

# The 18 Enumerated Powers of the U.S. Federal Government

They are ALL listed in **Article I, Section 8** of the U.S. Constitution

(Note that in essence there are only 10 Powers, as 10-17 all define the Military and 18 relates to the first 17.)

1. The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;
2. To borrow money on the credit of the United States;
3. To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;
4. To establish a uniform rule of naturalization, and uniform laws on the subject of bankruptcies throughout the United States;
5. To coin money, regulate the value thereof, and of foreign coin, and fix the standard of weights and measures;
6. To provide for the punishment of counterfeiting the securities and current coin of the United States;
7. To establish post offices and post roads;
8. To promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries;
9. To constitute tribunals inferior to the Supreme Court;
10. To define and punish piracies and felonies committed on the high seas, and offenses against the Law of Nations;
11. To declare war, grant letters of marque and reprisal, and make rules concerning captures on land and water;
12. To raise and support armies, but no appropriation of money to that use shall be for a longer term than two years;
13. To provide and maintain a navy;
14. To make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces;
15. To provide for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the union, suppress insurrections and repel invasions;
16. To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the militia, and for governing such part of them as may be employed in the service of the United States, reserving to the states respectively, the appointment of the officers, and the authority of training the militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;
17. To exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten miles square) as may, by cession of particular states, and the acceptance of Congress, become the seat of the government of the United States, and to exercise like authority over all places purchased by the consent of the legislature of the state in which the same shall be, for the erection of forts, magazines, arsenals, dockyards, and other needful buildings; - And
18. To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

## **Amendment X:**

*The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.*

The Tenth Amendment states that the Federal Government possesses **ONLY** those powers delegated to it by the United States Constitution. **All remaining powers are reserved for the States or The People.**

The Tenth Amendment is part of the Bill of Rights, which is part of the United States Constitution.

- (1) It expresses the principle of Federalism, which strictly supports the entire plan of the original U.S. Constitution;
- (2) The Federal Government was **CREATED** by The States to **SERVE** specific needs of all the *States* and *The People*,
- (3) The Powers of the Federal Government are Strictly LIMITED by the Constitution (to serve **ONLY** those needs) and
- (4) All OTHER Powers REMAIN to the *States* and *The People*.

In drafting this amendment, the Framers had two purposes in mind: First, as a necessary rule of construction; Second, as a reaffirmation of the nature of our Federal System of **Freedom**.

This means the STATES are The Boss - NOT the Federal Government - *The Servant can't command his Creator.*