

Core Values of American Constitutional Democracy

Core Democratic Values are the fundamental beliefs and constitutional principles of American society which unite all Americans. These values are expressed in the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution and other significant documents, speeches and writings of the nation. Listed below are examples of core democratic values.

Fundamental Beliefs	Constitutional Principles
<input type="checkbox"/> Life	<input type="checkbox"/> The Rule of Law
<input type="checkbox"/> Liberty	<input type="checkbox"/> Separation of Powers
<input type="checkbox"/> The Pursuit of Happiness	<input type="checkbox"/> Representative Government
<input type="checkbox"/> The Common Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Checks and Balances
<input type="checkbox"/> Justice	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Rights
<input type="checkbox"/> Equality	<input type="checkbox"/> Freedom of Religion
<input type="checkbox"/> Diversity	<input type="checkbox"/> Federalism
<input type="checkbox"/> Truth	<input type="checkbox"/> Civilian Control of the Military
<input type="checkbox"/> Popular Sovereignty	
<input type="checkbox"/> Patriotism	

Sources:

Bahmueller, Charles F., ed. *Civitas: A Framework for Civic Education*, National Council for the Social Studies Bulletin, No. 86, Calabasas, CA, 1991.

National Standards for Civics and Government, Center for Civic Education, 1994

