

Principles of the U.S. Constitution

- ★ The Framers of the Constitution constructed a new system of government based on fundamental principles. Together they form the foundation of this living document known as the United States Constitution.



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Popular Sovereignty

- ★ Government's authority comes from the **people**
- ★ reflects **peoples'** will
- ★ a government which the **people** rule.



Republicanism

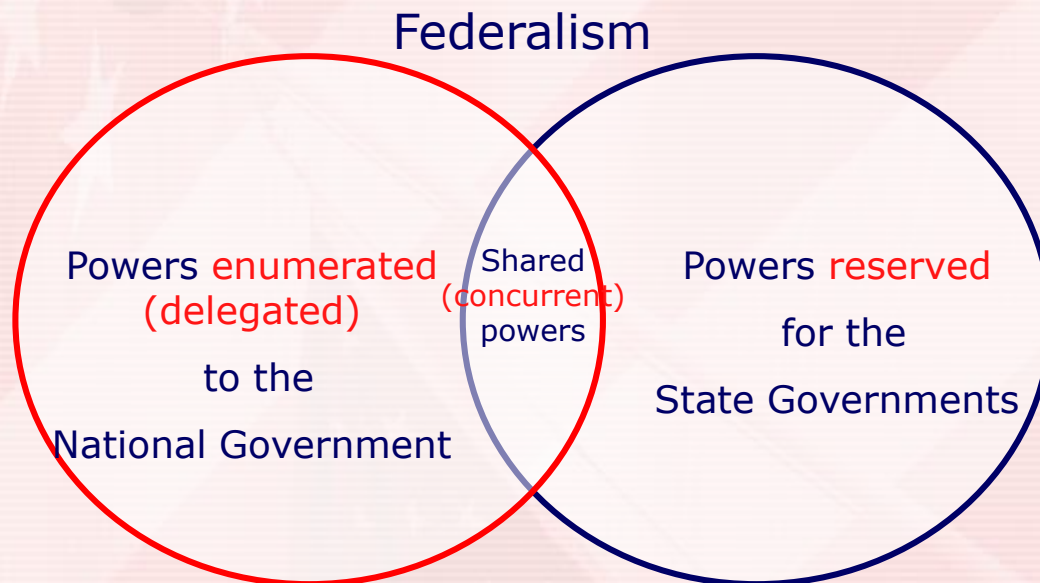
Representative democracy

People **elect** representatives to make laws & exercise the power of government.



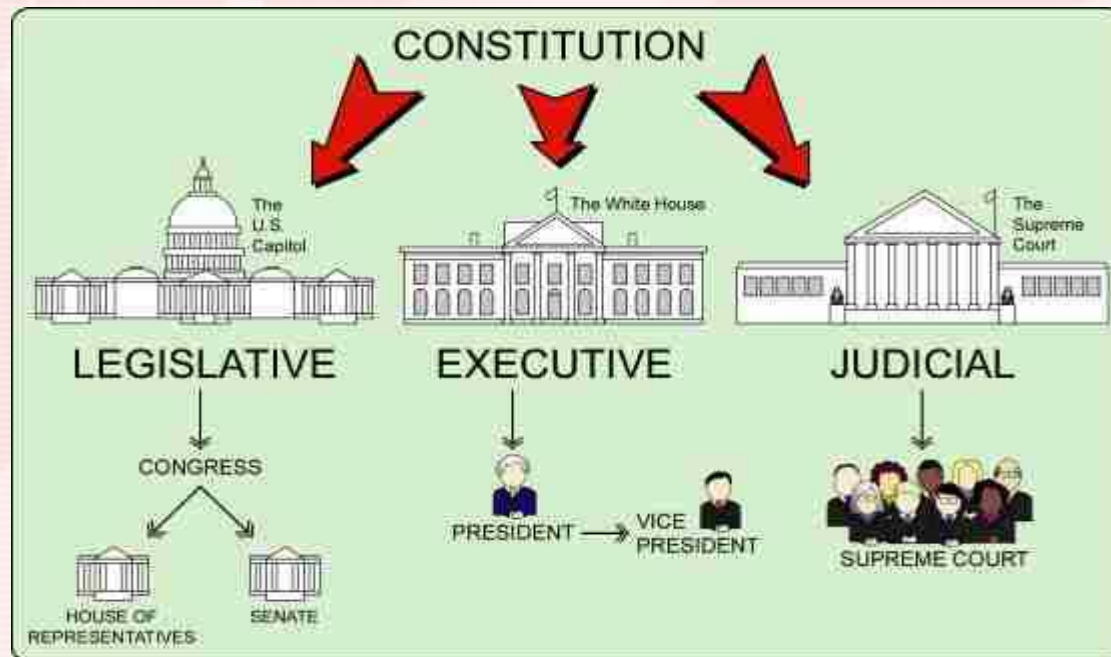
Federalism

- ★ The **states & the nation** become partners in governing.
- ★ Requires both a strong **central** government & **state** governments.



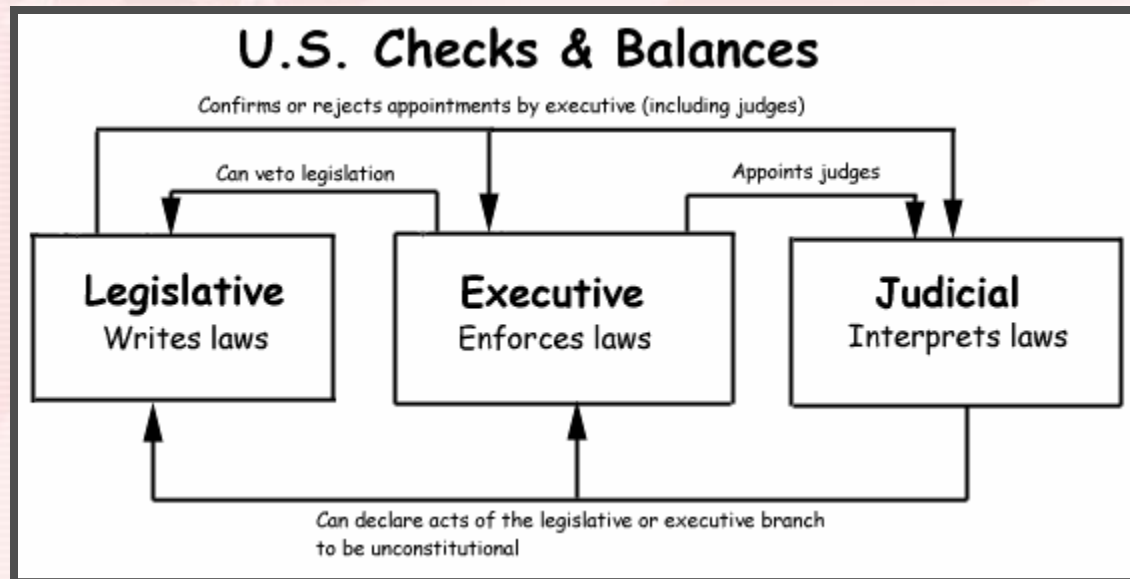
Separation of Powers

- ★ **Concerned** over **too much power** might fall into the hands of a single group.
- ★ Pitted the **branches of government against one another** – created separation of powers.



Checks and Balances

- ★ Make sure the branches **work together fairly**.
- ★ Each branch of government can **checks**, or exercise controls, over the **other branches** (limiting the power of government).



Limited Government

- ★ **Restricts the power** of government
- ★ **Everyone**, (citizens and powerful leaders) must **obey the law**.
- ★ Individuals or groups **cannot** twist or bypass the law to **serve their own interests**.



Individual Rights

- ★ 1st ten amendments to the Constitution
- ★ Shield people from a powerful government.
- ★ called the Bill of Rights
- ★ **guarantees** certain individual **rights**, or personal **liberties & privileges**



Supreme Law – Article 6

- The Constitution & the laws of the U.S. are above all laws
- State laws, treaties and judges are bound to the Constitution.

Flexibility – Article 1 Section 18

- Ability to change
- Amendments may be added
- **Elastic Clause**: make laws that are necessary & proper in order for the Federal government to do its job