



The Constitution

The Preamble

- **Introduces the Constitution**
- **WE the people NOT the States (United as One)**
- **Sets the goals of the Constitution**
- **Six Goals**
 - 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

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 per-
fect 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 Constitu-
tion for the United States of America.

Seven Articles

■ Article 1: Legislative Branch

- Makes the Laws
- Elastic Clause

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EsudHmV-B_Y

- 10th Amendment – Powers Reserved for the States

■ Article 2: Executive Branch

- Carries out the Laws

■ Article 3: Judicial Branch

- Interprets the laws

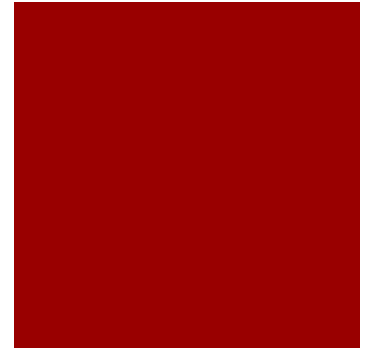
■ Article 4: Relations Among States

■ Article 5: Provisions for Amendment

- First 10 known as the Bill of Rights
- 27 Amendments



Seven Articles



- **Article 6: Federal powers**

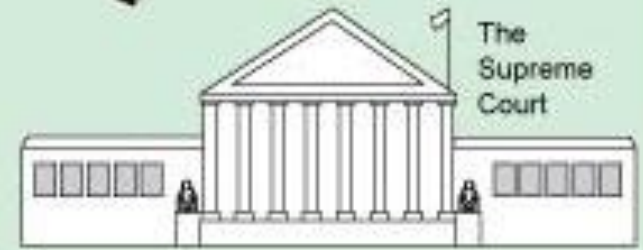
- Laws & Treaties
- Outlines our responsibility for debt
- Oath to be taken when you serve in government (Your promise)

- **Article 7: Ratification**

- Outlines process to approve Constitution
- State conventions
- Nine states must approve

LAW →
of the Land

CONSTITUTION



LEGISLATIVE

EXECUTIVE

JUDICIAL

↓
CONGRESS

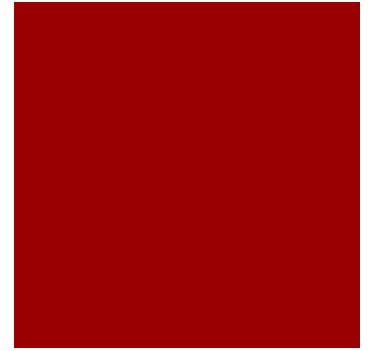
↓
PRESIDENT → **VICE PRESIDENT**

↓
SUPREME COURT

↙ ↘
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES **SENATE**

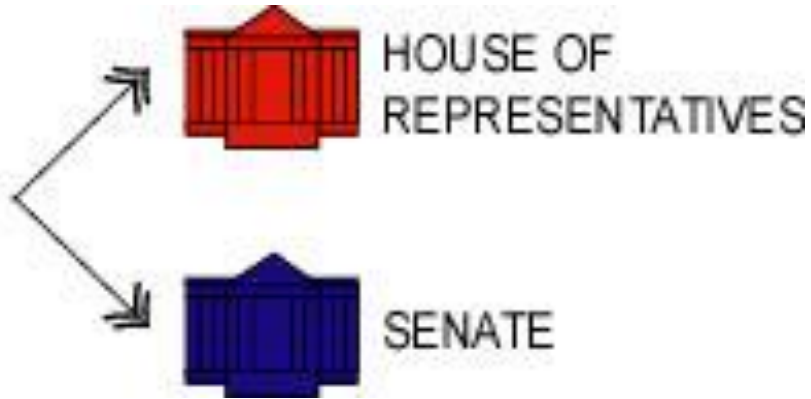
Separation of Powers: The distribution of power and authority among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the government.

Checks and Balances



- A system of limits
- Gives each branch the right to amend or void those acts of another that fall within its jurisdiction.
- <http://video.pbs.org/video/2365005484/>

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

Legislature

- **Primary Duty** - To write, debate, and pass bills, which are then passed on to the President for approval
- Makes laws controlling trade between states and between the United States and other countries
- Makes laws about taxes and borrowing money
- Approves the making of money
- Can declare war on other countries
- Can amend Constitution & impeach

Twenty-seven Amendments

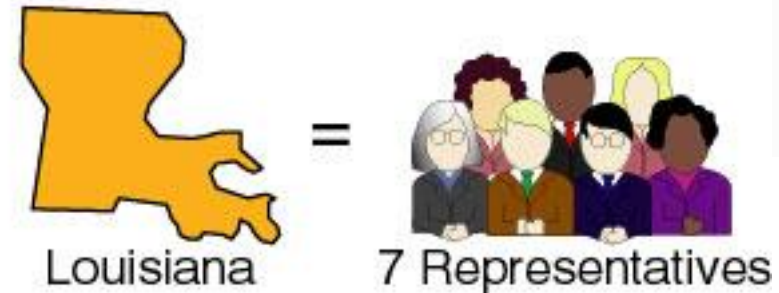


- **First Ten Amendments – Bill of Rights**

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

House of Representatives

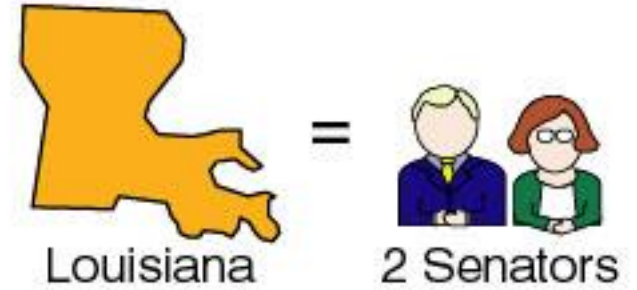
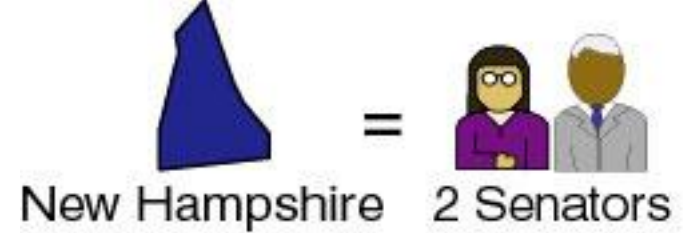
The House has special jobs that only it can perform.



- Start laws that make people pay taxes.
- Decide if a government official should be put on trial before the Senate if s/he commits a crime against the country.
- This is known as impeachment.

The Senate

- 100 members.
- The vice president has formal control over the Senate and is known as the president of the Senat



The Senate has special jobs that only it can perform.

- Approve treaties the president makes
- Approve people the president recommends for jobs, such as cabinet officers, Supreme Court Justices, and ambassadors
- Can hold a trial for a government official who commits a crime against the country
(House determines whether there is enough evidence first)

Creating Laws



- Can be initiated by either chamber
 - House of Representatives
 - Senate
- A representative presents his/her idea in writing
 - Assigned a number & label it HR or S
 - Copies are printed and passed out to the representatives
- The idea is assigned to a committee to be studied (22 standing committees) to discuss/research
- Can be tabled (set aside) or released (reporting out)



Creating Laws



- If released it receives a calendar date where it will be discussed, debated or voted on. (Two-thirds vote in favor of the bill will pass it)
- If approved in the House it moves to the Senate to repeat the process. (A simple majority (51 of 100) passes the bill.)
- Once approved in both houses it goes to the President to be approved or VETOED
- If approved – President signs the bill into law
- If Vetoed – Can go back to Congress and 2/3s of HR and 2/3s of Senate must pass it. Then it can become a law.

Public Law

105-42

International Dolphin
Conservation
Program Act