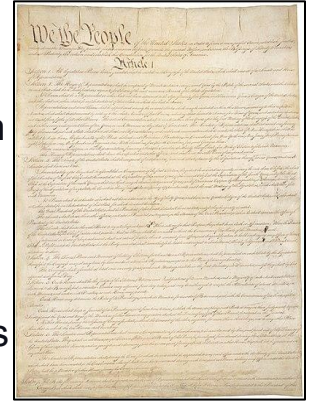


# The U.S. and Florida Constitutions

## The United States Constitution

On September 17, 1787, the U.S. Constitution was signed. The Constitution maps out a plan for our nation's government. The Constitution is separated into sections called **articles**. Each article explains our national government's organization, powers, and limits. Articles I, II, and III of the Constitution split the government into **three equal branches**: the legislative, the executive, and the judicial. Each branch has its own powers and responsibilities.



The United States Constitution

## The Three Branches of the United States Government



Executive Branch



Legislative Branch



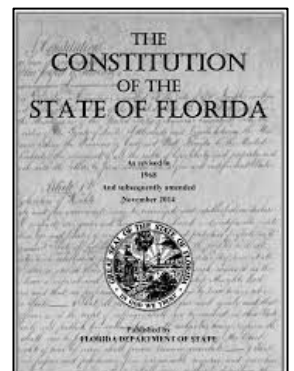
Judicial Branch

Three branches of government

The **legislative** branch (Article I) is called Congress. It is made up of senators and representatives. They make laws for the country. The **executive** branch (Article II) enforces the laws, which means they make sure that the laws are followed. The head of the executive branch is the president. The **judicial** branch (Article III) is the Supreme Court. The justices' job is to interpret the laws and make sure that rules and laws follow the Constitution. Together, these branches of government and the U.S. Constitution protect the rights and freedoms of United States citizens.

## The Florida Constitution

Florida became a state in 1845. Before Florida could join the United States, it needed to write a constitution. Like the United States Constitution, the Florida Constitution maps out a plan for Florida's government. The Florida Constitution is also separated into sections called articles. The three branches of Florida's government are explained in Article III, IV, and V.



The Constitution of Florida

## The Three Branches of Florida's Government

Florida's government has a legislative branch (Article III), an executive branch (Article IV), and a judicial branch (Article V). Similar to Congress, Florida's legislative branch is made up of state senators and representatives. Their job is to make the laws. The governor heads the executive branch of Florida and is in charge of making sure that state laws are followed (enforced). The judicial branch of Florida is made up of many different courts and judges that handle all legal (law) issues for the state. Florida's government and Constitution also work to protect the rights and freedoms of the people living in Florida.