

3.6 Amendments: Balancing Individual Freedom with Public Safety



ESSENTIALS

The debate about the Second, Fourth and Eighth Amendments involves concerns about public safety and whether or not the regulation of firearms or collection of digital metadata promotes or interferes with public safety and/or individual rights.

1. What is the underlying idea of this cartoon?
2. What should the balance be between social order and individual freedom? Are we out of balance today?

The debate about the Second and Fourth Amendments involves concerns about public safety and whether or not the regulation of firearms or collection of digital metadata promotes or interferes with public safety and/or individual rights.

- What limits do we/can we place on firearm production and sales? Do you agree? Explain.
- Compare U.S. gun laws with gun laws in at least two (2) other world countries.
- Find court decisions (at least two) that deal with the Fourth Amendment and the protection of digital content. Do you agree or disagree with these findings?

Court decisions defining cruel and unusual punishment involve interpretation of the Eighth Amendment and its application to state death penalty statutes.

- How many states still have death penalties? Does the Federal government have the death penalty? How many were executed last year? What states had the most? Did the Federal government execute anyone last year?

- Make an argument for/against the death penalty. List at least three (3) pieces of evidence. Must include authoritative voices.

QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

<p>STATES WITH THE DEATH PENALTY</p>	<p>28 Also U.S. and Military EX. OK/NC/SC/TX</p>
<p>STATES WITHOUT THE DEATH PENALTY</p>	<p>22 Also D.C. EX. IL/MN/NY/WA</p>
<p>DEATH PENALTY STATES WITH GUBERNATORIAL MORATORIA</p>	<p>3 EX. CA/OR/PA</p>

Source: The Death Penalty Information Center, 2020

- Identify the position held by most states regarding the death penalty.
- Describe a difference between states with and without death penalties, according to the data.
- Draw a conclusion about why states differ regarding the death penalty.
- Explain how the information in the chart demonstrates federalism.