

Attachment A

Power is distributed between different levels of government.

## National Government



*United States*

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## State Government



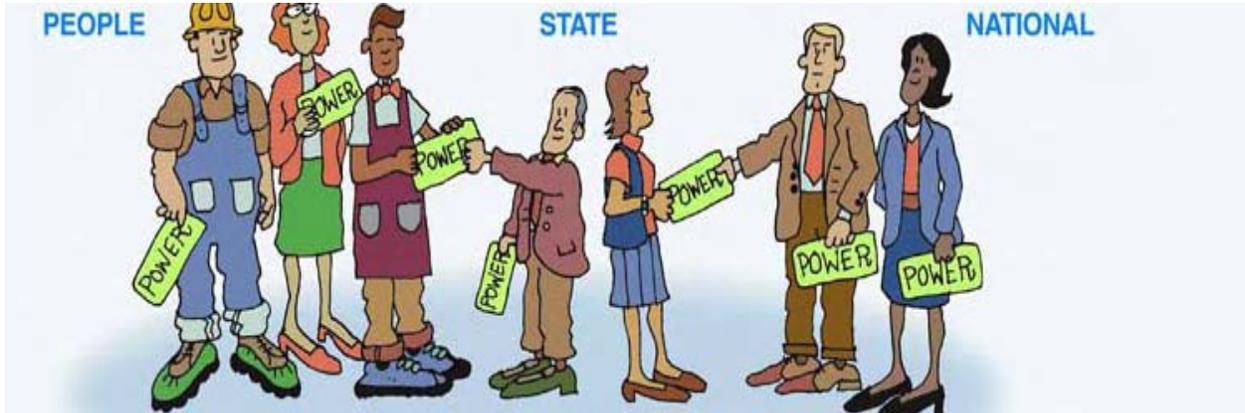
*Florida*

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## Local Government



*City of Miami*



The Constitution provides for a federal system of government. In a federal system the people do not delegate, or give, all power to one central government. Instead, they delegate some power to the national government, some to their state governments, some to both.

Federalism is the division of powers between a national or central government and a regional or state government. The United States has a federal system of government in which the states and national government share the powers. Americans must obey both federal and state laws. Article I of the US Constitution says only the national government might coin money.

Alexander Hamilton, writing in “Federalist No. 28,” suggested that both levels of government would exercise authority to the citizens’ benefit: “If their [the people’s] rights are invaded by either, they can make use of the other as the instrument of redress.”

### **Powers to the national or federal government**

As citizens of the nation, the people give certain powers to the federal government. These powers are described in the Constitution. They include the power to create post offices, control interstate and foreign trade, declare and conduct war, and create a national currency. The powers given to the national government are called **enumerated or express powers**. Some other examples include passing laws, regulating trade with other countries and among the states. The federal government also takes care of foreign affairs, provides for the country’s defense, coins and prints money, establishes a postal system, admits new states, governs US territories and regulates immigration.

### **Powers given to the states**

The powers given to the states are called **reserved powers** because they are set aside for the states or the people. Some examples of these powers are the power to conduct elections, regulate trade within the state, establish local governments and public school systems.

### **Powers that are shared**

It is important to know that in our federal system the federal and state governments also share many powers. These powers are known as **concurrent powers**. For example, both governments have the power to tax citizens and businesses and to provide for the health and welfare of the people. Both governments have to enforce laws, borrow money if needed, establish courts and create banks.

The Constitution is the highest law of the land. In case the laws of the national and the state conflict with one another, the Framers or Founding Fathers included the **supremacy clause** in Article VI, saying that the Constitution and other laws made by the National Government are the supreme "Law of the Land".

Attachment C

