

## Content Statement 16.

As a framework for the state, the Ohio Constitution has similarities and differences to the federal Constitution; it was changed in 1851 to address difficulties governing the state.

### CONTENT ELABORATION

Similarities between the Ohio and U.S. Constitutions:

- separation of powers into three branches (executive, judicial, legislative);
- checks and balances;
- limited government;
- bill of rights;
- popular sovereignty;
- elections.

Differences between the Ohio and U.S. Constitutions:

Ohio Constitution

- Citizens can directly vote on laws through initiative and referendum.
- Judges are elected.
- Legislators are term limited.

U.S. Constitution

- Legislators vote on laws for citizens.
- Judges are appointed.
- Legislators do not have term limits.

In 1851 a new Ohio Constitution was written which made several changes to improve governing including:

- Major executive officials and all judges were to be elected.
- District courts were added.
- Debt limitations were instituted.

**EXPECTATIONS FOR LEARNING** Compare the Ohio and U.S. Constitutions.

**Content Statement 17.**

Individuals in Ohio have a responsibility to assist state and local governments as they address relevant and often controversial problems that directly affect their communities.

**CONTENT ELABORATION** Ohioans can assist government in addressing problems affecting the state and local communities. Involvement at the state level can range from paying taxes to serving in the National Guard, running for state office, voting, and signing petitions to place issues on the ballot. Involvement at the local level can range from organizing civic activities to running for local office, attending meetings of local boards and commissions, joining community watch groups, and serving in a volunteer fire department.

**EXPECTATIONS FOR LEARNING** Identify and explain roles that Ohio's citizens can play in helping state and local government address problems facing their communities.