

# AP U.S. Government and Politics



**LEARNING TARGET:  
TO EXPLORE WHY GOVERNMENT MATTERS**

**CRITERIA FOR SUCCESS:  
STUDENTS WILL BECOME PASSIONATE  
CITIZENS WHO DESIRE TO CONTRIBUTE  
POSITIVELY TO SOCIETY AND BE A PART OF  
SOMETHING BIGGER THAN THEMSELVES!**

# Politics and Government Matter



- *“Politics does matter. It can make the difference in terms of a benefits check. It can make the difference in terms of school funding. Citizens can’t just remove themselves from that process. They actually have to engage themselves and not just leave it to the professionals.”*
  - 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States of America

# Politics and Government Matter



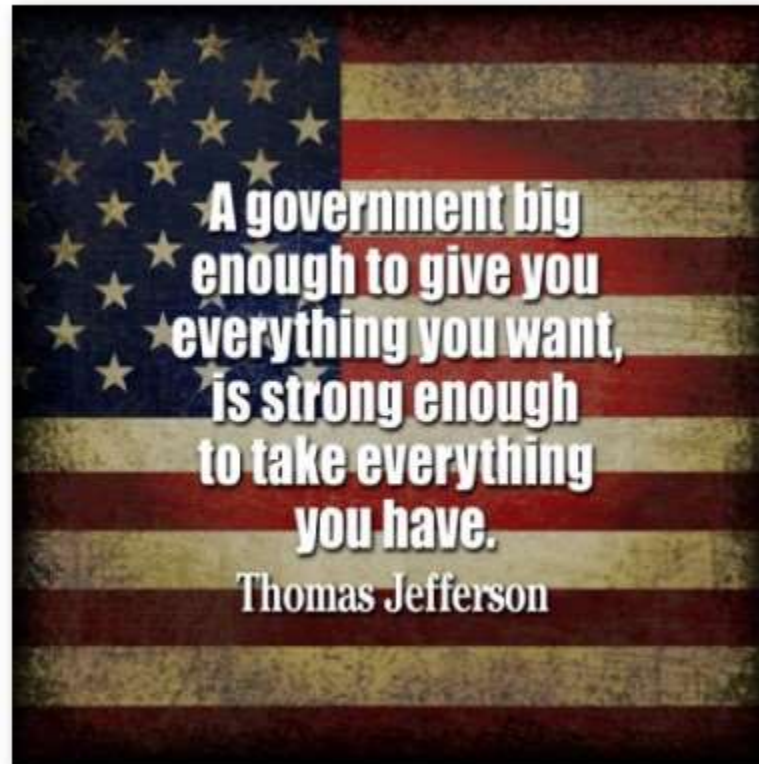
- *“If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be..”*
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> President of the United States of America

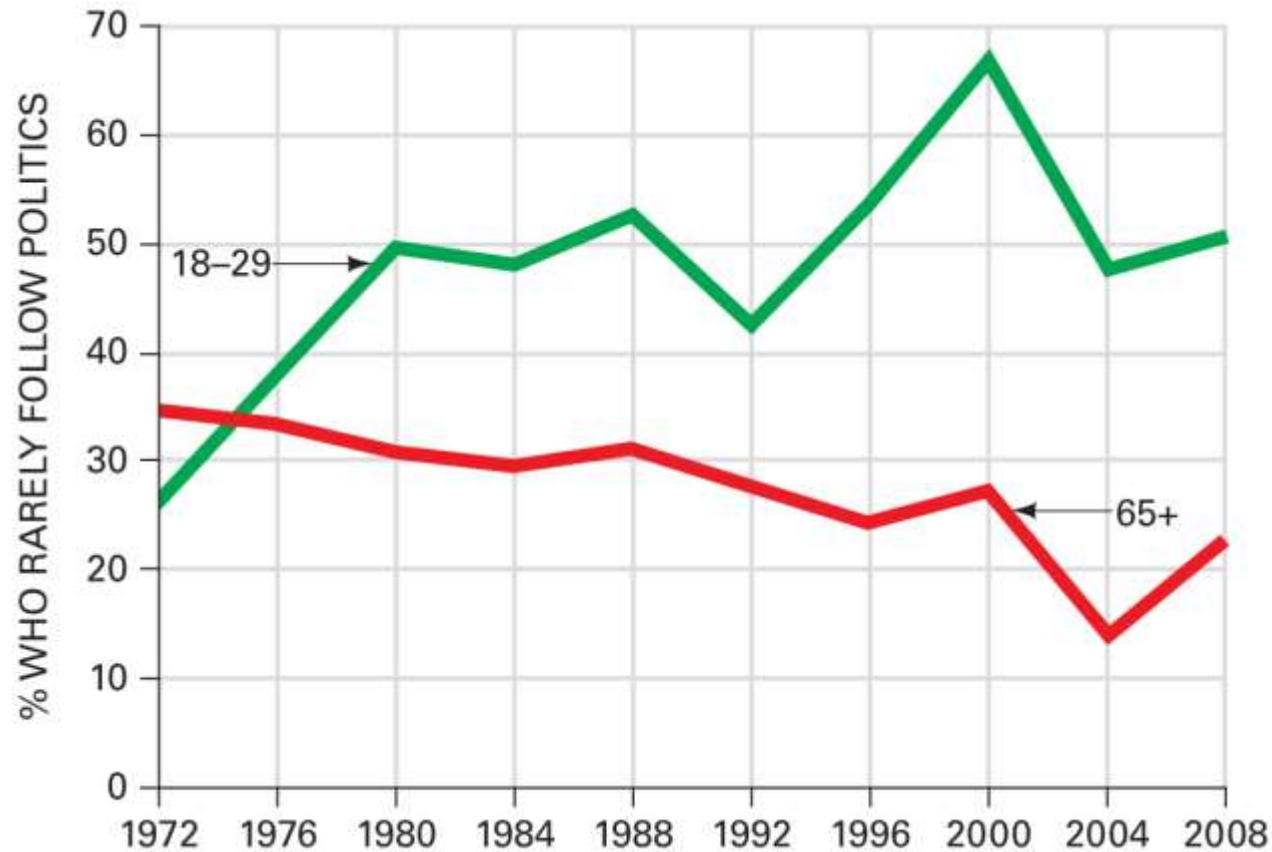
# Chapter 1 Overview



- Political apathy, especially among youth, is a concern
  - Why has apathy increased?
- Those who participate will benefit
- 2 fundamental questions of government:
  - How should we govern?
  - What should government do?
    - ✦ See Constitution – Article 1, Section 8

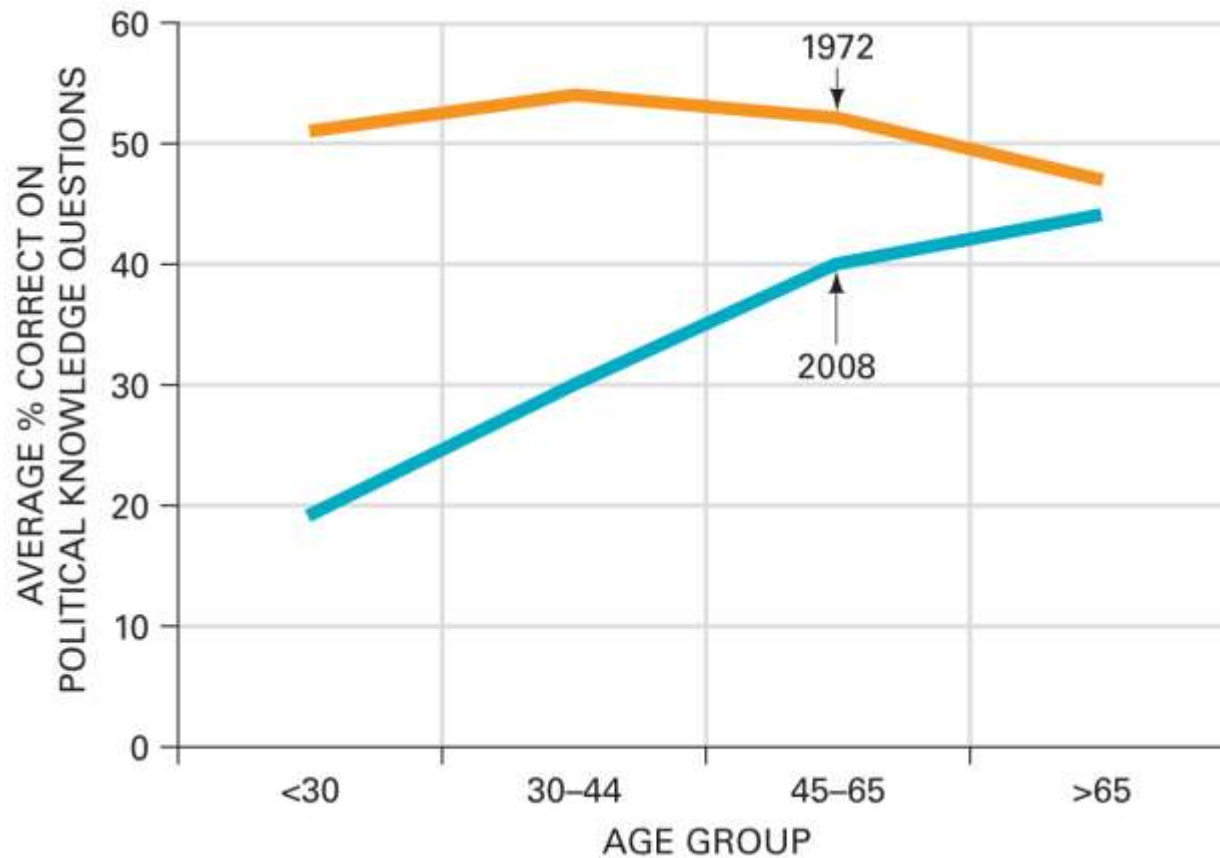
# What should government do?





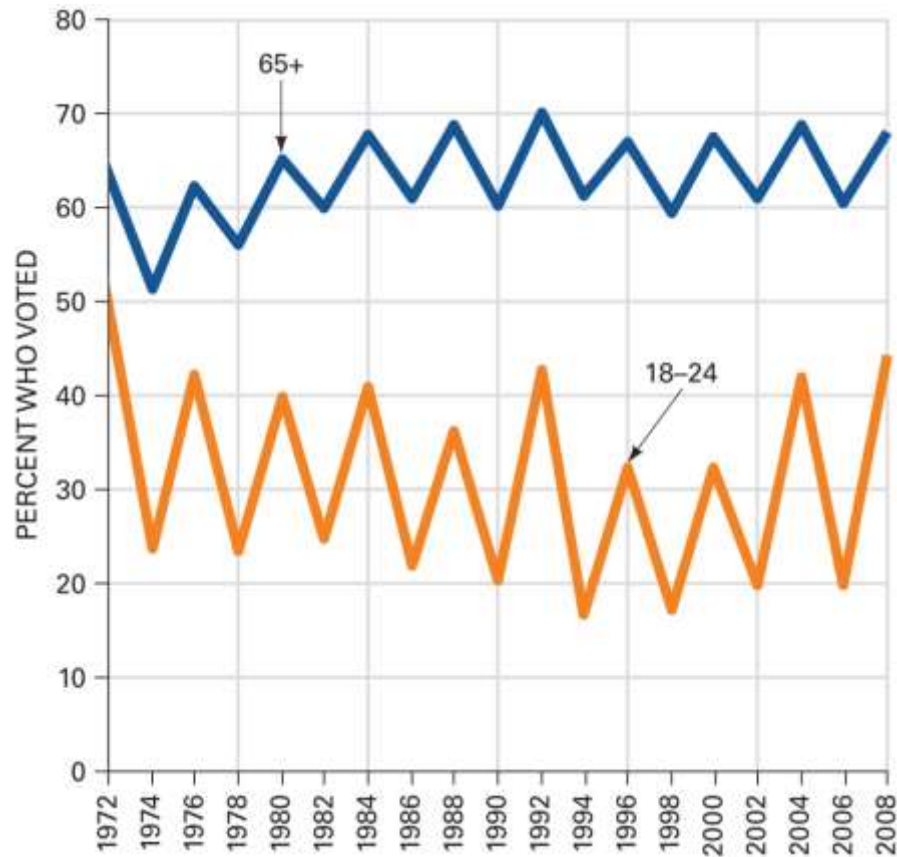
## Political Apathy Among Young and Old Americans, 1972, 2008

Source: Authors' analysis of 1972–2008 American National Election Studies data.



## Age and Political Knowledge, 1972 and 2008

*Source: Authors' analysis of 1972 and 2008 National Election Studies data.*



# Presidential Election Turnout Rates of Young and Old Americans, 1972-2008

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Surveys.



# I. Constitutional Underpinnings of United States Government: 5–15%



- A. Considerations that influenced the formulation and adoption of the Constitution
- B. Separation of powers
- C. Checks and balances
- D. Federalism
- E. Theories of democratic government

# What if the French and Indian War hadn't happened?



**WOULD WE HAVE HAD A REVOLUTION?**

# A . Considerations that influenced the formulation and adoption of the Constitution



- **John Locke**
  - Natural Rights
  - Consent of the Governed
  - Limited Government

# A . Considerations that influenced the formulation and adoption of the Constitution

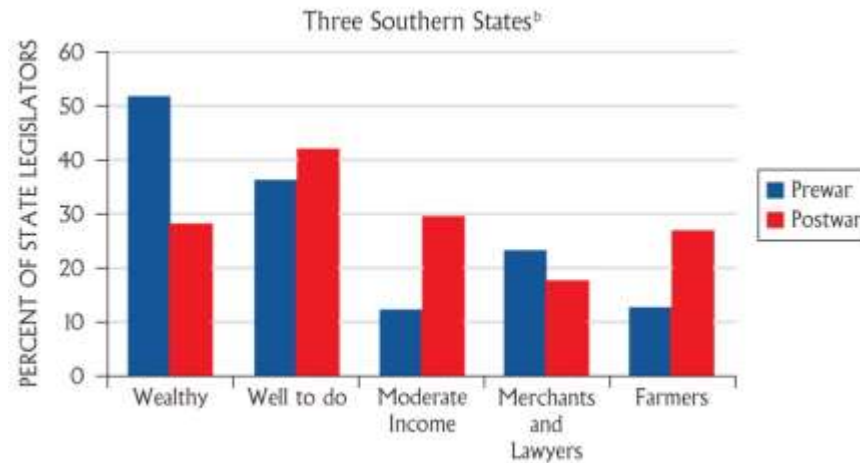
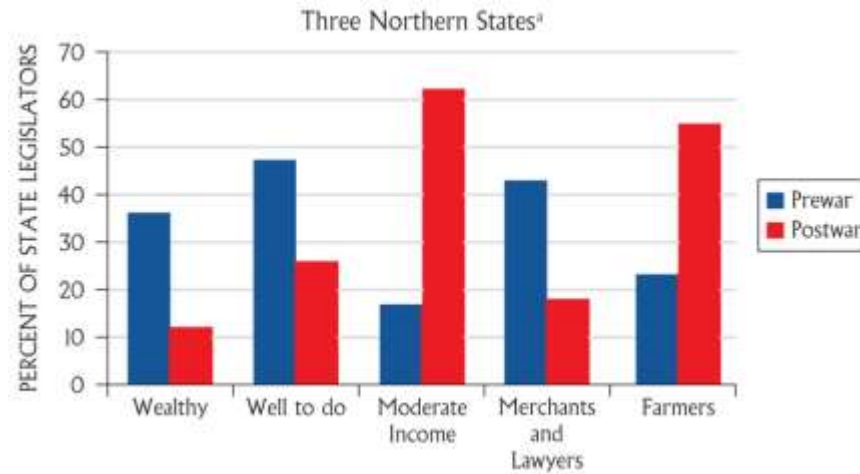


- **Articles of Confederation**
  - No President
  - No National Court
  - No power to tax
  - No power to regulate commerce
  - No power...

# A . Considerations that influenced the formulation and adoption of the Constitution



- **Shay's Rebellion**
  - Landowners fear potential threat of farmers
  - No government protection from rebellion



# Power Shift: Economic Status of State Legislators Before and After the Revolutionary War

# A . Considerations that influenced the formulation and adoption of the Constitution



- **Equality**
  - Representation of States
    - ✦ Connecticut Compromise of New Jersey and Virginia Plan creates a bicameral legislature
  - Slavery
    - ✦ Future importing of slaves limited (in 1808)
    - ✦ 3/5ths Compromise
  - Voting
    - ✦ Leave it up to the states

# A . Considerations that influenced the formulation and adoption of the Constitution



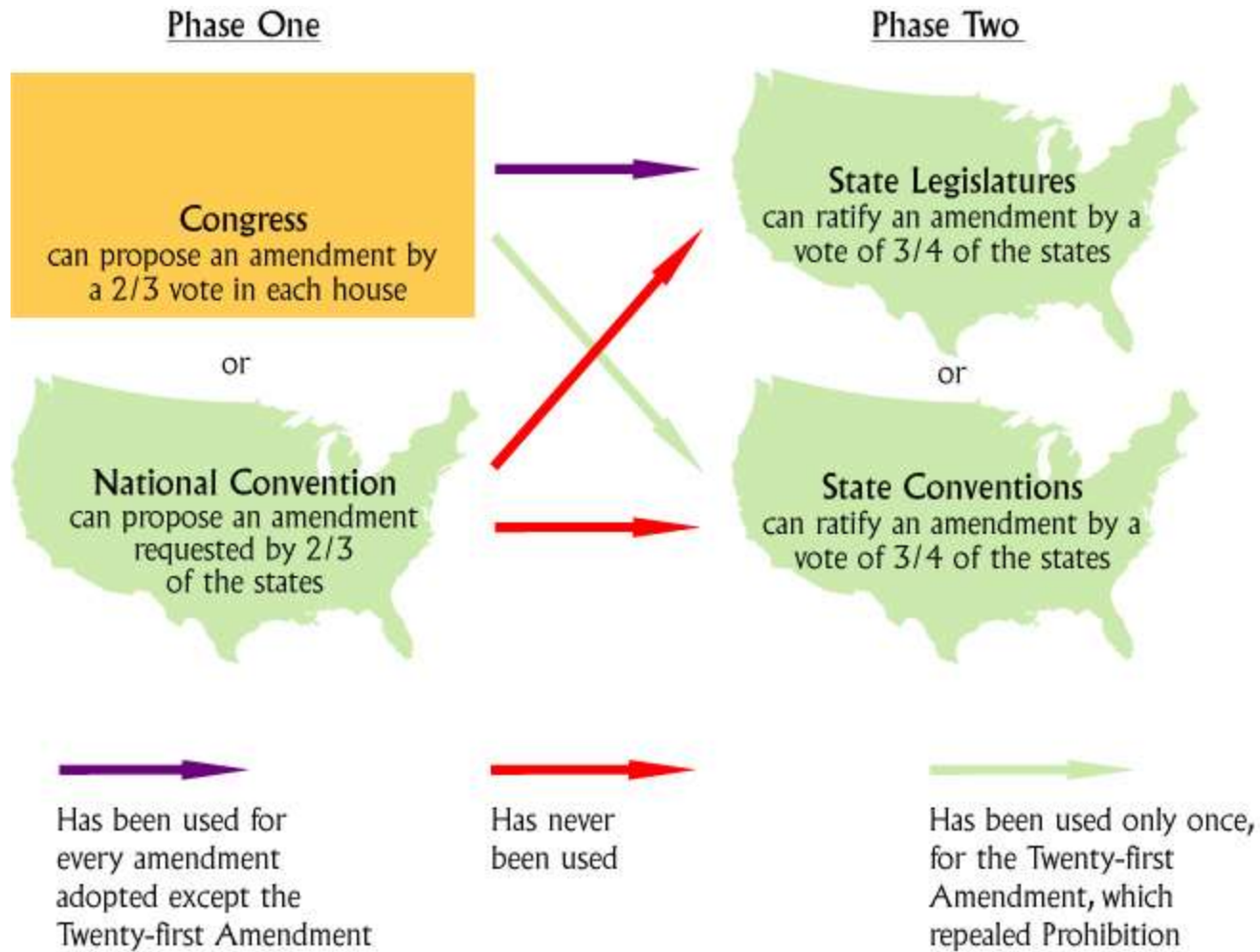
- **Economy**
  - Strong National Government was necessary
    - ✦ (see failure of Articles of Confederation)
  - See Article I, Section 8



# A . Considerations that influenced the formulation and adoption of the Constitution



- Framers created a living document... able to be amended
  - Formally
    - ✦ 2 proposal methods and 2 ratification methods
      - $2/3^{\text{rd}}$  of each house of Congress →  $3/4$  of State Legislatures
  - Informally
    - ✦ The Supreme Court's interpretation
    - ✦ Technology
    - ✦ Consider the changing power of the President
      - See Article 2, Section 2



# A . Considerations that influenced the formulation and adoption of the Constitution



- **Federalist Papers**
  - Explained to the people why they should support the Constitution
- **Bill of Rights**
  - The only way North Carolina and Rhode Island would ratify

## B . Separation of powers

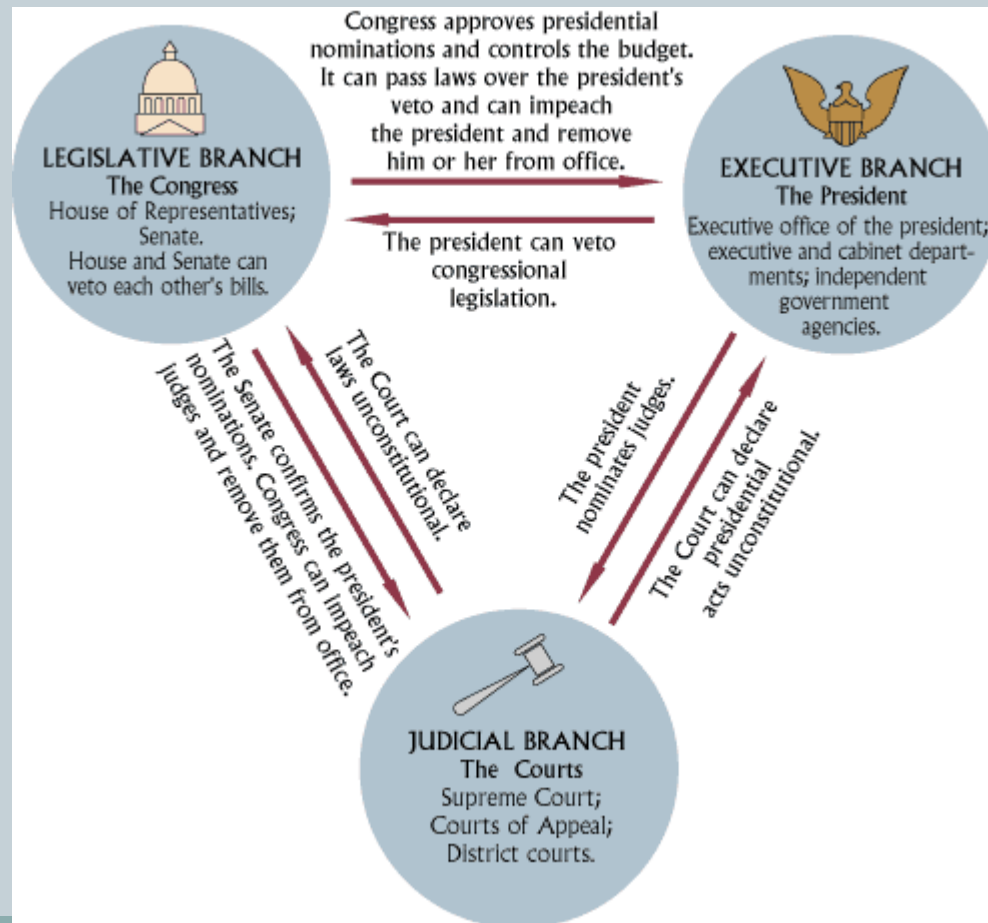


- A method to limit the effect of Majority Rule and protect the Minority Rights
- Proposed by Madison
- Majority only truly vote directly for House of Representatives
- Power is shared among 3 branches

# C. Checks and balances



- Supports the purpose behind separation of powers



# The Constitution – 7 Articles



Article 1- Legislative (Congress), makes laws

Article 2- Executive (President), carries out laws

Article 3- Judicial (Supreme Court), interprets laws

Article 4- Relations Among States

Article 5- Amending Process, work in progress

Article 6- Supremacy and Public Debt

Article 7- [Ratification](#) 9-17-1787

# Bill of Rights: 1<sup>st</sup> 10 Amendments to the Constitution

## 1<sup>st</sup> 5 freedoms

Freedom of Speech, Petition, Religion, Assembly, Press

## 2<sup>nd</sup> [Right to Bear arms](#)

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Against quartering troops

## 4<sup>th</sup> Against unlawful search and seizure

## 5<sup>th</sup> Rights of accused

formal charges presented, against double jeopardy and self-incrimination

## 6<sup>th</sup> Right to speedy, fair trial and lawyer

## 7<sup>th</sup> Right to civil suits

suing but not criminal

## 8<sup>th</sup> Against unreasonable bail or punishment

## 9<sup>th</sup> Any other rights reserved to the people

## 10<sup>th</sup> Powers reserved to the states

11<sup>th</sup> States sued in own courts (1798)

12<sup>th</sup> Pres. And VP on separate ballots (1804)

## Civil War Amendments

13<sup>th</sup> Abolish slavery (1865)

14<sup>th</sup> Defines citizens, Right to due process for all  
(1868)

15<sup>th</sup> No racial discrimination for voting (1870)

Do these amendments protect just a certain group?



- 16<sup>th</sup> Income tax allowed (1913)
- 17<sup>th</sup> Direct vote for senators (1913)
- 18<sup>th</sup> Alcohol prohibited (1919)
- 19<sup>th</sup> Women can vote (1920)
- 20<sup>th</sup> “Lame Duck Amendment” (1933)

Changes date for Presidential term and Congressional session

- 21<sup>st</sup> Alcohol allowed (repeal of 18th) (1933)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> President is limited to two terms (1951)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Citizens of Washington, D.C. can vote for President (1961)
- 24<sup>th</sup> No poll tax (1964)

25<sup>th</sup> President Succession and Disability  
(1967)

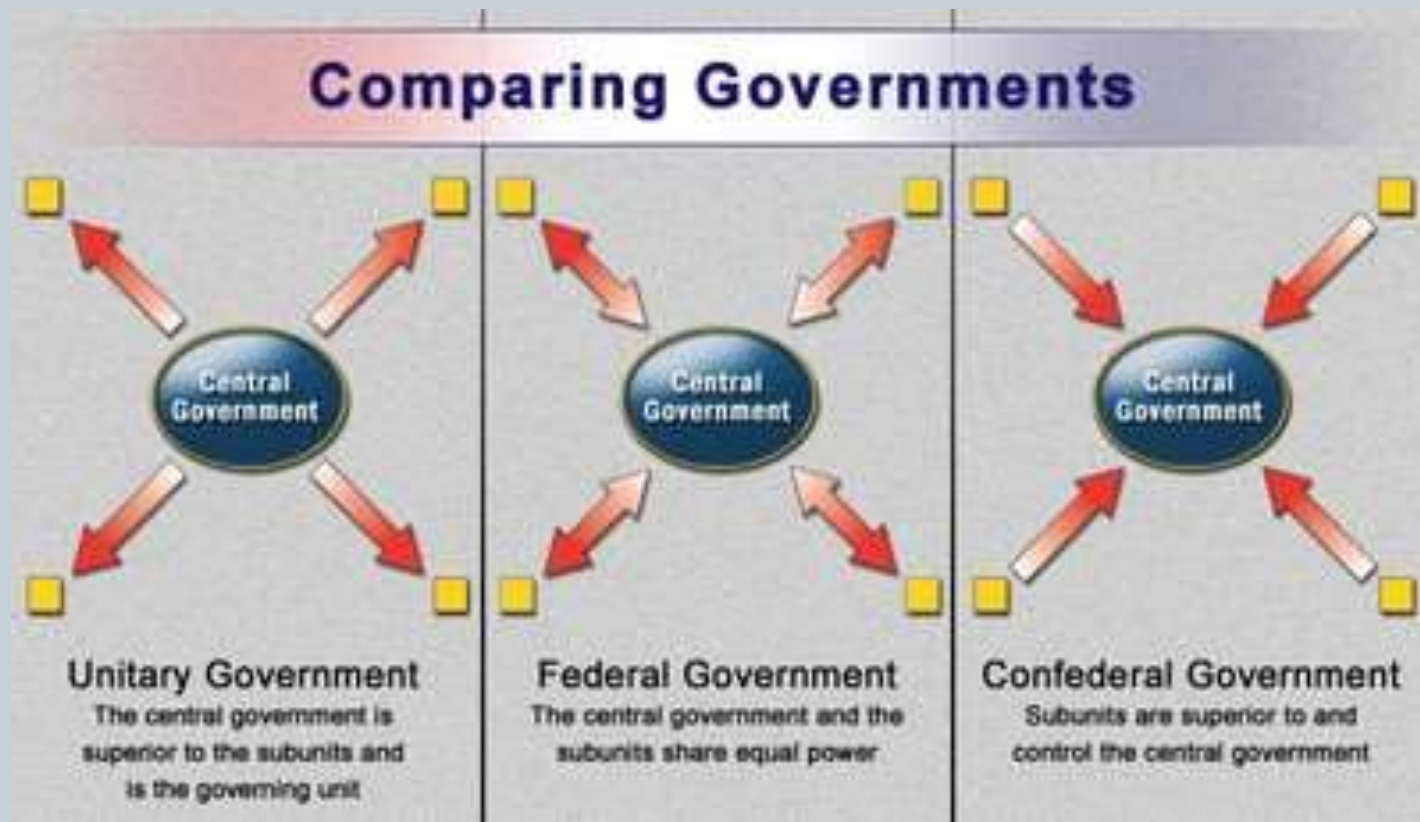
26<sup>th</sup> 18 year-olds may vote (1971)

27<sup>th</sup> Congressional Pay increase takes place in  
the next term (1992)

# D. Federalism



- Authority Relations in Systems of Government



# D. Federalism



- A system of shared power between units of government
- Why?
  - Decentralization of Politics
    - ✦ Election laws
    - ✦ Participation
    - ✦ Judicial Power
  - Decentralization of Policies

# D. Federalism

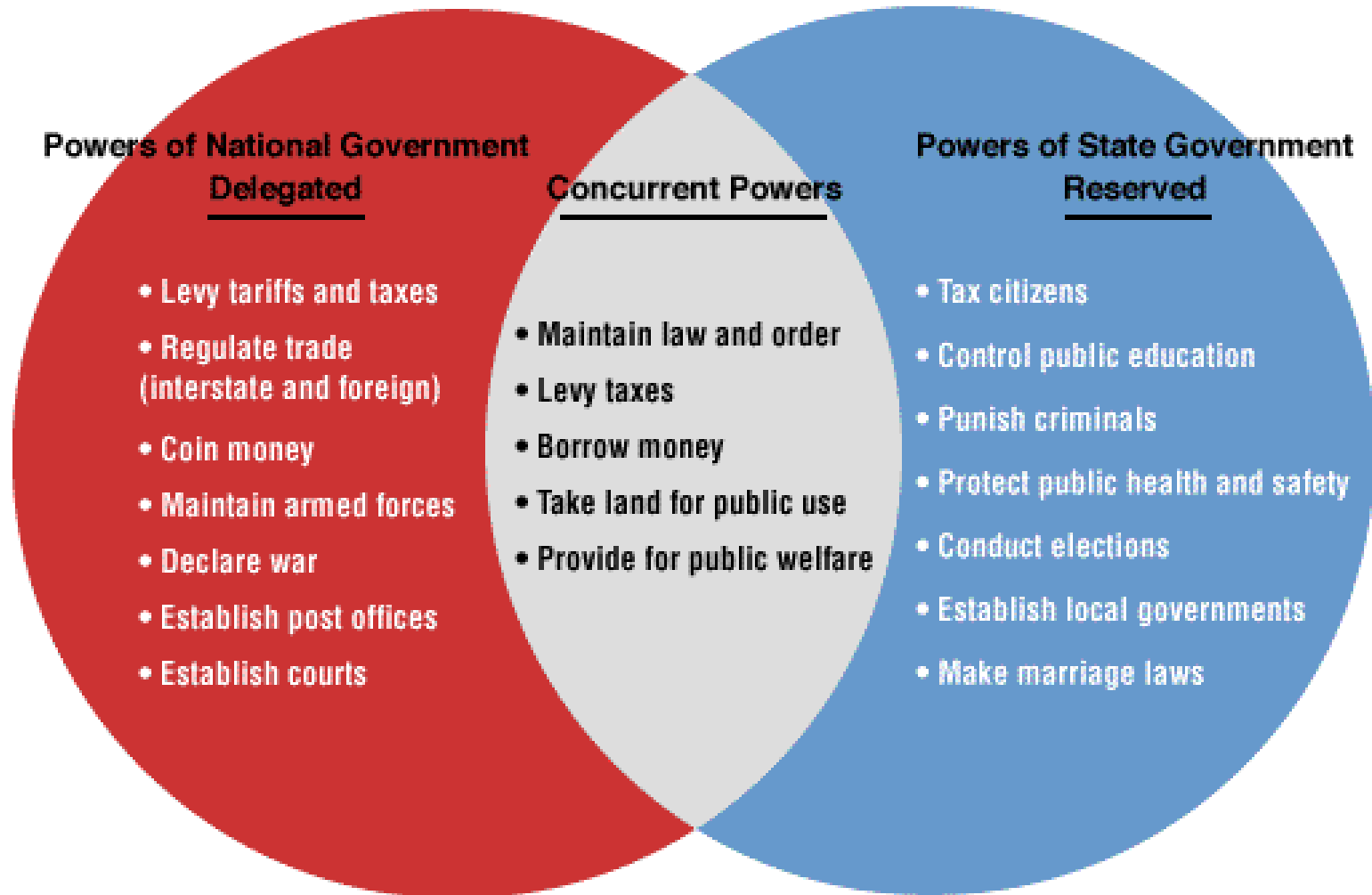


## The Constitution on Federalism

- 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment
  - “Powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states, or to the people.”
- Article VI – Supremacy Clause
  - U.S. Constitution – Supreme Law of Land
    - ✦ Acts of Congress & Treaties
      - State Constitutions
        - State Statutes
          - City and County Charters and Ordinances

# D. Federalism

## Federal System



# Strict Constructionists



- Thomas Jefferson
  - Anti-Federalist
- Congress limited to expressed and few implied powers
- Limit the power of gov't
  - More states rights

# Liberal Constructionist



- Alexander Hamilton
  - Federalist
- Congressional Powers interpreted broadly
  - Implied Powers
    - ✦ Granted by Elastic Clause (Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18)
  - Strengthened by *McCulloch v. Maryland*
    - ✦ Debate over Constitutionality of a National Bank
- Result: Strong National Government



# D. Federalism



## Strengthened by...

- Implied Powers
- Commerce Clause
  - *Gibbons v. Ogden*
- Civil War
- Racial equality

# D. Federalism



## Article 4

- Full Faith and Credit
- Extradition
- Privileges and Immunities

# D. Federalism



Evolution from:

- Dual Federalism (layered cake)
- Cooperative Federalism (marble cake)
  - Shared Costs
  - Federal Guidelines
  - Shared Administration

# D. Federalism



## Fiscal Federalism

- Grants-in-aid
  - \$ from Nat'l Gov't distributed to state and local gov't
  - >\$640 billion in 2011

# D. Federalism



- **Types of Grants:**
  - **Categorical Grants**
    - ✦ **Strings attached**
      - Crossover Sanctions
      - Crosscutting requirements
      - Project Grants
      - Formula Grants
    - Mandates – conditions of grant
  - **Block Grants**
    - ✦ Fewer strings attached
    - ✦ Up to the discretion of the state

# E. Theories of Democratic Government



- Equality in voting
- Effective Participation
- Enlightened understanding
- Citizen control of the agenda
- Inclusion

○ *According to Robert Dahl*

# E. Theories of Democratic Government



- **Pluralism**
  - Various Interest Groups influence policymaking
- **Elitism**
  - Upper-class holds the power and influences policy
- **Hyperpluralism**
  - Too many interest groups weaken government

# E. Theories of Democratic Government



## American Democratic Beliefs

- Liberty
- Egalitarianism
- Individualism
- Laissez-faire
- Populism