



MIX, MATCH, FREEZE PRINCIPLES OF THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION

Learning Objectives: The students will...

1. Identify examples of the seven principles on which the Texas Constitution is based.
2. Understand the meaning of the seven principles on which the Constitution is based.

TEKS: 7.13 A, 7.13B

Materials Needed: One set of Mix, Match, Freeze Cards (cut apart).

Teaching Strategy:

1. Make one copy of the Mix, Match Freeze Cards and cut them apart.
2. Pass out one card to each student. Explain that they either have one of the seven principles on which the Texas Constitution is based; the definition of the principle; or an example of the principle as it is described in the Texas Constitution.
3. Give them a few minutes to think about all they remember about card that they have. For example, if they have the principle, they should try to remember what the definition of that principle is as well as some examples in our government.
4. At the time set by the teacher, instruct the students with the principle cards to find a place in the room to stand. Next, the teacher directs the students with the definition cards to stand and without talking try to find the principle that matches their definition. Each principle should have only one definition card. Finally, the students with the example cards are to stand and try to find the principle and definition cards that match their example. NOTE—There are two example cards for each principle. This is the “mix” part of the game.
5. When a group of four thinks they have a “match” of all three types of cards, they are to freeze and link arms in order—Principle, Definition, Example, Example. The teacher can circulate to check their answers.
6. After all seven principles are correctly matched; each group should explain their principle, definition, and examples to the class. At this time, an extension might be for the class to brainstorm other examples of the principle besides the ones used by the class.
7. An alternate way to use the cards is to use them to play the children’s game of *Memory*. This game would require the class to be placed in groups with each group getting a set of the cards. Because of the large number of the cards, the teacher can segregate the principle from the definition and the examples. The student turning over one card plays the game from each type, trying to make a match. If they don’t make a match, they must return all cards face down.

Extension for GT/Pre AP:

Create a new example of each principle and be able to explain how it is an example of that principle.

Key:

Limited Government: 4 and 11

Individual Rights: 9 and 12

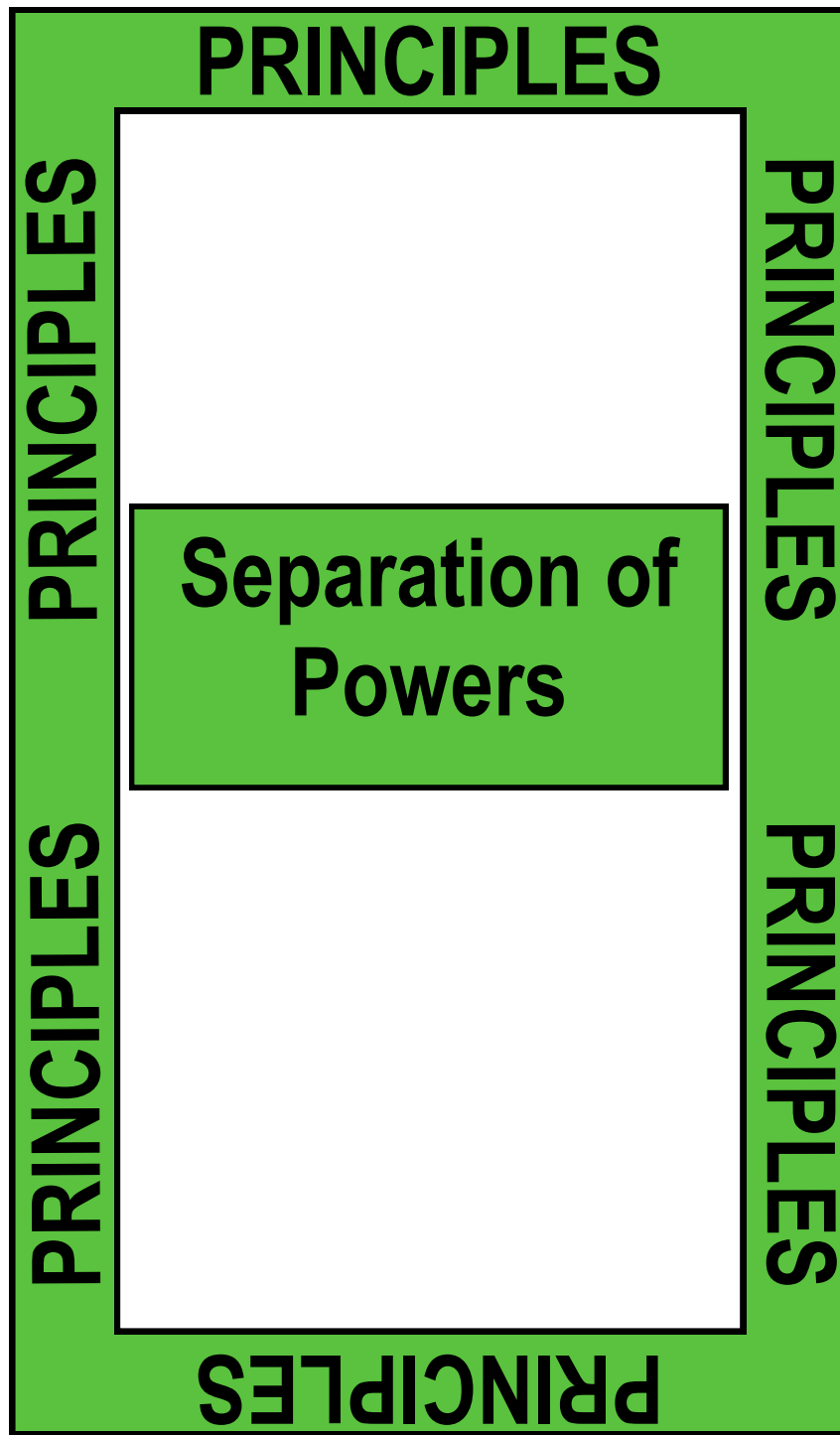
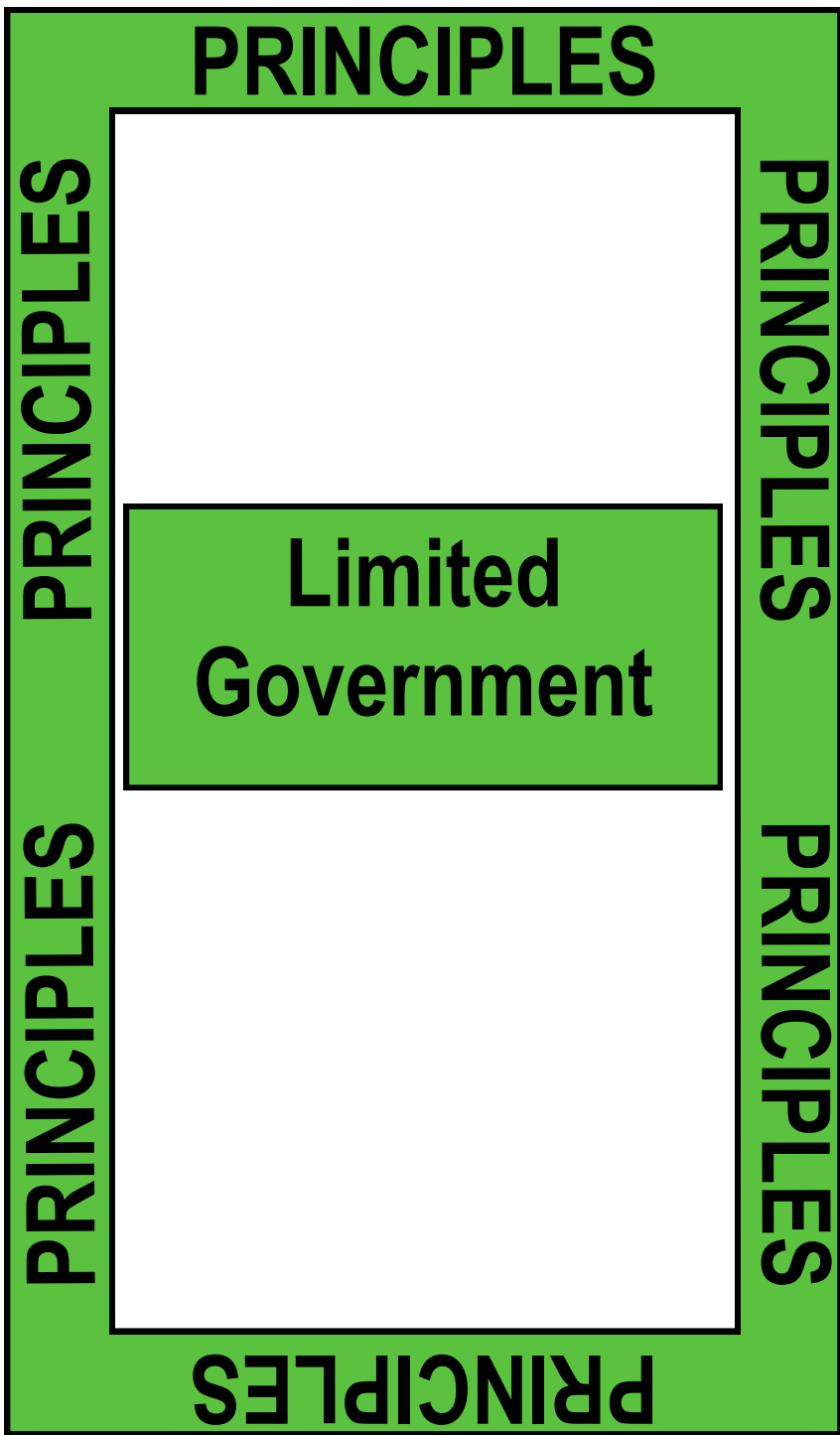
Republicanism: 8 and 3

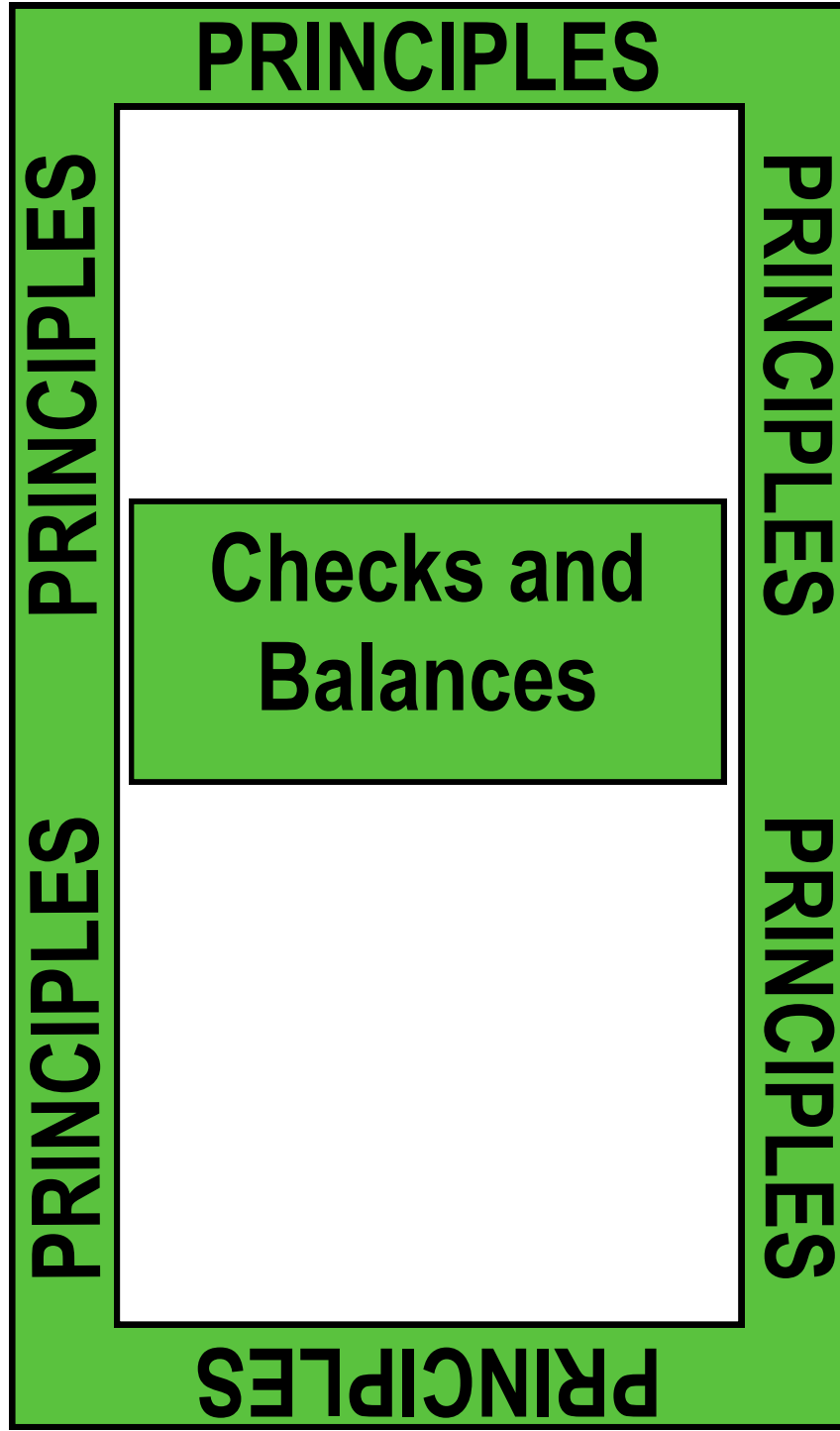
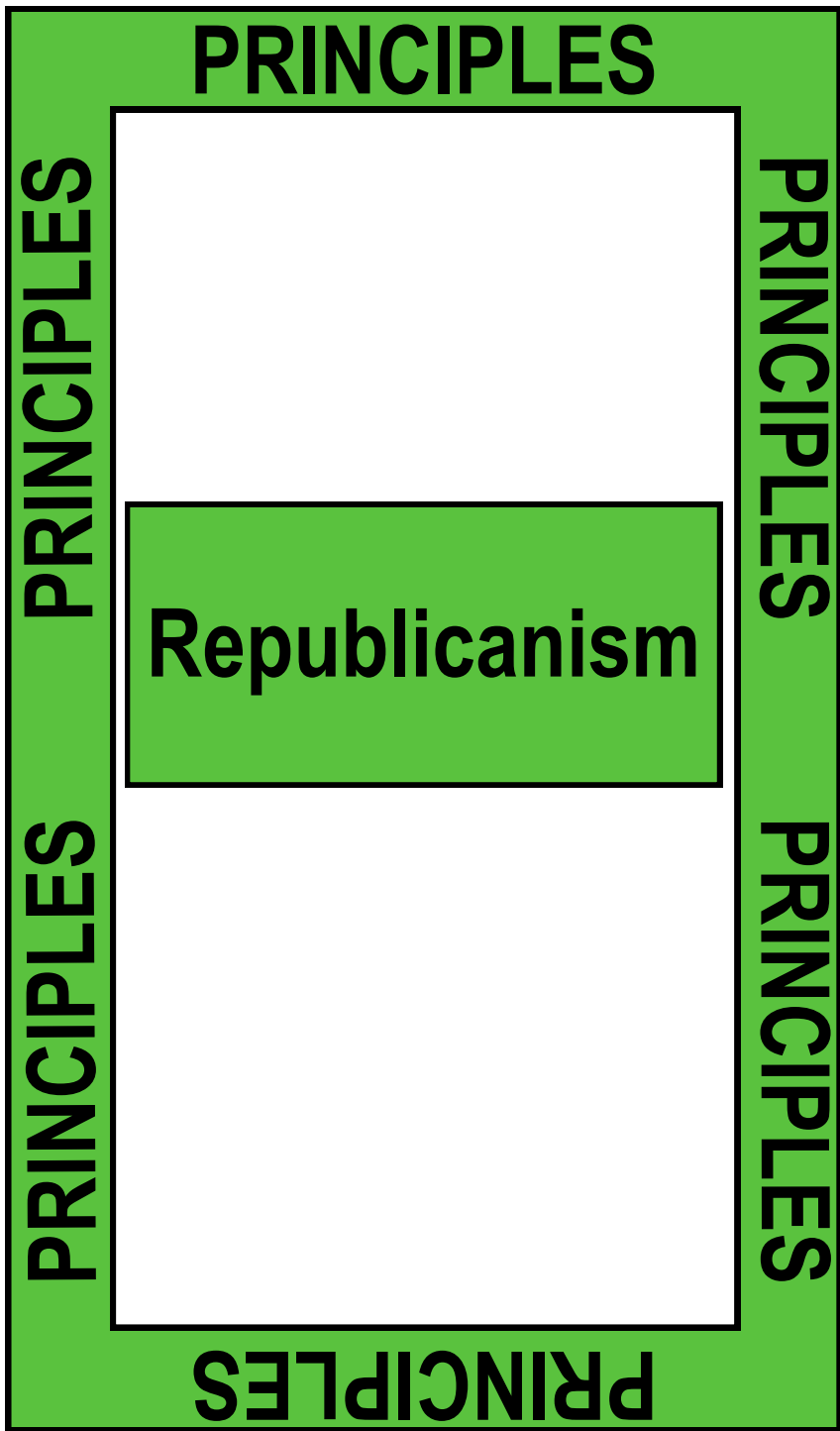
Federalism: 2 and 5

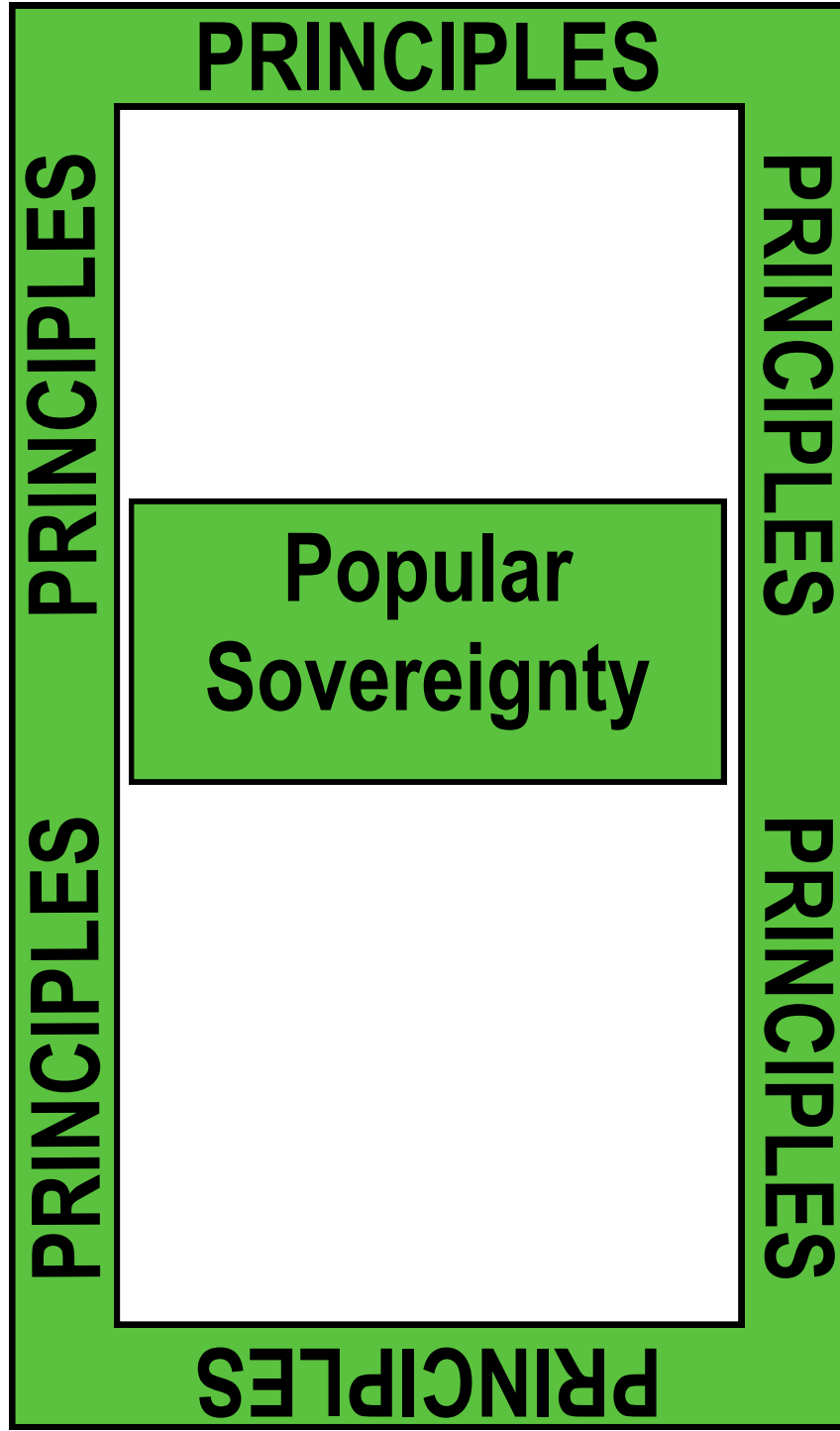
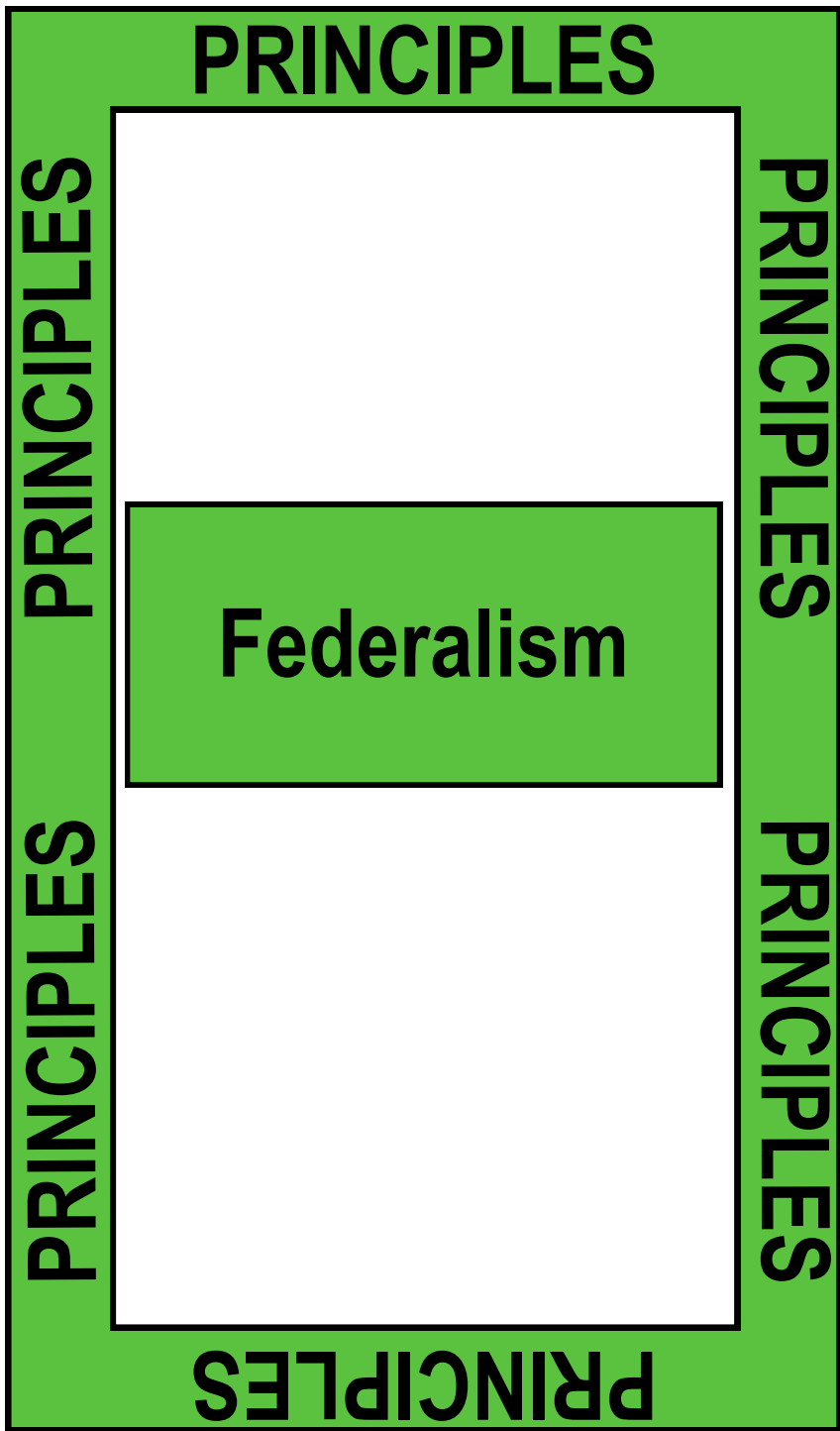
Checks and Balances: 6 and 13

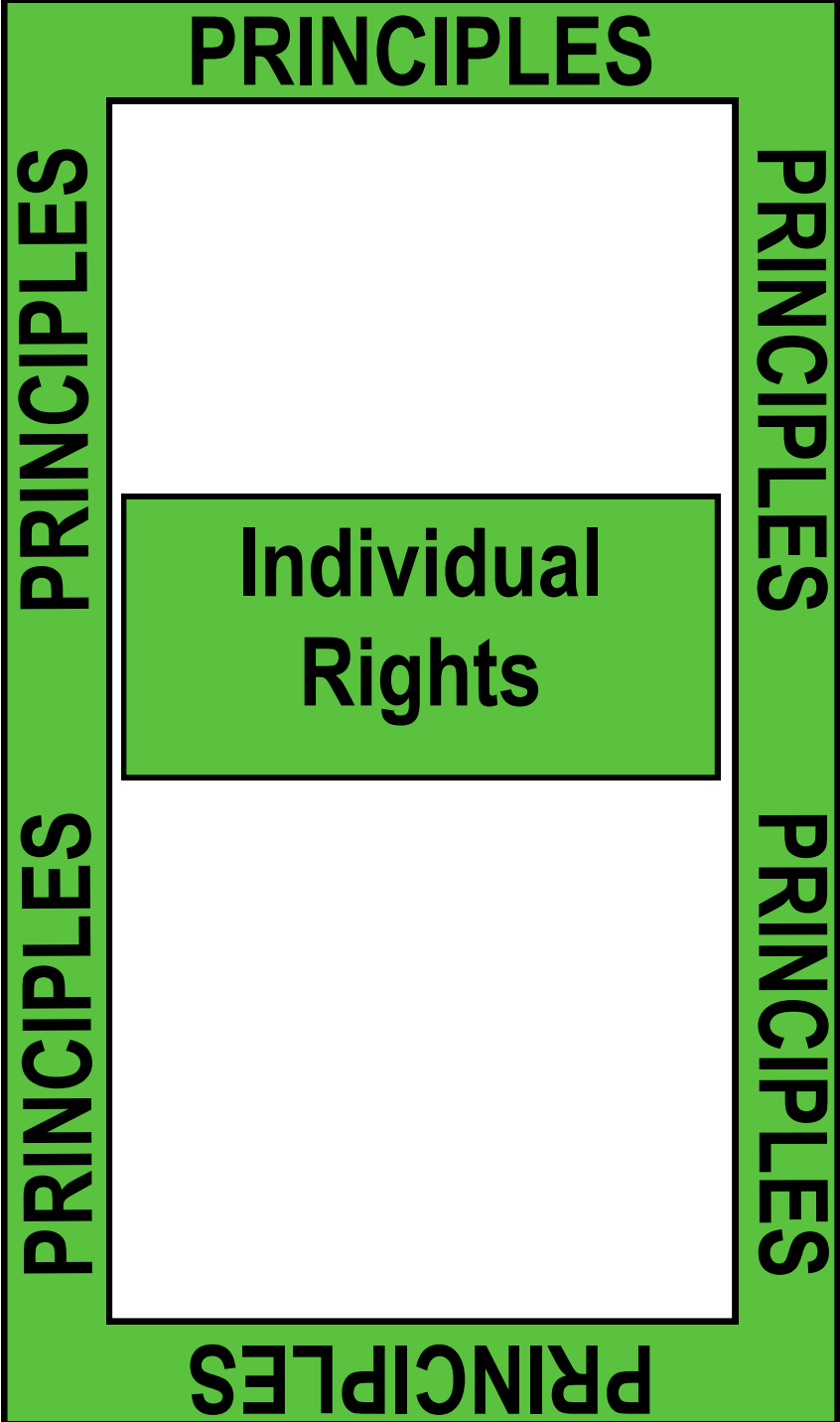
Separation of Powers: 7 and 14

Popular Sovereignty: 1 and 10









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Article V, Sections 2 and 4 establish a Supreme Court and a Court of Criminal Appeals and provide that the Justices and Judges of both courts will be elected by the qualified voters of the state.

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The Governor does not hire and cannot fire most of the other officers in the executive branch.

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Various articles of the Texas Constitution discuss the jurisdiction (responsibility) of the state with regards to education, railroads, and local government units such as counties, municipalities, and soil and water conservation districts.

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Article XV grants the Texas House of Representatives the power to impeach any of the executive officers of the state such as the Governor or the Lieutenant Governor.

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Article II, Section 1 specifically provides that “the powers of the Government of the State of Texas shall be divided into three distinct departments (Legislative, Executive, and Judicial).”

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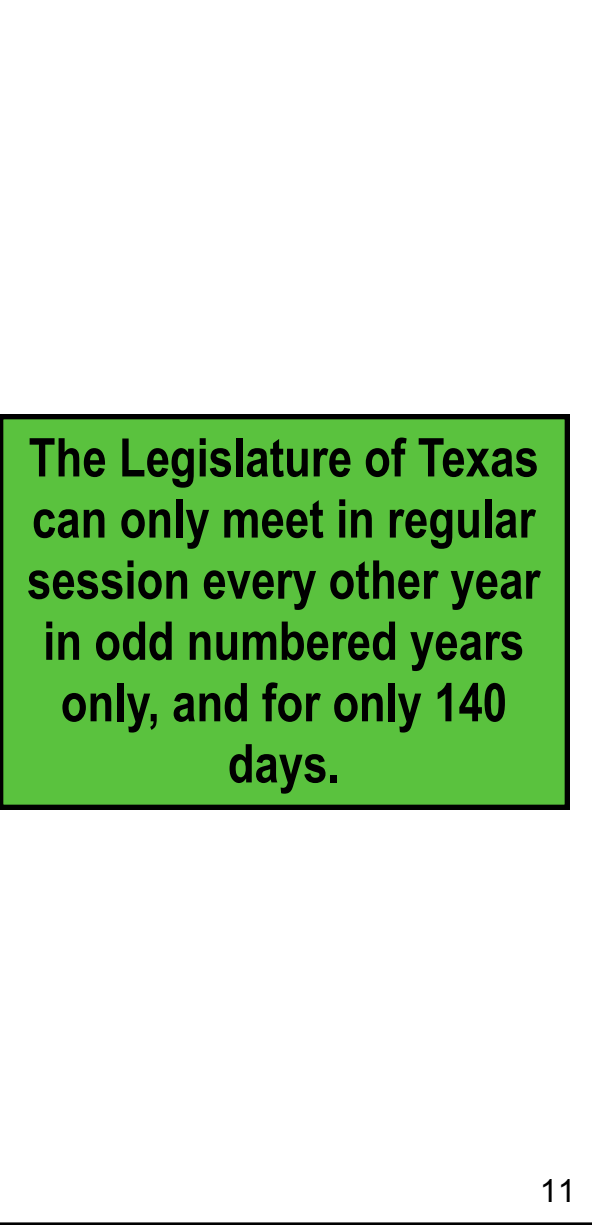
Article IV Section 2 of the Texas Constitution states, “all the above officers of the Executive Department (except Secretary of State) shall be elected by the qualified voters of the state at the time and places of election for members of the Legislature.”

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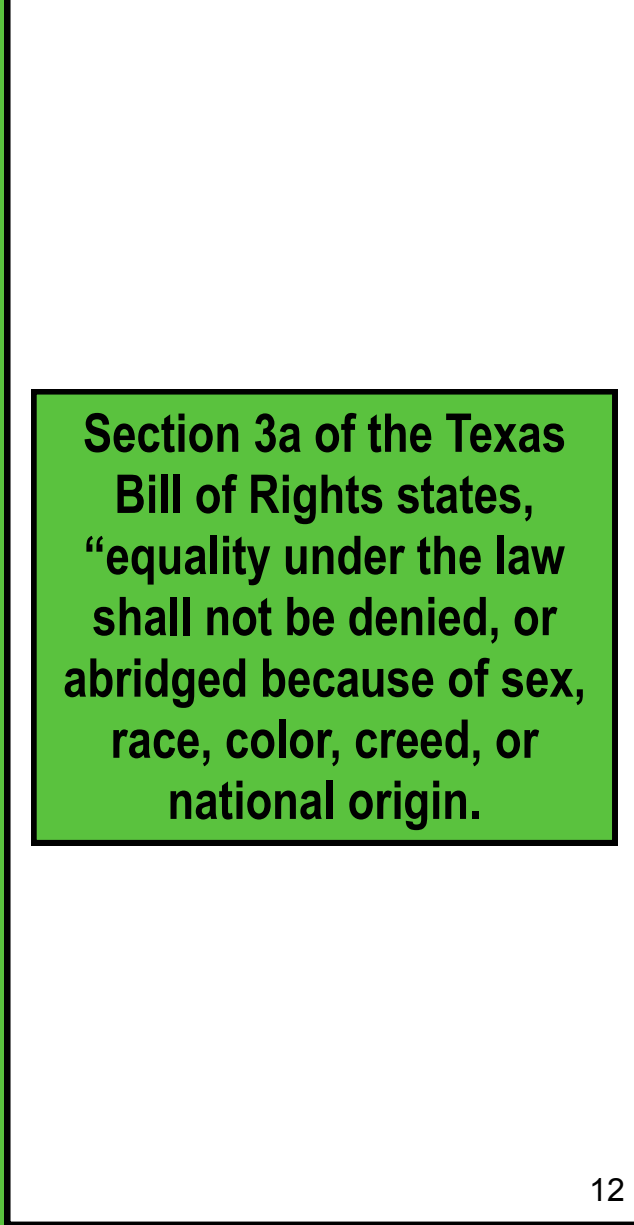
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The Legislature of Texas can only meet in regular session every other year in odd numbered years only, and for only 140 days.

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Section 3a of the Texas Bill of Rights states, "equality under the law shall not be denied, or abridged because of sex, race, color, creed, or national origin."

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Article III, Section 40, provides that only the Governor can call a “special session” of the Legislature and furthermore that in a special session the Legislature can only consider subjects designated by the Governor.

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Article II, Section 1 states, “...no person, or collection of persons, being of one of these departments (executive, legislative, and judicial) shall exercise any power properly attached to either of the others, except in the instances herein expressly permitted.”

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The people do not govern themselves directly, but instead, through elections they choose those who govern them.

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Texas is a state within a system of government where power is divided between the national government and those of the individual states.

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Power within the state's government is divided among three separate branches; Legislative, Executive, and Judicial.

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Ultimate power and final authority rest with the people.

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The power of Texas government is limited by the Texas Constitution, the U.S. Constitution, laws made by the U.S. Congress in pursuance of the U.S. Constitution, and by treaties made by the U.S. with other nations of the world.

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Personal freedoms, personal protections, and equality under the law are defined and guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution, U.S. Bill of Rights, laws of the U.S., and the Texas Constitution, and the Texas Bill of Rights.

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Each of the three
branches of Texas
government has certain
controls over the other
two.