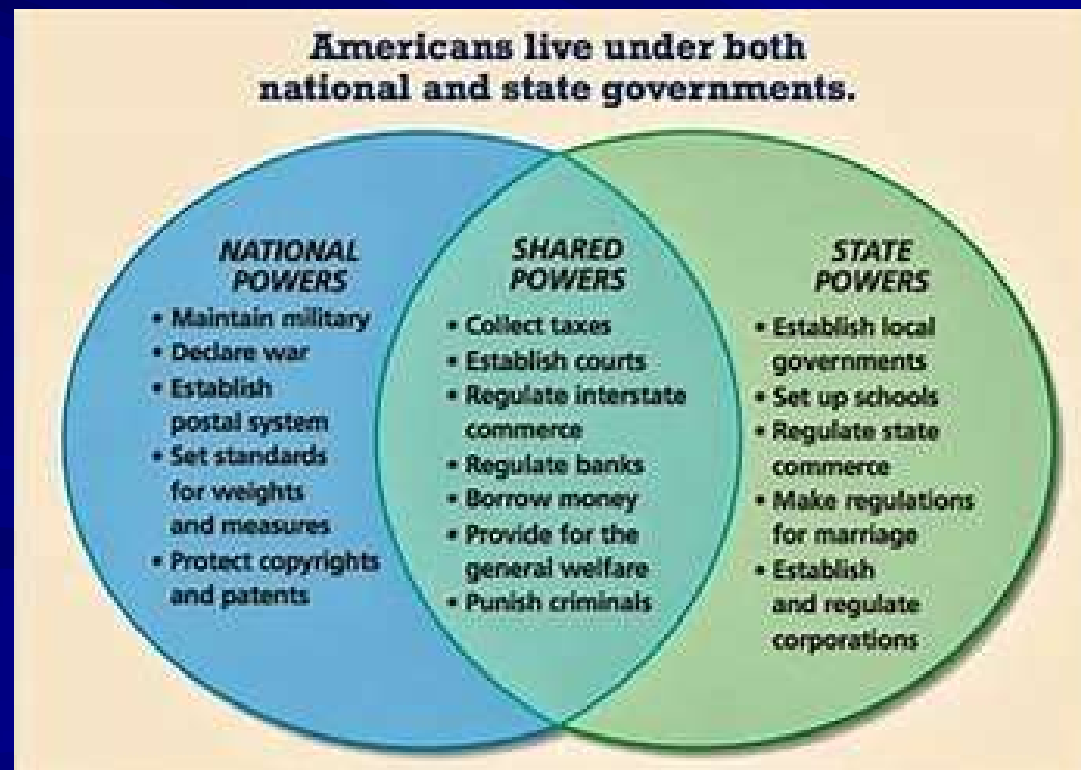


# Federalism



# What is Federalism?

It is a way of organizing a nation so that two or more levels of government have formal authority over the same area and people.



# Federalism

Most governments today are not federal but *unitary* governments in which all power resides in the central government.

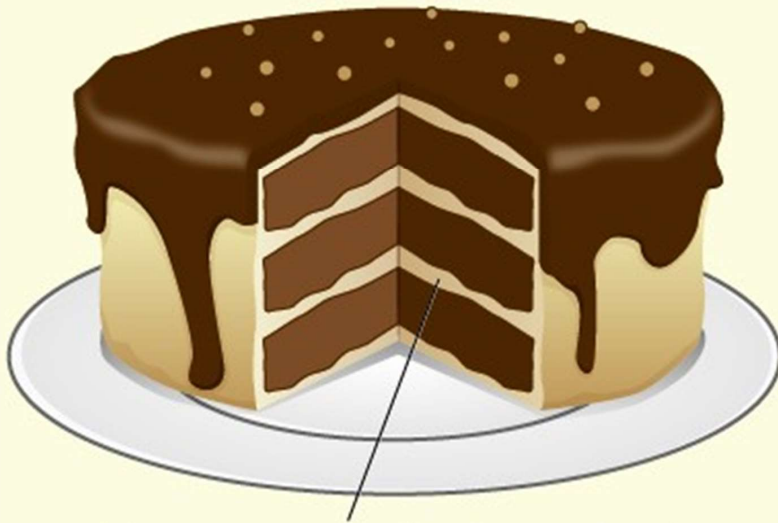


# Federalism

## 1. Federal 2. State 3. Local

### Dual Federalism

Layer Cake Federalism



Programs and authority are clearly divided among the national, state, and local governments.

### Cooperative Federalism

Marble Cake Federalism



Programs and authority are mixed among the national, state, and local governments.

# Federalism

## Federalism and Democracy

Did the founders make the right move in creating a *federal* system?



# Federalism

## Advantages for Democracy

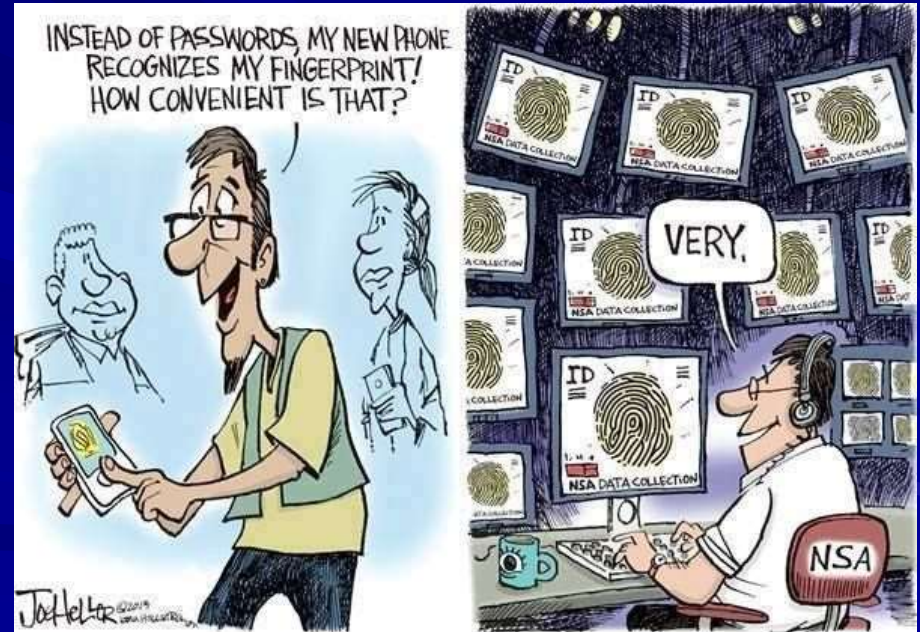
1. More opportunities for participation in politics.



# Federalism

## Advantages for Democracy

### 2. Increased access to government.



# Federalism

## Advantages for Democracy

**3. Allows an economic interest concentrated in a state to exercise substantial influence in the election of officials, from that state.**

The illegitimate use of a state by economic interests for their own ends is based upon a preexisting illegitimate power of the state to enrich some persons at the expense of others. Eliminate that illegitimate power of giving differential economic benefits and you eliminate or drastically restrict the motive for wanting political influence.

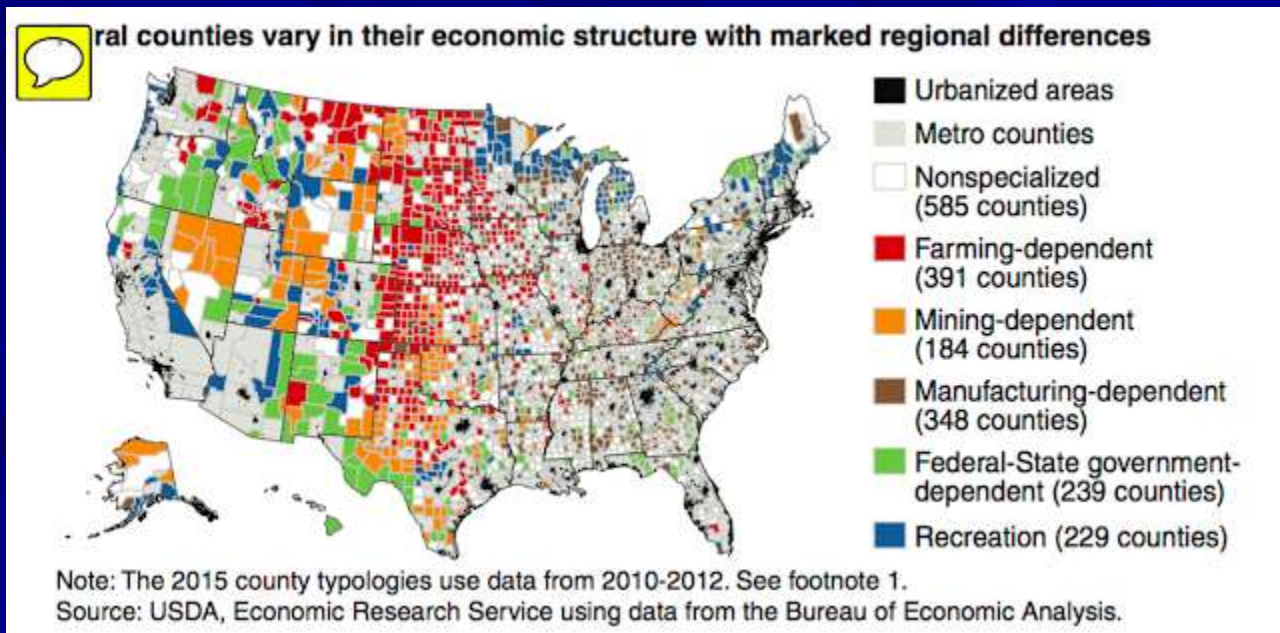
Robert Nozick

  
[www.idlehearts.com](http://www.idlehearts.com)

# Federalism

## Advantages for Democracy

4. Diversity of opinion within the country can be reflected in different public policies in the states (i.e. Texans can vote for the death penalty, Wisconsin can abolish it).



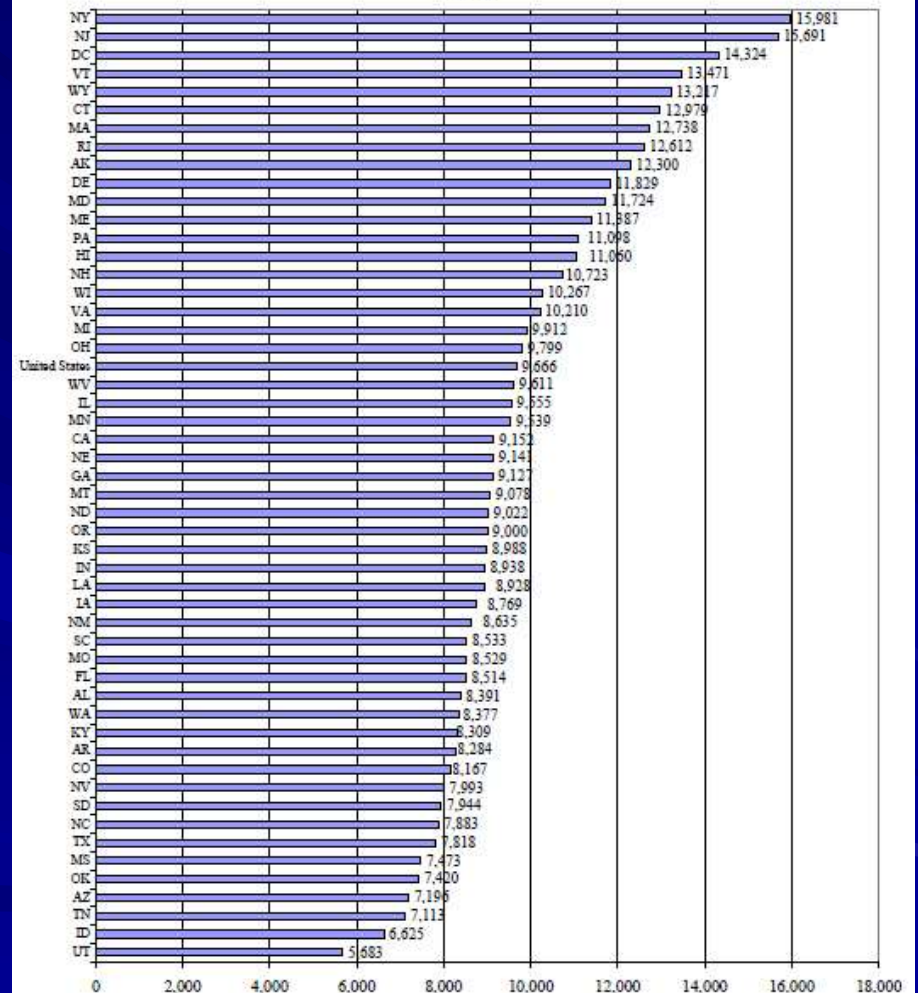


# Federalism

## Disadvantages for Democracy

1. States differ on resources they can devote to services such as education.

Figure 4. Elementary-Secondary Per Pupil Current Spending Amounts by State: 2006-07

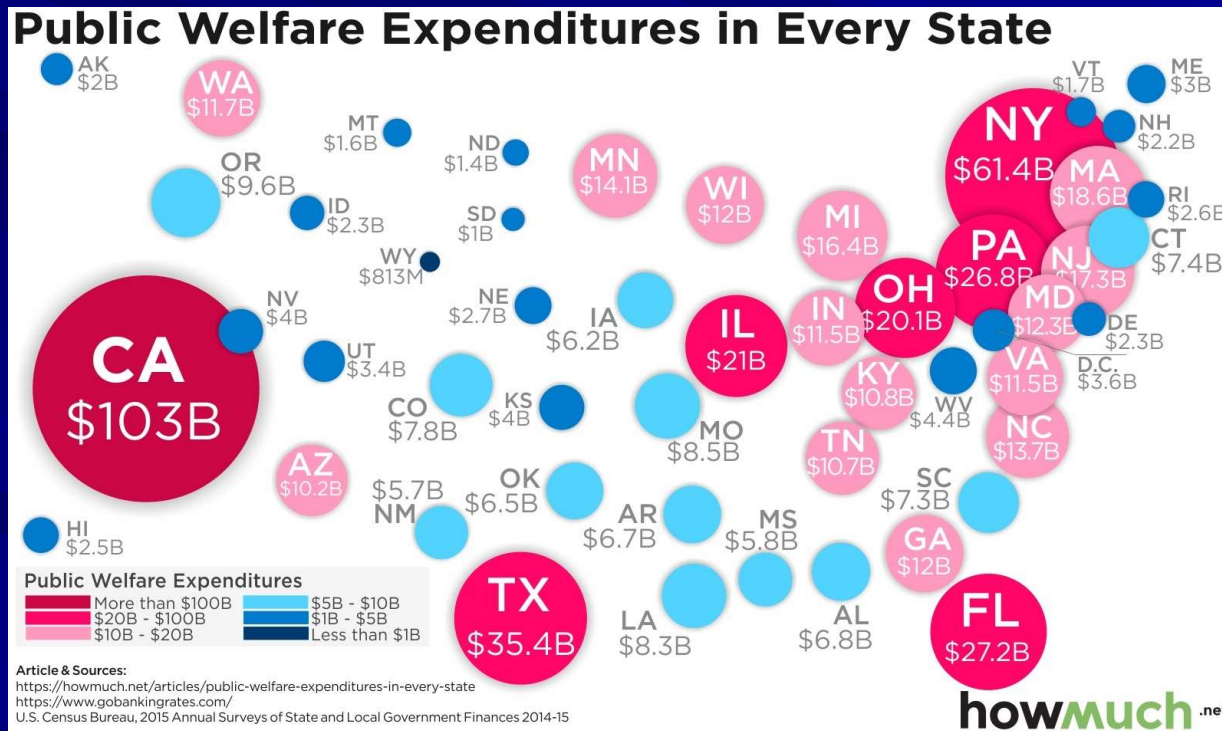


SOURCE: 2007 Census of Governments Survey of Local Government Finances - School Systems. Data are not subject to sampling error, but for information on nonsampling error and definitions, see the Introduction. Data users who create their own estimates from these tables should cite the U.S. Census Bureau as the source of the original data only.

# Federalism

## Disadvantages for Democracy

2. States with generous welfare benefits attract people from states with lower benefits.

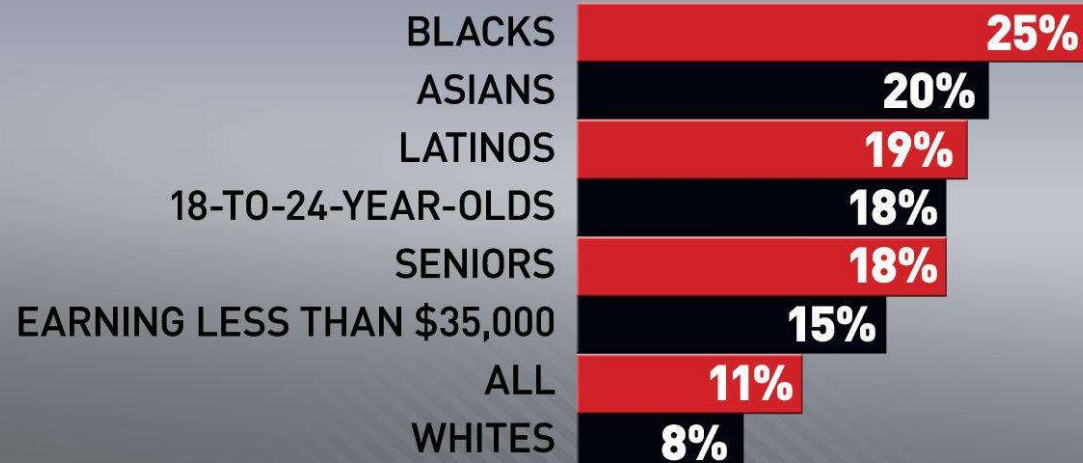


# Federalism

## Disadvantages for Democracy

3. Local interests can thwart national majority support of certain policies (i.e. segregation in South in the 1950s/60s).

### ADULTS WITHOUT VALID PHOTO ID

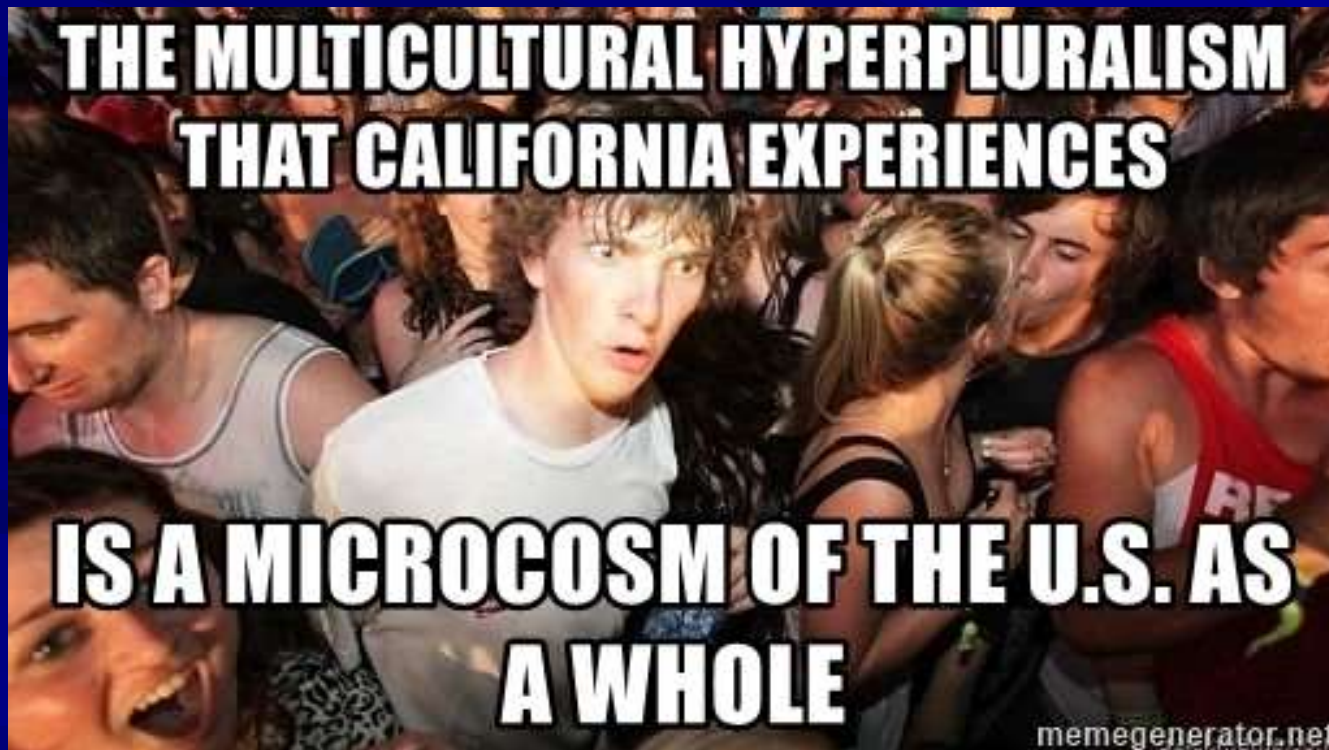


SOURCE: MOTHER JONES/BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE

# Federalism

## Disadvantages for Democracy

4. The sheer number of governments (over 86,000) can lead to hyperpluralism.



# Federalism

**IN THE U.S. THEY CALL IT "LOBBYING"**



**EVERYWHERE ELSE IT'S  
CALLED "CORRUPTION AND BRIBERY"**