



UNIT 18 VOCABULARY LIST

amend	(verb) To revise or change
amendment	(noun) An addition to an existing document; in the U.S. Constitution, the amendments come after the original document
ballot	(noun) Something used to cast votes in an election. Ballots can either be on a piece of paper or a computer
bicameral	(adjective) A legislature that has two parts; the U.S. Congress is bicameral because it has the House of Representatives and the Senate
bill	(noun) In government, a draft version of legislation that is under debate and not yet law
Bill of Rights	(noun) The first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution that list the freedoms of the people and states; the Bill of Rights was adopted in 1791
board of aldermen	(noun) A governing body of a city or town
branch of government	(noun) A section of government with its own purpose; the U.S. government has three sections of the government with different responsibilities that support each other to create, examine, and enforce laws
budget	(noun) An estimate for how much money will be spent and made in a set amount of time
bureaucracy	(noun) A group of unelected people who manage government business
cabinet	(noun) In government, a group of people who advise the leader



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candidate	(noun) Someone who is applying for a job. In a presidential primary, a candidate is a person who is trying to get the job of president of the United States.
central government	(noun) The center or federal government of a group of states; the U.S. central government is in Washington, D.C.
check	(verb) In government, when one part of the government legally stops another part from taking its desired actions
checks and balances	(noun) The idea where separate parts of the government are given powers to stop each other's actions and are made to share power
citizen	(noun) A member by law of a nation or group
citizen legislature	(noun) (noun) A group of people chosen or elected to make the laws for a colony or state; citizen legislators are not full-time politicians and usually have other jobs
citizenship	(noun) The position of belonging to a nation or group by law
city council	(noun) A group of elected officials that makes laws for a city
civic disposition	(noun) Having the traits necessary to take on the responsibilities of citizenship in a community
civic engagement	(noun) Actions taken to participate in the rights and responsibilities of citizenship in a community
civic virtue	(noun) Actions citizens do and qualities citizens have that benefit their community
civility	(noun) Behaving or speaking in a polite manner



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clerk	(noun) A person who manages and keeps records and accounts in an organization
committee	(noun) A group of people who make decisions and plans about a specific topic or issue
common good	(noun) A phrase in the preamble of the Constitution; what is best for the community
community	(noun) A group of people living together or having something particular in common
compromise	(verb) The process of coming to a solution that works for everyone
consensus	(noun) When a group of people come to agreement about an issue
constitution	(noun) A document laying out the rules for how a government will work
Constitution	(noun) The document that lays out the framework for how the federal government works; written in 1787 and ratified in 1789
Declaration of Independence	(noun) The document that said the 13 colonies would be free of Great Britain's control; it was adopted in 1776
deliberative session	(noun) A time to explain, discuss, and debate proposals in government
democracy	(noun) A government ruled by majority vote of the people
democratic process	(noun) When citizens participate in governing their community



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dictator	(noun) The ruler of a nation or people who has absolute power
discrimination	(noun) Unjustly treating someone or something differently
election	(noun) When people vote for a person for office or other position
eligible voter	(noun) Someone who is legally allowed to vote in an election
equality	(noun) When people or things are treated the same
executive	(adjective) Describing the person or branch of government who puts plans and laws into effect
executive branch	(noun) The section of government that puts plans and laws into effect
executive council	(noun) In New Hampshire, the elected group of people who advise the governor
federal	(adjective) The central government of a group of states; the U.S. federal government is in Washington, D.C.
federalism	(noun) When local towns, states, and the federal government share power together
foundational principle	(noun) An idea on which something stands; one foundational principle of the United States is the rule of law
founding documents	(noun) A piece of writing that states the ideas or principles on which a government was founded; in the United States, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the Federalist Papers are founding documents



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Founding Fathers	(noun) The people who led the colonies in the American Revolution, then designed and set up the government of the United States; also called the framers
free press	(noun) When the group of people who report the news are allowed to speak without controls from the government
General Court	(noun) The official name for the New Hampshire state legislature
good citizenship	(noun) Actions people take to appropriately behave as a member of a community, such as civic duty
government	(noun) A group of people that have the power to make and carry out laws for a community
governor	(noun) The leader of the executive branch of a state government
House of Representatives	(noun) One of two legislative chambers; usually larger than the Senate
individual rights	(noun) Freedoms a person has under a democratic government; for example, to speak freely or pursue happiness
infringe	(verb) To actively break a law or agreement
interest group	(noun) A group of people who care about a particular issue and try to influence the government on that issue
journalist	(noun) A person who investigates and reports the news
judge	(noun) A person who knows the law and decides for the community whether actions follow the law



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judicial	(adjective) Describing the people or branch of government that decides if laws are fair
judicial branch	(noun) The section of government that decides if laws are fair
justice	(noun) 1 Behavior or treatment that is fair and right 2 A person who knows the law and decides for the community whether actions follow the law; justices are similar to judges but sit on state supreme courts or the U.S. Supreme Court
law	(noun) A rule that regulates the actions of members of a community
legislative	(adjective) Describing the people or branch of government that makes laws
legislative branch	(noun) The section of government that makes laws
legislator	(noun) A person elected to serve in either the House of Representatives or Senate
legislature	(noun) A group of people chosen or elected to make the laws for a colony or state
literacy	(noun) The ability to read and write
living document	(noun) A paper that is added to or changed through time
local control	(noun) When decisions about government are left up to the local community, rather than the state or federal government
majority	(noun) More than half of a group



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mayor	(noun) The elected executive of a city
media	(noun) A system to communicate with a large number of people, such as television, radio, or newspapers; for example, the news media communicates about events
media literacy	(noun) The ability to identify different means of communication, to recognize and to evaluate the messages in the information, and to create your own communication
minority	(noun) Less than half of a group
moderator	(noun) A person who leads a meeting to ensure it is organized and balanced
monarchy	(noun) A form of government led by a king or queen who holds the leadership position for life
motion	(noun) A formal proposal made in a meeting
neutral	(adjective) Describing something or someone who is not on any side of an issue
party divide	(noun) When political groups disagree on many issues and have trouble working together
perspective	(noun) The point of view expressed through writing, speech, photographs, and other sources of information
point of order	(noun) A question in a formal meeting whether the rules are being followed
political party	(noun) An organized group of people with similar goals and opinions about how a nation should function. The United States has two major political parties: the Democratic Party and the Republican Party.



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politician	(noun) Someone whose profession is to be in government
president	(noun) The elected executive of a government
press	(noun) News media including print and digital publications
public service	(noun) Something that is supplied for the benefit of the people; examples of public services are police, libraries, school, roads, courts, and military
representative	(noun) The person selected by a group of people who will communicate their views and make laws for them
republic	(noun) A community where people are governed by their elected representatives
responsibility	(noun) An action an individual takes to be accountable for something
rights	(noun) Something a person should legally or morally be able to do or get to have
school board	(noun) A group of elected representatives who make decisions about the school system in a town
select board	(noun) A group of people elected to govern a town
Senate	(noun) One of two legislative chambers; usually smaller than the House of Representatives
separation of powers	(noun) When the actions government can take to govern are divided among parts of the government in order to limit government's power



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social contract	(noun) An agreement between people and their government to give up some rights in exchange for security and law and order
society	(noun) What comes when people live together in a community
sponsor	(noun) In government, a member of the House or Senate who officially presents a bill to the legislature
supervisors of the checklist	(noun) People elected to maintain the official list of voters
tax	(noun) An amount of money, added to the regular cost of an item, that goes to the government
town council	(noun) A group of people elected to govern a town
town meeting	(noun) A formal gathering of the citizens of a town to discuss and vote on town business
town meeting day	(noun) The day on which a formal gathering of the citizens of a town to discuss and vote on town business occurs; in New Hampshire, this day is traditionally the second Tuesday in March
town report	(noun) A yearly document laying out the management, money matters, and actions of a town
veto	(verb) To reject something; in government, to reject the final version of a bill passed by the legislature
voter turnout	(noun) The number of people who voted in an election divided by the number of people allowed to vote; shown as a percentage
warrant	(noun) A document giving authority to do something
warrant article	(noun) A planned action or discussion item to be considered at a town meeting