

THE PERIODIC TABLE OF THE PRESIDENTS™

The Fourth Amendment

Introduction:

Personal privacy is at the heart of the Fourth Amendment. It establishes the need for warrants and protects Americans from “unreasonable searches and seizures.” The Fourth Amendment attempts to protect our personal privacy while preventing crime. And our ever-changing society makes this an ever-relevant issue.

The text of this amendment reads, “The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.”

Questions:

1. What right is protected under the Fourth Amendment?
2. What year was the Fourth Amendment ratified?
3. What does “seizure” mean?
4. What four areas are “secure” according to the Fourth Amendment?
5. Who issues a warrant?
6. According to the text of the amendment, what must exist to issue a warrant?
7. What is “probable cause”?
8. According to the ruling in *Katz v. U.S.* (1967), what does the Fourth Amendment protect?
9. What is the Exclusionary Rule?
10. Should the government need a warrant to view social media profiles and posts? Why or why not?