

SEVEN BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE CONSTITUTION

- **Popular Sovereignty**- the governments right to rule comes from the people
- **Limited Government**- the government has only the powers that the Constitution gives to it
- **Separation of Powers**-the Constitution divides the government into three branches:
 - Congress-legislative branch makes laws
 - President-executive branch carries out the laws
 - Courts-judicial branch explains and interprets the laws
- **Checks and Balances**-each branch of government has the power to check or limit the actions of the other two
- **Federalism**-division of power between the federal government and the states
- **Republicanism**- citizens elect representatives to carry out their will
- **Individual Rights**-The Constitution protects individual rights such as freedom of speech, freedom religion etc.

Basic Principles Reflected in the United States Constitution

Basic Principles	Description	Location in the Constitution
Limited Government	Powers of government are restricted by the Constitution.	Articles I, II, III
Republicanism	Voters hold the sovereign power and elect representatives to exercise power for them.	Preamble and Article I
Checks And Balances	Each of the three branches of government exercises some control over the others, sharing power among them.	Articles I, II, III
Federalism	Power is divided between the national and state governments, limiting central power.	10th Amendment
Separation of Powers	Each branch of government has its own responsibilities and limitations.	Articles I, II, III
Popular Sovereignty	Authority for government flows from the people and they rule through their representatives.	Amendment IX and Preamble
Individual Rights	Unalienable rights guaranteed to all citizens.	Preamble and Bill of Rights