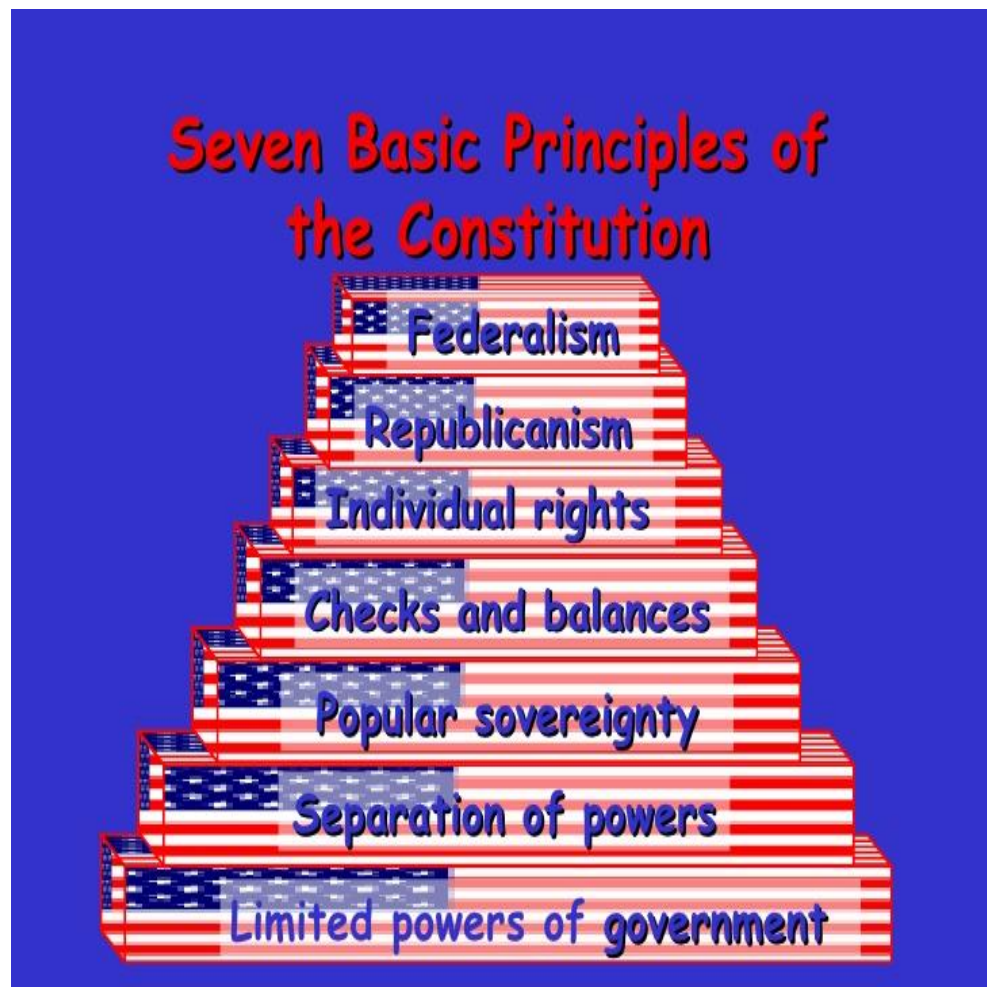
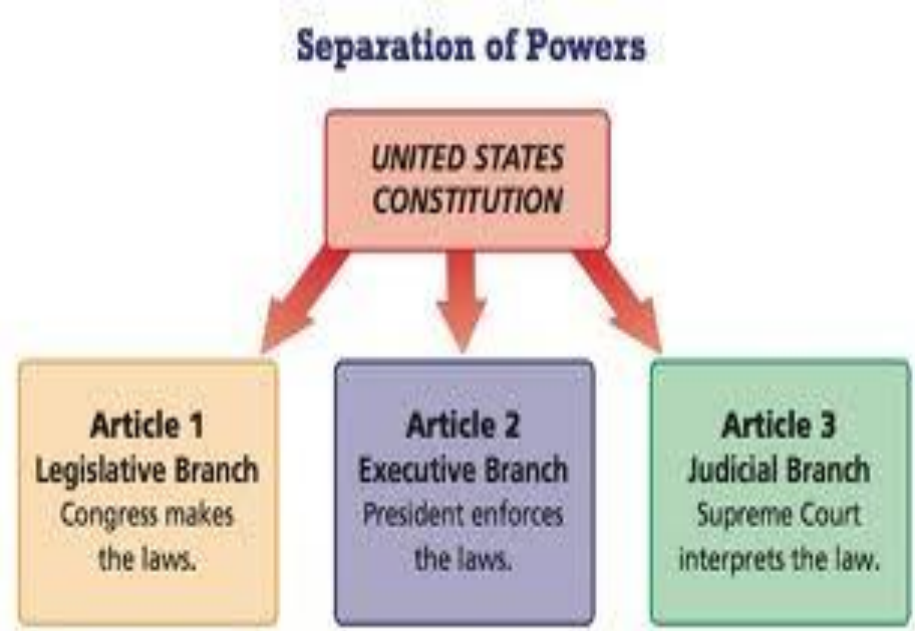
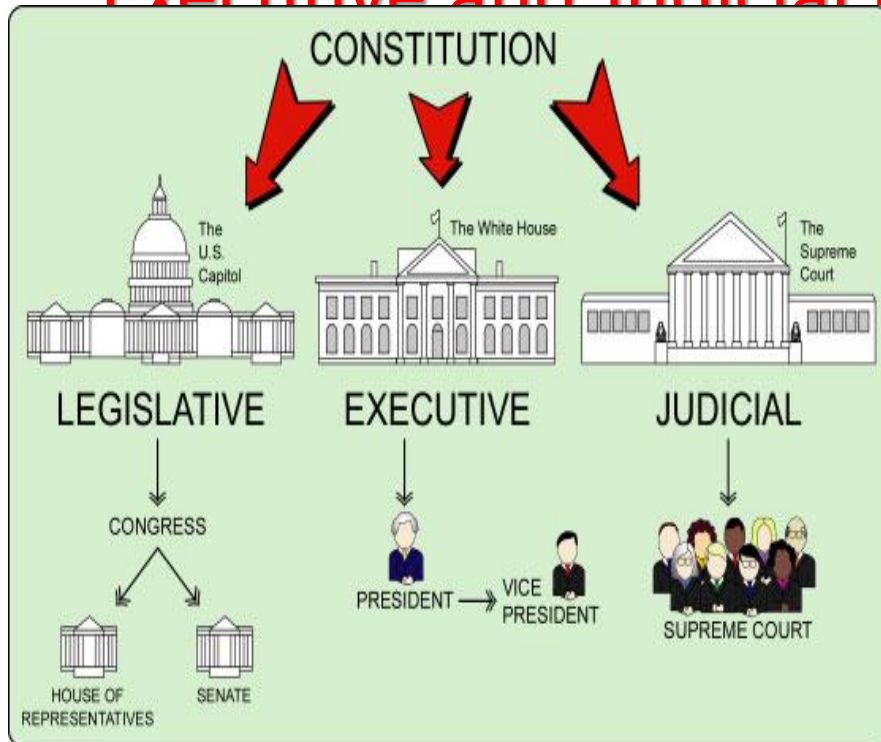


# Constitutional Principles

- There are seven (7) constitutional principles that the Constitutional Convention of 1787 created.
- These principles are STILL in place today!
- We will go over **two** of them in this chapter.
  - Checks and Balances
  - Separation of Power



- **Separation of Powers** – divide the powers of gov't into 3 separate branches: Legislative, Executive and Judicial Branches.



# SEPARATION OF POWERS

## LEGISLATIVE

Article I

### CONGRESS

**MAKES LAWS**  
(meets in the Capitol)



Senate

Two senators from each state, regardless of population, are elected for 6-year terms.



House of Representatives

House members are elected from states in proportion to population for 2-year terms.

## EXECUTIVE

Article II

### PRESIDENT

**EXECUTES LAWS**  
(lives and works at the White House)



Each state elects presidential electors, based on the number of its congressmen. The electors then elect the president.

## JUDICIAL

Article III

### SUPREME COURT

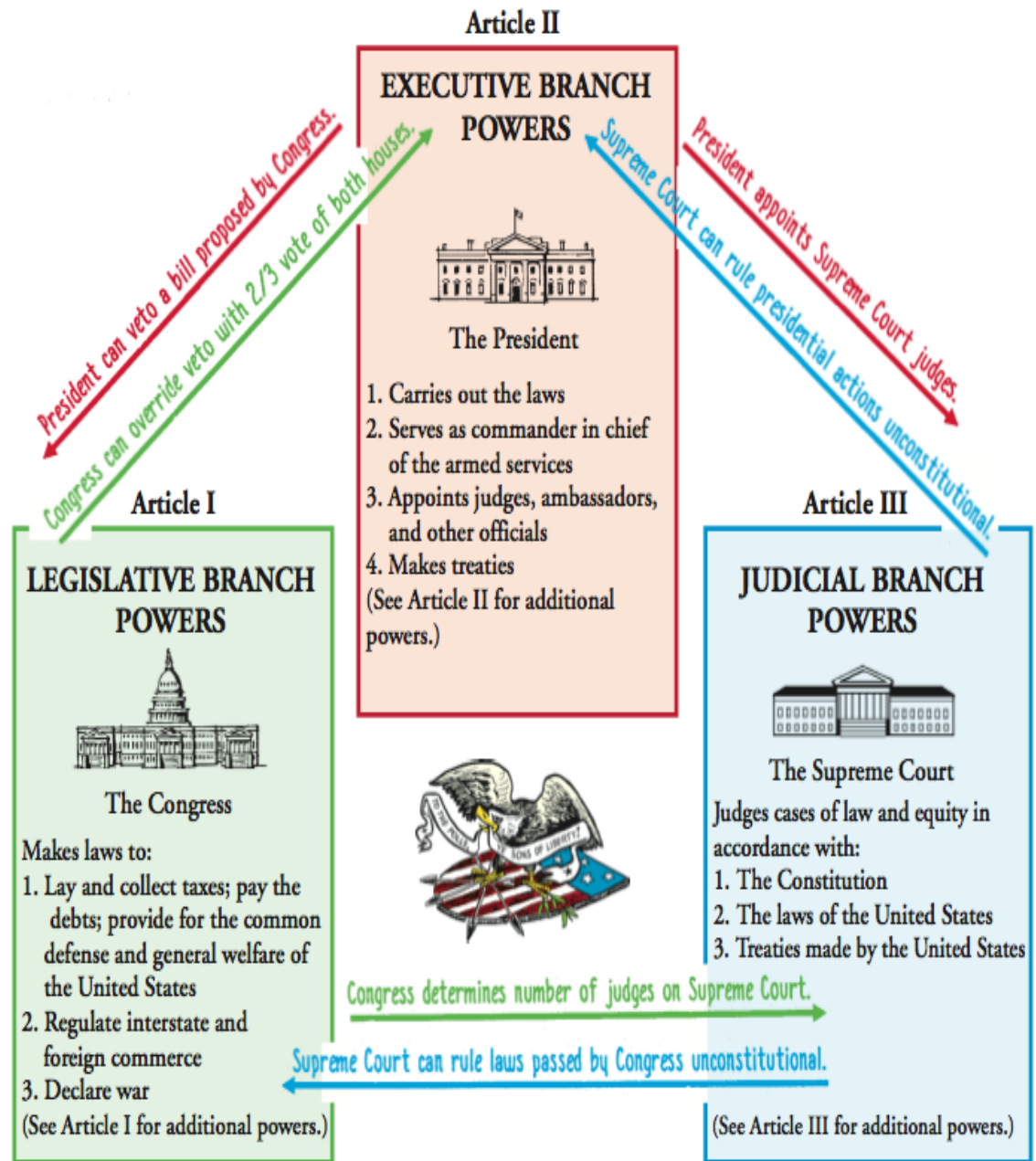
**INTERPRETS LAWS,**  
**THE CONSTITUTION, AND TREATIES OF**  
**THE U.S. IN DECIDING CERTAIN CASES.**  
(meets in the Supreme Court Building)



The president appoints judges, with advice and consent of the Senate. The term of office for the nine justices (originally there were only six) is for life—during good behavior.

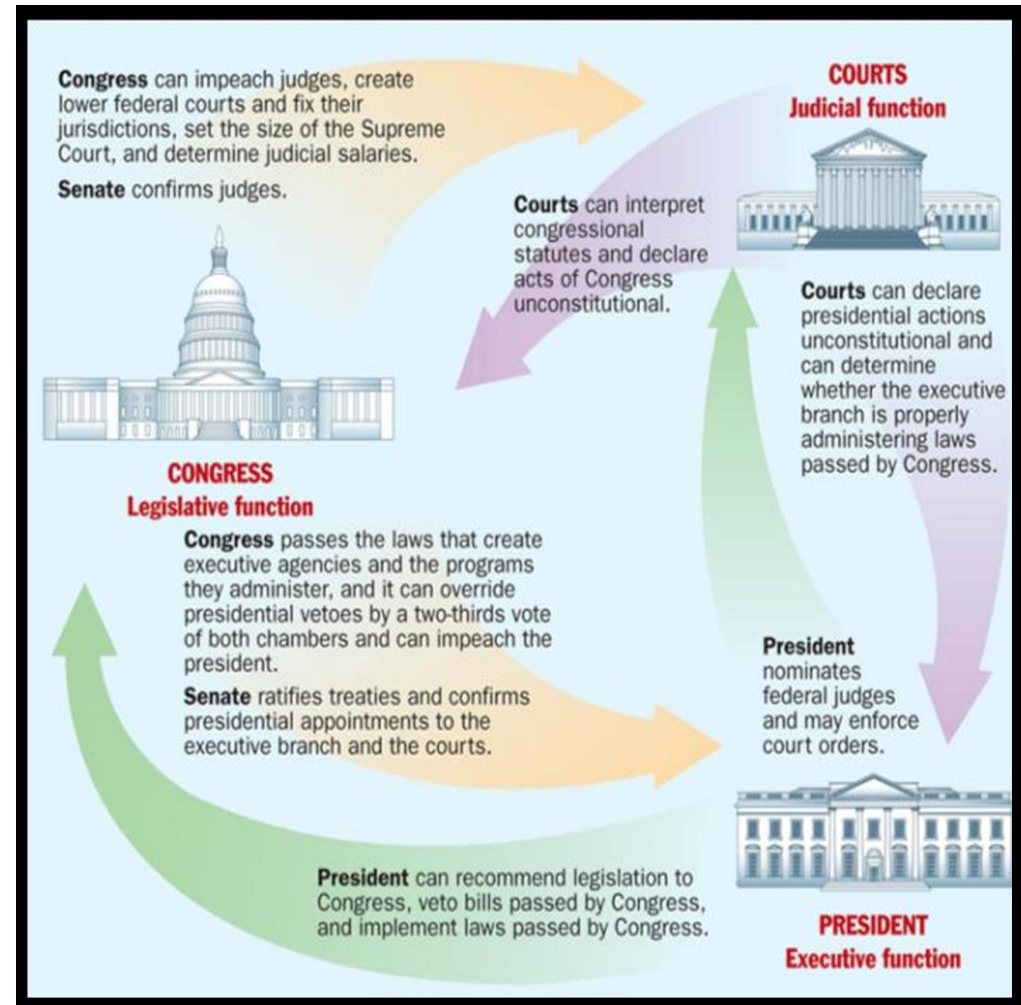
- **Checks and Balances** – created to prevent any one branch from becoming too powerful.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6W8W3p9Ot7M>

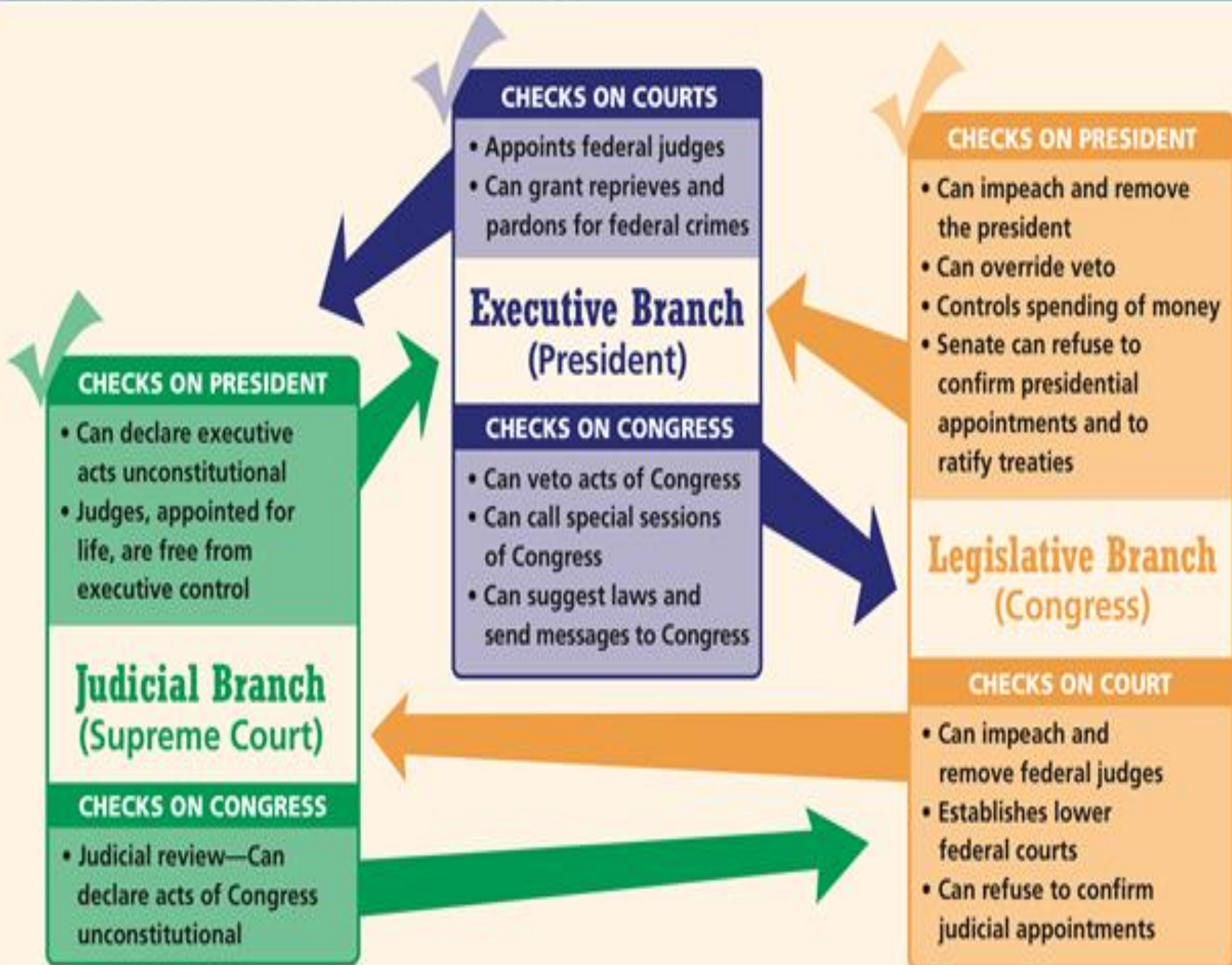


# Checks and Balances (cont.)

- To keep one branch from **seizing all power**, the Constitution uses a system of checks and balances.
- Each branch of government holds **powers over the other two branches**. It is used to **limit** each branch's powers.
- This idea was inspired by Montesquieu and Ancient Rome.

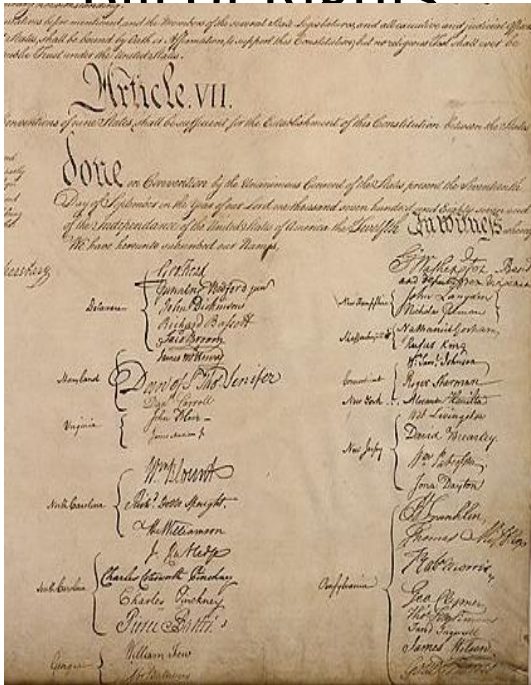


# A CLOSER LOOK Checks and Balances



# Ratification

- By the end of 1788, **11 out of the 13 states had voted and ratified (approved) the U.S. Constitution.**
- The U.S. Constitution had become the new law of the land – with a **Bill of Rights**



**RATIFICATION:**

- Federalists promise addition of a Bill of Rights
- Ratification succeeded, new government formed 1789
- James Madison drafts 10 amendments to the Constitution, these become the U.S. Bill of Rights

