Federalism: Federal, State, and Local Government

I. Federalism:
   a. Federalism: division of power between federal and state government
      i. Enumerated Powers: the powers granted to the federal government by Article I, Section 8
         1. Examples- power to declare war, power to coin money
      ii. Reserved Powers: powers left to the states (10th Amendment)
         1. Examples: establish local government, provide public education
      iii. Concurrent Powers: powers shared by the federal government and state governments
         1. Examples: the power to tax, borrow money
      iv. Supremacy Clause (Article VI)- when conflict between federal and state law, federal law is supreme
   b. Federal Government- meets national needs
      i. i.e. defense, and foreign policy
   c. State Government- meets statewide needs
      i. i.e. educational requirements
   d. Local Government- meet local concerns
      i. i.e. running a school district

II. The U.S. Constitution versus the Florida Constitution:
   a. each state has its own constitution or plan for government
      i. power is divided amongst 3 separate branches
   b. The U.S. Constitution"
      i. Preamble- goals of government
      ii. 3 branches of government:
         1. Legislative Branch- Congress
            a. Senate= 100 members
            b. House of Representatives= 435 members
         2. Executive Branch- President, VP, and appointed cabinet
         3. Judicial Branch- 3 levels of courts
            a. District/Trial, Appellate, and Supreme Court
      iii. Bill of Rights (Amendments 1-10)
      iv. Broad framework of government (encompasses the entire nation)
         1. Approximately 7k words, and amended 27 times
   c. State of Florida Constitution:
      i. Preamble- goals of the state government
      ii. Florida Declaration of Rights (like Bill of Rights)
      iii. 3 branches of government:
         1. Executive Branch- Governor, Lt. Governor, and elected cabinet
         2. Legislative Branch- Florida State Legislator:
         3. Judicial Branch- 4 levels of courts
      iv. Narrow framework of government (encompasses just Florida)
         1. Approximately 57k words, and amended over 100 times
III. How Florida’s State Government is Organized:
   a. The Florida State Legislature:
      i. Bicameral- 2 houses
         1. Senate- 40 senators (1 from each senatorial district)
         2. HOR- up to 120 members (1 from each representative district)
      ii. Senators elected to a 4 year term
      iii. Representatives elected to a 2 year term
      iv. Qualifications
         1. Be at least 21 years old
         2. Resident of Florida for at least 2 years
         3. Be a resident of the district he or she will represent
      v. Functions:
         1. Make state laws (known as acts or statues)
         2. Investigative Powers
            a. Subpoena witnesses and documents
         3. Override a veto by the executive branch
            a. 2/3 majority vote in each house
         4. Impeach officials
   b. The Florida Executive Branch:
      i. Governor- chief executive
      ii. Lieutenant Governor- 2nd in command and leader of the Senate
      iii. Qualifications
         1. Must be at least 30 years old
         2. Have lived in the state for the past 7 years before the election
      iv. Elected to a 4 year term
      v. Elected cabinet- 3 members
   c. The Florida Judicial Branch:
      i. 4 levels of courts
         1. County Courts (67 total)- traffic violations and minor crimes
         2. Circuit Courts (20 total)- criminal and civil cases (important)
            a. These two courts make up the trial courts
            b. Judge and jury or just a judge decides case
         3. District Court of Appeals (5 total)- hears appeals of cases
            a. Panel of Judges
            b. Upholds, Overturns, or Remands the lower court decision
         4. Florida Supreme Court- top court in the state

IV. The Amendment Process: Florida vs. U.S.:
   a. State of Florida Constitution is easier to amend
   b. 2 step process
      i. Step 1 Proposal (5 ways):
         1. 3/5 vote of both houses of Florida Legislature
         2. Constitutional Revision Commission (37 members)
         3. Taxation and Budget Reform Commission
         4. Initiative of voters proposing an amendment
         5. Initiative of the voters to call a constitutional convention
ii. Step 2 Adoption:
   1. 60% of the voters must approve
      a. If concerns taxes than 2/3 (66.7%) of the voters

V. Other Key Differences:
   a. English is designated as the official language of Florida
   b. No state income tax
   c. Passing a law is similar to Congress/ No pocket-veto
   d. Specific Concerns
      i. Elections and voting (Article VI)
      ii. State Finances and taxation (Article VII)
      iii. Local Government (Article VIII)
      iv. Public Education (Article IX)