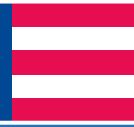


NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER



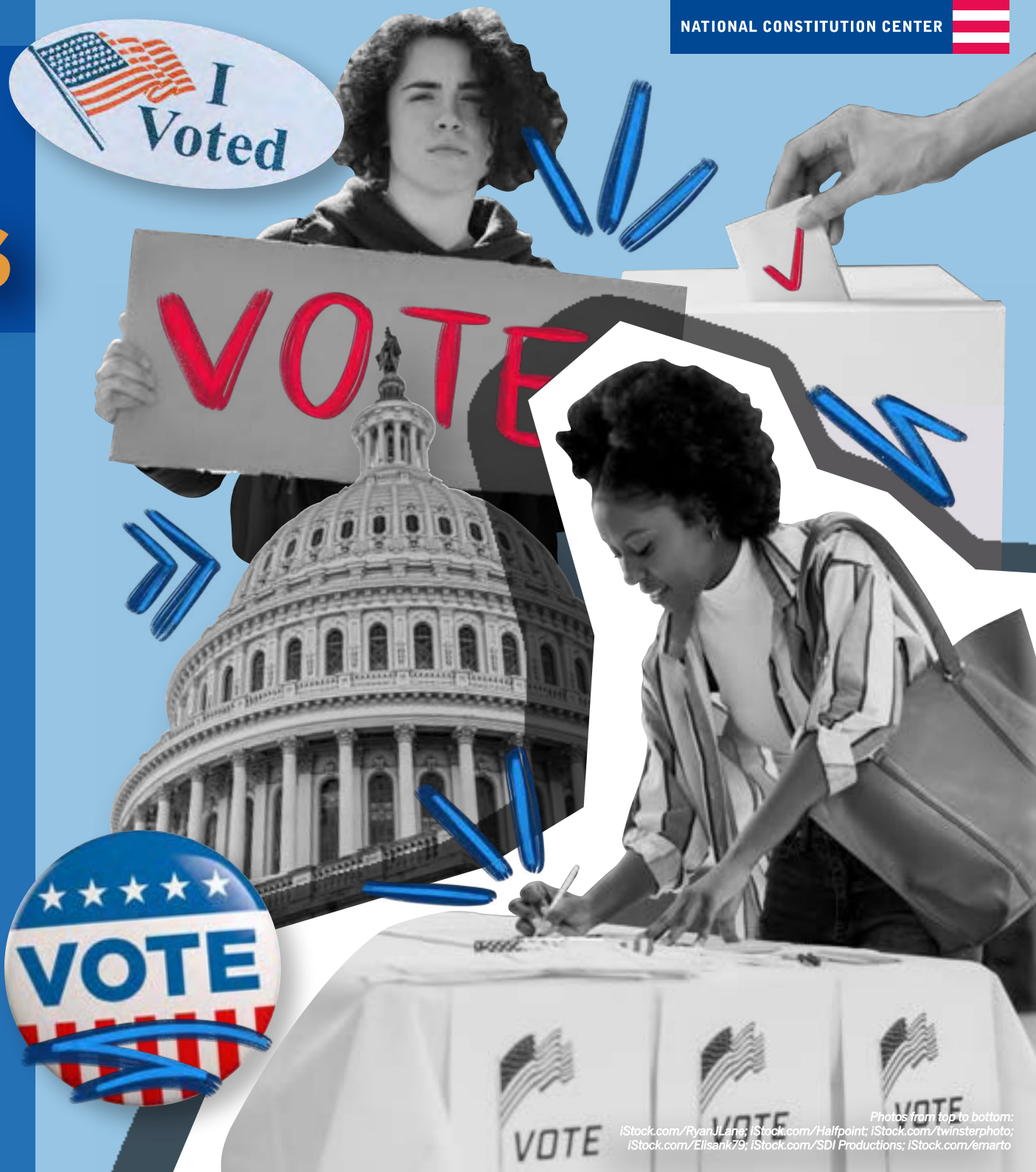
2024–2025 ACADEMIC CIVIC CALENDAR ELECTION CONNECTIONS



ALL ABOUT ELECTIONS

What does the Constitution say about the presidency, elections, and voting rights? What's in there and what isn't? While the branches of government and certain details of the election process are outlined in the Constitution, the original Constitution did not directly protect the right to vote. Throughout our nation's history, that right has often been granted to some, but denied to others. However, **through the efforts of many courageous Americans, the ratification of constitutional amendments, and the enactment of landmark statutes, the right to vote has become more and more inclusive.**

This year, **we examine the history of elections and voting rights in the United States.** We'll explore the Electoral College, Inauguration Day, and voter technology. While the original Constitution left the issue of voting largely to the states, later amendments granted the national government a greater role in voting and elections.



AUGUST

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

CONSTITUTION

Constitution 101, our 15-unit course, is the perfect guide to understanding the U.S. Constitution. Teachers can implement the semester-long curriculum or pick and choose from videos, primary sources, reading activities, quizzes and other classroom-ready resources.



				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
The Revenue Cutter Service, predecessor to the U.S. Coast Guard, is founded (1790) Birthday of President Barack Obama (1961)		The Committee of Detail presents its preliminary draft of the Constitution to the Constitutional Convention (1787) President Lyndon Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act of 1965			Richard Nixon announces his resignation as president (1974)	Birthday of President Herbert Hoover (1874)
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
19th Amendment ratified — voting rights cannot be denied on account of sex (1920)	Birthday of President William J. Clinton (1946)	Birthday of President Benjamin Harrison (1833)				
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
		Birthday of President Lyndon B. Johnson (1908)	Martin Luther King Jr. , delivers his "I Have a Dream" speech at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom (1963)		Thurgood Marshall is confirmed as the first African American Supreme Court justice (1967)	

JOIN US FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL TIME

The National Constitution Center is thrilled to support teachers, students, and parents by offering free, live classes on the Constitution and providing nonpartisan online education materials. You can head to our website for great resources—perfect for teaching the Constitution all year round—including:

- **CONSTITUTION 101:** Our 15-unit course is the perfect guide to understanding the U.S. Constitution whether you are an educator implementing a semester-long curriculum or a lifelong learner exploring the self-guided course.
- **SCHOLAR EXCHANGES:** Teachers can schedule their class to join these live constitutional classes, allowing students to review constitutional topics with scholars in a smaller group, while also connecting with other students from across the country.
- **VIRTUAL MUSEUM EXPERIENCES:** Our virtual tours bring the fun and excitement of a field trip to your students.

Plus, our *Interactive Constitution*, educational videos, primary sources, teaching tools, and more are all available for free on our website, constitutioncenter.org/education.

Visit constitutioncenter.org/education for these resources and more!

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DEBATES ABOUT ELECTIONS AND VOTING AT THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

The delegates to the Constitutional Convention in 1787 spent considerable time debating how to structure the different branches of government and how much power to grant each branch. During these debates, the delegates also discussed key questions like how long members of each branch should hold office and how they would be selected.

Key provisions of the original Constitution address these issues, including:

Article I, Section 2: Sets qualification for voters in the U.S. House elections (matches the qualifications for voters for the lower chamber of each state legislature). For its day, this is a fairly democratic provision — requiring states to elect national representatives with the same rules that apply to the most democratic component of each state government: its lower house.

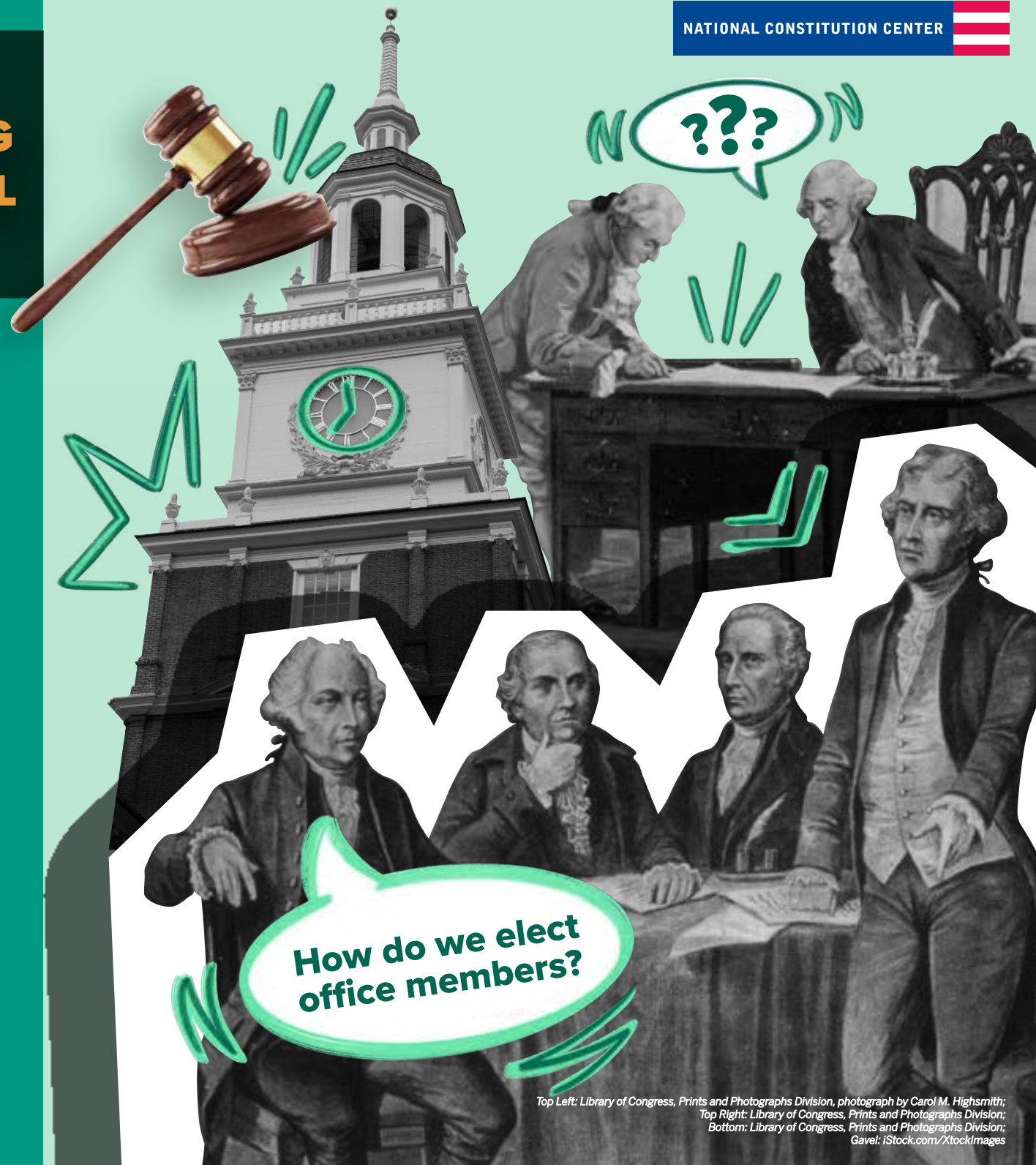
Article I, Section 3: Leaves the election of U.S. senators to the state legislatures. (Revised by the 17th Amendment.)

Article I, Section 4: Leaves the time, place, and manner of elections to the state legislatures, but subject to regulation by Congress.

Article II, Section I: Sets up the Electoral College — more on that next month!

The original Constitution also created election timetables for different parts of the national government. Members of the U.S. House of Representatives are elected every two years. Members of the U.S. Senate are elected every six years — with only one-third of the Senate up for election at any time. The president is elected every four years — with 2024 being a presidential election year.

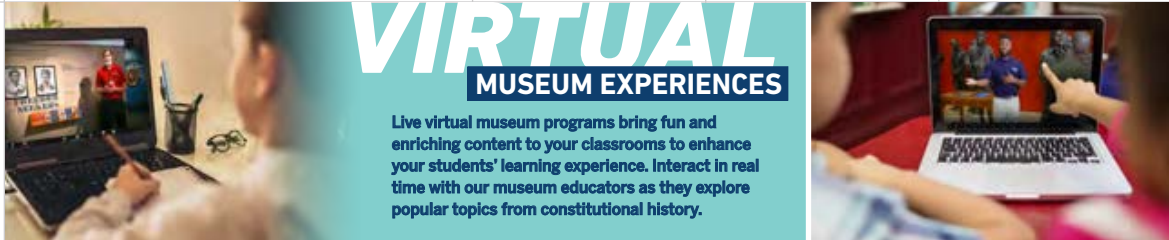
When it came to voting rights, the founders didn't include a constitutional right to vote in the original Constitution. Instead, states had the power to decide who could vote — and who couldn't. That would later change with a series of amendments — more on those voting rights amendments in future months, too!



How do we elect
office members?

SEPTEMBER

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1	2 LABOR DAY	3 The Treaty of Paris ends the Revolutionary War (1783)	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Inspired by the Battle of Baltimore, Francis Scott Key writes the "Star-Spangled Banner" (1814)
15 National Hispanic Heritage Month begins Birthday of President William H. Taft (1857)	16	17 CONSTITUTION DAY CELEBRATION Museum Open With Free Admission The U.S. Constitution is signed (1787)	18 U.S. Air Force established (1947)	19	20 FIRST AMENDMENT WEEKEND WORKSHOP Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT) is formally repealed (2011)	21 Sandra Day O'Connor is confirmed as the first female Supreme Court justice (1981)
22 FIRST AMENDMENT WEEKEND WORKSHOP Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation is issued, stating President Abraham Lincoln's intention to free enslaved people in the South (1862)	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	 <p>VIRTUAL MUSEUM EXPERIENCES</p> <p>Live virtual museum programs bring fun and enriching content to your classrooms to enhance your students' learning experience. Interact in real time with our museum educators as they explore popular topics from constitutional history.</p>				

CIVIC HOLIDAY

CONSTITUTION DAY

OBSERVED ON
SEPTEMBER 17

Join us at the Center or online for the best **CONSTITUTION DAY** celebration in the country with a day that combines educational and engaging programming with a fun and festive atmosphere.

You can also head to our website for great resources—perfect for teaching the Constitution in September and all year round—including our *Interactive Constitution* and *Founders' Library*.

In the *Founders' Library*, we've gathered key primary source documents and landmark cases that shape the American constitutional tradition—from the philosophical texts that influenced the founding generation to the most important writings, speeches, Supreme Court cases, and other influential documents spanning American history.

Plus, find educational videos, teaching tools, and more, all available for free on our website.

Visit constitutioncenter.org/education for these resources and more!

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THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

So, what's the Electoral College, and how does it work? Today, many democratic nations elect their executives by direct popular vote. But that's not the case for the United States. Instead, we use a system known as the "Electoral College." The Electoral College is made up of 538 electors drawn from the states and the District of Columbia.

Under Article II of the Constitution, the states are given a number of electors equal to the number of members in their congressional delegation. (So, if your state has two members in the U.S. House and two U.S. senators, you get four electoral votes in the Electoral College.) Today, the American people vote for president and vice president on Election Day. But, technically speaking, **these votes don't directly determine the outcome of the election. They determine which electors will be appointed to the Electoral College from each state.** The electors eventually meet in December to cast their votes for president and vice president. If a candidate receives a majority of these votes in the Electoral College, they win the election, even if they don't win the national popular vote.

At the Founding, the Electoral College was a compromise between those who supported a congressional election of the president and those who supported a role for the American people in selecting a president. Over time, the Electoral College has remained in place, but within this system (and beginning in our nation's earliest years), the American people have played a key role in selecting a president.



OCTOBER

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

 <p>CONSTITUTION DAILY BLOG</p> <p>Get the latest coverage of constitutional issues including Supreme Court case analysis, popular 'on this day in history' posts, and more.</p>	1	2	3	4	5
	Birthday of President Jimmy Carter (1924)			Birthday of President Rutherford B. Hayes (1822)	Birthday of President Chester A. Arthur (1829)
6	7	8	9	10	11
13	14	15	16	17	18
	Birthday of President Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890) Indigenous Peoples' Day	National Hispanic Heritage Month ends			
20	21	22	23	24	25
					FIRST AMENDMENT WEEKEND WORKSHOP
27	28	29	30	31	
FIRST AMENDMENT WEEKEND WORKSHOP First copy of The Federalist Papers is published in support of the newly signed Constitution (1787) Birthday of President Theodore Roosevelt (1858)			Birthday of President John Adams (1735)		 <p>AMERICA'S TOWN HALL</p> <p>The National Constitution Center offers a series of <i>America's Town Hall</i> programs about constitutional issues in the news.</p> <p>Join these programs for free from your home computer, laptop, or any mobile device by registering and watch replays at any time.</p>

JOIN US FOR

FIRST AMENDMENT WEEKEND WORKSHOPS

Deepen your knowledge of the First Amendment, engage with the Center's nonpartisan educational materials, and collaborate with your peers from around the country during a First Amendment Weekend Workshop this fall. Weekend Workshops are held at the National Constitution Center, and take advantage of the Center's exhibits and the surrounding history in Old City Philadelphia. During the weekend, participants can expect to:

- Engage with leading constitutional, legal, and historical scholars on First Amendment topics.
- Discover historical content through guided tours of the Center's exhibitions.
- Learn about the Center's nonpartisan educational resources, such as the *Interactive Constitution* and the *Constitution 101* curriculum.
- Explore the Center's educational framework, which includes historical foundations through storytelling, constitutional thinking skills, and civil dialogue and reflection.
- Develop a sense of community and collaboration that will be fostered through quarterly check-ins after the weekend concludes.

Visit constitutioncenter.org/education for these resources and more!

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For more information, contact teacherprograms@constitutioncenter.org.

HISTORIC ELECTIONS

1800: This was the first time that an incumbent leader—in this case, the Federalist **John Adams**—was defeated in an election, leading to a peaceful transfer of power from one person and political party to another (**Thomas Jefferson**, a Democratic-Republican). The peaceful transfer of power is the cornerstone of American democracy. This election also led to a constitutional crisis as Jefferson received the same number of electoral votes as his presumed running mate, **Aaron Burr**. The 12th Amendment quickly followed, ensuring separate ballots were cast in the Electoral College for president and vice president.

1912: This election saw the most powerful third-party candidate in presidential election history. The incumbent, Republican **William Howard Taft** faced a challenge to his renomination from former President **Theodore Roosevelt**. Despite Roosevelt's popularity, Taft was renominated by the Republican Party over Roosevelt, which led the combative Roosevelt to join the ranks of the progressive "Bull Moose" Party. Ironically, Roosevelt's candidacy would split the Republican vote, allowing the Democratic candidate, **Woodrow Wilson**, to win the election.

2000: In the 2000 presidential election, counting machines in Florida rejected numerous ballots for various reasons. An automatic recount resulted in a victory for **George W. Bush**, but by a narrower margin, and candidate **Al Gore** requested manual recounts. The rules governing manual recounts, specifically those for assessing ballots to determine voter intent, were not uniform across Florida. In a divided ruling, the Supreme Court held that the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment requires uniformity in these rules to fulfill each citizen's right to vote, *but* also concluded that there was not enough time left to complete the recount. This opinion did not establish broad precedent, although it did mean that then-candidate Bush held onto his Florida victory and secured the presidency of the United States.



NOVEMBER

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR EDUCATORS

The National Constitution Center's professional learning series offers an introduction to the U.S. Constitution and explores methods for constitutional teaching and pedagogy from experienced practitioners. Sessions range from an overview of the Constitution's text and the leading methods for interpretation, the creation of the Bill of Rights and the underlying principles, and landmark Supreme Court cases, to areas of ongoing debate and key topics including separation of powers, federalism, slavery in America, free speech, digital privacy, the battle for equality, and voting rights.

					1 John Adams becomes the first president to move into the White House (1800)	2 Birthday of President Warren G. Harding (1865) Birthday of President James K. Polk (1795)
3	4	5 ELECTION DAY Museum Closed	6	7	8 FIRST AMENDMENT WEEKEND WORKSHOP	9
10 FIRST AMENDMENT WEEKEND WORKSHOP	11 VETERANS DAY Museum Open	12	13	14	15	16
17 U.S. Marine Corps established (1775)	18	19 President Abraham Lincoln delivers the Gettysburg Address (1863) Birthday of President James Garfield (1831)	20 Birthday of President Joseph Biden (1942)	21	22 President John F. Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas, Texas (1963)	23 Birthday of President Franklin Pierce (1804)
24 Birthday of President Zachary Taylor (1784)	25	26	27	28 THANKSGIVING DAY Museum Closed	29 THANKSGIVING PROGRAMS	30

CIVIC HOLIDAYS

**NATIONAL
NATIVE AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH**

ELECTION DAY
NOVEMBER 5

VETERANS DAY
NOVEMBER 11

THANKSGIVING
NOVEMBER 28

ELECTION DAY is a great time to explore the history of voting rights in America. Our free, online learning materials explore questions like: Does the Constitution protect the right to vote? What role did the amendment process play in shaping voting rights? And what has the Supreme Court said about the right to vote over time?

More great resources for November include events at the museum and online resources honoring **NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**, commemorating **VETERANS DAY**, and exploring the history of **THANKSGIVING**.

Visit constitutioncenter.org/education for these resources and more!

FOLLOW US!



VOTING RIGHTS AMENDMENTS

While the original Constitution left the issue of voting largely to the states, a series of constitutional amendments have **transformed elections and voting rights in America:**

12th Amendment: Alters the Electoral College.

14th Amendment: Section 2 provides a mechanism for penalizing states when they deny African American men over the age of 21 access to the ballot box. The Supreme Court has also applied Section 1 to protect voting rights.

15th Amendment: Bans racial discrimination in voting.

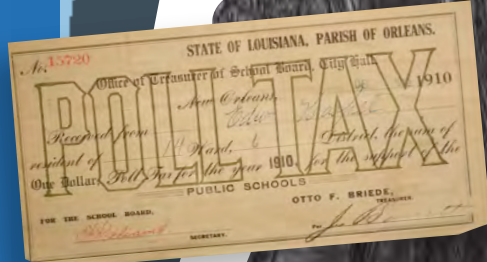
17th Amendment: Provides for the popular election of U.S. senators.

19th Amendment: Bans gender discrimination in voting.

23rd Amendment: Grants the District of Columbia three electors in the Electoral College—giving D.C. a voice in presidential elections.

24th Amendment: Bans poll taxes in national elections.

26th Amendment: Protects voting rights for those 18 and older.



“A vote is the best way of getting the kind of country and the kind of world you want.”

—Harry S. Truman

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 Top Right: Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, photograph by Harris & Ewing;
 Bottom: Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division;
 Poll Tax Receipt: National Constitution Center Collection

DECEMBER

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1 THANKSGIVING PROGRAMS Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama (1955)	2	3	4	5 Birthday of President Martin Van Buren (1782) 21st Amendment ratified— repeals the prohibition of alcohol (1933)	6 13th Amendment ratified— abolishes slavery (1865)	7 Delaware ratifies the Constitution by a vote of 30-0, becoming the first state in the Union (1787)	
8 The U.S. Congress declares war on Japan, and the United States enters World War II following the attack on Pearl Harbor (1941)	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15 BILL OF RIGHTS DAY The Bill of Rights is ratified (1791)	16 Boston Tea Party (1773)	17	18 In <i>Korematsu v. United States</i> (1944), the Supreme Court upholds Japanese American internment In <i>Katz v. United States</i> (1967), the Supreme Court establishes an individual's "reasonable expectation of privacy" during phone conversations	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25 General George Washington and his troops successfully cross the Delaware River, surprising the British and Hessian forces at Trenton, New Jersey (1776) Museum Closed	WINTER BREAK ACTIVITIES			28 Birthday of President Woodrow Wilson (1856)
29 WINTER BREAK ACTIVITIES Birthday of President Andrew Johnson (1808)	30	31 New Year's Eve	SUMMER TEACHER INSTITUTES Register now! Every summer, the National Constitution Center hosts educators from across the country for its Summer Teacher Institutes, bringing together top educators and ideologically diverse constitutional scholars. Through week-long in-person sessions, educators work with content experts throughout these professional development programs to deepen their knowledge of constitutional topics, including their historical contexts and modern understandings. Email education@constitutioncenter.org for more information.				

CIVIC HOLIDAY

BILL OF RIGHTS DAY

DECEMBER 15

Celebrate the ratification of our first 10 amendments this **BILL OF RIGHTS DAY** with our online resources, including video lessons featuring Supreme Court justices, recorded classes with esteemed professors, podcasts, blog posts, *Interactive Constitution* essays, our *Writing Rights* interactive, and more—all available for free on our website!





PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATIONS

20th AMENDMENT

“The terms of the President and the Vice President shall end at noon on the 20th day of January, and the terms of Senators and Representatives at noon on the 3rd day of January, of the years in which such terms would have ended if this article had not been ratified; and the terms of their successors shall then begin.”

After President George Washington’s first inauguration, March 4 became the official day for the start of a new administration. The 20th Amendment moved that day to January 20—closer to the start of a new Congress. The chief justice usually administers the presidential inaugural oath on the Capitol’s West Front. Article II, Section 1, spells out the president’s oath:

“I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.”

JANUARY

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

 <p>SUPREME COURT CASES LIBRARY</p> <p>The National Constitution Center's Supreme Court Cases Library includes materials on the most influential Supreme Court cases in American history. To ensure nonpartisan rigor and ideological diversity, we enlisted a pair of leading scholars from diverse constitutional perspectives—Caroline Fredrickson and Ilan Wurman—to help choose the landmark cases included in the Supreme Court Cases Library. The Supreme Court Cases Library also includes landmark cases curated by the National Constitution Center team.</p>		<p>1</p> <p>President Abraham Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation (1863)</p> <p>Museum Closed</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Birthdays of President Millard Fillmore (1800)</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Birthdays of President Richard Nixon (1913)</p> <p>Harvey Milk becomes the first openly gay man to hold elected office in the United States (1978)</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Birthdays of Alexander Hamilton (1757)</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>In <i>Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier</i> (1988), the Supreme Court rules that school administrators may censor student newspapers to protect the school's academic mission</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Birthdays of Martin Luther King Jr. (1929)</p> <p>In <i>New Jersey v. T.L.O.</i> (1985), the Supreme Court allows school administrators to search students' belongings if they have a reasonable suspicion of criminal activity</p>	<p>16</p> <p>18th Amendment ratified—prohibits manufacture, sale, and transportation of intoxicating liquors (1919)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Birthdays of Benjamin Franklin (1706)</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY Museum Open With FREE Admission</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>20th Amendment ratified—presidential inauguration moves to January from March (1933)</p> <p>24th Amendment ratified—abolishes poll tax in national elections (1964)</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Birthdays of President William McKinley (1843)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Birthdays of President Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882)</p>	<p>31</p>	

CIVIC HOLIDAY

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
JANUARY 20

On **MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY**, we offer FREE museum admission, plus programs at the museum and online that explore the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. Programs include scholar talks, family concerts, dramatic readings, and more. Find videos featuring Professor Hasan Kwame Jeffries, the late Congressman John Lewis, and a range of scholars exploring the Civil Rights Movement, important laws, and landmark cases—all available for free on our website!

At the museum we celebrate with scholar talks, family concerts, a reading of the "I Have a Dream" speech, and more.

FREEDOM AND EQUALITY AT THE BALLOT BOX

“The revolution wrought in our condition by the Fifteenth Amendment . . . is almost startling, even to me. I view it with something like amazement.”

—Frederick Douglass



The Reconstruction era that followed the Civil War represents America’s first attempt at multiracial democracy. And for a time—far too brief a time—it worked. It really worked. We saw African Americans voting in massive numbers—electing Republicans throughout the South and pushing for the ratification of the 14th and 15th Amendments. We saw African Americans holding office at all levels of government—as members of the U.S. House and Senate, as governors and state legislators, and as sheriffs and justices of the peace.

However, the 15th Amendment ultimately faced a series of setbacks. Over time, African American voting rights would be denied through a mix of violence and Jim Crow laws like poll taxes and literacy tests. It would take nearly a century to begin to renew the promise of the 15th Amendment and make voting rights a reality for African American men and women. One of the Civil Rights Movement’s landmark achievements was the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Congress passed it under its powers granted by the 14th and 15th Amendments.



FEBRUARY

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

A groundbreaking collaboration between
 
CONSTITUTION 101
 A free, semester-long online course, providing high school students
 the opportunity to learn about the core principles of the Constitution.

The 9-unit course is housed on Khan Academy's best-in-class platform and employs the National Constitution Center's proven framework for rigorous, nonpartisan constitutional education. Each unit includes scholar videos, instructional resources, and student-facing exercises, allowing students to apply their knowledge and demonstrate mastery of key concepts, all while going at their own pace.



 CONSTITUTION 101 A free, semester-long online course, providing high school students the opportunity to learn about the core principles of the Constitution.		The 9-unit course is housed on Khan Academy's best-in-class platform and employs the National Constitution Center's proven framework for rigorous, nonpartisan constitutional education. Each unit includes scholar videos, instructional resources, and student-facing exercises, allowing students to apply their knowledge and demonstrate mastery of key concepts, all while going at their own pace.				
2	3 15th Amendment ratified—voting rights cannot be denied on account of race (1870) 16th Amendment ratified—grants Congress power to establish a federal income tax (1913)	4 Birthday of Rosa Parks , civil rights activist (1913)	5	6 Birthday of President Ronald Reagan (1911)	7 11th Amendment ratified—affirms states' sovereign immunity (1795)	8
9 Birthday of President William Henry Harrison (1773)	10 25th Amendment ratified—establishes succession process and issues of presidential disability (1967)	11	12 Birthday of President Abraham Lincoln (1809) NAACP founded in New York City (1909)	13	14 Observed birthday of Frederick Douglass , abolitionist leader (1818)	15
16	17 PRESIDENTS DAY Museum Open With FREE Admission	18	19	20	21 The Confederation Congress passes a resolution leading to the Constitutional Convention (1787)	22 Birthday of President George Washington (1732)
23	24 In <i>Marbury v. Madison</i> , the Supreme Court affirms the power of judicial review—the authority to rule on the constitutionality of laws passed (and actions taken) by the elected branches (1803) In <i>Tinker v. Des Moines</i> , the Supreme Court confirms the First Amendment rights of students at school (1969) President Andrew Johnson is the first president to be impeached (1868). The Senate did not convict Johnson, and he was not removed from office.	25 Hiram Rhodes Revels of Mississippi is sworn in as the first African American senator (1870)	26	27 22nd Amendment ratified—sets a two-term limit on the office of the president (1951)	28	

CIVIC HOLIDAYS

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

PRESIDENTS DAY FEBRUARY 17

Explore the meaning of freedom and equality with on-site and virtual programs and events throughout **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**. Join us for scholar talks, museum tours, special programs, and more, highlighting how figures from the abolitionists to leaders in the Civil Rights Movement fought for equality across the board.

February programs also include FREE admission and special events on **PRESIDENTS DAY** with celebrations such as a special Kids Town Hall with presidential reenactors!



VOTES FOR WOMEN

With the 19th Amendment, women won the right to vote. This amendment grew out of decades of advocacy by the suffragists and their allies. Women's suffrage began out West in the late 1800s and eventually spread to the rest of the nation—culminating in the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920. Even so, it would take many more years—and the hard work of those in the Civil Rights Movement—to extend voting rights on the ground to all women, including women of color.

Today, nearly 30% of members of Congress are women. Over time, the efforts of activists and trailblazers like Alice Paul, Jeanette Rankin, Shirley Chisholm, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony have helped move our country forward and realize the promise of equal citizenship for all women.

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Buttons: Collection of Ronnie Lapinsky Sax

“We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men and women are created equal.”

–Declaration of Sentiments




“We are all bound up together in one great bundle of humanity, and society cannot trample on the weakest and feeblest of its members without receiving a curse in its own soul.”

–Frances E. W. Harper

MARCH

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

 <div style="background-color: #0072bc; color: white; padding: 10px;"> <h3 style="margin: 0;">CAREERS IN THE CONSTITUTION</h3> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">Bring your students to the National Constitution Center for a Career Day! Students will have the opportunity to meet a judge, attorney, professor, park ranger, or other individuals who work with the Constitution every day. The expert will speak about what drew them to their career, what kinds of education or training were required, what a typical day might be like, and what they think makes their job so interesting.</p> </div>						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			Boston Massacre (1770)	<p>In <i>McCulloch v. Maryland</i>, the Supreme Court upholds the constitutionality of the National Bank (1819)</p> <p>In <i>Dred Scott v. Sandford</i>, the Supreme Court rules that people of African descent are not U.S. citizens (1857)</p>	The "Bloody Sunday" march from Selma to Montgomery, pushing for voting rights for all Americans, takes place in Alabama (1965)	The Articles of Confederation are approved (1781) International Women's Day
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		Janet Reno is sworn in as the first female U.S. attorney general (1993)				<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">GIRL SCOUT PROGRAMMING</div> Birthday of President Andrew Jackson (1767)
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Birthday of President James Madison (1751)		Birthday of President Grover Cleveland (1837) In <i>Gideon v. Wainwright</i> , the Supreme Court rules that states must provide an attorney for those who cannot afford one (1963)				
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
			Birthday of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor , first woman to serve on the Supreme Court (1930)			<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">CUB SCOUT & SCOUTS BSA PROGRAMMING</div> Birthday of President John Tyler (1790) 23rd Amendment ratified—grants electoral votes to Washington, D.C., in presidential elections (1961)
30	31					

CIVIC HOLIDAY

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Throughout the month, the Center hosts special in-person and virtual programs including live tours and scholar talks to highlight women who worked for freedom and equality. Plus, find videos featuring Professor Martha S. Jones and Center scholars exploring how women fought for the right to vote. Additional resources include an interactive map showing the expansion of women's voting rights, primary sources exploring historical debates around suffrage, video highlights from inside *The 19th Amendment: How Women Won the Vote* exhibit, and more!



VOTER TECH



Have you ever been inside a voting booth? Was it a computer, a punch card, or a machine with switches and levers? Did it seem easy to vote, or did you find something confusing about the process? What do you think would be the best way to cast a vote? Do you think Americans who lived decades ago had an easier time voting, or was it more difficult? Let's take a look.

Metal Ballot Box (No known date or location of use or manufacturer): This vintage ballot box is a simple one. Voters would drop a slip of paper with their candidate choices into a slot within the sealed lid. At the end of Election Day, workers could unseal the ballot box and count the votes by hand.

Mechanical Voting Machine from Hillsborough County, Florida (1940): Here we have a sample lever voting machine. Machines like these were invented in the late 1800s and gained popularity throughout the 1900s. They were used as recently as 2013 in New York City.

So, why use this type of machine? **These machines were built to enable votes to be counted quickly and to guard against the stuffing of ballot boxes.** Despite these advantages, many people disliked these machines because they were heavy and difficult to store, the levers could jam, and most of them did not keep a paper record of each vote.

Votomatic Punch-Card Machine (Late 20th Century): This voting machine relies on voters punching holes in a paper ballot to indicate their preferences. A computer then scans and counts the ballots, resulting in a quick way to tabulate and publish vote totals. These machines were introduced in the 1960s, but their use peaked in the 1990s. Following controversies regarding the use of these machines during the hotly contested 2000 presidential election, the machine fell out of favor.

In 2002, the Help America Vote Act required states to use federal funding to replace old-fashioned punch-card and lever-based voting machines.

Top machine: Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of American History;
 Middle machine: Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, Palm Beach County Supervisors of Elections;
 Bottom Box: Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, Gift of the Honorable Michael V. DiSalle in memory of Thomas H. Williams;
 Bottom Photo: Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, photograph by Harris & Ewing; Ballot: iStock.com/SKrow

APRIL

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

 <p>WE THE PEOPLE WITH JEFFREY ROSEN</p> <p>A weekly podcast of constitutional debate, hosted by the Center's President and CEO Jeffrey Rosen, where listeners can hear the best arguments on all sides of the constitutional issues at the center of American life.</p>		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">SPRING BREAK ACTIVITIES</div>			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">SPRING BREAK ACTIVITIES</div>						
27	28	29	30	<div style="background-color: #0070c0; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">SCHOLAR EXCHANGES</div>  <p>Our Scholar Exchanges give students the opportunity to discuss constitutional topics with a lawyer, judge, or constitutional scholar, as well as their peers from around the country. In this setting, students gain deeper constitutional understanding and engage in enhanced civil discourse.</p>		

JOIN US TO PREP FOR THE AP EXAM

This April, the Center helps students prepare for the **ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMS** with special Scholar Exchanges, led by legal experts and constitutional scholars. Topics include a review of America's founding documents, the 27 amendments, and the top 15 Supreme Court cases included in a typical course of study for an AP Government class.

Visit constitutioncenter.org/education for these resources and more!

FOLLOW US!



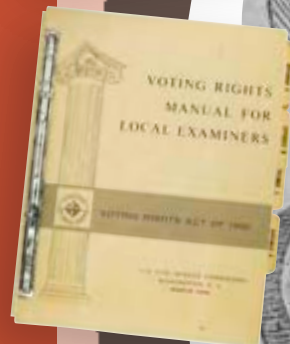
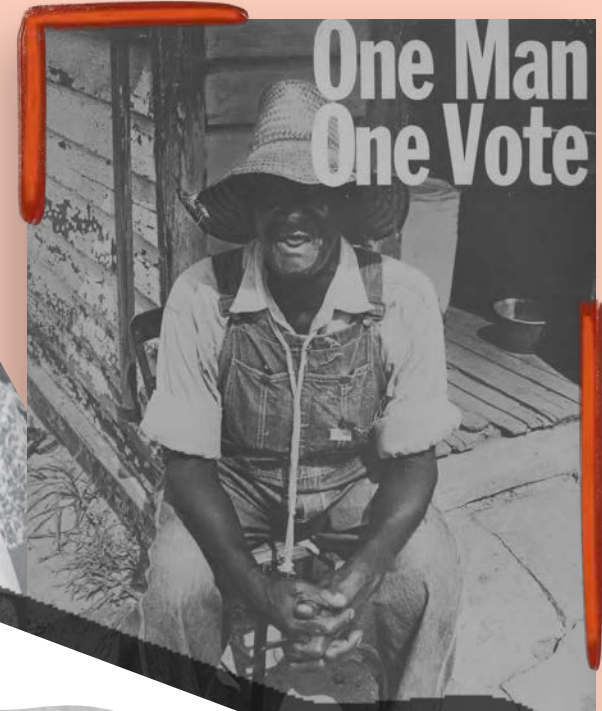
CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS ABOUT ELECTIONS AND VOTING RIGHTS

What are some constitutional questions about elections and voting rights today? One key issue is gerrymandering. Gerrymandering is the term for when politicians change the borders of voting districts in their state to help their own political party or a specific group win elections.

Other big questions involve the powers that the Constitution grants Congress to regulate voting. One of the Civil Rights Movement's landmark achievements was the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The Supreme Court upheld it in a case called *South Carolina v. Katzenbach* (1966).

One of the biggest debates over voting rights today involves the constitutionality of state voter ID laws.

These are just the tip of the iceberg, as Americans continue to debate a range of constitutional issues that touch on elections and voting rights.



Top left: Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division;
Top right: Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, Thomas Rose;
Bottom: P.J. Mode collection of persuasive cartography, #8548, Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, Cornell University Library;
Beautify America poster: Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division;
Voting Rights Manual: Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of American History

MAY

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

 <p>THE DRAFTING TABLE</p> <p>Which documents and ideas influenced the founders when drafting the Bill of Rights? Explore key historical documents that inspired the Framers of the Constitution and each amendment during the drafting process, the early drafts and major proposals behind each provision, and discover how the drafters deliberated, agreed, and disagreed on the path to compromise and the final text.</p>				1 LAW DAY	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK						
			27th Amendment ratified — sets limits on congressional pay raises (1992)	Birthday of President Harry Truman (1884)		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in North America, is established (1607)			In <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> , the Supreme Court rules that segregation of public schools is unconstitutional (1954)
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
In <i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i> , the Supreme Court rules that states can impose racial segregation (1896). The Supreme Court later overturns the <i>Plessy</i> decision in <i>Brown v. Board</i> .						MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND PROGRAMS
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
The Constitutional Convention opens (1787)	MEMORIAL DAY			Birthday of President John F. Kennedy (1917)		

CIVIC HOLIDAYS

LAW DAY
MAY 1

MEMORIAL DAY
MAY 26

Celebrate the Constitution this **LAW DAY** at the Center or online! Enjoy virtual exhibit tours, video lessons featuring Supreme Court justices, recorded scholar exchanges, and more—all available for free on our website!

The National Constitution Center honors **MEMORIAL DAY** by taking a closer look at famous memorials and monuments, and uncovering the complexities of how a nation remembers. In addition to access to all of the Center's exhibits and artifacts, programming includes flag ceremonies, discussions about U.S. memorials throughout history and across the country, and family-friendly workshops and lectures, as well as crafts for learners of all ages.

LANDMARK VOTING RIGHTS CASES

Over time, the Supreme Court has heard many cases involving voting rights, beginning with **Minor v. Happersett** (1875). Virginia Minor argued that women were U.S. citizens and that voting was a “privilege” of national citizenship protected by the 14th Amendment. The Supreme Court rejected Minor’s claim and left the issue of women’s suffrage to the elected branches.

Other cases examined the issue of congressional representation and the principle of “one person, one vote.” In **Reynolds v. Sims** (1964), the Supreme Court established the “one person, one vote” standard—requiring legislative districts to be roughly the same size. The Court concluded that districts that varied by population size meant vote dilution and violated the 14th Amendment’s Equal Protection Clause.

In **Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission** (2010), the Supreme Court interpreted the Constitution to provide the same First Amendment speech rights for corporations as accorded to natural persons, allowing corporations to spend unlimited funds on campaign advertising so long as they do not “coordinate” with a campaign or candidate.



JUNE

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1	2	3	4 <i>In Olmstead v. United States</i> , the Supreme Court rules that private phone conversations may be wiretapped by police and used as evidence (1928). However, Justice Louis Brandeis' powerful dissenting opinion would become the foundation for later rulings.	5	6 Allied forces invade Normandy on D-Day during World War II (1944)	7
8	9	10	11	12 Birthday of President George H.W. Bush (1924) <i>In Loving v. Virginia</i> , the Supreme Court invalidates state laws that forbid interracial marriages (1967)	13 <i>In Miranda v. Arizona</i> , the Supreme Court rules that police must inform defendants of their constitutional rights (1966)	14 FLAG DAY Birthday of President Donald Trump (1946) U.S. Army established (1775)
15 12th Amendment ratified—amends the Electoral College by combining a party's presidential and vice-presidential candidates onto one ticket (1804)	16	17	18	19 JUNETEENTH Museum Open With FREE Admission The annual commemoration of the end of slavery in America Word of the Emancipation Proclamation reached enslaved people in Galveston, Texas (1865)	20	21 The U.S. Constitution is adopted after New Hampshire becomes the ninth state to ratify it, satisfying the ratification requirement listed in Article VII (1788) <i>In Texas v. Johnson</i> , the Supreme Court rules that burning the U.S. flag is protected speech (1989)
22	23	24 <i>In Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization</i> , the Supreme Court overturned <i>Roe v. Wade</i> , which held that women have the constitutional right to seek pre-viability abortions (2022)	25	26 <i>In Obergefell v. Hodges</i> , the Supreme Court rules that states must allow and recognize same-sex marriages under the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses of the 14th Amendment (2015)	27	28 Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria is assassinated, sparking World War I (1914)
29	30	 <div data-bbox="1066 1289 1482 1328" data-label="Section-Header"> <h2>FOUNDERS' LIBRARY</h2> </div> <div data-bbox="1066 1341 1635 1461" data-label="Text"> <p>We've gathered the leading documents and landmark cases shaping the American constitutional tradition—from the philosophical texts that influenced the founding generation to the most important writings, speeches, Supreme Court cases, and other influential documents spanning American history—all available to view in our new free online documents library!</p> </div>				

CIVIC HOLIDAYS

PRIDE MONTH

FLAG DAY

JUNE 14

JUNETEENTH

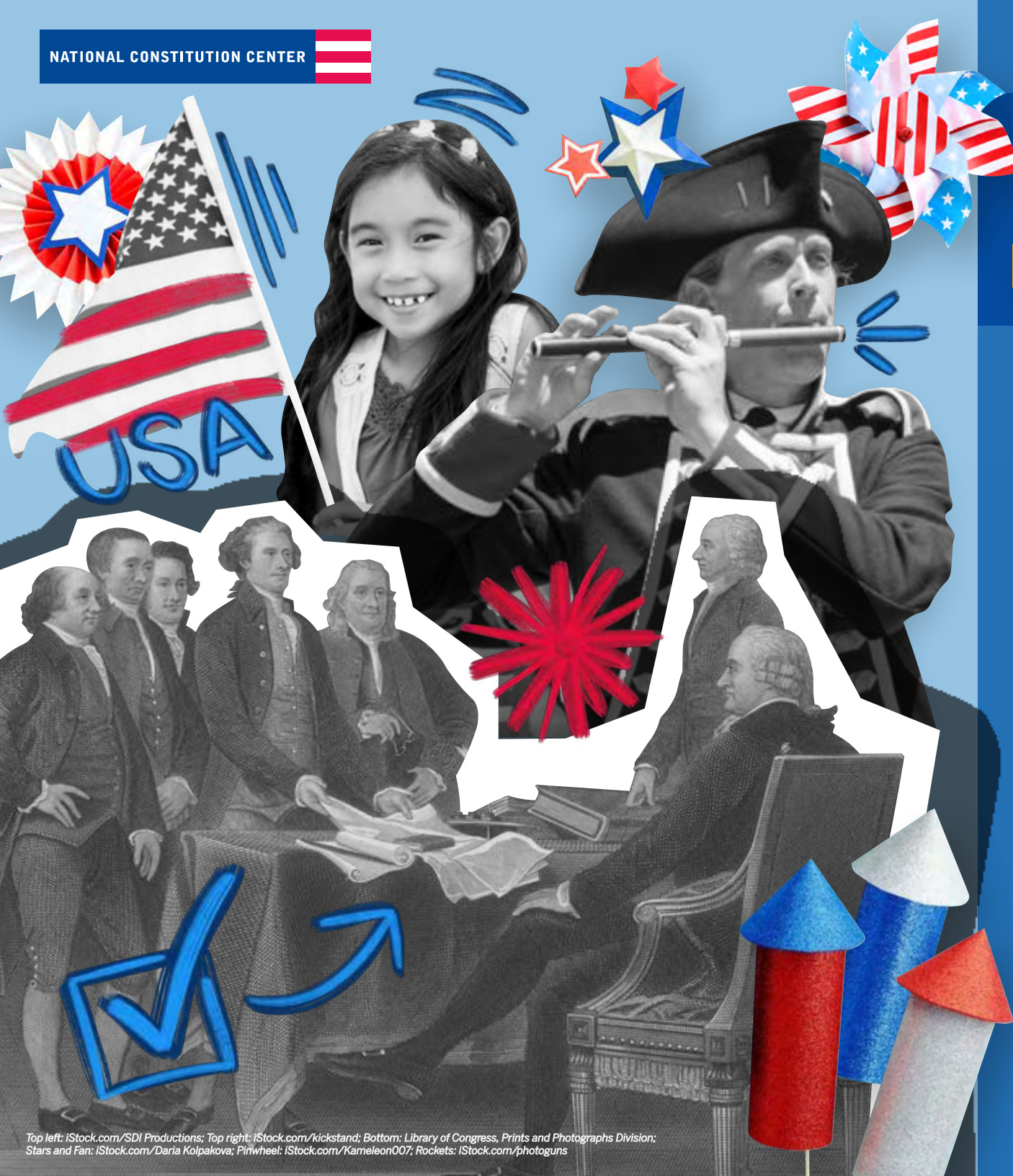
JUNE 19

You're invited to come cool off at the National Constitution Center for a summer of interactive programs and special events to celebrate the stories of "We the People." Through a combination of in-person and online experiences, travel back in time to the writing of the Constitution, meet freedom fighters who ensured the rights enshrined in the Constitution extend to all, and explore what you can do to build "a more perfect Union."

Observe **FLAG DAY** through a constitutional lens with free resources that explore the freedom of speech, the history of protests in the U.S., and the role that the American flag has played in these conversations.

We also offer a number of ways to celebrate **JUNETEENTH**—the annual commemoration of the end of slavery in America in 1865—including **FREE** admission to the museum!

All month long we also explore the rights of LGBTQ+ people under the Constitution.



A HISTORIC VOTE FOR INDEPENDENCE

Which date has the legitimate claim on Independence Day: July 2 or July 4? **Officially, the Continental Congress declared its freedom from Great Britain on July 2, 1776**, when it voted to approve a resolution submitted by delegate Richard Henry Lee of Virginia, declaring: "That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States."

John Adams predicted that "The Second Day of July 1776 will be the most memorable Epocha, in the History of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival. ... It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade with shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this continent to the other from this Time forward forever more."

After voting on independence on July 2, the Continental Congress then drafted a document explaining the move to the public. Once Congress approved the Declaration of Independence on July 4, it ordered that it be sent to the printer. **That is why the Declaration has the words, "IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776," at its top.**

Which is the real Independence Day? You decide, but either way, **you can celebrate a historic vote for independence.**

JULY

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

 <p>CONSTITUTION DAILY BLOG</p> <p>Get the latest coverage of constitutional issues including Supreme Court case analysis, popular 'on this day in history' posts, and more.</p>		<p>1</p> <p>Battle of Gettysburg begins; the battle ends three days later (1863)</p> <p>26th Amendment ratified—protects the right to vote of those 18 and older (1971)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>RED, WHITE, & BLUE TO-DO</p> <p>Congress votes for independence (1776)</p> <p>President Lyndon Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act 1964</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>INDEPENDENCE DAY</p> <p>Museum Open With FREE Admission</p> <p>Adoption of the Declaration of Independence (1776)</p> <p>Birthdays of President Calvin Coolidge (1872)</p>	<p>5</p>
	<p>6</p> <p>Birthdays of President George W. Bush (1946)</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>14th Amendment ratified—guarantees birthright citizenship and protects freedom and equality, writing the promises of the Declaration of Independence into the Constitution (1868)</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Birthdays of President John Quincy Adams (1767)</p> <p>Alexander Hamilton is fatally wounded in a duel with Vice President Aaron Burr (1804)</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Birthdays of President Gerald Ford (1913)</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Beginning of the Seneca Falls Convention, which supported, among other things, women's suffrage and produced the Declaration of Sentiments (1848)</p>
<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>The Constitutional Convention establishes the Committee of Detail to write the first full draft the Constitution (1787)</p> <p>In <i>United States v. Nixon</i>, the Supreme Court defines limits on the power of the executive branch (1974)</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>President George H.W. Bush signs the Americans with Disabilities Act (1990)</p>
<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<div style="background-color: #0072bc; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>CONSTITUTION DAY IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!</p> <p>SEPTEMBER 17</p> <p>Visit us at the museum for FREE admission or stream our programs online and celebrate from anywhere!</p> </div>	

CIVIC HOLIDAYS

RED, WHITE, & BLUE TO-DO

JULY 2

INDEPENDENCE DAY

JULY 4

On July 2, join the National Constitution Center and partners from the Philadelphia Historic District in celebrating with pomp and parade! Visitors can join in festivities all around America's most historic square mile.

Continue the **INDEPENDENCE DAY** celebrations with FREE admission to the museum on July 4, plus programs at the museum and virtually that touch on the meaning of equality and freedom through the lens of the American Revolution. Visitors can also attend the interactive Independence Day show and American flag history and etiquette workshops, lectures from esteemed scholars, and experience a Revolutionary War encampment right on Center's front lawn.



**BOOK
YOUR VISIT
TODAY!**

VISIT THE MUSEUM

215-409-6800 | GROUPSALES@CONSTITUTIONCENTER.ORG

Admission to the National Constitution Center includes access to all of our signature exhibits: *The Story of We the People*, *Signers' Hall*, *American Treasures*, *Constituting Liberty*, *Civil War and Reconstruction: The Battle for Freedom and Equality*, and *The 19th Amendment: How Women Won the Vote*. Visitors also have the opportunity—at no additional cost—to attend live performances of the award-winning multimedia theatrical production of *Freedom Rising* in the Sidney Kimmel Theater. Also included in admission is access to our newest gallery, **The First Amendment**, which offers a fresh perspective on the history of the First Amendment and how it impacts us today.

CONSTITUTION 101

Developed by the National Constitution Center, our *Constitution 101* course provides everything you need to understand and teach the U.S. Constitution! *Constitution 101* is now available in adapted versions for different audiences: lifelong learners, high school educators and students, and a dynamic new student-centered self-paced course created in partnership with Khan Academy.

Coming soon: *Constitution 101* for middle schoolers!



LIVE ONLINE LEARNING

VIRTUAL MUSEUM EXPERIENCES

Bring the fun and excitement of a field trip right to your classroom. Students can tune in to our live (and lively) virtual tours, joining our museum educators as we explore popular topics from constitutional history.

SCHOLAR EXCHANGES

Our peer-to-peer Scholar Exchanges give students the opportunity to connect with a legal professional or constitutional scholar—and fellow students from around the country—to discuss constitutional topics that matter to them.

CIVIC STORIES

For young learners, these engaging live classes allow students in the early grades to engage with the stories of remarkable historical figures who worked to create a “more perfect Union.”

EDUCATOR COMMUNITY

The National Constitution Center’s community of educators, including the Teacher Advisory Board and Teacher Advisory Council, support the Center’s Education Team in developing, testing, and shaping programs and resources.

The #NCCed Community includes educators from across the country, working with students from fifth grade to college. Members of the Center’s educator networks form a professional community that collaborates, provides feedback, and meets regularly to share insight into their practice. They also have the opportunity to present with members of the NCC Education Team at conferences and professional learning sessions across the country.

Applications to join the Teacher Advisory Council open each June.

Visit constitutioncenter.org/education for these resources and more!

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The National Constitution Center relies on the generous annual support of individuals, foundations, and corporations to carry out its crucial mission. We are enormously grateful to the following partners who sponsored our Civic Holiday Programs and Free Admission Days last academic year.



For a full listing of the Center's supporters, visit constitutioncenter.org/about/annual-reports.

To learn more about supporting the Center, visit constitutioncenter.org/support-join.

