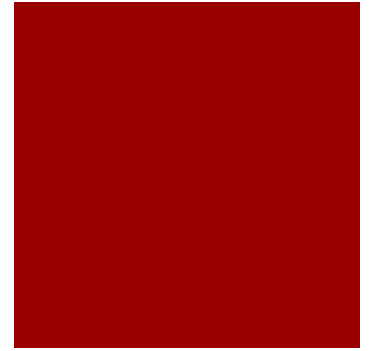




The Constitution

Seven Articles

- **Article 1: Legislative Branch**
- **Article 2: Executive Branch**
- **Article 3: Judicial Branch**
- **Article 4: States' powers**
- **Article 5: Amendments**
- **Article 6: Federal powers**
- **Article 7: Ratification:**
 - The Constitution was presented to George Washington and the men at the Constitutional Convention on September 17, 1787,
 - Representatives from twelve out of the thirteen original states signed the Constitution.
 - From September 1787 to July 1788, the states meet, talked about, and finally voted to approve the Constitution.



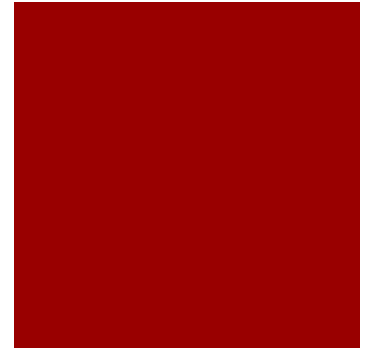
Twenty-seven Amendments



- **First Ten Amendments – Bill of Rights**

- More than 11,000 amendments have been introduced in Congress.
- Thirty three have gone to the states (Legislature) to be ratified
- Twenty seven have received the necessary approval from the states (Legislature) to actually become amendments to the Constitution.

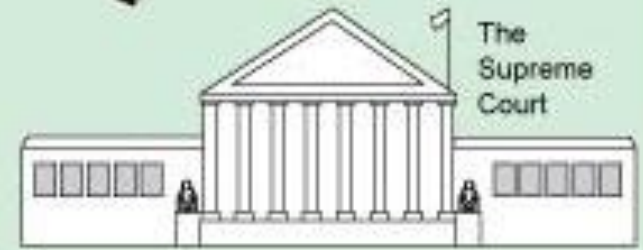
Checks and Balances



- A system of limits imposed by the Constitution of the United States on all branches of a government by giving each branch the right to amend or void those acts of another that fall within its jurisdiction.

LAW →
of the Land

CONSTITUTION



LEGISLATIVE

EXECUTIVE

JUDICIAL

↓
CONGRESS

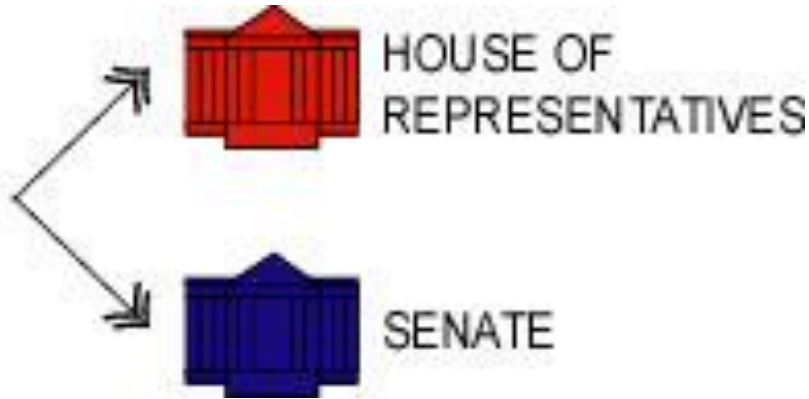
↓
PRESIDENT → **VICE PRESIDENT**

↓
SUPREME COURT



Separation of Powers: The distribution of power and authority among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the government.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH



Bicameral – Two houses

House of Representatives

- Determined by the population of a state
- Elected by the people
- Serve for 2 year terms
- 435 Members (determined by 10 year census)
- Speaker of the House – In Charge

The Senate

- Appointed by the state
- 2 per state
- Serve for 6 years
- 100 members / 1 vote per member
- Vice President – In Charge