

LIBERTY

The law of the Creator, which invests every human being with an inalienable title to freedom, cannot be repealed by any interior law which asserts that man is property.

*Salmon P. Chase
American Jurist*

In America, a glorious fire has been lighted upon the altar of liberty. Keep it burning and let the sparks from it fall on other altars, and light up in distant lands the fire of freedom.

General William Henry Harrison

If liberty and equality are chiefly to be found in democracy, they will be best attained when all persons alike share in the government to the utmost.

*Aristotle
Greek Philosopher*

PARTICIPATION

The punishment which the wise suffer who refuse to take part in the government is to live under the government of worse men.

*Plato
Greek Philosopher*

We will strive increasingly to quicken the public's sense of civic duty. Thus . . . we will transmit this city, not only not less, but greater and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us.

Excerpt from The Athenian Oath

No man is good enough to govern another man without that other's consent.

President Abraham Lincoln

If women are to enjoy political suffrage they must be willing to assume their share of the making and enforcing of the laws of our government.

*Adelaide Sterling Ott
Ohio House of Representatives*

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MUSEUM GALLERY QUOTES



Photo: Anthony Gibbs portrays George Washington Williams for *We've Known Rivers*



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WE THE PEOPLE

The colonists struggled not only against the armies of a great nation, but against the settled opinions of mankind; for the world did not then believe that the supreme authority of government could be safely intrusted to the guardianship of the people themselves.

President James A. Garfield

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, Provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Preamble to the United States Constitution

We, the people of the State of Ohio, grateful to Almighty God for our freedom, to secure its blessings and promote our common welfare, do establish this Constitution.

Preamble to the Ohio Constitution

EQUALITY

The best principles of our republic secure to all its citizens a perfect equality of rights.

President Thomas Jefferson

The only stable state is the one in which all men are equal before the law.

Aristotle

Greek Philosopher

The concept of political equality . . . can only mean one thing—one person, one vote.

William O. Douglas

U.S. Associate Supreme Court Justice

INALIENABLE RIGHTS

All men are, by nature, free and independent, and have certain inalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty . . .

Article I, Section 1, Bill of Rights to the Ohio Constitution

Let Ohio speak for human rights, for universal manhood suffrage, for fair and honest elections, for economy and purity in public affairs, for honest money and stable government.

George Washington Williams

Ohio House of Representatives

The right to freedom is original in all the human race.

Reverend John Rankin

Ohio Abolitionist

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

Declaration of Independence

KNOWLEDGE

All who have meditated on the art of governing mankind have been convinced that the fate of empires depends on the education of youth.

Aristotle

Greek Philosopher

Without information and knowledge the blessings of free government cannot be long continued.

Thomas Worthington

Ohio Governor

Religion, morality, and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged.

Article 3, Northwest Ordinance

JUSTICE

The attainment of justice is the highest human endeavor.

Florence E. Allen

American Jurist

The virtue of justice consists in moderation, as regulated by wisdom.

Aristotle

Greek Philosopher

All courts shall be open, and every person, for an injury done . . . shall have remedy by due course of law, and shall have justice administered without denial or delay.

Article I, Section 16, Ohio Bill of Rights

Justice demands that all laws shall be made, not for man, or for woman, but for mankind, and that the same legal protection be afforded to the one sex as to the other.

Ohio Women's Convention

Betsey M. Cowles, President

TOLERANCE

Fear of something is at the root of hate for others, and hate within will eventually destroy the hater.

George Washington Carver

We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.

President Abraham Lincoln

Show respect to all people, but grovel to none.

Tecumseh

Shawnee Leader

A handshake is more powerful than a fist.

Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth