

GOVERNMENT KEY CONCEPTS: NM Standards and Benchmarks Study Guide

Systems of Government:

- **Unitary:** It is often described as a centralized government. It is a government in which all powers held by the government belong to a single, central (national) agency. Most government in the world are unitary. Great Britain is an illustration of the type. A single central organ – the Parliament- holds all the power of the British government. *Federal government holds the power.*
- **Confederal or confederate:** A confederate government is an alliance of independent states. A central organ – the confederate government – has the power to handle only those matters that the member states have assigned to it. Typically, confederate governments have had limited powers and only in such fields as defense and foreign commerce. In our own history, the United States under the Articles of Confederation (1781 to 1789) and the Confederate States of America (1861-1865) are examples of the form. Confederations are very rare in today's world. The European Union is the closest approach to a confederation today. *State/regional governments hold the power.*
- **Federal:** Powers are divided and shared between The United States is an Example of a federal government in which the powers are divided between the (local) state and federal governments. *The power is shared and derives from the constitution and consent of the people.*

Democracy: a system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members makes the decisions (everyone votes on everything)

Republic: a country that is governed by elected representatives and by an elected leader (such as a president) rather than by a king or queen. It is intended to meet the needs of the whole.

Democratic Republic or Representative Democracy: A Republic is a form of government that does not have a monarch such as a king or queen. In addition, the people have an impact on their government. The Democratic Republic is a republic in which there is representation by election. It is not a tyranny and the people hold the power. Ex:'Merica

Federalism: A system of government in which power is divided between a central authority and constituent political units.

Philosophical Foundations of the American Political System...

Theorists:

Baron of Montesquieu- (separation of powers)_government power balanced among three groups ; idea of dividing government power legislative, executive, judicial , "separation of powers."

Voltaire: freedom of religion, freedom of expression, and separation of church and state. All of these principles are embodied in the American Constitution

Thomas Hobbs: Social Contract Theory.

William Blackstone Laws: The philosophy of the Declaration of Independence asserting the "self-evident" "unalienable Rights" of people granted by "the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God"

GOVERNMENT KEY CONCEPTS: NM Standards and Benchmarks Study Guide

John Locke and the Second Treatise of Government (Natural Rights and Social contract):

“The Second Treatise of Government” (his book) places sovereignty into the hands of the people. Locke's fundamental argument is that people are equal and invested with **inalienable rights** or **Natural Rights** these rights are the basic human rights we all have life, liberty and the pursuit of property (happiness).

Natural Rights: those rights that are indispensably necessary for man to fulfill his potential on this earth. They are "natural" because they derive from the nature of man and the nature of existence itself.

Social Contract: People give up rights to the government, they agree to be governed and the government must protect their rights or we can overthrow them. People then exchange some of their natural rights to enter into society with other people, and be protected by common laws and a common executive power to enforce the laws.

Foundations of American Government and Law:

Rights of the Englishmen: When the first Jamestown settlers set sail from England in December 1606, their charter guaranteed that the New World Colonists, “shall have and enjoy all liberties, franchises and immunities, to all intents and purposes as if they had been abiding and born within our realm of England.” **They were still considered Englishmen with the same rights to due process of law.**

Magna Carta: The royal charter of political rights given to feudal English barons by King John in 1215. This agreement greatly reduced the power he held as the King of England and allowed for the formation of a powerful parliament. **The influence of Magna Carta can be seen in the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights and all represent forms of ‘higher law’.**

English Bill of Rights: (individual rights) The Bill of Rights 1689 is an English Act of Parliament with the full title *An Act Declaring the Rights and Liberties of the Subject and Settling the Succession of the Crown* and also known by its short title, the Bill of Rights. It is one of the basic documents of English constitutional law, alongside Magna Carta, the 1701 Act of Settlement and the Parliament Acts. The Bill of Rights (1689) is a statement of certain positive rights that its authors considered that citizens and/or residents of a free and democratic society ought to have. It asserts the Subject's right to petition the

Representative Government in England: Parliament is made up of two houses. Members of the House of Commons are elected by the people. Members of the House of Lords are non-elected nobles, judges, and church officials.

Fundamental principles in the Declaration of Independence: Written by Thomas Jefferson and other contributors who based much of the work on the philosophies of John Locke. Declared independence from England and was written to justify to the world the actions the American States were taking. It informed King George of England and Parliament that The British subjects in the American colonies rights had been repeatedly violated and that the Americans were justified because the English government had violated their social contract. The proposition that “all men are created equal” was a revolutionary new basis for legitimate government in the history of man; likewise, to pronounce certain “rights” “inalienable,” such as those to “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness,” meant that an objective standard of justice was to forever guide our experiment in self-government. Equality, was the foundation for legitimate government. A government by consent means no one man can claim to rule over his fellow men if all are equal in their rights.

GOVERNMENT KEY CONCEPTS: NM Standards and Benchmarks Study Guide

Articles of Confederation: the Articles of confederation sucked because the fed was too weak. An agreement (**The first US Constitution**) 1776-1787 among the 13 founding states that established the United States of America as a confederation of sovereign states and served as its first constitution. It established the government of the American Revolution.

Constitution: The Constitution of the United States comprises the primary law of the U.S. Federal Government. It also describes the three chief branches of the Federal Government and their jurisdictions. In addition, it lays out the basic rights of citizens of the United States. The Constitution of the United States is the oldest Federal constitution in existence and was framed by a convention of delegates from twelve of the thirteen original states in Philadelphia in May 1787. The Constitution is the landmark legal document of the United States; a plan of government; the system of fundamental principles according to which a nation, state, corporation, or the like, is governed. America's Founding Fathers wanted to establish a new order of the ages, when they undertook the task of writing the United States Constitution. The reason it was a new order can be found in the great ends set out in the Declaration of Independence—the foundation upon which the Constitution would be built.

Seven Articles (**Can Everyone Just Stop All Stupid Remarks?**)

Article 1 –Congress (legislative)

Article 2- Executive

Article 3- Judicial

Article 4 -States

Article 5- Amendments

Article 6 Supremacy Clause

Article 7 Remarks

Bill of Rights: first ten amendments of the U.S. Constitution.

- First Amendment: Guarantees freedom of Speech, Religion, Press, Assembly, and Petition
- Second: Right to bear arms
- Third: no quartering soldiers
- Fourth Amendment: Search and Seizure
- Fifth Amendment: Rights of the accused, Grand Jury, Double Jeopardy, Self-Incrimination, Due Process
- Sixth Amendment: Rights of Accused in Criminal Prosecutions: Rights to Jury Trial, to Confront Opposing Witnesses and to Counsel
- Seventh: right to a jury in a civil trial
- Eighth: no excessive bail or cruel and unusual punishment
- Ninth: The Ninth Amendment protects rights not specifically enumerated by the Constitution.
- Tenth: powers not granted to the federal government by the Constitution, nor prohibited to the states, are reserved to the states or the people.
- Fourteenth Amendment: Protects rights against state infringements, defines citizenship, prohibits states from interfering with privileges and immunities, requires due process and equal protection, punishes states for denying vote, and disqualifies Confederate officials and debts.

Federalist Papers: These Papers are a series of informative brochures written by our founding fathers. The authors wrote them to help convince the various states to ratify the Constitution. 85 articles on all

GOVERNMENT KEY CONCEPTS: NM Standards and Benchmarks Study Guide

Federalist 51: (James Madison) defends establishment of checks and balances of the three branches of government

Anti-Federalist papers These are not really papers, but speeches, some newspaper articles and letters that refute the Federalist standpoint. The Anti Federalists feared a central government that was too powerful and that endangered states rights.

Legislative Branch: the branch of the United States government that has the power to *make the laws* (Congress).

Established by Article I of the Constitution, the Legislative Branch consists of the House of Representatives and the Senate, which together form the United States Congress. The Constitution grants Congress the sole authority to enact legislation and declare war, the right to confirm or reject many Presidential appointments, and substantial investigative powers.

The House of Representatives was established as the **voice of the people**. It is made up of 435 elected members, divided among the 50 states in proportion to their total population. In addition, there are 6 non-voting members, representing the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and four other territories of the United States. *The presiding officer of the chamber is the Speaker of the House*, elected by the Representatives. He or she is third in the line of succession to the Presidency. Members of the House are elected every **two years** and must be 25 years of age, a U.S. citizen for at least seven years, and a resident of the state (but not necessarily the district) they represent. **The House has several powers assigned exclusively to it, including the power to initiate revenue bills, impeach federal officials, and elect the President in the case of an Electoral College tie.**

The Senate was established as a **deliberative body** (more distinguished and unhurried). It is composed of 100 Senators, 2 for each state. Until the ratification of the 17th Amendment in 1913, Senators were chosen by state legislatures, not by popular vote. Since then, they have been **elected to six-year terms** by the people of each state. Senator's terms are staggered so that about one-third of the Senate is up for reelection every two years. Senators must be 30 years of age, U.S. citizens for at least nine years, and residents of the state they represent. *The Vice President of the United States serves as President of the Senate* and may cast the decisive vote in the event of a tie in the Senate. **The Senate has the sole power to confirm those of the President's appointments that require consent, and to ratify treaties.** There are, however, two exceptions to this rule: the House must also approve appointments to the Vice Presidency and any treaty that involves foreign trade. **The Senate also tries impeachment cases** for federal officials referred to it by the House. In order to pass legislation and send it to the President for his signature, both the House and the Senate must pass the same bill by majority vote. If the **President vetoes a bill, they may override his veto by passing the bill again in each chamber with at least two-thirds of each body voting in favor.** If the Vice president is not present the *President Pro Tempore* fills in.

Impeachment is a formal charge of misconduct and is a Constitutional check of power. The House conducts impeachment investigations and the Senate conducts the trial and acts as the Jury. Presidents can be impeached for high crimes and treason.

A Bill Becomes a Law a Bill is proposed to a representative.

If the Representative sponsors the bill, it is introduced and read on the floor.

- Then it goes to committee- groups of Representatives who are experts on topics such as agriculture, education, or international relations—review, research, and revise the bill before voting on whether or not to send the bill back to the House floor.

GOVERNMENT KEY CONCEPTS: NM Standards and Benchmarks Study Guide

- If the committee members would like more information before deciding if the bill should be sent to the House floor, the bill is sent to a subcommittee.
- While in subcommittee, the bill is closely examined and expert opinions are gathered before it is sent back to the committee for approval.
- When the committee has approved a bill, it is sent—or reported—to the House floor.
- Once reported, a bill is ready to be debated by the U.S. House of Representatives.
- The bill is debated. Then, a reading clerk reads the bill section by section and the Representatives recommend changes. When all changes have been made, the bill is ready to be voted on.
- If a majority of the Representatives say or select yes, the bill passes in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- The bill is then certified by the Clerk of the House and delivered to the U.S. Senate
- When a bill reaches the U.S. Senate, it goes through many of the same steps it went through in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- The bill is discussed in a Senate committee and then reported to the Senate floor to be voted on.
- Senators vote by voice. Those who support the bill say “yea,” and those who oppose it say “nay.”
- If a majority of the Senators say “yea,” the bill passes in the U.S. Senate and is ready to go to the President.

When a bill reaches the President, he has three choices. He can:

1. **Sign and pass the bill—the bill becomes a law.**
2. Refuse to sign, or veto, the bill—the bill is sent back to the U.S. House of Representatives, along with the President’s reasons for the veto. If the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate still believe the bill should become a law, they can hold another vote on the bill. If two-thirds of the Representatives and Senators support the bill, **the President’s veto is overridden and the bill becomes a law.**
3. Do nothing (pocket veto)—if Congress is in session, the bill automatically becomes law after 10 days. If Congress is not in session, the bill does not become a law.
4. If the president takes not action on a bill for 10 days it becomes a law.
 - The President cannot change the bill or do a line item veto (the NM governor has this power on state legislation)
 - Appropriation Bills: how Congress raises and spends (appropriates) money, generated in the House. The House holds the *Power of the Purse*

Powers of Congress:

- **Expressed Powers**, delegated enumerated: **Written in the Constitution.** The 27 expressed powers of Congress listed in Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution grant the legislative branch a huge amount of authority over American national policy, both foreign and domestic. The most important powers include the power to tax, to borrow money, to regulate commerce and currency, to declare war, and to raise armies and maintain the navy. **These powers give Congress the authority to set policy on the most basic matters of war and peace.**
- **Implied Powers** Article 1, Section 8 Clause 18 The "Elastic Clause" of the Constitution grants Congress power to pass unspecified laws **"necessary and proper"** for the exercise of its expressed powers one of the most important and controversial clauses in the entire Constitution. This "Necessary and Proper Clause" (sometimes also called the "Elastic Clause") grants Congress a set of so-called implied powers—that is, powers not

GOVERNMENT KEY CONCEPTS: NM Standards and Benchmarks Study Guide

explicitly named in the Constitution but assumed to exist due to their being necessary to implement the expressed powers that are named in Article I. Ex: congress has the power to raise an army (expressed) so they can institute the draft (implied)

- **Inherent Powers:** These powers, like the implied powers, are not explicitly listed in the Constitution, but they are said to be inherent to the very idea of national government. Because the United States is a sovereign nation in the world, it can be assumed to possess certain powers that all sovereign nations possess and always have possessed. They include the power to control the country's borders, to give or refuse diplomatic recognition to other countries, to acquire new territories for national expansion, and to defend the government from revolutions.

Judicial Branch: the branch of the United States government responsible for the administration of justice or *interpreting the laws* (includes the Supreme Court). Where the Executive and Legislative branches are elected by the people, members of the Judicial Branch are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

Article III of the Constitution, which establishes the Judicial Branch, leaves Congress significant discretion to determine the shape and structure of the federal judiciary.

Federal judges (Supreme Court Justice and lesser court justices) are appointed (nominated) by the president and must be confirmed by the Senate. They can only be removed through impeachment by the House of Representatives and conviction in the Senate. Judges and justices serve no fixed term — **they serve until their death, retirement, or conviction by the Senate (meaning life terms)** By design, this insulates them from the temporary passions of the public, and allows them to apply the law with only justice in mind, and not electoral or political concerns.

Unlike the Congressmen and Presidents branches, there are no specific qualifications for being a Supreme Court judge in the Constitution.

Federal courts enjoy the sole power to interpret the law, determine the constitutionality of the law, and apply it to individual cases. The courts, like Congress, can compel the production of evidence and testimony through the use of a subpoena. The inferior courts are constrained by the decisions of the Supreme Court — once the Supreme Court interprets a law, inferior courts must apply the Supreme Court's interpretation to the facts of a particular case.

- Cases are all constitutional and rights based. The courts can only rule on cases that are brought before them, they cannot overturn laws and actions unless someone takes it to court.
- Courts hear compelling cases that make major change
- Cases can go directly to Supreme court under original jurisdiction or be appealed-
appellate

Writ of Certiorari- the Supreme Court agrees to review a case and requests all of the file from the lower courts.

Stare Decisis- the decision of a lower court stands

Rule of Law: The Constitution and rulings of the Supreme Court stand always and must be followed. If the courts decide a case then we must follow it as a principle of our nation.

Judicial Review: the Supreme Court's power to declare an act of Congress unconstitutional.

Marbury V Madison Established Judicial review (1803) Adams appoints midnight Federalist judges. They wanted to 'stack the courts' because the Federalist were losing power in Executive and legislative branches. The commissions were not delivered by Marshall and Jefferson refuses to honor them. However, it also ruled that the court had no jurisdiction in the case and

GOVERNMENT KEY CONCEPTS: NM Standards and Benchmarks Study Guide

could not force Jefferson and Madison to seat Marbury. The Judiciary Act of 1789 gave the Supreme Court jurisdiction, but the Marshall court ruled the Act of 1789 to be an unconstitutional extension of judiciary power into the realm of the executive. In writing the decision, John Marshall argued that acts of Congress in conflict with the Constitution are not law and therefore are non-binding to the courts, and that **the judiciary's first responsibility is always to uphold the Constitution.** And that my friends is Judicial Review

Dred Scott v. Sanford. 1857, the United States Supreme Court declared that all blacks -- slaves as well as free -- were not and could never become citizens of the United States. The court also declared the 1820 Missouri Compromise unconstitutional, thus permitting slavery in all of the country's territories.

The case before the court was that of *Dred Scott v. Sanford*. Dred Scott, a slave who had lived in the free state of Illinois and the free territory of Wisconsin before moving back to the slave state of Missouri, had appealed to the Supreme Court in hopes of being granted his freedom.

Plessy v. Ferguson The Supreme Court decision established the phrase "separate but equal". The ruling "[required] railway companies carrying passengers in their coaches in that State to provide equal, but separate, accommodations for the white and colored races...". Accommodations provided on each railroad car were required to be the same as those provided on the others. Separate railroad cars could be provided. The railroad could refuse service to passengers who refused to comply, and the Supreme Court ruled this did not infringe upon the 13th and 14th amendments.

Brown v Board of Education of Topeka, 347 U.S. 483 (1954) is one of the most historical court cases especially in terms of education was This case took on segregation within school systems, or the separation of white and black students within public schools. This landmark case made those laws unconstitutional. It overturned the *Plessy v Ferguson* decision of 1896, which had allowed states legalize segregation within schools. The Chief Justice Earl said, "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." The ruling essentially led the way for the civil rights movement and essentially integration across the United States.

McCulloch V Maryland: (1819) This case established two important principles in constitutional law. First, the Constitution grants to Congress implied powers under Article 1 section 8 "Necessary and Proper" clause for implementing the Constitution's express powers, in order to create a functional national government. Second, state action may not impede valid constitutional exercises of power by the Federal government. Established the Second Bank of the United States.

Roe V Wade: abortion legalized based on women's right to choose

Executive Branch: the branch of the United States government that is responsible for carrying out or enforcing the laws (The Chief Executive is the President of the US). The power of the Executive Branch is vested in the President of the United States, who also acts as head of state and Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces. The President is responsible for implementing and enforcing the laws written by Congress and, to that end, appoints the heads of the federal agencies, including the Cabinet. The Vice President is also part of the Executive Branch, ready to assume the Presidency should the need arise.

The Cabinet and independent federal agencies are responsible for the day-to-day enforcement and administration of federal laws. Departments being ordered to carry out policies created by Congress are extensions of the President's office enforcing laws.

GOVERNMENT KEY CONCEPTS: NM Standards and Benchmarks Study Guide

The Cabinet: The tradition of the Cabinet dates back to the beginnings of the Presidency itself. Established in Article II, Section 2, of the Constitution, the Cabinet's role is to advise the President. The Cabinet includes the Vice President and the heads of 15 executive departments — the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Labor, State, Transportation, Treasury, Veterans Affairs, and the Attorney General.

President of the United States:

elected, serves a 4 year term, can serve 2 consecutive terms.

Expressed Powers.

The Constitution is the document that forms the foundation of our government. It highlights the power that is taken from the citizens and given to the President. This is expressed (or written, enumerated) power. According to Article II, Section 2, the President shall:

- be the Commander-in-Chief of the armed services
- have the power to grant reprieves and pardons
- have the power to make treaties (with concurrence of the Senate)
- appoint Ambassadors, Supreme Court judges, and all other Officers of the United States
- appoint vacancies that may occur during the recess of the Senate
- receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers
- care that the laws be faithfully executed

Additionally, the President shall,

- recommend to Congress measures for their consideration (propose a bill)
- approve or veto every Congressional bill (vetoes may be over-ridden)

Inherent Powers.

According to Henry Campbell Black in Black's law dictionary (Vol. 8), the definition of inherent power is "a power that necessarily derives from an office, position, or status." Inherent power makes presidential power difficult to limit. Presidents ranging from Democratic Harry Truman to Republican George W. Bush have conducted activity claiming inherent powers. President Truman initiated the Korean War and nationalized steel mills in support of that war claiming inherent powers. **US V Nixon** (NOT Nixon v US that's a different case) Watergate break in to Democratic headquarters; Nixon covers it up; Congress says, "Gimme the tapes," Nixon says, "Nope, executive privilege means they are protected as a privileged communication so you can't see them" (court determines hand 'em over ... executive privilege relates to national security not presidential scandals!) I am not a crook, jumps on chopper and flies away... President G. W. Bush labeled Al Qaeda as "enemy combatants" and approved NSA wire-tapping claiming inherent powers. Discourse within the legislative and judicial branches limit or confirm inherent power. These checks and balances limit the power of the executive branch. The President of the United States is the leader of the country and head of the federal executive branch. Thus, the president must carry out several roles, according to the U.S. Constitution. When he orders a cabinet or department to carry out legislation of laws they are acting under him to enforce executive power

Presidential Election: The process of electing a President was set up in the United States Constitution. The Constitution requires a candidate for the presidency to be:

GOVERNMENT KEY CONCEPTS: NM Standards and Benchmarks Study Guide

- * At least 35 years old
- * A natural born citizen of the United States
- * A resident of the United States for 14 years

Step 1: Primaries and Caucuses (nomination)

A primary election (nominating primary), also referred to simply as a primary, is an election in which voters in a jurisdiction select candidates for a subsequent election. Voters choose a candidate from THEIR party to run in the general election

Step 2: National Conventions

At the end of the primaries and caucuses, each party holds a national convention to finalize the selection of one Presidential nominee. During this time, each Presidential candidate chooses a running-mate (or Vice-Presidential candidate).

Step 3: The General (or Popular) Election

Now that each party is represented by one candidate, the general election process begins. Candidates campaign throughout the country in an attempt to win the support of voters. Finally in November, the people vote for one candidate. When a person casts a vote in the general election, they are not voting directly for an individual Presidential candidate. Instead, voters in each state actually cast their vote for a group of people, known as electors. These electors are part of the Electoral College and are supposed to vote for their state's preferred candidate.

Step 4: The Electoral College

In the Electoral College system, each state gets a certain number of electors, based on each state's total number of representation in Congress. New Mexico has 2 Senators and 3 Representatives 2+3=5 Electoral College votes. Each elector gets one electoral vote. For example, a large state like California gets 54 electoral votes, while Rhode Island gets only four. Altogether, there are 538 Electoral votes. In December (following the general election), the electors cast their votes. When the votes are counted on January 6th, the Presidential candidate that gets more than half (270) wins the election. The President-elect and Vice President-elect take the oath of office and are inaugurated two weeks later, on January 20th.

Limits on presidential powers=checks and balances.

Impeach: the president can be charged with a criminal offense including: treason, bribery and other high crimes and misdemeanors.

Judicial review: the courts can rule the actions of the executive unconstitutional

Sample cases of checks on executive power: United States v Nixon (Vietnam), Youngstown Sheet and Steel V Sawyer (steel case)

Civil Rights: the provisions in the U.S. Constitution that prevent any branch of the U.S. government from dominating the other two branches

Checks & Balances: a system that allows each branch of a government to amend or veto acts of another branch so as to prevent any one branch from exerting too much power.

Examples:

- Congress can impeach public and elected officials, over ride a veto, use oversight to police the conduct of the executive and judicial branches
- President can veto a bill,
- Judicial Branch can rule on the constitutionality of Congressional or Executive actions

GOVERNMENT KEY CONCEPTS: NM Standards and Benchmarks Study Guide

General elections a regular election of candidates for office,

Primary elections a preliminary election to appoint delegates to a party conference or to select the candidates for a principal, esp. presidential, election.

Ex Post Facto Laws: you cannot be tried for a crime committed before a law was passed.

(Writ of) Habeas Corpus: a writ ordering a prisoner to be brought before a judge

House of Representatives: House of Congress and of most state legislatures.

Interest groups: Also called an advocacy group, lobbying group, pressure group, or special interest, is a group, however loosely or tightly organized, that is determined to encourage or prevent changes in public policy without trying to be elected. "An organization of people with shared ideas and attitudes who attempt to influence public policy." They influence legislators to get support of their cause or legislation.

Lobbyist: an activist usually paid by an interest group to promote their positions to legislatures. A lobbyist can also work to change public opinion through advertising campaigns or by influencing opinion leaders, thereby creating a climate for the change his or her employer desires.

Secular: (not religious) Secularism was the word adopted by George Jacob Holyoake in the early 1850s to describe a system of morals and social action shaped exclusively by this-worldly considerations, irrespective of religious beliefs.

Totalitarian: dictator Relates to centralized control by an autocratic leader or hierarchy

Local Government: government of the affairs of counties, towns, etc., by locally elected political bodies

Majority Rule: decisions are made by voting with a majority determining the position of the entire group. This approach has the advantage of being able to produce a prompt and clear decision and do not require consensus for group action.

National Government: A national government (alternatively a national unity or national union government) is a broad coalition government consisting of all parties (or all major parties) in the legislature

Segregation: the separation of people on the basis of race

Senate: house of Congress, to which two members are elected from each state by popular vote for a six-year term.

State Government: the government of a state in the United States

Tribal Government: A Federally recognized governing body of a Native American or Alaska Native Tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village or community that the Secretary of the Interior acknowledges to exist as an Indian tribe under the Federally Recognized Tribe List Act of 1994.

GOVERNMENT KEY CONCEPTS: NM Standards and Benchmarks Study Guide

Suffrage (right to vote): 1776 White male protestant property owners over age 12. 1856 all white men, 1868 14th amendment slaves granted citizenship black males can vote, 15th amendment vote extended to racial minorities (poll taxes and literacy tests block black voters), 1920 voting right expanded to women, 1924 Native American citizenship granted (states block them from voting), 1961 DC residents right to vote, 1963-1964 Voting rights Act stops racial discrimination at then polls and 24th amendment bans poll taxes, 1971 26th amendment voting age lowered to 18.

Public Opinion: is the aggregate of individual attitudes or beliefs held by the adult population. It can be influenced by public relations and the political media. Additionally, the mass media utilizes a wide variety of advertising techniques to change the minds of people.

Trial: part of due process Right to a speedy trial, right to a trial by a jury of one's peers, right to legal representation of you cannot afford it, presumed innocent until proven guilty. Right to a jury also means that citizens have a responsibility to be on a jury if called (not based on voter registration...based on drivers license)

NM State Constitution retrieved from <www.sos.state.nm.us/pdf/2007nmconst.pdf>
FYI: this document is 207 pages in length

NM Legislature: people vote on representatives, taxes, bonds and laws

Referendum: Legislature makes law people vote on it

Innovative: People take the initiative to write legislation, petition it on to a ballot and do a public vote meaning people can create and accept legislation

Bi Cameral legislature based on national model: House (proportional)and Senate equal reps for districts) make the laws

Executive branch Governor~President; Lieutenant Governor~Vice President same duties in Senate
Governor can line item veto (essentially changing legislation)