**For Discussion**

1. How does direct democracy affect federal–state relations? What is the effect on federalism of some states accommodating direct citizen influence through ballot initiatives and referendums? How do these affect the flow of power between the federal government and state governments? Given that ballot initiatives provide for direct citizen involvement on such controversial issues as gay marriage, do initiatives and referendums actually complicate the legislative process to the point of mandating federal involvement?

2. Is direct democracy a good thing? Should it be implemented in every state? What happens to state public policy when some states have direct democracy and others do not? If direct democracy increases the amount of policy variance among states, should the federal government have the authority to adjust such imbalances?

3. Given that state constitutions represent governing frameworks independent and distinct from the federal government, do they exacerbate the disadvantages of federalism as raised in Chapter 2? Do they complicate and confuse the legislative process?

4. A state’s constitution tends to reflect the political culture of the state. Given this, how does a particular state’s constitution reflect the values and beliefs of its citizens?

5. Should localities be able to form their own constitutions? Should localities have the authority to overturn state government provisions? Are state government constitutions “local” enough to capture the complexities of county and local government?

6. Given that states serve as laboratories of democracy, does variance across state constitutions in terms of the distribution of power increase the likelihood for inequality in policy and in services? In other words, are states with strong legislatures or strong governors likely to produce different policy outputs due to institutional differences as defined by their constitutions?

7. The line-item veto grants governors tremendous policymaking power. However, not all governors have access to it, and states that do allow for such authority tend to vary in how such authority can be utilized. Does this pose a problem for state public policy? Should there be such variation in gubernatorial power? After all, the governor is a state’s chief executive. So, should there be such variation in the ability to influence public policy? Are the U.S. Constitution and the federal government sufficient to check the power of governors?