

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER



2023/2024 ACADEMIC CIVIC CALENDAR

THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT



National Archives



Department of Defense, Public Affairs Office



Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division

WELCOME

In 1963, civil rights supporters met for the famous March on Washington. The gathering was meant to mark the centennial of the Emancipation Proclamation. It attracted 250,000 people to the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. Within a year President Lyndon Johnson would sign the Civil Rights Act of 1964. As we celebrate the 60th anniversaries of these two landmark events, we must also acknowledge that the struggle for equality did not begin or end with the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and '60s. It has taken place over centuries and continues today.

This year we will look at the fight for civil rights in America, beginning with a brief look at the period following Reconstruction. From there, we'll revisit the 1950s and '60s, when inspiring leaders, ordinary citizens, important legislation, and landmark decisions by the Supreme Court all contributed to the achievements of the Civil Rights Movement and continue to inspire Americans today.



National Archives



National Archives



Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division

SEPTEMBER

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT



**GALLERY
NOW
OPEN!**

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

Protecting our most cherished freedoms—religious liberty, free speech, a free press, the freedom of assembly, and the right to petition—the First Amendment is a pillar of democracy and the American way. This gallery offers a fresh perspective on the history of the First Amendment and how it impacts us today.

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
The Treaty of Paris ends the Revolutionary War (1783)	LABOR DAY Museum Closed					
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
				Inspired by the Battle of Baltimore, Francis Scott Key writes the "Star-Spangled Banner" (1814)	National Hispanic Heritage Month begins Birthday of President William H. Taft (1857)	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
CONSTITUTION DAY CELEBRATION Museum Open With Free Admission						
The U.S. Constitution is signed (1787)	U.S. Air Force established (1947)		Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT) is formally repealed (2011)	Sandra Day O'Connor is confirmed as the first female Supreme Court justice (1981)	Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation is issued, stating President Abraham Lincoln's intention to free enslaved people in the South (1862)	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

CIVIC HOLIDAY

CONSTITUTION DAY

OBSERVED ON
SEPTEMBER 17 & 18

Join us at the Center or online for the best **CONSTITUTION DAY** celebration in the country! This year we highlight the First Amendment with lively programs and special guests, as well as the opening of our newest exhibit, *The First Amendment*, and more!

You can also head to our website for great resources—perfect for teaching the Constitution in September and all year around—including our *Interactive Constitution* and new *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 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!

FOLLOW US!



THE PEOPLE

Let's start our journey by highlighting the organizations that worked tirelessly for equality — and the people behind them. Many of these organizations were founded at different times and for different purposes, and this brief list immediately gives us a sense that even the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and '60s has a longer history — extending back decades.

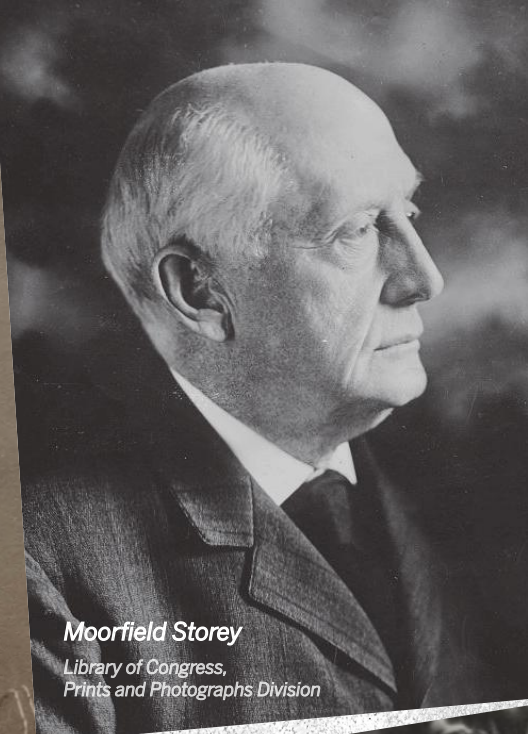
- **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) (1909):** The NAACP's charter set out its inspiring (and ambitious) mission: "To promote equality of rights and eradicate caste or race prejudice among citizens of the United States; to advance the interest of colored citizens; to secure for them impartial suffrage; and to increase their opportunities for securing justice in the courts, education for their children, employment according to their ability, and complete equality before the law."
- **The Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) (1942):** CORE's goal was to "bring about equality for all people regardless of race, creed, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion or ethnic background."
- **The Committee for Equal Justice (1944):** This organization — founded by Rosa Parks and Recy Taylor — focused on equality for African American women.
- **The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR) (1950):** LCCR coordinated the campaigns behind every major piece of civil rights legislation during this era.
- **The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) (1957):** SCLC made nonviolence its central tenet and had a national focus.

Together, Wells, Storey, Du Bois, and Ovington founded the NAACP.



Ida B. Wells

*Special Collections Research Center
University of Chicago Library*



Moorfield Storey

*Library of Congress,
Prints and Photographs Division*

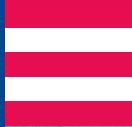


Mary White Ovington

W.E.B. Du Bois

Everett Collection Historical / Alamy Stock Photo

OCTOBER



SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1 Birthday of President Jimmy Carter (1924)	2	3	4 Birthday of President Rutherford B. Hayes (1822)	5 Birthday of President Chester A. Arthur (1829)	6	7 CUB SCOUTS AND SCOUT BSA PROGRAMS
8	9 Indigenous Peoples' Day	10	11	12	13	14 Birthday of President Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890)
15 National Hispanic Heritage Month ends	16	17	18	19	20	21 GIRL SCOUT PROGRAMS
22	23	24	25	26 First copy of <i>The Federalist Papers</i> is published in support of the newly signed Constitution (1787) Birthday of President Theodore Roosevelt (1858)	27	28
29	30 Birthday of President John Adams (1735)	31	<div data-bbox="766 1274 1102 1323" data-label="Section-Header"> <h2>CONSTITUTION</h2> </div> <div data-bbox="756 1339 1291 1469" data-label="Text"> <p>Constitution 101, Our 15-unit course, is the perfect guide to understanding the U.S. Constitution and is available in different formats, making it ideal for any audience. Teachers can implement the semester-long curriculum or pick and choose from videos, primary sources, reading activities, quizzes, and other classroom-ready resources. A lighter online course offers lifelong learners a chance to brush up on their constitutional knowledge.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1102 1250 1302 1347" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="1302 1250 1669 1485" data-label="Image"> </div>			

JOIN US FOR

SCOUT PROGRAMS

The National Constitution Center offers special programs for Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Scouts BSA, including museum tours, panel discussions, trivia games, and more, all specifically designed for Scouts and customized to help them achieve select badge requirements.

To book, contact groupsales@constitutioncenter.org.

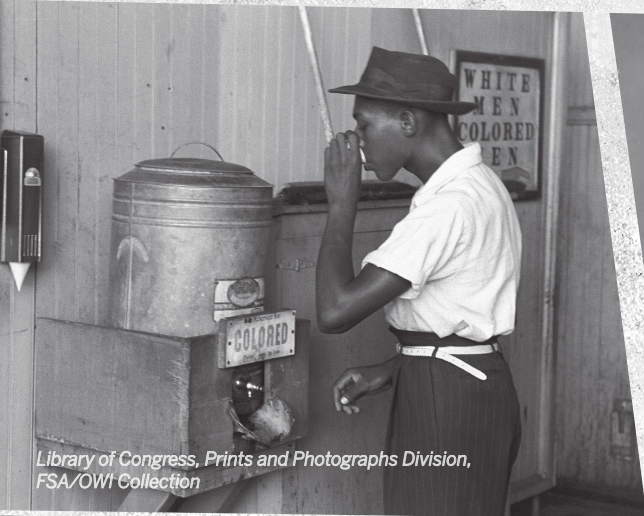
Visit constitutioncenter.org/education for these resources and more!

FOLLOW US!

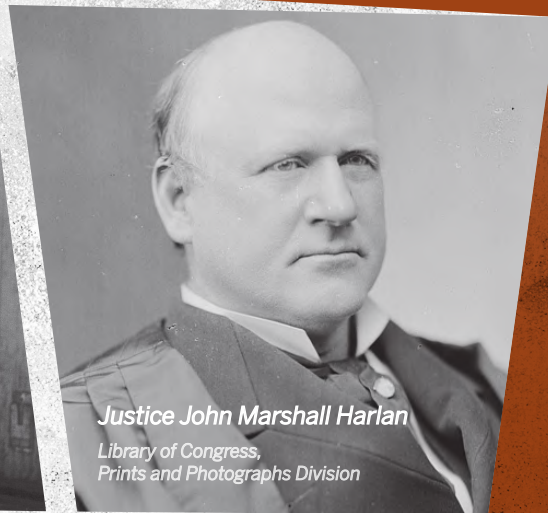


“OUR CONSTITUTION IS COLOR-BLIND.”

JUSTICE JOHN MARSHALL HARLAN



Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, FSA/OWI Collection



Justice John Marshall Harlan

Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division

Let's take a deeper look at one of the key issues at the center of the Civil Rights Movement — the fight to end segregation.

Segregation was the system that forced African Americans to attend different schools than white Americans, drink from different water fountains, use different restrooms, travel in different train cars, and stay in different hotels — among other exclusions.

In 1896, the Supreme Court — in the infamous *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896) case — said that these forms of segregation were constitutional, concluding that separate-but-equal facilities did not violate the 14th Amendment.

But the *Plessy* majority's arguments didn't go unanswered. Justice John Marshall Harlan was the lone dissenter. And his dissent is one of the most important (and powerful) opinions in Supreme Court history. In his dissent, Justice Harlan argued, “**Our constitution is color-blind,**” and he predicted that the *Plessy* decision “**will, in time, prove to be quite as pernicious as the decision made by this tribunal in the *Dred Scott* case.**” He was right.





Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, FSA/OWI Collection

PLESSY v. FERGUSON AND THE HISTORY OF SEGREGATION IN AMERICA

NOVEMBER

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

 <p>LIVE FROM THE MUSEUM Bring the fun and excitement of a National Constitution Center field trip to your group wherever you are! Our educators lead students through engaging educational activities LIVE from our exhibits. This is a great opportunity, especially for third through fifth graders!</p>		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	6	7 ELECTION DAY	8	9	10 U.S. Marine Corps established (1775)
12	13	14	15	16	17 18 VETERANS DAY
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 THANKSGIVING DAY Museum Closed Birthday of President Franklin Pierce (1804)	24 25 THANKSGIVING PROGRAMS Birthday of President Zachary Taylor (1784)
26 THANKSGIVING PROGRAMS	27	28	29	30	 <p>CONSTITUTION DAILY BLOG Get the latest coverage of constitutional issues including Supreme Court case analysis, popular 'on this day in history' posts, and more.</p>

CIVIC HOLIDAYS

NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

ELECTION DAY
NOVEMBER 7

VETERANS DAY
NOVEMBER 11

THANKSGIVING
NOVEMBER 23

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!



To see how the Supreme Court eventually gave the 14th Amendment — and Justice John Marshall Harlan's words — life, let's fast forward to 1954 and to arguably the most famous Supreme Court decision in American history: *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954).

Brown was the culmination of a decades-long strategy by the NAACP and lawyers like Thurgood Marshall to challenge Jim Crow segregation. In *Brown*, they targeted segregation in public schools. The challengers argued that school segregation laws violated the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause and that separate could never be equal in public education.

The Supreme Court agreed with the challengers. The Court unanimously overruled *Plessy* and concluded that school segregation violated the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause and was unconstitutional. Chief Justice Earl Warren stated: **“We conclude that ‘in the field of public education the doctrine of separate but equal’ has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal.”**

**“THE DOCTRINE OF
‘SEPARATE BUT EQUAL’
HAS NO PLACE.”
CHIEF JUSTICE EARL WARREN**



Library of Congress,
Prints and Photographs Division



Thurgood Marshall
Library of Congress,
Prints and Photographs Division

BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION

DECEMBER

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

SUMMER TEACHER INSTITUTES

Register now! Every summer, the National Constitution Center hosts educators from across the country for its Summer Teacher Institutes series, bringing together top educators and ideologically diverse constitutional scholars. Through both weeklong in-person sessions and three-day virtual 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.



					1 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 Christmas Eve Museum closes early at 3 p.m.	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	26	27-28 WINTER BREAK ACTIVITIES			30
31 New Years Eve Museum closes early at 3 p.m.				29 Birthday of President Woodrow Wilson (1856)	30 Birthday of President Andrew Johnson (1808)	

CIVIC HOLIDAY

BILL OF RIGHTS DAY

DECEMBER 15

Celebrate the ratification of our first 10 amendments on **BILL OF RIGHTS DAY** with a special virtual tour of the Center's newest gallery, **The First Amendment!** Plus check out our online resources, including video lessons featuring Supreme Court Justices Elena Kagan and Neil Gorsuch, recordings of Scholar Exchanges with guests like Professor Akhil Reed Amar, podcasts, blog posts, *Interactive Constitution* essays, our *Writing Rights* interactive, and more—all available for free on our website!

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

FOLLOW US!





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THE LITTLE ROCK NINE

In the aftermath of the *Brown* decision, Virginia Senator Harry F. Byrd called for “massive resistance.” A half-million Southerners joined White Citizens’ Councils to block school integration, while others joined the Ku Klux Klan in membership numbers not seen since the 1920s.

In 1957, this backlash reached a crisis point in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Nine Black students—the “Little Rock Nine”—attempted to enroll at the all-white Central High School. Governor Orval Faubus called out the National Guard to bar them, with the support of white mobs.

President Dwight Eisenhower then sent 1,000 federal troops and nationalized the Arkansas National Guard to protect the Black students. In a powerful speech, Eisenhower addressed the nation, explaining his decision.

Finally, the Supreme Court stepped in to reinforce Eisenhower’s actions in *Cooper v. Aaron* (1958). There, the Court explained that state officers and governors had a duty to obey the orders of the Court, which enforced the commands of the U.S. Constitution.

The decision concluded that states are bound by the Supreme Court’s decisions and must enforce them even if the states disagree.



Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division

JANUARY



CIVIC HOLIDAY

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY JANUARY 15

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY kicks off our annual series *All Together Now: A Celebration of Equality*, which features discounted and free admission days along with programs and events that explore freedom and equality in America.

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, we will offer FREE museum admission, plus programs at the museum and online that explore how Dr. King used the First Amendment to communicate his message—celebrating the 60th anniversaries of both the *Letter from Birmingham Jail* and the “I Have a Dream” speech. Additional programs will include scholar talks, family concerts, dramatic readings, and more. More resources include materials exploring the Civil Rights Movement. Find videos featuring Professor Hasan Kwame Jeffries and the late Congressman John Lewis, and National Constitution Center scholars, exploring the civil rights movement and landmark laws—all available for free on our website!

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

	<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 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY Museum Open with FREE Admission</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>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>20th Amendment ratified—presidential inauguration moves from March to January (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>	<p>ALL TOGETHER NOW A CELEBRATION OF EQUALITY SERIES</p> <p>Visit the National Constitution Center this winter for our <i>All Together Now: A Celebration of Equality</i> series and enjoy discounted admission to the museum from January through March!</p>		

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

ROSA PARKS AND THE MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT

Let's turn now to some of the key events of the Civil Rights Movement, beginning with the story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

Rosa Parks was a civil rights activist in Montgomery, Alabama. On December 1, 1955, she refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white man, and was arrested.

Parks' arrest — which was part of a larger advocacy strategy that she and other female activists in the area had been planning for some time — became a galvanizing force for the African American community's challenge to segregated buses in Montgomery, one of the most segregated cities in the nation. Despite facing constant harassment, the Black community in Montgomery stayed true to the boycott, which lasted over a year and cost the bus company thousands of fares.

Buses were eventually desegregated in Alabama in 1956, when the Supreme Court affirmed a lower court's decision that had ruled the practice unconstitutional.



Courtesy of State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory



National Archives



Rosa Parks

*Records of the United States
Information Agency, National Archives*

FEBRUARY

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

<p>ON VIEW</p> <p>Civil War and Reconstruction</p> <p>Experience America's first exhibit devoted to exploring how the nation transformed the Constitution after the Civil War to more fully embrace the Declaration of Independence's promise of liberty and equality. Visit in person or book a LIVE virtual tour!</p> 		1	2	3		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<p>Birthday of Rosa Parks, civil rights activist (1913)</p>		<p>Birthday of President Ronald Reagan (1911)</p>	<p>11th Amendment ratified—affirms states' sovereign immunity (1795)</p>		<p>Birthday of President William Henry Harrison (1773)</p>	<p>15th Amendment ratified—voting rights cannot be denied on account of race (1870)</p> <p>16th Amendment ratified—grants Congress power to establish a federal income tax (1913)</p>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	<p>Birthday of President Abraham Lincoln (1809)</p> <p>NAACP founded in New York City (1909)</p>		<p>Observed birthday of Frederick Douglass, abolitionist leader (1818)</p>			<p>25th Amendment ratified—establishes succession process and issues of presidential disability (1967)</p>
18	<p>19</p> <p>PRESIDENTS DAY Museum Open with FREE Admission</p>	20	21	22	23	24
			<p>The Confederation Congress passes a resolution leading to the Constitutional Convention (1787)</p>	<p>Birthday of President George Washington (1732)</p>		<p>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)</p> <p>In <i>Tinker v. Des Moines</i>, the Supreme Court confirms the First Amendment rights of students at school (1969)</p> <p>President Andrew Johnson is the first president to be impeached (1868). The Senate did not convict Johnson, and he was not removed from office.</p>
25	26	27	28	29		
<p>Hiram Rhodes Revels of Mississippi is sworn in as the first African American senator (1870)</p>		<p>22nd Amendment ratified—sets a two-term limit on the office of the president (1951)</p>				

CIVIC HOLIDAYS

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

PRESIDENTS DAY
FEBRUARY 19

We continue our *All Together Now: A Celebration of Equality* series with onsite 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 have used their First Amendment rights to fight for equality across the board.

February programs also include FREE admission and special events on **PRESIDENTS DAY** both at the museum and online, including a special Kids Town Hall with presidential reenactors!

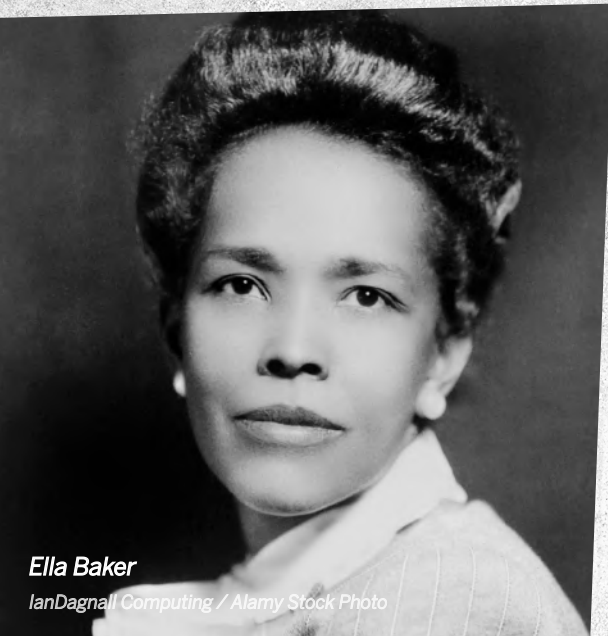
“STRONG PEOPLE DON’T NEED STRONG LEADERS.”

ELLA BAKER

In the 1960s, more and more young people also began to join the movement, with activist Ella Baker playing a key role in the rise of student-led action.

Baker had a five-decade career in the Civil Rights Movement, largely as a behind-the-scenes organizer. During that time, she worked with W.E.B. Du Bois, Thurgood Marshall, A. Philip Randolph, and Martin Luther King Jr., among many others. It was Baker who pushed to ensure the Civil Rights Movement was not just a top-down movement, but also a grassroots one, saying “strong people don’t need strong leaders.” She also fought to make sure that the Civil Rights Movement wasn’t just run by men—but that women would have a powerful voice in the movement, too.

Baker supported the formation of the **Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee**, which represented the next generation of civil rights leaders. She went on to mentor many of its young leaders, including Diane Nash and John Lewis.



Ella Baker

Ian Dagnall Computing / Alamy Stock Photo



Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division,
Glen Pearcy Collection



Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Glen Pearcy Collection

ELLA BAKER

MARCH

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

 <p>ON VIEW The 19th Amendment: How Women Won the Vote This 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. Visit in person or book a LIVE virtual tour!</p>		1	2			
3	4	5	6 In <i>McCulloch v. Maryland</i> , the Supreme Court upholds the constitutionality of the National Bank (1819) In <i>Dred Scott v. Sandford</i> , 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 in Alabama (1965)	8 International Women's Day	9
10	11	12 Boston Massacre (1770)	13	14	15 Birthday of President Andrew Jackson (1767)	16 Birthday of President James Madison (1751)
17	18 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)	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
SPRING BREAK PROGRAMS						
31		Birthday of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor , first woman to serve on the Supreme Court (1930)			Birthday of President John Tyler (1790) 23rd Amendment ratified—grants electoral votes to Washington, D.C., in presidential elections (1961)	

CIVIC HOLIDAY

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

The *All Together Now: A Celebration of Equality* series continues through March as we celebrate **WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH** and the suffragists who worked to enshrine women's voting rights in the Constitution with the 19th Amendment.

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!

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

FOLLOW US!



@constitutionctr
#NCCed

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) was formed in April 1960 at a conference at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina. It grew out of the sit-in movement, which began earlier that year in Greensboro, North Carolina. It would later spread to Nashville, Atlanta, and other major cities.

As part of a “sit-in,” student activists would enter a segregated public place—like a lunch counter—and sit in the “whites-only” areas. They would remain seated even while white mobs crowded them, threatened them, harassed them, and even physically assaulted them.

Under the principles of nonviolence, this was meant to expose the violence required to uphold the unjust and unequal Jim Crow laws.

SNCC played a major role in this movement. For instance, the Nashville movement was coordinated by student activists—including Diane Nash, John Lewis, and Marion Barry.

After 150 students were arrested and their head lawyer’s home was bombed, thousands of citizens demanded action from Mayor Ben West. He finally decided to desegregate the lunch counters in downtown Nashville.

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE AND THE STUDENT-LED SIT-IN MOVEMENT



APRIL

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	SPRING BREAK PROGRAMS					
		Jeannette Rankin takes her seat as the first female member of Congress (1917)		William Henry Harrison is the first president to die in office (1841)		GIRL SCOUT PROGRAMS
7	8 17th Amendment ratified—establishes direct election of U.S. senators (1913)	9 Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrenders his Army of Northern Virginia, leading to the end of the Civil War (1865)	10	11	12	13 Birthday of President Thomas Jefferson (1743)
14 President Abraham Lincoln is shot at Ford's Theatre and dies the next day (1865)	15	16	17	18	19 Revolutionary War begins with the Battles of Lexington and Concord (1775)	20 CUB SCOUTS AND SCOUT BSA PROGRAMS Patriots' Day
21	22 Earth Day	23 Birthday of President James Buchanan (1791)	24	25	26	27 Birthday of President Ulysses S. Grant (1822)
28 Birthday of President James Monroe (1758)	29	30 George Washington is inaugurated as the first president of the United States (1789) Department of the Navy is established (1798)	CONSTITUTIONAL AMBASSADORS PROGRAM More than just a field trip! The Constitutional Ambassadors program is an intellectual, social, and skills-based educational experience where middle and high school students learn the basic principles of the U.S. Constitution, see rare historical documents, priceless artifacts, interactive exhibits, and live theater that bring contemporary discussions about the Constitution to life. Contact groupsales@constitutioncenter.org to book this learning experience.			

JOIN US TO

PREP FOR THE AP EXAM

This April, the Center helps students prepare for the **ADVANCED PLACEMENT GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS EXAM** 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.

You can also explore key constitutional provisions, historic documents and landmark cases on your own by heading to our *Interactive Constitution*, or check out the *Founders' Library*.



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

FOLLOW US!





U.S. National Park Service



U.S. National Park Service

FREEDOM RIDERS

In 1960, the Supreme Court issued its decision in *Boynton v. Virginia* — ruling that segregation in public interstate travel violated the Interstate Commerce Act of 1887. However, in 1961, civil rights leaders saw that white Southerners were ignoring the Supreme Court's ruling.

In 1961, the **Congress for Racial Equality (CORE)** began to sponsor the Freedom Rides.

Civil rights advocates boarded interstate buses in the South to challenge local laws or customs that enforced segregation in bus seating. The first riders left Washington, D.C., on May 4, 1961, and were quickly met with violence in Alabama.

Bull Connor — the police commissioner in Birmingham — worked with local police officers and the Ku Klux Klan to organize violence against the Freedom Riders. Violence escalated and on May 14, a white mob attacked the buses — slashing the tires and firebombing the buses. The mob held the bus doors shut but warning shots from highway patrolmen subdued the mob enough for the wounded riders to escape.

The violence against the Freedom Riders bolstered support for the Civil Rights Movement nationally — as images of white mobs attacking buses while state police stood by were beamed into households throughout America.

THE WARREN COURT

Before we wrap up the year, let's pause to talk about the role of the Supreme Court in the Civil Rights Era. For much of its history, the Supreme Court was no ally of civil rights reformers.

That changed with the Warren Court — with Chief Justice Earl Warren and his colleagues carving out an important role for the Supreme Court in protecting minority rights, especially those of marginalized groups (such as African Americans) that often couldn't rely on elected officials to protect them.

By the time the Court issued its *Brown* ruling, it had already struck down other Jim Crow laws, like racial covenants, racial zoning schemes, “all white” primaries, “grandfather clauses,” and discrimination in labor unions.

In 1950, the Court had also begun to question the “separate but equal” doctrine in two cases involving segregation in higher education: *Sweatt v. Painter* and *McLaurin v. Oklahoma*. The Court would continue to advance equality through decisions like *Brown* and *Loving v. Virginia*. It also issued decisions protecting all Americans against abuses of their Bill of Rights freedoms like free speech, a free press, the freedom of assembly, and religious liberty.



Chief Justice Earl Warren
Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division



The Warren Court pictured in 1962
Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.

JUNE

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

 <div style="text-align: center;"> <h2>FOUNDERS' LIBRARY</h2> <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>						
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	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						

CIVIC HOLIDAYS

PRIDE MONTH

FLAG DAY

JUNE 14

JUNETEENTH

JUNE 19

June kicks off our annual **SUMMER OF RED, WHITE, AND YOU!** celebration. 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.

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

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The Civil Rights Movement ultimately culminated with some of the most important laws in American history, the first of which passed 60 years ago this month — the **Civil Rights Act of 1964**. With this landmark legislation, Congress attacked racial discrimination in a variety of areas, including work, schools, and public settings (like restaurants and hotels).

A year later, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The VRA created mechanisms to enforce the 15th Amendment's ban on racial discrimination in voting, and it was a monumental success. For instance, in 1960, only 20% of eligible African American voters were registered to vote. By 1971, the number had risen to 62%. At the same time, African American elected officials quadrupled — from 1,400 in 1970 to 4,900 in 1980 (and doubling again by the early 1990s).

Of course, the 1960s would not be the end of monumental legislation or major Supreme Court cases concerning the fight for equality and civil rights.






LBJ Library, photo by Yoichi Okamoto

THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964 AND THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965

JULY

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

	<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>The Second Continental Congress votes for independence (1776)</p> <p>President Lyndon Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act 1964</p>	<p>3</p>	 <p>4 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>12</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>	 <p>WE THE PEOPLE</p> <p>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>		

CIVIC HOLIDAY

INDEPENDENCE DAY
JULY 4

Our **SUMMER OF RED, WHITE, AND YOU!** continues with the Center's **INDEPENDENCE DAY** programs, including FREE admission to the museum on July 4, plus programs at the museum and online that touch on the meaning of equality and freedom through the lens of the American Revolution. Audiences 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.



Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division



National Archives



Item 63932, Records of the Office of the Mayor (Record Series 5210-01), Seattle Municipal Archives

The Civil Rights Movement reached its height in the 1950s and 1960s. But as we have seen, the battle for civil rights has been fought throughout the entirety of American history and that battle has not always resulted in forward progress. If we return to the nation's founding, we are reminded that, for a long time, many Americans were excluded from "We the People." Yet the founding principles of freedom and equality would inspire generations of civil rights activists to fight to build "a more perfect Union."

At the same time, we also see how the fight for civil rights has changed the Constitution. The Reconstruction Amendments ushered in the nation's "Second Founding." And civil rights leaders pushed for new laws and landmark court decisions to ensure the promises written into the Constitution protect everyone.

The Civil Rights Movement has a profound constitutional legacy, but as we've seen, it's a movement that continues to this day.

THE 60 YEARS BEYOND THE '60S

AUGUST



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—no matter where learning takes place. 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 semi-private exchanges, allowing them to review constitutional topics with scholars in a smaller group, while also connecting with other students from across the country.
- **LIVE FROM THE MUSEUM:** Our virtual tours, workshops, activities, and demonstrations bring the fun and excitement of a field trip to your students inside your classroom or their homes.
- **THE FOUNDERS' LIBRARY:** We've gathered the leading documents and landmark cases shaping the American constitutional tradition.

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

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

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

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

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CONSTITUTION

Our 15-unit course is the perfect guide to understanding the U.S. Constitution!

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We Be People
We Be People



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BOOK
YOUR VISIT
TODAY!

MAIN EXHIBITS

Visitors to the National Constitution Center will have the opportunity to explore ALL of our signature exhibits, including *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 can also view live performances of *Freedom Rising* in the Sidney Kimmel Theater and check out our newest gallery ***The First Amendment***. Protecting our most cherished freedoms—religious liberty, free speech, a free press, the freedom of assembly, and the right to petition—the First Amendment is a pillar of democracy and the American way. This gallery offers a fresh perspective on the history of the First Amendment and how it impacts us today.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

More than just a field trip, the Constitutional Ambassadors program is an intellectual, social, and skills-based educational experience in which middle and high school students learn the basic principles of the U. S. Constitution, see rare historical documents, priceless artifacts, interactive exhibits, and live theater that bring contemporary discussions about the Constitution to life. The program begins in the classroom, continues with a daylong experience at the Center, and follows students back to their classrooms, where they can have real-time conversations on constitutional issues with other classrooms across America. Scholarships are available — inquire today!



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 and civic stories, 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.

For more information about these programs and more, visit [constitutioncenter.org](https://www.constitutioncenter.org).

EDUCATOR COMMUNITY

The National Constitution Center's community of educators, including the Teacher Advisory Board and the Teacher Advisory Council, support the Center's education team and fellow educators nationwide.

Join our #NCCed Community! The National Constitution Center is looking for members of the classroom education field to join our **Teacher Advisory Council**. The council is open to educators who teach fifth grade to college level students from all types of school environments and locations.

Members of the advisory council have a voice in shaping our free online classes, and will receive a yearly stipend for their valuable time and professional advice. They can also join in our professional development opportunities that include prominent scholars and judges throughout the year.

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Visit [constitutioncenter.org/education](https://www.constitutioncenter.org/education)
for these resources and more!

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