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In the months after the Declaration of Independence was signed, Congress wanted to continue to unite the former colonies. The first attempt at a national or federal government came in the form of the *Articles of Confederation*. The Articles, adopted by the Second Continental Congress in 1777, were not ratified by all the states until 1781.

The Articles of Confederation acted as the first constitution of the United States. The Articles were in use until the Constitution was signed in 1787. The Articles were weak because the colonists were reluctant to give much power to a central government. The colonies feared that a new central government might be no better than the English king had been. The states themselves had governments at this time, most with state constitutions.

When it became necessary to have a national or federal government for conducting the Revolutionary War, the states made the government weak. The Articles were so weak that the government could not even pay its bills. It did have limited powers to make war or peace, but other powers were lacking. Robert Morris stated that getting money from the states was like “preaching to the dead.” To raise money, the central government could only ask the states for funds; it could not tax.

At the end of the Revolutionary War, the American government was in serious financial trouble. Soldiers who had served without pay were granted western land certificates instead of money, but most had to sell their certificates for money to live on. Farmers with large debts rebelled against the courts that were taking away their farms. An example of such a rebellion was the *Shays’ Rebellion* by farmers in Massachusetts. Jails were crowded with debtors. States were taxing each other harmfully and arguing about land claims to the West. Tariff laws were needed for business and industry. Prices soared and credit disappeared. It became increasingly evident that the only solution was a stronger central government.

Weaknesses of the Articles

Listed below are weaknesses identified by the colonists:

- No national courts, only state courts.
- No power to tax.
- No real power to regulate commerce.
- All changes in the Articles had to be approved by all of the states.
- All important laws had to be approved by nine states.
- No real president, only a president of Congress who was like a chairman.

Civil Rights & the Articles of Confederation

Civil rights are those rights that are considered to be unquestionable; deserved by all people under all circumstances, especially without regard to race, creed, color or gender. These personal rights are guaranteed and protected by the Constitution.

The fight for civil rights didn’t wait until the 1950s to happen. Some started as early as the Articles of Confederation! Paul Cuffee was a free black from Massachusetts. When he discovered he did not have the same property rights as whites, he refused to pay his taxes and was jailed. Cuffee later became a successful trader with his own fleet of ships and continued to fight for equal rights throughout his lifetime.

QUESTIONS

MATCH THE STATEMENT IN SECTION A WITH THE TERM IN SECTION B.

A

- ___ 1. Started by farmers in Massachusetts who were losing their farms.
- ___ 2. Form of government during the American Revolution.
- ___ 3. Had to approve important acts under the Articles.
- ___ 4. Fear of this was in the minds of many American colonists in the 1780s.
- ___ 5. This power was lacking in the Articles of Confederation.

B

- a. states
- b. Shays’ Rebellion
- c. taxation
- d. strong central government
- e. Articles of Confederation



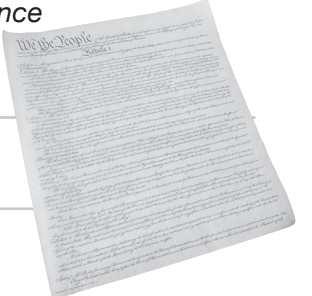
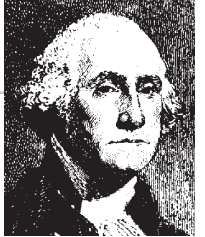
TRUE OR FALSE? Write a **T** or **F** in the space provided.

- ___ 1. The Articles of Confederation acted as the first U.S. Constitution.
- ___ 2. The Articles were weak because of the fear of a strong central government.
- ___ 3. Shays’ Rebellion was carried out to support a weak central government.
- ___ 4. The Declaration of Independence was signed before the Articles of Confederation were written.
- ___ 5. The Articles were drawn up by the Second Continental Congress.
- ___ 6. Freedom from discrimination is considered an example of a civil right.

SHORT ANSWER

Explain what Morris meant by his statement “preaching to the dead.” _____

Listed below is a sampling of the important events that led up to America’s independence and the adoption of a new constitution. You will find the year and the significant event that happened during that time.

1763-1765	England decides on a program of taxation and control of the colonies. The American colonists begin organized protests against British rule. Patriotic groups such as the <i>Sons of Liberty</i> are formed. Laws such as the <i>Quartering Act</i> , <i>Stamp Act</i> , and <i>Sugar Act</i> anger the colonists, who are forced to pay unjust taxes and provide supplies to British troops.	
1770	Colonists reduce their boycott of British goods when they withdraw all of the <i>Townshend Act</i> , except the tax on tea. <i>Boston Massacre</i> occurs when an angry crowd of citizens surround a group of soldiers causing them to open fire.	
1773	With the American colonists and merchants still angry over British tax policies, an uprising called the <i>Boston Tea Party</i> occurs.	
1774	In response to the Boston Tea Party, the Parliament passes several acts to punish Massachusetts. Twelve of the 13 colonies name delegates to a congress, The First Continental Congress. On September 5th, they meet mainly to deal with Britain’s actions.	
1775	When the Americans learn the British plan to seize their guns and ammunition, Paul Revere is sent to alert the countryside and gather the <i>Minutemen</i> . An unidentified shot triggers the <i>Battle at Lexington</i> . This starts the American Revolution and also leads to another famous battle, <i>Bunker Hill</i> .	
1776	On July 4th, The Second Continental Congress adopts the <i>Declaration of Independence</i> (written by Thomas Jefferson and a committee). A few days later the <i>Liberty Bell</i> is rung in Philadelphia to call the people to the first public reading of the Declaration.	
1781	The <i>Articles of Confederation</i> are adopted by the states.	
1787	On May 14th, The Constitutional Convention meets in Philadelphia and lasts until September 17th. Here the delegates reviewed and approved the Constitution.	
1788	Nine states ratify the Constitution, and it is put into effect (the remaining four states will ratify by 1790). America prepares to operate under this new document.	
1789	On March 4th, the new federal government is inaugurated in New York. In April, the first House of Representatives is organized. George Washington is elected the first president on April 6th. He is inaugurated on April 30th. On September 25th, the first 10 amendments (<i>Bill of Rights</i>) are adopted by Congress.	

QUESTIONS

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

- ___ 1. The Minutemen helped the British at the Battle of Lexington.
- ___ 2. The Boston Tea Party occurred in 1773.
- ___ 3. The colonists especially liked the British Quartering Act and the Sugar Act.
- ___ 4. The Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Second Continental Congress.
- ___ 5. The Bill of Rights was adopted by Congress in 1789.

PUT THE EVENTS IN ORDER. Select the correct chronological order for the following events, with the first event being the oldest.

- 1. **a.** Boston Massacre **b.** Declaration of Independence
c. Washington becomes president ___
- 2. **a.** Articles of Confederation **b.** Boston Tea Party
c. The Constitution ratified by nine states ___
- 3. **a.** England decides on a program of taxation and control of the colonies **b.** Constitutional Convention
c. Battle of Bunker Hill ___
- 4. **a.** Paul Revere alerts colonists **b.** Stamp Act **c.** First House of Representatives organized ___
- 5. **a.** Bill of Rights adopted **b.** First Continental Congress is held **c.** Liberty Bell is rung ___

The Constitution consists of the Preamble, seven original articles, and 27 amendments. This summary will aid you in gaining an overview of the Constitution or as an index to finding the particular portion of the Constitution that you wish to study. You will find a copy of the entire Constitution in the back of your history book or in the library. Free copies of the federal Constitution and your state constitution are available from the secretary of state in your state capital or on the internet.

The Seven Articles

The main body of the Constitution is the seven Articles. The Articles establish the branches of federal government and explain how the government works. The Articles are the guide to how the federal government interacts with the citizens, states, and people of the country.

Article 1 – Legislative Branch - Outlines the legislative branch, lawmaking requirements for Congress, the elastic clause, and forbidden powers. It is the longest article in the Constitution.

Article 2 – Executive Branch - Explains the presidential and vice presidential duties, terms of office, succession, impeachment, oath of office, and specific executive powers.

Article 3 – Judicial Branch - Addresses the judicial powers of the United States, the Supreme Court and other courts, and specifics about judges. It also defines treason.

Article 4 – States and the Union - Discusses how the states fit in with the plan of the federal government. It sets requirements for new states and requirements of the federal government in respect to states.

Article 5 – Amendments - This article outlines how to amend the Constitution.

Article 6 – United States Constitution Supreme - Makes it clear that the federal Constitution is the supreme law of the land.

Article 7 – Ratifying Procedure - Explains how the Constitution was ratified.

The 27 Amendments

The first 10 amendments were adopted in 1791 and are known as the *Bill of Rights*. A summary of each additional amendment is preceded by the year it was adopted.

No.	Year Adopted	Amendment Summary / Highlights
1st	Bill of Rights - 1791 - First 10 Amendments	Freedom of expression, religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition.
2nd		Protects the rights of individual citizens to keep and bear arms. Establishes a militia that is necessary for a free state.
3rd		Prohibits soldiers from temporarily residing (quartering) in private homes during peace time without getting the permission and consent of the owner.

No.	Year Adopted	Amendment Summary / Highlights	
4th	Bill of Rights - 1791- First 10 Amendments	Protects people from unreasonable searches and seizures by the government.	
5th		No person tried without the grand jury indictment or punished twice for same offense. Prohibits being a witness against yourself and guarantees due process of law.	
6th		Rights of accused in criminal cases, including legal representation and a fair and speedy trial.	
7th		Guarantees a trial by jury.	
8th		Insures that punishments for crimes are not excessive, cruel, or unusual.	
9th		People retain rights not listed in the United States Constitution.	
10th		Power not given to the federal government is given to the people or states (very important for state government).	
11th		1795	Individual cannot sue a state in federal courts.
12th		1804	Repeals part of Article 2, Section 1, of the Constitution. Electoral College must cast separate ballots for president and vice president. In 1800, there was difficulty when Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr received the same amount of votes in the Electoral College, even though the electors meant Burr’s votes to be for the position of vice president. The election had to go to the House of Representatives where Jefferson won, thanks to support of Alexander Hamilton. This helps explain why Hamilton and Burr later dueled and Hamilton was killed.
13th		1865	Abolished slavery and involuntary servitude.
14th	1868	All persons born or naturalized in the United States enjoy full rights. This was done to protect the rights of freed slaves and minorities after the Civil War, but it applies equally to all Americans. This amendment also made certain rules concerning the southern states after the Civil War.	
15th	1870	Protects the rights of Americans to vote in elections. States cannot prevent a person from voting because of race, creed, or color. The right to vote is known as <i>suffrage</i> .	

Lawmaking and the Three Branches

A bill is introduced, sent to committee, then voted on. If passed in committee and then on floor of house, it is sent to other house.



Legislative Branch
Two Houses of Congress

The president may sign the bill, and it will be a law, or veto it. If there is a veto, Congress may try to pass it over the veto by a two-thirds vote.



Executive Branch
The President

The courts see that justice is administered under the law. The Supreme Court may declare laws unconstitutional.



Judicial Branch
The Supreme Court and Other Courts

After Congress (legislative branch) has passed a bill and the president (executive branch) has signed it into law, it is the president's duty to enforce the law. The courts (judicial branch) then interpret it and administer justice under it. The Supreme Court may rule whether or not the law is constitutional. Please refer to the chart above.

Follow an actual bill through this process on Page 24.

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 government.

The federal government is responsible for some types of laws, such as those pertaining to 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 insures the Bill of Rights is applicable 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

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

- 7:00 a.m.** Breakfast with the family, the only time they will see each other until late that evening.
- 8:00 a.m.** Trip to the office to go over e-mail and postal mail with an assistant. The mail may be heavy 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 important committee assignment, may be discussing new allegations of concern to 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/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.** Short conference with other lawmakers concerning a defense bill.
- 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 reads hometown newspapers, reads topics on social media, and works on a speech to be delivered the next day.

"The judicial power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme court, and in such inferior courts..."
 — United States Constitution, Article 3, Section 1

The main purpose of the judicial branch is to interpret the laws and administer justice. Many of the details of this branch may be found in Article 3 of the Constitution. The judicial branch consists of a system of federal courts.

While the people elect the executive and legislative branches, members of the judicial branch are appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate. Each federal judge holds office for life and may be removed only by impeachment. There are no expressed qualifications for federal judges in the Constitution.

Power of the Judicial Branch

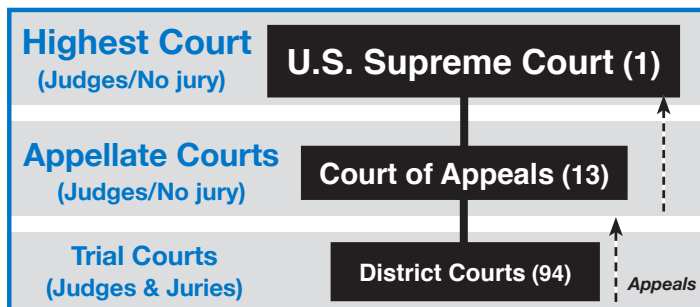
The power of the judicial branch through the courts is extended to all cases arising under the Constitution, laws, and treaties of the United States, and in some other special cases (see Article 3, Section 2). Every person accused of wrongdoing has the right to a fair trial before a competent judge and a jury of one's peers.

Under the Constitution, the courts protect the rights of all citizens and guarantees justice based on law. The philosophy of our law (often referred to as jurisprudence) relies heavily on past precedent. Courts will review cases that were previously decided when analyzing a new case brought to the courts. The decision of similar cases will mostly be the same as courts utilize this past precedent.

Most court cases fall into two categories, *criminal* or *civil* cases. Most crimes are a violation of state law, not federal law, and thus would be prosecuted in the state court system. Only crimes that break a law of the U.S. government will be prosecuted in the federal courts.

In criminal cases, the court decides if an accused person is guilty or innocent of a crime. Examples of federal crimes include bank robbery, counterfeiting, kidnapping, and financial fraud. In civil cases, the court settles disputes between two parties. Civil cases that may be heard in federal court include questions over federal law, suing for civil rights and first amendment violations, and resolving disputes (over \$75,000) between parties from different states.

There are three major types of federal courts:



The Supreme Court

"Equal Justice Under Law" - These words, written above the main entrance to the Supreme Court Building, express the ultimate responsibility of the Supreme Court of the United States. The unique position of the Supreme Court is the result of the strong commitment of the American people to the *Rule of Law* and constitutional government. The Supreme Court ensures democracy and the importance of the oldest written Constitution still in force.

A primary duty of the *justices* (judges) of the Supreme Court is to decide whether state and federal laws are constitutional and whether actions by lower courts or other governmental agencies are constitutional. This power is not given to the Supreme Court directly by the Constitution, but precedence and tradition have given the court this power. It also hears cases of appeal from lower courts, providing a federal matter, such as copyright, kidnapping, or counterfeiting, is involved. In some special cases, the court hears the matter directly.

There are nine Supreme Court justices with one justice serving as *chief justice*. The Constitution does not stipulate the number of Supreme Court justices; the number is set instead by Congress. Court justices receive a salary of \$213,900. The chief justice receives a salary of \$223,500. Six justices make a quorum, and a majority is necessary for a decision. The court meets in the U.S. Supreme Court Building in Washington, D.C. Typically the court conducts its annual term from the first Monday of October until late June the following year.

The current nine members are listed below.

	Supreme Court Justice	Type of Justice	President Who Nominated
1.	John Roberts, Jr.	Chief Justice	G.W. Bush (R)
2.	Clarence Thomas	Associate Justice	G.H. Bush (R)
3.	Ruth Bader Ginsburg	Associate Justice	Clinton (D)
4.	Stephen G. Breyer	Associate Justice	Clinton (D)
5.	Samuel A. Alito Jr.	Associate Justice	G.W. Bush (R)
6.	Sonia M. Sotomayor	Associate Justice	Obama (D)
7.	Elena Kagan	Associate Justice	Obama (D)
8.	Neil Gorsuch	Associate Justice	Trump (R)
9.	Brett M. Kavanaugh	Associate Justice	Trump (R)

The most recent appointments to the Supreme Court include Neil Gorsuch in April of 2017 along and Brett M. Kavanaugh in October of 2018. Both were nominated by President Trump.

In 1787, when the Constitution was signed, the area that is now Illinois was a wilderness. Although Marquette and Joliet discovered the Illinois country in 1673, it was not until 1818 that the state was formally admitted into the Union.

During the time between the discovery of the Illinois territory and its admission to the Union as a state, the French and the English each controlled the area for a period. Robert Cavellier, Sieur de La Salle and his lieutenant and successor, Henry de Tonty, carried the standard for France. Fort de Crevecoeur was established near Peoria in 1680, followed in 1682 by Fort St. Louis on Starved Rock. One of the first white villages, Pimitouri, later called Peoria, was established in 1691. Cahokia was organized in 1699, and Kaskaskia, four years later.

Defeated by Great Britain in the French and Indian War, France gave up claim to its possessions east of the Mississippi. British rule over this area was short, however, as a handful of American militia, led by George Rogers Clark in 1778, captured the villages of Kaskaskia, Cahokia, and Vincennes and forever ended foreign rule in the Illinois country.

Established as a county of Virginia in 1778, the Illinois country remained so until 1782. During the next five years the area had no legally constituted government, but, in 1787, it became part of the *Northwest Territory*. In 1800, the *Territory of Indiana* was established, and Illinois was included. Nine years later, Illinois, including the present state of Wisconsin, was made a territory in its own right. Kaskaskia was the capital, and Ninian Edwards of Kentucky served as the first territorial governor. On December 3, 1818, Illinois, with a population of about 35,000, was admitted to statehood. Kaskaskia was selected as the state capital, and Shadrach Bond became the first governor.

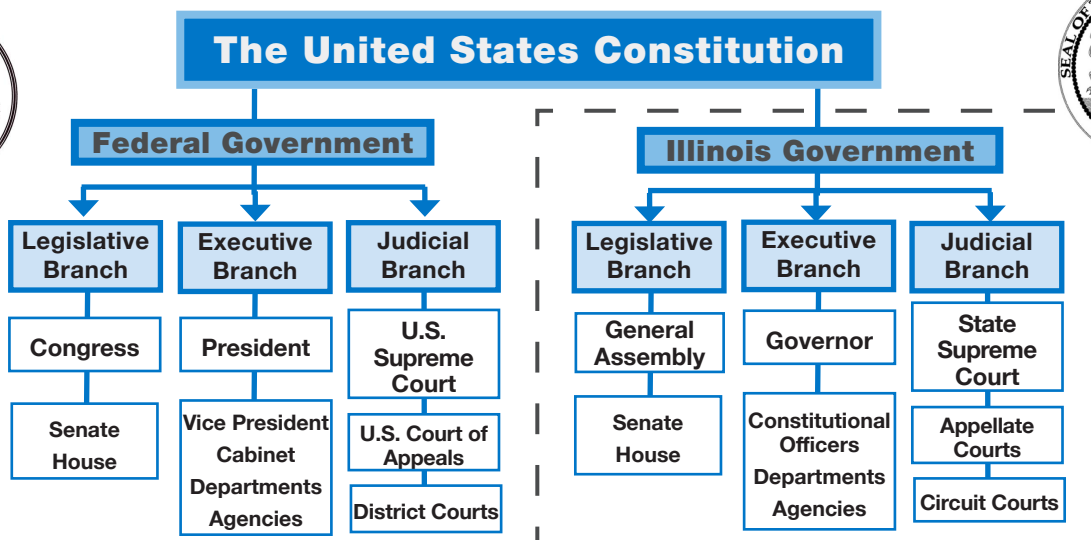
The last great Indian uprising in Illinois was the Black Hawk War in 1832. Chief Black Hawk and his Sauk and Fox warriors defeated the white militia at Stillman’s Run, but retreated into Wisconsin where the band was decisively defeated.

The capital was moved from Kaskaskia to Vandalia, and, in 1839, was moved again, this time to Springfield. Abraham Lincoln urged the selection of Springfield while he was a member of the state Legislature.

Soon after Springfield was selected as the new capital, the state became divided on the question of slavery. Abraham Lincoln emerged from political retirement in 1858 to challenge Stephen A. Douglas, United States senator from Illinois, and the national policy on slavery, which he advocated. The eyes of the nation focused on the state as the two men engaged in their historic series of debates on the question. Although Lincoln was defeated for a senatorial post in 1858, he won the presidential nomination of the Republican Party in 1860 and became the first Republican president.

John Deere’s invention of the prairie plow in 1837 encouraged Illinois agriculture, and it became a leading agricultural state. After the Civil War, Illinois turned to the development of its natural resources and its transportation. By 1870, coal mining had become one of Illinois’ largest industries. Improved transportation, an abundance of coal, and the westward movement of industry combined to make Illinois a great industrial area.

By 1850, the state had a population of 850,000. By 1870, this figure had tripled. Today, Illinois has nearly 13 million residents. Sprawling and vibrant, Chicago was destined early in American industrial development to become the manufacturing center not only of Illinois but the entire Midwest.



The U.S. Constitution splits governing powers between the federal government and the states. This unit will cover the state government portion of the chart above. It will also include the study of local government bodies.

In a democracy, a citizen has the responsibility for the government under which he or she lives. By voting and staying informed on the issues he or she takes part in the business of government. With every freedom we enjoy, there are also corresponding duties. We must perform these duties, such as voting if we expect to enjoy our freedom.

Voting is a constitutional right. Early in American history, only white men over the age of 21 could vote. Then it took two constitutional amendments — one in 1870 and the other in 1920 — to give black people and women, respectively, the right to vote. Then, when Americans 18 and older were in the military fighting in wars, people began to think that if young people were old enough to die for their country, they were surely old enough to vote. So in 1971, the 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gave 18-year-olds the right to vote, and so did the state of Illinois.

Primary Elections

Primaries are elections held before the general election in which party members select the candidates of their party, mainly the Republican Party and the Democratic Party. The winners of these primaries then face each other in the upcoming general election. Primaries are held in February or March before the November general election.

Voting at Age 17

Illinois and 20 other states allow 17-year-olds to vote in primaries if they are 18 by the November election. This 2014 law allows this group to vote in primaries for federal and statewide offices. Advocates say the change allows youth to develop voting habits early, a key to ensuring they turn into lifelong voters. Critics have questioned whether teens are engaged enough to cast meaningful votes. What do you think?

General Elections

The most publicized elections in Illinois are the *general elections*. They are *biennial* elections. That is, they are held every two years in even-numbered years. The Illinois gubernatorial election is held every four years. Illinois residents also vote for the President of the United States in every other general election. The next presidential election in Illinois will be 2020. President Trump will be eligible to run, as he will have served only one term (of the maximum two terms) for president.

Other Types of Illinois Elections

Other types of Illinois elections include judicial, township, municipal, school, village, park district, and some other miscellaneous elections. Many of these occur in the spring elections. Their dates are established by law. Watch your newspapers for elections that may be affecting your local area.

Voting Requirements

In Illinois, like any state, a citizen must obey the election laws. They also must meet the requirements that have been set up by those laws. Illinois requirements include:

1. A voter must be at least 18 years old on Election Day for general elections (see note regarding voting at age 17).
2. A voter must have lived in the election district for at least 30 days.
3. A voter must be a United States citizen.
4. New laws allow citizens to register and vote on the *same day* and provides for *automatic voter registration* when interacting with driver's license facilities or other state offices.
5. A voter in Illinois cannot claim the right to vote anywhere else.

Early Voting and Voting by Mail

Early voting helps to eliminate the idea of absentee voting from Illinois law. In-person voting before Election Day will just be referred to as "early voting." This was created to allow the voter to vote in a designated polling place during the 22nd day through the 5th day preceding an election without having to supply an excuse or reason. Traditional absentee voting will now be referred to as the *vote-by-mail* option, reflecting the way the state conducts modern-day elections.

Referendums

Voters in Illinois are sometimes asked to do more than just vote for elected officials. Sometimes they vote on public issues, such as bond issues of governmental bodies or changes in the state constitution. One of the better-known *referendums* is the one school districts use to ask voters about building new schools.

QUESTIONS

SHORT ANSWER

1. When is the next general election? _____
2. How often is a general election held? _____
3. On what day are general elections held? _____
4. What are some other kinds of elections? _____
5. If you are going to be absent on Election Day, how can you still vote? _____
6. What are the requirements for voters? _____
7. What is the purpose of a primary election? _____
8. What is the youngest age you can vote? _____