

The Constitution



An Outline of the Constitution



❧ **The Constitution:**

- ❧ Sets the basic principles on which the government in the United States is built and operates
- ❧ Lays out how the government is organized
- ❧ How leaders are selected
- ❧ Procedures that the leaders must follow
- ❧ Set the limits within which government must conduct itself

❧ **Know the Seven Articles from your Scavenger Hunt**

Six Principles

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Popular Sovereignty | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Political power resides in the people• People are the only source for all governmental power |
| Limited Government | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Holds that no government is all-powerful• Government <i>may</i> do only those things that the people give it the power to do |
| Separation of Powers | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Three powers of government: judicial, legislative, and executive are separated among three distinct and independent branched of government |
| Checks and Balances | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each branch of our government is subject to a number of constitutional check, or restraints, by the other branches |
| <i>Judicial Review</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>The power of the court to determine the constitutionality of a governmental action</i> |
| Federalism | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The division of power among a central government and several regional governments |

Six Principles



Popular Sovereignty



Limited Government



Separation of Powers

Six Principles



Checks and Balances

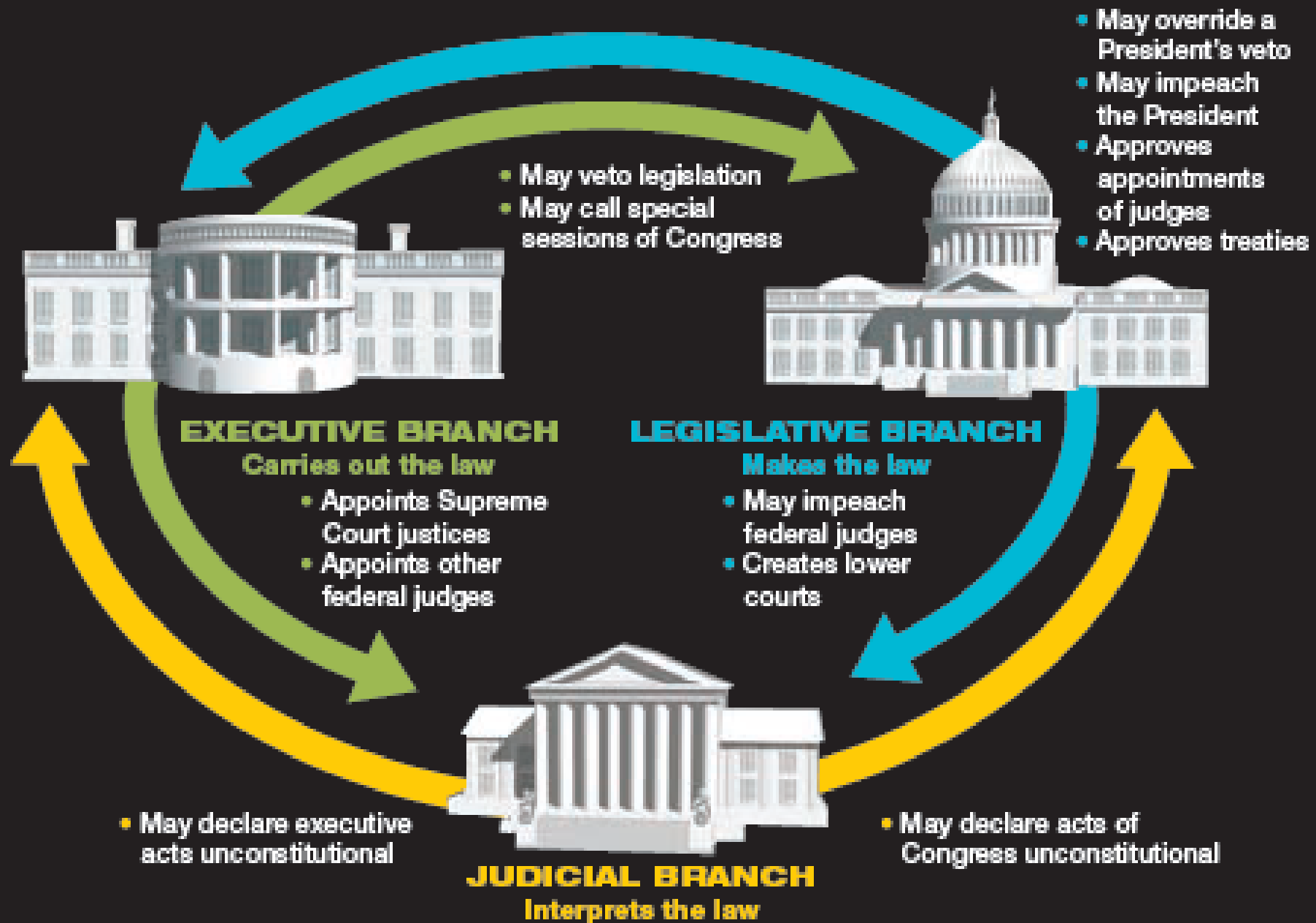


Judicial Review



Federalism

Checks and Balances



Federalism

Who Has the Power?



FEDERAL POWERS

- To maintain an army and a navy
- To declare war
- To coin money
- To regulate trade between States and with foreign nations
- To make treaties

SHARED POWERS

- To enforce laws
- To establish courts
- To borrow money
- To secure the population
- To build an Infrastructure
- To collect taxes
- To make laws



STATE POWERS

- To conduct elections
- To establish schools
- To regulate business within a State
- To establish local governments
- To regulate marriage, divorce
- To assume other powers not given to the Federal Government nor denied to the States, by the Constitution

Formal Amendment



Chapter 3 Section 2

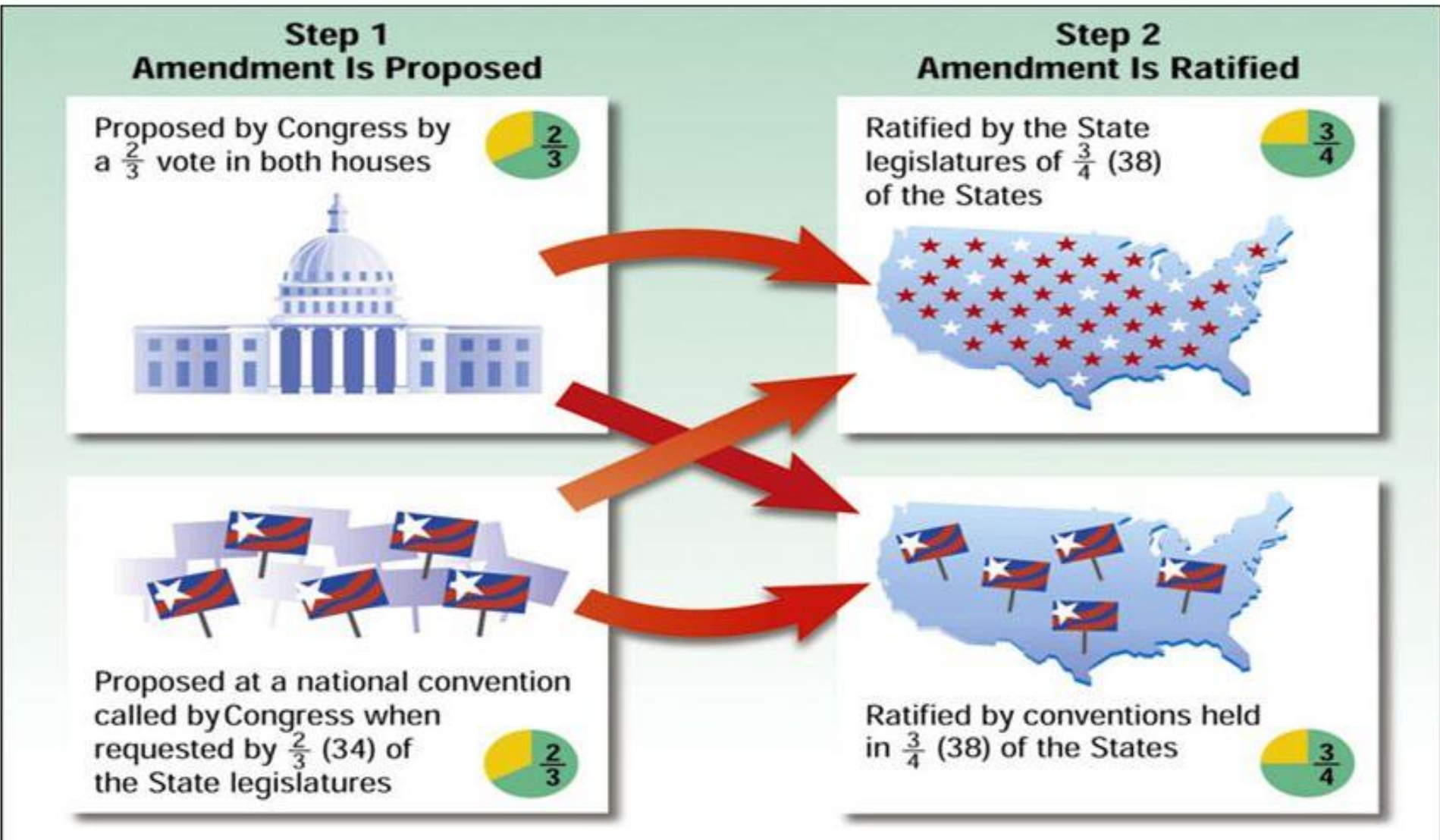
How has the Constitution been amended through the formal amendment process?

Formal Amendment Process



- ❧ Framers of the Constitution knew that they could not build a document to “last the stand of time”.
- ❧ Constitution provides for its own amendment – allows for changes within the document
- ❧ Article V sets out two method for the proposal and two methods for the ratification of amendments
- ❧ Four possible methods of formal amendments; only two methods have ever been used

- The four different ways by which amendments may be added to the Constitution are shown here:



Informal Amendment Process



- Over Time, changes have been made to the Constitution that did not involve any changes to its written words.
- What are some ways that we have informally amended (or changed, or added to the meaning of) the Constitution?

Informal Amendment Process



- ❧ **Basic Legislation** – Congress has passed laws that spell out several of the Constitution's brief provisions or add meaning to them.
- ❧ **Executive Action** – Actions taken by the President
- ❧ **Court Decisions** – Decisions made by the Supreme Court that interpret and apply the Constitution in many cases they hear
- ❧ **Party Practices** – They have played a role in shaping government and its processes
- ❧ **Custom** – The way it has always been done