

## Concepts of Democracy & the Constitution

- I. Basic concepts of Democracy
  - A. Fundamental worth of individual
    - 1.
    - 2.
  - B. Equality of all persons
    - 1.
    - 2.
  - C. Majority and minority rights
    - 1.
    - 2.
    - 3.
  - D. Necessity for compromise
    - 1.
    - 2.
  - E. Individual freedom
    - 1.
    - 2.
- II. Why a Constitution and What's its purpose?
  - A. To have guidelines to ensure the people that government won't overstep its bounds.
  - B. Has roots to earlier documents: Magna Carta (1215), Petition of Right (1628), Spirit of Laws (Montesquieu), Two Treatise of Government (John Locke).
  - C. Constitution sets out to:
    - 1. Form more perfect union
    - 2. Establish justice
    - 3. Ensure domestic tranquility
    - 4. Provide for a common defense
    - 5. Promote general welfare
    - 6. Secure blessings of liberty
  - D. Replaced Articles of Confederation

### **III. Constitutional Convention (1787 in Phil)**

#### **A. Many Prominent Statesmen**

#### **B. Not Present**

-Patrick Henry

-Samuel Adams-

-Jefferson-

-John Adams-

#### **C. Agreed Articles of Confederation were bad**

#### **D. Virginia Plan**

#### **E. New Jersey Plan**

#### **F. Connecticut Compromise**

#### **G. 3/5 Compromise**

### **IV Constitutional Convention-Why Secret?**

1) **Treason?**

2) **State your mind without worry of public backlash or pressure**

3) **Foreign perception**

**\*\*Federalists vs Anti-Federalists**

## **V What are the Basic Principles of the Constitution?**

**A. Popular Sovereignty**

**B. Limited Government**

**C Separation of Powers**

**D. Checks and Balances**

**E. Judicial Review**

**F. Federalism**

## **VI Why has it Endured?-"Living Constitution"**

**A. Framers knew the Constitution had to be flexible. How can it be flexible?**

### **AMENDMENTS**

**B. 2 Processes of amending the Constitution**

1) Formal Amending Process (4 methods)

### **PROPOSED**

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| a) by congress by 2/3 vote   | a) state legislatures in 3/4          |
| b) by congress by 2.3 vote   | b) by convention in 3/4 states        |
| c) by national convention called<br>by congress at request of 2/3<br>of state legis. Conventions   | c) by state leg. In 3/4 of the states |
| d) proposed at national convention<br>called by congress at request<br>of 2/3 of state legislature | d~ ratified by 3/4 of states          |