



NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER



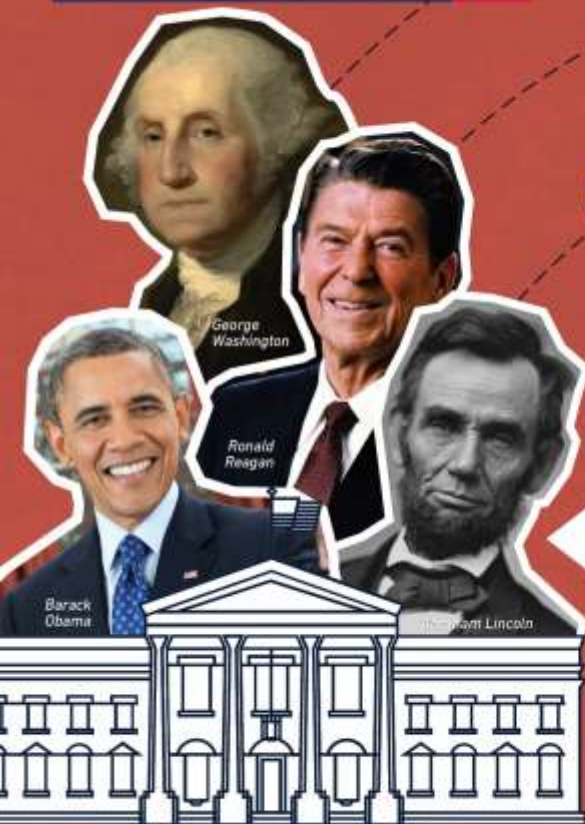
2021/2022 Academic Year
Civic Calendar



**THE SEPARATION
OF POWERS**

**AND THE BATTLE
AMONG THE BRANCHES**



**EXECUTIVE
BRANCH**

We the People

**LEGISLATIVE BRANCH****JUDICIAL BRANCH**

Welcome to the National Constitution Center's 2021-2022 Civic Calendar! This year, our calendar is devoted to separation of powers and the battle among the branches. The year will focus on the **THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT**, and how they work to protect our liberties, maintain a government of limited powers, and allow "We, the People" to build "a more perfect Union."

We will revisit the Constitutional Convention and explore why the framers chose to create a government that separated power, and how they created the system of checks and balances. We will discuss how that government works, the role of each branch of government, the ways in which those branches interact with — and sometimes run into conflict with — one another. Finally, we will look at the role that "We, the People" play in driving the actions of each branch.

SEPTEMBER

SUN

MON

TUE

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**THIS FALL, BOOK
A VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP
TO THE CENTER!**

Students will have the whole museum
to themselves on live tours of our
most popular exhibits.

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The Treaty of Paris ends the
Revolutionary War (1783)

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LABOR DAY

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The Battle of Fort Mchenry
inspires **Francis Scott Key**
to write the "Star-Spangled
Banner" (1814)

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National Hispanic
Heritage Month begins
Birthday of **President
William H. Taft** (1857)

16

17

CONSTITUTION DAY

The U.S. Constitution
is signed (1787)

18

U.S. Air Force
established (1947)

19

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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repealed (2011)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

Preliminary Emancipation
Proclamation is issued,
stating Lincoln's intention
to free enslaved people in
the South (1862)

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HAPPY
CONSTITUTION DAY!

Celebrate with us on
September 17!

CIVIC HOLIDAY

**CONSTITUTION
DAY**

SEPTEMBER 17

Join us for the best **CONSTITUTION DAY** celebration in the country! You can visit us at the Center, or join us live online, for all of our Constitution Day events, including our preamble reading, Town Hall discussions with special guests, tours of our signature exhibits, and more! Or, head to our *Interactive Constitution: Classroom Edition* for free videos, lessons, and more resources covering the Constitution's articles and amendments, as well as topics like federalism and the Electoral College — perfect for teaching the Constitution on September 17 and all year round!

Visit constitutioncenter.org/in-the-classroom
for these resources and more!

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We the People

NATURAL RIGHTS

THE RULE OF LAW

POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY

FOUNDATIONS OF DEMOCRACY

Following the drafting of the Declaration of Independence and the Revolutionary War, early Americans set out to build a new nation. But before looking at the division of powers, or creating checks and balances, they would make sure the **new government was built on three principles: Natural Rights, the Rule of Law, and Popular Sovereignty.**

- 1 NATURAL RIGHTS** are rights that are given by God or by nature and thus come not from a law passed by the government but rather are **inherent to all individual human beings from birth.**
- 2 THE RULE OF LAW** is the basic idea that we have a government of laws, not a government by man or by arbitrary rule. In other words, **no one is above the law.**
- 3 POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY** generally refers to **"rule by the people"** and the idea that ultimate power and authority rests not with the government itself, but with the people.

With these three principles at the Constitution's foundation, early Americans wanted to ensure that it was **"We, the People" at the heart of shaping our government.**

Thomas Jefferson (right), Benjamin Franklin (left), and John Adams (center) meet to review a draft of the Declaration of Independence.

Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division

OCTOBER

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TUE

WED

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Whether students, teachers, and parents are learning in the classroom or remotely, the National Constitution Center is thrilled to offer free, live classes on the Constitution for middle school, high school, and college students. Part lecture and part lively conversation, our classes give participants the opportunity to learn about constitutional topics, past and present.

Visit our website for a full schedule of upcoming sessions — pick your favorite topics, or come to them all!

1

Birthday of President Jimmy Carter (1924)

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Birthday of President Rutherford B. Hayes (1822)

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Birthday of President Chester A. Arthur (1829)

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Birthday of President Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890)

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National Hispanic Heritage Month ends

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First copy of *The Federalist Papers* is published in support of the newly signed Constitution (1787)

Birthday of President Theodore Roosevelt (1858)

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Birthday of President John Adams (1735)

31

JOIN US FOR

SCOUT DAYS

The National Constitution Center is now offering **VIRTUAL SCOUT DAYS**. Scouts can participate in special, live virtual programs, including museum tours, panel discussions, trivia games, and more, all specifically designed for Scouts and customized to help them achieve select badge requirements. Sessions are presented through a secure Zoom webinar, and can be accessed from a home computer, laptop, or phone.

Visit constitutioncenter.org/in-the-classroom for these resources and more!

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THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

AND THE ROAD TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Shays' Rebellion was the final straw. A tax protest by western Massachusetts farmers in 1786 and 1787 showed the central government couldn't put down an internal rebellion.

Left: Bettmann Archive / Getty Images

The U.S. government was shaped at the Constitutional Convention, but it's important to remember that when the framers met in Philadelphia in 1787, our nation already had a framework of government — the Articles of Confederation. The Articles created a **"LEAGUE OF FRIENDSHIP"** between the states, which were more like 13 separate nations rather than a single United States of America — and under the Articles, the powers of the national government were limited.

These limits created several problems for the young nation. Take Shays' Rebellion for example. When farmers in Massachusetts organized an armed rebellion, the national government struggled to raise an army to put it down. For many in the founding generation — including George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, James Wilson, and James Madison — Shays' Rebellion was proof that the Articles were too weak to govern the country.

The Confederation Congress agreed to call for a convention of state delegates to meet in Philadelphia for the **"SOLE AND EXPRESS PURPOSE OF REVISING THE ARTICLES."** Of course, Madison and company had other plans...

ARTICLES
OF

Confederation

NOVEMBER

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

	1 John Adams becomes the first president to move into the White House (1800)	2 ELECTION DAY Birthday of President Warren G. Harding (1865) Birthday of President James K. Polk (1795)	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 U.S. Marine Corps established (1775)	11 VETERANS DAY	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 President Abraham Lincoln delivers the Gettysburg Address (1863) Birthday of President James Garfield (1831)	19 Birthday of President Joseph Biden (1942)	20
21 North Carolina ratifies the Constitution by a vote of 194-77, becoming the 12th state in the Union (1789)	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 THANKSGIVING DAY Museum Closed	26	27
28	29	30	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATORS From hourlong online workshops to weeklong summer institutes, the National Constitution Center provides a wide variety of professional development opportunities for teachers. Visit our website to see an upcoming schedule of events.			

CIVIC HOLIDAYS

ELECTION DAY

NOVEMBER 2

VETERANS DAY

NOVEMBER 11

THANKSGIVING

NOVEMBER 25

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?

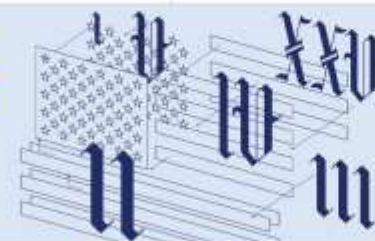
In November, you can also download and return our "Thank a Vet" postcards in honor of **VETERANS DAY** or watch our video exploring the history of **THANKSGIVING**.

Visit constitutioncenter.org/in-the-classroom for these resources and more!

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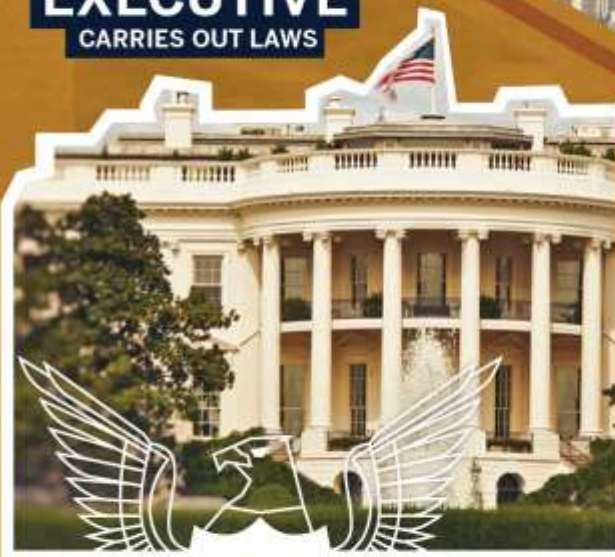
LEGISLATIVE

WRITES THE LAWS



EXECUTIVE

CARRIES OUT LAWS



JUDICIAL

REVIEWS & INTERPRETS THE LAWS



THE SEPARATION OF POWERS

As the delegates went to work (re)designing the government, they agreed that the new Constitution must contain the principle of **SEPARATION OF POWERS**.

Separation of Powers — an idea that came from thinkers like John Locke and the Baron de Montesquieu — is the division of power between the three branches of the federal (or national) government, with the principle that power is not concentrated too much in one branch, and that no branch should improperly take power from another branch.

Now let's take a closer look at the role of each branch of government.

ARTICLE I vests "all legislative powers herein granted" in Congress. **Congress writes the laws.**

ARTICLE II vests "the executive power" of the government in the president. **The executive branch carries out or "executes" laws.**

ARTICLE III vests "the judicial power" of the United States in a Supreme Court and in the inferior courts Congress establishes. **The judiciary reviews and interprets the laws to make sure they are constitutional.**

DECEMBER

SUN

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*Give the gift of membership
this holiday season!*

constitutioncenter.org/membership

1

Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, AL (1955)

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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)

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Pennsylvania ratifies the
Constitution by a vote of
45-23, becoming the second
state to approve the new
Constitution (1787)

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BILL OF RIGHTS DAY

The Bill of Rights
is ratified (1791)

16

Boston Tea Party (1773)

17

18

In *Korematsu v. United States* (1944), the Supreme Court upholds Japanese American internment

In *Katz v. United States* (1967), the Supreme Court establishes an individual's "reasonable expectation of privacy" during phone conversations

New Jersey ratifies the Constitution by a vote of 38-0, becoming the third state in the Union (1787)

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General George Washington and his troops successfully cross the Delaware River, surprising the British and Hessian forces at Trenton, New Jersey (1776)

Museum Closed

26

27

Birthday of President
Woodrow Wilson (1856)

28

29

Birthday of President
Andrew Johnson (1808)

30

31

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 U.S. Supreme Court Justices Elena Kagan and Neil Gorsuch, plus recordings of previous Scholar Exchanges with guests like Professor Akhil Amar, tours of our *Constituting Liberty* exhibit, podcasts, blog posts, *Interactive Constitution* essays, our *Writing Rights* interactive, and more — all available for free on our website!

Visit constitutioncenter.org/in-the-classroom
for these resources and more!

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THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

ARTICLE I established the national government's legislative branch — **CONGRESS**. It's the longest part of the Constitution. And that's because the founding generation thought that Congress would be the most powerful branch of government. Within the national government, **CONGRESS IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING THE LAWS.**

Article I also set out the powers of Congress — like collecting taxes, regulating commerce, declaring war, and making all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying out the powers of the national government — and lists certain limits to those powers. With Congress, the founding generation set up a national legislature to make the *nation's* laws. They looked to create a new national legislature with more authority — and ability to act — than the one that came before it, but also one of limited powers.


ABOUT CONGRESS

The Constitution separates Congress into two houses (we call this "bicameralism")

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

- **435 members**
- States' **delegations are set by population** — the bigger the state, the more the representatives
- **2 years**
Representatives serve **two-year terms**, and can be reelected

U.S. SENATE

- **100 senators**
-  States are **represented equally**, with two senators each
- **6 years**
Senators serve **six-year terms**, and can be reelected



Jeannette Rankin



Hiram Rhodes Revels



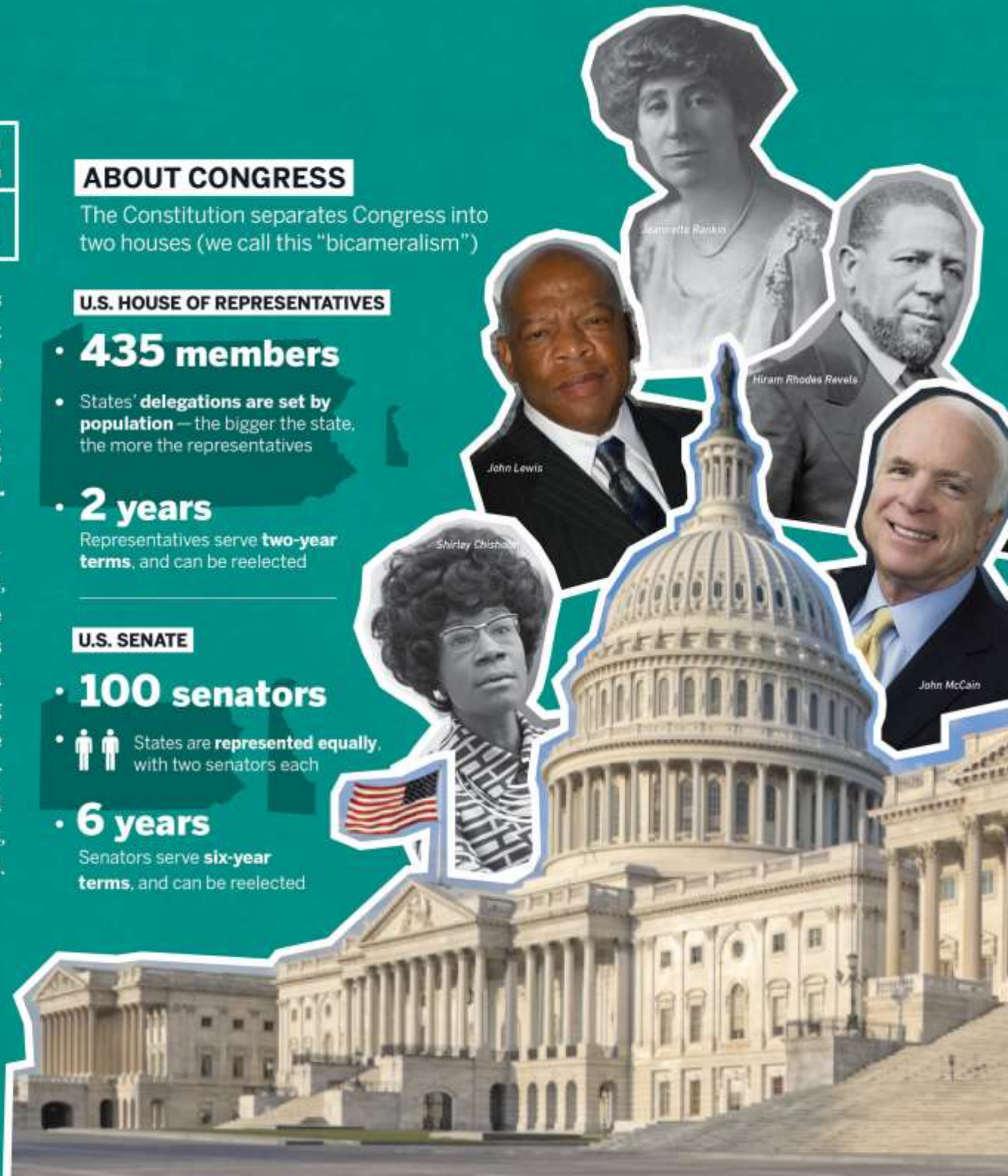
John Lewis



John McCain



Shirley Chisholm



JANUARY

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VIRTUAL PEER-TO-PEER DIALOGUES

Our Peer-to-Peer Classroom Exchanges **CONNECT MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES** for virtual conversations about the Constitution. Students will practice healthy civil dialogue, critical thinking, and active listening skills while discussing real-world issues. Plus, they will have the opportunity to interact with a constitutional expert who will moderate the discussion. Sign up now — participation is free!

1

President Abraham Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation (1863)
Museum Closed

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Birthdays of President
Millard Fillmore (1800)

9

Birthdays of President
Richard Nixon (1913)

Harvey Milk becomes
the first openly gay man
to hold elected office in
the United States (1978)

10

11

Birthdays of
Alexander Hamilton (1757)

12

13

In *Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier*
(1988), the Supreme
Court rules that school
administrators may censor
student newspapers
to protect the school's
academic mission

14

15

Birthdays of Martin
Luther King Jr. (1929)

In *New Jersey v. T.L.O.* (1985),
the Supreme Court allows
school administrators to search
students' belongings if they
have a reasonable suspicion
of criminal activity

16

18th Amendment ratified—
prohibits manufacture,
sale, and transportation of
intoxicating liquors (1919)

17

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

Birthdays of
Benjamin Franklin (1706)

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20th Amendment
ratified — presidential
inauguration moves
from March to January
(1933)

24th Amendment ratified—
abolishes poll tax in
national elections
(1964)

30

Birthdays of President
Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882)

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Birthdays of President
William McKinley (1843)

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CIVIC HOLIDAY

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

JANUARY 17

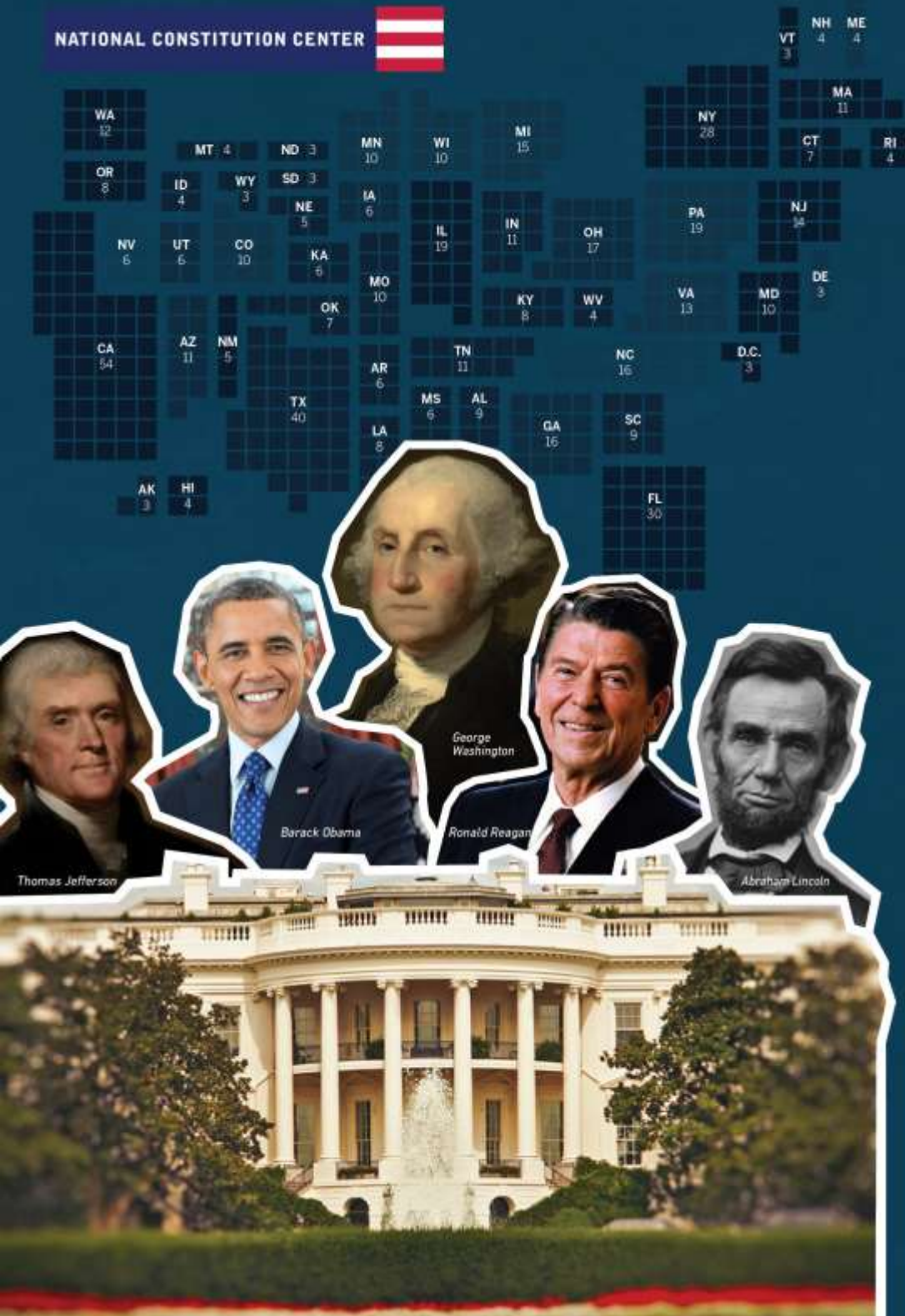
This **MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY**, view our *Interactive Constitution: Classroom Edition* unit exploring the civil rights movement. Find videos featuring Professor Hasan Kwame Jeffries and the late Congressman John Lewis, plus Center scholars, exploring the civil rights movement and landmark laws enacted by Congress like the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Additional resources include podcasts, blog posts, Town Hall programs, and more — all available for free on our website!

Visit constitutioncenter.org/in-the-classroom
for these resources and more!

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THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Article II establishes the executive branch — **THE PRESIDENCY**. Within the national government, **THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ENFORCING THE LAWS**.

With the new president, America's founding generation set out to establish an executive head stronger than the weak governors in charge of the states at the time, but weaker than a king. We commonly think of the presidency as the most powerful elected office in all of the world. Yet, the Constitution actually grants far fewer explicit powers to the president in Article II than it does to the Congress in Article I. According to Article II, the president is the commander in chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, has the power to appoint judges and executive branch officials (with the advice and consent of the Senate), make treaties (with Senate approval), and grant reprieves and pardons, and has a duty to **"TAKE CARE THAT THE LAWS BE FAITHFULLY EXECUTED."** In Article I, the Constitution also gives the president the power to veto legislation passed by Congress.

ABOUT THE PRESIDENT

• **≥ 35 years old**

The president must be **35 years of age**, a natural-born citizen, and a 14-year resident of the United States

• **2 x 4 years**

Presidents are eligible to serve **two four-year terms**.

- Presidents are selected by the **Electoral College**.

538 electors

When it comes to selecting the president, we use a system known as the Electoral College. **The Electoral College is made up of 538 electors, with states given a number of electors based on their representation in Congress.** (The 23rd Amendment grants Washington, D.C., three electoral votes.) The popular vote on Election Day determines which electors will be appointed to the Electoral College from each state, and then it's those electors who vote for president.

FEBRUARY

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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

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Birthday of President Abraham Lincoln (1809)
NAACP founded in New York City (1909)

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Observed birthday of Frederick Douglass, abolitionist leader (1818)

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PRESIDENTS DAY

The Confederate Congress passes a resolution leading to the Constitutional Convention (1787)

22

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Birthday of President George Washington (1732)

24

In *Marbury v. Madison*, 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 *Tinker v. Des Moines*, 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

ON VIEW

Civil War and Reconstruction

Experience America's first exhibit devoted to exploring how constitutional clashes over slavery set the stage for the Civil War, and how the nation transformed the Constitution after the war to more fully embrace the Declaration of Independence's promise of liberty and equality. Visit in person or book a live Virtual Tour!



CIVIC HOLIDAYS

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

PRESIDENTS DAY

FEBRUARY 21

This **BLACK HISTORY MONTH** you can study the words of Frederick Douglass, Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, and other American heroes with video highlights from *FOURTEEN*, a theatrical performance that sheds light on the Reconstruction era, the period after the Civil War, through dramatic interpretation of original texts—all available for free on our website.

Additional units on our *Interactive Constitution: Classroom Edition* explore slavery, the Civil War and Reconstruction, and the 14th Amendment, with resources including video lessons and the Drafting Table—a tool that lets you explore documents that inspired the framers of the Constitution and see the process that went into writing and ratifying each of the Reconstruction Amendments, including early drafts of each amendment.

On **PRESIDENTS DAY** you can view our special presidential trivia videos—learn some fun facts and get an inside look at some of our favorite exhibits.

Visit constitutioncenter.org/in-the-classroom for these resources and more!

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THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

ARTICLE III establishes the judicial branch of government, which is responsible for interpreting the laws. At the highest level, the judicial branch is led by the **U.S. SUPREME COURT**. In the federal system, the lower courts consist of the courts of appeals and the district courts. Courts **EXERCISE THE POWER OF JUDICIAL REVIEW**. This power gives courts the authority to rule on the constitutionality of laws passed (and actions taken) by the elected branches.

ABOUT THE SUPREME COURT

• 9 justices

Today there are **nine justices** on the Supreme Court.

- They are **appointed by the president** with the "advice and consent" of the Senate.
- They **serve lifetime terms**—promoting the principle of judicial independence.



Front row, left to right: Associate Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr., Associate Justice Clarence Thomas, Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., Associate Justice Stephen G. Breyer, and Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor.
Back row, left to right: Associate Justice Brett M. Kavanaugh, Associate Justice Elena Kagan, Associate Justice Neil M. Gorsuch, and Associate Justice Amy Coney Barrett.



MARCH

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ON VIEW

The 19th Amendment: How Women Won the Vote

Now open, our newest exhibit traces the triumphs and struggles that led to the ratification of the 19th Amendment, and allows visitors to better understand the long fight for women's suffrage.

1

The Articles of Confederation are approved (1781)

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Boston Massacre (1770)

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In *McCulloch v. Maryland*, the Supreme Court upholds the constitutionality of the National Bank (1819)

In *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, the Supreme Court rules that people of African descent are not U.S. citizens (1857)

7

The "Bloody Sunday" march from Selma to Montgomery, pushing for voting rights for all Americans, takes place (1965)

8

International Women's Day

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Janet Reno is sworn in as the first female U.S. attorney general (1993)

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Birthday of President Andrew Jackson (1767)

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Birthday of President James Madison (1751)

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Birthday of President Grover Cleveland (1837)

In *Gideon v. Wainwright*, the Supreme Court rules that states must provide an attorney for those who cannot afford one (1963)

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Birthday of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, first woman to serve on the Supreme Court (1938)

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Birthday of President John Tyler (1790)

23rd Amendment ratified—grants electoral votes to Washington, D.C., in presidential elections (1961)

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31

Book a LIVE virtual tour of *The 19th Amendment*

and learn more about the many women who transformed constitutional history—including Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Alice Paul, and Ida B. Wells.

CIVIC HOLIDAY

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

During **WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**, view our *Interactive Constitution: Classroom Edition* unit exploring the 19th Amendment. Find videos featuring Professor Martha S. Jones, plus Center scholars, exploring how women fought for suffrage. Additional resources include an interactive map showing the expansion of women's voting rights, primary sources exploring historic debates around suffrage, video highlights from inside our newest exhibit *The 19th Amendment: How Women Won the Vote*, and more!

Visit constitutioncenter.org/in-the-classroom for these resources and more!

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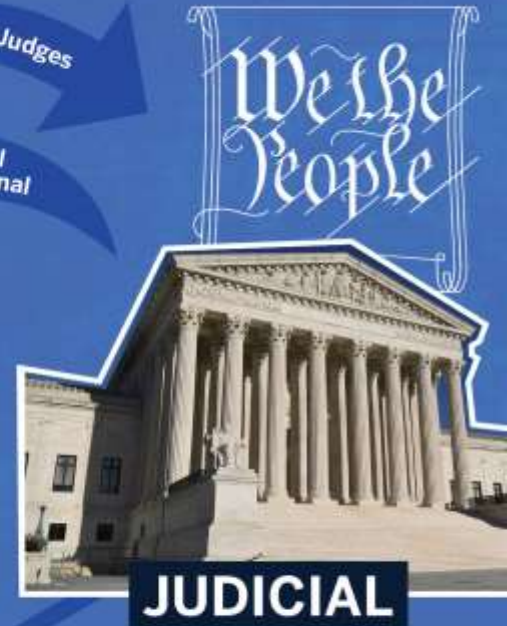


CHECKS AND BALANCES

Because the founding generation feared any one branch of government becoming too powerful, they also created a system of checks and balances. **CHECKS AND BALANCES**, broadly defined, is the mixing of powers such that one branch can check the others from getting too powerful. As James Madison put it in *Federalist #51*, “**AMBITION MUST BE MADE TO COUNTERACT AMBITION.**”

Let's look at **CHECKS AND BALANCES IN ACTION**. As we learned, it's Congress's job to write laws, but before bills passed by Congress become laws, they must first go to the president, who has the option to veto – in other words, reject – the bill. Of course, the president doesn't have the last word either, as Congress has the power to override – in other words, cancel – the president's veto by a two-thirds vote in both Houses of Congress. And once a bill does become a law, people can go to court and challenge it, and the courts have the power to rule on whether it is constitutional or unconstitutional.

Through this system of checks and balances, the Constitution grants each branch of government powers to check abuses by the other branches.



Nominate Judges

Declare Presidential Acts Unconstitutional

Veto Legislation

Impeach President

Declare Laws Unconstitutional

Impeach Judges

APRIL

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ON VIEW

Signers' Hall

See our iconic life-sized statues of the delegates to the Constitutional Convention, including George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and more!

Visit in person or book a LIVE Virtual Tour!

1

2

JOIN US TO

PREP FOR THE AP EXAM

Jeannette Rankin takes her seat as the first female member of Congress (1917)

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William Henry Harrison is the first president to die in office (1841)

17th Amendment ratified — establishes direct election of U.S. senators (1913)

Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrenders his Army of Northern Virginia, leading to the end of the Civil War (1865)

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Birthday of President Thomas Jefferson (1743)

President Abraham Lincoln is shot at Ford's Theatre and dies the next day (1865)

Tax Day

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Revolutionary War begins with the Battles of Lexington and Concord (1775)

Patriots' Day

Earth Day

Birthday of President James Buchanan (1791)

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Birthday of President Ulysses S. Grant (1822)

Birthday of President James Monroe (1758)

George Washington is inaugurated as the first president of the United States (1789)
Department of the Navy established (1798)

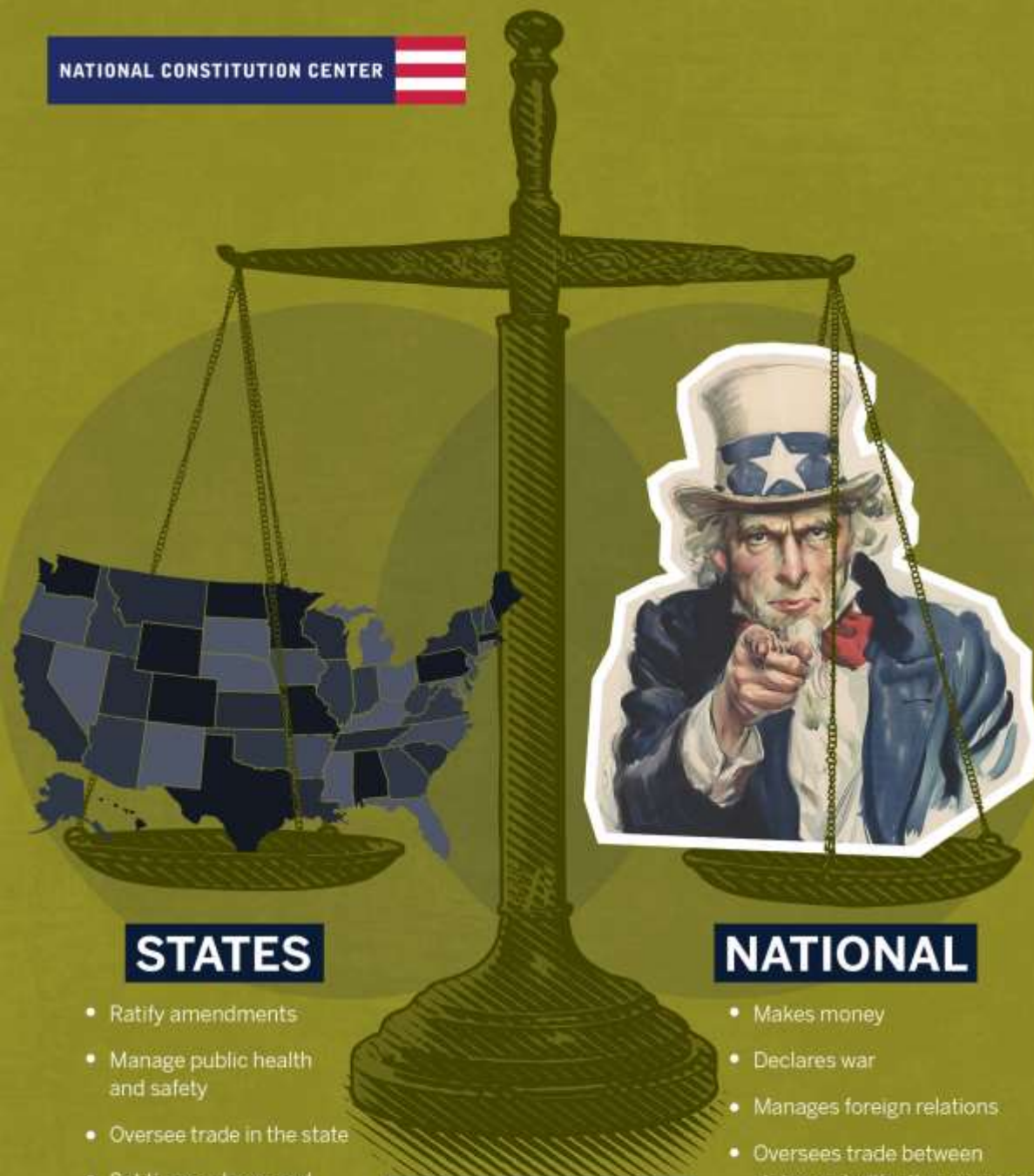
This April, the Center helps students prepare for the **ADVANCED PLACEMENT GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS EXAM** with special video lessons taught by our top constitutional scholars, including a review of America's founding documents, the 27 amendments, and the top 15 Supreme Court cases included in a typical course of study for an AP Government class. Find these resources and more on our *Interactive Constitution: Classroom Edition*.

Visit constitutioncenter.org/in-the-classroom for these resources and more!

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STATES

- Ratify amendments
- Manage public health and safety
- Oversee trade in the state
- Set times, places and manner of elections
- Outline educational standards

NATIONAL

- Makes money
- Declares war
- Manages foreign relations
- Oversees trade between states and with other countries

SHARED POWERS

- Making and enforcing laws
- Making taxes
- Borrowing money

FEDERALISM


Now that we've explored the different branches of government, let's look at another way the Constitution separates power: **FEDERALISM**. "Federalism" is the word used to describe the Constitution's system of dividing political power between **THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND THE STATES**.

When the Constitutional Convention delegates crafted a new government, they tried to strike a difficult balance. They wanted to strengthen the national government. But they also wanted to maintain the states' key role in governance, making sure that the American people would not become too disconnected from the government that governed their daily lives. Federalism was at the core of this new system.

Under this system, state governments often lead the way in trying out new laws and policies. A famous example is women's suffrage, when women began voting in Western states long before the 19th Amendment. Justice Louis Brandeis said that when this happens, states become "laboratories of democracy."

At the same time, by giving the national government the power to override the states in certain areas, the Constitution permits the national government to set laws that apply to the entire nation — for example, the passage of national Civil Rights legislation in the 1960s like the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 LAW DAY	2	3 National Teacher Day	4	5	6	7 27th Amendment ratified—sets limits on congressional pay raises (1992)
8 Birthday of President Harry Truman (1884)	9	10	11	12	13	14 Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in North America, is established (1607)
15	16	17 In <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> , the Supreme Court rules that segregation of public schools is unconstitutional (1954)	18 In <i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i> , the Supreme Court rules that states can impose racial segregation (1896). The Supreme Court overturns the <i>Plessy</i> decision in <i>Brown</i> .	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 The Constitutional Convention opens (1787)	26	27	28
29 Birthday of President John F. Kennedy (1917)	30 MEMORIAL DAY	31	<div> <div> <div>PREPARE NOW FOR</div> <div>CONSTITUTION DAY!</div> <div>Visit our website for great free resources to get ready for the big day!</div> </div>  </div>			

CIVIC HOLIDAYS

LAW DAY

MAY 1

MEMORIAL DAY

MAY 30

For **LAW DAY**, view our *Interactive Constitution: Classroom Edition* unit exploring the foundations of democracy. Find videos featuring author Kenneth Davis and Center scholars discussing the ideas of natural rights, popular sovereignty, and the rule of law.

In honor of **MEMORIAL DAY**, check out videos featuring our education staff as we bring you inside the museum to explore fascinating facts about the history of the American military and the Memorial Day holiday.

Visit constitutioncenter.org/in-the-classroom for these resources and more!

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PROPOSAL



APPROVAL

OR



RATIFICATION

THREE-FOURTHS OF STATES NEEDED

LAW

AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE V of the Constitution defines the process by which **AMENDMENTS — OR CHANGES — ARE MADE TO THE CONSTITUTION.**

America's founding generation didn't believe that it had a monopoly on constitutional wisdom. Therefore, the founders set out a formal amendment process that allowed later generations to revise our nation's charter and "form a more perfect Union." They wrote this process into Article V. Over time, the American people have used this process to transform the Constitution — adding a **BILL OF RIGHTS**, **ABOLISHING SLAVERY**, **PROMISING EQUALITY**, and **PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO VOTE** for women and African Americans.

In each case, amendments must achieve at least a **TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY** approval in both Houses of Congress. They are then submitted to the states, whereby **THREE-FOURTHS** must ratify — either in state legislatures or by conventions — for the amendment to take effect.



Bill of Rights

We the People



JUNE

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT



WE THE PEOPLE
WITH JEFFREY ROSEN

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.

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In *Olmstead v. United States*, the Supreme Court rules that private phone conversations may be wiretapped by police and used as evidence (1928). However, Justice Brandeis's powerful dissenting opinion would become the foundation for later rulings.

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Allied forces invade Normandy on D-Day during World War II (1944)

12

Birthday of President George H.W. Bush (1924)
In *Loving v. Virginia*, the Supreme Court invalidates state laws that forbid interracial marriages (1967)

13

In *Miranda v. Arizona*, the Supreme Court rules that police must inform defendants of their constitutional rights (1966)

14

FLAG DAY

Birthday of President Donald Trump (1946)

15

12th Amendment ratified — amends the Electoral College by combining a party's presidential and vice-presidential candidates onto one ticket (1804)

16

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JUNETEENTH

Juneteenth is the annual commemoration of the end of slavery in America, marking the day that word of the Emancipation Proclamation reached enslaved people in Galveston, TX, in 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)

In *Texas v. Johnson*, the Supreme Court rules that burning the U.S. flag is protected speech (1989)

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In *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke*, the Supreme Court rules that racial quotas may not be used in college admissions (1978)

In *Obergefell v. Hodges*, the Supreme Court rules the right to marry is guaranteed to same-sex couples (2015)

27

28

Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria is assassinated, sparking World War I (1914)

29

30



CONSTITUTION DAILY BLOG
Get the latest coverage of constitutional issues.

CIVIC HOLIDAYS

FLAG DAY

JUNE 14

JUNETEENTH

JUNE 19

Observe **FLAG DAY** through a constitutional lens with free resources that explore the freedom of speech, the history of protests in the United States, and the role that the American flag has played in these conversations. Plus, follow @constitutionctr throughout the day as we share images, stories, etiquette tips, and fun facts about the American flag.

We also offer a number of ways to recognize **JUNETEENTH** — the annual commemoration of the end of slavery in America in 1865 — including theatrical videos exploring the Emancipation Proclamation and the 13th Amendment, plus other great resources available to view anytime for free on our website.

All month long we also explore the rights of **LGBTQ+ PEOPLE UNDER THE CONSTITUTION**.

Visit constitutioncenter.org/in-the-classroom for these resources and more!

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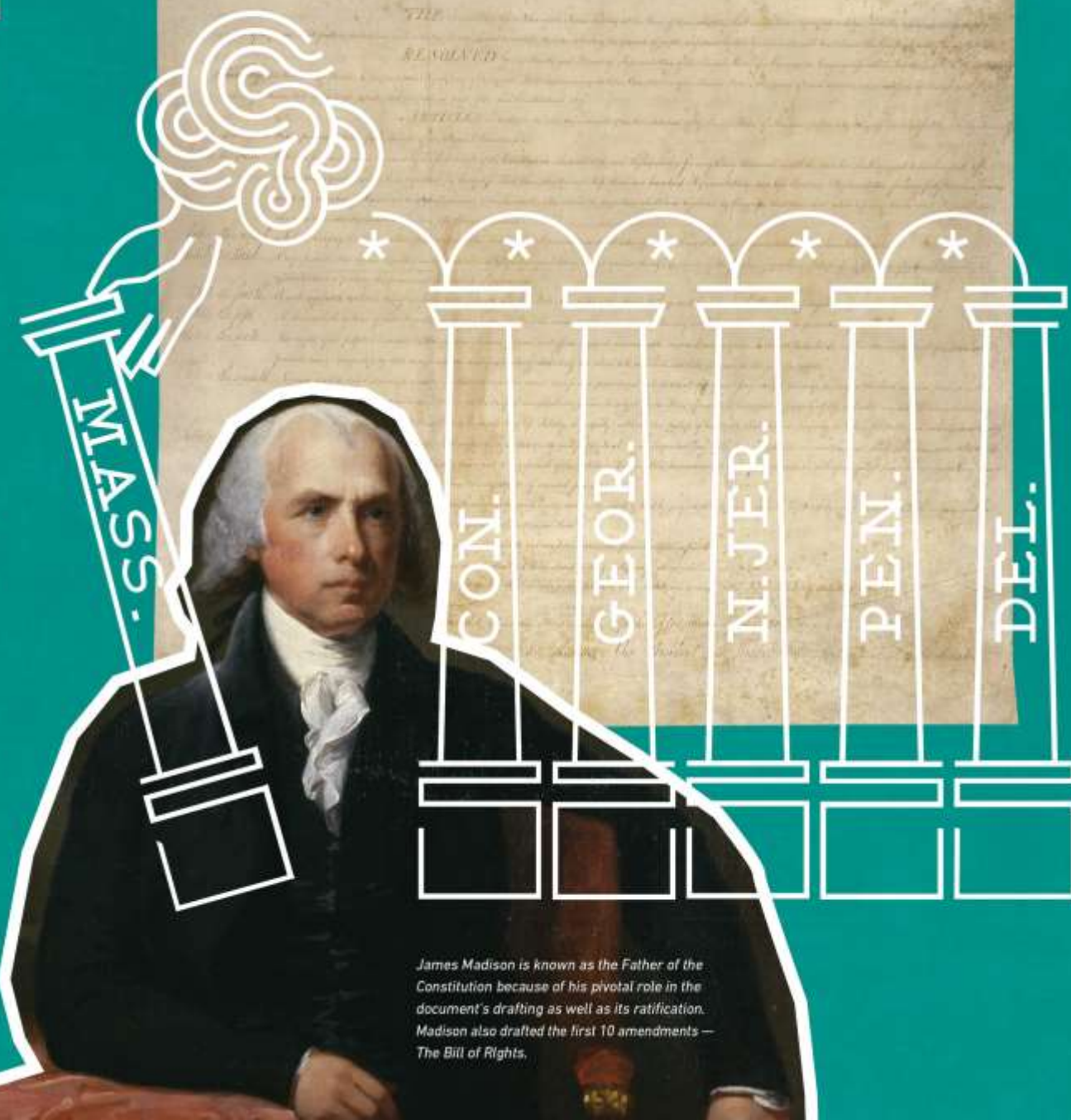
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RATIFICATION

The final article of the Constitution, **ARTICLE VII**, outlines how the new governing document would be ratified. Nine of 13 states would have to ratify — or approve — the new Constitution in order for it to replace the Articles of Confederation.

After the Constitution was signed on September 17, 1787, the ratification process began. **THE RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION WAS A LONG, DIFFICULT BATTLE**, and there was hardly any guarantee that the Federalists, who supported ratification, would win. Generally, one of the major objections Anti-Federalists made to the Constitution was its lack of a Bill of Rights, particularly with regards to the freedom of the press, freedom of conscience, and trial by jury.

On June 21, 1788, New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify and under Article VII, the Constitution's requirements for ratification were met. The new government could be elected, constructed, and opened. George Washington was unanimously chosen as the first president, as the Constitutional Convention assumed would happen. Congress officially met for the first time on March 4, 1789, and **JAMES MADISON WAS TASKED WITH FRAMING AMENDMENTS** to satisfy Anti-Federalists — a **BILL OF RIGHTS**.



James Madison is known as the Father of the Constitution because of his pivotal role in the document's drafting as well as its ratification. Madison also drafted the first 10 amendments — The Bill of Rights.

JULY

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

 <div> <p>JOIN US ONLINE OR IN PERSON TO CELEBRATE AMERICA'S BIRTHDAY</p> <p>The Center's Independence Day programs include discussions on the meaning of equality and freedom through the lens of the American Revolution.</p> </div>						
					1 Battle of Gettysburg begins; the battle ends three days later (1863) 26th Amendment ratified — protects the right to vote of those 18 and older (1971)	2 The Second Continental Congress votes for independence (1776)
3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY Adoption of the Declaration of Independence (1776) Birthday of President Calvin Coolidge (1872)	5	6 Birthday of President George W. Bush (1946)	7	8	9 14th Amendment ratified — guarantees birthright citizenship and protects freedom and equality, writing the promises of the Declaration of Independence into the Constitution (1868)
10	11 Birthday of President John Quincy Adams (1767) Alexander Hamilton is fatally wounded in a duel with Vice President Aaron Burr (1804)	12	13	14 Birthday of President Gerald Ford (1913)	15	16
17	18	19 Beginning of the Seneca Falls Convention, which supported, among other things, women's suffrage and produced the Declaration of Sentiments (1848)	20	21	22	23
24 The Constitutional Convention establishes the Committee of Detail to write the first full draft the Constitution (1787) In <i>United States v. Nixon</i> , the Supreme Court defines limits on the power of the executive branch (1974)	25	26 President George H.W. Bush signs the Americans with Disabilities Act (1990)	27	28	29	30
31						

CIVIC HOLIDAY

INDEPENDENCE DAY

JULY 4

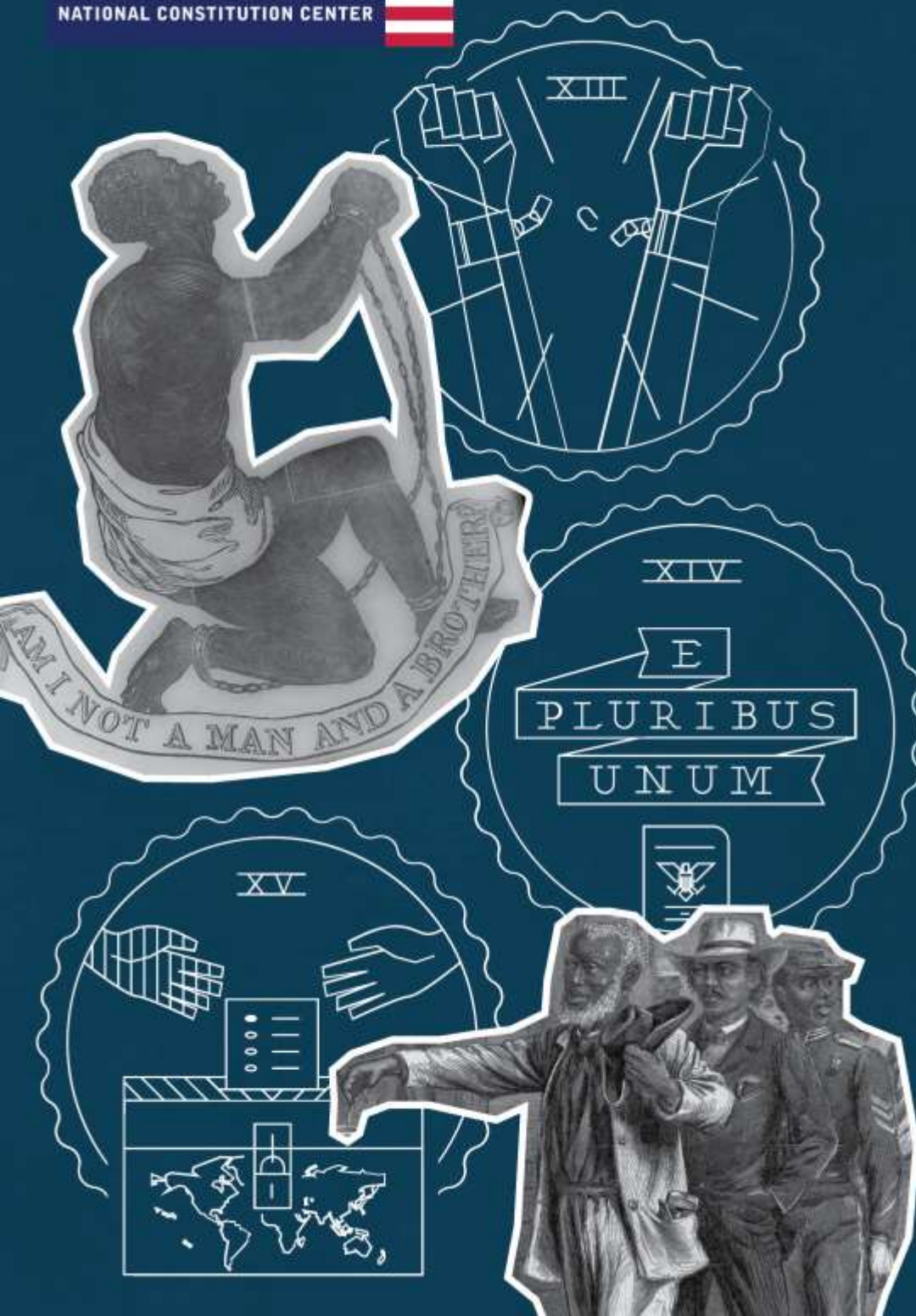
The Center's **INDEPENDENCE DAY** programs include discussions on the meaning of equality and freedom through the lens of the American Revolution. Through a robust selection of free online videos, podcasts, essays, and more, we celebrate Independence Day and acknowledge America's ongoing fight to achieve the ideals expressed in our founding documents.

Visit constitutioncenter.org/in-the-classroom for these resources and more!

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SLAVERY, RECONSTRUCTION, AND THE “SECOND FOUNDING”

Slavery was embedded into America’s fabric by the time of the ratification of the Constitution, so, sadly, while the word itself does not appear in the text, the institution of slavery was protected by the Constitution through several provisions. Article I, Section 2, counted enslaved people as three-fifths of a person for purposes of representation in Congress. Article I, Section 9, prohibited Congress from ending the slave trade until 1808. And Article IV, Section 2, protected a slaveholder’s power to retrieve enslaved individuals who escaped to freedom. Following the Civil War, President Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, and their generation eventually **ABOLISHED SLAVERY WITH THE 13TH AMENDMENT.**

The 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments — known as the Reconstruction Amendments — not only ended slavery, but also tried to rebuild our nation on a stronger foundation after the Civil War by writing the Declaration of Independence’s promise of freedom and equality into the Constitution. The **RECONSTRUCTION AMENDMENTS ALSO GAVE CONGRESS THE POWER TO ENFORCE THESE NEW PROTECTIONS**, making them the first set of constitutional amendments to expand the reach of national power. So, the Reconstruction era ultimately transforms the balances of power under the Constitution, shifting more power to the federal government. But we continue to debate the balance of power between the national government and the states.

Because the Constitution was so monumentally transformed during this era, many scholars refer to it as America’s **“SECOND FOUNDING.”**

AUGUST

SUN

MON


TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

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

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 nonpartisan online education materials — no matter where learning takes place.

CONSTITUTIONAL EXCHANGES

Part lecture and part lively conversation, Constitutional Exchanges give participants the opportunity to learn about constitutional topics, past and present. There are four great ways to participate:

- Join our live public classes.
- View recordings of any past sessions.
- Schedule a private scholarly chat, for just your class.
- Engage in peer-to-peer dialogues with classes across the country.

INTERACTIVE CONSTITUTION: CLASSROOM EDITION

Teachers, students, and parents can check out *Interactive Constitution: Classroom Edition*, a special version of the *Interactive Constitution* with educational materials on individual provisions of the Constitution and key constitutional principles. Each collection of free Learning Materials contains video lessons and recordings of previous Scholar Exchanges, plus links to podcasts, blog posts, scholarly essays, and more.

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CIVIC HOLIDAYS ARE GREAT DAYS TO CELEBRATE AT THE MUSEUM OR IN YOUR CLASSROOM SO WHAT IS A CIVIC HOLIDAY?

- Civic holidays are occasions to commemorate America's history and celebrate our rights and responsibilities as citizens.
- The National Constitution Center provides the nation's best resources for celebrating civic holidays both at the museum and in your classroom.

Ready to plan your visit?
Still have questions?
We are standing by to help!

CONTACT GROUP SALES

Call: 215.409.6800

Email: groupsales@constitutioncenter.org

Call us to discuss how to further customize your visit to align with standards and curriculum.

NEW INTERACTIVE CONSTITUTION CLASSROOM EDITION

Explore the NEW *Interactive Constitution: Classroom Edition* and learn about the text, history, and meaning of the U.S. Constitution from leading scholars of diverse legal and philosophical perspectives. For each constitutional provision, scholars discuss areas of agreement and disagreement, allowing users to explore arguments on all sides of the constitutional debates at the center of American life.

Visit constitutioncenter.org/in-the-classroom

CHECK OUT THESE FEATURES!

- Explore our **26 LEARNING MODULES**, covering a wide array of constitutional topics and featuring **VIDEOS, LESSON PLANS, WORKSHEETS, SLIDES**, and more classroom-ready materials!
- Interact with the **DRAFTING TABLE**, a tool that allows users to explore early drafts of constitutional text.
- Bring the Constitution into the classroom with our **CONSTITUTIONAL EXCHANGES**, which connect students across the country with top scholars (and with each other!) for real-time constitutional conversations.

The Interactive Constitution was created in collaboration with the American Constitution Society and the Federalist Society, and distributed with help from the College Board.

The Interactive Constitution was created thanks to a generous grant from the John Templeton Foundation.



CONSTITUTIONAL EXCHANGES

LIVE CLASSES ON THE CONSTITUTION

Whether students, teachers, and parents are learning in-person or remotely, the National Constitution Center is thrilled to offer live classes on the Constitution that can support middle school, high school, and college students across America. Part lecture and part lively conversation, Constitutional Exchanges give participants the opportunity to learn about constitutional topics, past and present.

Three great ways to have a LIVE Constitutional Exchange:

OPEN CLASSES

Our weekly classes are open to the public so that students, teachers, and parents can join in discussions with National Constitution Center scholars on a wide array of constitutional topics. All sessions are also recorded and posted on our website.

PRIVATE SESSIONS

Teachers can request private exchanges to be held with a scholar and their classes. This allows students to review the materials one-on-one for clarity or extra support.

PEER-TO-PEER SESSIONS

Classes interact directly with other classes across the country and apply critical thinking and listening skills to a constitutional issue that matters to them.



TOP 5 REASONS TO VISIT

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER



1. From the iconic *Signers' Hall*, to *The Story of We the People* interactive exhibit, to our newest exhibit *The 19th Amendment: How Women Won the Vote*, students will **journey through constitutional history** — from America's founding to our struggle to extend rights and liberties to more fully embrace "We, the People."

2. The **uniquely interactive museum experience** combines hands-on multimedia exhibits, rare documents, priceless artifacts, inspiring educational programs, and live theatre — empowering students.

3. Our new **Constitutional Ambassadors Program** for high school students cultivates civil dialogue that will benefit instruction all year long.

4. Even if you have visited before, each visit offers a chance to **learn about a different constitutional topic, leader, or era in American history**. We can help you curate and customize your experience to meet your educational needs!

5. We are located in **Historic Philadelphia**, **right across from Independence Hall** where the Constitution was drafted, and we offer the convenience of an on-site bus lot, lunchroom, and Starbucks.

VISIT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

MAIN EXHIBITS

FREEDOM RISING

Set the stage for your museum experience in this state-of-the-art, live performance that tells the story of the U.S. Constitution and the American quest for freedom — presented in the Sidney Kimmel Theater.

Freedom Rising is underwritten in part through a generous grant from the F. M. Kirby Foundation.

THE STORY OF WE THE PEOPLE

Travel through history and discover why the U.S. Constitution is as important today as it was in 1787. *The Story of We the People* is filled with hands-on, multimedia activities and a rotating collection of rare artifacts. Students will take the Oath of Office, weigh in on Supreme Court cases and discover for themselves the enduring relevance of the U.S. Constitution.

SIGNERS' HALL

In this iconic exhibit, students will step into the final day of the Constitutional Convention and sign the U.S. Constitution alongside 42 life-size, bronze statues of George Washington, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, Benjamin Franklin, and other Founding Fathers.

CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION EXHIBIT

Civil War and Reconstruction: The Battle for Freedom and Equality, is the first exhibit in America devoted to exploring how constitutional clashes over slavery set the stage for the Civil War, and how the nation transformed the Constitution after the war to more fully embrace the Declaration of Independence's promise of liberty and equality. Through remarkable artifacts and rare documents, the exhibit brings to life the stories of Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln, Harriet Tubman, and other figures central to the conflict over slavery. The exhibit also features the inspiring stories of lesser known individuals to help shed light on the American experience under slavery, the battle for freedom during the Civil War, and the fight for equality during Reconstruction, which many call the nation's "Second Founding." In doing so, visitors will learn the history of three constitutional amendments added between 1865 and 1870, which ended slavery, required states to respect individual rights, promised equal protection to all people, and expanded the right to vote to African American men.

19TH AMENDMENT EXHIBIT

The 19th Amendment: How Women Won the Vote traces the triumphs and struggles that led to the ratification of the 19th Amendment, and features some of the many women who transformed constitutional history — including Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Alice Paul, and Ida B. Wells — and allows visitors to better understand the long fight for women's suffrage. The 3,000-square-foot exhibit features nearly 100 artifacts, including a rare printing of the *Declaration of Sentiments* from the first women's convention at Seneca Falls, a ballot box used to collect women's votes in the late 1800s, Pennsylvania's ratification copy of the 19th Amendment, as well as various "Votes for Women" ephemera.

The 19th Amendment exhibit builds upon the National Constitution Center's *Civil War and Reconstruction* exhibit, exploring how the women's rights movement grew alongside the anti-slavery movement and ultimately gained momentum during Reconstruction as part of the ongoing battle for freedom and equality for all.

Call 215.409.6800 or email
groupsales@constitutioncenter.org.

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The National Constitution Center launched the *Interactive Constitution: Classroom Edition* on Constitution Day 2019, establishing a robust platform poised to support remote online learning needs.

The *Interactive Constitution* was created in collaboration with the American Constitution Society and the Federalist Society, is distributed with help from the College Board.

The *Interactive Constitution* is made possible thanks to a generous grant from the John Templeton Foundation.

**Additional support for the
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The National Constitution Center gratefully acknowledges the support of these individual, foundation, and corporate donors whose generosity makes possible our constitutionally-themed exhibits and civic education programs for learners of all ages at the Center, online, and in classrooms nationwide.

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***Civil War and Reconstruction: The Battle for Freedom and Equality* exhibit gallery is made possible thanks to the generous support of:**

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