

# The United States Government



Our government was designed by the founding fathers.



They wanted to make a government "for the people by the people."

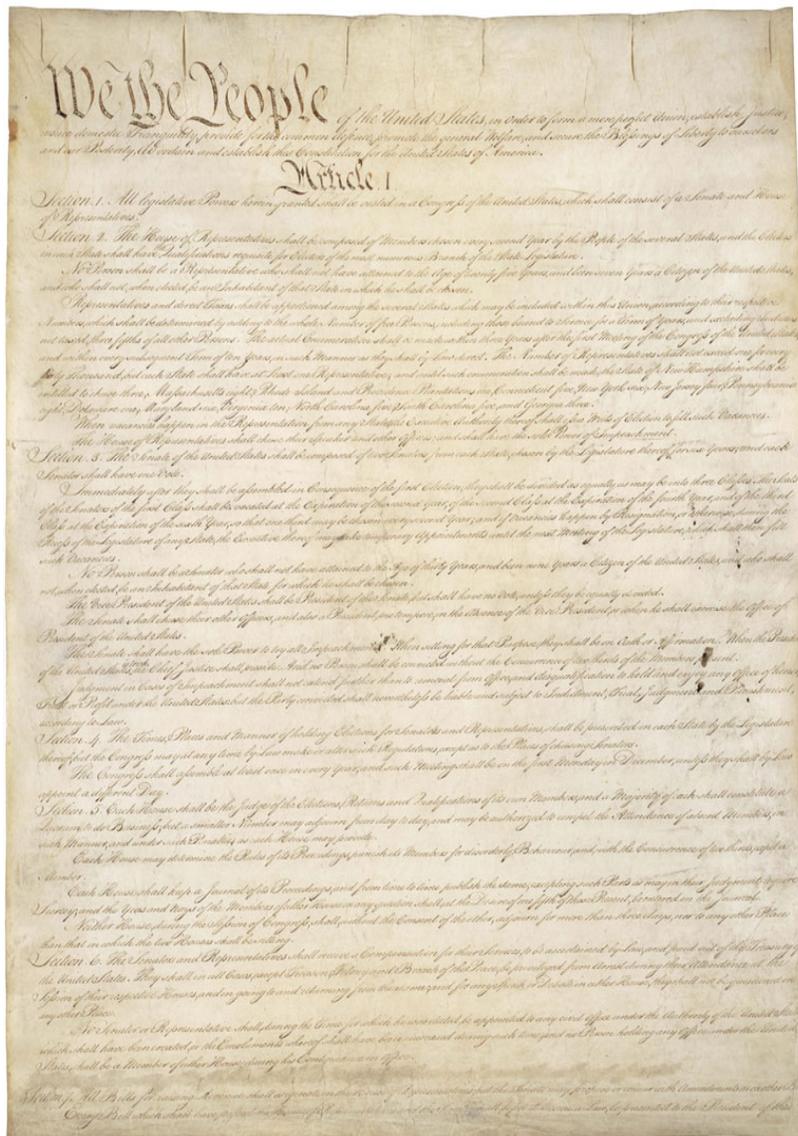


Their goal was to make sure that every person was guaranteed the rights of **life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.**



# The Constitution

On September 17, 1787 the founding fathers adopted the **Constitution**. This is the document which has all of the **laws** our country follows. It is also the guideline for how we organize our **government**.



# Branches of Government



Our Government is divided into three branches, the **Legislative, Judicial, and Executive**.



**The Executive Branch**- Makes sure the laws are followed.



**The Legislative Branch**- Makes the laws.



**The Judicial Branch**- Makes sure the laws are fair to all people.

## The Legislative Branch



Our Legislative Branch is called Congress.

This is the branch of government that makes the laws.

Congress is made up of two groups called the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Each state in the United States has two Senators, there are always 100 senators.

The House of Representatives is based on the **population** of the state the representative is from. States with more people have more representatives.

## The Judicial Branch

In the United States, the judicial branch decides if laws are fair, equal, and Constitutional.

The most important court in the country is the Supreme Court.

There are nine justices in the Supreme Court, they are appointed by the president. The justices have their job for life.

The Current Supreme Court



The Supreme Court Building in Washington, DC



# The Executive Branch

The President and Vice President are in the Executive Branch.

The President approves the laws that Congress writes.

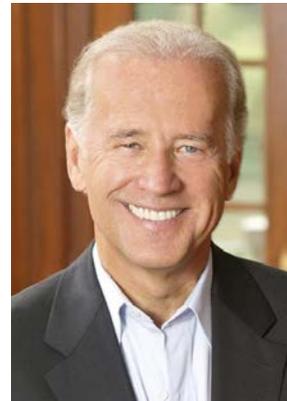
The President is the Commander-in-Chief of the Army.

The President appoints the Supreme Court justices. The Senate has to approve his choices.

We elect the President every four years.



Our current President  
Barak Obama



Our current Vice President  
Joe Biden

## Our Government

Our government is a **Republic**. This means we **elect** our officials.

**We live in a representative democracy. This means we **elect** people to represent us in government.**

Presidents are **elected** every four years.

Senators are **elected** every six years.

Members of the House of Representatives are **elected** every two years.

\*\*\*Supreme Court Justices are not elected, they are appointed by the President.\*\*\*

2016 is a presidential election year. Our current President, Barack Obama, has been President for two terms (eight years). He cannot run for President again.