

# The Five Ps of the Constitution



## Principles

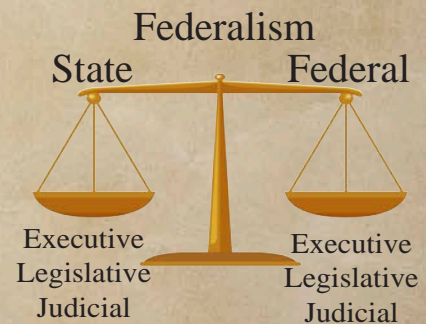
America is the only country founded on Principles. The Declaration of Independence states that all people are created equal and have unalienable rights bestowed upon them by their Creator. The Constitution puts these principles into action.

## Protect

The Constitution protects our individual liberty. These liberties include: Freedom of Religion, Freedom of Speech, Freedom to Private Property and Equal Justice before the law.

## Pulverizes Power

The genius of the Constitution is the separation of powers. The founders were well aware that total power creates tyranny. The founders were determined to prevent the consolidation of power. In the Constitution, the first division of power is between the state and federal governments. This is called Federalism. Both the state and federal governments are then broken into the three branches of government: Executive, Legislative, and Judicial. History proves as power conglomerates, the individual liberty of citizens proportionately decreases. There are six divisions of power in total. These divisions are directly linked to the individual liberty of the people.



## Prolific

The jobs of the states are prolific while the jobs of the federal government are few and defined. The essence of the Constitution are the enumerated powers found in Article I Section 8. The enumerated powers are the specific responsibilities of the federal government. This portion of the Constitution was intended to bind the federal government and contain it within a Constitutional box. All other jurisdictions not specifically mentioned are designated to the states. The Tenth Amendment of the Bill of Rights states that the powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

## Patriotic

The rights derived from the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and the corresponding responsibilities are what unite us as Americans. We are patriotic to the framework of government the Constitution sets up and to the rule of law.

# Just a little more information...

## Principles

The Constitution guarantees that all people are guaranteed specific rights regardless of their economic or social status. This was a radical concept at the time. The rights of many segments of the population were not recognized and slavery was rampant around the world. The Constitution was the first time slavery was successfully restricted. The Constitution began the journey to the Emancipation Proclamation.

## Protect

Another unique founding principle of the Constitution is that the people are sovereign and delegate their power to elected officials. The purpose of government is to protect the individual liberties of the citizens.

## Pulverizes Power

The King of England had all power and control. The colonies fought a very costly war to break away from this oppression. After the Revolutionary War, the thirteen states formed a confederation. The Articles of Confederation was the precursor to the Constitution. Under these Articles, the United States nearly dissolved because the federal government didn't have enough power. The Constitution was the ingenious compromise that created dual sovereignty between the states and federal government.

## Prolific

It is essential for citizens to know what the enumerated powers given to the federal government are. If a citizen knows what the federal government has the authority to do, then the citizen also knows what the federal government should not be involved in.

### Article I Section 8

Bestows upon Congress the power to:

1. Tax
2. Spend
3. Borrow
4. Regulate commerce
5. Establish rules for citizenship
6. Establish bankruptcy laws
7. Coin and regulate the value of money
8. Standardize weights and measures
9. Punish counterfeiting
10. Establish a postal system
11. Pass copyright and patent laws
12. Establish federal courts
13. Punish crimes on the high seas
14. Declare war
15. Raise and finance armed forces
16. Establish rules for the armed forces
17. Call up state militias
18. Administer the seat of government
19. Administer federal lands
20. Pass laws to implement the above

### State Jurisdictions:

The states were intended to be laboratories of creativity. The states were intended to jealously guard the constitutional line and keep the federal government within their specific responsibilities. The erosion of the constitutional line has happened over decades of time and stems from federal funding and the strings attached to this money. Jurisdictions of the states include:

1. Education
2. Welfare
3. Healthcare
4. Transportation
5. Energy
6. Social Issues like marriage, the protection of the youth and abortion.

**Division of Power = Individual Liberty**

**Accumulation of Power = Oppression of the Citizens**