

## The Constitution It's Structure & Principles

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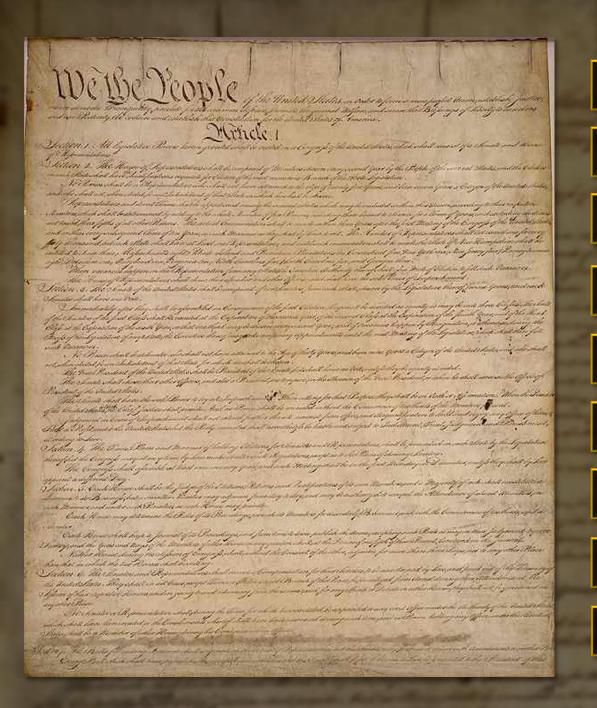
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Preamble

Article I

Article II

Article III

Article IV

Article V

Article VI

Article VII

27 Amendments

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### Articles

### Sections

### Clauses

## Preamble

## We the People of the United States,

in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, 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.





# Article III

\*Deals with the Judicial Branch (Branch that interprets laws)

Discusses length of judges service

Discusses structure

of court systems



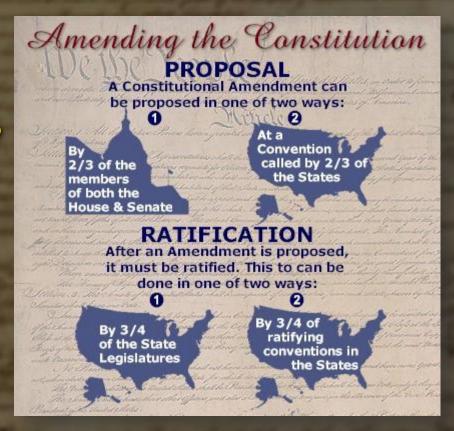
# Article IV

Deals with the States



# Article V

- \*Deals with the Amendment Process
- \*How can the Law of the Land be amended (changed)?



# Article VI

\*Deals with the Supremacy Clause (the Constitution is the supreme law of the land)

This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any state to the Contrary notwithstanding.

# Article VII

\*Deals with the Ratification Process











#### **LEGISLATIVE**



- **★**Makes laws
- ★Approves presidential appointments
- ★Two senators from each state
- ★The number of congressmen is based on population

#### **EXECUTIVE**



- **★**Signs laws
- **★**Vetoes laws
- **★**Pardons people
- ★Appoints federal judges
- ★Elected every four years

#### **JUDICIAL**



- ★Decides if laws are constitutional
- ★Are appointed by the president
- **★**There are 9 justices
- **★**Can overturn rulings by other judges

#### **Separation of Powers**

The Constitution divides power among the legislative, executive and judicial branches so no one branch has too much power.



Can override Presidential veto
Control appropriations
Ratify treaties
Declare war
Refuse Presidential appointments

Impeach and remove the President from office



**Executive** 

May rule that Presidential action is unconstitutional.

Judges appointed by the President serve for life.

The President is the "Commander-in-Chief"

- > ...who can veto bills
- > recommend legislation
- > call special sessions of Congress

President appoints judges to fill vacancies.

President can grant reprieves and pardons.

## **Checks and Balances**

The power of each branch of the federal government is designed in a way that it limits the power of the other branches.



Legislative

Interprets laws and may declare laws unconstitutional



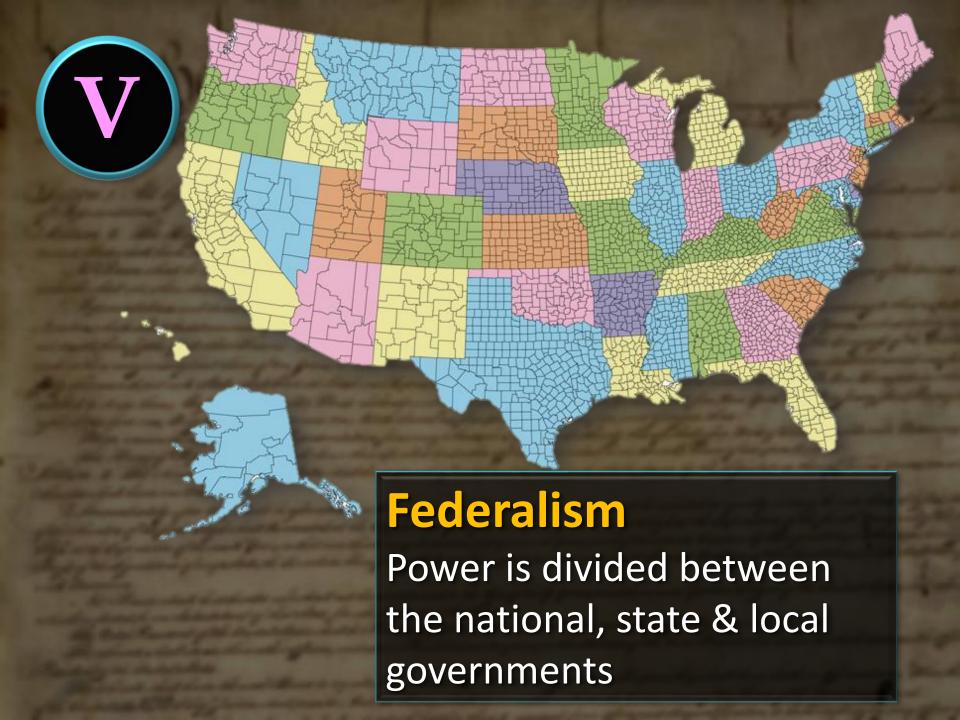
**Judicial** 

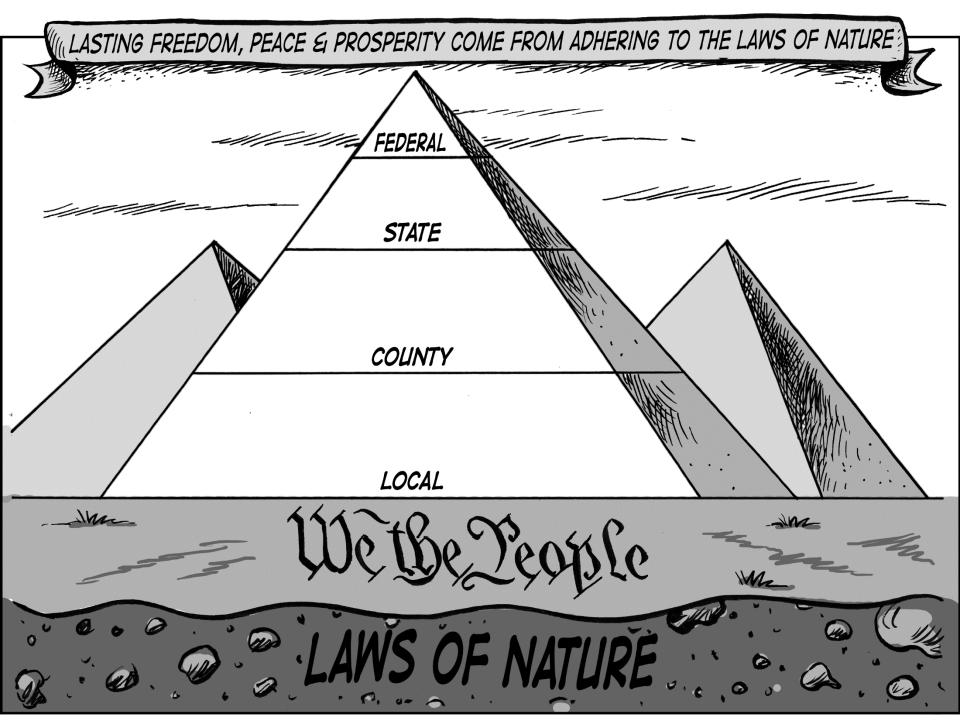
Can refuse judicial appointments

Authority to impeach judges

Can create lower courts

Can propose constitutional ammendments to overrule Supreme Court decisions.





### Power

(Ability to make things happen)

## Authority

(Power to influence or command thought, opinion, or behavior)

Government

Federal Government

State Government

Local government

Federal	Federal	Federal
Executive	Legislative	Judicial
State	State	State
Executive	Legislative	Judicial
Local	Local	Local
Executive	Legislative	Judicial













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