial paths to follow. It has been amended 30 times since it was written. To change it we need 50% approval from both Houses of the Oireachtas (parliament) to put it to a public referendum and then more 50% of the public need to approve it. That is the way to do it! We can see which Constitution protects the rights of its citizens more effectively. It is impossible in the US for 50% of those casting votes, who represent less than 50% of the electorate to amend the US Constitution, but this could easily happen in Ireland. Bruce McKinney, a student of the constitution. This is why the ratification of the Constitution was such an impressive feat. Between 1787 and 1790, the 13 states actually cleared this very high bar for popular action. It is not as though the Founders were hypocritical in slapping such a burdensome threshold on us. They had to face it themselves. Advertisement. This means in turn that our system has a very high “status quo bias.” If we had to do it all over again right now, we would probably split into several different countries. And more broadly, I wonder whether a durable union such as that created by the Constitution could be formed at all. The 13 states in 1787-90 had just recently joined together in their battle for independence. They needed one another, and they knew it. Amending America: If We L has been added to your Cart. Add a gift receipt for easy returns. Buy used The Making of the Constitution (with Kym S. Rice) and Of the People, By the People, For the People (with Jerome Agel). The Bill of Rights IS about “individual rights” and the author explains in detail why this is so. This book should be required reading for any college course on the U.S. Constitution in my opinion and for any citizen wanting to understand what America is all about. Read more. 6 people found this helpful.