

First Draft: Distributed to Constitutional Convention delegates in August 1787

WE the People of the States
of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts,
Rhode-Island and Providence Plan-
tations, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Penn-
sylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Caro-
lina, South-Carolina, and Georgia, do ordain, declare
and establish the following Constitution for the Govern-
ment of Ourselves and our Posterity.

Final Draft: Signed by Constitutional Convention delegates on September 17, 1787

WE, the PEOPLE of the UNITED STATES, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure 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 Constitution

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.

SIX GOALS OF THE CONSTITUTION

- form a more perfect union
- establish Justice
- insure domestic Tranquility
- provide for the common defense
- promote the general welfare
- secure the Blessings of Liberty for ourselves and our posterity

SO, WHAT IS A PRINCIPLE?

principles

**a fundamental purpose or idea that
serves as the foundation for
beliefs or behaviors**

Fundamental Constitutional Principles

Inalienable Rights/Social Compact	Popular Sovereignty	Rule of Law	Limited Government	Equality
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• an individual enters into society with certain basic rights and that no government can deny these rights (Life, liberty, property)• individuals willingly surrender some of their natural or inalienable rights in exchange for protection by the society in the form of laws and rules	<p>the authority of a state and its government is created and sustained by the consent of its people, who are the source of all political power (people agree to arrangement)</p>	<p>all people and institutions must follow the laws, which are fairly applied to everyone</p>	<p>governmental power is restricted by law, usually in a written constitution</p>	<p>the condition of being equal, or the same in quality, measure, esteem or value especially before the law</p>

Fundamental Constitutional Principles

Inalienable Rights/Social Compact

Popular Sovereignty

Rule of Law

Limited Government

Equality

Constitutional Mechanisms

