

Chapter 8



Government Government and the Constitution

American Nation textbook Pages 246-273



We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquillity, provide for the common Defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Liberty, all our Nation and ourselves that we do hereby establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Article 1

Section 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the same Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

Section 3. The Senate shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Electors in each State, in the Manner prescribed by the Legislature thereof; and they shall have the same Qualifications as those required for Representatives.

Section 4. The Times, Places and Manner of holding the Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of Elections.

Section 5. Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its own Members, and a Majority of each shall constitute a Quorum to do Business, but a quorum may nevertheless be held by the concurrence of less than a Majority of each House, if they so agree.

Section 6. The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States. They shall in all Cases except Treason, Bribery and other high Crimes and Misdemeanors, be privileged in any Speech or Debate in either House, not to be questioned in any other Place.

Section 7. No Senator or Representative shall, during the Term for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil Office under the Authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the Emoluments whereof shall have been increased during such Term, and no Person holding any Office under the United States, shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress.

Section 8. All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as to the Amount thereof: and all Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as to the Amount thereof.

The United States Constitution

I am proud to be an American!



The Preamble



Wow!



The Preamble

To form a more perfect union	The states work together as one unified nation, not as separate nations.
To establish justice	The justice system requires that the law be applied fairly to every American.
To ensure domestic tranquility	The government can ensure domestic tranquility , or peace and order at home.
To provide for the common defense	To protect citizens against foreign attack, the national government can raise armies and navies. However, the military is under civilian , or nonmilitary, control.
To promote the general welfare	The national government promotes the general welfare , or the well-being of all its citizens.
To secure the blessing of liberty	A major goal of the Constitution is to protect the liberty , or freedom, of Americans.

We the People of the United States



**Everyone in the
United States of
America**



in order to form a more perfect Union

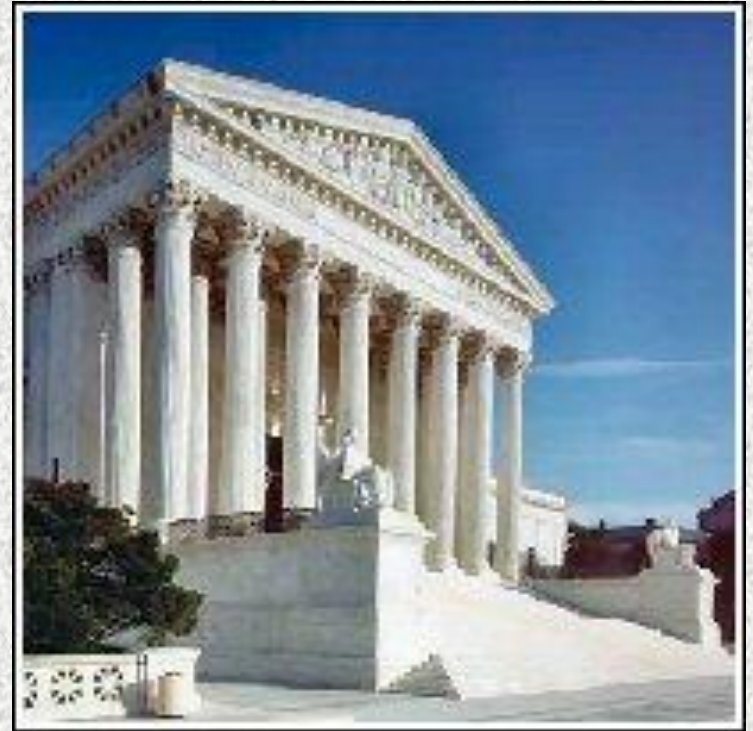


**We should
work together
to be a unified
Nation**



establish justice


 **Laws should be applied fairly to every American**



The Supreme Court Building

insure domestic tranquility



 **We should
have peace and
order in the
United States**




provide for the

common defense

 Every country has the right to protect its citizens against foreign attack

promote the general welfare




 **The country has the responsibility to promote the well-being of the citizens**

and secure the blessings
of liberty to ourselves and our posterity

 **The people of
the United states
will remain free**



do ordain and establish the Constitution of the United States of America

 We publish the
Constitution of the
United States of
America for
everyone



The Roles of the Branches of Government

Legislative Branch (Congress)



Passes Laws

- Can override President's veto
- Approves treaties and presidential appointments
- Can impeach and remove President and other high officials
- Creates lower federal courts
- Appropriates money
- Prints and coins money
- Raises and supports the armed forces
- Can declare war
- Regulates foreign and interstate trade

Executive Branch (President)



Carries Out Laws

- Proposes laws
- Can veto laws
- Negotiates foreign treaties
- Serves as commander in chief of the armed forces
- Appoints federal judges, ambassadors, and other high officials
- Can grant pardons to federal offenders

Judicial Branch (Supreme Court and Other Federal Courts)



Interprets Laws

- Can declare laws unconstitutional
- Can declare executive actions unconstitutional

The Branches of the Federal Government

Executive Branch

(President carries out laws)



Checks on the Legislative Branch

- Can propose laws
- Can veto laws
- Can call special sessions of Congress
- Makes appointments
- Negotiates foreign treaties

Checks on the Judicial Branch

- Appoints federal judges
- Can grant pardons to federal offenders

Legislative Branch

(Congress makes laws)



Checks on the Executive Branch

- Can override President's veto
- Confirms executive appointments
- Ratifies treaties
- Can declare war
- Appropriates money
- Can impeach and remove President

Checks on the Judicial Branch

- Creates lower federal courts
- Can impeach and remove judges
- Can propose amendments to overrule judicial decisions
- Approves appointments of federal judges

Judicial Branch

(Supreme Court interprets laws)



Check on the Executive Branch

- Can declare executive actions unconstitutional

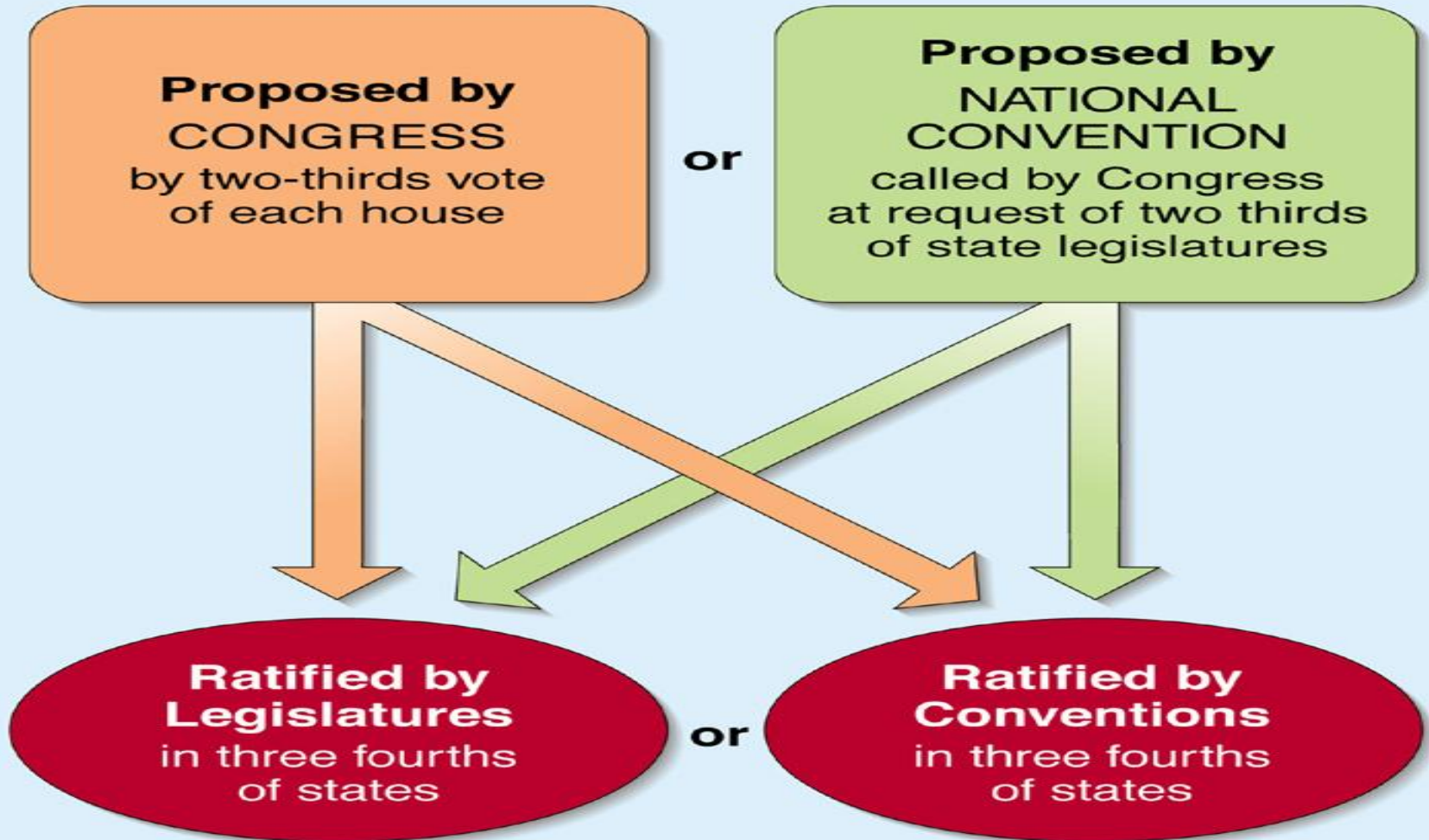
Check on the Legislative Branch

- Can declare acts of Congress unconstitutional

Principles of the Constitution

Popular Sovereignty	The principle that government gets its authority from the people, therefore people have a right to change or abolish their government.
Limited Government	The principle that government has only the powers that the Constitution gives it. Everyone, no matter how important, must obey the law.
Separation of Powers	The idea of limiting government power by dividing it among different branches of government.
Checks and Balances	Each branch of government has power to check, or limit, actions of the other branches.
Federalism	The principle of dividing power between the federal government and the states.
Republicanism	A form of government in which citizens elect representatives to carry out their will.
Individual Rights	Individual rights include freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and the right to trial by jury.

The Amendment Process



The Bill of Rights and Other Amendments

- 1.Safeguards individual rights—freedom of religion, speech, the press, the right to assemble peacefully, the right to petition the government to change its policies.**
- 2.“A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.”**
- 3.Congress may not force citizens to put up troops in their homes.**
- 4.Citizens are protected from unlawful searches of their homes and property.**
- 5.People cannot be forced to incriminate, or give evidence against, themselves.**
- 6.People are guaranteed the right to a speedy and public trial by a fair jury. The accused have a right to know the charges against them and who is making the charges**

7.Provides for juries in civil, or non criminal, trials.

8.Forbids excessive bail or fines and “cruel and unusual punishments.”

9.Citizens’ rights are not limited to those listed in the Constitution.

10.All powers not given to the national government or denied to the states are reserved for the states or for the people.

13.Abolished slavery.

14.Guaranteed citizenship to former slaves.

15.Declared that states may not deny the vote to any citizen on the basis of “race, color, or previous condition of servitude.”

19.Gave women the right to vote.

26.Lowered the minimum voting age from 21 to 18.

The End

The image features the words "The End" in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Each letter is filled with a different color and has a 3D effect with a grey shadow cast to the right. The colors are: 'T' is pink, 'h' is red, 'e' is orange, 'E' is green, 'n' is blue, and 'd' is purple. The background is a light grey with a fine, repeating pattern.