

# WHAT IS A FOUNDATION?



an underlying basis  
or principle for  
something

***Example:*** The  
foundation of our  
government consists  
of five  
given/inherited  
principles.

SO, WHAT IS A PRINCIPLE?

principles

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

# Fundamental Constitutional Principles

<b>Inalienable Rights/Social Compact</b>	<b>Popular Sovereignty</b>	<b>Rule of Law</b>	<b>Limited Government</b>	<b>Equality</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• an individual enters into society with certain basic rights and that no government can deny these rights (Life, liberty, property)</li><li>• individuals willingly surrender some of their natural or inalienable rights in exchange for protection by the society in the form of laws and rules</li></ul>	<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>



## COMPARING PRINCIPLES AND MECHANISMS

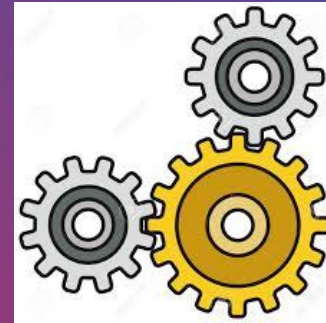
### Principle

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

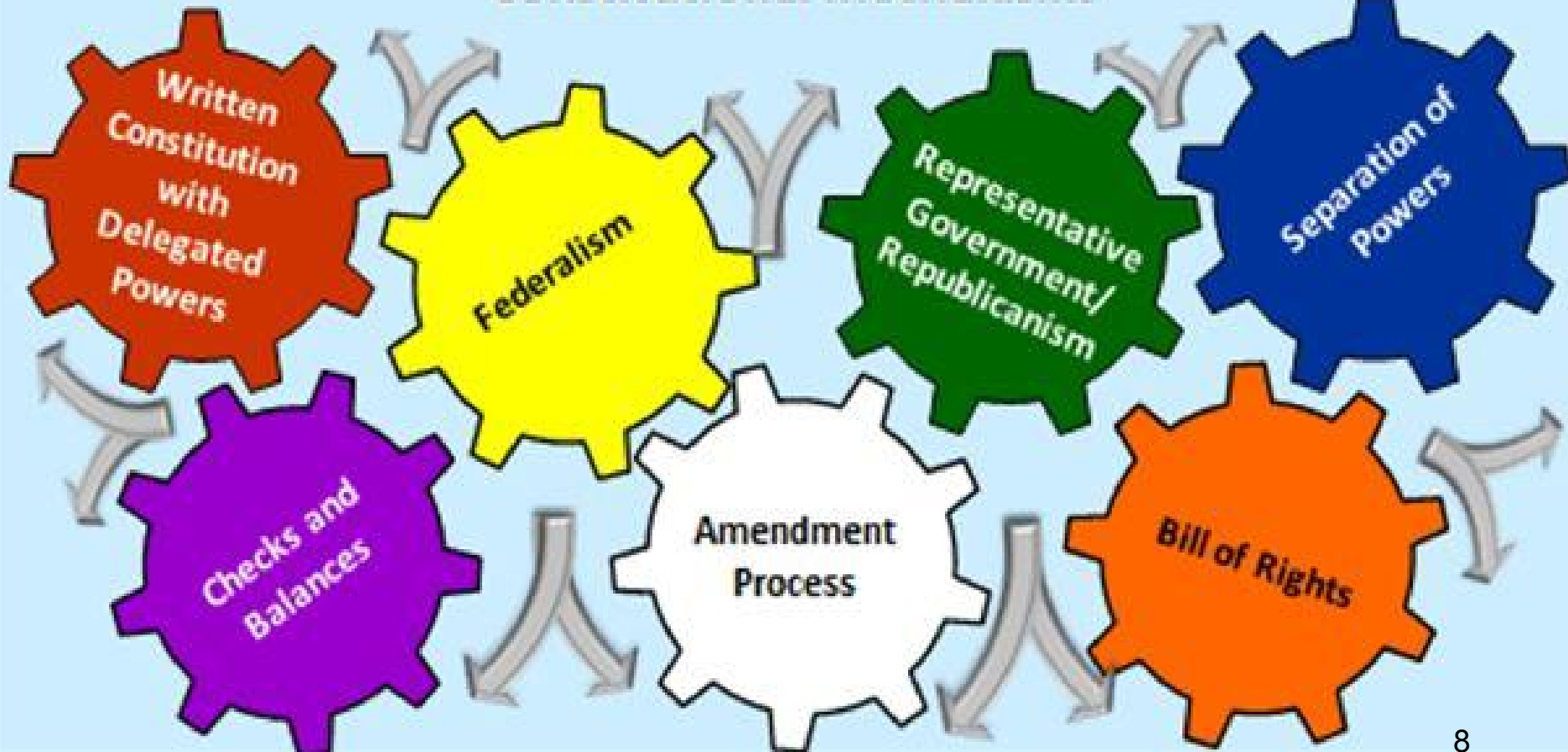


### Mechanism

a process or system that is used to produce a particular result



## Constitutional Mechanisms



# CONSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM



<b>Definition/Description</b>	<b>Where is it found?</b>	<b>Which foundational principles does this mechanism promote and/or protect?</b>

## CONSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM:

# WRITTEN CONSTITUTION WITH DELEGATED POWERS

### Examples of Delegated Powers Listed in Article I, Section 8:

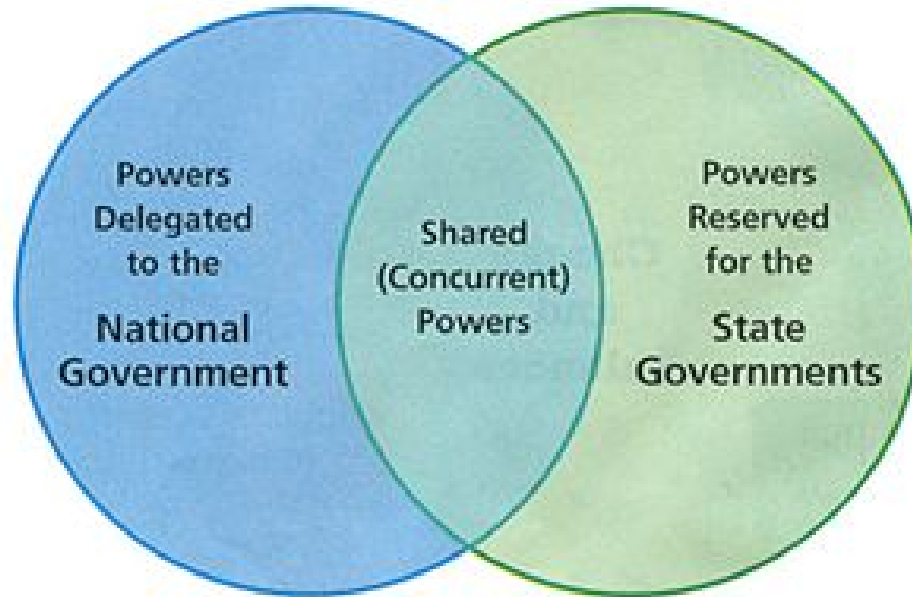
- The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes...;
- To borrow money on the credit of the United States;
- To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;...
- To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, ...
- To establish Post Offices ...
- To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court;...
- To declare War...



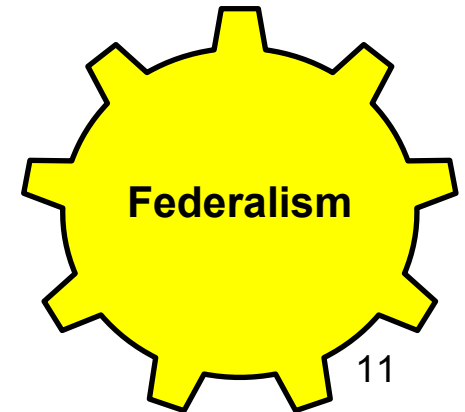
## CONSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM:

# FEDERALISM

### Federalism



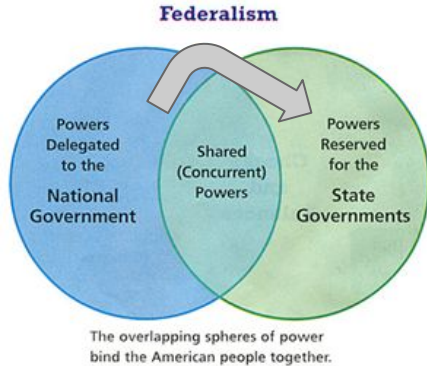
The overlapping spheres of power bind the American people together.





# CONSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM:

## FEDERALISM

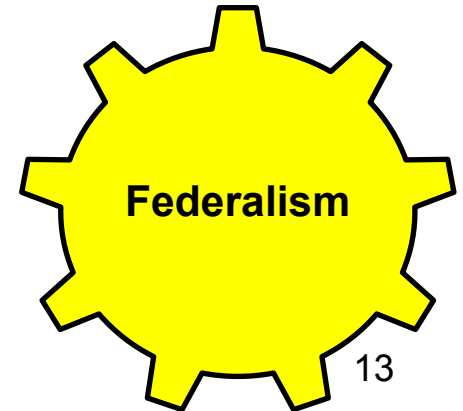


### The 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment

“The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.”

### Principles Supported:

- Inalienable Rights/Social Compact
- Popular Sovereignty
- Limited Government
- Rule of Law
- Equality



## CONSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM:

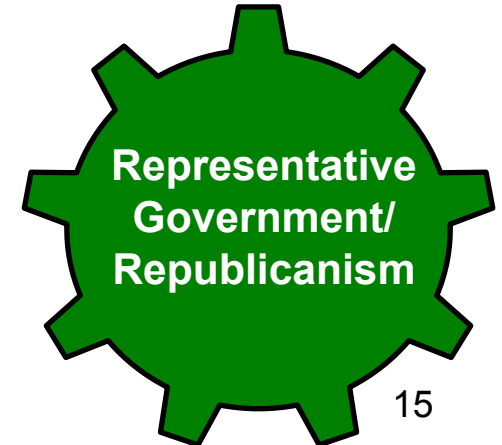
# REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT/REPUBLICANISM

- a way for citizens have a voice in their government by electing people to represent their interests and concerns
- Example: Elections for House, Senate, and President



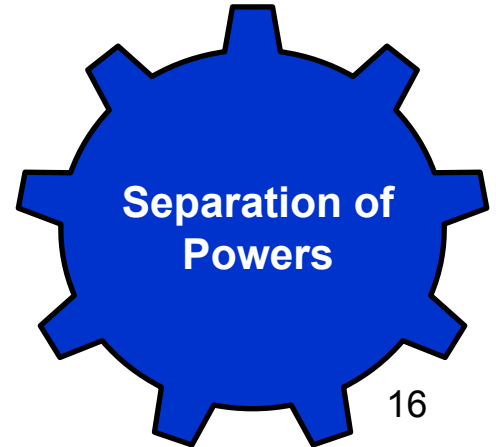
## Principles Supported:

- Inalienable Rights/Social Compact
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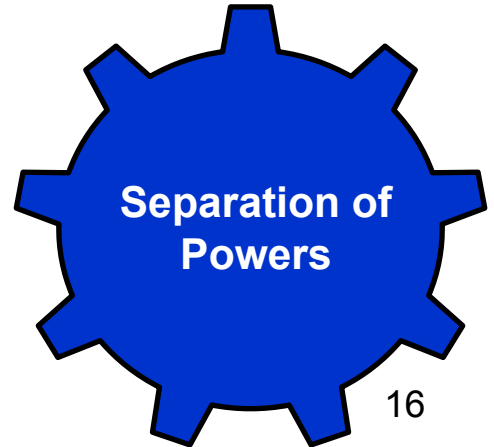
# CONSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM: SEPARATION OF POWERS

a mechanism or constitutional structure that divides powers and responsibilities of government among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches



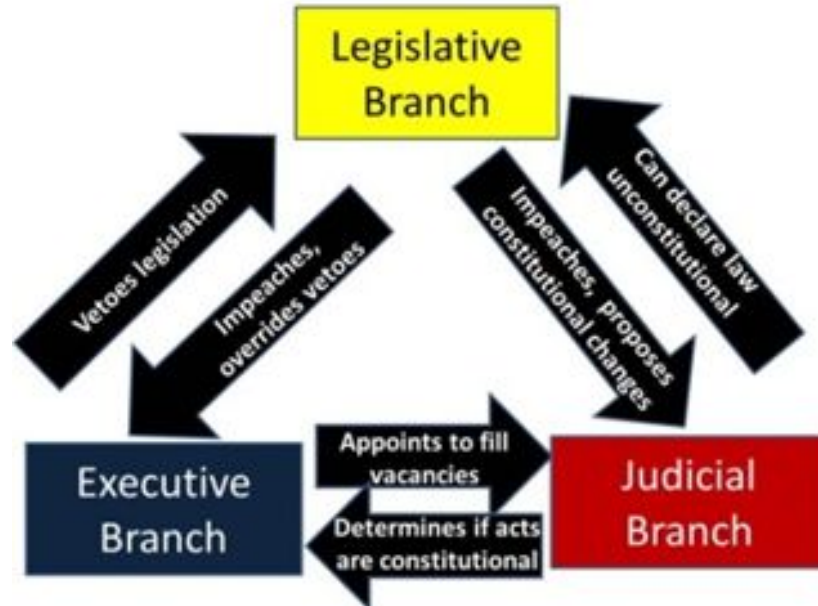
# CONSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM: SEPARATION OF POWERS

## Separation of Powers



# CONSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM: CHECKS AND BALANCES

A mechanism or constitutional structure that empowers each branch of government (legislative, executive, and judicial) to amend or veto acts of another branch

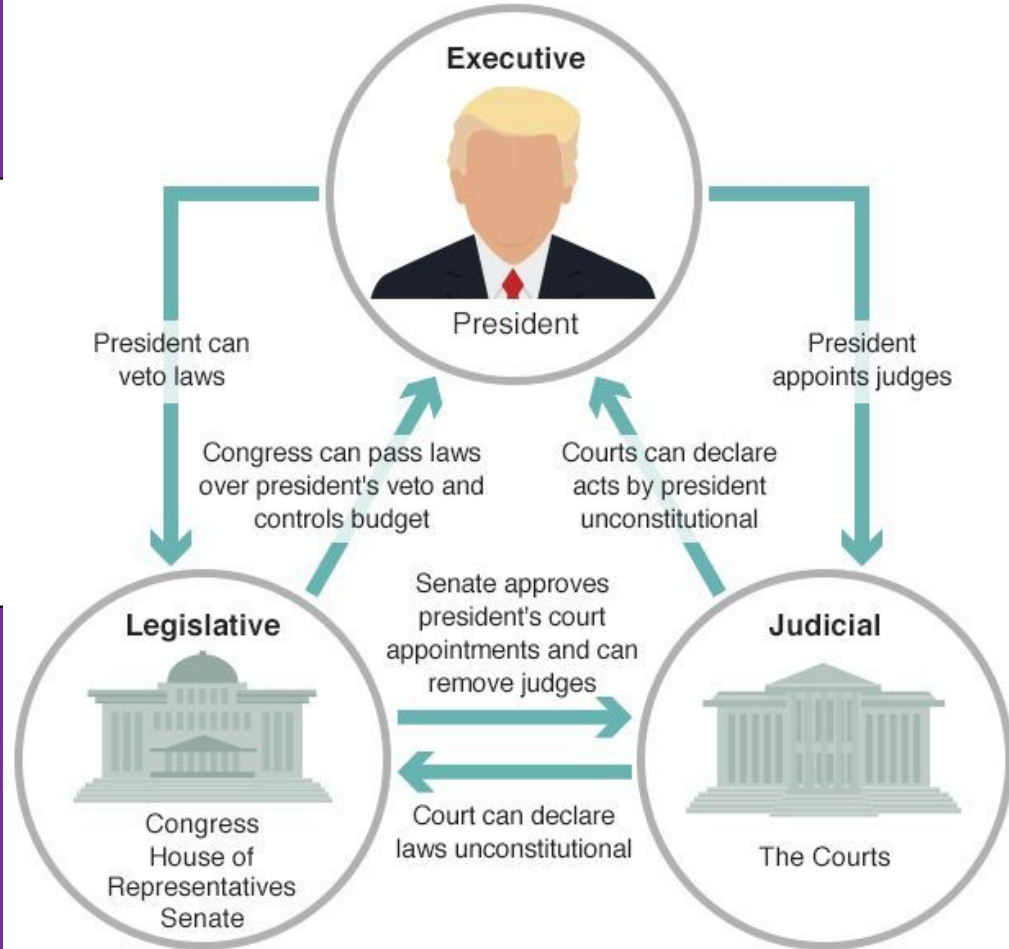


# CONSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM: CHECKS AND BALANCES



## Principles Supported:

Inalienable Rights/Social Compact  
Popular Sovereignty  
Limited Government  
Rule of Law



## CONSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM:

# AMENDMENT PROCESS

the method described in the Constitution by which the Constitution can be adapted to changes over time

***Example:*** Article V of the U.S. Constitution provides for an amendment process.

### **Principles Supported:**

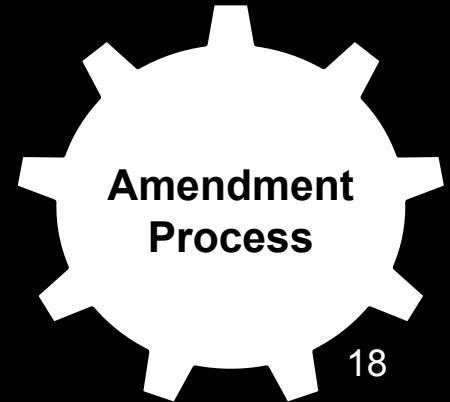
Inalienable Rights/Social Compact

Popular Sovereignty

Limited Government

Rule of Law

Equality



## CONSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM:

# BILL OF RIGHTS

personal, political, and economic freedoms that are guaranteed from unjustified government interference

### Principles Supported:

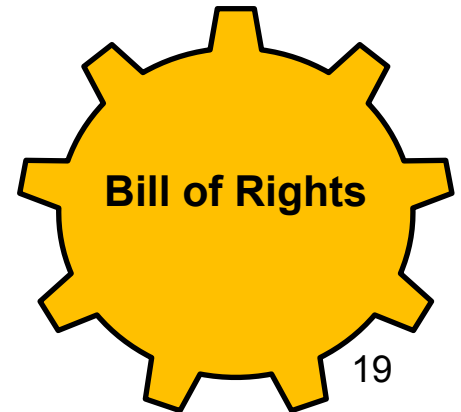
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# Fundamental Constitutional Principles

Inalienable Rights/Social Compact

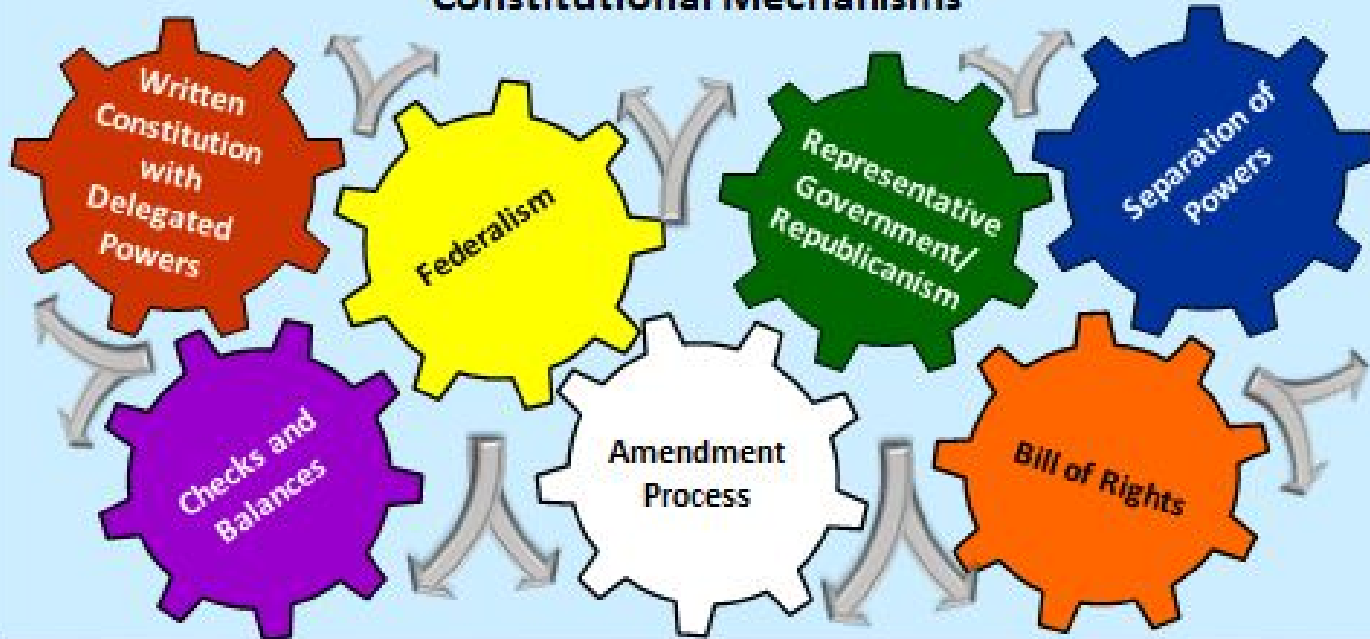
Popular Sovereignty

Rule of Law

Limited Government

Equality

## Constitutional Mechanisms



“  
Benjamin Franklin on Popular Sovereignty

*"In free governments, the rulers are the servants and the people their superiors and sovereigns"*

*Describe and explain how, at least, three constitutional mechanisms promote or protect popular sovereignty*