

Unit II: The United States Constitution

The 7 Principles of the U.S. Constitution

What is a constitution?

- As defined by Webster's Dictionary:
- The *basic principles* and *laws* of a nation, state, or social group that *determine* the *powers* and *duties* of the government and *guarantee certain rights* to the people in it.

○ Define “constitution” in your own words

United States Constitution – FAQs:

- When was the Constitution **created**?
 - A: September 17, 1787 at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia
- When was it **ratified**?
 - A: June 21, 1788 (NC and RI join in 1790)
- What are the **differences** between the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution?

Declaration of
Independence

- Lists grievances against King George
- Explains idea of sovereignty

U.S.
Constitution

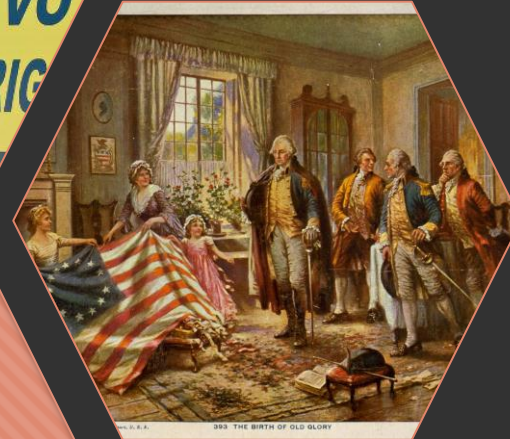
- Sets foundation of actual government processes (laws, responsibilities, principles)

Principle I

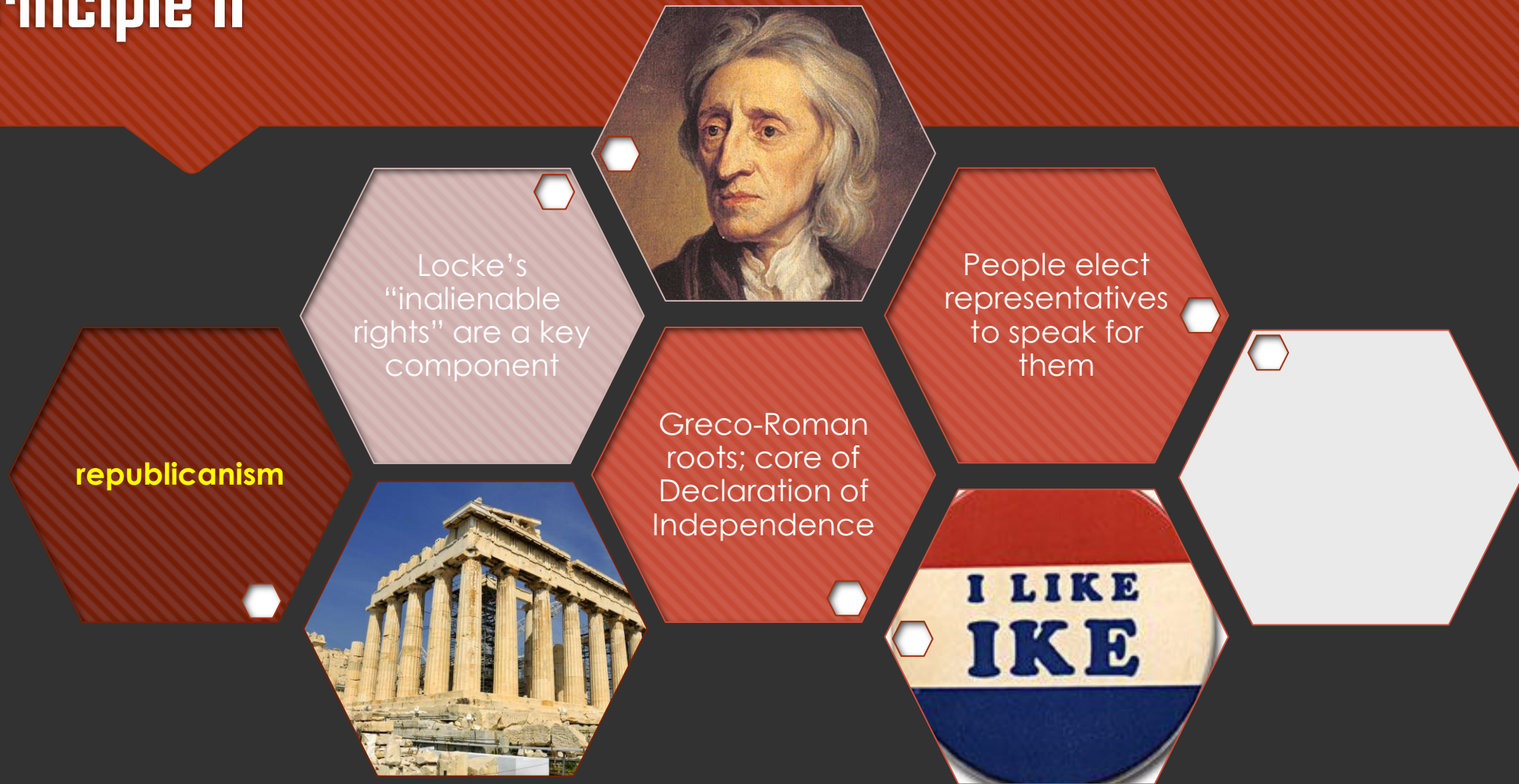
Outlined in the
Declaration of
Independence

Authority of the
government is
created and
sustained by the
consent of the
people

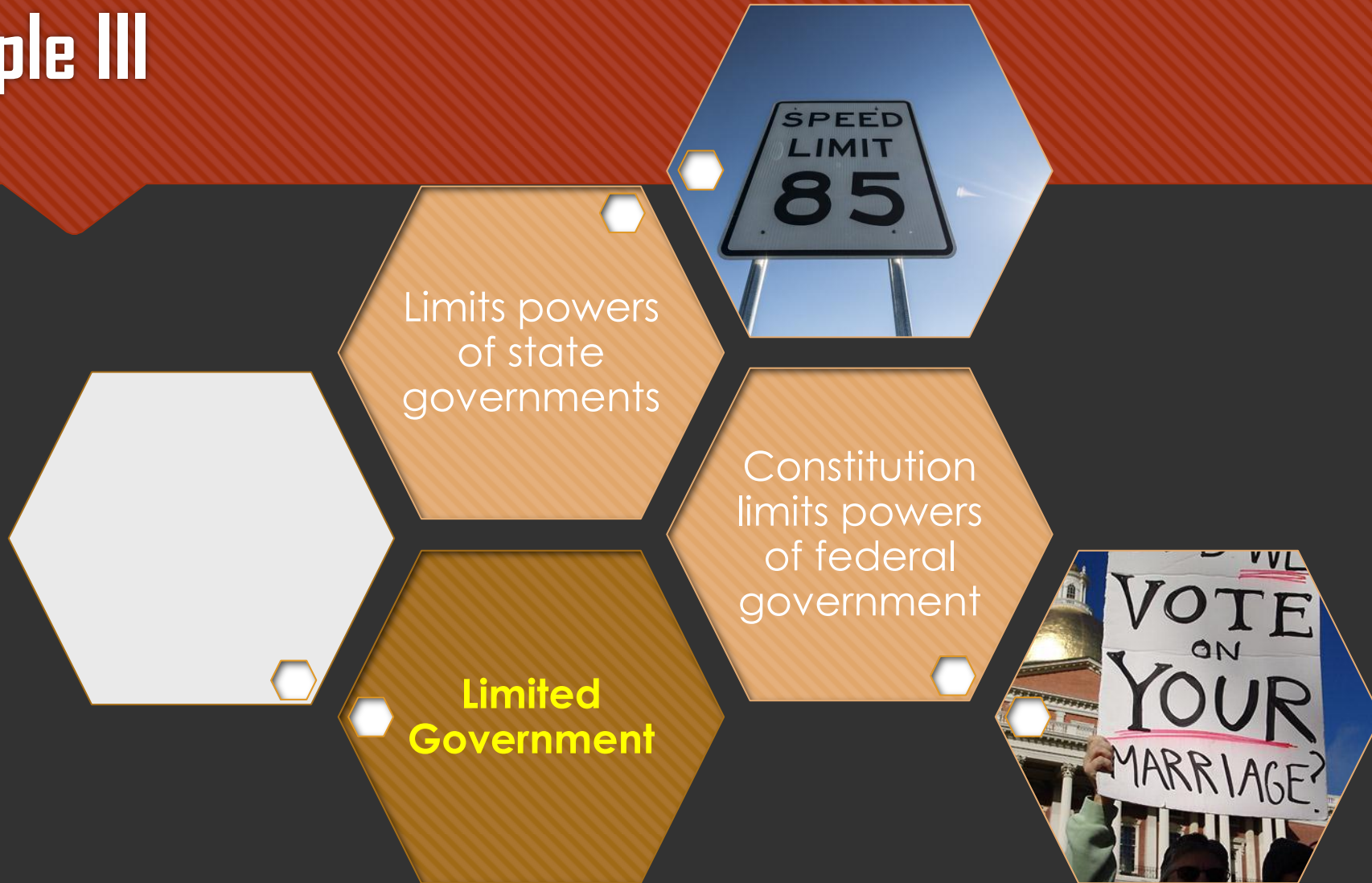
Popular
Sovereignty



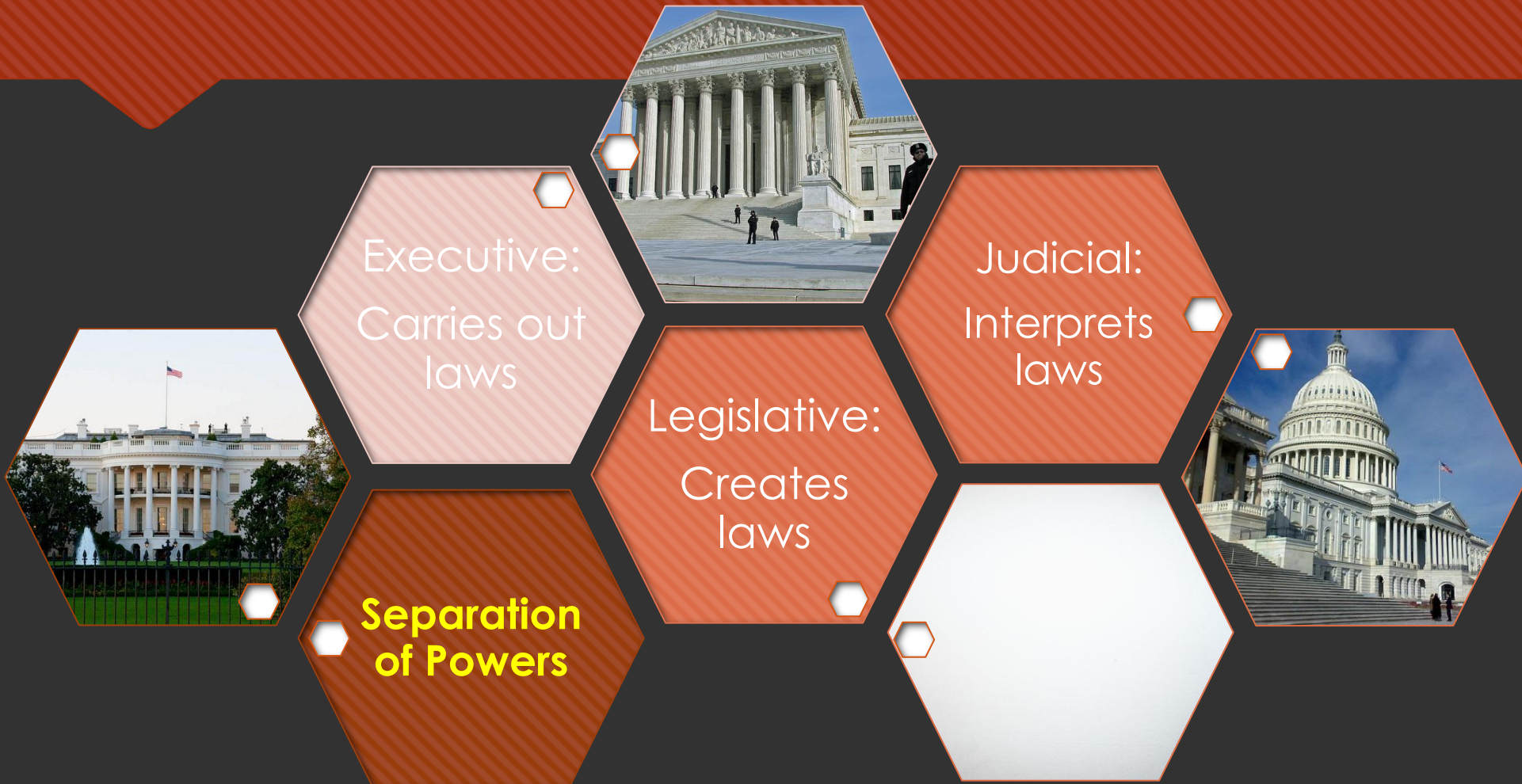
Principle II



Principle III



Principle IV



Principle V



No single
branch is
more
powerful than
another

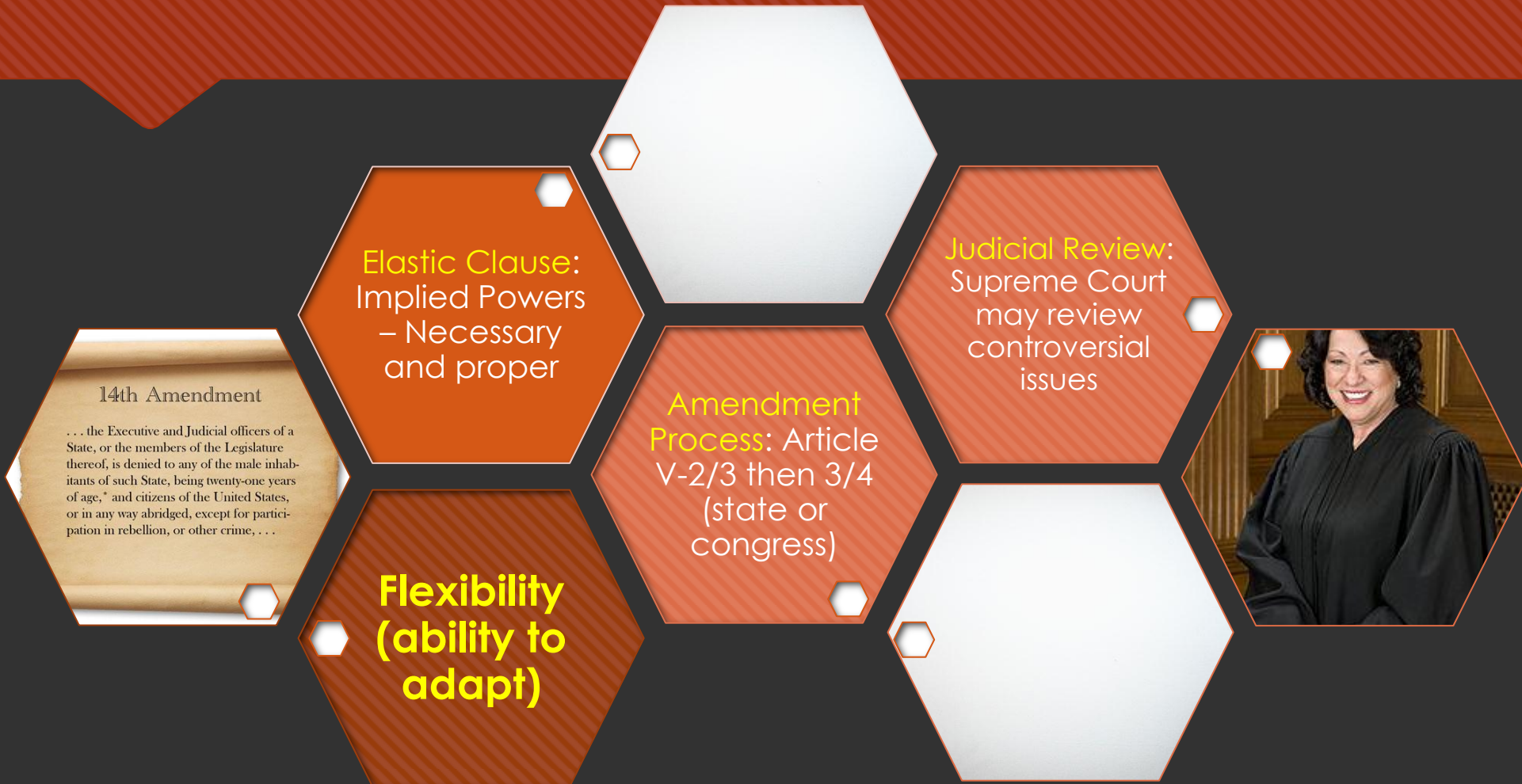
**Checks and
Balances**



Branches
may “check”
on other
branches
decisions



Principle VI



Principle VII

