

Chapter 6 Citizenship and the Constitution

I. The Constitution

A. Federal system of gov't.

1. Delegated powers to national gov't
2. Concurrent(shared) powers with states - taxes, borrow money, enforce laws

B. Legislative branch (Congress) – Article I

1. Makes the laws
2. Elastic clause – Congress can “stretch” its power to deal with new issues
3. Power to declare war
4. House of Representatives
 - a. 435 representatives
 - b. 25 yrs. old; live in state where elected; citizen for 7 yrs.
 - c. 2 yr. term
 - d. Leader= Speaker of the House
5. Senate
 - a. 2 per state
 - b. 30 yrs old; live in state where elected; citizen for 9 yrs
 - c. 6 yr. term
 - d. Leader – President of the Senate (Vice-President of the U.S.)
 1. Breaks ties
6. Work done by committees

C. Executive branch – Article II

1. Enforces laws passed by Congress
2. President
 - a. 35 yrs old: native born American
 - b. 22nd Amendment – President can only serve 2 terms
 - c. Can be impeached (accused) by House of Representatives
Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton found not guilty by Senate
 - d. Can veto a law passed by Congress
 - e. Commander-in-chief
 - f. Cabinet – official advisers to the president

D. Judicial branch – Article III

1. President appoints all federal judges for life
2. 94 district courts
3. 13 appeals courts
4. Supreme Ct.- 9 justices
 - 1967- Thurgood Marshall – 1st African-American
 - 1981 – Sandra Day O'Connor – 1st woman

II. Bill of Rights – first 10 amendments

Majority rules but all citizens' rights are protected

1st - freedom of speech, religion, press, assembly, right to petition the gov't.

2nd - right to bear arms

4th – search warrants; no unreasonable searches

5th – grand jury decides if there's enough evidence to indict(formally accuse) a person; do not have to testify against yourself; must have due process of law; ; no double jeopardy; eminent domain

6th – speedy, public, jury trial; can call witnesses; court will provide lawyer if accused can't afford one

7th – civil cases – no crime was committed

8th – no unreasonable bail; no cruel and unusual punishment

9th - citizens have other rights that are not listed in the Constitution

10th – powers that are not given to the national gov't. belong to the states or the people

III. Rights and responsibilities of citizenship

A. Citizens – born in U.S. or at least one parent was born in U.S.

B. Naturalized citizens – not born in U.S., parents not U.S. citizens, move to U.S. and become citizens

C. Legal immigrants can become naturalized citizens after 5 yrs.

1. Must understand English

2. Must know basic U.S. history and gov't

D. Duties of citizens

1. Obey the law (obligation to know the law)

2. Pay taxes

3. 18 yr. old males register with Selective Service for the draft

4. Jury duty

5. Vote

E. Influencing the gov't

1. PAC's (Political Action Committees) collect money for candidates

2. Interest groups- fight for a common cause; speeches and rallies