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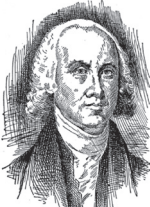
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"I will tell you now what I do not like. (There is no) bill of rights, providing . . . what the people are entitled to against every government on earth." — Thomas Jefferson

The authors of the Constitution trusted Congress would make right and just laws, and the court system would see that every person was treated fairly. However, many people feared the new government would be too strong and, perhaps, take away individual freedom, just as the British government had done.

Therefore, during the fight to ratify the Constitution, the Federalists were obliged to propose a *bill of rights* that would safeguard the people's rights. The Federalists promised this bill of rights would be added to the Constitution as soon as the new Congress met.

As the delegates gathered in May 1787 to revise the Articles of Confederation, a Virginia delegate, George Mason, voiced his disappointment with the new constitutional proposals because "... there is no declaration of individual rights." Mason had earlier written the Virginia Declaration of Rights, and that declaration had influenced Thomas Jefferson when he wrote the first part of the Declaration of Independence. Ultimately, Mason's views were accepted by James Madison. These ideas were coupled with amendments suggested by the states' ratifying conventions.



James Madison

Madison would come to be called the "Father of the Constitution" because of his negotiating power and suggestions of compromise. In 1789, the new Congress took action when Madison proposed 19 amendments. The House of Representatives narrowed those down to 17, with 12 passing the Senate. In 1791, ten were approved and ratified by the states. They make up what we call the *Bill of Rights*, or the first ten amendments.

These amendments provide certain guarantees that had not been written into the Constitution. Their purpose was to protect the rights of the people against any misuse of governmental powers. These amendments protect our rights in four general areas. The First Amendment guarantees personal freedom of expression and religion. The next three preserve the security and privacy of every individual. Amendments five through eight are concerned with fair and equal treatment under the law. The last two make general statements guaranteeing that the national government will not take more power than the Constitution grants.

Guaranteed Fundamental Freedoms

The first ten amendments guarantee:

- *freedom of religion, speech, and the press*
- *the right to assemble and petition the government*
- *the right to keep and bear arms*
- *freedom from unreasonable search and seizure*
- *that no person be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law*
- *the right to a fair and speedy trial*
- *the right to a trial by jury*
- *protection against excessive bail or unusual punishment*

These were the rights the colonists had fought for against the English king, and they did not intend to give them up.

People are guaranteed these freedoms as long as they do not take away the freedom of others. Even today, these important freedoms can be threatened. Controversial subjects are under the protection of the Bill of Rights, such as religion, unpopular ideas, censorship, membership, and activity in unpopular organizations, and expressions of minority opinions. It is the job of the courts to interpret the Constitution and decide the rights of individuals.

It is human nature to believe strongly in one's beliefs and think those holding opposing views must be wrong. Many of us find opinions expressed by others offensive and distressing. We often wish others' opinions could be suppressed. However, we must remember, freedom to express only popular opinions is no freedom at all.

Especially in times of emergency, it is easy to believe that measures infringing upon individual rights can or should be taken "for the good of the country." But this attitude is dangerous to our country since it strikes at the very foundation of our democratic system. More and more rights could be taken away under the justification that it is "for the good of the country."

Before you decide "it doesn't matter" if the rights of someone you do not agree with are violated, stop to consider whether you are willing to risk the loss of your rights because other people disagree with you.

QUESTIONS

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

- ___ 1. The first 10 amendments were adopted a month after the Constitution was approved.
- ___ 2. The first 10 amendments make up the Bill of Rights.
- ___ 3. Jefferson supported the idea of a bill of rights.
- ___ 4. The Bill of Rights applies to all levels of government.
- ___ 5. The Bill of Rights was proposed in an attempt to defeat the Constitution.
- ___ 6. The Bill of Rights does not give a person the right to criticize a government official.
- ___ 7. The Bill of Rights protects freedom of speech, even if the speech is unpopular.
- ___ 8. The right to a trial by jury is in the Bill of Rights.
- ___ 9. George Mason wrote the Virginia Declaration of Rights.
- ___ 10. There are times when the courts must interpret the Constitution affecting someone's rights.
- ___ 11. Congress could choose one religion for the whole country.
- ___ 12. When the British won the American Revolution they implemented their own Bill of Rights.

Listed below is a sampling of the events that led to America's independence and the adoption of a new constitution. You will find the years and the significant events that happened during that time.

1763 - 1765
Protests Against
British Rule



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 *Sons of Liberty* are formed. Laws such as the *Quartering Act*, *Stamp Act*, and *Sugar Act* anger the colonists, who are forced to pay unjust taxes and provide supplies to British troops.

1770 - 1773
Uprisings in
Boston



Colonists reduce their boycott of British goods when they withdraw all of the *Townshend Act*, except the tax on tea. *Boston Massacre* (March 5, 1770) occurs when an angry crowd of citizens surrounds a group of soldiers, causing them to open fire. With the American colonists and merchants still angry over British tax policies, an uprising called the *Boston Tea Party* occurs (December 16, 1773).

1774
First Continental
Congress



In response to the Boston Tea Party, the Parliament passes several acts to punish Massachusetts. Twelve of the 13 colonies name delegates to *The First Continental Congress*. On September 5th, they convene at *Carpenters Hall* in Philadelphia to deal with Britain's actions.

1775
The American
Revolution



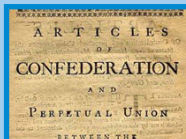
When the Americans learn the British plan to seize their guns and ammunition, *Paul Revere* is sent to alert the countryside and gather the *Minutemen*. An unidentified shot triggers the Battle at Lexington. This starts the *American Revolution* and also leads to another famous battle, *Bunker Hill*. In May, the *Second Continental Congress* meets in Philadelphia.

1776
The Declaration
of Independence



On July 4th, The Second Continental Congress adopts the *Declaration of Independence* (written by *Thomas Jefferson* and committee). The Declaration was debated by 56 courageous men and signed at *Independence Hall*. A few days later, church bells are rung across Philadelphia to call people to the first public reading of the Declaration.

1777 - 1781
The Articles of
Confederation



After considerable debate and alteration, the *Articles of Confederation* were adopted by the Continental Congress on November 15, 1777. However, the document was not fully ratified by the states until March 1, 1781. This document served as the United States' first constitution. In October of 1781, British forces surrender at Yorktown.

1787 - 1788
The Constitution
is Ratified



On May 14th, 1787, *The Constitutional Convention* met in Philadelphia. Here the delegates reviewed and approved the *Constitution*. In 1788, nine states ratified 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
Our New
Government



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 ten amendments (*Bill of Rights*) are adopted by Congress.

QUESTIONS

PUT THE EVENTS IN ORDER. For each question group, write the numbers **1, 2, or 3**, to indicate which event happened first, second, and third.

Group 1. Boston Massacre _____, Adopted Declaration of Independence _____, Washington becomes president _____

Group 2. Articles of Confederation _____, Boston Tea Party _____, Constitution ratified by nine states _____

Group 3. England sets taxation policy for colonies _____, Constitutional Convention _____, Battle of Bunker Hill _____

Group 4. Paul Revere alerts colonists _____, Stamp Act is law _____, First House of Representatives organized _____

Group 5. Bill of Rights adopted _____, First Continental Congress _____, Declaration is read to the public _____

Group 6. Second Continental Congress meets _____, Sons of Liberty forms _____, American Revolution ends _____

THE CONSTITUTION SETS UP THREE BRANCHES

Article One Legislative Branch *make the laws*



Senate

100 members,
2 from each state

House

435 members,
based upon state
population

Agencies that provide support services:
Government Printing Office, The Library
of Congress, The General
Accounting Office, etc.

Article Two Executive Branch *enforce the laws*



The President

Vice President

Agencies that provide
services: Nat'l
Security Council,
Executive Office
of the President,
etc.

Article Three Judicial Branch *interpret the laws*



The Supreme Court

U.S. Court of Appeals

District courts and all other courts

The Cabinet (15 departments)

Department of Agriculture

Department of Commerce

Department of Defense

Department of Education

Department of Energy

Department of Homeland
Security

Department of Health and
Human Services

Department of Housing
and Urban Development

Department of Interior

Department of Justice

Department of Labor

Department of State

Department of
Transportation

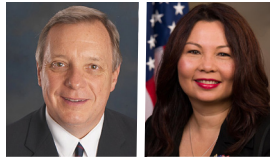
Department of Treasury

Department of Veterans
Affairs

The Senate

The Senate of the United States is discussed in Article 1, Section 3, of the Constitution.

The Senate has 100 members: two from each of the 50 states. As you recall, there was a dispute between the small states and the large states at the Constitutional Convention. The Senate was designed to calm that debate by making all states equal. Every state, regardless of size, has two members. Illinois' two Democratic senators are Dick Durbin (term expires 2027) and Tammy Duckworth (term expires 2023). Of the 100 senators, one-third are elected every two years for six-year terms. Terms are staggered this way, so only one-third of the Senate goes out of office at any one time. This assures the Senate will have experienced members at all times. Each one-third of the Senate is called a class. All senators serve six-year terms.



Dick Durbin Tammy Duckworth

U.S. Senate Chart of Election

class	have served	years to serve	comments
1	0	6	just elected
2	2	4	elected 2 years ago
3	4	2	elected 4 years ago
	6	0	were just up for re-election and were re-elected or replaced by class 1

Senators may be re-elected for an unlimited number of terms. This is not uncommon; many have had long careers.

Senate Salary, Qualifications, & Vacancy

A senator receives a salary of \$174,000 and an expense allowance. A senator must be at least 30 years old, a United States citizen for at least nine years, and a resident of the state he/she represents in the Senate.

If a Senate vacancy occurs, the governor of the state affected makes a temporary appointment until the next election. This appointment is a very important duty for the governor.

Officers of the Senate

The Vice President of the United States is the *president of the Senate*. This is established by the Constitution. Since the vice president is the second highest official in the executive branch of government and the Senate is part of the legislative branch, this is one way in which the two branches are drawn closer.

Although the vice president is the presiding officer of the Senate, this official may not debate or vote except in the case of a tie. The Senate also elects one of its members to be *president pro tempore*. The president pro tempore serves in the absence of the vice president. There are also Senate *majority* and *minority leaders*. The Senate majority and minority leaders and the president pro tempore receive a salary of \$193,400.

Senate Duties

The Senate passes *bills* (a term for proposed laws) it hopes will become laws according to a plan you will read about shortly. According to this plan, the House of Representatives must also pass the bill before it is sent to the president for approval.

This group also has the vital role of approving treaties made by the president. It also approves the selection of certain federal officers by the president.

The Senate is the jury in cases of *impeachment*. Impeachment is the political process of leveling charges against public officials of wrongdoing from office. The impeachment process was included in Article 2, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution: "The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors." The purpose is to protect the public from officials who are unfit to wield power. If a president is tried for impeachment, the chief justice of the Supreme Court presides over the trial.

Impeachment of U.S. Presidents

Our founding fathers wanted impeachment to be a lengthy and complicated process. So it is hard to remove any official from office, and that is by design. Impeachment has only been used four times against a sitting president. While many U.S. presidents have been threatened with impeachment, Congress has only conducted three presidential impeachment trials, *Andrew Johnson (1868)*, *Bill Clinton (1998)*, and *Donald Trump (2019)*. They were all acquitted after trials in the Senate. *Richard Nixon (1974)* resigned before facing a House impeachment vote.

Electing Senators

The 17th Amendment changed the way we elect senators. If you look at Article 1, Section 3, of the Constitution, you will see state legislatures originally had the power to elect senators. A look at the 17th Amendment will show that the people of the states now have that power. Senators are not elected by district since they represent the entire state.

U.S. Congress vs. State Legislature

It is easy for students to confuse the elected officials in the state legislature with those who work for them in the U.S. Congress (Washington, D.C.). The table below further explains the differences, many of which will be covered in the federal and state sections of this book. Both Congress and your state legislature have a two-body system referred to as a *bicameral system*. The only exception is the Nebraska Legislature, which is *unicameral* (one body).

Topic	U.S. Congress	State Legislature
Lawmaking Scope	Federal level - creating laws for all 50 states	State level - creating laws for only Illinois
Lawmaking Bodies	U.S. Senate & U.S. House of Representatives	Illinois Senate & Illinois House of Representatives
Number of Members	100 U.S. Senators (2 from each state) & 435 U.S. Representatives (18 from Illinois)	59 members of the state Senate and 118 members of the state House of Representatives
Meeting Place	Washington, D.C.	State Capital (Springfield) and in their legislative district
Examples of Scope	National defense, federal tax policies, immigration laws	Funding schools, state environmental issues, state taxing
Speed of Legislation	More formal process, taking on larger issues, longer legislative sessions	Generally quicker passage, shorter legislative sessions

The Two Chambers

The two-chamber design of the U.S. Congress is consistent with the basic principle of government used by the framers of our Constitution: that the government must be divided into units which share power. The two chambers are considered equal, although they differ from one another in many respects. The Senate has sometimes been called the *upper body* and the House the *lower body*. These are popular misnomers that started when Congress first met in New York City; the Senate chamber was on the floor above the House. As we know, both legislative bodies are equal.

QUESTIONS

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

- ___ 1. Coining and printing money are the responsibilities of the Treasury Department.
- ___ 2. An ex post facto law is a law that makes an act illegal after the act has been committed.
- ___ 3. Only federal officials may have titles of nobility.
- ___ 4. Congress cannot tax goods being exported from a state, even if the goods are going to a foreign country.
- ___ 5. Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution outlines the legislative branch and the powers of Congress.
- ___ 6. Any of the three branches of government may declare war.

- ___ 7. The Senate and the House are prohibited from adjourning without the consent of the other.
- ___ 8. Congress does not govern the independent region of the District of Columbia.
- ___ 9. Although the state legislature meets in the state capitol, it makes laws for all 50 states.

IMPLIED, EXPRESSED, OR DENIED? Identify each of the following as an implied (**IM**), expressed (**EX**), or denied (**DN**) power of Congress in the space provided.

- ___ 1. Collect taxes.
- ___ 2. Declare war.
- ___ 3. Regulate the Internet.
- ___ 4. Provide for punishment of counterfeiters.
- ___ 5. Grant patents and copyrights.
- ___ 6. Regulate satellite communications.
- ___ 7. Grant titles of nobility.
- ___ 8. Establish post offices.
- ___ 9. Pass ex post facto laws.

DEFINE

- 1. expressed powers _____
- 2. implied powers _____
- 3. prohibits _____
- 4. bill of attainder _____
- 5. export _____
- 6. bicameral _____

FILL IN THE BLANKS

- 1. The Senate is referred to as the _____ body, and the House is called the _____ body.
- 2. Revenue bills must begin in the _____.
- 3. The _____ has been used by Congress in writing laws about things not directly mentioned in the Constitution.
- 4. Congress' power can be roughly divided into three groups: _____

SEQUENCE OF A BILL - Put the lawmaking events in sequence from first to last as they relate to a proposed bill.



- a. president acts on the bill and approves
- b. bill is a law and is communicated to the public
- c. bill is submitted to first house for review
- d. sponsor introduces bill
- e. bill passes both houses of Congress
- f. referred to and discussed in committee

"The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America... during the Term of four Years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same Term, be elected..." — United States Constitution, Article 2

The executive branch of government is established by Article 2 of the Constitution. The primary duty of the executive branch is to enforce or administer laws.

The President

The most prominent official in this branch is the president. The president and the vice president are the only national officers of the government elected by voters of the entire United States. The president faces critical issues daily. The day is long, and the pressures are enormous.

The president is thought of as being the representative of all the people. Unlike senators and representatives, all of the people in the United States vote for the president.

President Joe Biden took office in January 2021, after defeating Donald Trump in the 2020 presidential election. Per the 22nd Amendment, President Biden will be eligible to run again in the 2024 election, as he will have served only one of the two-term maximum.



President
Joe Biden

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of the President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

The entire section of the Constitution that tells about the powers of the president contains only 320 words. Still, the wording is designed so that the office gets a maximum of inherent powers with necessary safeguards for the people.

The oath is typically administered by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The ceremony takes place at the U.S. Capitol. After the oath, the president gives his or her *inaugural* speech. This tells the people the goals and direction of the nation. Over the years, this *Inauguration Day* has expanded from a simple ceremony to a day-long event, including parades, speeches, and balls.

The Vice President

Kamala Harris made history as the first woman elected vice president. The former U.S. senator from California is the 49th person to hold the office of vice president. The president assigns the vice president duties, and, in recent years, presidents have given considerable authority and responsibility to their vice presidents. The president needs support to ease the administrative burdens of the office. The vice president is also the president of the Senate and provides the president with a valuable link with Congress.



Vice President
Kamala Harris

Vacancy

If the Office of the President becomes vacant, the vice president becomes president. Next in order of succession is the speaker of the House, then president pro tempore of the Senate, then members of the cabinet, starting with the secretary of state.

In 1973, the Office of the Vice President became vacant when Vice President Agnew resigned in a scandal. President Nixon made the first use of the 25th Amendment when he nominated Gerald Ford, House minority leader, as the new vice president. Congress approved the nomination. For more about the 25th Amendment, see Page 14.

Before 1974, the only way the Office of the President had become vacant was through death. However, in 1974, when President Nixon was involved in the Watergate cover-up, he became the first president ever to resign. Vice President Ford then became the 38th President of the United States.

Qualifications and Salary

The president and the vice president must be natural-born citizens, 35 years of age, and residents of the United States for at least 14 years.

The president and vice president must always be on the same party ticket. You vote for the president and the vice president at the same time, always assuring that the president and vice president are from the same political party.

The yearly salary of the president is \$400,000, plus an expense allowance. The vice president receives a salary of \$230,700, plus an expense allowance.

Before 1999, the president's salary had not been increased for more than 20 years. As a result, the pay was very low for the leader of the most powerful country in the world. Most chief executive officers of major American corporations make more than ten times the salary of the president. Finally, in 1999, Congress raised the president's salary from \$200,000 to \$400,000. If you adjust for inflation, the president today makes less than George Washington!

Oath of Office

Per the 20th Amendment, the first-term winner of the November presidential election assumes the duties of the office on January 20th. Before taking office, an oath must be performed.

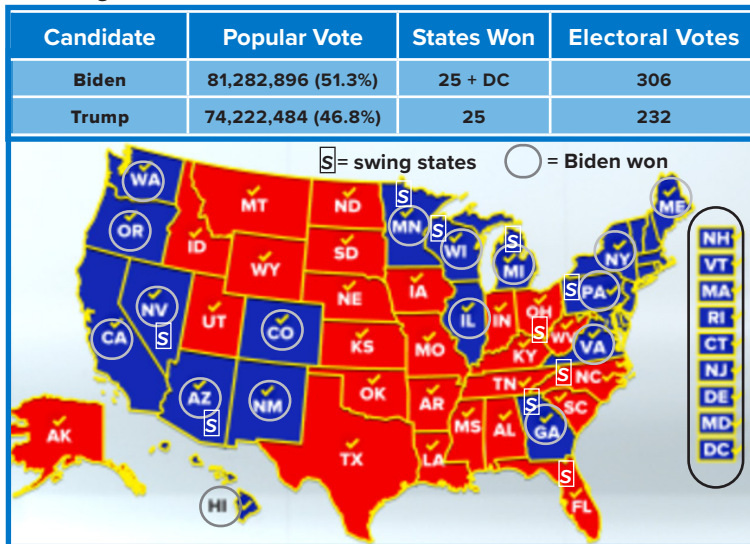
The oath of office was established in the U.S. Constitution, Article 2, and is mandatory for a new or re-elected president. With the words of this simple oath, the president takes the most important political position in the world:

Lessons From The 2020 Election

The 2020 presidential election featured the Republican incumbent, President Donald Trump, and former vice president, Democrat Joe Biden. Each political party accused the other of promoting unfair election tactics. Democrats urged voters to mail-in ballots and vote early, citing concerns over the coronavirus, changes at the United States Postal Service that could slow delivery, and long lines at voting locations. Republicans sought to limit the collection and counting of mail-in ballots, voicing concerns about the prospects for widespread voter fraud.

In the end, the 2020 election drew record turnout, with over 157 million Americans casting ballots. The election was contentious, fueling a turnout estimated to be the highest since 1900. Younger voters, ages 18 to 29, made their voices heard in historic numbers, and mail-in voting broke records in states around the nation, mostly because of health concerns over the pandemic. Battle lines were drawn over the handling of the COVID-19 outbreak and resulting economic fallout; national protests over racial inequity; the future of the Affordable Care Act; climate change; and Supreme Court nominees.

The country waited four days past Election Day to find out who had been elected to the president's office. President-elect Joe Biden had a clear and convincing victory, both in the popular vote and the Electoral College. President Trump was the first incumbent president to lose the popular vote in his re-election campaign in almost three decades since George H. W. Bush in 1992.



Threats to Our Democracy

The 2020 election saw unprecedented attacks seeking to undermine public confidence in our elections:

- voters fearing violence during or after the election;
- citizens concerned their votes would not be counted;
- politicians attempting to prevent votes from being counted;
- disinformation campaigns on social media;
- efforts to convince state legislatures to ignore the popular vote and;
- the concern for a peaceful transfer of power.

These are all threats to our democracy, and our leaders and citizens must work to bring the country together. A democracy cannot function long under those conditions. With the lessons of 2020, new steps to defend our democracy must begin now.

Our Elections Are Secure

In the end, the result was that our elections are secure. That was the conclusion of the Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, and election officials of both parties in crucial battleground states. More than two dozen lawsuits filed by President Trump's legal team were dismissed either by federal or state judges. Each state certified their election results followed by the Electoral College's official votes, leading to 306 electoral votes (270 needed to win) for Joe Biden.

Every Vote Counts

More and more, we see election results with razor-thin margins. Even with long lines for voters, it was heartening to see so many millions of Americans determined to exercise their constitutional right to cast a ballot. The record-breaking turnout reaffirmed that voting is a right Americans are no longer taking for granted.

The U.S. does not have a national election system by design. The 2020 election illustrated different rules and regulations across 10,000 election jurisdictions. Our representatives will need to explore more uniform federal election standards that could simplify matters for voters, especially on issues such as voter registration, early voting, and access to by-mail voting. The challenge is to do this without conflicting with the 10th Amendment and the right of states to administer elections in the manner they choose.

QUESTIONS

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

- ___ 1. Joe Biden won the electoral vote, but lost the popular vote.
- ___ 2. The 2020 election had the largest turnout since 1900.
- ___ 3. The election results took several days to become official due to the large number of mail-in votes.
- ___ 4. The federal government sets strict standards on how each state conducts elections.
- ___ 5. President Trump was the first incumbent president to lose the popular vote since 1992.

SHORT ANSWER - REFER TO ELECTION MAP

1. Which party dominates which region? _____
2. Which party is favored in rural areas? _____
3. Which party is favored in urban areas? _____
4. Define "swing states" and give an example. _____

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 Cavelier, 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.

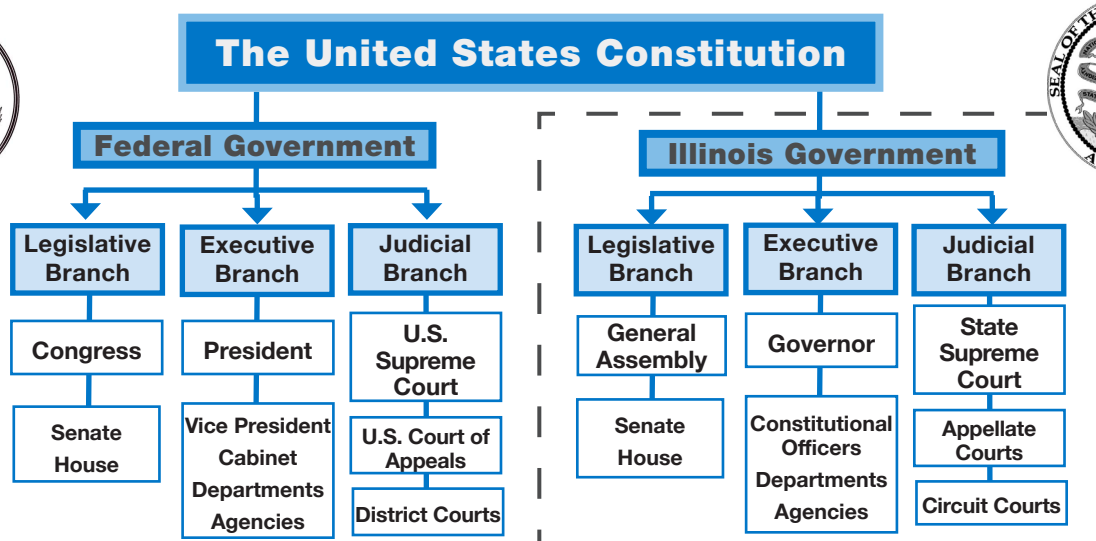
The last great Indian uprising in Illinois was the Black Hawk War in 1832. Chief Black Hawk and his Sauk and Fox warriors defeated the white militia at Stillman's Run but retreated into Wisconsin, where the band was decisively defeated.

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 historical 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, becoming 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 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. It has the most diverse economy in America, thanks to the infrastructure, workforce, technology, and central location with easy access to global operations. A sprawling and vibrant city, Chicago was destined to become the manufacturing center of Illinois and 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.

"The Executive Branch shall include a Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Comptroller and Treasurer elected by the electors of the state . . ." — Illinois Constitution, Article 5

The Governor

The executive branch of Illinois enforces and administers the laws. Besides enforcing and applying the law, the governor also has the critical duty of vetoing or approving bills passed by the Legislature. Elected by the people, the governor's role is to protect and serve its citizens. The governor is the most important officer in the executive branch.



Governor J.B. Pritzker

The governor and lieutenant governor must be at least 25 years old, a resident of the state for the three years preceding the election, and a U.S. citizen. Unlike the president, a governor does not need to be a natural-born citizen. The governor receives a salary of \$177,412 and can be re-elected. The lieutenant governor gets an annual salary of \$135,669. The governor's term of office is four years. The order of succession to the governor's office is lieutenant governor; the attorney general; secretary of state.

The governor, besides enforcing and administering the law, also has the vital duty of vetoing or approving bills passed by the General Assembly. Other essential responsibilities include:

1. The governor appoints many members of the state government. Many of these appointments require the approval of the state Senate. The governor may also remove any of these officials he or she feels are incompetent.
2. With the General Assembly's approval, the governor may reorganize any executive agencies in the state responsible to the governor.
3. The governor may grant pardons, commutations, and reprieves as he or she thinks proper.
4. The governor, at the beginning of each session and at the close of the governor's term of office, shall report to the General Assembly on the condition of the state.
5. The governor is the commander-in-chief of the state militia, except in cases of national emergency when they are called into federal service. (They are then under the control of the President of the United States.)
6. The governor may call special sessions of the General Assembly.
7. Each year the governor must submit a state budget to the General Assembly for its consideration.
8. The governor can appoint a replacement to a vacated seat in the U.S. Senate if that elected official leaves offices before a scheduled election.

In addition to the defined responsibilities above, a governor needs to be a strong leader. He or she must be savvy enough to navigate political divides and foster relationships among the members of the General Assembly.

When disaster strikes, the governor is called into action. Per Article 5, Section 8 of the Illinois Constitution, "The governor shall have the supreme executive power, and shall be responsible for the faithful execution of the laws," and states in the preamble that a central purpose of the Illinois Constitution is to "provide for the health, safety, and welfare of the people."

In 2020 Governor Pritzker's leadership was put to the test dealing with the coronavirus and the racial tensions throughout the state and country. Several *disaster proclamations* were issued to access federal funding and authorize executive actions to protect public health and safety. Serving as the state's chief spokesperson, the governor provides much-needed information and direction to state residents during these times.

The governor's office is similar in some ways to the Office of the President of the United States. However, there are some differences. Some of the most important differences are the lack of foreign affairs and national defense in the responsibilities of the governor. We might also assume that the governor has a somewhat less demanding job.

Illinois has had many famous and talented men serve as governor. The lives of these men make an interesting and worthwhile study. Illinois has yet to elect a woman governor.

Veto

The governor has three types of vetoes:

1. The *regular veto* in which the whole bill is rejected, much like the veto of the president.
2. The *item or reduction veto*. This is for appropriation bills only, where the governor simply changes the appropriation. The houses can pass this appropriation by merely accepting the appropriation change.
3. The *amendatory veto*. If the governor notes specific recommendations, the General Assembly can pass a bill by accepting the particular recommendations.

Impeachment of Illinois Governor

Governor Rod Blagojevich was accused of multiple criminal acts, including an attempt to raise money from persons seeking to fill the vacant U.S. Senate seat held by President Barack Obama. On January 29, 2009, the Illinois Senate by a unanimous vote, convicted the governor and removed him from office. Later that same day, Lieutenant Governor Patrick Quinn was sworn in as the 41st governor of Illinois. Although the impeachment and removal of the governor was an embarrassing event in Illinois history, the process of impeachment established by Article 4, Section 14 of the Illinois Constitution was effective.

continued

Upcoming Elections in Illinois

Upcoming Illinois General Elections: 2022 (will include gubernatorial election), 2024

Upcoming Presidential Elections: 2024, 2028

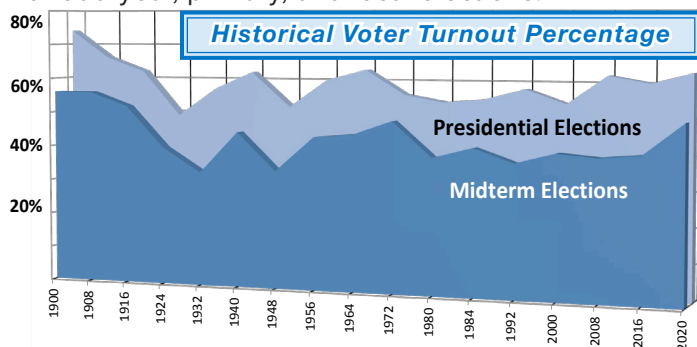
*General elections are always held on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November in even-numbered years.

The Two-Party System

Our political party system is called the *two-party system* because most elections are won by a candidate from either the Democratic or Republican Party. The much smaller or special-interest parties in the country may also try to elect a candidate. These smaller parties are called *third parties* and may include the Constitution, Libertarian, and Green parties.

Voter Turnout

The chart below shows the voter turnout in the United States and shows the fluctuations in presidential and midterm elections. In recent elections, leading up to the 2020 election, about 60 percent of the voting-eligible population participated in presidential elections, and about 40 percent voted during midterm elections. The 2020 election turnout of 66.2 percent set a record, with the highest turnout in 120 years. Turnout is lower for odd-year, primary, and local elections.



Voter turnout can vary considerably from one state to the next. Minnesota had the highest voter turnout in the 2020 presidential election, with 76.9 percent of the state's voting-eligible population casting a ballot. On the other hand, Indiana had the lowest turnout rate among the Midwest's 11 states (60.7 percent). Illinois was slightly better than the national average. Of the about 9.8 million voting-age citizens in Illinois, 66.9 percent made it to the polls on Election Day.

There also are striking disparities in participation among different demographic groups. For example, the turnout rate among people ages 60 and over was about 70 percent, compared to a little over 40 percent among 18- to 29-year-olds.

The United States has historically trailed most developed countries when it comes to getting people to cast a ballot for their elected officials. The record-

breaking turnout in 2020 reaffirmed that voting is a right Americans are no longer taking for granted.

Election Security

The security of our election systems in the United States is of the utmost importance. After Russian hackers successfully gained access to voting systems in Illinois in 2016, the state has spent the last few years hardening its cyber-defenses. It has spent millions on new cybersecurity protections. Election officials are working with national agencies like the Department of Homeland Security and the FBI, implementing tools and precautions to ensure safe and secure voting. In addition to partnering with outside agencies, Illinois election officials have installed greater firewall protections for voter records and election results. Clerks and election judges have also received "detailed cyber training." It appears that the 2020 election did not have any successful cyber-attacks.

Constitutional Convention in Illinois

The Illinois Constitution requires that every 20 years, voters must be given a choice whether or not to call for a new constitutional convention, write a new constitution, or make changes in the old one. In 2008, Illinois voters were asked if they wanted to have a constitutional convention since it had been 20 years since the last formal request. The voters soundly defeated a constitutional convention. That question will be presented again in 2028.

QUESTIONS

FILL IN THE BLANKS

- What are the two main political parties? _____
- Which state had the highest voter turnout in the 2020 presidential election? _____
- When is the next constitutional convention in Illinois? _____
- When is the next presidential election? _____
- When is the next Illinois gubernatorial election? _____

EXPRESS YOUR OPINION

Review the voter turnout data in this unit. Do you feel that the current voter participation is acceptable? When you meet the age requirement to vote, will you and why?
