



# CIVICS EDUCATION INITIATIVE

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*100 Facts Every High School Student Should Know*

[JoeFossInstitute.org](http://JoeFossInstitute.org)



[CivicsEducationInitiative.com](http://CivicsEducationInitiative.com)

# American Civics Knowledge is Woefully Inadequate

- 40% of college graduates don't know that the Constitution grants the power to declare war to Congress.
- Half of college students don't know the term lengths of members of the Senate or House of Representatives.
- 36% of public can name all three branches of government.
- 35% are unable to name even one.

# Many Americans Lack a Basic Understanding of Civics

- Nearly 75% don't know it takes 2/3 vote in each house to override a veto.
- Only 38% know which party controls House and Senate.
- 29% can't name the vice president.
- 73% don't know why we fought the Cold War.
- 44% are unable to define the Bill of Rights.
- 44% of college students don't believe the First Amendment protects "hate speech."



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*100 Facts Every High School Student Should Know*

- The Civics Proficiency Initiative requires that students pass the U.S. Citizenship Civics Test as a requirement for high school graduation.
- 92% of immigrants pass the test.

# United States Citizenship Civics Test

## 100 Questions in Three Parts

### **PART ONE: AMERICAN GOVERNMENT**

#### **A: Principles of American Democracy**

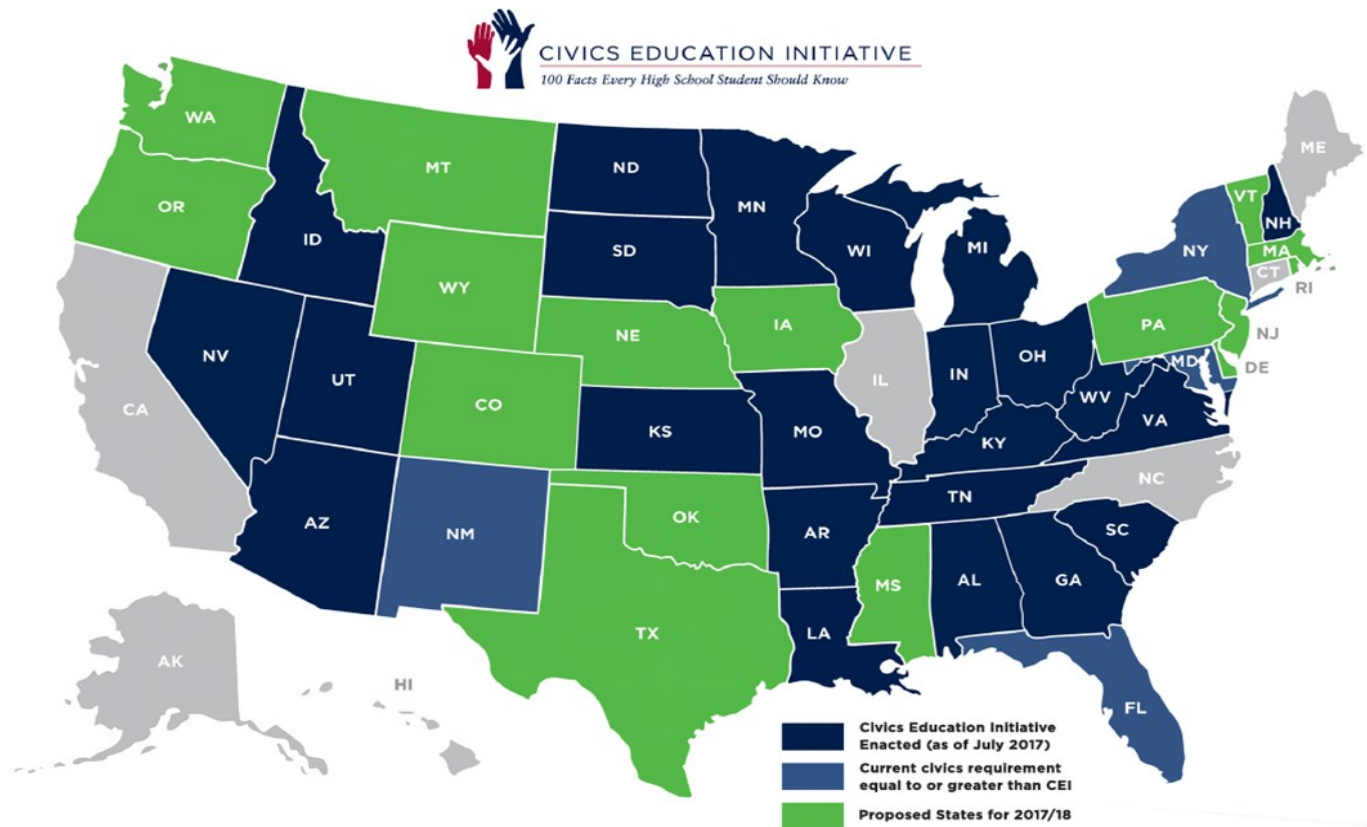
1. What is the supreme law of the land?
2. What does the Constitution do?
3. The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?
4. What is an amendment?
5. What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution
6. What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment?
7. How many amendments does the Constitution have?
8. What did the Declaration of Independence do?
9. What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?
10. What is freedom of religion?
11. What is the economic system in the United States?
12. What is the "rule of law"?

#### **B: System of Government**

13. Name one branch or part of the government.
14. What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful
15. Who is in charge of the executive branch?
16. Who makes federal laws?
17. What are the two parts of the U.S. Congress?

18. How many U.S. Senators are there?
19. We elect a U.S. Senator for how many years?
20. Who is one of your state's U.S. Senators now?
21. The House of Representatives has how many voting members?
22. We elect a U.S. Representative for how many years?
23. Name your U.S. Representative.
24. Who does a U.S. Senator represent?
25. Why do some states have more Representatives than other states?
26. We elect a President for how many years?
27. In what month do we vote for President?
28. What is the name of the President of the United States now?
29. What is the name of the Vice President of the United States now?
30. If the President can no longer serve, who becomes President?
31. If both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve, who becomes President?
32. Who is the Commander in Chief of the military?
33. Who signs bills to become laws?
34. Who vetoes bills?
35. What does the President's Cabinet do?
36. What are two Cabinet: level positions?
37. What does the judicial branch do?
38. What is the highest court in the United States?
39. How many justices are on the Supreme Court?
40. Who is the Chief Justice of the United States now?
41. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to

# 20 States have enacted the Civics Education Initiative or a requirement equal to or greater than CEI



# Civics knowledge matters

- The U.S. faces challenges of historic proportions.
- Well-educated citizens are essential to a functioning democracy.
- A 2012 ETS study found that “weak civics knowledge among young people is linked to less voting, less volunteering and greater distrust in government.”
- By promoting greater civics knowledge, this initiative could have a measurable impact on civic engagement.



A group of diverse people, including women of various ethnicities, are shown in a celebratory mood. Many are holding small American flags on sticks. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting an indoor event or ceremony. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

**Same Basic Civics Test  
New U.S. Citizens Must Pass**

<https://youtu.be/V3Z6R8NzTqo>