

Life

right to life is valued & cannot be violated except to protect your own or other's lives

Liberty

freedom to act & think with little government control & freedom to vote...freedom to buy & sell

The Pursuit of Happiness

right to be happy as long as it doesn't interfere with others right to be happy

The Common Good

paying taxes, military service, jury duty

Justice

fairness...in handing out of benefits, duties, fixing of wrongs & in decision making

Equality

having the same opportunities as all others in work, education and interactions with our government...being treated the same as others

Diversity

recognizing & celebrating the differences among us...welcome variety in culture, ethnic background, race & lifestyles of citizens

Truth

you have the right to expect the truth from your government except when national security is at stake

Popular Sovereignty

The people rule...We the people are the true source of power in the United States.

Patriotism

showing a love & devotion to your country...flag waving, voting & even protesting

The Rule of Law

Everyone must follow the law...even the government

Separation of Powers

the power of the government has been divided into three branches

Checks and Balances

each of the three branches has power over the other branches

Individual Rights

all people have basic rights not granted by the government, but must be protected by the government

Freedom of Religion

the right to practice (or not practice) your religious beliefs without the government interfering

Federalism

The national government  
& the states each have  
their own powers as well  
as sharing some powers

Representative  
Government

The people express their  
power by voting for  
elected officials who carry  
out their wishes

Civilian Control of  
the Military

The military takes orders  
from the President &  
other civilians