



American Government

A Primer

Primer

Respond

In Your Notebook

1. Do you have to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance in school? Why or why not?
2. Can a principal search your locker? Why or why not?
3. Can you wear whatever you want in school? Why or why not?
4. Can you say whatever you want in school? Why or why not?
5. Can you protest in school? Why or why not?
6. Can you pray in school? Why or why not?
7. Can you force others to pray in school? Why or why not?

Introduction

To the United States Constitution

Who's this?



OFFICE OF
PRESIDENT



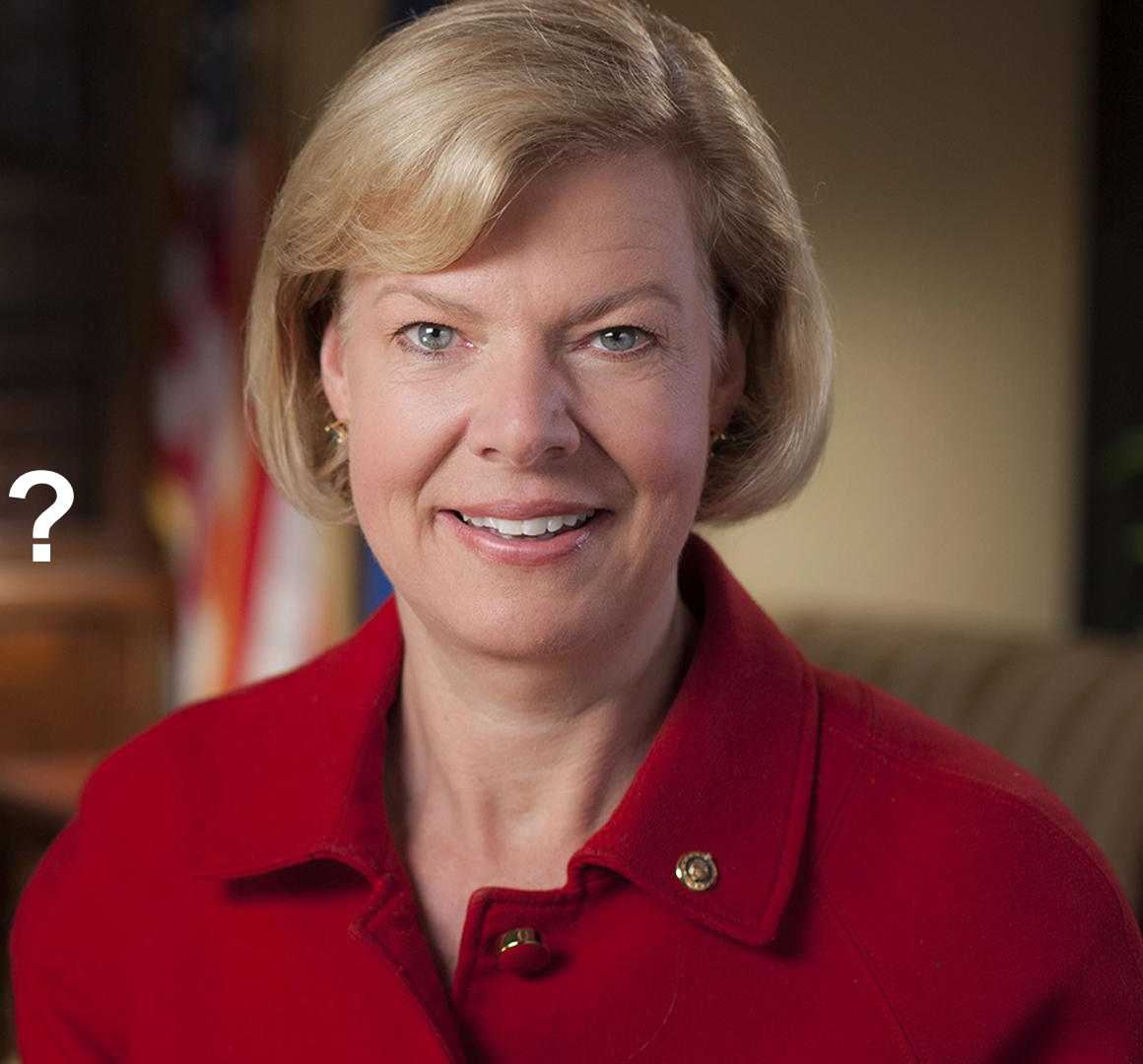
OFFICE OF
PRESIDENT

President Joe Biden



OFFICE OF
PRESIDENT

Who's this?



A portrait of United States Senator Tammy Baldwin. She is a woman with short, wavy blonde hair, smiling slightly. She is wearing a red polo shirt with gold buttons. The background is a blurred indoor setting, possibly an office or a public space, with a wooden desk and a chair visible on the left. The text "United States Senator" and "Tammy Baldwin" is overlaid on the image in white, bold, sans-serif font, with a thin white underline beneath each line of text.


United States Senator
Tammy Baldwin



Who's this?

A portrait of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a young woman with dark hair, smiling and wearing a patterned jacket. The background is dark. Overlaid on the left side of the image is white text identifying her.

United States
Congresswoman
Alexandria
Ocasio-Cortez

A close-up, profile view of a man's face, looking slightly upwards and to the left. He has a thoughtful or contemplative expression. His hand is resting under his chin, with his index finger pointing towards his cheek. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of his skin and the details of his features. The background is dark and out of focus.

Who's this?

A close-up, profile view of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. He is looking slightly upwards and to the left. His hand is resting under his chin, with his index finger pointing towards his cheek. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of his skin and the intensity of his gaze.

Supreme Court Justice
Clarence Thomas



What roles do they fill?



They're part of the three branches of the Federal Government

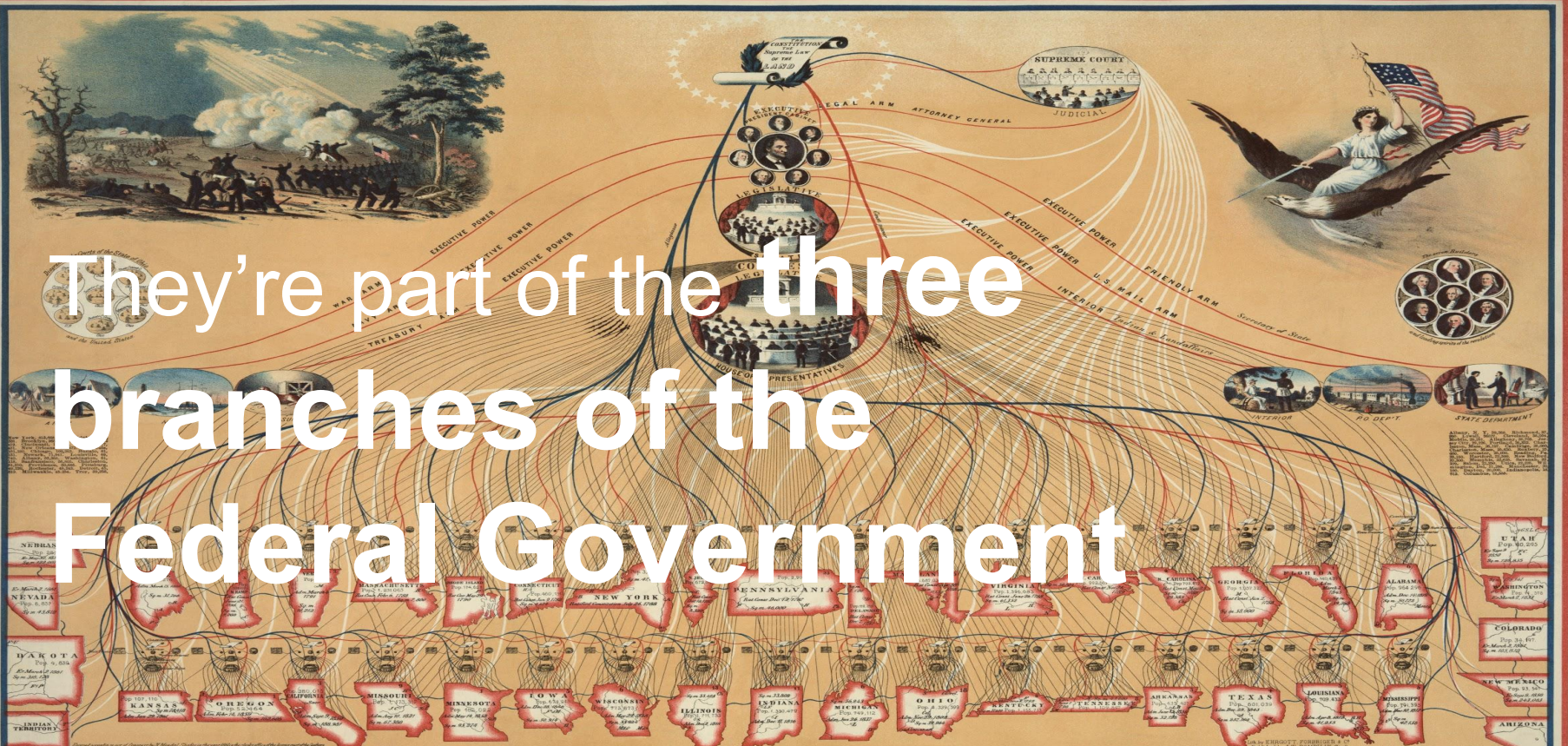


DIAGRAM OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND AMERICAN UNION
 N. MENDAL SHAFER,
 Attorney and Counselor at Law, Office No 5 Masonic Temple.

The above diagram represents to the eye the whole machinery of the Federal Government, and State Government of the United States. In the Federal Government, Power is represented by only, Justice in white, and Agriculture in blue. The object is to make the subject of Government familiar to the masses, and to the full effect of which there has been taken the Government, but will be recognized in the light of the symbols of government and political economy are well understood by the American people, power, happiness, prosperity and security will follow.

Executive Department. The President and Cabinet constitute the Executive Department. The seven are vested by the President through the Cabinet in executing the laws. The President is Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy and the government law-er. The Secretary of State directs all Foreign, Maritime, and consular, and all matters of diplomatic character. The Secretary of the Treasury directs the Treasury of the United States, by the Land Office and Indian Affairs, and the Department of the Interior, and the Department of the Navy provides the Navy Department.

Legislative Department. Congress is composed of a Senate and House of Representatives. United States Senators are elected by a

joint ballot of the State Legislatures for a term of six years, salary \$8,000 per annum. Each State is entitled to two Senators. The House of Representatives is elected by the people for a term of two years. This branch is more directly under the control of the people than any other. Its members are elected from each State, each State electing one Representative for every 30,000 inhabitants.

Judicial Department and U. S. Courts. The Supreme Court constitutes the judicial Department, and is composed of the President and confirmed by the Senate. Its members are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. They hold their office during life, or good behavior.

position in the highest political position on earth, their department are the end of the law. It constitutes the executive branch of the Government, and is the highest authority in the United States. The United States Courts have jurisdiction in all cases where the United States are a party. The United States Courts have jurisdiction in all cases where the United States are a party. The United States Courts have jurisdiction in all cases where the United States are a party.

Union and State Governments. Each State has a Legislature composed of a Senate and House of Representatives, a Constitution which must be submitted to the Legislature of the United States. A Governor, a Supreme Court, and a State Auditor and Comptroller are the officers of the State Government.

This plan has commencing the States shows the domestic idea of Union, the upper part of the diagram the Federal Government, the lower part the State Government, and the middle part the State Government. The plan was prepared for the Washington, D.C. Library, History, Geography, and others. The plan was prepared for the Washington, D.C. Library, History, Geography, and others. The plan was prepared for the Washington, D.C. Library, History, Geography, and others.



established by the **United States Constitution.**

A close-up portrait of Joe Biden, an older man with white hair, smiling broadly. He is wearing a dark suit jacket over a white collared shirt. The background is dark with some blurred light sources, including a bright yellow one on the left and a blue one on the right. Overlaid on the image in large, white, sans-serif font is the text "So, who elected this guy?".

So, who elected this guy?

A photograph of Joe Biden, an older man with white hair, smiling broadly. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a light blue shirt, and a blue tie. He is standing behind a dark podium with two microphones in front of him. The background is a large American flag, with the red and white stripes and blue field visible. The lighting is bright, suggesting an outdoor setting.

We did.

A close-up photograph of Donald Trump speaking at a podium. He is wearing a dark suit, a light blue shirt, and a blue tie. His mouth is open as if he is in the middle of a speech, and his hands are raised in a gesture. Two large, grey, spherical microphones are positioned in front of him. The background is blurred, showing blue and red elements, possibly part of a stage or event setting.

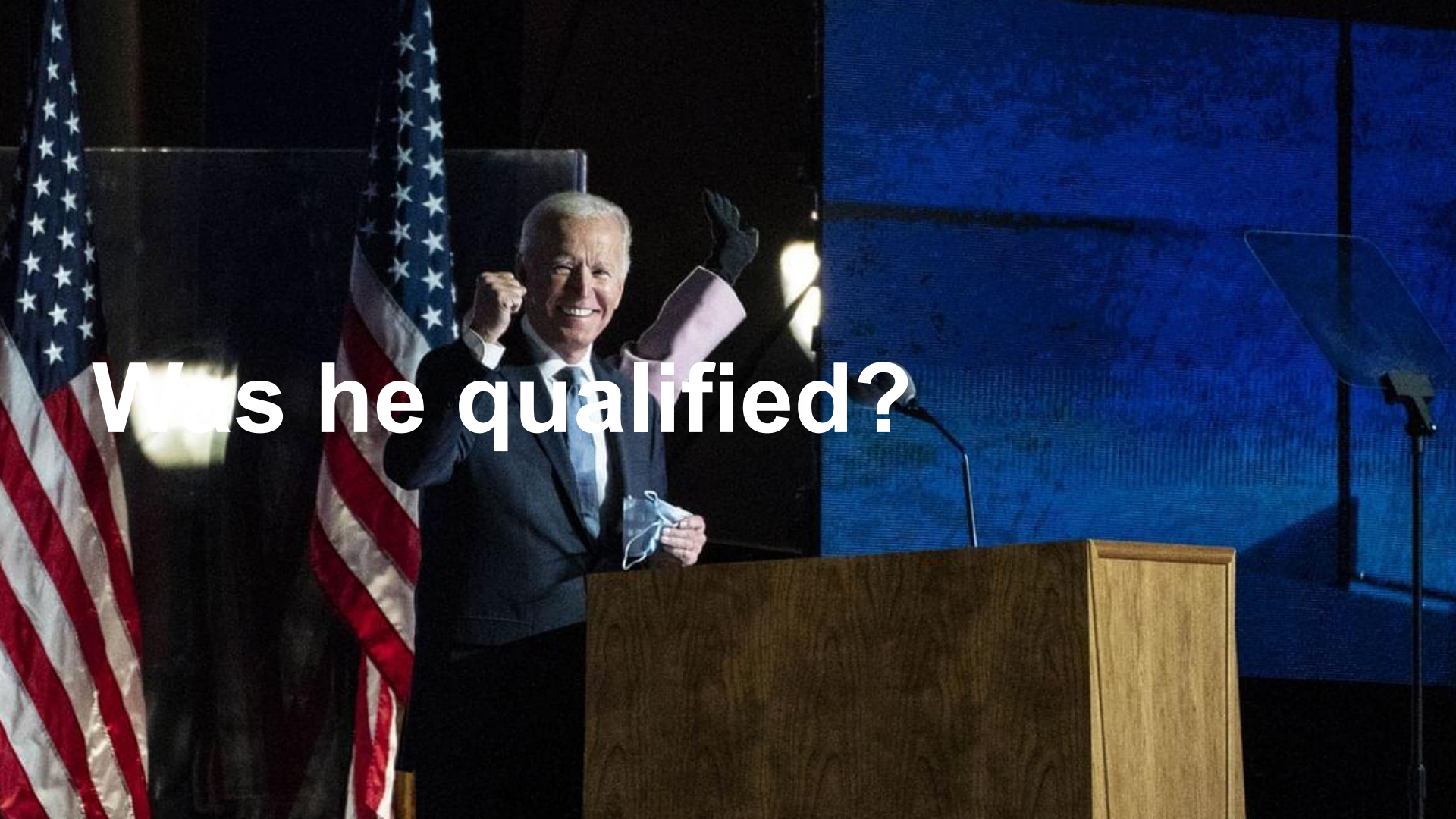
How did he get elected?



This way



Vox ELECTION 2020



Was he qualified?

Absolutely



Basis

Of the United States Constitution

The Constitution is premised
on the idea of **natural**
rights.

Rights given by god.

Life, Liberty, Property, etc.

(Read the section titled “Political Thought in
the American Colonies” linked above.)

The Constitution is also premised on the idea that government is the creation of man and man can break it's contract with government if government takes away man's rights.

(Read the section titled “Political Thought in the American Colonies” linked above. Then, answer this question in your Social Studies notebook: *“What are the origins of America’s political values?”*)

The Constitution is the result of **compromise.**

- **The Great Compromise**
 - Combined the Virginia Plan (representation in Congress should be population-based) with the New Jersey Plan (each state should have equal representation)
 - Established a **bicameral legislature.**
- **The Three-Fifths Compromise**
 - **Five slaves should count as three people for the purposes of representation.**

(Read the sections titled “The Great Compromise” and “The Three-Fifths Compromise” linked above. Then answer the following in your Social Studies notebook: “*Describe the Great Compromise and the Three-Fifths Compromise.*”.)

Structure

Of the United States Constitution

**The United States
Constitution** is broken
into **three** broad sections,

the **preamble**, the
articles, and the
amendments.

Preamble

Of the United States Constitution

The **preamble** establishes
the purpose of the
Constitution.

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.



In your notebook, write the six purposes of the Constitution described in the Preamble.



Articles

Of the United States Constitution

The articles describe how the government is going to function, including the roles of the three branches.

Article One- Legislative Branch

- Two Houses (Bicameral Legislature)
 - House of Representatives
 - Representation determined by a state's population
 - 435 total (determination of number of representatives was different at the time of the writing of the constitution)
 - Senate
 - Two senators from each state
 - 100 total

Duties of the
Legislative Branch
(Legislate Means to Make Laws)

Article Two- Executive Branch

- President
- Vice President
- Cabinet

Duties of the Executive Branch (Carry out the Laws)

Article Three- Judicial Branch

(Determines the Meaning of Laws;
Includes a Supreme Court and
Inferior Courts)

The Three Branches of GOVERNMENT



The U.S. Capitol

★ LEGISLATIVE ★

- Makes laws
- Can declare war
- Approves treaties and presidential appointments
- Oversees public money (taxes)
- Conducts investigations and oversight within government



The White House

★ EXECUTIVE ★

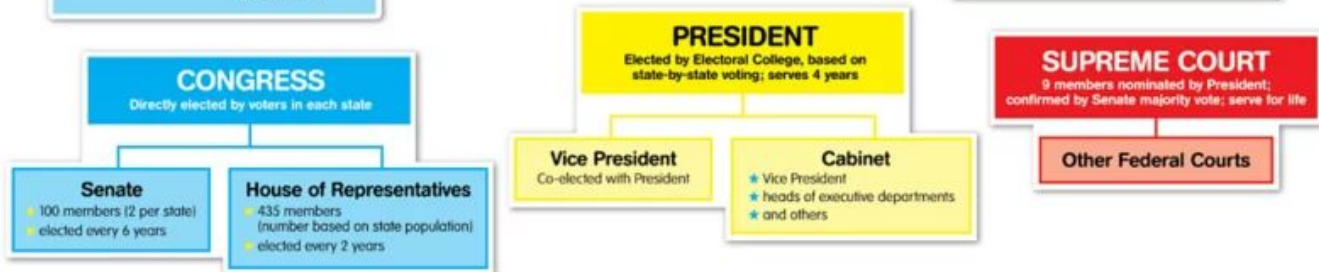
- Signs and vetoes laws
- Appoints judges
- Proposes policies
- Negotiates with other countries



The Supreme Court

★ JUDICIAL ★

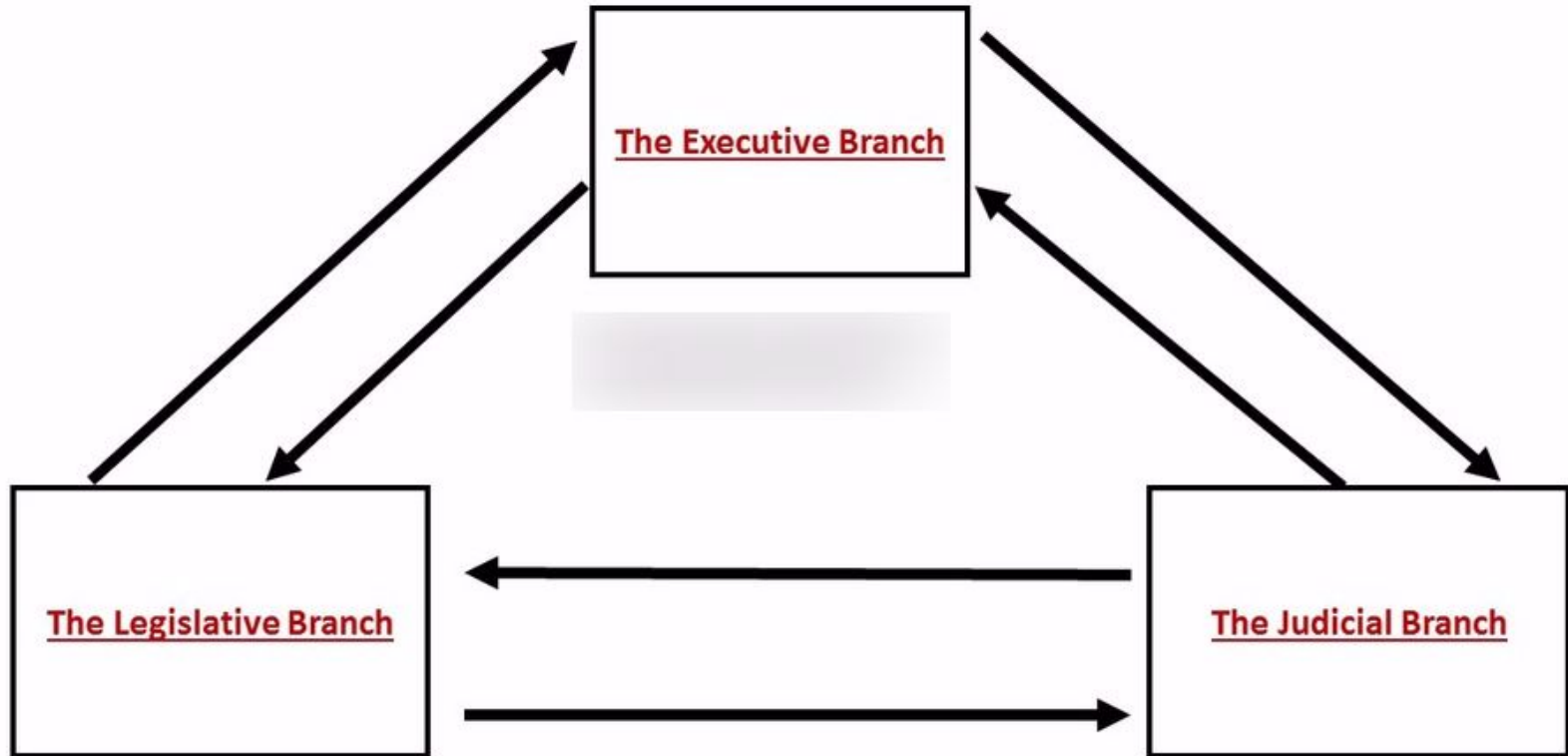
- Examines laws
- Overturns rulings of lower courts
- Makes decisions but relies on Executive and Legislative branches to carry them out





HOW IS POWER DIVIDED IN THE
U.S. GOVERNMENT?

Our System of Checks and Balances



Article Four

- States
- Citizenship
- New States

Article Five

- Amendment Process

Article Six

- Debts
- Supremacy
- Oaths
- Religious Tests

Article Seven

- Ratification

Amendments

To the United States Constitution

The **amendments** are additions and changes to the Constitution.

The first 10 amendments
are known as the Bill of
Rights.

The Amendments

Amendments 1-10

Bill of Rights

Six Big Ideas

In the United States Constitution

Limited Government

Limited government is where the government is empowered by law from a starting point of having no power, or where governmental power is restricted by law, usually in a written constitution.

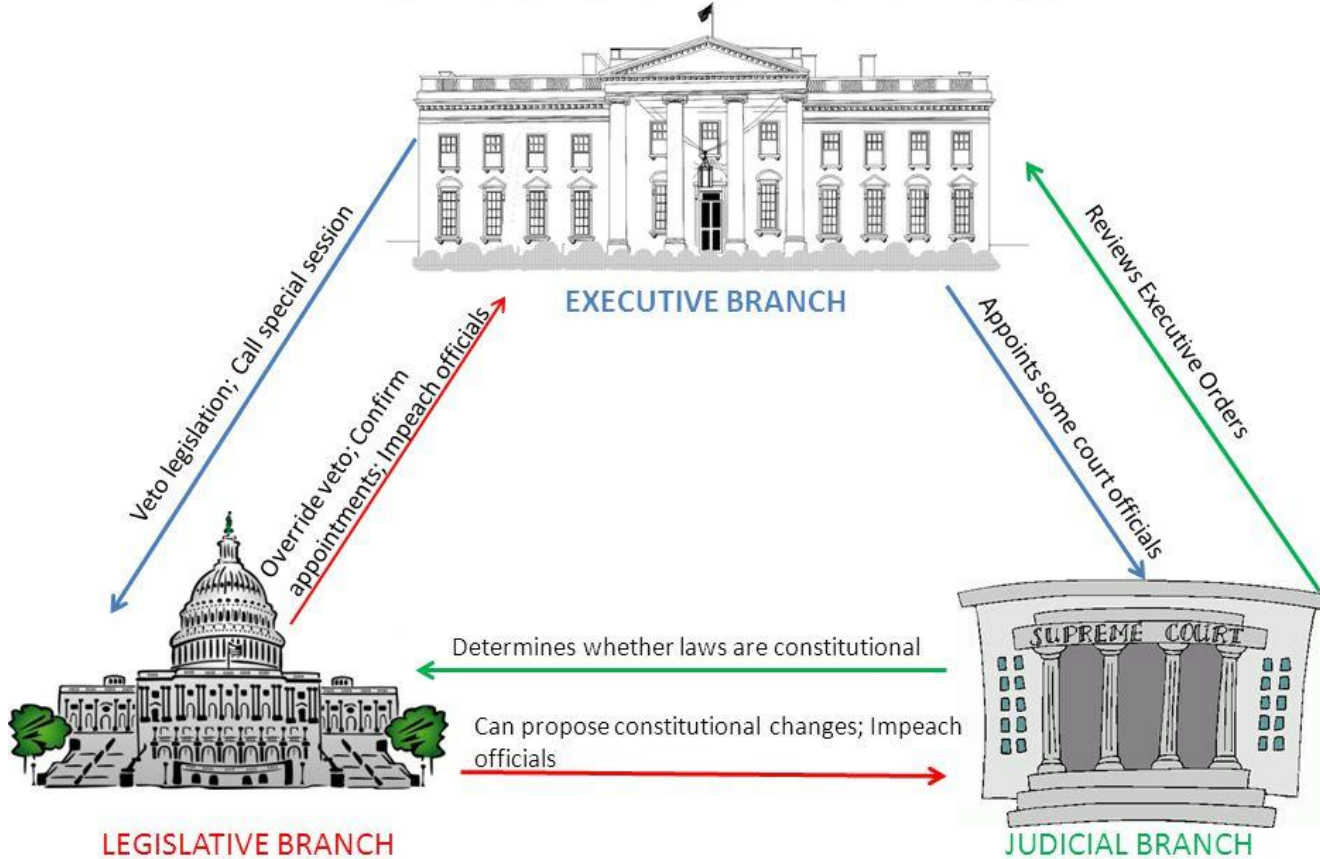
Republicanism

Republicanism refers to the idea that people exercise their power by voting for elected representatives.

Checks and Balances

Each branch of government has specific duties, and each branch checks and balances the other two branches. No branch of government has more power than the other two.

Checks and Balances



Federalism

Federalism in the United States means that governance is divided among the national governments and state and local governments.

Separation of Powers

The division of responsibilities into distinct branches of government to limit any one branch from exercising the core functions of another. In other words, each branch is responsible for unique duties that do not infringe on the duties of other the branches.

Popular Sovereignty

The government is given authority through the consent of the people through elected representatives.

Activities

United States Constitution

Do the **Bill of Rights**
pertain to you?

In life, **yes**; in school, a little trickier.

For the activity on the next slide, create a table in your notebook that looks like this:

Case:	
Argument:	
Amendment:	
Decision:	
Dissent:	
My View:	

Answer one of the questions below by completing the chart from the previous slide.

1. Do you have to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance?
2. Can a principal search your locker?
3. Can you wear whatever you want in school?
 - 3.1. Yes
 - 3.2. No
4. Can you say whatever you want in school?
5. Can you protest in school?
6. Can you pray in school?
7. Can you force others to pray in school?

Case Study

Write

Write a letter to your representative or senator.

Here's how to do it.

Scavenger Hunt

The Knotted Line

An exploration of oppression in America