



# PRESS RELEASE

## The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **RARE COPY OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION ON VIEW AT THE FDR PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY IN HYDE PARK**

**HYDE PARK, NY**—A rare artifact of American democracy will be on view at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. The first sheet of New York State’s “engrossed” copy of the United States Constitution, produced in 1788, is on loan from the New York State Archives, a program of the New York State Education Department.

After the U.S. Constitution was drafted in Philadelphia in September 1787, the states debated whether to ratify it. In New York State a convention met in Poughkeepsie to consider ratification. The convention ordered the production of an “engrossed” copy of the Constitution. The term “engrossed” means to be written in formal handwriting on parchment.

By early July 1788, ten states had ratified the proposed Constitution, one more than was needed to put it into effect and to bring into existence a new national government. In New York, delegates to the Poughkeepsie convention finally voted to ratify the Constitution on July 26<sup>th</sup>. At the same time they proposed the addition of several amendments. These were included in New York’s engrossed copy of the Constitution. Although these amendments were rejected, they later helped form the basis for the first ten amendments to the Constitution, adopted in 1791 as the Bill of Rights.

Opportunity to view this treasured document is included with regular admission to the FDR Library and Museum.

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum is dedicated to preserving historical material and providing innovative educational programs, community events, and public outreach. It is one of twelve presidential libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration. For information about the FDR Presidential Library call (800) 337-8474 or visit [www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu](http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu).

Historic Hyde Park is a group of government and private non-profit organizations based in Hyde Park, New York. Each has a unique mission, but all are united in their dedication to extending the legacy of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt to new generations. HHP includes the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site, the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill, the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, and Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site. For more information about HHP visit [www.HistoricHydePark.org](http://www.HistoricHydePark.org).