

# Constitution Notes



axis STEM Government -- Fall 2016

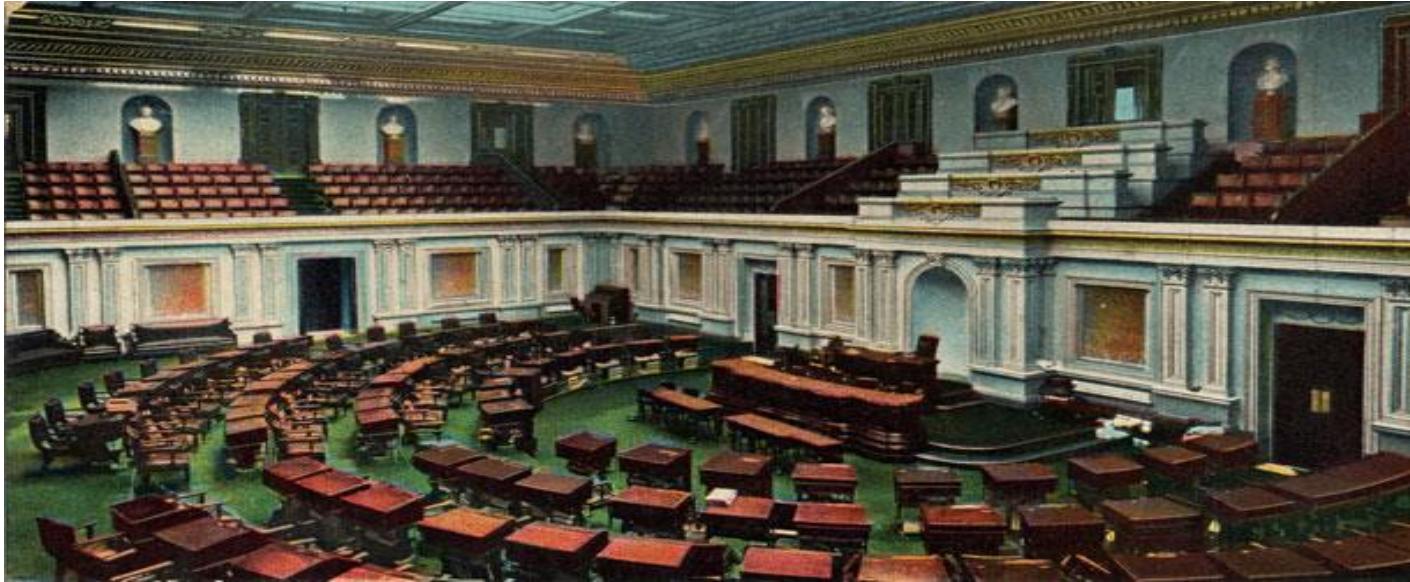
# Article I - Legislative Branch: the House

- Members represent population (roughly 700,000 people each)
- Must be 25; citizen for 7 years; inhabitant of state
- 2 year term
- Districts redrawn every 10 years to accommodate changing population



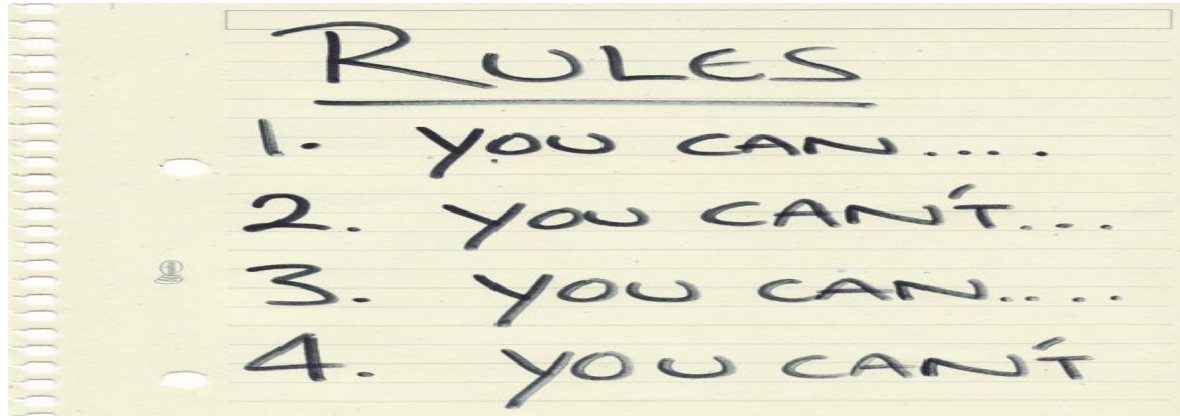
# Article I - Legislative Branch: the Senate

- Members represent states (2 senators for every state = equality)
- Must be 30; citizen for 9 years; inhabitant of state
- 6 year term ( $\frac{1}{3}$  of Senate up for reelection every two years)



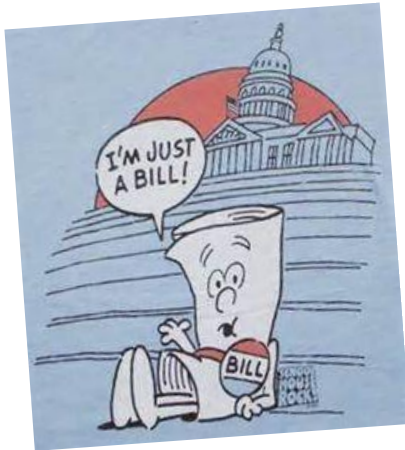
# Article I - Legislative Branch: rules

- Each house governs own elections; “quorum” (majority) required to do business
- Each sets own rules & can expel members ( $\frac{2}{3}$  vote required)
- Journal (unless secret), permission to adjourn
- No member can serve in Executive branch while a Legislator (nor vice-versa)



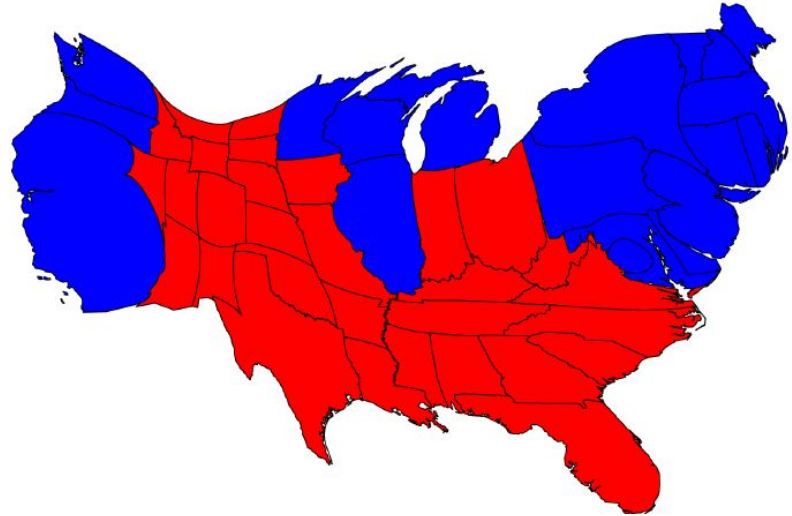
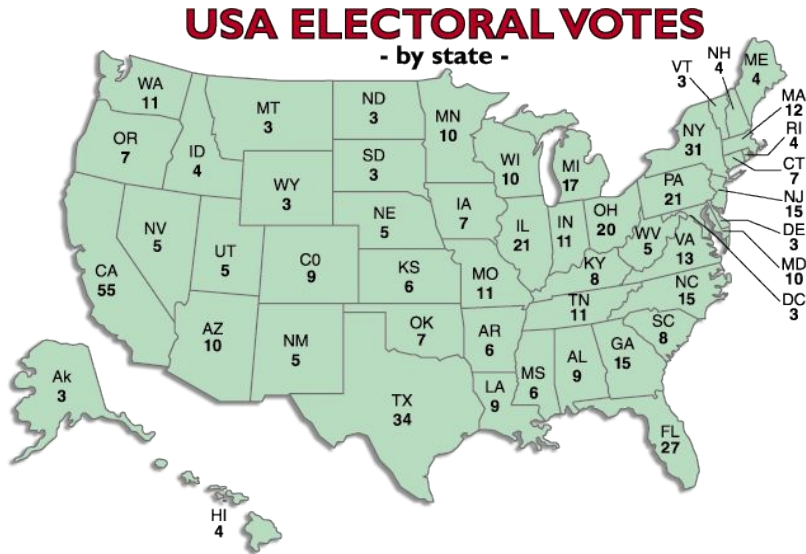
# Article I - Legislative Branch: powers

- All revenue bills (i.e. taxes) must originate in House of Reps.
- Bills go to President:
  - Signed? Becomes law
  - Returned? Must pass with  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority (both House & Senate) to become law
  - Not returned w/in 10 days? Becomes law (unless Congress adjourns in that time!)
- Forbids states from taxing imports, making treaties, etc. etc.



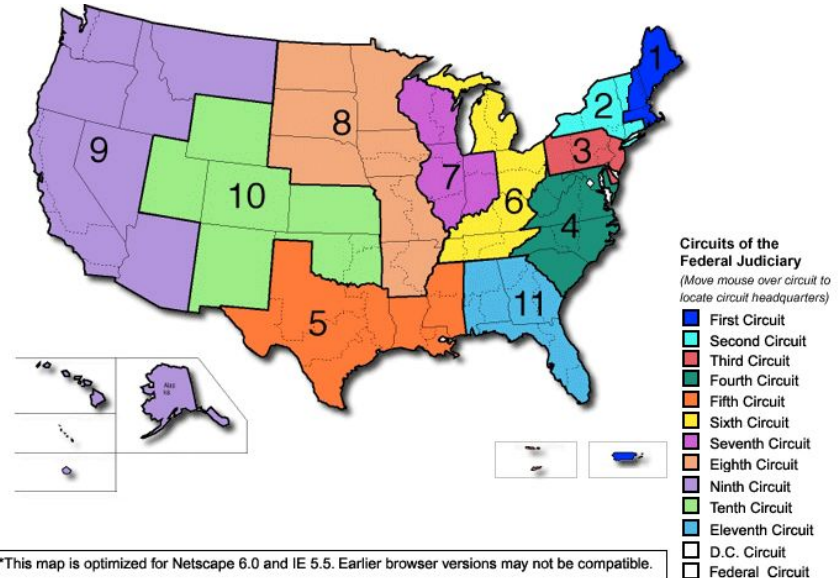
# Article II - Executive Branch

- Must be 35; natural born citizen; resident for last 14 years
- 4 year term
- Chosen by electors (one for each state's reps plus senators)



# Article III - Judicial Branch

- Supreme Court & other courts established by Congress as necessary
- Life term (if “good Behavior”); can be impeached/resign/retire



# Article IV - States, Citizenship, New States

- “Full faith & credit” (each state honors laws of other states)
- Citizens of all states are equal
- Extradition clause - accused who flee must be sent back
- New states admitted as necessary
- Fed. govt. guarantees republican form of government (representation) and defense against invasion/insurrection



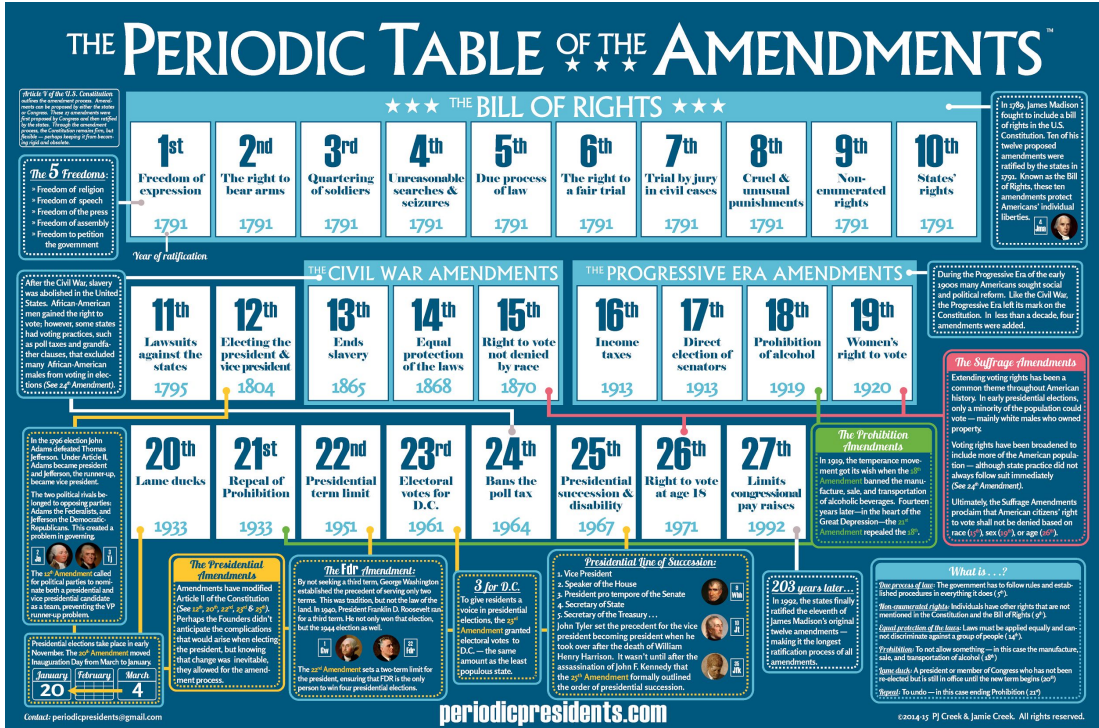


# Article V - Amending the Constitution

Two methods:

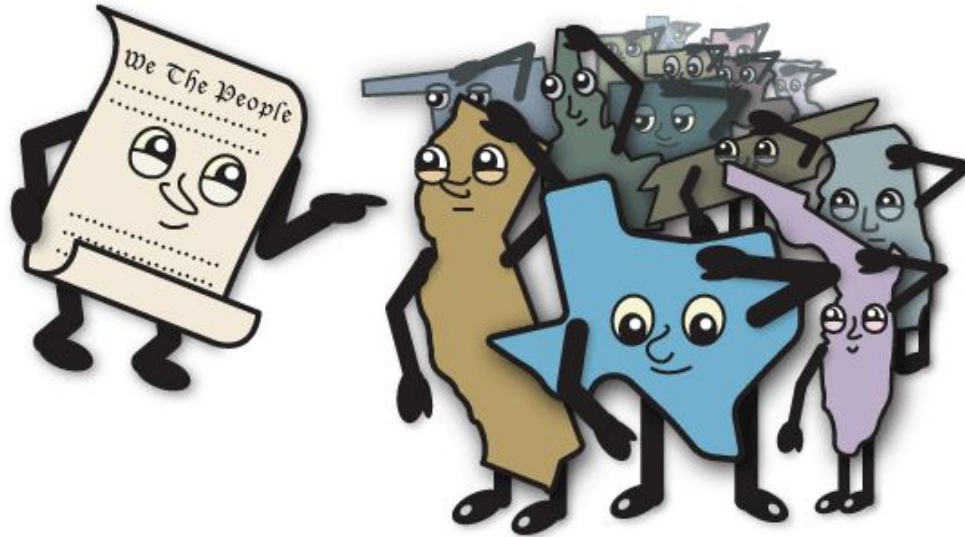
1.  $\frac{2}{3}$  of state legislatures call for new Convention
2.  $\frac{2}{3}$  of Congress votes for new amendment

Results must then be approved by  $\frac{3}{4}$  of state legislatures.



# Article VI - leftovers (“supremacy clause”)

- US will honor all debts from the Confederation
- Federal laws above state laws; Constitution above all
- All employees must swear oath to defend Constitution (no religious tests)



# Article VII - Ratification

- Constitution takes effect when approved by 9 (of 13) states.

