

## **A Guide to US Constitution Pocket Guides**

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Compiled by Michele Holt-Shannon<sup>1</sup>  
Administrative Director of Discovery  
University of New Hampshire

These guides are often handed out to groups of students. We gave one to every first year student at the University of New Hampshire in the fall of 2007 as a part of Constitution Day and a University Dialogue on Democracy. I've compiled this list to assist educators who are considering doing something of a similar nature.

### ***100 % Pure US Constitution***

These three are all simple copies of the US constitution and amendments. No worrisome partisan commentary included but also without but no helpful explanations either.

#### **LittleBigBooks Pocket Guide - U.S. Constitution & its 27 Amendments [UNABRIDGED]**

<http://www.amazon.com/LittleBigBooks-Pocket-Guide-ConstitutionAmendments/dp/0972408908>

This pocket guide contains the entire U.S. Constitution (unaltered text from the original) and the twenty-seven amendments written to date. This version does not have commentary explaining the meaning of articles and amendments.

#### **108th CONGRESS, 1st SESSION / HOUSE DOCUMENT 108-96**

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=108\\_cong\\_documents&docid=f:hd096.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=108_cong_documents&docid=f:hd096.pdf)

A pdf version of a pocket guide available to download for free.

#### **Pocket Constitution from the Constitution Center**

<http://www.constitutioncenter.org/constitutionday/display/NccP/Pocket+Constitutions>

I really like this one. At the time of posting, this was also the best price for a published version (\$ .40 each or less).

### ***With Helpful Commentary***

I thought these three were the most helpful in terms of providing some commentary about the text, but without being significantly partisan or ideological.

#### **The US Constitution and Fascinating Facts about It**

<http://www.constitutionfacts.com/index.cfm?section=bookstore&page=bookstore.cfm>

This version includes the entire text of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the

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Declaration of Independence. It also includes interesting insights into the men who wrote the Constitution, how it was created, and how the Supreme Court has interpreted the Constitution in the two centuries since its creation.

### **The Heritage Guide to the Constitution**

<https://secure.heritage.org/bookstore/>

The Heritage Pocket Guide to the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States is a handy and portable copy of America's primary Founding documents. It includes the text of the Declaration, the Constitution, all of the amendments to the Constitution, and a foreword by Matthew Spalding, director of the Heritage Center for American Studies. It is available for \$1.00 a copy.

### **The United States Constitution: What It Says, What It Means**

A Hip Pocket Guide

[http://www.justicelearning.org/justice\\_timeline/Articles.aspx](http://www.justicelearning.org/justice_timeline/Articles.aspx)

This version is published by Justice Learning.org, a comprehensive on-line resource that offers wide-ranging non-partisan materials relating to civics education.

### ***With Stronger Ideological Perspectives***

*There are also a variety of versions with stronger commentary embedded in the text. This is one such example I found.*

### **The Politically Incorrect Guide to the Constitution**

<http://www.amazon.com/Politically-Incorrect-Guide-Constitution-Guides/dp/1596985054>

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