

MAIN FEATURES OF THE CONSTITUTION

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The main features of the U.S. Constitution include popular sovereignty, separation of powers, checks and balances, federalism, a written framework, and the Bill of Rights.

Core Principles and Features

- **Popular Sovereignty:** The power of the government comes from the people ("We the People"), who express their will through elected representatives.
- **Separation of Powers:** Government authority is divided into three distinct branches to prevent tyranny:
 - **Legislative Branch** (Congress) makes the laws.
 - **Executive Branch** (The President) enforces the laws.
 - **Judicial Branch** (The Courts) interprets the laws.
- **Checks and Balances:** Each branch can block or limit the actions of the other two branches (such as the presidential veto or Senate confirmation of judges) to keep power balanced.
- **Federalism:** Power is shared between the national federal government and individual state governments.
- **A Written Constitution:** It is a concise, codified document consisting of a Preamble, seven Articles, and 27 Amendments.
- **The Bill of Rights:** The first 10 amendments protect fundamental individual liberties and civil rights, such as freedom of speech and due process.
- **Supremacy Clause:** Article VI establishes the Constitution and federal laws as the supreme law of the land.

PRINCIPLES OF THE CONSTITUTION

- **Popular Sovereignty:** The people hold the ultimate power and authority through self-governance and voting.
- **Republicanism:** Citizens vote for political representatives to make laws and govern on their behalf.
- **Federalism:** Power is shared and divided between the national federal government and individual state governments.
- **Separation of Powers:** Government duties are split into three distinct branches: the legislative (makes laws), executive (enforces laws), and judicial (interprets laws).
- **Checks and Balances:** Each branch of government has specific powers to limit and check the actions of the other two branches to prevent abuse of power.
- **Limited Government:** Everyone, including powerful leaders, must obey the law. The government only has the powers granted to it by the Constitution.
- **Individual Rights:** Basic liberties and personal freedoms for citizens are protected, largely by the Bill of Rights