# The Constitutional Convention (1787)

Compromise, Compromise, Compromise!!!

# Articles of Conf. Collapse



# Failures Force Changes

- Articles of Confederation = too weak to deal with the major issues
- Debt, currency, national defense, border disputes, etc.
- Delegates meet in Philadelphia, PA (Summer 1787)

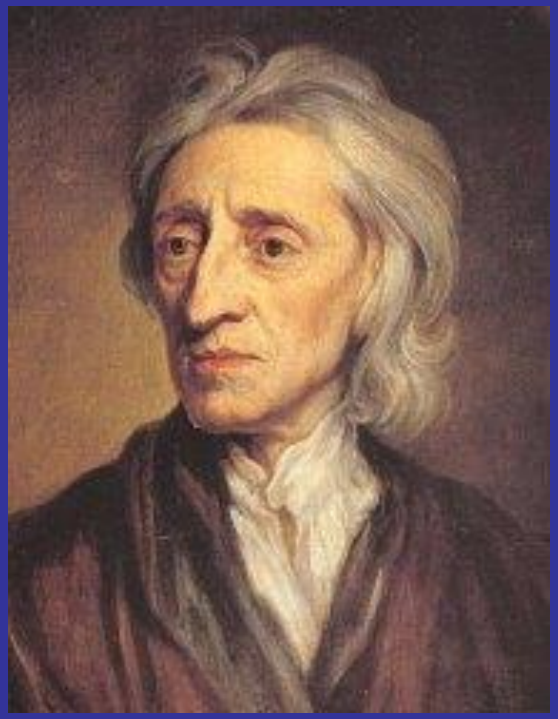


# Ideas that Influenced the Delegates

- Greeks (Athenian Democracy)
- *demos* = people, *kratos* = power/force
- Roman Republic
- The Enlightenment Thinkers: Locke, Montesquieu, Rousseau, and Voltaire

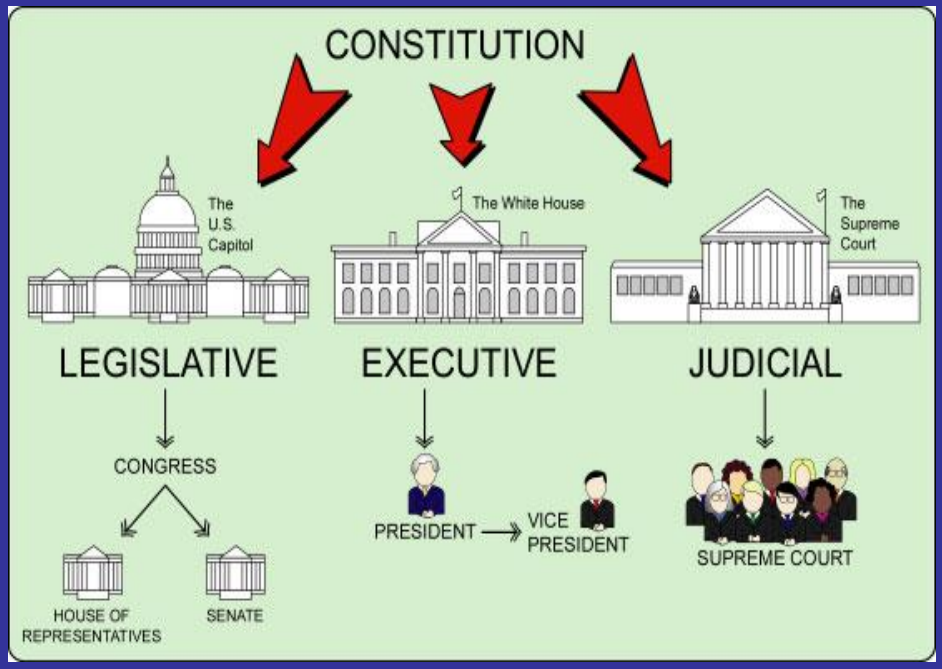
# John Locke

- English philosopher
- Believed that individuals had certain natural rights = “life, liberty, & property”
- Government’s job is to protect these rights
- If gov’t doesn’t protect these rights, then revolution is necessary



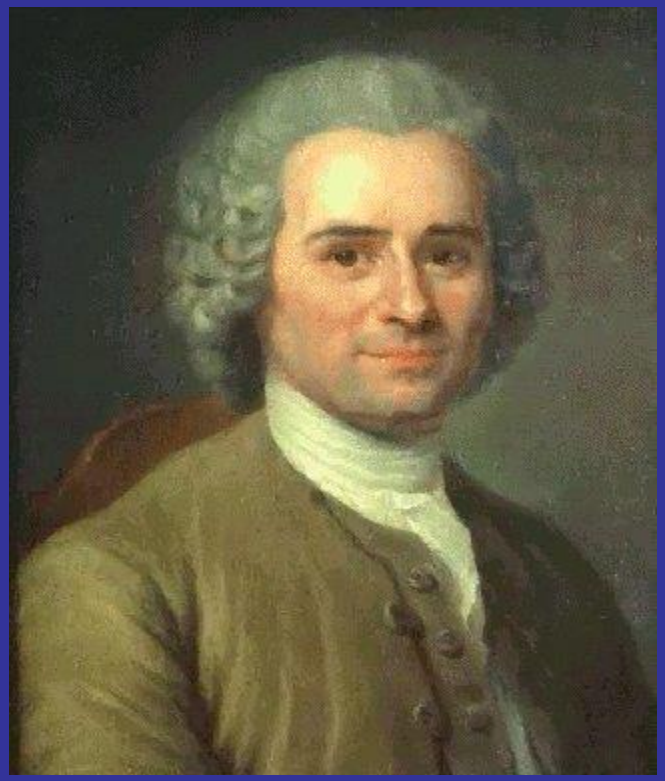
# Charles de Montesquieu

- French Philosopher
- Believed that government worked best when it was divided into three branches:
- Legislative = to make the laws
- Executive = to enforce or carry out the laws
- Judicial = to interpret the law



# Jean Jacques Rousseau

- Geneva, Switzerland
- The only good gov't is one that is formed from the "consent of the governed"
- Consent of the governed = power of the government directly comes from the people
- the common good = doing what's best for all of us
- Social Contract



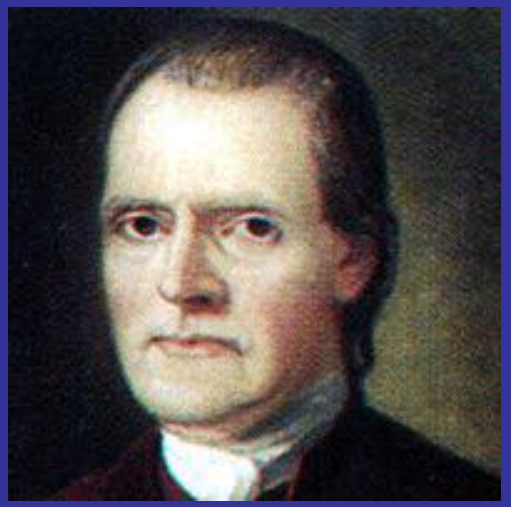
# Voltaire

- French philosopher
- Believed in the separation of church & state (highly critical of the Roman Catholic Church for being too involved in politics)
- Freedom of thought & expression (did not believe in government censorship)



# Representation in Congress?

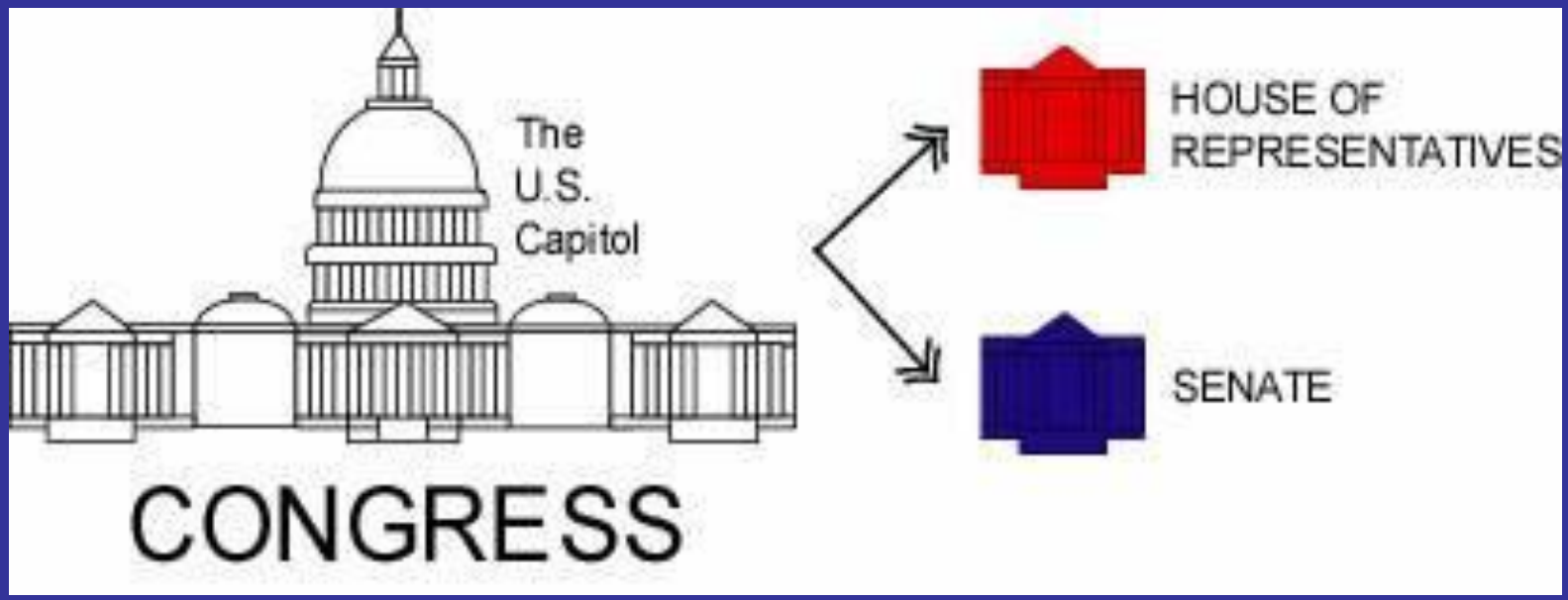
- New Jersey Plan = unicameral system (one body); every state has equal representation
- Virginia Plan = bicameral system (two bodies: lower house & upper house); based solely on population
- The Great Compromise (Roger Sherman of Connecticut)



# The Great Compromise

Two Bodies of Congress:

- House of Representatives = population
- Senate = 2 per state



# How many Presidents? Who will choose him/her?

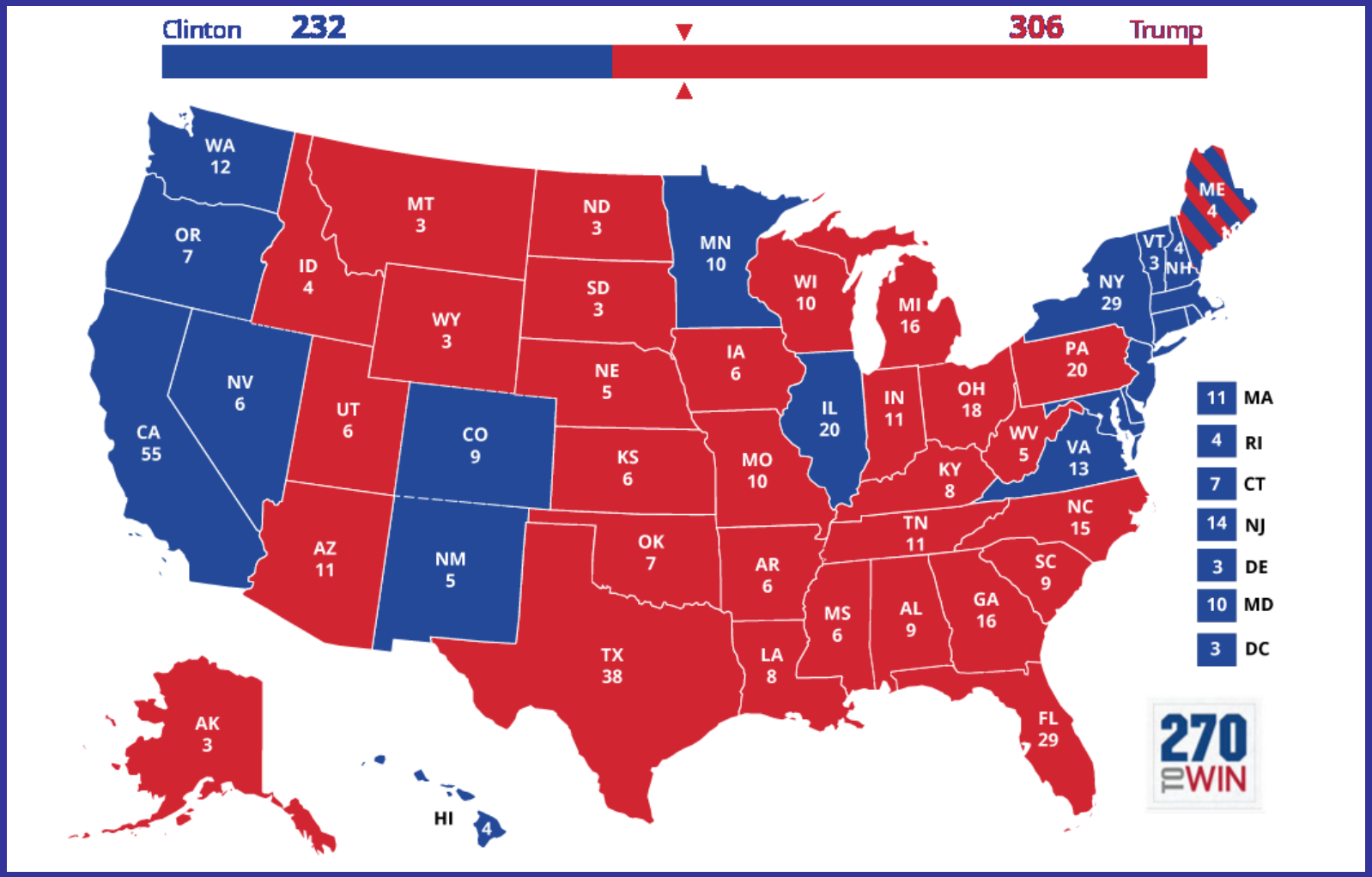
- Some wanted a council of presidents
- Some wanted one president
- Some wanted Congress to choose the president
- Others wanted the president chosen by the people

*Decision = one president chosen by an electoral college

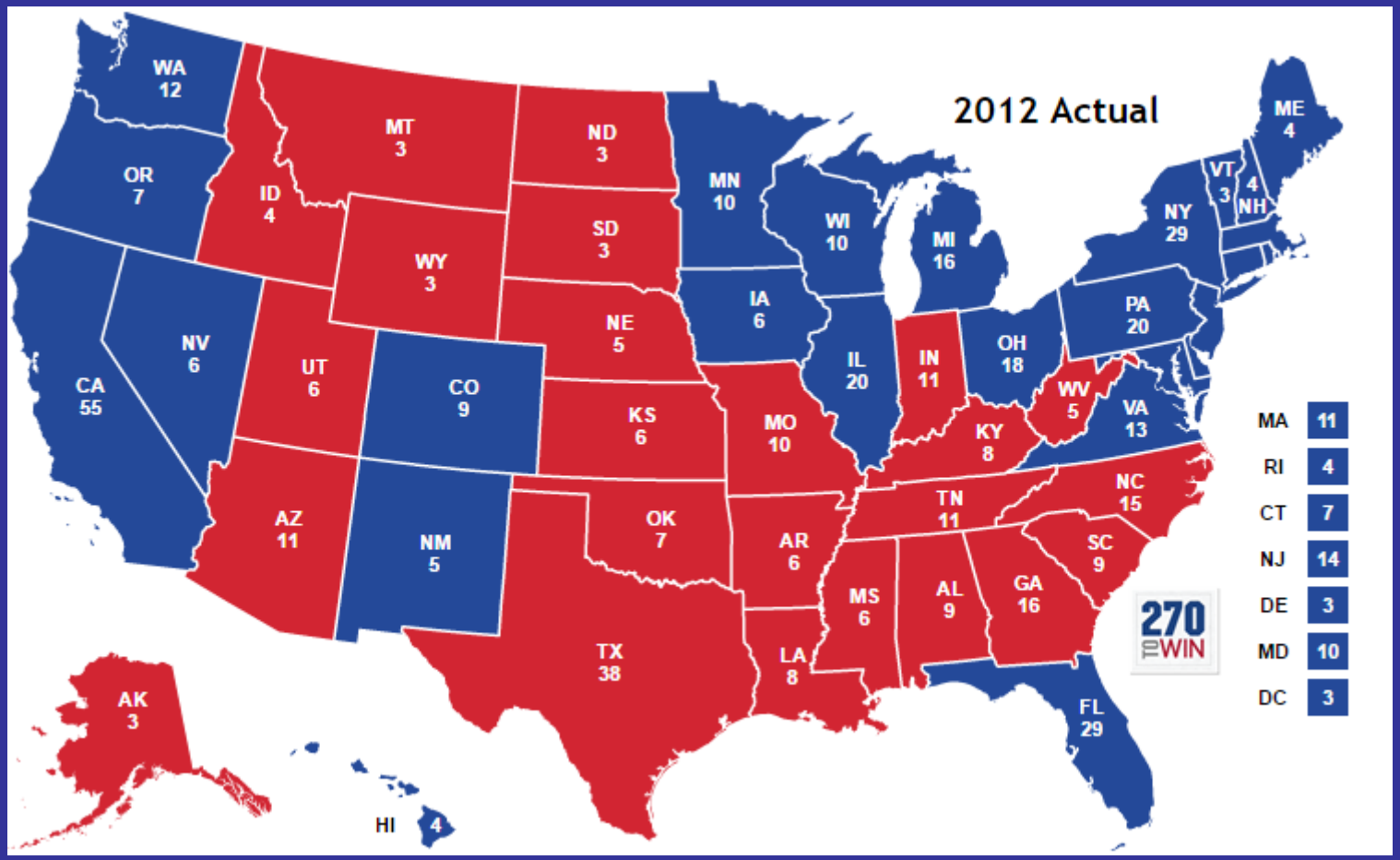
# 2020 Electoral College Map



# 2016 Electoral College Map



# 2012 Electoral College Map

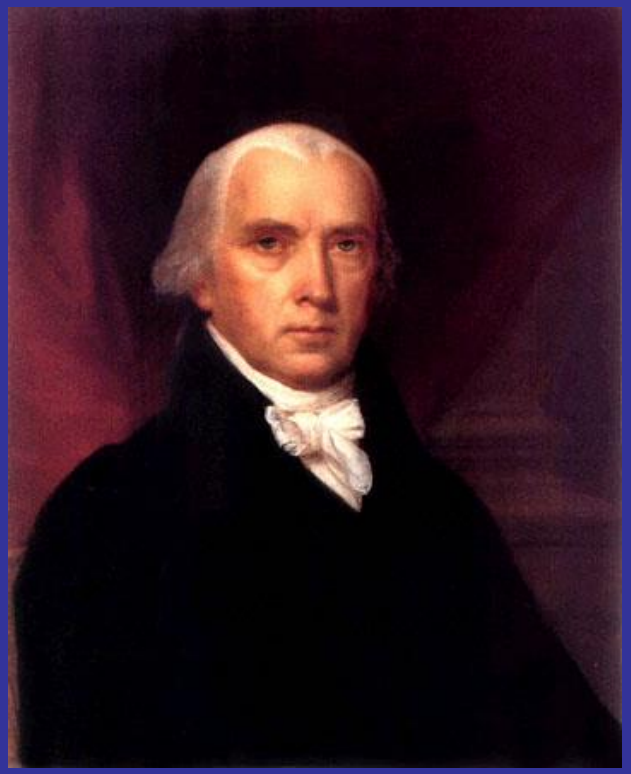


# Slavery & Representation

- North vs. South
- Regional conflict
- Would slaves be counted in the official census?
- Three-Fifths Compromise
- 3/5ths of the slave population would count towards representation
- Also, the Importation Clause, Article 1, Section 9—allowed the international slave trade to continue for 20 more years

# James Madison

- Father of the Constitution
- Kept very detailed journals
- Becomes its strongest supporter
- Argued that factions were the key to a balanced gov’t



# 7 Articles of the Constitution

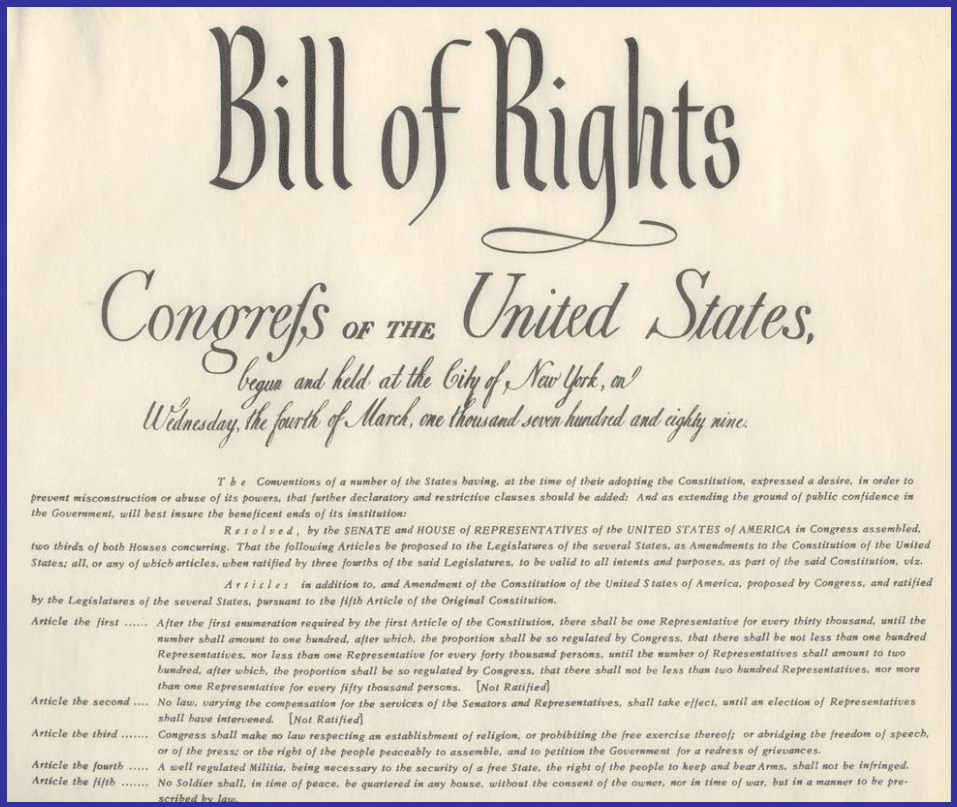
- Article I = Legislative Branch (very specific powers given to Congress)
- Article II = Executive Branch (led by the President)
- Article III = The Courts
- Article IV = responsibilities of the states
- Article V = process for amending the Constitution
- Article VI = debts must be paid, supremacy of the Constitution, and no religious qualifications
- Article VII = 9 states must ratify

# September 1787 = The Debate Begins

- Constitution released to the public
- Federalists = support the Constitution; stronger central gov't is needed
- Anti-Federalists = opposed to the Constitution; fear too much government power; no protection of individual rights
- Delaware is the first to ratify it – Dec. 7, 1787
- New Hampshire is the 9th state to ratify = June 21, 1788
- Rhode Island is the last state = May 29, 1790

# Bill of Rights

- Amendments 1 through 10 get added
- To protect individual liberties & calm the concerns of the Anti-Federalists



Bill of Rights

Congress of the United States,

begun and held at the City of New York, on

Wednesday, the fourth of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine.

The Conventions of a number of the States having, at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added: And as extending the ground of public confidence in the Government, will best insure the beneficent ends of its institution:

Resolved, by the SENATE and HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA in Congress assembled, two thirds of both Houses concurring. That the following Articles be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, as Amendments to the Constitution of the United States; all, or any of which articles, when ratified by three fourths of the said Legislatures, to be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of the said Constitution, viz.

Articles in addition to, and Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America, proposed by Congress, and ratified by the Legislatures of the several States, pursuant to the fifth Article of the Original Constitution.

Article the first ..... After the first enumeration required by the first Article of the Constitution, there shall be one Representative for every thirty thousand, until the number shall amount to one hundred, after which, the proportion shall be so regulated by Congress, that there shall be not less than one hundred Representatives, nor less than one Representative for every forty thousand persons, until the number of Representatives shall amount to two hundred, after which, the proportion shall be so regulated by Congress, that there shall not be less than two hundred Representatives, nor more than one Representative for every fifty thousand persons. [Not Ratified]

Article the second .... No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened. [Not Ratified]

Article the third ..... Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Article the fourth ..... A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Article the fifth ..... No Soldier shall, in time of peace, be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.