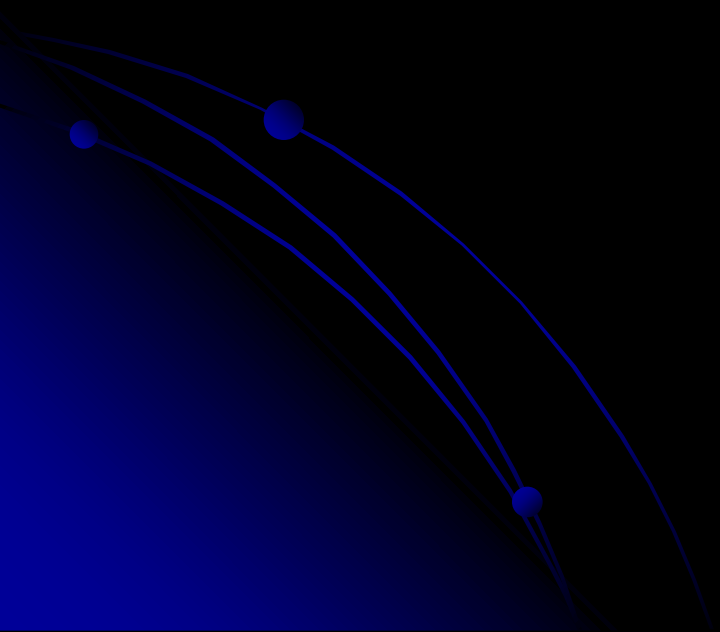


State Constitutions During the Constitutional Era



6 Basic Ideas in State Constitutions

1. Higher Law and Natural Law
 2. Social Contract
 3. Popular Sovereignty
 4. Representation – Right to Vote
 5. Legislative Supremacy
 6. Checks and Balances
- 

Other Ideas in State Constitutions

- Safe to put power in Legislative Branch
- Executive and Judicial cannot be trusted
- Penn. Has a 12 man council rather than a Governor
- Others had Legislature appoint Governor and controlled salary
- Governors had 1 year terms
- All executive appointments must be approved thru Legislature
- Governors often excluded from law-making process
- Governors had no absolute veto – Legislature could override

Massachusetts Constitution

1. Popular Representation
 - Large property owners elect Governor
 - Less property owners elect Upper House
 - Minimum property owners elect Lower House
2. Separation of Powers & checks and Balances
3. Strong executive – elected by the people
4. Governors salary is fixed
5. Governor can veto, but Leg. Can override with 2/3 majority
6. Governor appointed Executive Departments and Judicial
7. Shows skepticism of the Abuse of Power

Virginia Declaration of Rights

1. Power is derived by the people
2. All men are created equal, free, and independent
3. All people have rights of life, liberty, and property
4. Purpose of government is for common benefit, protection, and security
5. People can alter or abolish government if it doesn't serve needs of people
6. Exercise religion freely
7. Love and charity towards others is stressed

Other State Declarations

1. Guaranteed Rights
2. Natural Rights
3. Popular Sovereignty
4. Purpose of Government
5. Civic Virtue
6. Commitment to Moral and Religious Principles
7. Political Guarantees
 - Voting -Free elections
 - Free Speech -Free Press
 - Petition -Due Process
 - No taxation w/out Representation
8. No standing army during time of peace
9. Right to Bear Arms
10. Vermont goes as far as to ban slavery

Declaration of Rights Summary

- Resembles Declaration of Independence
- Written as Preambles
- Establish morals and philosophies of government
- Showed purpose of government
- Natural Rights and classical republicanism
- Rationalized the Revolution to other countries
- Written during revolution / Bill of Rights was specific; a peacetime list
- Explained why revolution was necessary