### Civics EOC Key Ideas Cheat Sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fundamental political principles</th>
<th>Documents that Influenced the Development of the United States of America</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consent of the governed - People are the source of any and all governmental power</td>
<td>Magna Carta</td>
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<td>Limited government - Government is not all-powerful and may do only those things people have given it the power to do</td>
<td>Mayflower Compact</td>
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<td>Rule of law - The government and those who govern are bound by the law</td>
<td>Declaration of Independence</td>
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<td>Democracy - In a democratic system of government, the people rule</td>
<td>Articles of Confederation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Representative government - In a representative system of government, people elect public officeholders to make laws and conduct government on their behalf</td>
<td>Common Sense</td>
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<tr>
<td>How to become a citizen</td>
<td>Constitution of the United States of America, including the Bill of Rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th Amendment defines citizenship: “All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and the state wherein they reside.”</td>
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<td>Immigration and naturalization, particularly in the 20th century, have led to an increasingly diverse society.</td>
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<td>Means of obtaining citizenship:</td>
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<td>1. Birth</td>
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<td>2. Naturalization - must demonstrate knowledge of American history and principles and speak and write English.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Preamble: Purposes of U.S. government</strong></td>
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<td>To form a union; establish justice; ensure domestic peace and to provide defense.</td>
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<td>The Preamble to Constitution of United States of America begins, “We the people,” which establishes that the power of government comes from the people.</td>
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<td><strong>Duties/obligations of responsible citizens</strong></td>
<td><strong>Responsibilities of citizens</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Citizens who choose not to fulfill these civic duties face legal consequences</td>
<td>Civic responsibilities are fulfilled by choice; they are voluntary</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Obey laws</td>
<td>• Register and vote</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Pay taxes</td>
<td>• Hold elective office</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Serve in the armed forces if called</td>
<td>• Participate in political campaigns</td>
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<td>• Serve on a jury</td>
<td>• Serve in voluntary, appointed positions</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ways for citizens to participate in community service</strong></td>
<td>• Influence government by communicating with government officials</td>
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<td>• Volunteer to support democratic institutions (e.g., League of Women Voters).</td>
<td>• Keep informed regarding current issues</td>
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<td>• Express concern about the welfare of the community as a whole (e.g., environment, public health and safety, education).</td>
<td>• Respect others’ rights to equal voice in government election</td>
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</table>
| • Help make community good place to work and live (becoming involved with public service organizations, tutoring, volunteering in nursing homes). | | |}

### Rights of Citizens

**First Amendment freedoms:**

- **Religion** - Government may not establish an official religion, nor endorse, or unduly interfere with the free exercise of religion.
- **Speech** - Individuals are free to express their opinions and beliefs.
- **Press** - The press has the right to gather and publish information, including that which criticizes the government.
- **Assembly** - Individuals may peacefully gather.
- **Petition** - Individuals have the right to make their views known to public officials.

### Due process of law

The constitutional protection against unfair governmental actions and laws

### Due process protections:

- **5th Amendment** - Prohibits national government from acting in an unfair manner.
- **14th Amendment** - Prohibits state/local governments from acting in an unfair manner. Extends the due process protection to actions of the states.

The Supreme Court has extended the due process clauses to protect the guarantees of the Bill of Rights.
Federal Form of Government

The Constitution of the United States of America establishes a federal form of government in which the national government is supreme. (Supremacy Clause)

Federalism

<table>
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<th>National - Powers of national government</th>
<th>State - The powers not given to the national government by the Constitution are reserved for the states.</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>are either enumerated/expressed or implied</td>
<td>• Conducts foreign policy, declare war</td>
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<td>• Promotes public health, welfare, education</td>
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<td>• Regulates commerce, naturalization law</td>
<td>• Denied Powers: Constitution denies powers to both national and state governments.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Local Governments: Powers of local governments in Florida are derived from the state.</td>
<td>• Local Governments:</td>
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<tr>
<th>Branch of Government (C.E.6b)</th>
<th>Local Government</th>
<th>Florida Government</th>
<th>National Government</th>
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<tr>
<td>Legislative</td>
<td>Makes ordinances for community; approves annual budget; limits power to that delegated by the state</td>
<td>Makes laws for Florida; approves budget; exercises power under the 10th amendment</td>
<td>Makes laws for nation; approves annual budget; approves presidential appointments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Executive</td>
<td>Elected or appointed by the Board of Supervisors or City Council; city or county managers hired by local legislatures</td>
<td>Executes laws of Florida; appoints cabinet officers and boards; administers state bureaucracy; grants pardons</td>
<td>Executes law of the land; prepares annual budget for congressional action; appoints cabinet officers, ambassadors, and federal judges; administers federal bureaucracy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judicial</td>
<td>District courts - Hear cases under the authority provided by state legislation</td>
<td>Supreme Court - Has power of judicial review over state laws Circuit courts - Try civil and criminal cases</td>
<td>Supreme Court - Has power of judicial review Federal courts - Try cases involving federal law and U.S. Constitutional questions</td>
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Bicameral Legislature

Bicameral means “two houses”

- Florida General Assembly (Senate and House of Representatives)
- United States Congress (Senate and House of Representatives)

Legislative powers:

- Expressed (specifically listed in constitution)
- Implied (not listed - carry out expressed powers)
- Concurrent (shared powers between state and national)

How a Bill Becomes a Law (state and national)

- Working in committees
- Debating on the floor
- Voting on a bill by both houses
- Signing bill into law by the President or governor.

Executive Branch

Powers of the President are defined in the Constitution of the United States and the Governor in the Constitution of Florida.

Executive branch “carries out the law.”

Ways the executive influences policymaking

- Appointing officials
- Appealing directly to the people
- Approving or vetoing legislation
- Proposing legislation in an annual speech to the legislature (State of the Commonwealth or State of the Union Address)

Cabinet departments, agencies, and regulatory groups: interpret and help with carrying out laws.

Amending the Constitution

- Action by Congress or convention
- Ratification by the states

The amendment process is complex; to date, only 27 amendments have been approved

Electoral College process

A slate of electors for each state chosen by popular vote; electors meet to vote for President and Vice President; winner-take-all system leads to targeting of large states for campaigning, although candidates must pay attention to small states whose electoral votes may make difference in tight elections.

- **number of electors/state is based on state’s Congressional representation.
- **requirements for majority vote to win in Electoral College favors a two-party system.

Influence public policy

Ways Individuals Influence:

- Participating in politics (voting, campaigning)
- Expressing opinions (lobbying, demonstrating, writing letters)
- Joining interest groups
- Lobbying government officials

Ways interest groups influence:

- Identifying issues
- Making political contributions
- Lobbying government officials
Criminal Law
In a criminal case, a court determines whether a person accused of breaking the law is guilty or not guilty of a misdemeanor or a felony.

Civil law
In a civil case, a court settles a disagreement between two parties.

Criminal procedure in felony cases
- A person accused of a crime may be arrested if the police have probable cause.
- The accused may be committed to jail or released on bail.
- The case proceeds to an arraignment where probable cause is reviewed, the defendant may be appointed an attorney, and a plea is entered.
- A court date is set and a trial is conducted.
- A guilty verdict may be appealed to the Court of Appeals or directly to the Supreme Court in certain cases.

Procedure for civil cases
- The plaintiff files a complaint to recover damages or receive compensation.
- Case can be heard by judge or jury.
- Case can be appealed to the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court.

Procedure for cases involving juveniles
- Judges have greater latitude in handling juvenile cases.
- Juveniles who commit serious crimes can be tried as adults.

Voter Registration and Participation
Every vote is important!
Registration is closed 29 days before elections.

Qualifications to register to vote in Florida
- Citizen of the United States
- Resident of Florida and precinct
- 18 years of age by day of general election

How to register in Florida
- In person at the registrar's office, at the Division of Motor Vehicles, or at other designated sites and by mail

Factors in predicting which citizens will vote:
Education — Age — Income
Participation in Political Process amendments: 13th (abolished slavery), 14th (equal protection), 15th (African American suffrage), 19th (Woman suffrage), 24th (ban poll tax), 26th (voting age 18)

Functions of political parties
1. Recruiting and nominating candidates
2. Educating the electorate about campaign issues
3. Helping candidates win elections
4. Monitoring actions of officeholders

Strategies for evaluating campaign speeches, literature, and advertisements for accuracy:
1. Separating fact from opinion; 2. Detecting bias; 3. Evaluating sources; 4. Identifying propaganda

Rising campaign costs
- Require candidates to conduct extensive fund-raising activities
- Limit opportunities to run for public office
- Give an advantage to wealthy individuals who run for office
- Encourage the development of political action committees (PACs)
- Give issue-oriented special interest groups increased influence

Campaign finance reform
- Rising campaign costs have led to efforts to reform campaign finance laws.
- Limits on amount individuals may contribute to political candidates and campaigning candidates win election

Similarities between political parties
- Organize to win elections
- Influence public policies
- Reflect both liberal and conservative views
- Define selves in ways that win majority support by appealing to political center

Differences between parties
- Stated in a party's platform and reflected in campaigning

United States Supreme Court
(Justices/no jury)
Jurisdiction: Appellate and Limited Original

United States Court of Appeals
(Justices/no jury)
Jurisdiction: Appellate

United States District Court
(Judge with jury)
Jurisdiction: Original

Florida Court System
Florida, like each of the other forty-nine states, has its own court system whose organization and jurisdiction are derived from Florida's constitution and state laws.

Florida Supreme Court
(Justices/no jury)
- Court of final appeal (Appellate jurisdiction)
- Limited original jurisdiction (death penalty, regulations)

Court of Appeals of Florida
(Judges/no jury)
- Appellate jurisdiction from circuit courts

Circuit Court
(Judge and jury)
- Original jurisdiction for felony criminal cases and for certain civil cases

General County Court
(Judge)
- Original jurisdiction of misdemeanors
- Civil cases involving lower dollar amounts

Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
(Judge/no jury)
- Juvenile and family cases;
- Magistrates issue search warrants, subpoenas, arrest warrants, summons, and set bail.

Third parties
- Introduce new ideas or press for a particular issue
- Often revolve around a political personality (T. Roosevelt)

Types of Government
- confederal: power located in the states and little power in the central government (Articles of Confederation)
- federal: power shared between the states and the central government (Articles of Confederation)
- parliamentary: power lies with the legislative body and the leader is part of the legislature (Canada)
- unitary: power located with the central govt (Italy)

Systems of Government
- monarch- autocracy where ruler is a king or queen; ruler becomes powerful by being born into a family of rulers
- anarchy- absence of any form of govt
- autocracy- one person has unlimited power
- communism- govt owns and controls everything
- democracy- political power resides with the people
- dictatorship- autocracy where a military leader becomes the leader through violent means
- oligarchy- rule by a few
- representative democracy- people elect representatives to make laws for them
- direct democracy- people run the government and make the daily decisions