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THE STRENGTHS OF THE CONSTITUTION

The authors of the Constitution could not have imagined that, in 200 years, people would be exploring outer space or going from coast to coast in a few hours. Nor could they have imagined all the changes in daily living that would occur. Today, we claim the protection of the Constitution, written when there were only a few million people in the United States. The Constitution now protects more than 340 million Americans. Almost everything about the United States has changed, except the Constitution. It is truly an outstanding document that has withstood the test of time.

However, the Constitution has changed in some significant ways. In upcoming units, you will see how the Constitution is officially amended. Officials who operate the government under the rules of the Constitution continually interpret its meaning. The Constitution allows much freedom to do this (and is referred to as a *living document*). It is an essential guide for the government and safeguards our liberty. It is flexible and brief enough to allow for adjustments. For example, the Constitution sets strict rules for making laws to ensure they are just and democratic.

Nevertheless, the Constitution also gives Congress the power to make laws. This allows our Congress to make laws in areas that did not even exist when the Constitution was written. Space exploration and the internet are two examples. Can you think of others?

Quotes on the Constitution

Two centuries of growth and unrivaled prosperity have proven the foresight of the 55 men who worked through the summer of 1787 to lay the foundation of the American government. In the words of Archibald Cox, former solicitor general of the United States, "The original Constitution still serves us well despite the tremendous changes in every aspect of American life because the framers had the genius to say enough but not too much.... As the plan outlined in the Constitutional Convention succeeded, as the country grew and prospered both materially and in the realization of its ideals, the Constitution gained majesty and authority far greater than that of any individual or body of men."

Quotes from the Founding Fathers give insight into the attitude and mindset of the time:

"Let our government be like that of the solar system. Let the general government be like the sun and the states the planets, repelled yet attracted, and the whole moving regularly and harmoniously in several orbits." — John Dickinson

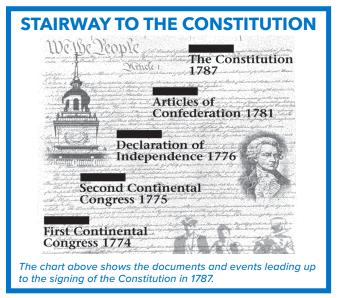
"The happy Union of these States is a wonder; their Constitution a miracle; their example of Liberty throughout the world." — James Madison

"Our new Constitution is now established, and has an appearance that promises permanency; but in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes." — Ben Franklin

"The Constitution is the guide which I will never abandon." — George Washington As courts interpret, we are governed by laws, treaties, and customs within the Constitution's framework. Later, you will study judicial review and the amending process, helping you better understand how the Constitution is changed.

The Constitution has lasted because it:

- provides for a government by the people;
- provides for a government that can act when in danger;
- provides for a federal union where people retain certain rights and powers in their states;
- guarantees individual rights even when the individual's views are unpopular or in the minority;
- has preserved the Union;
- provides the leaders of our government an opportunity to interpret the Constitution and apply it to changing times;
- has provisions for orderly changes.



QUESTIONS

TRUE OR FALSE? Write a **T** or **F** in the space provided.

- Changing the interpretation of the Constitution is what makes our Constitution weak.
- 2. The Constitution allows for subjects that did not exist in 1787.
- 3. The Constitution can be changed only through rebellion and revolution.
- 4. Over 500 delegates attended the Constitutional Convention and signed the Constitution.

EVENTS IN ORDER. Write the numbers **1-4**, indicating which historical event happened first (1), second (2), third (3), or fourth (4).

_____ The ratification of the Articles of Confederation.

- ____ The adoption of the United States Constitution.
- The beginning of the American Revolution.
 - ___ The signing of the Declaration of Independence.

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CHARTERS OF FREEDOM

The Rotunda for the Charters of Freedom is the permanent home of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, and the Bill of Rights, located in the National Archives Building in Washington, D.C. These historic documents are displayed in a cathedral-like, dimly lit rotunda, which is open to the public. A visit can be both a moving and educational experience, deepening your appreciation for the principles that continue to guide American society.

The nation's Founding Fathers drafted these documents during dramatic, fast-moving events. They form the foundation of the United States and confirm that people are born with certain natural rights, including "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," that does not come from presidents, kings, or charters. This nation's founding documents secure these and other rights of the American people.

Preserving the Documents

On December 13, 1952, the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence were sealed in helium-filled cases, placed in wooden crates, and transported by an armored car to the National Archives Exhibition Hall in Washington, D.C. In 2001, the documents were placed in upgraded, state-of-theart encasements with the latest preservation technology, replacing the original 1950s encasements.

While the original, signed Declaration is housed in the Charters of Freedom, 26 other copies are known to exist and are referred to as the *Dunlap Broadsides*. Over 200 copies were initially produced by John Dunlap, a printer in Philadelphia, on the night of July 4, 1776, to spread the news of American Independence. This urgent document was sent to colonial leaders, local governments, military officers, and newspapers.

Document Question	Declaration of Independence	U.S. Constitution	Bill of Rights	
For the exact wording of each document, read the original transcripts or refer to your pocket guide.	<section-header></section-header>		<text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text>	
What year was it ratified?	1776	1787	1791	
Where was it written?	Philadelphia	Philadelphia	New York City	
Why was it written?	To formally announce and justify the American colonies' decision to break away from British rule, outlining principles of individual rights and self-governance.	To replace the ineffective Articles of Confederation with a structured, balanced system of government that could govern effectively, unify the states, and protect freedoms.	To protect citizens' freedoms, address government power con- cerns, fulfill promises made during ratification, and set a precedent for future amendments.	
Who wrote it?	Thomas Jefferson	James Madison	James Madison	
How many words in the document?	1,458 words (1 page) including signatures	4,543 words (4 pages) including signatures	760 words (1 page)	
What is stated in the <i>Preamble</i> of the document?	"We hold these truths to be self- evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."	"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 Wel- fare, and secure the Blessings of Lib- erty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."	"The Conventions of a number of the States, having at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added: "	

Six other principles of the U.S. Constitution guide our government's structure and function besides protecting individual rights. These principles reflect the framers' intentions to create a government that balances power and promotes the common good. In upcoming units, we will cover these principles in more detail.

1. Checks and Balances

Summary: This principle ensures that no single branch of government can dominate. Each of the three branches has the ability to check the others.

Examples in the Constitution: Presidential veto power in Article 1, Section 7.

2. Separation of Powers

Summary: To prevent any one branch from becoming too powerful, the Constitution divides the federal government into three branches.

Examples in the Constitution: Articles 1, 2, and 3 outlines the responsibilities of the three branches.

3. Popular Sovereignty

Summary: The authority for government originates from the people and they rule through their representatives. Direct democracy actions like *referendums* and *initiatives* embody popular sovereignty. This also includes the concept of *republicanism* where people elect representatives to govern of their behalf.

Examples in the Constitution: The preamble (We the People...) and the Ninth Amendment.

4. Federalism

Summary: The sharing of power between the federal, state, and local governments. In many ways, this is a natural division of functions. Local governments handle local affairs; national affairs by the federal government.

While each of the 50 states has its own constitution, all provisions for state constitutions must comply with the U.S. Constitution.

Examples in the Constitution: The 10th Amendment.

5. Judicial Review

Summary: The judiciary has the power to review laws and government actions to determine if they violate the Constitution.

Examples in the Constitution: While judicial review is not within the text of the Constitution itself, this principle was established in the case of *Marbury v. Madison* (1803).

6. Limited Government

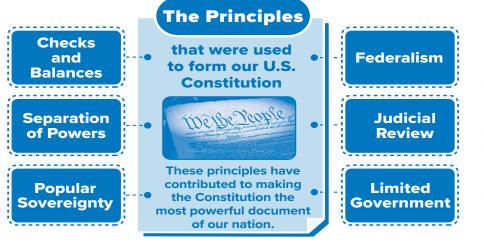
Summary: The government can only exercise the powers granted to it by the Constitution. Everyone, including government officials, is subject to the law.

Examples in the Constitution: The enumerated powers, as listed in Article I, Section 8, give specific powers granted to Congress, such as the power to tax, regulate commerce, and declare war. Congress can only exercise powers explicitly listed in the Constitution; all other powers are reserved for the states or the people.

QUESTIONS

WHICH PRINCIPLE? Identify the principle that best describes the following statements. Put the number of the principle(s) listed in the corresponding title box in the space provided (more than one principle may apply).

- ____ 1. Only the federal government can print money.
- 2. Congress passes a law that the president then vetoes.
- _ 3. The government gets its power from the people.
- _____ 4. The president must follow the law.
- ____ 5. The Senate confirms a presidential nomination.
 - 6. A referendum to build a new school is passed by the voters of your city.
- ____ 7. The Supreme Court declares a law unconstitutional.
- 2. Congress can impeach a president if they believe powers were abused.
- 9. A representative holds a town hall meeting on banning plastic bags to get voters' opinions.

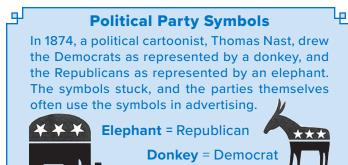


These principles have made the Constitution the most powerful document and guideline for our nation. They work together to balance power, ensure accountability, and protect individual rights within the framework of the government.

You will learn more about these concepts in upcoming units.

THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE CONTINUED

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QUESTIONS

TRUE OR FALSE? Write a **T** or **F** in the space provided.

- ____ 1. The term Electoral College comes from the Constitution itself.
- 2. Although it was originally expected that a group of electors would actually elect the president and vice president, it became the practice for the electors to vote for the candidate who had the most popular votes.
- ____ 3. Popular vote means the vote of the people.
- 4. There have been no elections in which the candidate with the most popular votes has not become president.

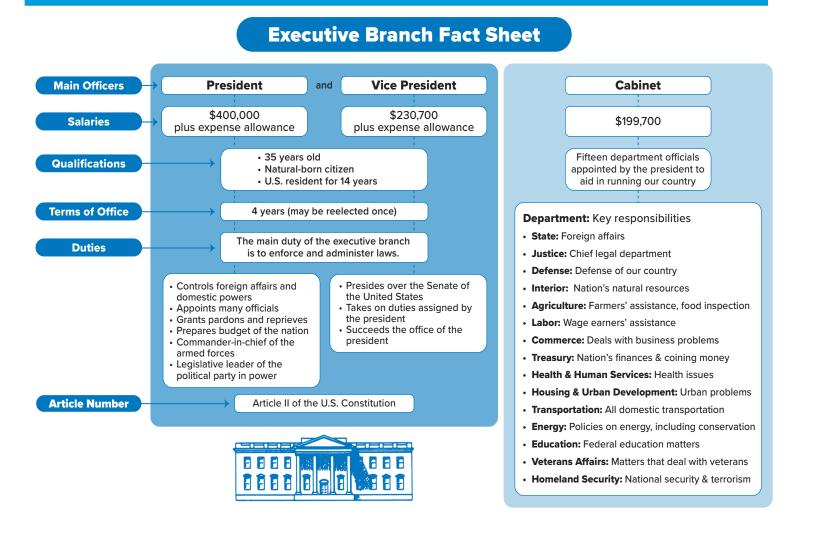
- 5. The writers of the Constitution felt that the voters should directly elect the president and vice president.
- 6. It would be easy to eliminate the Electoral College, only requiring the president's approval.

FILL IN THE BLANKS

- 1. How many electoral votes are there?_____
- 2. How many electoral votes for your state? ____
- 3. What is the minimum number of electoral votes for a state?_____
- 4. Which state has the most electoral votes?____
- 5. Name a president who was elected without winning the popular vote. _____
- 6. What political party does a donkey represent? _____

SHORT ANSWER

Should the Electoral College be abolished? Give an argument *for* or *against* this system.



FEDERAL UNIT SELF-TEST CONTINUED

MATCHING - Three Branches of Government

Write the letter of the correct answer in the space provided.

- ____ 21. Has two houses
- ____ 22. Is the court system of our country
- ____ 23. Makes the laws
- ____ 24. Enforces the laws
- _ 25. Described in Article 1 of the Constitution
 - 26. Described in Article 3 of the Constitution

MATCHING - The United States Congress

Write the letter of the correct answer in the space provided.

- ____ 27. Has a six-year term
- ____ 28. Meet in the Capitol Building
- ___ 29. Elected every two years
- ____ 30. Has the vice president as presiding officer
- ____ 31. Has 435 members
- _ 32. Approves or rejects treaties
- ___ 33. Passes bills they hope will become laws
- 34. Has 100 members

MATCHING - Cabinet Responsibilities

Write the letter of the correct answer in the space provided.

- ___ 35. Chief legal officer
- ____ 36. Manages Social Security
- ___ 37. Carries out a war plan
- _ 38. Settles a strike
- ___ 39. Foreign affairs
- 40. Secret Service

- a. Secretary of State
- b. Secretary of Defense
- c. Secretary of Health & Human Services
- d. Attorney General
- e. Secretary of Labor
- f. Secretary of Homeland Security

TRUE OR FALSE

Write a **T** or **F** in the space provided.

- ____ 41. The Virginia Plan proposed two houses of Congress based on population.
- ____ 42. The simple definition of democracy is government by the people, directly or through representation.
- ____ 43. Senators are elected by the vote of the people in their state.
- _ 44. One-third of the Senate is elected every two years.
- _ 45. The largest U.S. state is Texas (in terms of population) receiving the most electoral votes.
- _ 46. The Constitution allows for laws to be made on subjects that did not even exist in 1787.
- ____ 47. The original 13 colonies included Kentucky.
- ____ 48. Your state legislature has the same lawmaking scope as the U.S. Congress.
- ____ 49. Patrick Henry said, "Give me liberty or give me death."
- ____ 50. Habeas corpus gives a prisoner the right to a fair trial.
- ____ 51. Ben Franklin was president of the Constitutional Convention in 1787.
- _ 52. The building in which the Constitutional Convention met is called Independence Hall.
- _ 53. The Declaration of Independence was the nation's first Constitution.

c. Judicial Branch

a. Executive Branch

b. Legislative Branch

- b. House of Representatives
- c. Both the Senate and House
- d. Neither the Senate nor the House



- a. Senate

Page 60 OVERVIEW OF THE MISSOURI CONSTITUTION (1945) UNIT 27

For an overview of the Missouri Constitution and as an index to the state constitution, a summary is presented here. You will find additional details to many of these sections in upcoming pages of this worktext. The entire state constitution is also available on the Missouri General Assembly website at *www.moga.mo.gov*.

Preamble

The preamble is similar to the preamble in the U.S. Constitution and explains why the Missouri Constitution was written. Below is the wording of the preamble:

"We, the people of Missouri, with profound reverence for the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, and grateful for His goodness, do establish this Constitution for the better government of the state."

Article I - Bill of Rights

There are 35 sections of the Missouri Bill of Rights. Many of these sections were based on provisions in the U.S. Constitution. The 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibits states from depriving any person of life, liberty, or property without the due process of law. Some of the Missouri Bill of Rights goes beyond the rights established by our U.S. Constitution.

The topics of the Missouri Bill of Rights are listed below:

<u>Section</u>

- 1. Source of political power
- 2. Rights of persons, equality under law, purpose of government
- 3. Powers of the people over internal affairs
- 4. Independence of Missouri
- 5. Religious freedom
- 6. Support of religion
- 7. Public aid for religious purposes
- 8. Freedom of speech and press
- 9. Rights of peaceable assembly and petition
- 10. Due process of law
- 11. Imprisonment of debt
- 12. Habeas corpus
- 13. Ex post facto laws
- 14. Open courts and judicial system
- 15. Search and seizure
- 16. Grand juries
- 17. Indictments in criminal cases

Section (Article 1- Bill of Rights continued)

- 18. Rights of accused in criminal prosecutions
- 19. Self-incrimination and double jeopardy
- 20. Bail guaranteed and exceptions
- 21. Excessive bail and fines
- 22. Right to trial by jury
- 23. Right to keep and bear arms
- 24. Subordination of military to civil powers, quartering soldiers
- 25. Elections and right suffrage
- 26. Eminent domain
- 27. Acquisition of excess property by eminent domain
- 28. Limitation on taking of private property
- 29. Organized labor and collective bargaining
- 30. Treason
- 31. Fines or imprisonments
- 32. Crime victims' rights
- 33. Marriage, validity and recognition
- 34. English to be the official language in the state
- 35. Right to farm
- 36. Right to reproductive freedom initiative

Article II - The Distribution of Powers

Article II of the Missouri Constitution divides the state government into three branches: the legislative, the executive, and the judicial. The fundamental principle of separation of powers has existed in state and local governments from the earliest times. Unlike the national government, which has only the powers outlined in the U.S. Constitution, state governments have all powers not denied by the United States or Missouri Constitution.

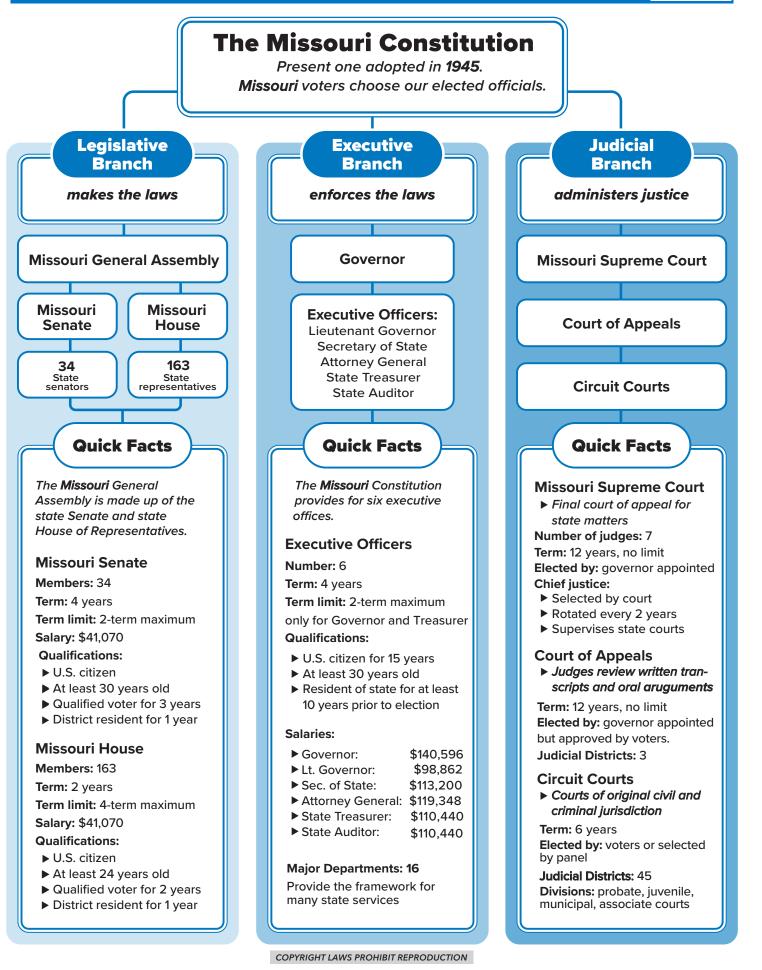
Article III - Legislative Department

Article III provides rules for the legislative branch of Missouri government, known as the General Assembly. Like the U.S. Congress, the General Assembly is divided into two houses, the Senate and the House of Representatives. In addition to lawmaking, the Legislature has direct authority over local government units, such as counties, townships, and special-purpose districts.

Article IV - Executive Department

Article IV of the Missouri Constitution outlines the powers and duties of the state-elected and appointed *continued*

Missouri Constitution Timeline of Key Events						
1788	1803	1812	1820	1821	1826	1861
The U.S. Constitu- tion is ratified and becomes the frame- work of government in the United States.	The U.S. purchased the Louisiana Territory from France and included the land that would later become Missouri.	Congress organized the <i>Missouri Terri-</i> <i>tory</i> , comprised of the land from the Louisiana Purchase.	The <i>Missouri Compro- mise</i> was passed by Congress to address the conflict over slav- ery in new territories.	Missouri officially becomes the 24th state, operating under its first state constitution	Being centrally located, Jefferson City was chosen as the state capitol's final location.	The <i>Civil War</i> be- gins with President Lincoln in office, 620,000 soldiers killed in battle



In addition to voting, there are many other ways to participate actively in our democracy. Citizens can engage in the political process by expressing their beliefs, voicing their opinions, and influencing government decisions. Individual Americans have more political power than they realize. Citizen activism has demonstrated that it can change public policy if used effectively.

What is Public Policy?

Whether you know it or not, you have learned about public policy in this book's federal and state sections. Public policy is how a government maintains order or addresses the needs of its citizens through actions defined by its constitution. Our government creates the rules, laws, and guidelines and may add or alter laws as needs change and opportunities emerge.

In Missouri (and all states), the government has many parts. At different levels, legislatures like the General Assembly and City Councils make the laws that governors and mayors enforce. Public policy deals with issues of concern to some significant segment of society, as opposed to matters of interest only to individuals or a small group of people. Several examples of public policies in Missouri cover a wide range of issues. Here are a few examples:

- **Economic development:** This includes initiatives to stimulate job creation, support small businesses, and invest in infrastructure projects to bolster Missouri's economy.
- **Public safety enhancements:** The governor and General Assembly have proposed measures such as increased funding for law enforcement and establishing a new crime lab in Cape Girardeau.
- *Education reform:* Education remains a key focus, with discussions around increasing funding for public schools, enhancing teacher salaries, and implementing programs to improve student outcomes.
- **Driver and road safety:** Effective January 2025, the enforcement of the "Siddens Bening Hands-Free Law," which prohibits drivers from using handheld communication devices while operating a vehicle.
- *Employment policy:* The state enacted policies to protect workers' rights, such as raising the minimum wage and implementing paid sick leave requirements.

Public policy involves identifying the needs of our society, analyzing potential solutions, making decisions on the resources and funding required, and the process to implement. At the national level, policies include gun rights, automobile safety, immigration, climate change, taxes, public safety, and civil rights.

Shaping Public Policy

Various individuals, groups, and organizations can influence and shape public policy. Here are examples of such groups:

- Government Officials: Elected officials and administrative agencies significantly influence public policy.
- Interest Groups: Many organizations represent specific interests that aim to influence public policy in their favor. This can include lobbyists, industry associations,

labor unions, and professional organizations.

- *Media:* The media (news outlets, journalists, and columnists) plays a crucial role in shaping public opinion and influencing policy discussions. Media coverage can influence public perception and pressure policymakers to take action.
- Academic and Intellectual Community: Academics, scholars, and intellectuals contribute to public policy debates through research, expertise, and analysis. They often publish articles, books, and reports that influence policymakers and public opinion.
- Citizens of the state: Engaged residents can vote for candidates who align with their policy preferences, contact their local representatives to voice concerns over policies or lack of policies, start a grassroots movement and activism to raise awareness over important issues, and cautiously use social media to inform, support, and share information.

It is important to note that citizens may have varying degrees of influence depending on their resources, access to decision-makers, and the political context. Nonetheless, citizen engagement and participation are crucial for a healthy democracy.

Stay informed about current events, policy issues, and government actions at the local, state, and federal levels. It is essential to recognize the difference between fact and opinion. Read news from reputable sources, follow government websites, and engage in civil discussions. Share the knowledge with others to foster civic awareness and encourage political participation in your community.

QUESTIONS

IS THIS A PUBLIC POLICY ISSUE? Circle **Yes** or **No** to indicate if the issue requires a public policy regulation.

1.	People should eat healthy	Yes	No
2.	Seat belts to reduce auto injuries	Yes	No
3.	3. Pandemic stay-at-home rules		No
4.	Stock market fluctuations	Yes	No
5.	Individual lifestyle choices	Yes	No
6.	State voting methods and options	Yes	No
7.	Paying off your car loan	Yes	No
8.	Loan forgiveness to college students	Yes	No

9. School start times impacting sleep Yes No

EXPRESS YOUR OPINION

- 1. What in your view is the most important policy facing the citizens of Missouri?
- Why is it important and what specific problems need to be solved? _____

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CONSTITUTION COMPARISON

Compare and Contrast the Missouri ⁴ and United States Constitutions

The United States Constitution details are given; fill in the blanks related to the Missouri Constitution. This will better understand the similarities and differences between both constitutions.



Topic or Detail	United States	Missouri
Bill of Rights	First 10 Amendments	In Article #
Number of Branches	<i>Three</i> 1. legislative, 2. executive, 3. judicial	<i>Thr</i> ee 123
Scope of Branches	<i>Enforce, Make,</i> or <i>Interpret</i> laws of the United States	<i>Enforce</i> , <i>Make</i> , or <i>Interpret</i> laws of
Chief Executive Officer	President	
Minimum age for Chief Executive	35 years old	years old
Term for Chief Executive Officer	4 years (two-term maximum)	years (no term limits)
First successor to the office	Vice President	
Name of Lawmaking Body	Congress	
House & Senate Key Officers	House = Speaker Senate = Vice President	House = Senate =
Number of members in Legislative Body	House = 435, Senate = 100	House =, Senate =
Terms for Members of Legislative Body	House = 2 years, Senate = 6 years	House =, Senate =
Minimum age for	House = 25 years old,	House = years old
Legislative Members	Senate = 30 years old	Senate = years old
Veto override	2/3 of both houses	of both houses
Justices or Judges Terms	Term of office = for life	Term of Office =years
Number of Supreme Court Justices	9 justices	of both houses
Words in the Constitution	7,591	