The Constitution

The Six Basic Principles

Popular Sovereignty –

Limited government –

Separation of Powers –

Checks & Balances –

Judicial Review –

Federalism -

Amending the Constitution

Proposed by Congress by a 2/3 vote in both houses

Ratified by the state legislature in ¾ or 38 of the states

Proposed at a national convention called by congress when requested by 2/3 of the state legislatures

Ratified by the State legislature in ¾ of the States

Proposed by congress by a 2/3 vote in both houses

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Proposed at a National Convention called by congress when requested by 2/3 of the state legislatures

Ratified by conventions held in ¾ of the states

Informal Amendment

Process by which many changes have been made in the constitution that have not led to changes in the Document’s written words.

Basic Legislation –

Executive Action –

Court Decisions –

Party Practices –

Custom -