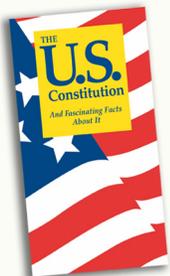


Word Find #5



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Word List

bicameral legislature: refers to a two-house legislature.

bipartisanship: emphasizes cooperation between the major political parties.

clear and present danger: an interpretation of the First Amendment to the Constitution that gives the government the right to curtail activities that may in some way threaten the security of the United States.

cooperative federalism: when the state governments, local governments, and the federal government share responsibility. This has been referred to as the “New Federalism.”

democracy: the governmental philosophy in which the people ideally have a high degree of control over political leaders.

discharge petition: a petition signed by a majority of the members of the House of Representatives to force a bill from committee and bring it to the floor for consideration.

ex post fact law: a law that makes an act a crime after it was committed.

executive branch: one of the three branches of our government with the purpose of enforcing laws.

federalism: the division of power between the national government (delegated power) and the state governments (reserved power).

gerrymandering: the construction of an election district so as to give a distinct advantage to one party or group over another. This process was named after Elbridge Gerry.

ideology: an interrelated set of attitudes and beliefs about political philosophy and the role of power in the government.

impoundment: when the president refuses to allow an agency of the government to spend funds authorized and allocated by Congress.

indirect democracy: a political process in which the people control the government through elected political officials. This is also called a republic.

interstate compact: an agreement among or between states that is approved by Congress.

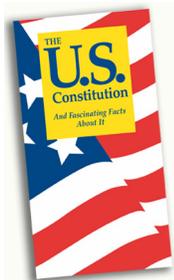
veto: the authority of the executive (often the governor) to veto parts of a bill without vetoing the entire piece of legislation.

judicial review: a power the Supreme Court conferred upon itself in the 1803 case of *Marbury v. Madison* (1803) to review the constitutionality of acts passed by Congress or actions by the president.

lame duck: an official who has been defeated in the election but his/her term of office has not expired.

long ballot: originated in the 1820s because of the belief that the voting population should be able to elect all of the officials that govern them.

national debt: the total amount of money the government owes.



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Word List *(continued)*

override: means to “overrule” and refers to the aspect of the “checks and balances” system in which Congress can override a presidential veto by a two-thirds vote.

political machine: an organization for running a city or state government by dispensing patronage or favors from the smallest units of government (neighborhood or ward) to the largest. The head of this organization is called a “boss.”

primary election: an election held before the general election to determine the main candidates representing the various parties.

public domain: the lands held by the state or federal government.
and frustration.

referendum: the procedure that allows voters to vote directly on issues instead of going through the “indirect” process of having legislators vote for those issues.

representative government: also known as an “indirect democracy” or a republic. This is when the people elect “representatives” to make laws for their benefit.

reserved power: powers that are “reserved” for the states as identified in the Tenth amendment to the Constitution.

sedition: the attempt to overthrow a government by force or at least interrupt its activities.

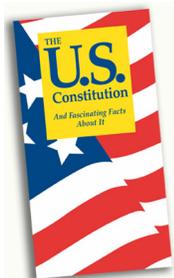
separation of powers: the philosophy of a balanced government in which each of the three branches (executive, legislative, judicial) have their own powers.

standing committee: the name given to a permanent congressional committee.

totalitarian government: the type of government that is characterized by a single party or individual controlling the entire country and every aspect of society.

unicameral legislature: refers to a one-house legislature.

veto: to reject or refuse to sign a bill from Congress. This is the “check” that the president has on the powers of the legislative branch of government



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