



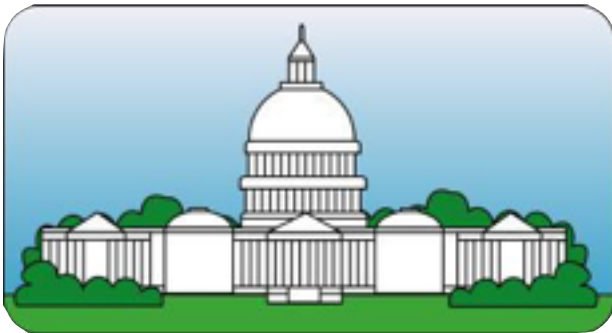
The Constitution & the Powers of Government

“I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the **REPUBLIC** for which it stands - one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

REPUBLIC: A government in which its citizens rule themselves through elected representatives

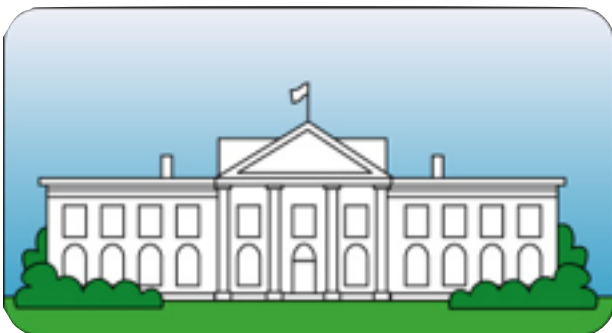
Three Branches of National Government

- ▶ System of “**CHECKS AND BALANCES**” was set in place to make sure no person or group has too much power
 - ▶ Each branch is separate, but equal = “balanced” power
 - ▶ Each branch can “check” the power of the other branches



LEGISLATIVE Branch

- ▶ Congress
 - ▶ Senate = 100 Senators
 - ▶ House of Representatives = 435 members
- ▶ Purpose: Proposes and passes laws



EXECUTIVE Branch

- ▶ President
 - ▶ Vice President
 - ▶ Presidential Cabinet
- ▶ Purpose: Enforces laws



JUDICIAL Branch

- ▶ Supreme Court
 - ▶ 9 Justices
 - ▶ Lower Federal Courts
- ▶ Purpose: Interprets laws

How are laws created?

Bill: A proposed law

Starts in the...

LEGISLATIVE
Branch

If the bill is approved,
it moves to the...

EXECUTIVE
Branch

Override: to reject/decline a veto

Can become a law with a 2/3 vote.

it returns to the

ACCEPT

it becomes a law

VETO

: to reject/decline

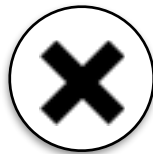
How are laws challenged?

Comes to the

JUDICIAL
Branch



CONSTITUTIONAL
(in alignment with the Constitution)



UNCONSTITUTIONAL
(not in alignment with the Constitution)

in the form of a case.

Electoral College

Purpose: to elect the President and Vice President

► Why does the electoral college exist?

Founding Fathers wanted to make sure a qualified, educated candidate would hold the highest office in the land.

