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Name Your Government Officials	back cover
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Ratification

It was decided that as soon as nine states approved the Constitution, it would go into effect. The convention adjourned on September 17, 1787, and the fight for ratification began. The battle was a bitter one. The Federalists supported the Constitution. Leading Federalists Hamilton, Jay, and Madison published the *Federalist Papers*. These papers were essential in convincing people that the Constitution was of value. The *Anti-Federalists* fought against the Constitution but were not successful.

On June 21, 1788, the Constitution took effect when New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify it. The remaining four states joined by 1790. The Federalists and Anti-Federalists continued their battle over the Constitution and became two separate political forces under the new government.

On January 7, 1789, the United States, having recently adopted its Constitution, held its first presidential election. Only white men who owned property voted. They choose electors who, in turn, vote for the candidates. As it did in 1789, the United States still uses the Electoral College system established by the U.S. Constitution.

Our First President

As expected, George Washington won the election and was sworn into office on April 30, 1789, as the first president of the United States and the “Father of Our Country.” Washington was a Virginia landowner who had led the patriotic forces in the war against the British. His accomplishments matched his popularity. Washington



George Washington

was a delegate to both Continental Congresses. He was unanimously named both as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War and as president of the Constitutional Convention that drafted the Constitution.

Washington finished first with 69 votes, followed by his fellow Federalist John Adams of Massachusetts, whose 34 votes propelled him into the vice presidency. (Before ratifying the 12th Amendment in 1804, the candidate who received the most electoral votes became president while the runner-up became vice president.)

Citizenship and Becoming President

The members of the Constitutional Convention envisioned a president born in the good, old United States of America. In Article 2, Section 1, they wrote that “No person except a natural-born citizen... shall be eligible to the office of president.” The convention delegates did not want to take the chance of a foreign country sending someone to run for our highest political office. Immigrants can become citizens, thus becoming *naturalized* citizens. But naturalized citizens cannot become president; only natural-born citizens are eligible.

QUESTIONS

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

- ___ 1. Six states had to approve the Constitution before it was effective.
- ___ 2. The Federalists were against the Constitution.
- ___ 3. The authors of the Constitution wrote a document that was easily adapted to change.
- ___ 4. The small states wanted each state to have the same number of representatives.
- ___ 5. The Constitutional Convention adopted the Virginia Plan.
- ___ 6. Fortunately, the Constitution outlawed slavery.
- ___ 7. The Electoral College showed that the Constitutional Convention trusted the people.
- ___ 8. The New Jersey Plan suggested only one house of Congress.
- ___ 9. The New Jersey Plan favored small states, and the Virginia Plan favored large ones.
- ___ 10. Each state gets the same number of votes in the Electoral College.
- ___ 11. Article 2 of the U.S. Constitution provides that only “natural-born” citizens are eligible to become president.
- ___ 12. Immigrants can become citizens.

MATCH THE PERSON TO THE STATEMENT. Write the letter of the statement that matches the person.



Benjamin Franklin ___

Patrick Henry ___



James Madison ___



John Adams ___



Robert Morris ___

Alexander Hamilton ___



- a. First Vice President b. Submitted Virginia Plan
c. NY Delegate & Federalist d. Financier of the Revolution
e. “Smelt a Rat” f. Oldest Delegate at Convention

SHORT ANSWER / FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. Write a definition of democracy. _____

2. Number of the amendment that changed the way we elect U.S. senators. _____
3. Name three of the original 13 colonies. _____

4. The Constitutional Convention adjourned on what date? _____
5. How many states had to ratify the Constitution before it went into effect? _____

Lawmaking and the Three Branches

Legislative Branch

Congress



- 1 A bill is introduced.
- 2 Bill is sent to committee.
- 3 Bill is voted on.
- 4 If passed in committee and on floor of house, it is sent to the other house.

Executive Branch

President



- A The president may sign the bill, and it will become law.
- B Or the president may veto the bill.
- C Congress can override a veto with a two-thirds vote.

Judicial Branch

Supreme Court and other courts



- ✓ The courts see that justice is administered under the law.
- ✓ The Supreme Court declares laws unconstitutional through **judicial review**.
- ✓ Ensures each branch recognizes limits of its power.

must enforce the law. The courts (judicial branch) then interpret and administer justice under it. The Supreme Court may rule whether or not the law is constitutional.

What are Federal Laws?

There are different types of laws. Federal laws apply to everyone in the United States. States and local laws apply to people who live or work in a particular state, county, or municipality. The U.S. Constitution divides the power to make laws between the federal and state governments.

The federal government is responsible for some types of laws, such as those about national defense, currency, interstate commerce, patents, and so forth. State and local governments may not pass these kinds of laws, nor may they pass laws that conflict with federal laws. One example is the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which ensures that the Bill of Rights applies to all states. You will learn more about the differences between federal, state, and local laws in the upcoming units of this book.

Member of Congress: Typical Day

Whether they are in Washington, D.C., or their congressional districts, members of Congress spend most of their time working. Members work long hours, up to 70 hours a week, when Congress is in session. Members endure unequaled public scrutiny and sacrifice family time to fulfill work responsibilities.

A member of Congress may have a typical day something like this:

- 7:00 a.m.** Breakfast with the family is the only time they will see each other until late that evening.
- 8:00 a.m.** Trip to the office to review e-mail and postal mail with an assistant. The mail may be substantial if a critical issue is pending.
- 10:15 a.m.** Meet with party members considering action on a bill that will come before Congress.
- 10:30 a.m.** House Ethics Committee meeting. This committee, which is his/her most crucial committee assignment, may discuss new allegations of concern with Congress. Both senators and representatives may have more than one committee assignment.
- 11:00 a.m.** A party caucus (meeting) takes place.
- Noon** Lunch with other members from his or her home state. Congressional business is discussed.
- 1:30 p.m.** On the way to the House floor, he/she is stopped by the majority leader for a brief discussion of important bills.
- 1:40 p.m.** Remains on the floor for the entire afternoon House of Representatives session, voting on legislation.
- 3:30 p.m.** Conduct a short conference call concerning a defense bill with other lawmakers.
- 3:45 p.m.** Lobbyist John Jones comes to the office seeking aid favorable to their organization.
- 5:00 p.m.** A reporter calls for an interview concerning the House Ethics Committee.
- 7:00 p.m.** Home for dinner. After dinner, he or she reads hometown newspapers and social media topics and works on a speech to be delivered the next day.

The Road to the White House

Americans pick their presidents and vice presidents from the candidates presented by the Democratic and Republican parties. People do not vote directly for the president and vice president; instead, the Electoral College allows voters to vote for electors. These electors then cast votes for a specific candidate, a system described in Article 2 of the Constitution.

The responsibility of voters has increased with the growth of our country and government. Even if you are not of voting age, now is the time to get familiar with the process and the importance of voting. You are the future of this country, and your vote determines the fate of leaders' policies and tactics.

Follow this process in the upcoming 2024 Presidential Election.

Campaigning: Activity picks up after each political party chooses a single presidential nominee. Those candidates travel the country, holding rallies and town halls, explaining their views to win potential voters' support.

Debates: There are presidential debates starting in the summer of 2024.

STEP 4 - GAIN VOTER SUPPORT

STEP 5 - GENERAL ELECTION

Voting at the General Election:

Every four years, citizens in every state cast their votes for one president and vice president. These voters select groups of electors to represent each state on behalf of the voters.

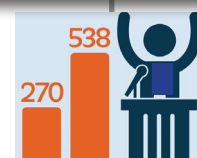
November 2024 General Election

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		5				



STEP 6 - ELECTORAL COLLEGE

Electoral College System: Each state gets a certain number of electors based on its representation in Congress. A simple majority of the 538 (or 270 votes) is needed to win.



FINISH

(Inauguration Day - January 20, 2025)



START

(in Spring 2023)

STEP 1 - IDENTIFY THE CANDIDATES

Incumbent -



Joe Biden - eligible for one more term.

Challengers-

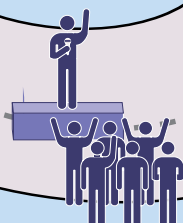
Candidates are identified including former President Donald Trump.



Candidates must be:

- ☒ a natural-born citizen
- ☒ 35-years old
- ☒ Resident for 14 years

STEP 2 - CAUCUSES and PRIMARIES



National Conventions: Both parties have delegates that will choose the nominees for president and vice president. They will also adopt a platform outlining the party's policy priorities and values.

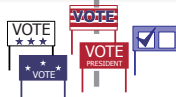
STEP 3 - NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

March 2024 Illinois Primary

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			19			



Primary Elections: A state-level election where party members choose a candidate to represent that political party at the general/ presidential election.



Caucuses: Citizens participate in local meetings where members gather votes for their preferred candidate, used to elect delegates to the national party convention.

"The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or... of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments..." — U.S. Constitution, Article 5

Our constitutional form of government can be changed without revolution or rebellion. The authors of the Constitution, revolutionaries themselves, felt there should be provisions for orderly change.

The amendment process is discussed in Article five of the Constitution. To make an amendment to the Constitution, the amendment must be proposed by either the states or Congress and then ratified by the states. Here is a summary of the details:

Proposing and Ratifying Amendments

Proposing Amendments: There are two methods of proposing amendments to the Constitution:

1. Congress may propose amendments approved by a two-thirds majority in each house, or
2. The legislatures of two-thirds of the states may require Congress to summon a constitutional convention to consider amendments.

Ratifying Amendments: There are two ways of ratifying amendments to the Constitution:

1. An amendment is official when three-fourths of state legislatures approve it, or
2. When special conventions in three-fourths of the states approve it.

Every amendment except the 21st was approved by using the first option of proposing and ratifying.

Amending the Constitution

Step 1 Amendment Is Proposed.

Option 1
Amendment is proposed by Congress with a two-thirds vote of both houses.

2/3

House & Senate

Option 2
Amendment is proposed by a national convention called by Congress at the request of two-thirds of the state legislatures.

34

state legislatures

Step 2 Amendment Is Ratified.

Option 1
State legislatures in three-fourths of the states approve the amendment.

38

state legislatures

Option 2
State conventions in three-fourths of the states approve the amendment.

38

state conventions

Miscellaneous Constitutional Information

In Article 4 of the Constitution, debts made under the Articles of Confederation were declared valid under the new government of the Constitution.

Article 6 of the Constitution lists no religious tests for government office. John F. Kennedy was the first Catholic to be elected president, and there has never been a Jewish president. Article 6 requires government officials to take an oath supporting the Constitution.

Amendments to the United States Constitution may be adopted whenever the need arises. The 16th Amendment was passed to allow income taxes after an earlier income tax law was unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court. This is not to say that the U.S. Constitution is changed without much thought and consideration. Since the adoption of the U.S. Constitution in the late 1700s, there have only been 27 amendments. By comparison, California has over 500 amendments to its state constitution, which is over 100 years old.

To repeal an existing amendment, there must be another amendment added. There has been only one amendment repealed, the 18th (prohibition). The 18th Amendment will remain in the Constitution, but a notation has been added to mention that this has been repealed by the 21st.

Amendments are Rarely Ratified

Thousands of amendments have been proposed since the Constitution was written, but only 27 have been ratified. Below are examples of failed amendments:

- Changing the voting age to 16
- Eliminating income tax
- Making English the official language
- Providing moments of silence in schools
- Desecrating the American flag is illegal

What do you think will be the next topic that becomes our 28th Amendment?

QUESTIONS

SHORT ANSWER

1. Describe the most common process used in amending the Constitution. _____
2. When was the last amendment passed, and what was the topic? _____
3. What do you think will be the topic that becomes our next amendment? _____

AMENDING BY THE NUMBERS. Choose the correct number from the bank that matches the statement.

Number Bank: 5, 6, 13, 16, 18, 23, 27, 34, 38

- _____ Number of states needed to propose an amendment
- _____ Number of states needed to ratify an amendment
- _____ Amending process is in this Article of the Constitution
- _____ Number of amendments to the U.S. Constitution
- _____ Amendment that was repealed
- _____ Article containing the "No Religious Test Clause"
- _____ Amendment passed to allow income taxes

A summary is presented here for an overview and index of the Illinois Constitution. You will find additional details for many of these sections in the upcoming pages of this worktext. The state constitution is also available on the Illinois General Assembly website at www.ilga.gov.

Summary of the 1970 Constitution

Illinois' sixth Constitutional Convention convened in Springfield on December 8, 1969. A total of 116 members, two elected from each senatorial district, met at a nonpartisan convention. They would revise, alter, or amend the 1870 Illinois Constitution. This new constitution was influenced by the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s, as well as putting more policies into constitutional law and removing them from legislative control.

After nine months of in-depth study and debate, the members presented their work to the people, a constitution they considered to be workable for 25 years, 50 years, or, as in the case of the 1870 Constitution, 100 years.

Preamble

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

"We, the People of the State of Illinois—grateful to Almighty God for the civil, political and religious liberty which He has permitted us to enjoy and seeking His blessing upon our endeavors—in order to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the people; maintain a representative and orderly government; eliminate poverty and inequality; assure legal, social and economic justice; provide opportunity for the fullest development of the individual; insure domestic tranquility; provide for the common defense; and secure the blessings of freedom and liberty to ourselves and our posterity—do ordain and establish this Constitution for the State of Illinois."

Article 1 - Bill of Rights

There are 24 sections of the Illinois 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 anyone of life, liberty, or property without the due process of law. Some of the Illinois Bill of Rights goes beyond the rights established by our U.S. Constitution.

The topics to the Illinois Bill of Rights in Article 1 are listed below:

- Section 1 Inherent and Inalienable Rights
- Section 2 Due Process and Equal Protection
- Section 3 Religious Freedom
- Section 4 Freedom of Speech
- Section 5 Right to Assembly and Petition
- Section 6 Searches, Seizures, Privacy and Interceptions
- Section 7 Indictment and Preliminary Hearing
- Section 8 Rights after Indictment
- Section 9 Bail and Habeas Corpus
- Section 10 Self-Incrimination and Double Jeopardy
- Section 11 Limitation of Penalties after Conviction
- Section 12 Right to Remedy and Justice
- Section 13 Trial by Jury
- Section 14 Imprisonment for Debt
- Section 15 Right of Eminent Domain
- Section 16 Ex Post Facto Laws and Impairing of Contracts
- Section 17 No Discrimination in the Sale or Rental of Property
- Section 18 No Sex Discrimination
- Section 19 No Discrimination Against Handicapped
- Section 20 Individual Dignity
- Section 21 Quartering of Soldiers
- Section 22 Right to Arms
- Section 23 Fundamental Principles
- Section 24 Rights Retained
- Section 25 Workers' Rights

Article 2 - The Power of the State

Article 2 of the Illinois 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 authority outlined in the U.S. Constitution, state governments have all the powers not denied by the United States or Illinois Constitution.

Illinois Constitution Timeline of Key Events

1787	1788	1818	1832	1839	1848	1861
Illinois becomes part of the <i>Northwest Territory</i> through the <i>Ordinance of 1787</i> .	The U.S. Constitution is ratified and becomes the framework of government in the United States.	On December 3, 1818, Illinois becomes the 21st state, Kaskaskia is the first capital.	The last great Indian uprising in Illinois was the <i>Black Hawk War</i> .	Springfield is the capital's new home, moving from Vandalia, giving a central location.	By the 1840s the original constitution became outdated, a second constitution was approved.	The <i>Civil War</i> begins with Abraham Lincoln President, 620,000 soldiers killed in battle

The Illinois Constitution

Present one adopted in 1970.

Illinois voters choose our elected officials.

Legislative Branch

makes the laws

Illinois General Assembly

Illinois Senate

59
State
Senators

Illinois House

118
State
Representatives

Quick Facts

The Illinois General Assembly is made up of the state Senate and state House of Representatives.

Illinois Senate

Members: 59

Term: 4 or 2 years

Term limit: None

Salary: \$85,000

Qualifications:

- ▶ U.S. citizen
- ▶ At least 21 years old
- ▶ Resident of district for at least two years

Illinois House

Members: 118

Term: 2 years

Term limit: None

Salary: \$85,000

Qualifications:

- ▶ U.S. citizen
- ▶ At least 21 years old
- ▶ Resident of district for at least two years

Executive Branch

enforces the laws

Governor

Executive Officers:

Lieutenant Governor
Secretary of State
Attorney General
State Treasurer
Comptroller

Quick Facts

The Illinois Constitution provides for six executive offices.

Executive Officers

Number: 6

Term: 4 years

Term limit: None

Qualifications:

- ▶ U.S. citizen
- ▶ At least 25 years old
- ▶ Resident of state for at least three years prior to election

Salaries:

- ▶ Governor: \$205,700
- ▶ Lt. Governor: \$160,900
- ▶ Sec. of State: \$183,300
- ▶ Atty. General: \$183,300
- ▶ State Treasurer: \$160,900
- ▶ Comptroller: \$160,900

Civil Administrative Code Departments:

Provide many state services

Judicial Branch

administers justice

Illinois Supreme Court

Appellate Courts

Circuit Courts

Quick Facts

Illinois Supreme Court

- ▶ *Final court of appeal for state matters*

Number of judges: 7

Term: 10 years

Elected by: voters in the state

Chief justice:

- ▶ Selected by court
- ▶ Serves three-year term
- ▶ Supervises state courts

Appellate Courts

- ▶ *Organized within 5 judicial districts*

Term: 10 years

Elected by: voters in the district

A panel of three judges hears the appeals and makes a ruling.

Circuit Courts

- ▶ *Organized within 22 judicial circuits*

Term: 6 years

Elected by: voters in the circuit

Associate judges are appointed to four-year terms.

The following test will help you prepare for your final Illinois Constitution test. It has questions similar to ones you will find on your final. It is suggested you write your answers on a piece of paper so you can take the test a number of times. You will find the correct answers at the bottom of Page 85.

Hard work on this page will assure you of a better grade on your final exam. Be sure to look up any answers you do not understand or see your teacher for an explanation.

MATCHING. Match the person or body in **Column A** with the correct branch of state government in **Column B**. Put the letter of the correct answer in the space provided.

Column A

- ___ 1. The Illinois Governor
- ___ 2. The Illinois House of Representatives
- ___ 3. The Illinois State Supreme Court
- ___ 4. Illinois Circuit Courts
- ___ 5. Lieutenant Governor
- ___ 6. Illinois State Senate
- ___ 7. Attorney General
- ___ 8. Comptroller

Column B

- a.** The Legislative Branch
- b.** The Judicial Branch
- c.** The Executive Branch

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

9. _____ To pass a bill in the General Assembly, which of the following statements is NOT correct?
 - a. bill must be read on 3 different days
 - b. governor is allowed 5 days to review
 - c. bills are confined to one subject
 - d. bills must pass both chambers by majority vote
10. _____ Which city has NEVER hosted the state capital?
 - a. Chicago
 - b. Springfield
 - c. Vandalia
 - d. Kaskaskia
11. _____ Which reason best explains why the Illinois Constitution was revised in 1970?
 - a. the previous constitution was lost in a fire
 - b. influences from the Civil Rights movement
 - c. women were given the right to vote
 - d. set term limits for the governor
12. _____ What is the main purpose of the Illinois Constitution's Bill of Rights?
 - a. to ensure citizen's rights and freedoms
 - b. to discuss legislative power
 - c. to equalize powers of the three branches
 - d. to exceed the powers in the U.S. Constitution
13. _____ What action is the responsibility of state executive branch?
 - a. set local and county tax rates
 - b. recommend a state budget
 - c. appoint Senators to the General Assembly
 - d. approve amendments from state Legislature
14. _____ Your dog chewed through a neighbors fence and she wants compensation to fix it. What court would hear the case if there is was a dispute?
 - a. Illinois Supreme Court
 - b. Illinois Court of Appeals
 - c. Small Claims Court
 - d. Federal District Court
15. _____ Which of the following is NOT protected by the Illinois Bill of Rights?
 - a. exclusion from military service
 - b. right to bear arms
 - c. freedom of speech
 - d. right to a fair trial
16. _____ Which of the following vetoes is NOT a power of the Illinois governor?
 - a. amendatory veto
 - b. all or nothing veto
 - c. regular veto
 - d. line item veto
17. _____ What form of city government involves hiring a professionally trained manager to run the city?
 - a. commission
 - b. trustee-village
 - c. strong-mayor
 - d. council-manager
18. _____ What form of city government has an elected mayor and commissioners running the city?
 - a. commission
 - b. trustee-village
 - c. strong-mayor
 - d. council-manager

continued