

What is the difference?

(a brief overview)

The U.S. Constitution

- ▶ Framework for the federal government
- ▶ Known as “the Supreme Law of the Land”
- ▶ America’s first constitution, the Articles of Confederation, gave Congress the power to make rules and request funds from the states
- ▶ Congress organized a Grand Convention to gather delegates from states to revise the Articles of Confederation
- ▶ The U.S. Constitution was signed on September 17, 1787
- ▶ 7 articles
- ▶ 27 amendments, the first 10 amendments are referred to as the Bill of Rights
- ▶ Articles I, II, and III establish the three branches of government and their powers: Legislative (Congress), Executive (the office of the President), and Judicial (federal court system)
- ▶ The preamble to the United States Constitution reads:

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.



The Great Seal
of the United States

Nevada’s Constitution

- ▶ Outlines the structure of the government of the State of Nevada
- ▶ Created at a constitutional convention on July 4, 1864
- ▶ Approved by the vote of the people of the Territory of Nevada on September 1, 1864
- ▶ Nevada’s Constitution was sent by telegraph to Washington, D.C., and delivered to President Abraham Lincoln on October 28, 1864
- ▶ Nevada’s statehood became official on October 31, 1864
- ▶ The original Constitution that was approved remains in effect today
- ▶ 19 articles
- ▶ Over 100 amendments
- ▶ Articles 3, 4, 5, and 6 establish the three branches of government and their powers: Legislative (Senate and Assembly), Executive (the office of the Governor), and Judicial (state court system)
- ▶ The preamble of the Nevada Constitution reads:

We the people of the State of Nevada Grateful to Almighty God for our freedom in order to secure its blessings, insure domestic tranquility, and form a more perfect Government, do establish this Constitution.



The Great Seal
of the State of Nevada