**Federalism**

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| **Term** | **Definition** | **Visual Representation** |
| **Federal**  **Government** | the organization through which political authority is exercised at the national level, government of the United States |  |
| **State Government** | the organization through which political authority is exercised at the state level, government of a specific state |  |
| **Local Government** | the governing body of a municipality or county |  |

Federalism is a system of government where power is divided and shared between the federal (national) government, the state governments and the local governments.

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**NOTE**

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**U.S. Constitution**

**Federal & State Governments**

**Concurrent Powers**

**Federal Government**

**Enumerated (Delegated) Powers**

**State Governments**

**Reserved Powers**

**Local Governments**

**State**

**Constitution**

Federalism is found in the U.S. Constitution. In the Constitution, there are powers specifically listed for the federal government and an amendment about state government powers. Powers set aside specifically for the federal government are called enumerated or delegated powers. Powers for each branch of the federal government are located in Articles I, II, and III. Powers for state governments are called reserved powers and are listed in the Tenth Amendment. Some powers belong to both the federal and state governments. These powers are called concurrent powers. Local governments get their powers from state constitutions. The Florida Constitution outlines the organization and powers of county and city governments.

The powers of each level of government relates to the types of issues each level deals with. The federal government has the power to handle issues the entire nation is concerned about. The state governments have the power to handle issues that concern citizens of particular states. Similarly, local governments have the power to address issues that concern citizens in towns, cities and counties.

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| **Type of Power** | **Definition** | **Examples** |
| **Enumerated or Delegated Powers** | powers specifically listed in the U.S. Constitution for the federal (national) government only | 1. The power to raise and support an army and navy. 2. The power to coin money. 3. The power to declare war. 4. The power to conduct foreign policy. 5. The power to regulate trade between states and internationally. |
| **Reserved Powers** | powers that are given to the states by the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution | 1. The power to run elections. 2. The power to set up and run schools. 3. The power to establish local governments 4. The power to regulate business in the state. |
| **Concurrent Powers** | powers shared by the federal (national) and state governments | 1. The power to levy taxes (tax the people). 2. The power to establish courts. 3. The ability to borrow money. |
| **Local Government Powers** | powers given to towns, cities and counties by the Florida Constitution | 1. The power to create speed limits. 2. The power to protect citizens from crime. 3. The power to provide services related to garbage, sewage, fire protection, and traffic control. |

**Define the term federalism in your own words**:

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Before the U.S. Constitution, the United States had the Articles of Confederation and was organized with a confederal system. A confederal system is a system of government where power is held by independent states and there is little power in the federal (national) government. The U.S. Constitution was written because of concerns about the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation. The federal government had very little power and the states acted as independent nations with too much power. Government power was unbalanced and there was no sense of national unity (togetherness).

To solve these problems, the U.S. Constitution was written and the United States moved from a confederal system to a system of federalism. The Founding Fathers had a big goal. They needed to limit state power because states had too much power under the Articles of Confederation. They also needed to create a federal government with limited power. As a solution, the Founding Fathers created a system of federalism. This means that power is shared between the federal, state, and local governments. The federal government has its own powers, shares some powers with the states, and gives states some of their own powers. By dividing power between different levels, this limits the power of each level of government and one level of government cannot become too powerful.

**How does federalism limit government power? Highlight the relevant passages in the text that helped you answer this question.**

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Adapted from: Ben’s Guide to Government for Kids - <http://bensguide.gpo.gov/journeyman-federal-versus-state-government>