



The Constitution

A Blueprint to the Government

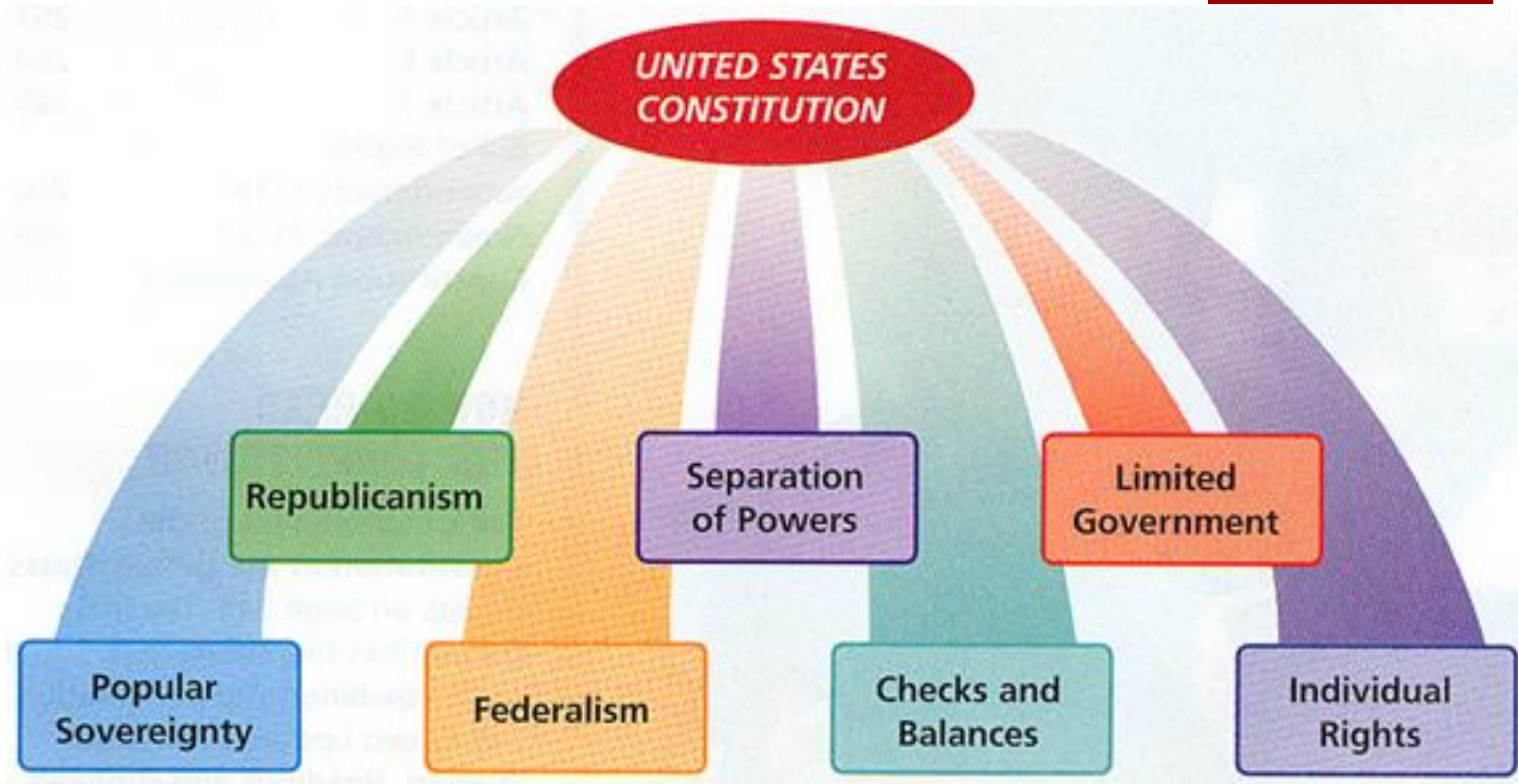
The Preamble

“We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common 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.”

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

Seven Principles - Foundation



Seven Principles - Foundation

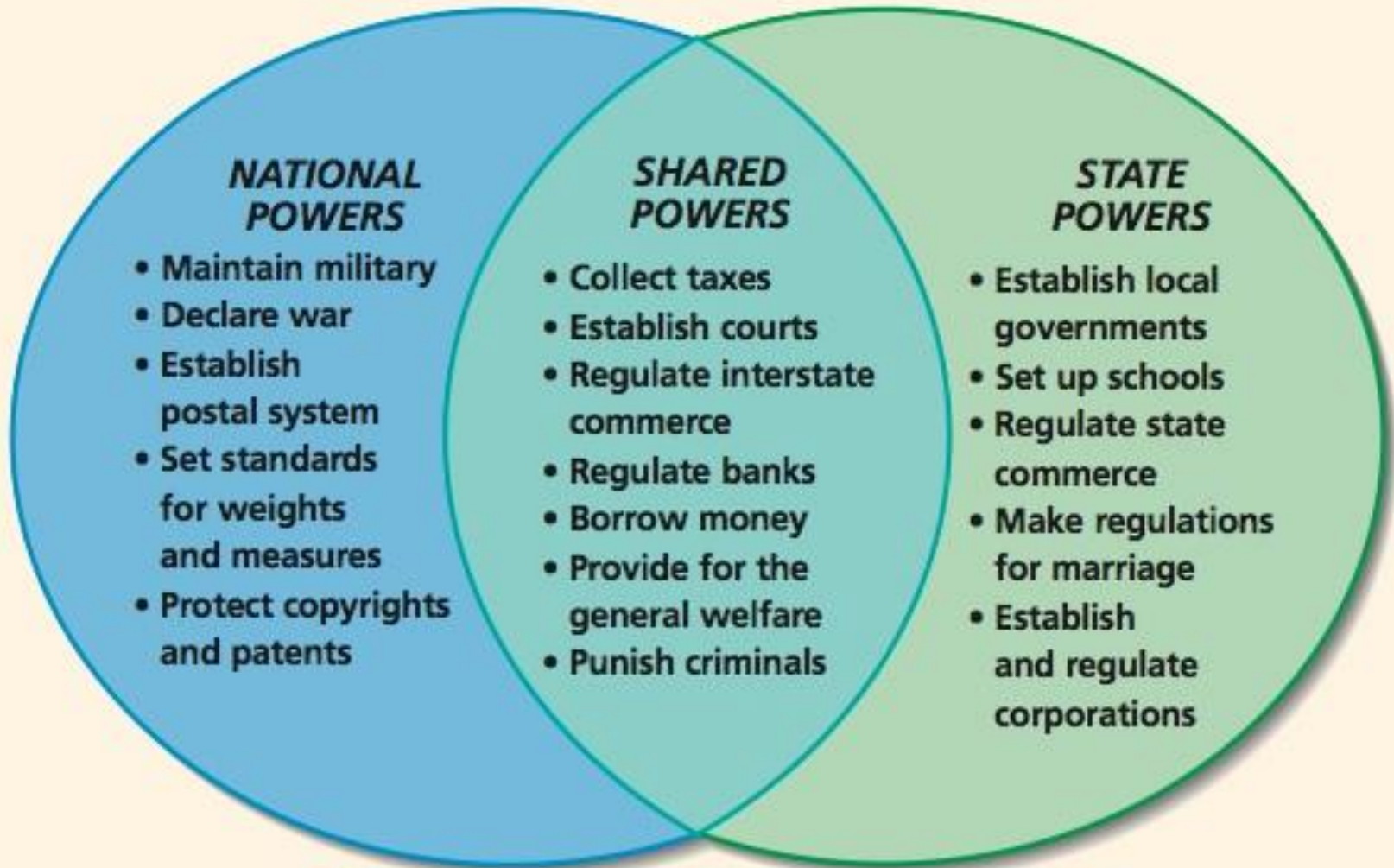
Popular Sovereignty - Government in which the people rule

Republicanism - Government in which people vote for their political representatives

Federalism - System where the state and national government share power

Federalism

Americans live under both national and state governments.



Seven Principles - Foundation

Checks & Balances - Each branch has certain controls over the other

Separation of Powers - The government is divided into 3 branches (Legislative, Executive, Judiciary)

Limited Government - Everyone is expected to follow the rules; from the common person to the President

Individual Rights - Guarantees certain personal liberties and privileges to everyone

Separation of Powers



Seven Articles

Article 1: Legislative Branch

- Makes the Laws

- Elastic Clause

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

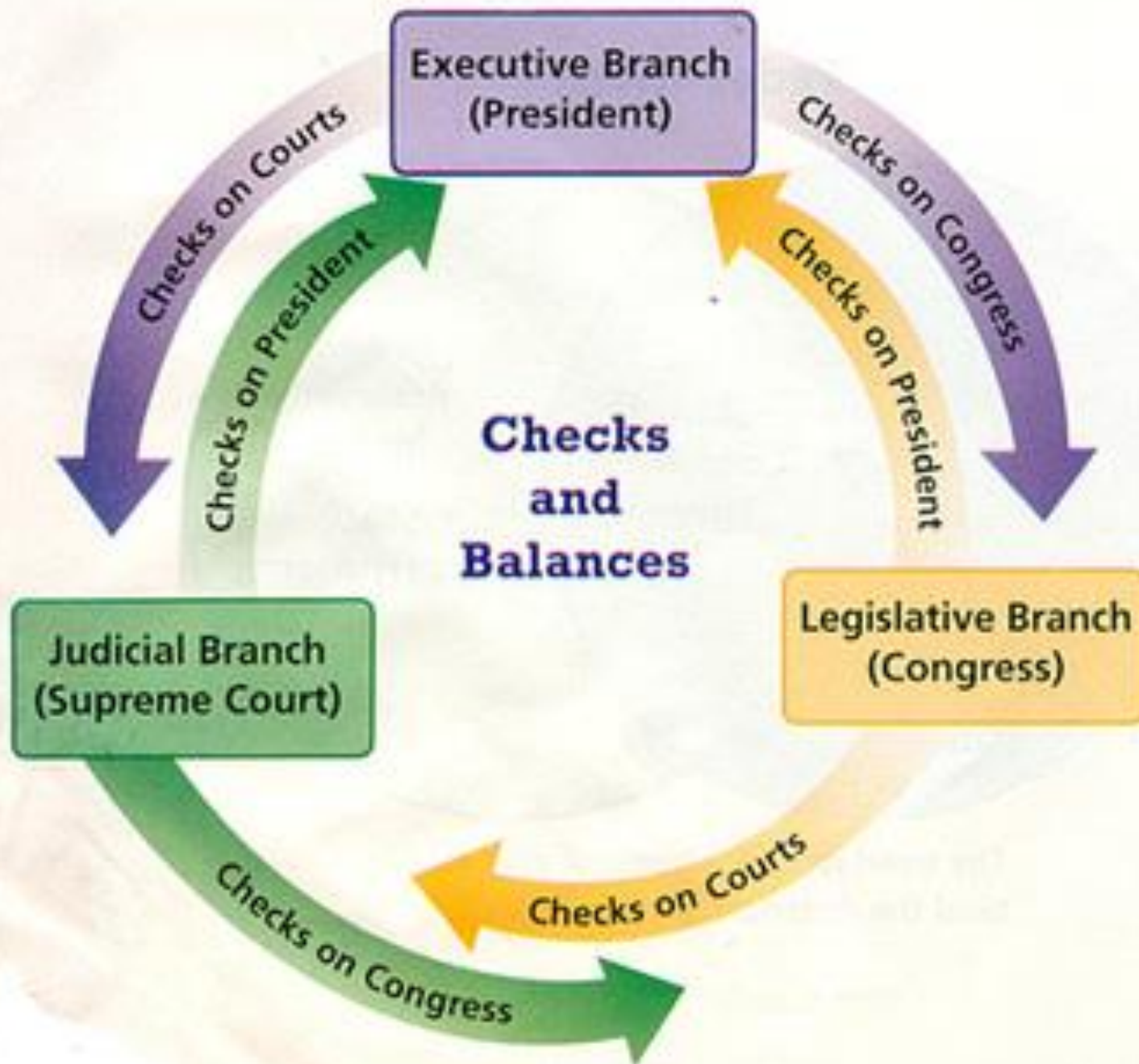
Article 2: Executive Branch

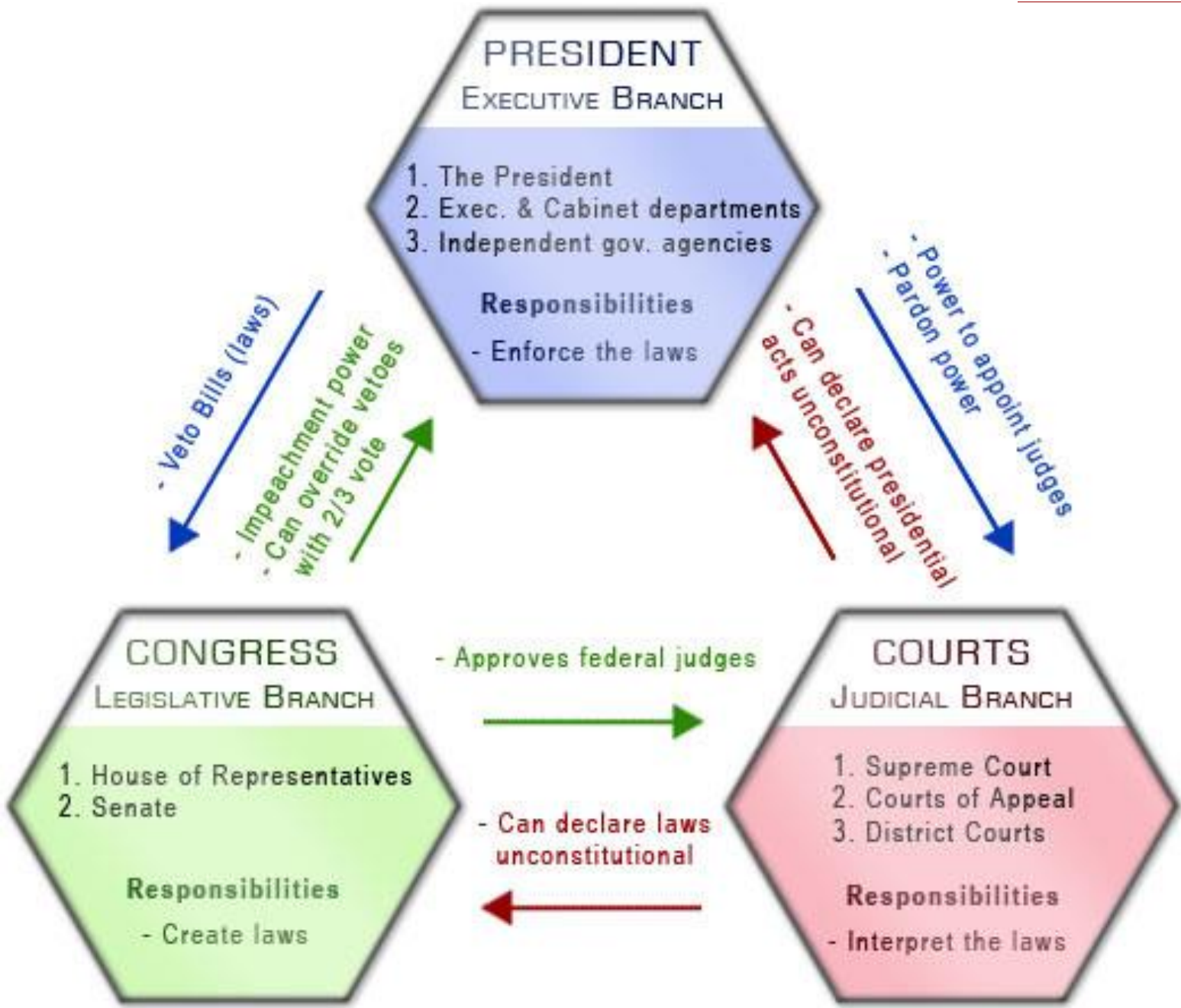
- Carries out the Laws

Article 3: Judicial Branch

- Interprets the laws







Seven Articles



- **Article 4: Relations Among States**

- **Article 5: Provisions for Amendment**

 - First 10 known as the Bill of Rights

 - 27 Amendments total

- **Article 6: Federal powers**

 - Laws & Treaties

 - Outlines our responsibility for debt

 - Oath to be taken when you serve in government (Your promise)

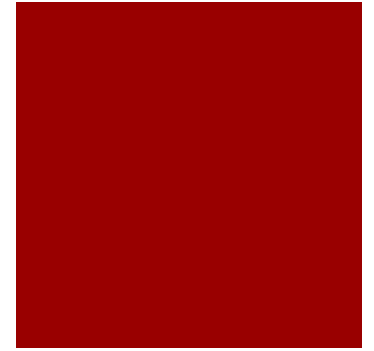
- **Article 7: Ratification**

 - Outlines process to approve Constitution

 - State conventions

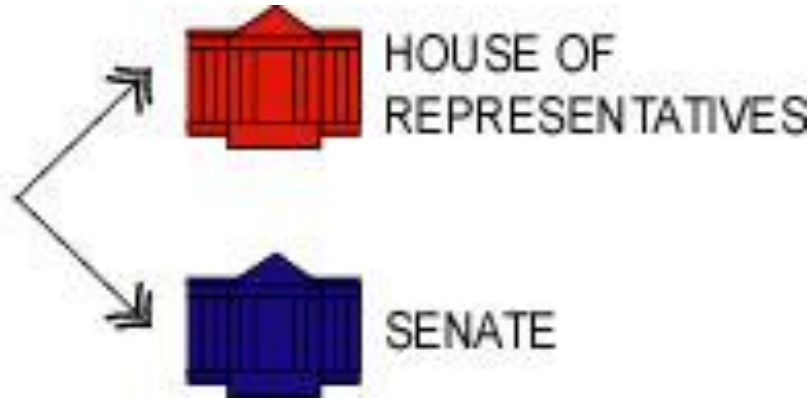
 - Nine states must approve

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

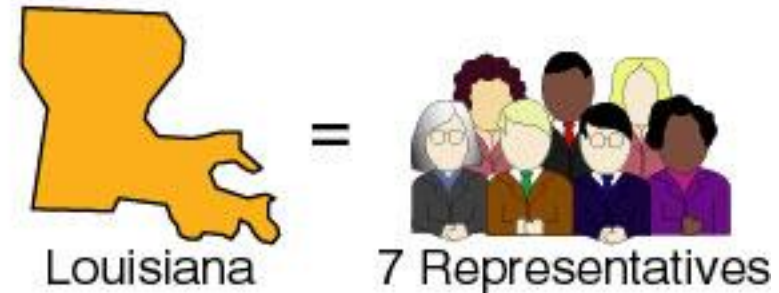
- Appointed by the state
- 2 per state
- Serve for 6 years
- 100 members / 1 vote per member
- Vice President – In Charge

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

House of Representatives

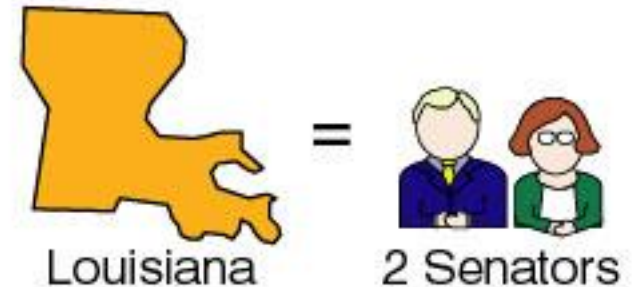
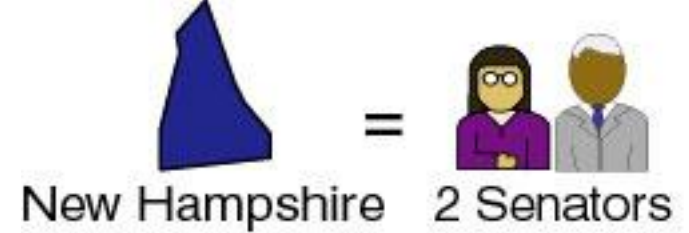
The House has special jobs can perform.



- Start laws that make people pay taxes. (*Taxation WITH representation*)
- Impeachment - Decide if a government official should be put on trial before the Senate if s/he commits a crime against the country. (Look at the evidence)

The Senate

- 100 members.
- Elected by the people in the state
(17th Amendment in 1913)

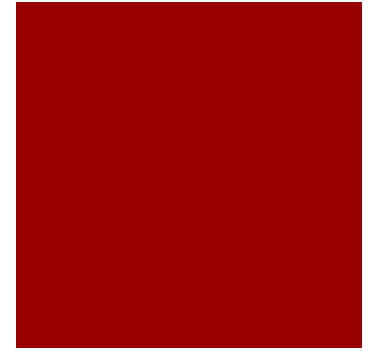


The Senate has special jobs that only it can perform.

- 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)

Twenty-seven Amendments



- **First Ten Amendments – Bill of Rights**
- More than 11,000+ amendments have been introduced in Congress.
- 27 have received the necessary approval from the states (Legislature) to actually become amendments to the Constitution.

Creating Laws



- Can be initiated by either chamber
 - House of Representatives
 - Senate
- A representative presents his/her idea in writing
- The idea is assigned to a committee to be studied (22 standing committees) to discuss/research
- Can be tabled (set aside) or released (referred to a committee)



Creating Laws

Public Law 105-42

International Dolphin
Conservation
Program Act

- If it has promise it is debated and/or voted on.
- 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 SIGNED 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 or Senate must pass it. Then it can become a law.



The Executive Branch

Seven Roles of the President

Chief of State

A living symbol of the nation and what stands for.



it

Examples of Behavior in Roles:

- Attend special events in other countries.
- Awarding medals to the winners of college scholarships.
- Congratulating astronauts on their journey into space.
- Greeting visitors to the White House.
- Making a patriotic speech on the Fourth of July.

Chief Executive

The "boss" for millions of government workers in the Executive Branch. Decides how to enforce the laws of the United States. Chooses officials and advisers to help run the Executive Branch.

Examples of Behavior in Roles:

- Appointing someone to serve as head of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).
- Holding a Cabinet meeting to discuss government business.
- Reading reports about problems of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Chief Diplomat

Decides what American diplomats and ambassadors shall say to foreign governments.
Makes the foreign policy of the U.S.

Examples of Behavior in Roles:

- Traveling to London to meet with British leaders.
- Entertaining Japanese diplomats in the White House.
- Writing a message or a letter to the leaders of the Russia.

Commander-in-Chief

In charge of the U.S. armed forces: (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines).

Decides where troops shall be stationed, where ships shall be sent, and how weapons shall be used.

All military generals and admirals take their orders from the President.

Examples of Behavior in Roles:

- Inspecting a Navy yard.
- Deciding, in wartime, whether to bomb foreign cities.
- Calling out troops to stop a riot.

Chief Legislature

The Constitution gives the president power to influence Congress in its lawmaking.

May urge Congress to pass new laws or veto bills that they do not favor.

Examples of Behavior in Roles:

- Inviting members of Congress to lunch in the White House.
- Signing a bill of Congress.
- Making a speech in Congress.

Chief of Party

Helps members of his political party get elected or appointed to office.

Campaigns for those members who have supported his policies.

Examples of Behavior in Roles:

- Choosing leading party members to serve in the Cabinet.
- Traveling to California to speak at a rally for a party nominee to the U.S. Senate.

Chief Guardian of the Economy

Concerned with unemployment, high prices, taxes, business profits, and the general prosperity of the country.

Does not control the economy, but is expected to help it run smoothly.

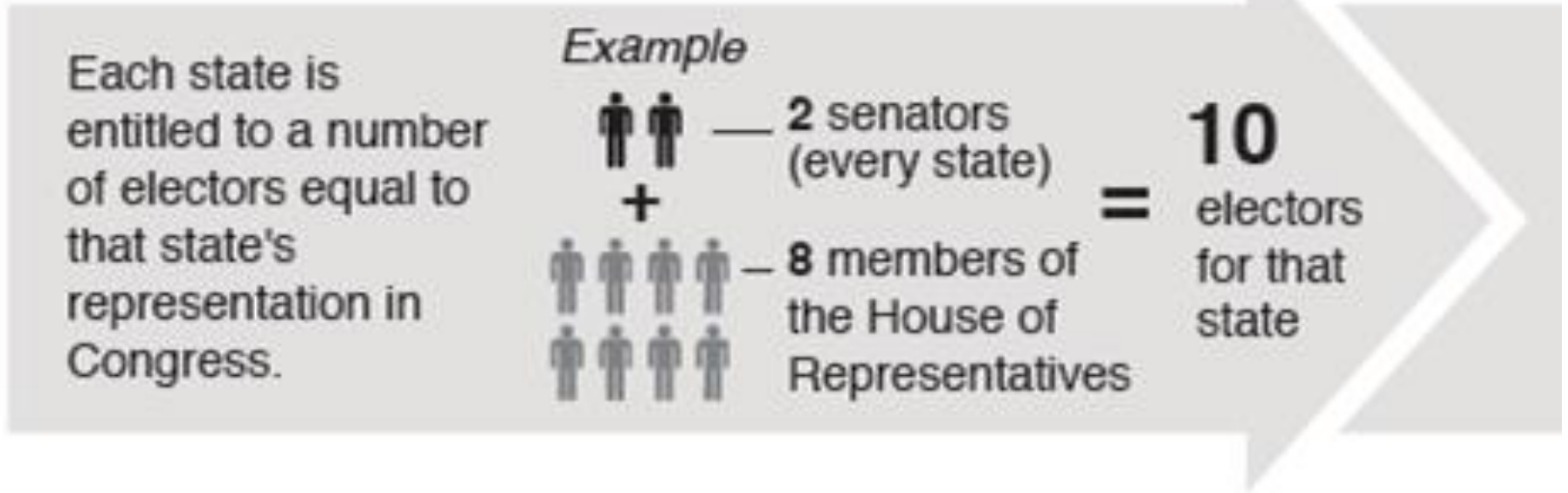
Examples of Behavior in Roles:

- Meeting with economic advisers to discuss ways to reduce unemployment.
- Meeting with business and labor leaders to discuss their needs and problems.



The Electoral College

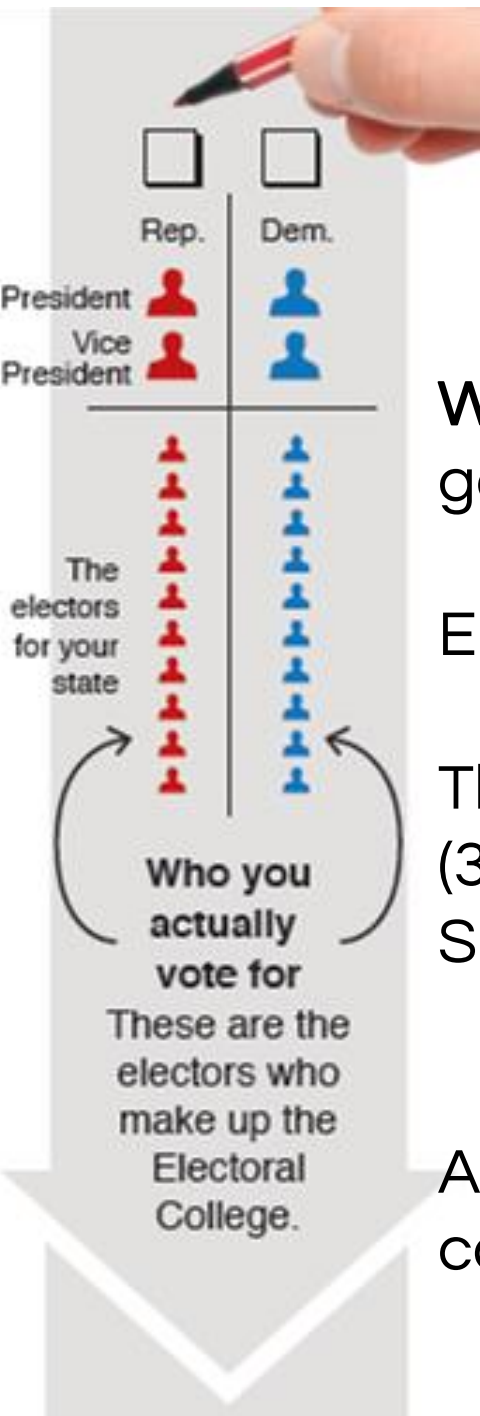
How It Works



All States have at least 3 electoral votes based on 1 Rep + 2 Senators.

EX – Michigan if has 16 electoral votes we have 2 Senators & 14 Reps

$$2s + 14r = 16$$



Winner Takes All – who ever wins the popular vote gets all of the electoral votes for a state.

Electoral Votes are not split up.

The total electoral votes are 538. $100 + 435 + \text{DC (3)}$

Simple majority wins $538 \div 2 = 269$

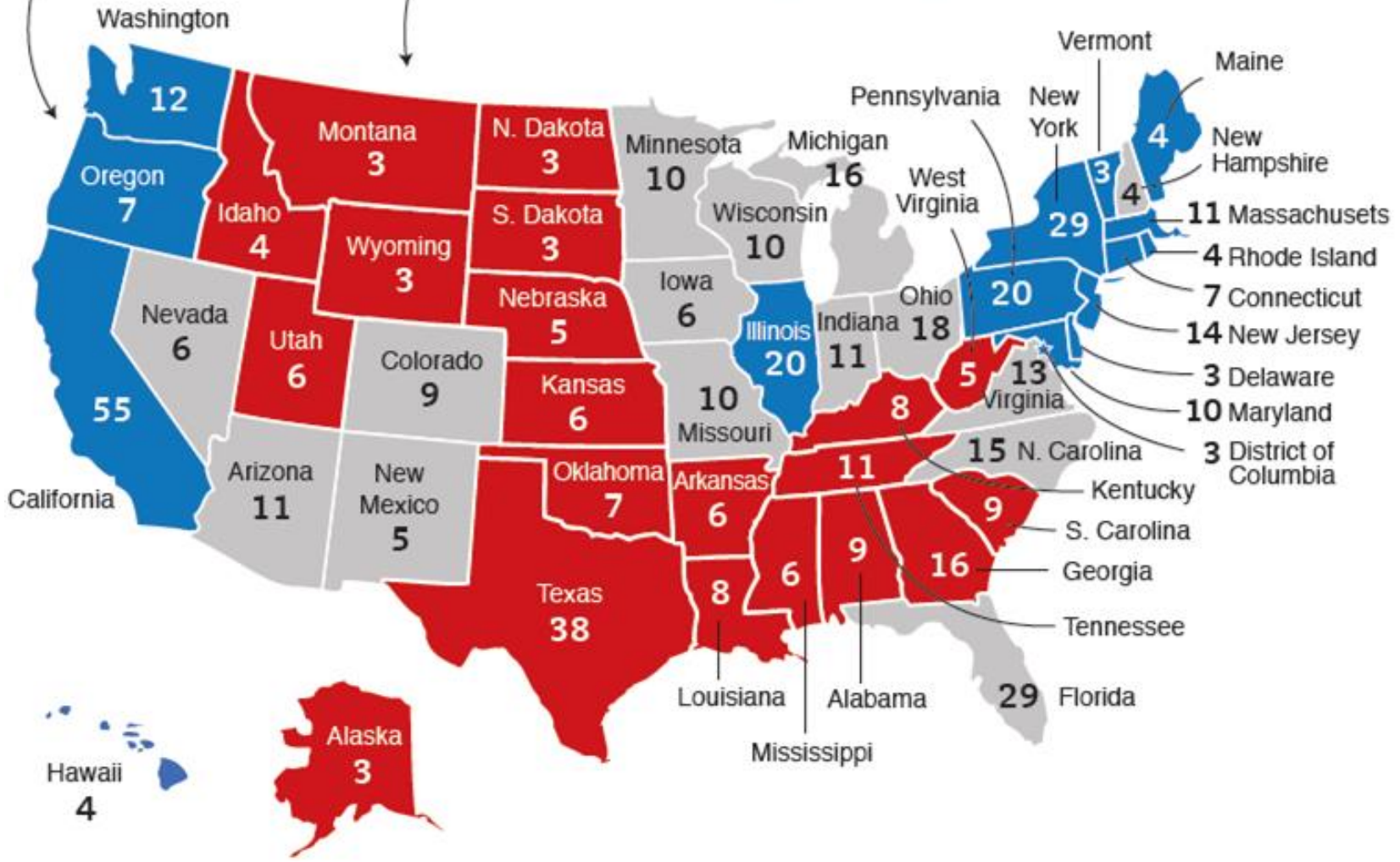
270 Wins

After November election Electors meet in DC to cast their vote for US! *(Second Monday of December)*

Total
538

■ Strong Democrat states

■ Strong Republican states



Helpful Web Sites

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OUS9mM8Xbbw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wC42HgLA4k>

<http://dep.disney.go.com/itt-electoralcollege.html>

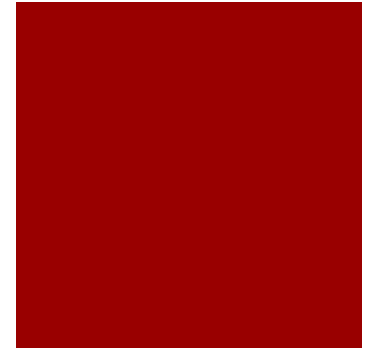
<http://www.270towin.com/>



The Judicial Branch

Supreme Court

- Nine justices
- A Chief Justice of the United States
- Eight associate justices
- Appointed by the president with the advice/consent of the Senate
- Justices serve during good behavior (usually until death, retirement or resignation.)



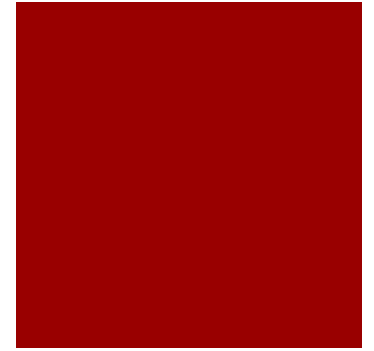
Judicial Review



Judicial review consists of:

- The power of the courts to declare laws invalid if they violate the Constitution.
- The supremacy of federal laws or treaties when they differ from state and local laws.
- The role of the Court as the final authority on the meaning of the Constitution.

Marbury vs. Madison - 1803



- Jefferson tells Madison to lose Adam's appointments one of them being William Marbury's
- First time Judicial Review is applied
- Supreme Court Chief Justice - John Marshall
- Clarified what the purpose of Judicial Review

U.S. Supreme Court

