

The background of the slide is a faded, sepia-toned image. On the left, three portraits of prominent Founding Fathers are visible: Benjamin Franklin at the top, John Adams in the middle, and Thomas Jefferson at the bottom. On the right, the clock tower of Independence Hall in Philadelphia is depicted. The overall aesthetic is historical and formal.

Constitutional Principles

1. Limited Government/Rule of Law

Belief that a govt's powers should be limited

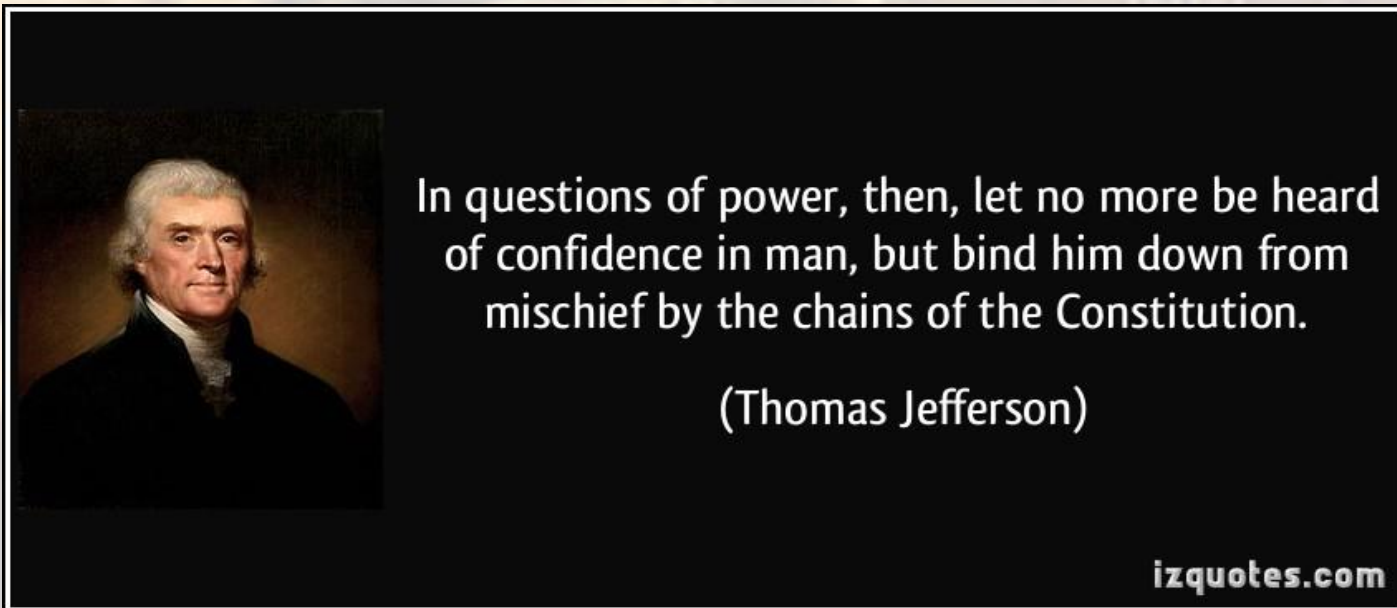
Rule of law: law(s) should govern a nation, as opposed to being governed by arbitrary decisions of individual govt officials

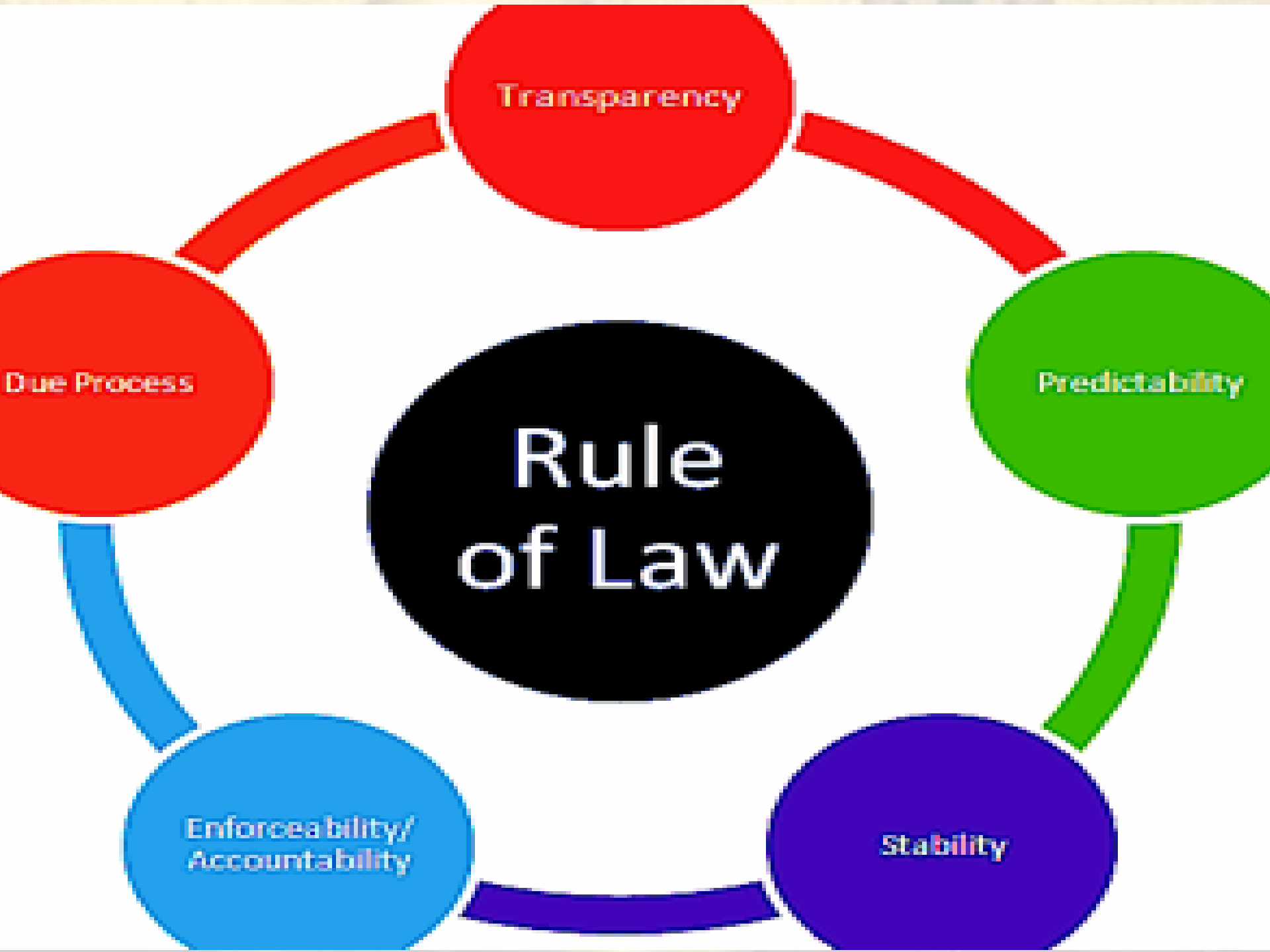
All citizens must abide by laws - even members of govt (Magna Carta, 1215)

Protects citizens against a govt that would not obey the concept of the **Social Contract**

Intended to prevent abuse by “**factions**” (aka political parties)

The U.S.C. lists powers of the federal govt & rights that are to be guaranteed to citizens (found in Articles I, II, III)

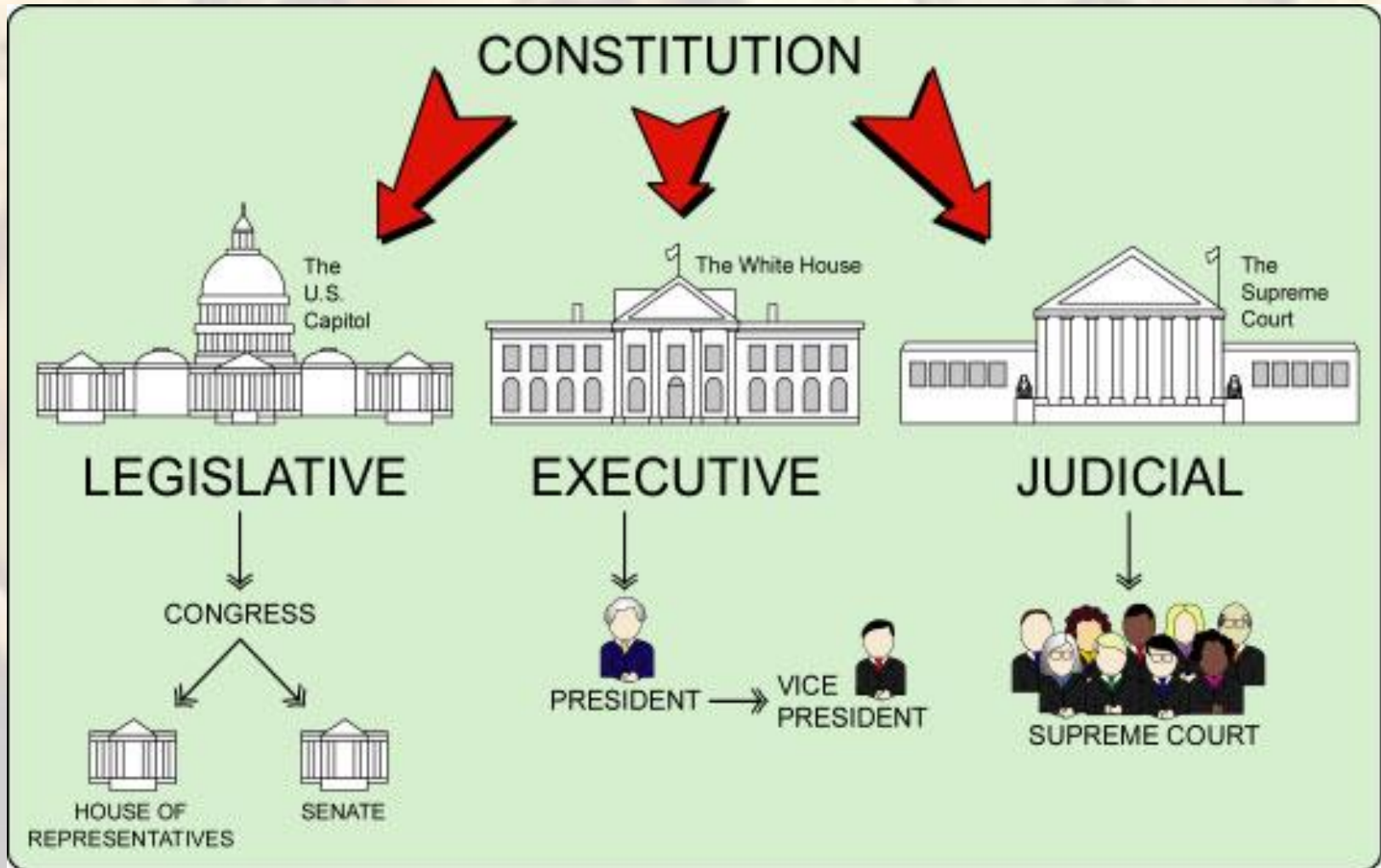




2. Separation of Powers

Idea that the best govt is one where the functions of governing are separated (Montesquieu)

Keeps the three branches from becoming abusive: LEJ



3. Checks and Balances

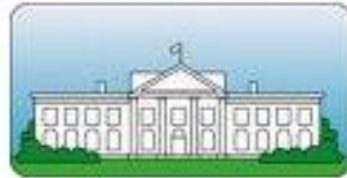
System designed to have the separate parts of govt watch over each other
(Rousseau)

“Checks and Balances”: the relationship between the three branches of govt; keeps any one branch from becoming more powerful than the others



SYSTEM OF CHECKS AND BALANCES IN THE U. S. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

EXECUTIVE BRANCH



Approve presidential appointments
Authority to bring impeachment hearings
Power to override presidential vetoes
Control appropriations
Ratify treaties
Declare war

Grant reprieves and pardons
Appoint judges to fill vacancies in the court

Interpret laws and Presidential actions
Judges appointed by the President
Serve for life

Authority to call special sessions of Congress
President is Commander-in-Chief
Power to veto bills

Arrows indicate the direction of a check one branch exerts over the other.



JUDICIAL BRANCH

Power to institute new courts
Authority to impeach
Approve Judicial appointments made by President



LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Interpret laws
Determine constitutionality
Serve for life



4. Popular Sovereignty/Consent of the Governed

Popular: the populace, the people

Sovereignty: the right to rule

The people + have the right to rule themselves

Govt is only given its power by the **“Consent of the Governed”**

Carried out through the process of voting

Direct democracy: every citizens has an actual say in the govt

i.e. Mayflower Compact

Representative democracy: we elect people who represent us in voting

i.e VA House of Burgesses

The power and authority in a democracy is in the “will of the people”

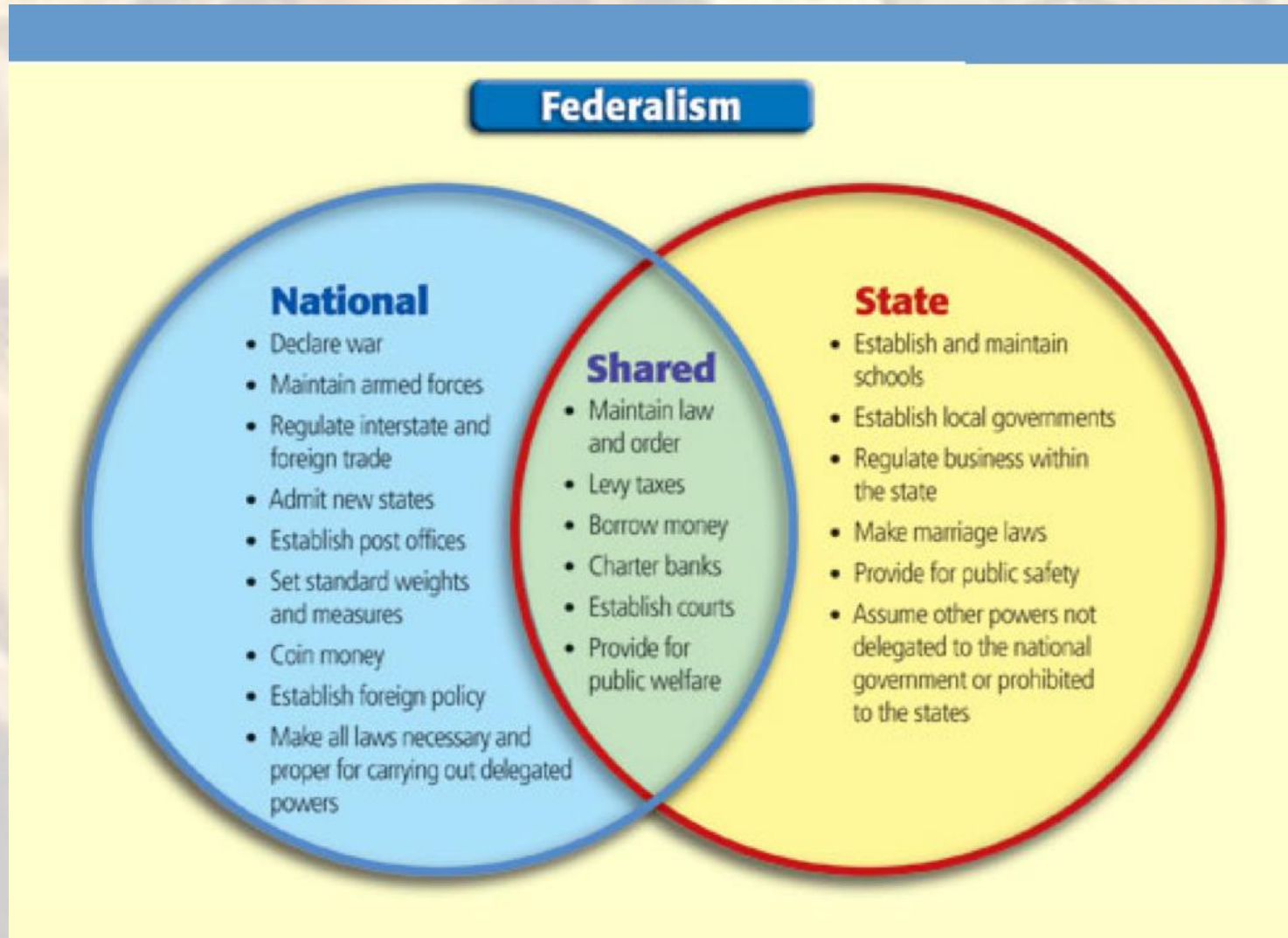
*Found in Amendment IX and the Preamble



5. Federalism

Power is divided between the three levels of govt: federal, state, and local (10th Amendment)

A way of breaking down the govt into several smaller levels of govt that work together; gives more control to the govts closest to the citizen



Enumerated Powers

**AKA delegated, expressed,
exclusive, listed**

These are duties that **ONLY** the federal govt have the authority over as listed in the Constitution

Powers of the National Government

Maintain army and navy
Declare war
Coin money

Regulate trade between states and with foreign nations

Make all laws necessary for carrying out delegated powers

Shared Powers

Enforce laws
Establish courts
Borrow money
Protect the safety of the people
Build roads
Collect taxes

Powers of the State Government

Conduct elections
Establish schools
Regulate businesses within a state
Establish local governments
Regulate marriages
Assume other powers not given to the national government or denied to the states

Reserved Powers

Duties that are reserved only for the state govts

10th Amendment

Powers of the National Government

Maintain army and navy

Declare war

Coin money

Regulate trade between states and with foreign nations

Make all laws necessary for carrying out delegated powers

Shared Powers

Enforce laws

Establish courts

Borrow money

Protect the safety of the people

Build roads

Collect taxes

Powers of the State Government

Conduct elections

Establish schools

Regulate businesses within a state

Establish local governments

Regulate marriages

Assume other powers not given to the national government or denied to the states

Concurrent Powers

Powers that are *shared* by the different levels of govt

Powers of the National Government

Maintain army and navy
Declare war
Coin money

Regulate trade between states and with foreign nations

Make all laws necessary for carrying out delegated powers

Shared Powers

Enforce laws
Establish courts
Borrow money
Protect the safety of the people
Build roads
Collect taxes

Powers of the State Government

Conduct elections
Establish schools
Regulate businesses within a state
Establish local governments
Regulate marriages
Assume other powers not given to the national government or denied to the states