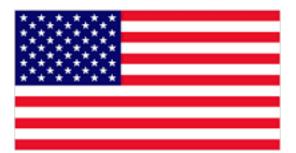


Comparing

Constitutions

U.S. Constitution

vs. NC Constitution



US Constitution Breakdown

- **Preamble** : purpose and intent of government
 - **7 articles** : one for each branch (L,E,J), states powers
- Amendment changes, supremacy F>S, and ratification • 27 amendments
- - First 10 are the Bill of Rights (AF)
- Amendments are **added** to the end of the Constitution

NC Constitution Breakdown

- **Preamble** : purpose and intent of government
- 14 Different Articles
- Article 1 discusses the Declaration of Rights
 Similar to the U.S. Bill of Rights
 - Holds 37 sections (or rights)
- - Articles 2-4 discuss the three branches (L,E,J)
- Articles 5-14 discuss state matters (i.e. finance, local government, crime and punishment, etc.)
- Amendments are NOT added at the end, the Constitution is just changed each time

Principles found in both documents

- Federalism: separation of federal and state government (allows state governments to exist and have powers)
- Separation of Powers: there are three separate NC branches
- Checks and Balances: each branch can check the power of the others
- **Popular Sovereignty**: power is in the hands of the people
- Limited Government: actions of government are limited by law
- • Rule of Law: Law applies to everyone

Most Common Amendment Processes

U.S. Constitution

- 2/3 of Congress propose
- • 3/4 of States approve
- The voter is not involved in the process

N.C. Constitution

- 3/5 of General Assembly (NC's legislative branch) propose
- NC voters ratify by popular vote
- Voters are given the power

Charters: Local Constitutions

- The NC Constitution gives the state the power to approve charters to create new cities/towns
- A Charter is a constitution for a local government – gives a city or town authority to act as a local government and explains how it will be governed