



The U.S.  
Constitution is  
based on seven  
principles, or  
goals.

Therefore, the Texas  
Constitution is  
based on the same  
seven principles.



# 1. Popular Sovereignty

The principle of popular sovereignty is expressed in the first three words of the Constitution...

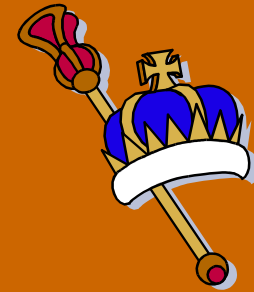


We the People

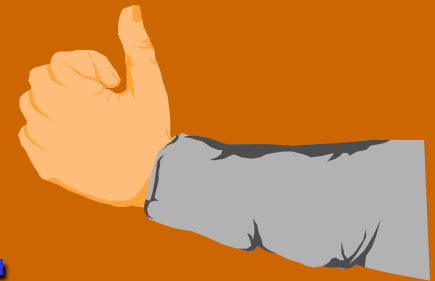
**“Popular” means people.**



**“Sovereignty” comes from  
“sovereign” which means  
ruler.**



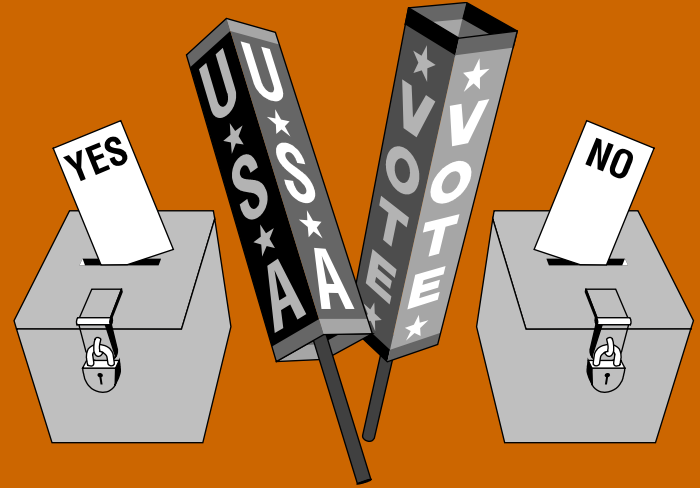
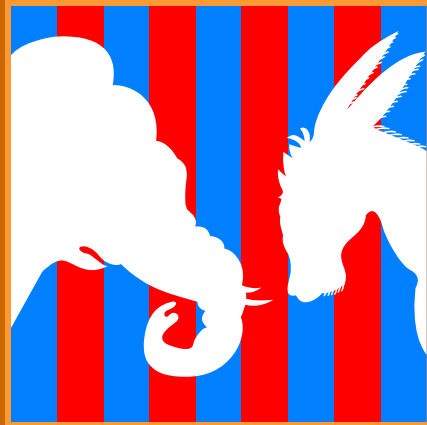
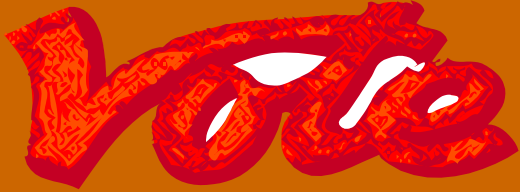
**Popular sovereignty  
means that the people rule.**



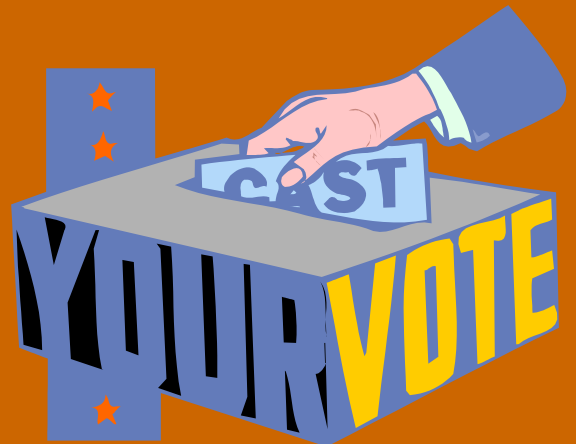
**Popular sovereignty is the belief that the people hold the final authority in government.**

# How is popular sovereignty achieved?

SHOW 'EM WHERE YOU STAND



**VOTE**  
IT'S YOUR RIGHT!



**Citizens vote on individuals to represent them in the various branches of government.**

**VOTE**  
**YES!**

**VOTE**  
**NO!**

**Citizens vote on proposed laws.**



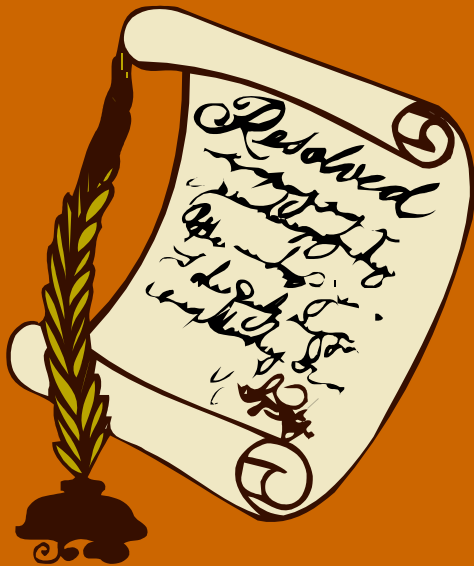
## 2. Limited Power of Government

The power of government is **limited** by the rule of law – that is, the Constitution and the laws. Government is not all-powerful.



# How do we limit the government's power?

We outline the government's power in a constitution.



Citizens are guaranteed fundamental rights and freedoms in the Bill of Rights.





# 3. Federalism

**Federalism is the sharing of powers between the state and national government.**

National



State

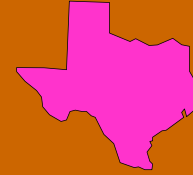
**Some powers are state powers, some national, and some are shared.**

# What are some examples of federalism



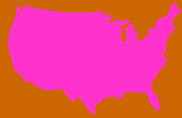
## National Powers

- maintain armed forces
- coin money
- declare war
- establish foreign policy

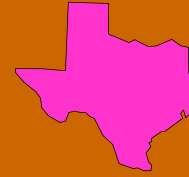


## State Powers

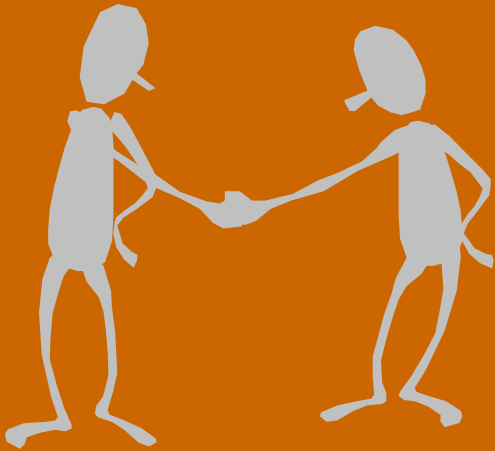
- maintain schools
- marriage and divorce laws
- conduct elections
- regulate trade within the state



## Shared powers

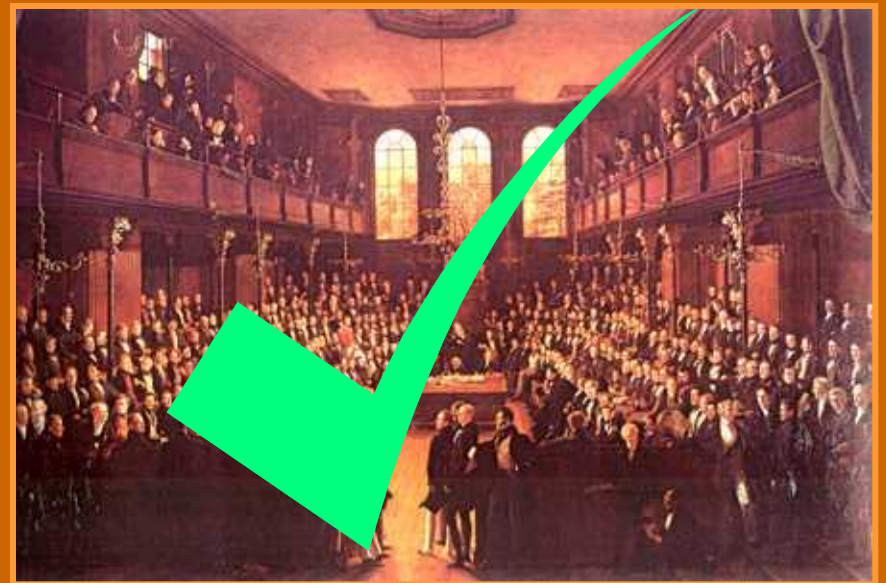


- raise taxes
- charter banks
- provide for the public welfare
- administer criminal justice



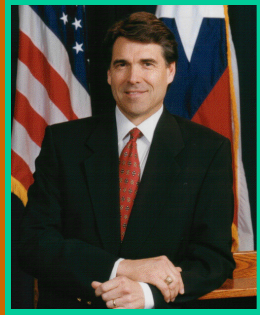
## 4. Separation of Powers

Separating powers guards against putting too much power in the hands of a few people.





**Legislative- makes laws**



**Executive- sees that laws are carried out**

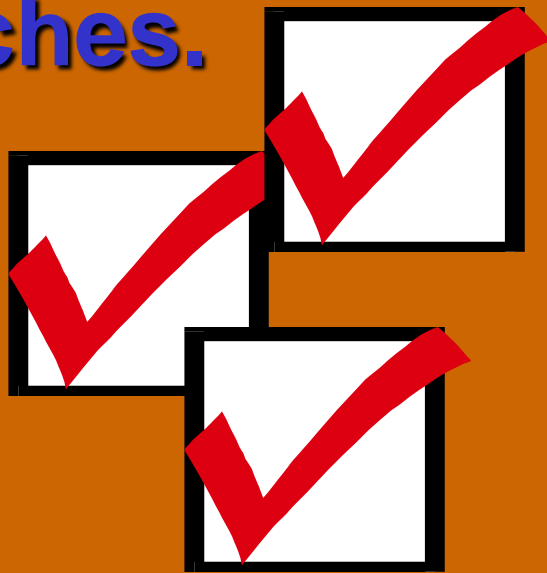


**Judicial- decides if laws are fair**

**We limit power by creating the three branches of government, each with separate duties.**

# 5. Checks and Balances

Each branch of government can check, or control, the power of the other two branches.



There is balance of power

# Example of checks and balances

Congress has the power to pass laws...

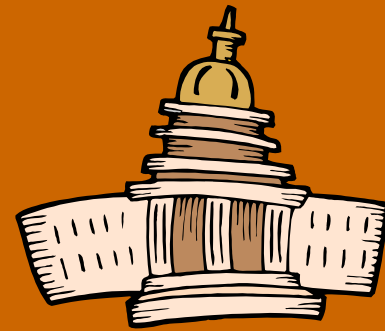
but the president can veto laws.



However, Congress can check the president's power by overriding, or canceling, the veto.

# 6. Republicanism

A philosophy of limited government in which elected representatives serve at the will of the people.



Congress

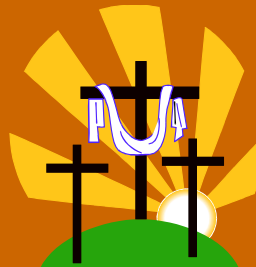


# 7. Individual rights

The basic liberties and rights that are guaranteed in the first 10 amendments to the Constitution, the Bill of Rights.

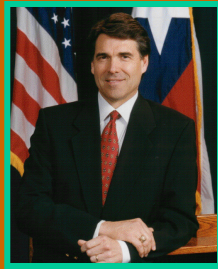
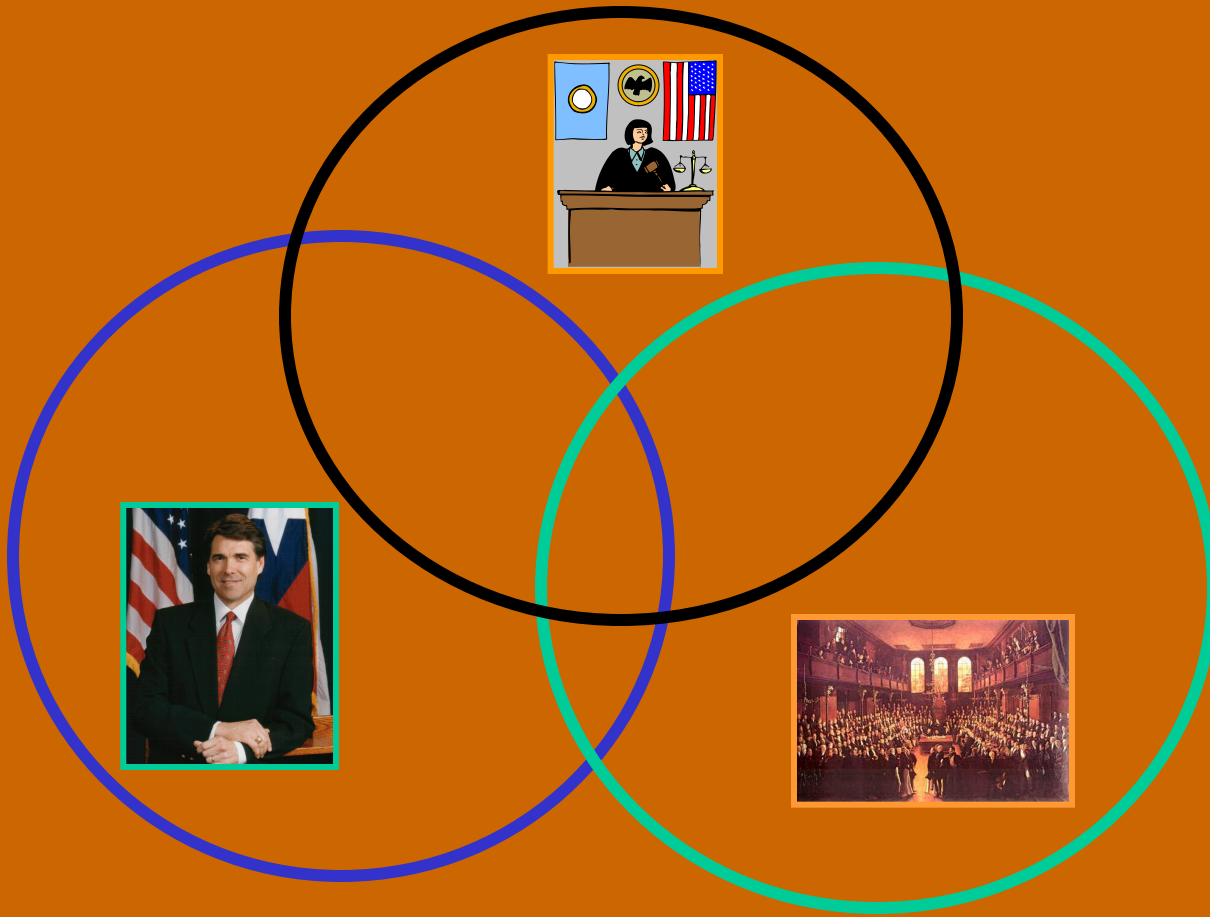
Examples:

**Freedom of Religion**



**Freedom of the Press**





**The three branches are interdependent.**

# Let's review the seven principles of Texas government:

*We the People*

1. Popular sovereignty

2. Limited government



3. Federalism



National State

4. Separation of power



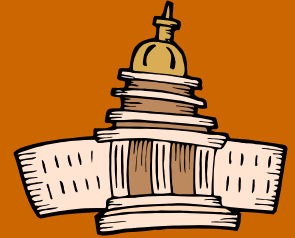
5. Checks and balances



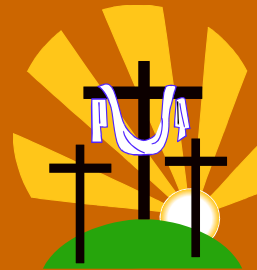
# Let's review the seven principles of Texas government:

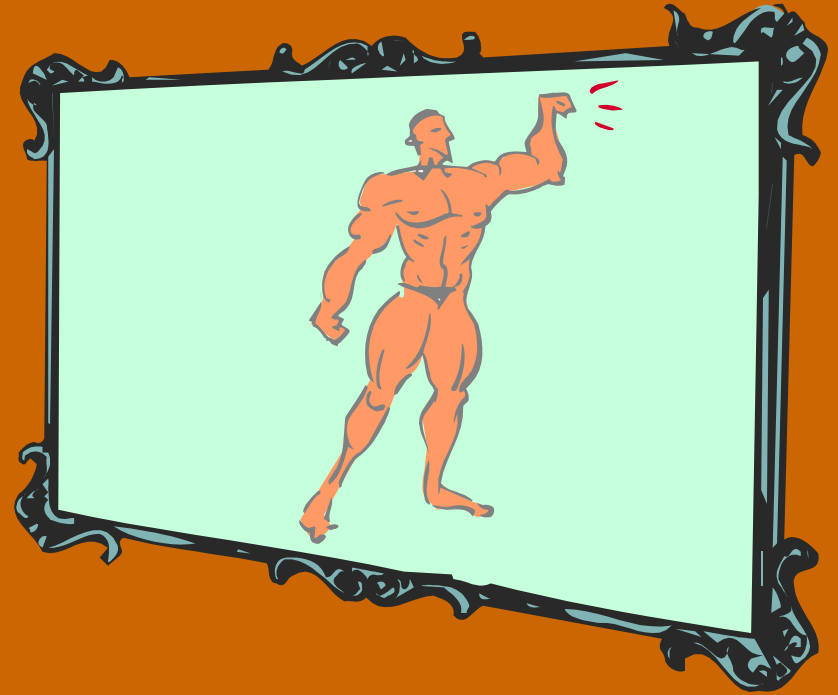
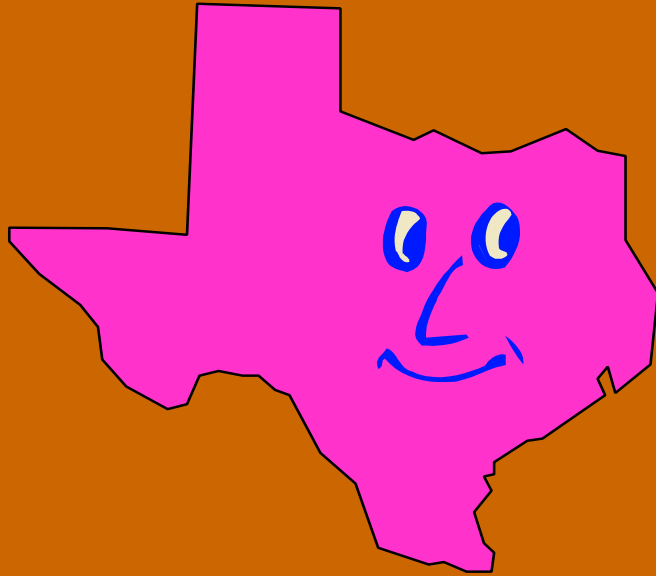
## 6. Republicanism

Congress



## 7. Individual rights





**Texans have created a strong and responsible democracy that is responsive to the citizens of Texas.**

# Credits

**Photo of Governor Rick Perry courtesy of the Texas State Archives.**

