



## U.S. OR TEXAS CONSTITUTION?

**Learning Objectives:** The students will...

1. Compare and contrast specific provisions of the United States and Texas Constitutions.

**TEKS:** 7.13A, 7.13B

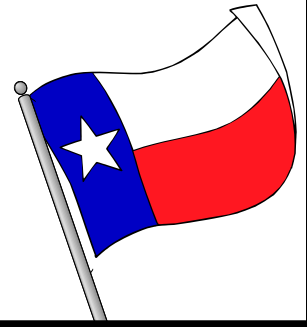
**Materials Needed:** For each pair of students, prepare an envelope with cut fact strips and the headers “The U.S. Constitution...” and “The Texas Constitution...”

**Teaching Strategies:**

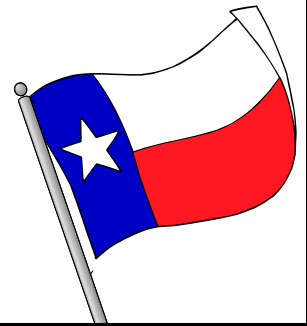
1. Use this activity after students have studied the U.S. and Texas Constitutions.
2. Assign or have students select a partner and distribute envelopes with fact strips and headers to each pair. Instruct students to arrange the fact strips under the appropriate heading.
3. Circulate as the groups work to check students’ work and provide help for those who maybe having difficulty.
4. After students have arranged their strips, check and discuss their answers. Students need a correct arrangement to complete the follow up activity.
5. Keep in mind that the fact strips do not have to be placed in the same order as they appear on the lesson plan which is the key. The facts must, however, appear under the appropriate heading and each Texas fact should be paired to a U.S. fact.
6. Ask the students what is similar and different between the two documents.



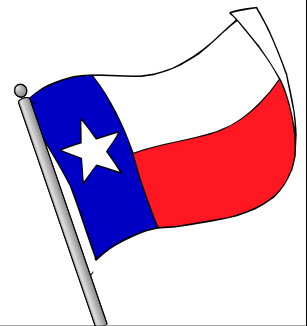
**The U.S. Constitution...**



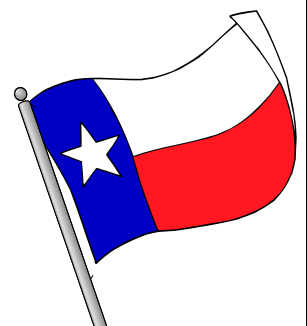
**The Chief Executive is  
chosen by an Electoral  
College**



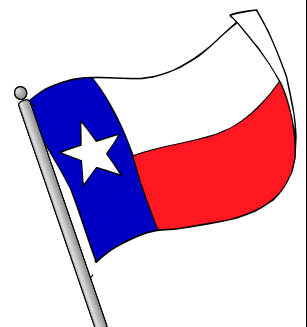
**Has been amended 27 times**

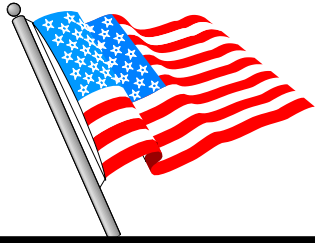


**Most Amendments have  
been proposed by a 2/3 vote  
in the House and Senate and  
ratified by  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the state  
legislatures.**

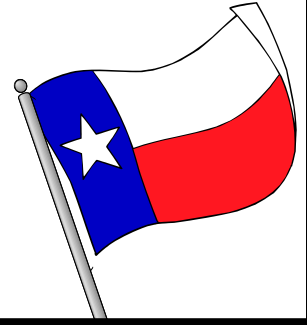


**Has one Supreme Court  
whose justices are  
appointed for life.**

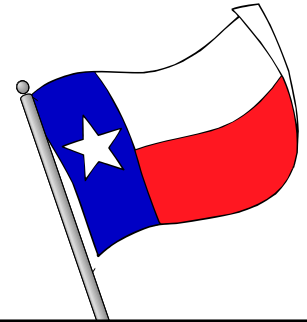




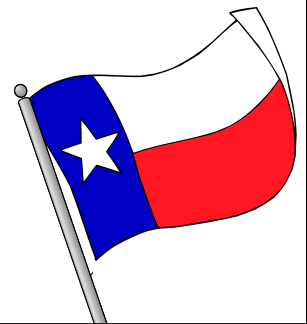
**Is the second constitution  
since independence**



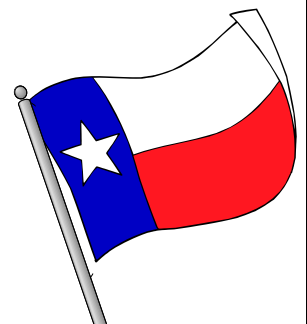
**Has over 7,000 words**



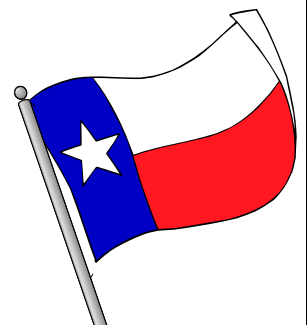
**An amendment prohibiting  
the sale and consumption of  
alcoholic beverages was later  
repealed by another  
amendment.**



**Its first ten amendments  
protect the rights and  
liberties of citizens.**

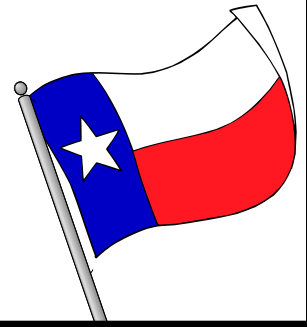


**Contains no specific  
provision for a “right to  
education.”**

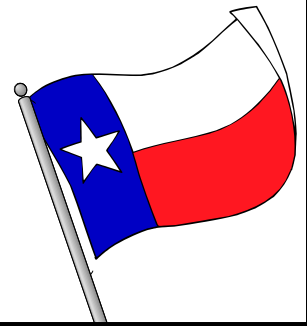




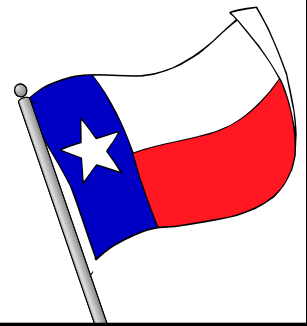
**Two of its amendments  
provide for “due process of  
law” to protect citizens from  
arbitrary acts of  
government.**

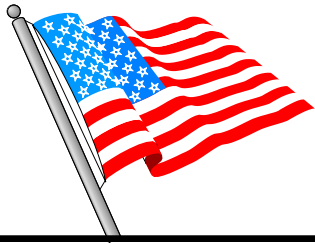


**Framers were well-educated  
and experienced in  
government who wanted to  
correct problems due to a  
weak central government.**

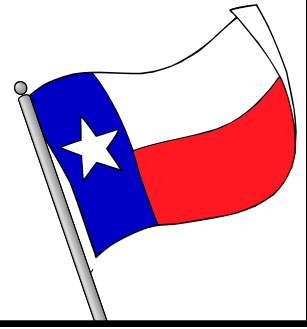


**Its First Amendment states  
that “Congress shall make no  
law respecting an  
establishment of religion...”**

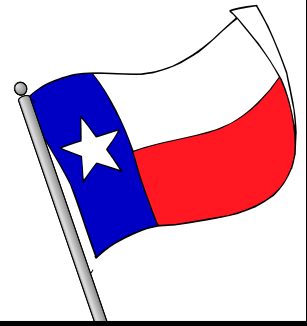




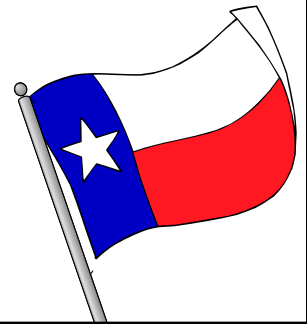
## **The Texas Constitution...**



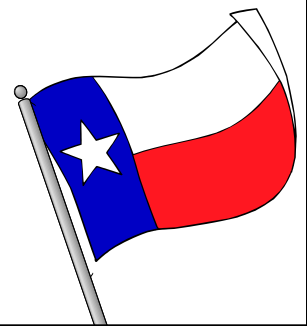
**Has been amended over 450 times.**



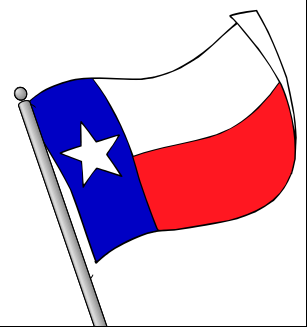
**Requires a 2/3 vote in the House and Senate and a majority vote of the people to amend.**



**Provides for two high courts – one civil and one criminal; judges are elected.**

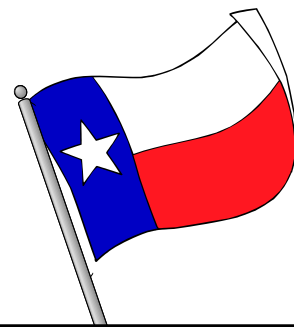


**Chief Executive elected by the voters for a four year term.**

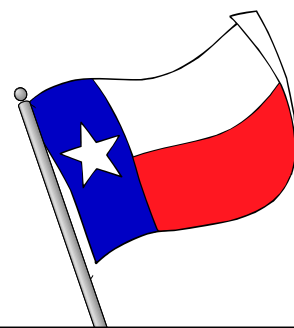




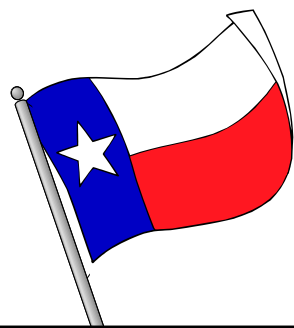
**Is the sixth constitution since independence.**



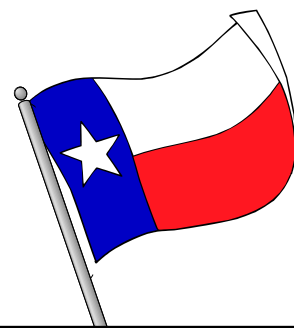
**Has over 100,000 words.**



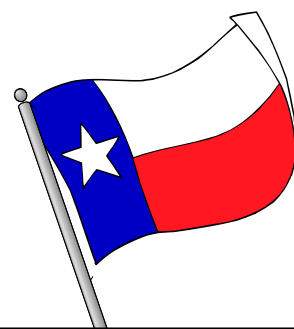
**Legislature meets in regular session biennially in odd numbered years for only 140 days.**



**Article One is the Bill of Rights protecting the rights and liberties of citizens.**

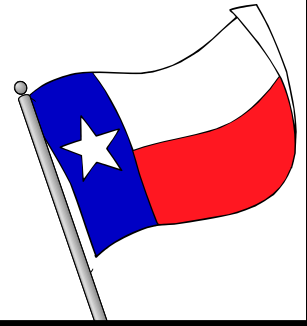


**Describes education as a fundamental right.**

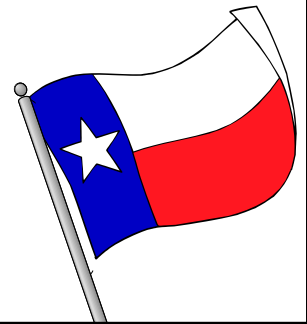




**Protects citizens from arbitrary acts of government through “due course of law”.**



**Framers largely represented agrarian interests and were moved to write a constitution to correct the abuses of an oppressive government created after Reconstruction.**



**Provides detailed discussion of the structure of county government.**

