

# **Activity:** ***What is Democracy?***

**Civics**



# Pair-Share

- Define “Democracy”
- Explain the different types of democracy.
- What are some characteristics of democracy?

# Standard

- *CA 12.1 Students explain the fundamental principles and moral values of American **democracy** as expressed in the U.S. Constitution and other essential documents of American democracy.*

# Objective

- **Students will be able to explain the fundamental principles and moral values of American democracy by summarizing the major concepts of democracy.**

# Democracy

- *a system of government in which the people rule either directly, or through elected representatives.*

# Forms of Democracy

- **direct or pure democracy** - a form of democracy in which the people as a whole make direct decisions, rather than have those decisions made for them by elected representatives.
  - **Examples of Direct Democracy:**
    - **referendum** - The practice of submitting a law to a popular vote at election time. The law may be proposed by a voter's initiative or by the legislature.
    - **recall** - A procedure whereby the voters can vote to remove an elected official from office.
- **representative democracy** - A political system in which leaders and representatives acquire political power by means of a competitive struggle for the people's vote.
- **Critical Thinking: What kind of democracy is the United States?**

# Which One is It?

Direct

or

Representative Democracy

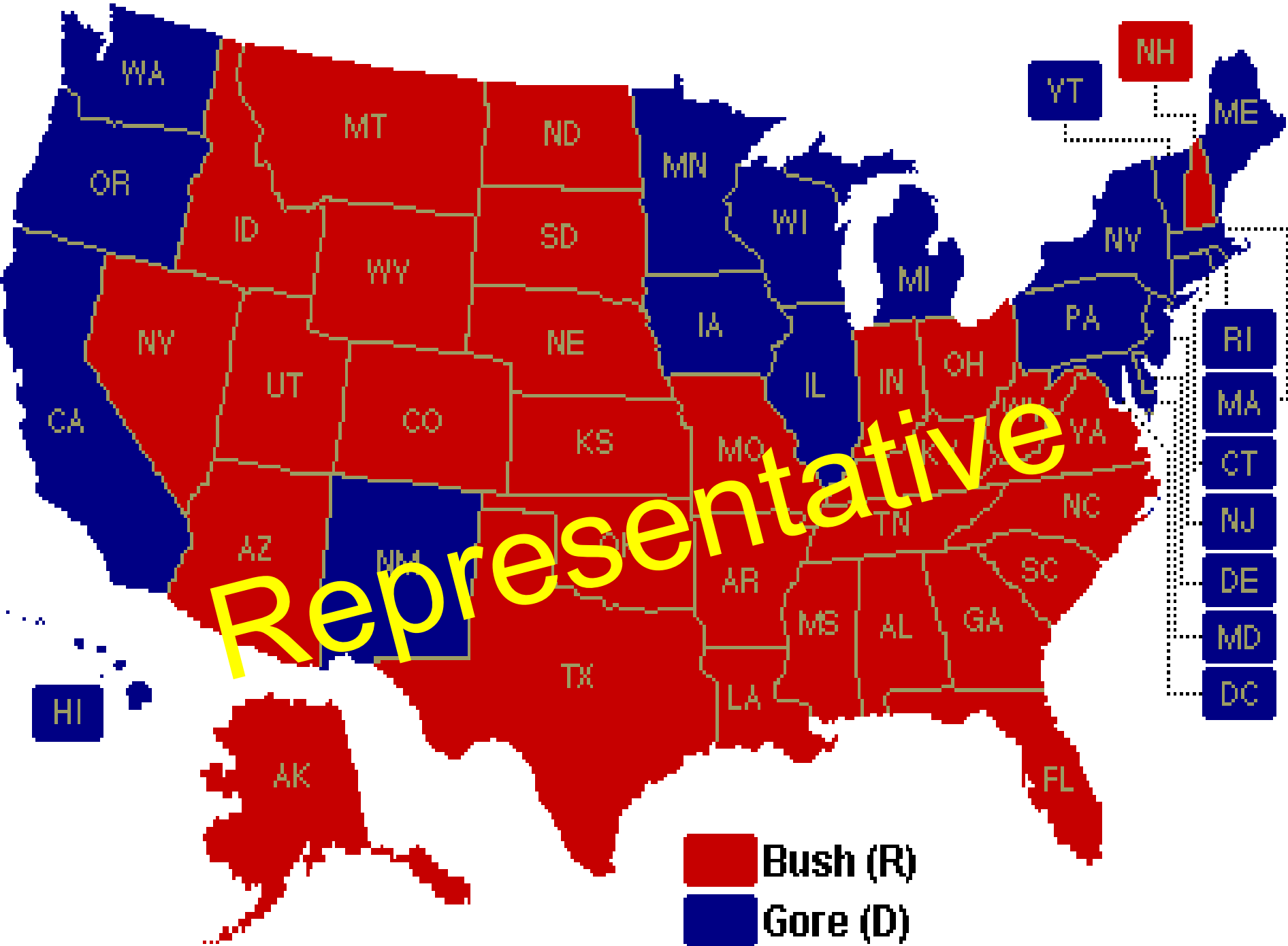
# *Ariz. Referendum Drives Targeting New Law Dropped*



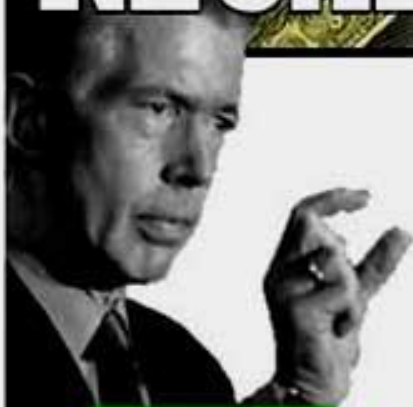
- PHOENIX -- The two proposed referendum drives challenging Arizona's new sweeping law targeting illegal immigration are being abandoned, organizers said Monday.
- Andrew Chavez, a professional petition circulator involved in one of the efforts, said its backers pulled the plug after concluding they might not be able to time their petition filings in such a way as to put the law on hold.



# Representative



# RECALL GRAY DAVIS!



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Recall Gray Davis  
P.O. Box 1445  
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# Congress



# Foundations

The American concept of democracy rests on these basic notions:

- (1) A recognition of the fundamental **worth** and **dignity** of every person;
- (2) A respect for the **equality** of all persons;
- (3) A faith in **majority rule** and an insistence upon **minority rights**;
- (4) An acceptance of the necessity of **compromise**; and
- (5) An insistence upon the widest possible degree of **individual freedom**.

# Pair Activity

- With your partner read U1 S3 *Basic Concepts of Democracy* and complete the corresponding worksheet.
- Be sure to write the definition in your **OWN** words.

# Worth of the Individual

- every individual has the potential for common sense, rationality and fairness and are entitled to "certain unalienable rights"

# Equality of all persons

- "all men are created equal,"
- but what kind of equality? Economic,



# Majority Rule, Minority Rights





# Necessity of Compromise



# Individual Freedom



# Review Question

- Describe the relationship between the rights of the individual and the rights of the overall society in a Democracy