

- Republic- the people choose representatives to govern them
- Great Compromise- the Constitutional Convention's agreement to establish a two-house national legislature, with all states having equal representation in one house and each state having representation based on its population in the other house
- 3/5th Compromise- the Constitutional Convention's agreement to count three-fifths of a state's slaves as population for purposes of representation and taxation
- Popular Sovereignty- a government in which the people rule; a system in which the residents vote to decide an issue
- Republicanism- the belief that government should be based on the consent of the people; people exercise their power by voting for political representatives
- Federalism- a system of government where power is shared among the central (or federal) government and the states
- Separation of Powers- the division of basic government roles into branches
- Checks and Balances- the ability of each branch of government to exercise checks, or controls, over the other branches
- Limited Government- the principle that requires all U.S. citizens, including government leaders, to obey the law
- Individual Rights- personal liberties and privileges guaranteed to U.S. citizens by the Bill of Rights
- Legislative Branch- the branch of government that makes the laws (House of Representatives/Senate)
- Executive Branch- the branch of government that enforces the laws (President)
- Judicial Branch- the branch of government that interprets the laws (Supreme Court)
- Amendment- a formal change to the Constitution
- Ratification- official approval