## The Constitution

Goals & Principles

# The goals and principles of the **CONSTITUTION** have guided the United States for more than 200 years.

The three main parts of the Constitution:

Preamble, Articles & Amendments

The purpose of the **Preamble** (opening statement of the Constitution) is to introduce the

### six goals of the Constitution.



In your own words...

1. To form a more perfect union...

(To unite the nation)

2. To establish justice...

(To apply the law fairly to all)

In your own words...

3. To insure domestic tranquility...

(To keep peace and order at home)

4. To provide for the common defense...
(To protect us against foreign

attack)

### In your own words...

- 5. To promote the general welfare...
  - (To provide for the well-being of all)
- 6. To secure the blessings of liberty...

  (To protect our freedoms)



The main body of the Constitution is made up of ARTICLES which establish a framework for government

The seven Articles are...

# Article I: Establishes the powers of and limits on the Legislative Branch

**Article II:** 

Establishes the powers of and limits on the

**Executive Branch** 

# Article III: Establishes the powers of and limits on the Judicial Branch

Article IV:

Relations between

the states

## Article V: Amending (changing) the Constitution.

Article VI: (National Supremacy)
The Constitution is the
"supreme Law
of the Land"

## Article VII: Ratification (approval) of the Constitution





27 <u>Amendments</u> that have been added to the U.S. Constitution in 231 years.



Did You Know...
As of November 2017, the Texas
Constitution has been amended 498
times since its adoption in 1876.

### PRINCIPLES of the CONSTITUTION The Constitution rests on seven basic PRINCIPLES that ensure that the citizens of the United States enjoy a careful balance of ER and FREEDOM.

- Principle #1: Popular Sovereignty All government power belongs to the people.
- © Principle #2: Limited Government Government can do only what the people say it can do.
- Principle #3: Separation of Powers

  Power is divided among three
  branches of the government.

- Principle #4: Checks and Balances

  Each branch of government is able

  to check the other branches.
- Principle #5: Federalism

  Power is shared between the national government and the states.
- Principle #6: Republicanism
  Citizens elect representatives to
  carry out the will of the people.

○ Principle #7: Individual Rights Individual rights are protected.





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