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Who Really Makes the Rules? Trump, Congress, and the Branch Nobody Elected

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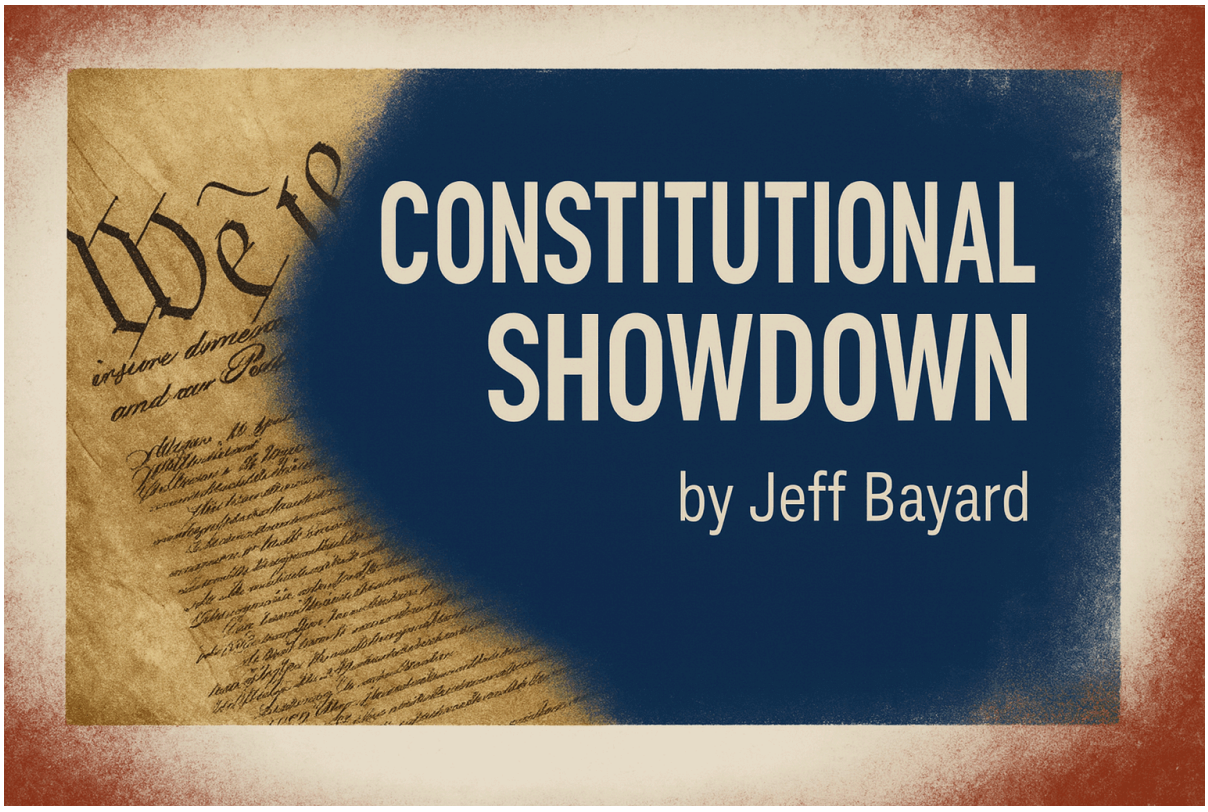

CONSTITUTIONAL SHOWDOWN · AMBITION AGAINST AMBITION · PART 2 OF 2
Reading the text as written and testing every claim of power against it, so believers can practice faithful, clear-eyed citizenship.

Congress and the President are about to fight over power. But many binding rules you live under come from the administrative state, written by officials nobody elected.

L kes the best sourdough in Mechanicsville. She finally opens her own shop. Before she sells her first loaf, she learns the rules. How her labels must read. How her workers' overtime is

figured. Which forms she must file, and when.

Some of those requirements are written into laws passed by Congress. Many more details are filled in by federal agencies, under authority Congress gave them. The people who write those rules are officials Linda never voted for and couldn't name. Yet binding rules can carry real penalties. If she breaks one, she can be fined.

So Linda asks a fair question. Who voted on this?

Hold onto two words: **law and rule.** A law passes both houses of Congress and, in most cases, is signed by the President. A rule is written by an agency under a law. The gap between those two words is one of the biggest constitutional questions both branches have left unsettled.

We want to hear from you. If we got a fact wrong, tell us in the comments. If you see it differently, tell us that too.

How Many Agencies Are There? It Depends Who Is Counting

In **Part 1**, we looked at the collision coming on January 3, when the new congressional term begins. According to news projections, the other party will control both chambers. Subpoenas, privilege, and impeachment are the battlegrounds.

But a third player sits on the field. It is the vast set of federal agencies, departments, bureaus, boards, and commissions. People call it the "alphabet soup," or the administrative state.

How big is it? There is no single official count. The Administrative Conference of the United States advises the government on how its agencies work. Its **2018 Sourcebook** explains that there is no authoritative list, because legal definitions and counting methods differ. Different government directories count different things, so their totals differ widely.

Federalist 62 saw the danger long ago. It warned of laws "so voluminous that they cannot be read, or so incoherent that they cannot be understood." A free people should at least be able to count the bodies that write their rules.

Where Law Is Supposed to Come From

Article I opens plainly: "All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States." The lawmaking powers the Constitution grants to the federal government belong to Congress.

John Locke, whose work was widely read in the founding generation, made the same point in his **Second Treatise of Government**: "The legislative cannot transfer the power of making laws to

any other hands." The people loan that power to their lawmakers. Lawmakers can't pass it on.

So the legal question is how much decision-making Congress may leave to others. Lawyers call it the nondelegation question. Under today's case law, Congress may not hand off its lawmaking power. But it may let agencies carry out laws under standards Congress supplies.

The Constitution guards the money, too. Article I, Section 9 says, "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law." In plain English, federal spending must be authorized by law. Congress makes the law. Congress controls the purse. Those are the two pillars.

Three Powers Under One Roof

Now look at what parts of the administrative state can do. Some agencies write binding rules. They enforce those rules. And they decide certain disputes before their own in-house judges. Writing, enforcing, and deciding can sit under one roof.

Madison warned about this in **Federalist 47**: "The accumulation of all powers, legislative, executive, and judiciary, in the same hands, whether of one, a few, or many, and whether hereditary, selfappointed, or elective, may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny." Notice the words "a few." Madison didn't only fear a king. He feared any small group that gathered all three powers.

Critics say agencies come too close to that line. Defenders answer that agencies are bound by statutes, procedures, and review by federal courts. Madison himself allowed some overlap between the branches, as long as each could check the others. The question is whether today's checks are strong enough.

Scripture explains why checks matter at all. *"For the LORD is our judge; the LORD is our lawgiver; the LORD is our king; he will save us"* (Isaiah 33:22). God alone holds all authority without sin. Human rulers do not. *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?"* (Jeremiah 17:9). No official, elected or appointed, is beyond the need for restraint. **Federalist 51** makes a related point: "If men were angels, no government would be necessary."

How the Administrative State Grew

Congress has handed off much of this decision-making, a little at a time.

In 1928, in **J.W. Hampton v. United States**, the Court said Congress could authorize executive action if it supplied an "intelligible principle" to guide it. That test proved easy to pass. The Court

has struck down delegations under it in only two cases, both in 1935, and both involved the same New Deal law.

A major recent test came in 2025. In **FCC v. Consumers' Research**, the Court upheld the Universal Service Fund system, 6–3. Congress set the program's framework, but not the contribution rate. A private administrator supplies estimates, and the FCC has final say over the rate. Phone companies may pass the charge on to customers. Justice Neil Gorsuch dissented, joined by Justices Thomas and Alito.

The money has drifted, too. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau doesn't get a yearly budget vote. It draws funding from the Federal Reserve, up to a limit Congress wrote into law. In **CFPB v. Community Financial Services Association** (2024), the Court upheld that setup, 7–2. Critics argue permanent funding weakens Congress's regular oversight. The majority answered that Congress may authorize ongoing funding and can change it by law.

The Court Pushes Back on the Administrative State

Lately, though, the Court has started pushing back:

- **West Virginia v. EPA (2022):** When an agency claims power over a question of great economic and political weight, it must point to clear permission from Congress.
- **SEC v. Jarkesy (2024):** When the SEC seeks civil penalties for securities fraud, the accused is entitled to a jury trial.
- **Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo (2024):** Courts must decide legal questions for themselves. They may weigh an agency's reasoning, but a vague law no longer requires them to accept it. The Court overruled its 1984 Chevron decision.

So who should rein the agencies in? Here is where the two branches split.

The Strongest Case for the President

The President's defenders say the answer is obvious. If the administrative state wields executive power, the elected executive must control it. Voters chose the President. They didn't choose the agency heads.

The Supreme Court largely agreed this June. In **Trump v. Slaughter**, it ruled 6–3 that the President may remove Federal Trade Commission members at will. It overruled *Humphrey's Executor*, the 1935 case that had shielded such officials. The same day, in **Trump v. Cook**, the Court upheld the Federal Reserve governors' protection and voted 5–4 to keep Governor Cook in place while her case continues. We covered the removal fight in **Who the President Can Fire**.

The constitutional argument is broader than any one President. It is about putting an elected official, one voters can remove, back in charge of the bureaucracy. Hamilton argued in **Federalist 70** that a single executive makes responsibility easier to trace. Divided authority makes blame harder to assign.

Scripture commends faithful delegation, too. Moses was worn out judging every case himself. His father-in-law Jethro told him to choose *"able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe"* to handle the smaller matters (Exodus 18:21). Then came the key line: *"Every great matter they shall bring to you"* (Exodus 18:22). That isn't a blueprint for the American presidency. But the principle holds. Sharing the work isn't wrong. Losing track of who answers for it is.

The Strongest Case for Congress

Congress's defenders say controlling the agencies isn't the same as fixing them. If an agency writes something that works like a law, putting the President in charge doesn't make it a law. It just moves the pen from one unelected desk to a branch that was never given lawmaking power.

Congress can narrow agency power and funding by law. Courts can enforce the limits already on the books. But any new law must survive the President's veto. Starting January 3, Congress's strongest tool is the purse. It can write limits into the spending bills the government needs.

The **Impoundment Control Act** of 1974 generally bars a President from withholding funds simply because he disagrees with Congress's policy. It allows certain delays, and it lets him ask Congress to cancel funds. We covered one fight over that law in our piece on **the pocket rescission**.

Congress has a second tool, but it is weaker than it looks. Under the **Congressional Review Act**, within set deadlines, Congress can overturn an agency rule by a simple majority in each chamber. But the President must sign that resolution. If he vetoes it, overriding takes two-thirds of both chambers. So a veto can block the repeal unless Congress has a two-thirds majority.

So Congress's defenders say the real fix is the hard one. Write clear laws. Vote on the big rules yourself. Put more agency funding up for regular, public votes.

The Third Way: Both Branches Let It Grow

Here is the honest truth. Neither branch has clean hands.

Handing off decisions can let lawmakers avoid hard details or shift the blame. Defenders say agencies supply expertise Congress lacks. Presidents, meanwhile, can press agencies to advance

disputed goals. And broad delegations remain central to the federal government, despite reform proposals that come up again and again.

Defenders of the present system make a fair case. Congress sets policy. Agencies supply expertise. Presidents supervise. Courts enforce the limits. The question is whether that system still works as designed.

Israel was warned long ago about trusting too much in human rulers. When the people demanded a king like the nations, Samuel told them what that king would do. *"He will take the tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and to his servants"* (1 Samuel 8:15). The warning wasn't about one bad king. It was about misplaced trust in human power, and the burdens it brings.

The Third Way answer is not "the President wins" or "Congress wins." It is "the Constitution wins." Congress writes the laws and decides the spending, in public, by vote. The President runs the agencies and answers for them. And the courts hold both to the lines.

Starting January 3, the stage is set. The President now holds firmer control of many agencies, thanks to the Slaughter ruling. A Congress run by the other party holds the purse. That is the collision. The question isn't only which branch wins. It is whether either one will put lawmaking back where Article I put it.

What the Citizen Does

Law or Rule? Keep This

When a new federal requirement lands on your business, your church, or your family, ask:

1. **Who voted on it?** A law passed both houses of Congress, usually with the President's signature. A rule was written by an agency under a law.
2. **Did Congress say so clearly?** On questions of great economic and political weight, an agency needs clear words from Congress (West Virginia v. EPA).
3. **Who pays for it?** Is the agency funded by a regular vote of Congress, or by a stream Congress doesn't revisit?

Read it yourself: Article I · Federalist 47 · Loper Bright

Make one two-minute call. Call your representative's office and say: "I'm a constituent. Will Rep. vote to require Congress to approve major agency rules before they take effect?" The **REINS Act**, which would do that, passed the House in 2017 and 2023. Neither version became law.

Pray for wise rulers. *"When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when the wicked rule, the people groan"* (Proverbs 29:2). Pray for the President and the new Congress by name. Pray that both will choose the hard, open vote over the easy hand-off.

Keep learning. Our earlier piece, **God First, Constitution Always**, looks at the agencies from a different angle.

No act of Congress and no executive order can make a nation honest. Only the Spirit of God changes the heart. But the God who gave Moses able men who hated a bribe can still raise up public servants who fear Him more than they love power. Pray for them. Then hold them to the text.

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Oversight or Witch Hunt? What Congress Can Make Trump Do, and What It Can't

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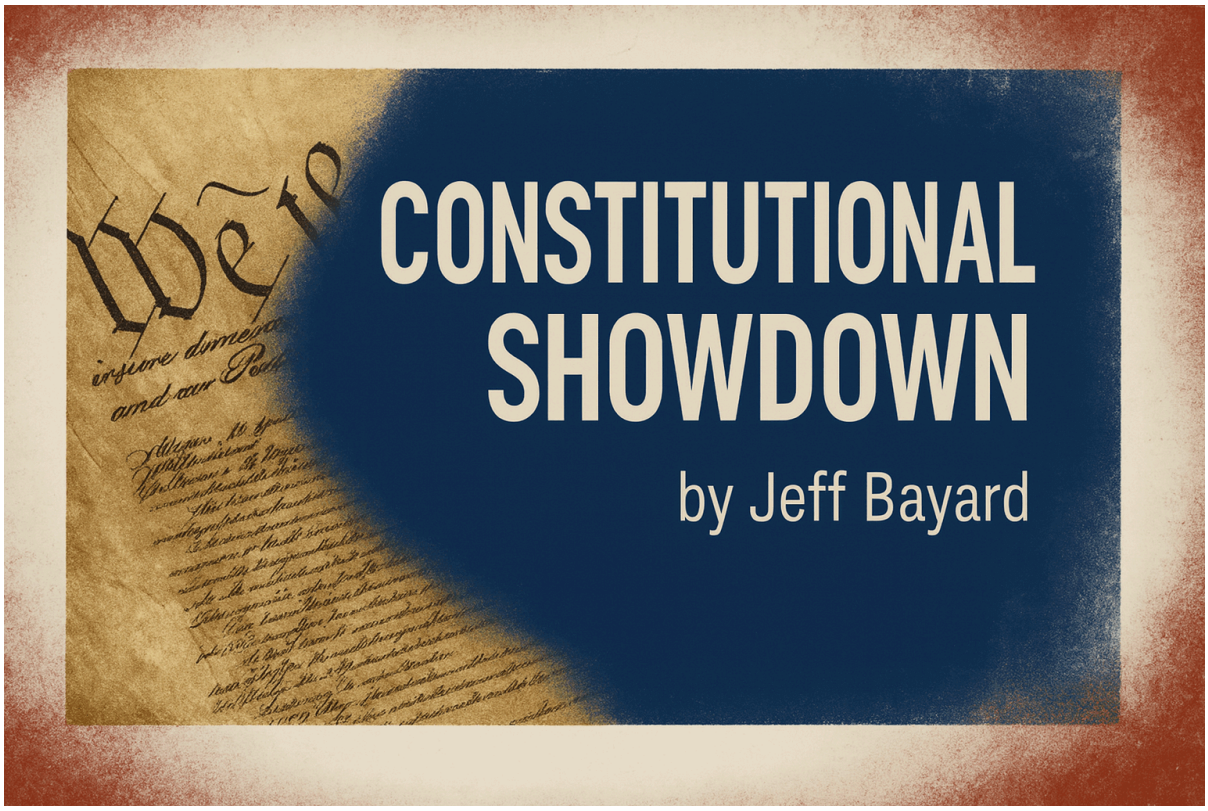

CONSTITUTIONAL SHOWDOWN · AMBITION AGAINST AMBITION · PART 1 OF 2

Reading the text as written and testing every claim of power against it, so believers can practice faithful, clear-eyed citizenship.

A new Congress meets a sitting President in January. Here is what a congressional subpoena can demand, what the President can refuse, and how the Framers set the rules.

Maria keeps the books for a small heating-and-air company in Chesterfield. One Tuesday, a deputy walks in and hands her an envelope. Inside is a subpoena. A court wants her to appear and bring the company's records.

Maria has done nothing wrong. It doesn't matter. A subpoena is an order, not a request. She can challenge it in court. But if she ignores a valid subpoena without a lawful excuse, a judge can hold her in contempt. That can mean a fine, or even jail.

Now suppose the records point to her boss. A prosecutor takes them to a grand jury. These are ordinary citizens who decide one thing: is there enough evidence to charge him? If they say yes, he is indicted. If the case goes to a jury trial, a different jury decides whether he is guilty.

Hold onto those steps: **demand the evidence, bring the charge, hold the trial.** On January 3, the new Congress begins its term. Congress also has powers to demand evidence, bring charges, and try them. But those powers follow different rules.

We want to hear from you. If we got a fact wrong, tell us in the comments. If you see it differently, tell us that too.

What Tuesday's Election Set Up

On November 3, voters gave Democrats control of both the House and the Senate, according to **news projections**. The President's party will run neither chamber.

Hakeem Jeffries, the current House Minority Leader, is expected to become Speaker. But it isn't automatic. Article I says the House "shall chuse their Speaker," so it takes a vote.

What will the new majority do? The day after the election, Jeffries said Americans "don't want us to get even, they want us to get things done on their behalf." On impeachment, he told ABC in September, "No, we haven't ruled anything in and we haven't ruled anything out in terms of impeachment."

One impeachment push is already waiting. On September 15, Rep. Thomas Massie, a Republican, gave the House notice of a resolution to impeach Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth. In Massie's **own words**: "By engaging in hostilities in Iran for more than 90 days without congressional authorization, Secretary Hegseth is breaking the law and must be held accountable." That is Massie's charge, not a finding.

So the question for every citizen is simple. When Congress comes knocking, what must the President answer? And what may he refuse?

Scripture gives us the reason the question matters. *"The one who states his case first seems right, until the other comes and examines him"* (Proverbs 18:17). The proverb warns us to hear the other side before deciding. That is true of Maria's boss. It is true of a President. It is true of Congress, too.

A Charge Is Not a Conviction

The Framers adapted an older process from England. There, the House of Commons brought charges and the House of Lords held the trial. Our Constitution follows the same pattern. Think of the House as the accuser and the Senate as the trial court.

- **The House brings the charge.** It has "the sole Power of Impeachment." Impeachment is a charge, not a conviction. The House votes by simple majority, as it does on most questions.
- **The Senate holds the trial.** It has "the sole Power to try all Impeachments." When a President is on trial, the Chief Justice presides. Conviction takes two-thirds of the senators present.
- **The penalty is the job, not prison.** Conviction means removal from office. The Senate may also bar the person from future office. But the official "shall nevertheless be liable and subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment and Punishment, according to Law." The ordinary courts stay open.

Alexander Hamilton explained the design in **Federalist 65**. He called the House "the inquisitors for the nation." The people's own representatives bring the charges.

Then, in **Federalist 69**, he drew the line that matters most. The King of England was "sacred and inviolable." The President, by contrast, "would afterwards be liable to prosecution and punishment in the ordinary course of law." The President is not above the law. As we'll see, though, his office carries some protections Maria's job doesn't.

High Crimes, Not Bad Management

The Framers also chose their words with care. On September 8, 1787, George Mason proposed that a President could be removed for "maladministration." That simply means bad management. James Madison objected: "So vague a term will be equivalent to a tenure during pleasure of the Senate." In plain English, the Senate could remove a President whenever it wished. So Mason withdrew "maladministration" and substituted language about high crimes and misdemeanors against the state.

The bar was set high on purpose. Hamilton described impeachable offenses as "the abuse or violation of some public trust." A President isn't to be removed simply because Congress dislikes his policies.

Long before Philadelphia, Moses told Israel's future king to keep his own copy of God's law and read it all his life, *"that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers"* (Deuteronomy 17:20). The ruler lives under the law, not over it. That biblical principle still helps Christians judge rulers today.

The Congressional Subpoena: A Power Written Nowhere

Here is a surprise. The word "subpoena" isn't in the Constitution. Congress's power to investigate is implied, not stated.

The Supreme Court spelled it out in **McGrain v. Daugherty** (1927). The case grew out of the Senate's investigation of Attorney General Harry Daugherty's Justice Department. The Court said "the power of inquiry — with process to enforce it — is an essential and appropriate auxiliary to the legislative function." Congress can't write good laws if it can't find out what's going on.

This practice is as old as the republic. In 1792, the House investigated a disastrous Army defeat under Gen. Arthur St. Clair. President Washington and his cabinet agreed the House could ask for papers. They also agreed the President should refuse any paper whose release would injure the public. In that case, they decided the papers could be turned over. Congress may ask, but the President may weigh the public good. That is still the argument, 234 years later.

The power has limits. In **Watkins v. United States** (1957), the Court said, "There is no general authority to expose the private affairs of individuals without justification in terms of the functions of the Congress." Congress may investigate to make laws and to carry out its other duties, such as impeachment. It may not investigate just to expose or punish.

When a congressional subpoena seeks the President's personal records, the bar goes higher. In **Trump v. Mazars** (2020), the Court listed four considerations, among others:

- Does Congress really need the President's papers, or can it get the facts elsewhere?
- Is the subpoena "no broader than reasonably necessary"?
- How strong is the evidence of a real lawmaking purpose?
- How heavy is the burden on the President?

The Shield Against a Congressional Subpoena: Executive Privilege

Maria has shields too. She may refuse to give answers that would incriminate her. Her confidential talks with a lawyer for legal advice may also be protected. The President's shield is called executive privilege. It protects some of the advice he receives.

Like the subpoena, executive privilege is not named in the Constitution. The Supreme Court recognized a constitutional basis for it in **United States v. Nixon** (1974). Then it ruled against Nixon, 8–0. Neither the separation of powers nor the need for secrecy, the Court said, "without more, can sustain an absolute, unqualified Presidential privilege of immunity from judicial process under all circumstances." In plain English, the President does not get to block every court demand for evidence.

The Court ordered Nixon to produce the tapes. Sixteen days after the ruling, on August 9, 1974, he resigned.

In **Trump v. Vance** (2020), a case about a state criminal subpoena for private records, the Court used words Maria would understand: "no citizen, not even the President, is categorically above the common duty to produce evidence when called upon in a criminal proceeding." The Court traced that rule back to 1807. That year, Chief Justice John Marshall subpoenaed President Thomas Jefferson for papers in Aaron Burr's treason trial.

But the President is not exactly like Maria. In **Trump v. United States** (2024), the Court held that a President is immune from criminal prosecution for acts within his core constitutional powers. For his other official acts, he has at least presumed immunity. That means courts start by treating him as immune, though prosecutors can try to overcome it. For unofficial acts, there is no immunity. That case was about criminal charges, not congressional subpoenas. Still, it shows the Court treats the office as different from the citizen.

Contempt: Who Enforces a Congressional Subpoena?

There is one more twist. If a witness ignores a congressional subpoena, the House can vote to hold him in contempt. Willful defiance of a lawful congressional subpoena can be a **federal crime**. But the case goes to the Justice Department, which is part of the executive branch.

The House held Attorney General Eric Holder in contempt in 2012, Attorney General Bill Barr in 2019, and Attorney General Merrick Garland in 2024. Each time, the Justice Department declined to prosecute. Under administrations of both parties, the Department has declined to prosecute officials who withheld materials at the sitting President's direction, citing executive privilege.

Former White House advisers Steve Bannon and Peter Navarro were a different case. Neither was a sitting official acting at the sitting President's direction. Both were prosecuted, convicted, and sentenced to four months.

Some of these fights reach court. Many more are settled through negotiation between the branches. Court fights can take months or years.

What the Election Changes, and What It Doesn't

In 1952, President Truman seized the nation's steel mills during the Korean War. The Supreme Court struck it down in **Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. v. Sawyer**. Justice Robert Jackson's concurring opinion sorted presidential power into three zones. It is still the most useful map we have.

- **Zone 1: Congress has authorized the act.** “is authority is at its maximum.”
- **Zone 2: Congress has neither granted nor denied it.** The President works in “a zone of twilight.”
- **Zone 3: Congress has forbidden it.** “is power is at its lowest ebb.”

Here is the key point. Jackson’s zones depend on what Congress has authorized or forbidden in law, not on which party holds the seats. An opposition Congress may bring more investigations and sharper disputes. It can attach conditions to spending bills the President needs. And where Congress does say no in law, the President’s power sinks to its lowest ebb.

But that raises a harder question. Who is right when the two branches collide?

The Strongest Case for Congress

Congress’s defenders say oversight is the people’s check on power. Hamilton called the House the nation’s inquisitors for a reason. A Congress that can’t ask questions legislates blind.

They also point to the Framers’ design. The Framers rejected a chief executive who could claim the king’s personal immunity from legal accountability. If no citizen is above the duty to give evidence, they argue, the President’s staff isn’t either.

The Strongest Case for the President

The President’s defenders start with the text. Article II says, “The executive Power shall be vested in a President.” One person, not a committee.

Hamilton defended that choice in **Federalist 70**: “Energy in the Executive is a leading character in the definition of good government.” One man in charge means voters know whom to blame. The President’s defenders add that a President buried in subpoenas can’t govern. Advisers won’t give honest advice if every word can be dragged before a committee.

Madison also warned of legislative overreach. In Federalist 48, he wrote that the legislature “is everywhere extending the sphere of its activity, and drawing all power into its impetuous vortex.”

Hamilton saw the danger of partisan impeachment, too. “In many cases,” he wrote in Federalist 65, impeachment “will connect itself with the pre-existing factions.” Since 2025, House members have filed several resolutions to impeach this President. Some were sent to committee. Others reached the floor and were set aside by votes to table. The President’s defenders say that history illustrates their concern.

Both sides quote the Founders. Both sides have a point.

The Third Way: Ambition Against Ambition

Madison gave the answer in **Federalist 51**: "Ambition must be made to counteract ambition." The Framers expected this collision. In fact, they built it.

Congress has a duty to conduct lawful oversight. The President may defend legitimate constitutional interests. This fight is not the crisis. The crisis would be one branch swallowing the other. That could be a Congress that impeaches over policy differences, or a President who treats every question as an attack.

God's law sets the standard for both sides. *"You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor"* (Leviticus 19:15). Do not favor someone because he is poor, or defer to someone because he is powerful. Apply the same standard of justice to both. The standard is evidence. *"Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established"* (Deuteronomy 19:15).

These disputes raise three different questions. Is a congressional subpoena seeking facts for a legitimate purpose, or exposure for its own sake? Is the President guarding real confidences, or hiding wrongdoing? Does a charge allege a serious abuse of public trust, or is it "maladministration" in disguise?

What the Citizen Does

Three Questions for a Constitutional Showdown: Keep This

1. **When the President acts:** Has Congress authorized it, said nothing, or forbidden it in law? That tells you which of Justice Jackson's three zones you're in.
2. **When Congress issues a subpoena:** What legitimate purpose supports it, such as writing a law or an impeachment inquiry? And is it no broader than needed? (Watkins; Mazars)
3. **When the House talks impeachment:** Does the charge allege a serious abuse of public trust, or merely a policy disagreement? The Constitution says "high crimes and misdemeanors." It rejected "maladministration."

Read it yourself: Article I · Article II · Federalist 51

Three Things You Can Do This Week

Pray for both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue. Paul urged prayer *"for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way"* (1 Timothy 2:1–2). Pray for the President by name. Pray for the new Speaker and your own representative by name. Pray that both seek truth over victory.

Make one two-minute call. Call your representative's office and say: "I'm a constituent. Before Rep. votes on any subpoena or impeachment, what standard will he or she use?" Then listen to the answer. You'll learn a lot.

Share the questions. The next time a headline screams "showdown," ask the three questions in the box. Then look up the text yourself. For background, see our earlier pieces on **who the President can fire**, on **what a President may rename and what he may not rewrite**, and on **the Senate filibuster and the Third Way**.

God sent the prophet Nathan to confront King David with his sin. Nathan said four words no king wanted to hear: *"You are the man!"* (2 Samuel 12:7). David confessed, "I have sinned against the LORD." No vote and no ruling can change a human heart. Only the Spirit of God can. But the God who brought David to repentance can still raise up honest men and women at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue.

Coming in Part 2: But what about the federal agencies that write regulations? Who controls them, and who pays for them?

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Who the President Can Fire — and the One He Can't Fire at Will

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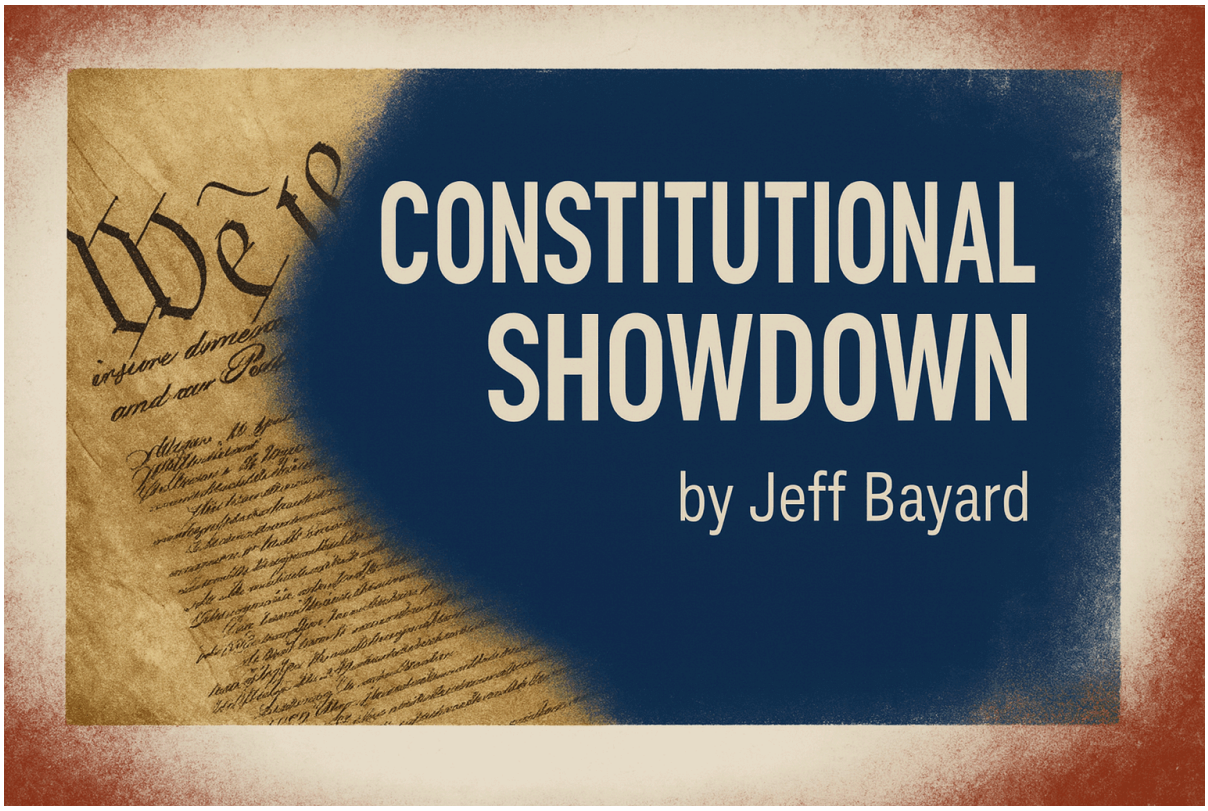

Joe is a good employee. Never late, always solid reviews, well-liked by the personnel office. Today his boss fired him. No reason given — just "we're letting you go." Joe's stunned. Does he have any recourse?

In most of the country, and in Virginia, the answer is: not much. Joe is an **"at-will"** employee. His boss can fire him any day, for any reason, or for no reason at all — as long as it isn't illegal discrimination. That's how most Americans work, whether they realize it or not.

But some jobs come with a shield. By law, certain officials can only be fired **"for cause"** — meaning the boss has to point to real wrongdoing: inefficiency, neglect, misconduct. Not a whim. Not a policy disagreement. An actual reason.

Hold onto those two phrases — *at will* and *for cause* — because this past June, the Supreme Court decided which kind the powerful officials who run our federal government are. And the answer,

plus one strange exception, tells you more about how your government works than a year of headlines.

The Supreme Court expanded the President's control over the executive branch. That same day, it held one office beyond his reach — for now.

By Jeff Bayard | Constitutional Showdown Series

*The Virginia Christian Alliance continues our **Constitutional Showdown** series, reading the text as written and testing every claim of power against it — so believers can practice faithful, clear-eyed citizenship.*

Same Chief Justice. Same day. Two different answers — and here's why it matters to you.

On June 29, 2026, the Supreme Court handed the President a major victory. It ruled that principal officers at independent agencies who exercise executive power — FTC commissioners and, by the same logic, members of bodies like the National Labor Relations Board and the Federal Communications Commission — generally must be removable by the President at will, without needing a reason.

That same day, the same Court, in a second case, told him there was one official he could *not* fire at will: a governor of the Federal Reserve.

Same Chief Justice. Same day. Same question — how far does the President's control over the executive branch reach? And two different answers.

That's the puzzle worth sitting with. Not "did the President win" — he mostly did. The real question is *where the Court drew the line, and why it drew it exactly there.* Because the answer tells you something about how our whole system is built — and about the one place where the Court said history marks a boundary around the general rule.

Let's take it in order.

First, the Rule Nobody Taught You

Here's a question most Americans have never once considered: when the President "runs" the executive branch, who actually works for him, and can he fire them?

The Constitution's answer starts with one sentence. Article II opens: "The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America." One person. Not a committee, not a board — one.

The Framers chose that on purpose, and they chose it against the dominant post-Revolutionary trend. Americans had just fought free of a king, and many state constitutions responded by placing weak governors inside systems dominated by councils and legislatures. But those divided executives failed, and the Constitutional Convention reversed course. As Chief Justice Roberts recounted, James Wilson argued at the Convention that a single executive was "the best safeguard against" monarchy — because only one person in charge could be held responsible. A plural executive, Alexander Hamilton warned, "tends to conceal faults and destroy responsibility." With one President, Roberts wrote, there would be no doubt "on whom the blame . . . ought really to fall."

But one person cannot run the whole government alone. So the President appoints officers to help him. And here's the logic the Court leaned on: if those officers exercise *the President's* power, they must answer to him — which means he must be able to remove them. Otherwise the chain breaks. James Madison, in the very first Congress, called it "the chain of dependence" — the lowest officers depending on the President, and the President depending on the people. Break a link, and no one can be held accountable to anyone.

That's the framework. Now the case.

The Case: A Fired Commissioner

Rebecca Slaughter was an FTC commissioner serving a second term — first nominated by President Trump and confirmed in 2018, then renominated by President Biden in 2023 and confirmed again in 2024. Unlike Joe, she had exactly the shield we just described: by law, an FTC commissioner can be removed only "for inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office" — for cause. Congress wrote that protection in 1914 to keep the agency independent.

In 2025, President Trump fired her anyway. He did not claim she was inefficient or neglectful. He told her plainly that her "continued service on the FTC inconsistent with Administration's priorities," and that he was acting under "Article II of the Constitution." In other words, he treated her like an at-will employee — fired for a reason the statute doesn't allow.

Slaughter sued to get her job back. She had a strong card: a 1935 Supreme Court decision, *Humphrey's Executor*, had upheld exactly these for-cause protections for FTC commissioners for ninety years. The lower courts sided with her.

The Supreme Court did not. In *Trump v. Slaughter*, by a vote of 6 to 3, it held that the FTC's removal protection violates the separation of powers — and it overruled *Humphrey's Executor*. "The FTC unquestionably exercises executive power," Roberts wrote, "and must therefore be controlled by the Chief Executive, in whom such power is vested." Translation: a commissioner who wields the President's power is, in the end, closer to an at-will employee than a for-cause one.

The Strongest Case for the Ruling

Set your politics aside and the majority's argument is genuinely strong — and it's an originalist argument, rooted in text and history, not partisanship.

The text vests *all* executive power in one President. The history backs it up: in 1789, the very first Congress debated exactly this question and concluded that removal is part of the executive power the Constitution gives the President — a conclusion so settled it became known as "the Decision of 1789." Early Presidents of differing persuasions accepted that understanding, and the Court reaffirmed it in 1926 in *Myers v. United States*.

And the accountability logic is clean. If an official wields real government power over your business, your speech, or your wallet — and answers to no one you elected — then when that power is abused, whom do you hold responsible? The President says, "not under my control." Congress says, "not ours to administer." The buck stops nowhere. The majority's point is that a President who cannot remove his own officers cannot be blamed for them either — and accountability requires that someone be blamable. As Roberts put it in closing: "Subordinates who exercise the President's power are subject to removal by him. Then, and only then, can they remain accountable to the President, and the President to the people."

The Strongest Case Against It

Now the other side, at full strength — because it's also serious, and it's where an honest reader has to slow down.

The dissent, written by Justice Sotomayor and joined by Justices Kagan and Jackson, argued from text, history, longstanding practice, and precedent. But its strongest practical ground was *stare decisis* — the principle that the Court should not casually discard its own long-settled precedent. For ninety years, Congress built the government in reliance on *Humphrey's Executor*. Dozens of agencies — regulating workers, markets, consumer protection, and the airwaves — were structured around the promise that their leaders could not be fired at a President's whim. Overturn that in a day, the dissent warned, and "chaos will follow."

And there's a deeper worry worth taking seriously. The dissent argued the ruling hands the President "a power unknown even to the English Crown against which the Founders revolted" — a pointed answer to the majority's own founding story. If the whole reason for one accountable President was to prevent a king, does giving him total control over every regulator risk the very concentration of power the Founders feared? The majority likely has the better of the history — Roberts marshals the Decision of 1789 and two centuries of practice, and even Slaughter conceded key premises. But the dissent's warning is not a slogan to wave off. This is a serious collision

between two accounts of executive power, and a reader who takes the Constitution seriously should feel the weight of both before landing.

Which brings us to the strangest part of the day.

The One He Couldn't Fire at Will

That same day, in *Trump v. Cook*, the Court considered whether the President could remove Lisa Cook, a governor of the Federal Reserve. And here — by a vote of 5 to 4 — it drew a line.

Read this part twice — it's where most summaries get it wrong. The Court did **not** rule that the President can never remove a Fed governor. It ruled that a Fed governor cannot be fired **at will** — for any reason or no reason. He can still remove her **for genuine cause**. That single distinction is the whole case.

Be precise about what the Court did and didn't say, because this is where careless summaries go wrong. The Court did *not* rule that the President can never remove a Fed governor. It ruled that a Fed governor keeps for-cause protection — she cannot be fired *at will*, for any reason or no reason — and that Cook had not been given the process the law requires. As the Court put it, whether a governor should be removed "is a decision only the President can make," but "that does not mean that he may make that decision for any reason, or no reason." He can still remove her for genuine cause. He just cannot fire her the way he fired the FTC commissioner.

Now look at *who* split how, because it upends the easy story. This was not conservatives-versus-liberals. In the Fed case, the Court's three liberal justices *joined* Chief Justice Roberts to protect the Fed's independence. Of the four dissenters, only Justice Thomas squarely argued that a Fed governor must be removable at will like any other executive officer — writing that in "the 237-year history of our Constitution," the Court had never before blocked a President's removal of an executive officer. Justices Alito, Gorsuch, and Barrett dissented on narrower grounds — objecting mainly to how much the Court decided at this early, emergency stage — without joining Thomas's constitutional conclusion. As Barrett put it, the issue "warrants much more than a few paragraphs."

So the same nine justices, the same day, scattered. One group would preserve removal protections across the independent agencies. Thomas alone would extend the at-will rule to the Fed. Three others dissented on narrower grounds without adopting Thomas's constitutional conclusion. And in the middle sat Roberts and Kavanaugh — the only two justices in the majority of *both* cases — expanding the President's power over the FTC while preserving the Fed's independence.

Why draw the line at the Fed? Roberts leaned on history: the Fed follows "a distinct historical tradition" of central banking reaching back to the First and Second Banks of the United States, and the Court would "not so quickly unsettle this 'special arrangement sanctioned by history.'"

The central bank, he wrote, need not be "trapped in amber" — but its independence was too deeply rooted to disturb.

Justice Kavanaugh added the practical concern openly. The Fed, he wrote, "occupies a unique role" and "maintains critical responsibility for the stability and success of the U.S. and world economies," and he would "not risk destabilizing the U.S. economy" over the question. That practical worry sits alongside the historical rationale — not in place of it.

And here is the honest tension this piece won't paper over. In *Slaughter*, the principle was clean: officers who wield executive power answer to the President. In *Cook*, that principle met a historically distinctive institution — and the real-world danger of shaking the global economy. The majority justified the Fed's independence through history; the practical line also happened to protect the one institution whose disruption could rattle markets worldwide. Is that a genuine constitutional distinction, or pragmatism in a constitutional robe? Thomas said the latter, and the question is fair. But notice what *both* the majority and Kavanaugh insisted on: if the Fed's protection is ever to be removed, "that change must occur through the legislative process." Not by a President's pen. Not by the courts. By Congress — the same lawful road this series keeps coming back to.

The Third Way

Here's where the tribal reflexes both go wrong. One extreme cheers *Slaughter* as pure victory and waves off *Cook* as a nuisance — the President should be able to fire anyone, Fed included. The other treats *Slaughter* as the death of good government and clings to every agency protection as sacred. Both miss what actually happened.

The Third Way sees it plainly. The majority's core principle is *right*: the Constitution vests "the executive Power" in one accountable President. Principal officers who exercise that power must answer to him, or accountability becomes a shell game. Scripture repeatedly affirms ordered responsibility: a steward answers to his master, and "it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" (1 Corinthians 4:2). The Founders likewise understood that power separated from responsibility invites abuse.

The Fed case does not necessarily abandon that principle. The majority said the Fed stands within a distinct historical tradition, while Kavanaugh warned openly about the danger of destabilizing the economy. Whether that is a genuine constitutional distinction or pragmatism dressed in constitutional language is a fair question. But the Court was clear about who may change the arrangement: Congress, through the legislative process — not a President acting by will alone.

Scripture also rejects the idea that a worthy end excuses an unlawful means: "And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully" (2 Timothy 2:5). The *how*

matters as much as the *what*. A sound constitutional end must still be pursued through constitutional means.

So hold both. Accountability is a genuine constitutional good, reaffirmed in the office the Framers designed. And the Fed decision is a reminder that the line between a President's control and an institution's independence is drawn with attention to history — and, when it needs redrawing, belongs to Congress, not to any President's pen.

What the Citizen Does

You don't need a law degree to use what this case teaches. When you next read that a President "fired" some official, ask the question the whole case turns on: *is that official a principal officer who wields the President's executive power?*

If yes — a commissioner who helps run an agency that writes and enforces rules against citizens — then under *Slaughter* the President generally must be able to remove that officer at will, whether you like the result or not, because someone accountable to you must be able to. If the official stands outside ordinary executive control — an Article III judge, for example — or serves in a historically distinctive institution such as the Federal Reserve, the answer may differ. Then the constitutional text, structure, and historical practice must do the sorting.

That single question cuts through most of the noise. It keeps you from cheering a power grab because it's your side doing the grabbing, and from crying tyranny every time a President exercises power the Constitution actually gives him.

Because that's the deeper lesson of a day when the Court both empowered the President and reined him in. Our system was built so that power would be *accountable*, not absent — vigorous enough to govern, checked enough to stay safe. "He changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings" (Daniel 2:21). Presidents come and go; the structure endures. Our task is to know it well enough that no officer of any party can bend it past what the text allows — and to hold every one of them, including the ones we voted for, to the words as written.

Read the text. Ask the honest question.

Go check.

The Two-Question Test — Keep This

Next time you read that a President "fired" someone, run it through two questions: **1. Is this a principal officer who wields executive power?** (An agency commissioner who writes and enforces rules.) If yes — the President can likely remove them at will, whether you like it or not. **2. Or does the office stand in a historically distinct place?** (An Article III judge, or the Federal

Reserve.) Then the answer may differ, and text, structure, and history do the sorting. Read the rulings yourself: **Trump v. Slaughter** · **Trump v. Cook** · **Article II**.

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Can Trump Ban Sharia?

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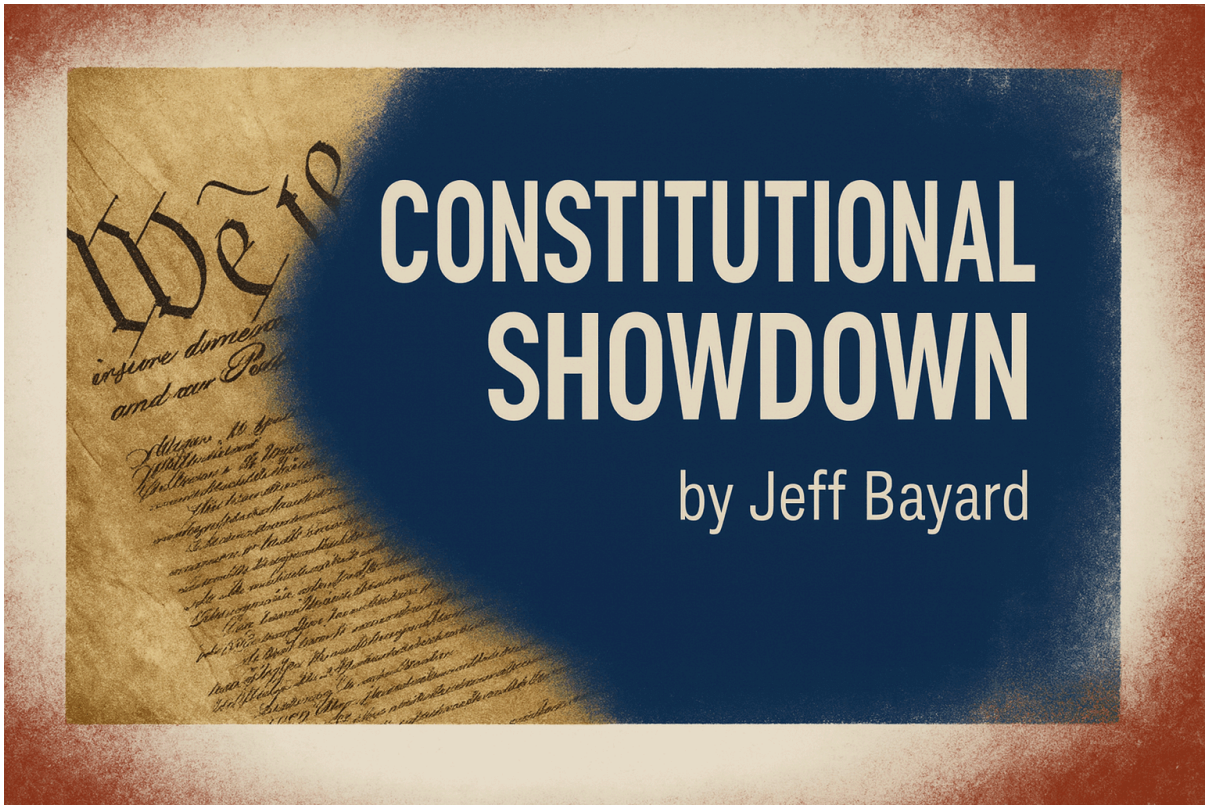

What the Constitution says — whatever your opinion.

By Jeff Bayard | Constitutional Showdown Series

*The Virginia Christian Alliance continues our **Constitutional Showdown** series, reading the text as written and testing every claim of power against it — so believers can practice faithful, clear-eyed citizenship.*

Not long ago, in a broadcast interview, the President was asked whether he would move against Islamic religious law in America. He answered that he would "absolutely" do it. Around the same time, members of Congress launched a caucus with the same goal, and a bill landed in the House with a blunt title: the No Shari'a Act.

The question lands with a lot of people, and it lands differently depending on who you are. Some hear it and think: good, finally. Others hear it and worry. Almost nobody stops to ask the one question that actually settles it.

Can he?

Not *should* he. Not *do you want him to.* Just: does a President have the power to ban sharia — under the Constitution as written?

That question has an answer. And here is the surprising part — the answer is more complete, and more settled, than either side of the argument usually assumes. You may have a strong opinion about Islamic law. Hold onto it; you're entitled to it. But set it beside the text for a few minutes and see whether the two match. This is one of those places where what you feel and what the Constitution says are two different questions — and only one of them is the law.

Let's take it in order.

First, What Are We Talking About?

The first mistake in this whole debate is treating "sharia" as one thing. It isn't.

Sharia is Islam's religious and moral framework, drawn mainly from the Qur'an and the traditions of Muhammad, and understood in very different ways across Muslim schools, countries, and communities. It can cover personal worship and ethics, family life, business dealings — and, in some nations, civil or criminal law. ("Sharia law" is the common English phrase, though it's a little redundant, since sharia already means Islamic law.)

That range is the whole key, because it means sharia is really two different things wearing one name.

For many Muslims, in ordinary life, it means personal religious practice — the daily prayers, the Ramadan fast, dietary rules, charity, the pilgrimage to Mecca. That is devotion. In American law it sits in the same category as a Jewish family keeping kosher or a Catholic observing Lent.

But sharia can also mean a full body of law — a rival system of rules for marriage, inheritance, contracts, and in some countries, criminal punishment. That is a legal system, a competitor to civil law.

The Constitution does not treat those two the same way. One is protected. The other has no force here at all. To see why, you have to know where American law says the buck stops.

A Law, By the Very Meaning of the Word

Here is the foundation, and it is older than any argument about Islam.

When the Founders built this country, they had just escaped one. They had lived under a distant king who imposed laws on them through a Parliament they had no vote in. The Declaration of Independence names the grievance directly: he had subjected the colonists "to a jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution," giving his assent to their "Acts of pretended Legislation."

Pretended legislation. Law made by someone with no rightful authority over them. That was the wound. And when the Founders wrote the Constitution, they answered it in Article VI, in the words that became known as the Supremacy Clause: this Constitution, and the laws of the United States made under it, "shall be the supreme Law of the Land."

Alexander Hamilton, defending that clause to a skeptical public, put it in words a child could follow. A law, he wrote, "by the very meaning of the term, includes supremacy." Sit with that. A rule you are free to ignore is not a law — it's a suggestion. If a rule is really law, it is binding; if it is binding, it is supreme over whatever contradicts it. Supremacy isn't an extra power grabbed by the government. It is simply what the word *law* means.

James Madison drew the same line, harder. Picture a country, he said, where the national law had to bow to every competing authority beneath it. You would have built "a monster, in which the head was under the direction of the members" — a body ruled by its own hands and feet, everything upside down.

So the American answer, written in 1787 and ratified in 1788, was this: there is one supreme law here — the Constitution and the laws made under it. Every other code, from any other nation or faith, sits under it, not over it.

Now watch what that does to the question.

It's Already Handled

Ask it plainly: can a rival body of law — sharia, or any religious or foreign legal code — govern an American, override an American court, bind an American against the laws of the United States?

No. It never could. Not because of any special rule aimed at Islam, but because of the oldest structural rule we have. American law is supreme. A competing legal code has no independent force here. A court may sometimes *consult* a foreign or religious rule — in a contract dispute, say, where two parties agreed to it — but never where it collides with American law or public policy. The moment they conflict, American law wins. Every time.

Which leads to a conclusion that surprises people on every side of this: the thing most feared — that sharia as a legal system could take over an American courtroom — is something the Constitution already forbids, and has forbidden since 1788. There is nothing to ban, because there

is nothing with the power to govern in the first place. The concern is understandable. The legal danger is not. The Supremacy Clause did the work more than two centuries ago.

Congress seems to know it, too. That new bill — the **No Shari'a Act**, introduced in the House in September 2025 — opens its own findings by citing the Supremacy Clause, noting that it "requires State and Federal courts to apply United States law above Shari'a or any foreign law." Read that again. The bill's argument *for* itself is that the Constitution already puts American law on top. Its operative rule would bar a court from enforcing a judgment or decision that relies on Shari'a or foreign law in violation of a party's constitutional rights — and its *defined term*, "foreign law," is written to be religion-neutral, even as the bill's title and provisions name Shari'a directly. At its enforceable core, in other words, it mostly restates what Article VI has said since the founding. (It was introduced by a single member and referred to committee, where it remains.)

That covers the *legal code* half of sharia. Now the other half.

The Half No President Can Touch

The prayers, the fast, the dietary rules, the pilgrimage — the devotional practice of a faith — sit on the far side of a different line, and that line is drawn to protect *everyone*, including us.

The First Amendment forbids the government from prohibiting the free exercise of religion. The Supreme Court has held the line both ways. A person's religious *belief* is absolutely protected; the government may not touch it. Religious *conduct* can be regulated by neutral laws that apply to everybody — you can't break a general criminal law and call it worship. But the government may never write a law that *targets* a religion. It may not single out one faith's practice for a burden it places on no one else.

That last principle is not a technicality. In one case, a city tried to shut down a specific religion's worship rituals while leaving nearly identical conduct alone. The Supreme Court struck it down flat, and the language it used should be read slowly: the Free Exercise Clause "commits government itself to religious tolerance," and officials may not "devise mechanisms, overt or disguised, designed to persecute or oppress a religion or its practices."

So a President who tried to ban the *practice* of Islam — the prayer, the fast, the pilgrimage — would be doing the one thing the First Amendment most clearly forbids: targeting a faith. He cannot. Not because anyone signs off on every idea inside that faith, but because the same clause that would stop him is the clause that guards your own church tomorrow. The rule that protects a Muslim's prayer is the identical rule that protects a Christian's. You cannot weaken one without weakening the other — they are the same sentence.

The Case Nobody Mentions

Here is where the honest answer complicates the easy one — and this is the part worth staying for.

A state already tried to ban sharia. In 2010, Oklahoma voters passed a constitutional amendment, by more than seventy percent, forbidding state courts from considering or using sharia law. The people had spoken, loudly. And a federal appeals court blocked it.

Why? Not because the court loved sharia. Because the amendment *named* one religion — it singled out sharia by name for disfavored treatment while leaving every other religious tradition untouched. Under the First Amendment, government must stay neutral between faiths, and a law that targets one by name fails that test. Naming the religion is what sank it.

And there's a second detail from that case worth reading at every kitchen table where this gets argued. When the state was asked, in court, to point to the actual problem it was solving — to name a single instance where an Oklahoma court had actually applied sharia law — it could not. Not one case. The whole danger the amendment was built to stop turned out to be, in the court's own word, speculative.

Sit with that. A ban that named a religion was struck down, and the emergency that justified it could not produce one real example when a court asked for it. That is not an argument that Islam is harmless. It is a lesson in how the Constitution works: it will not let the government target a faith by name, and it will not burden a First Amendment right to solve a problem no one can actually show. It's also, notice, the shadow hanging over that new federal bill — the part that does honest legal work runs through a religion-neutral definition, while the part that names a religion in its title could invite a challenge similar to the one that sank Oklahoma.

The Strongest Objection — Answered Honestly

Now the hardest pushback, and it deserves a straight answer, not a dodge.

Someone will say: but sharia, as practiced in parts of the world, brings real horrors — honor killings, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, the punishment of those who leave the faith. Those things are real. They are barbaric by any Christian or constitutional standard. Pretending otherwise would be dishonest, and this series does not deal in dishonesty.

But look closely at what that objection actually proves. Every one of those horrors is *already illegal in the United States* — and illegal precisely because American law is supreme over any code that would permit them.

An honor killing is murder; we prosecute murder. Female genital mutilation of a minor is a federal crime. Forced marriage can implicate our laws against kidnapping, coercion, trafficking, and sexual abuse. Punishing someone for leaving a religion is impossible here, because the First Amendment guarantees the right to adopt, reject, or change religious belief. There is no corner of that list the law hasn't already reached.

So the objection, followed to its end, does not argue for a new ban. It argues *for the thing we already have.* A competing legal code cannot impose any of those horrors on an American, because American law overrides it — which is exactly what the Supremacy Clause guarantees. The strongest case against sharia-as-law turns out to be the strongest case *for* the Constitution we already possess. The murder statute already on the books does more, and does it more surely, than any headline "ban" ever could.

Two other claims tend to surface here, and both should be set aside for the same reason. One says every Muslim is secretly licensed to lie, so no assurance of loyalty can be believed. The other says Islam is a single, unbreakable bloc. Neither survives contact with the facts — Sunni and Shia have divided for fourteen centuries, the schools of Islamic law disagree sharply, and Muslims worldwide live under a wide range of legal systems. But the deeper problem is what those claims *do*: they judge a whole class of people by blood and category rather than by their own acts. That is the exact logic once used against Catholics — "they answer to Rome, they can't be loyal Americans" — and against Jews. The Constitution refuses it on principle. It judges persons, one at a time, by what they have actually done, never by the group a fearful majority has assigned them to.

Who Actually Does What — A Quick Civics Refresher

Step back, because this is where the whole question comes clear.

The Constitution splits the job of government into separate hands, on purpose. **Congress writes** the law (Article I). **The courts resolve legal disputes** — including constitutional ones — in the cases before them (Article III). And **the President carries the law out** — Article II gives him the duty to "take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed." Write it, apply it, enforce it. Three different hands, and no one hand does all three.

Here's a thing most people never learn. When the Supremacy Clause was written in 1788, there was almost no machinery to enforce it. There was no Department of Justice — that came in 1870. No FBI — the bureau that became it started in 1908, and took the name Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1935. The whole federal enforcement apparatus we now call "the DOJ, the FBI, the alphabet agencies" grew up over the following century and more. By the government's own telling, the Justice Department "began in 1789 with a staff of two" — the Attorney General and a clerk.

Which means two things are true at once, and holding them together is the key to this entire debate. The supreme law was *settled* in 1788. The *enforcement* of it — the muscle, the agencies, the daily work of carrying it out — is a separate matter, handed to the executive branch, and it's the part that plays out in real time. What the text says and how faithfully it gets enforced are two different questions. The first is closed. The second is the one worth arguing about.

So put the title question through that machine.

Can the President *write* a new supremacy rule to ban a rival legal code? No — Congress and the Constitution already wrote it, in 1788. Can he *declare*, against a faith, what the law means? No — that's the courts, and they've said the government can't target a religion. What can he do? His actual constitutional job: **enforce** the supreme law we already have. And the supreme law already says no rival code governs Americans.

That reframes the whole thing. "Ban" is the wrong verb. A President cannot create a new ban on his own where Congress hasn't authorized one; his constitutional role is to enforce the laws Congress has enacted. And what he'd be enforcing here is already on the books. A President serious about this doesn't need to declare anything new; he needs to faithfully execute the laws that already make American law supreme.

And If You Still Want It Changed

Suppose someone reads all this and says: I don't care that it's already handled — I want the Constitution itself to say something different. Maybe stronger. Maybe explicit.

The Founders built a door for exactly that person, and it's the same door for everyone, whatever they're pushing for. It's **Article V** — the amendment process. If you want the supreme law to say something it doesn't, you don't get a President to decree it, or a single judge to invent it. You amend the Constitution: two-thirds of Congress and three-quarters of the states. It is deliberately hard, because the Founders did not want the supreme law rewritten by any one official's pen, or any one court, or any one election. They wanted it changed only when the country itself is genuinely convinced.

That's not a dead end. It's the honest road. It's open, it's legitimate, and it asks you to persuade your fellow citizens rather than shortcut past them. For a Christian who believes in ordered liberty, that's not an obstacle — it's the design working exactly as intended.

What the Citizen Does

So — can a President ban sharia?

Take the word in the two pieces it actually contains. If “ban sharia” means keep a foreign legal code from governing Americans, there’s nothing to ban: American law is already supreme, and has been since 1788. If it means forbid the practice of a faith, no President can do it, because the First Amendment bars the government from targeting any religion — and thank God it does, because that’s the same shield standing over your own worship.

Here’s the citizen’s habit, the one this series keeps returning to. When someone tells you the President should “ban” something, ask two quiet questions. Is the danger already handled by law we’ve got? (Here, it is.) And would the “fix” require the government to target a faith the Constitution protects? (Here, it would.) Ask those two, and you’ll rarely be fooled — whatever your politics.

The Constitution is not nervous about this. It settled whose law is supreme before any of us were born, and it settled the matter of targeting a religion in the same breath. What’s left is enforcement — and, for anyone who wants a different answer, the honest work of Article V. “A false balance is abomination to the LORD,” Scripture says, “but a just weight is his delight” (Proverbs 11:1). The just weight here is an old one, and it still holds: one supreme law over all of us, and no government hand on any man’s faith.

Read the text. Ask the honest question.

Go check.

Read It for Yourself
Read It for Yourself
Don't take our word for it — or anyone's. That's the whole point of this series: you can read the governing text yourself. Start with **Article VI** (the Supremacy Clause), the **First Amendment**, and **Article V** (how the Constitution is amended). Three short passages hold the whole answer. Want to go deeper? Hillsdale College offers its **Constitution 101** course free and online — it will teach you to read these clauses the way this series does.

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A Lake and a Ballot: What a President May Rename, and What He May Not Rewrite

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/LAKE-AND-BALLOT-EXECUTIVE-POWER-CONSTITUTIONAL-LIMITS/
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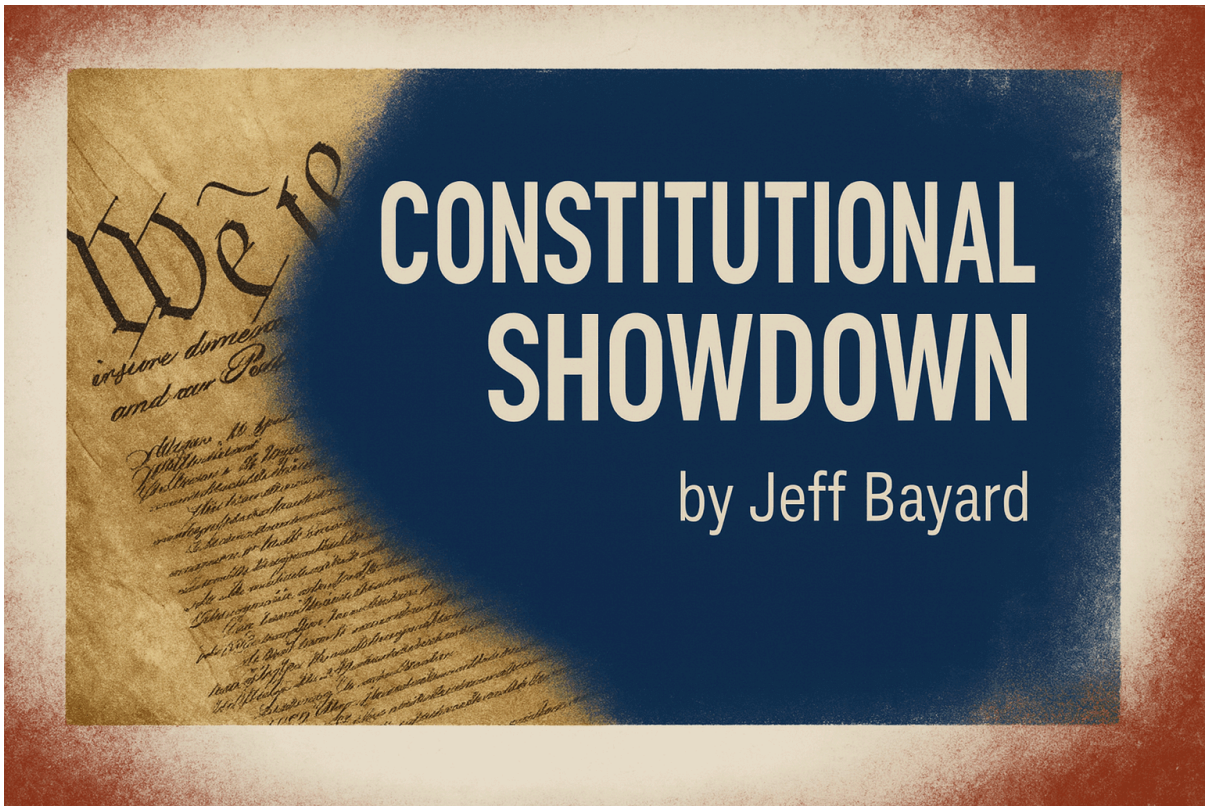

By Jeff Bayard | Constitutional Showdown Series

*The Virginia Christian Alliance continues our **Constitutional Showdown** series, framed from the Christian worldview and constitutional originalism. This installment tests two executive actions against the executive power constitutional limits the Framers wrote into Article I and Article II — reading the text as written, and equipping believers for faithful citizenship.*

BREAKING (August 31, 2026): The day this article published, the same fence came up again. In National Park Service v. National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Supreme Court voted 5–4 to let construction of the new White House ballroom continue while the lawsuit proceeds — but the Court was careful to say it was "not" ruling on whether the project is legal, only that the group challenging it likely lacks standing to sue.

Chief Justice John Roberts, no liberal, dissented alongside the Court's three Democratic appointees, writing that Congress "has explicitly prohibited" building on federal park grounds in

the District "without express authority of Congress," and that "today's decision is no victory for the separation of powers." Same question as the one below — who may reach past a power the Constitution hands to Congress — now playing out over a ballroom. Read the report at **SCOTUSblog**.

In the last week of August, the President of the United States picked up a pen and renamed one of the Great Lakes.

He signed **an order** declaring that Lake Ontario would henceforth be called Lake America. Federal maps would change. Federal agencies would use the new name within thirty days. It took effect.

That same stretch of days, a federal judge blocked another of his orders — this one directing how a federal election would be run. It was not the first such block. Court after court has stopped pieces of that effort for more than a year.

So here is a question worth sitting with. The same office. The same month. The same pen. It reached for two things — and it kept one and lost the other.

Why?

Not because one judge liked him and another didn't. You don't have to trust the judges' politics. You only have to read the constitutional text they were required to read. The answer is older and steadier than any judge's politics, and once you can see it, you will see it everywhere.

It comes down to which yard the President was standing in.

The Line the Framers Drew on Purpose

Open the Constitution to **Article I**, where the powers of Congress are listed. Read how it starts: "All legislative Powers herein granted." *Herein granted.* Then it gives a list. Congress may do these enumerated things, and the list is the fence.

Now turn to **Article II**, the executive. It reads differently. "The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States." No "herein granted." No list. Just the executive power, handed to one man.

That small difference in wording is not an accident, and it is not trivial. It is the hinge on which this whole question turns.

Dr. Albert Mohler has walked his listeners through this same ground. On ***The Briefing***, he described the administration's strategy as an effort to "test the limits of executive authority" through a flurry of orders — and to "dare lawsuits to come." That is a fair description of the strategy. And

within the President's own house — the executive branch he was handed to run — that authority is real and broad.

Naming a lake for federal use sits inside that house.

Here the President is not inventing a power out of thin air. Congress long ago built the machinery for federal geographic names — the statute at 43 U.S.C. §§364–364f, which runs through the Interior Department and the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. The August order works through exactly that framework, and it reaches back to the same authority the President used in January 2025 to rename the Gulf of Mexico. He directs Interior. He directs the Board. They are his to direct.

Notice what the lake order does *not* do. Its legal reach is confined to federal usage — federal maps, agencies, contracts, documents, and communications. It does not bind New York. It does not bind Canada. It does not bind a single private citizen or company. The order itself says as much: it creates no right enforceable by anyone against the government. It changes what one government — his — writes on its own maps, and it stops there.

That is a President acting inside his yard, administering a framework Congress gave him. The fence holds because he never climbed it. Whatever you think of renaming a lake during a trade fight with Canada — and reasonable people find it odd — it is lawful, because it reaches no further than the federal government's own paperwork.

The election order is a different thing entirely. And to see why, you have to know where the Constitution put elections.

Who Owns the Rules of Your Election

Here is the part most people have never been told.

The rules for a federal election were never handed to the President to write.

For congressional elections, the Constitution is explicit. **Article I, Section 4** — the Elections Clause — assigns the "Times, Places and Manner" of electing Senators and Representatives first to the state legislatures, and gives Congress the power to make or alter those rules. Two names appear in that sentence. The states. And Congress.

The President is not one of them.

And the rest of the machinery — how voters register, how mail ballots are handled — runs on laws Congress has already passed: the National Voter Registration Act, the Help America Vote Act, and others. Under Article II, the President's job with those laws is to "take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed." To carry them out. Not to rewrite them by order.

So when **an executive order** instructs the states on how to run their registration, sets a nationwide deadline for receiving ballots, and threatens to withhold federal money from states that don't comply, it is reaching over a fence the Constitution built. The order may be well-intentioned. It may address a real problem. But it is reaching into a yard that was handed to someone else — to the states, and to Congress.

That constitutional boundary helps explain why major portions of the effort have repeatedly run into the courts. The first election order came in March 2025. In January 2026, a **federal judge struck provisions** of it as "inconsistent with the constitutional separation of powers." In June, another judge permanently blocked its proof-of-citizenship requirement for the federal registration form.

Then, in March 2026, the administration issued a **second election order** — this one directing the Postal Service to write new rules for how mail and absentee ballots are handled. And just as the President was renaming the lake in late August, a judge blocked key parts of that Postal Service rule too.

That is the pattern worth seeing. This is not one old order still bouncing around the courts. It is the executive branch returning, a year later, with a new order — and being turned back at the same line the Constitution drew.

Same branch. Same boundary. One kind of action — naming a lake — stayed inside the executive's own house and stood. The other kind reached into the states' and Congress's yard and was turned back, twice. The office did not grow or shrink. The Constitution simply drew a line, and one action was on the right side of it.

Now comes the part this series will not skip — because it lands on our own side of the aisle.

We Said This Was a Good Idea. We Still Do.

Last October, this series ran a **piece defending the goal** behind that election order.

We argued that federal voting belongs to citizens. The constitutional amendments protecting the franchise repeatedly speak of the voting rights of *citizens* — the Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Nineteenth, and Twenty-sixth all use that word. We argued that verifying citizenship is a legitimate and honest aim, and that the biblical call to honest scales — "A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight" (Proverbs 11:1) — speaks directly to the integrity of a vote.

We stand by every word of that.

So let us be plain: the goal of the election order is not the problem. Keeping non-citizens from voting is a right and reasonable aim, and a Christian has good reason to care about it.

The problem is the road.

A right goal reached by the wrong road does not arrive. When the President tries to set election rules by decree, the courts strike it down — and the cause is not advanced an inch. Worse, the striking-down becomes the headline, and the other side gets to call the whole effort lawless. The shortcut doesn't just fail. It sets the goal back.

There is a lawful road, and it runs exactly where the Constitution said it would. Congress can act — the **SAVE Act** is precisely that attempt. The states can act; they run elections. That road is slower. It is also the only one that ends somewhere.

Scripture puts it cleanly: "And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully" (2 Timothy 2:5). The crown does not come to the one who merely wins. It comes to the one who wins *within the rules of the contest*. Even a righteous end must be reached by a lawful means. The rules are not an obstacle to the goal. They are how the goal becomes real and stays real.

And if a reader suspects this is special pleading — a Christian outlet going easy on a President it favors — look at the record. In 2020, this ministry made this same argument against the *other* side. When governors and mayors ran their COVID lockdowns by executive order, **we wrote** that an executive order becomes contrary to the separation of powers precisely when it reaches for powers the Constitution reserves to the legislature — that such a directive "is not law," because it never passed a legislature.

That was the principle then, and it is the principle now. An order that stays inside the executive's own authority is one thing; an order that reaches into a power the Constitution handed to Congress or the states is another. The test does not change with the party of the person holding the pen. That is what the command to judge without partiality (Leviticus 19:15) requires, and it is the whole reason a Christian's constitutional witness can be trusted at all.

The Strongest Case on the Other Side

Honesty requires giving the best version of the argument against this piece — and it is a serious one.

Dr. Mohler, whose framework opened this article, does not think the President is simply lawless. Looking at the fights between this White House and the courts, he said plainly, "I think the Trump administration is right" — on the specific question of whether a single district judge should be able to bind the whole nation with one ruling. "A district court judge should not be able on a coast-to-coast basis to bind the executive branch," he argued. That is a real problem, and it is worth its own debate. Scholars like John Yoo have argued for years that a President should have

real, unbroken control of his own branch, and that decades of independent agencies have improperly diluted it. On *that* question — control *within* the executive house — they have a strong case.

But notice what that case is about. It is about the President governing his own branch. Removing his own officers. Directing his own departments. That is the yard where his authority is strongest.

Election administration was never in that yard to begin with. It is not an executive power that agencies "diluted." The Constitution handed it to the states and to Congress in 1787. Even the most robust view of presidential power only reaches the powers the President actually has — and this was never one of them. The strongest argument for executive control proves that the President should command his own house. It says nothing about a house that was never his.

And there is a deeper reason the Framers kept election rules away from the President specifically. The Framers did not place the power to write the rules of an election in the hands of the officer whose job is to execute the laws — the very officer whose own branch's power rises or falls with who wins. Letting the executive set the terms of the contests that decide political power is a conflict of interest the Constitution was built to prevent. Not because any one President is wicked, but because no holder of that office should control the rules of the elections around him. The separation of powers protects us from the bad President precisely by binding the good one.

What the Citizen Does

Which brings it back to your kitchen table.

Somewhere in your house is a copy of the Constitution, or a phone that can pull it up in ten seconds. The next time you read that a President — this one or the next — has "ordered" something about an election, or an agency, or a state, do the one thing almost nobody does.

Ask which yard he was standing in.

Was he directing his own branch — the departments and officers that answer to him? Then he is likely on solid ground, however much you may like or dislike the result. Was he reaching into a power the Constitution handed to Congress, or to the states, or to the courts? Then no amount of good intention makes it lawful, and the courts will likely say so.

You do not need a law degree to ask that question. You need the text and the willingness to look.

A lake got a new name this summer, and it stuck, because the President was standing in his own yard. An election order got stopped, again, because he was standing in someone else's. The office did not change. The line did the work — the same line the Framers drew on purpose, so that no one man, however energetic, however right, could rewrite the rules of the elections around him.

The battle over that line is real, and it is not new, and it will not end this year. But our task is smaller than winning and larger than worrying. It is to read the text, ask the honest question, and hold every officer — including the ones we voted for — to the words as written.

The same God who "changeth the times and the seasons," who "removeth kings, and setteth up kings" (Daniel 2:21), is not anxious about a lake or a ballot. And He calls His people to be, of all citizens, the most fair, the least partisan, and the hardest to fool.

Go check.

Read It for Yourself

Don't take our word for it — or anyone's. The whole point of this series is that you can read the governing text yourself. Hillsdale College offers its **Constitution 101** course free and online, and it will teach you to read these lines for yourself. Start with Article I, Section 4, and Article II, Section 1 — the two clauses at the heart of this article.

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Does the Constitution Really Say? The Question Behind All of Them

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/DOES-THE-CONSTITUTION-REALLY-SAY-SIX-WAYS-A-WORD-MOVES/
AUGUST 24, 2026
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: DOES THE CONSTITUTION REALLY SAY, US CONSTITUTION

Thirteen cases. Thirteen words that moved.
Six ways to move a word — and one question underneath all of them.
It was asked in a garden, and it has never stopped being asked.

By Jeff Bayard | Does the Constitution Really Say? — Part 14

This is the final part of **Does the Constitution Really Say?***, a Virginia Christian Alliance series on the Supreme Court cases where the original meaning of the Constitution was quietly swapped for something else.* ***Read all thirteen earlier parts here.***

This week there is no new case. There is only what thirteen of them add up to — and the question this series is named for: does the Constitution really say?

Thirteen People

A woman whose house was taken so a developer could build something nicer.

A farmer fined for wheat he grew to feed his own animals.

A butcher told he could not work in his own trade.

A man stripped of his citizenship as punishment.

A town ordered to scrub faith out of its schools and its public square.

A coach fired for kneeling at the fifty-yard line after a game.

A band refused a name because someone found it offensive.

A man tracked wherever he went, without a warrant.

A citizen told the rifle in his closet belonged to a militia, not to him.

A student weighed by her group instead of seen as a person.

A man whose post was true, and buried anyway.

A girl who finished fourth in a race she should have finished second in.

A voter who marked a ballot, won, and watched it stop mattering.

You have met all thirteen. They lived in different decades and lost different things. Not one of them was asking for special treatment. Every one of them was asking the same small question, and none of them got an answer:

Where does it say they could do that?

Six Ways to Move a Word

Thirteen parts turned up thirteen different subjects. But they did not turn up thirteen different methods. There are only about six, and once you can name them, you will see them everywhere.

One. A word gets stretched.

Take a narrow term and widen it until it covers whatever you need. **“Public use”** meant a road, a courthouse, a fort. It was stretched to mean a private developer’s project that might raise tax

revenue. **“Commerce among the states”** meant trade crossing state lines. It was stretched to reach a farmer’s wheat that never left his farm.

The word is still there. It just holds more than it was built to hold.

Two. A word gets shrunk.

The opposite move. Read a clause so narrowly that it stops doing anything. The Fourteenth Amendment’s promise of **“privileges or immunities”** was written to protect the basic rights of citizens. Five years later the Court read it down to almost nothing, and it has done almost nothing since.

Nobody repealed it. It is still printed. It simply stopped working.

Three. A word gets attached to a moving standard.

This one is clever. Leave the phrase exactly as written, then tie its meaning to something that changes on its own. **“Cruel and unusual”** was tied to evolving standards of decency — so the words stay fixed while the meaning drifts with the culture. **“Unreasonable searches”** was tied to a reasonable expectation of privacy, which shifts every time technology does.

A rule anchored to a moving object is not an anchor.

Four. A word gets invented.

Sometimes the phrase doing the work is not in the document at all. **“Wall of separation between church and state”** appears in a letter Thomas Jefferson wrote. It is not in the First Amendment. But it became the test, and for decades it decided **cases** that the actual text would have decided differently.

Five. A word gets redefined.

The word stays. The thing it names is replaced. **“Equal protection”** came to permit weighing people by group. **“Sex”** in a 1972 education law came to mean something Congress never wrote and never voted on. **“Marriage”** was found in an amendment that does not mention it. **“Offensive”** became a reason a band could be denied its own name.

This is the most common move in the modern era, and the hardest to see, because nothing on the page ever changes.

Six. The words get bypassed entirely.

The newest move, and the one to watch. Here nobody bothers redefining anything. The rule simply arrives by another road — a phone call, a guidance letter, a private association's handbook, a threat to funding. The First Amendment says Congress shall make no law. So no law gets made, and the result arrives anyway.

That is what **"malinformation"** was. It is what happened to a Virginia girls' swim team. No text was touched, because no text needed to be.

What They Have in Common

Six moves, thirteen cases, two hundred years. Here is what runs through every one of them.

Not one required a vote.

Not a single case in this series was decided by the people who lived under the result. No amendment. No referendum. In most of them, no act of Congress either. A phrase was read a new way, or a rule was routed around, and by the time anyone noticed, the thing was already settled.

That is the pattern. It is not a conspiracy — most of these decisions were made in public by people who believed they were right. It is something simpler and more durable: **the honest road is slow, and there is almost always a faster one.**

The Part That Would Be Dishonest to Skip

This series would be lying to you if it ended by saying everything has gone one direction. It has not.

The Court held that the Second Amendment protects an individual right, unconnected to militia service. Then it held that gun laws must square with the nation's text, history, and tradition — the same original-meaning test this whole series is built on. That was a restoration, not a loss.

The coach who was fired for kneeling won. The Court said a public school employee praying quietly on his own is not the government establishing religion.

When a girls' sports case reached the Court in 2026, all nine justices agreed on what the word in the statute meant — including the three who disagreed about everything else in the case.

And when the Court was asked to revisit its own marriage decision, it declined without a single noted dissent. Whatever you think of that outcome, it was not the Court reaching for more power. It was the Court declining to reopen something.

Words move in both directions. Some of what this series documented has been undone by the same process that made it. That is worth saying, because a citizen who believes nothing can be recovered will not try to recover anything.

Did God Really Say?

Thirteen parts, and the title never changed.

There is a reason for that. The first redefinition in recorded history was not a lie. It was a question.

The serpent did not tell Eve that God had not spoken. He asked whether God had really said what she thought He said. Then he offered a reading — a better, more generous, more reasonable understanding of the same words. The text did not change. The reading did.

Every move in this article is that move.

The word stretched, the word shrunk, the word tied to a standard that drifts, the word invented, the word redefined, the word bypassed — all of them work by leaving the text alone and changing what it is taken to mean. Nobody ever has to burn the document. You only have to persuade people that it says something else.

Which is why the answer, when it came, was always the same.

When men came to Jesus asking Him to loosen a definition, He did not survey the room. He did not ask what the word had come to mean, or what people were prepared to accept. He said: *"Have you not read…?"* and went back to the beginning and read it out loud.

Have you not read.

That is the entire discipline of this series, and it is available to anyone. It does not require a law degree. It requires a copy of the text and the willingness to go look.

What the Citizen Does

Thirteen parts, four habits. That is the whole of it.

Four Habits of a Constitutional Citizen

Read the actual text. Not the summary. Not the headline. Not this article. The Constitution is shorter than most magazine features, and most Americans have never read it once. **Hillsdale College** offers **Constitution 101** free and online. Hillsdale takes no state or federal money — not even student aid — which keeps its teaching free of political pressure.

Ask which document a rule came from. A law, a regulation, a guidance letter, or a private handbook. Those are four different levels of authority and only one of them was voted on. Most people cannot tell them apart, and that gap is where a great deal of modern governing happens.

Notice when a summary is doing work the original would not do. If the short version sounds calmer than the thing it summarizes, go read the thing it summarizes.

Ask the right question. Not *do I like where this landed?* Ask: are these words doing what the people who wrote them meant them to do — or what somebody needed them to do?

That question works on every case in this series. It works on cases that have not been decided yet. And it works whichever side of an issue you happen to be on, which is the only reason it is worth anything.

The Series Ends. The Question Doesn't.

Thirteen cases is not the list. It is a sample.

There are more words sitting in that document right now, doing quiet work, waiting to be read a new way. Some of them will be moved in your lifetime. A few are being moved as you read this.

The point of these fourteen parts was never to make you angry about thirteen cases. It was to hand you a habit — the habit of going back to the words. Once you have it, you do not need this series. You have the thing the series was pointing at the whole time.

So: read the document. Ask where the rule came from. Watch the summaries. And when somebody tells you what the Constitution says, do the one thing almost nobody does.

Go check.

*The constitutional writing continues at the Virginia Christian Alliance. All fourteen parts of this series are collected **here**.*

Related Reading from the Virginia Christian Alliance
» **Does the Constitution Really Say There Is a Right to Marry? (Part 13)**

» **Does the Constitution Really Say What It Says? Why Words Matter. (Part 1)**

» **The Laws of Nature and of Nature's God: An Introduction to the Constitution**

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Does the Constitution Really Say There Is a Right to Marry?

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/DOES-THE-CONSTITUTION-REALLY-SAY-RIGHT-TO-MARRY/
AUGUST 18, 2026
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: DOES THE CONSTITUTION REALLY SAY, US CONSTITUTION

For two centuries, marriage was something the states decided.
In 2015, five justices decided it for all fifty of them.
They found the answer in words written in 1868 — words whose authors gave no indication they meant that way.

By Jeff Bayard | Does the Constitution Really Say? — Part 13

This is the thirteenth part of **Does the Constitution Really Say?***, a Virginia Christian Alliance series on the Supreme Court cases where the original meaning of the Constitution was quietly swapped for something else. Earlier parts asked:*

- **A Developer Seizes Your House**
- **Your Coach Is Fired for Praying**
- **Your True Words Are Called Dangerous**

- **A Word in the Law Is Quietly Rewritten**
- **Read All Twelve Earlier Parts**

You won't find this take anywhere else. Not because it's a secret. But because almost no one still does the work of going back to the actual words. This series does.

This week: a question the country was still working out, and the day the working out stopped.

The Vote That Went Nowhere

Bill is seventy-one. He has voted in every election since Nixon, and he can tell you every place his polling station has ever been.

In November of 2006, he stood in line at an elementary school and voted on a ballot question about marriage. He read it before he marked it, standing right there with the ballot in his hand. He voted yes.

He was not alone. About 1.3 million other people in his state voted the same way — roughly fifty-seven percent. It passed.

Twenty-nine other states did something similar in those years. Some voted the other way. A few legislatures took it up instead. The country was arguing, state by state, the way the country argues about hard things.

Then one morning in June of 2015, it was over.

Not because Bill's side lost a vote. There was no vote. Five people in Washington decided the question for all fifty states at once, and every ballot cast on the subject — every one, in every state, on both sides — stopped mattering that day.

Bill is not asking you to agree with how he voted. That is a separate argument and people are entitled to have it.

His question is smaller, and it is the one this series has asked twelve times already:

Where in the Constitution does it say they could do that?

So here is the question. Does the Constitution really say there is a right to marry?

What the Words Meant

The Court did not invent a marriage clause. There isn't one. What it used was the **Fourteenth Amendment**, added in 1868, right after the Civil War.

Here is the part that matters:

> …nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Read it twice. There is no marriage in it. No definition of marriage. Not a word about who may marry whom.

And that was not an accident. Marriage had always been state business. Each state set its own rules — the age, the license, the waiting period, who could perform the ceremony. Those rules were different in Virginia than in Maryland, and for two hundred years nobody thought that was a federal problem.

Now the honest part, because this series does not skip the honest parts.

The Supreme Court had reached into marriage once before, and it was right to.

In 1967 the Court struck down Virginia's law banning marriage between a white person and a black person. The case was ***Loving v. Virginia***. The vote was 9 to 0. Not one justice disagreed.

So it is not true that marriage was never a federal question.

But look at *why* that case was different, because the difference is the whole point.

The men who wrote the Fourteenth Amendment in 1868 had just fought a war over slavery. They wrote those words to stop states from treating black Americans as less than citizens. That was the central purpose — the thing everyone understood the amendment was being adopted to accomplish. It was debated that way, voted on that way, and ratified that way.

So when the Court struck down a law saying a black man could not marry a white woman, it was not stretching anything. It was enforcing the exact thing those words were written to do.

That is the test this series applies every single time. Not *is this a good outcome?* The question is always: **is this what the words were written to mean?**

Hold onto that, because it is about to matter.

What the Words Now Mean

On June 26, 2015, the Supreme Court decided ***Obergefell v. Hodges***. Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote the opinion. The vote was 5 to 4.

The holding: the Fourteenth Amendment requires every state to license marriages between two people of the same sex, and to recognize those marriages performed in other states.

Four justices dissented. Each one wrote separately to say why.

Here is what that meant on the ground. Thirty-five states still had marriage bans in their constitutions, their statutes, or both — though by that summer lower federal courts had blocked many of them, which is how the question reached the Supreme Court in the first place. Other states had gone the opposite way, some by legislation, some by their own courts. The legal map was different almost everywhere you looked.

One decision, carried by one vote, replaced every bit of it.

Now put that next to *Loving*.

Loving enforced what the 1868 authors wrote those words to do.

Obergefell found something in those same words that would have surprised the men who wrote them and the states that ratified them. For nearly a century and a half after 1868, nobody thought those words required every state to redefine marriage.

The words did not change in 2015. The reading changed.

That is the move this series has traced twelve times now, in twelve different corners of the Constitution. A phrase sits there meaning one thing for generations. Then it is read to mean something else, and everything built on the old reading comes down.

What Makes This One Different

Stop here, because this part matters and it would be easy to get wrong.

Part 11 was about a government leaning on private companies to quiet speech, with no law ever passed. **Part 12** was about an agency deciding a word in a law meant something new, with nobody voting on it.

Both of those happened in the dark. That was the complaint.

This one happened in broad daylight.

Nine justices. Signed opinions with their names on them. Four dissents, published, making the other case at full strength. Front page of every newspaper in America. Nothing was hidden from anybody.

So the objection here is not secrecy. It is something else, and it is worth saying plainly.

Millions of Americans were still working this question out. Some states had voted one way, some the other, some had not gotten to it yet. The process was slow and messy and it was **happening**.

Five people ended it.

You can believe the result was right and still believe that was the wrong way to reach it. Those are two different questions. This series has always been about the second one.

What Happened Next

Eleven years on, here is the honest answer: it has held.

In 2022, when the Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, many people expected marriage to be next. The majority went out of its way to say otherwise — that the decision was about abortion and no other right. One justice wrote separately to say the Court should revisit *Obergefell*. He wrote alone. Nobody joined him.

In 2025 someone finally asked. A former county clerk from Kentucky filed a petition asking the Court to overturn *Obergefell* — the first formal request since the ruling came down.

On November 10, 2025, the Court said no.

Not a long opinion. Not a close vote announced from the bench. A short, unsigned order turning the case away, with no explanation.

And here is the detail worth sitting with: **not one justice noted a dissent.** Not even the one who had written three years earlier that the Court should take another look.

Meanwhile several state legislatures took up resolutions asking the Court to reverse itself. A few passed. Others died — and in one state the senate voted its own resolution down by nearly two to one, with more than two dozen members of the majority party voting against it.

The ruling is standing. The country has largely settled around it.

That does not make the 2015 reasoning right. It makes the question harder, and this series would be dishonest to pretend otherwise.

The Strongest Argument the Other Way

The other side of this deserves a fair hearing at full strength.

Marriage is not an abstraction. It is who gets into the hospital room. It is who inherits the house. It is who signs at the school and who decides when someone cannot decide for himself. Those things do not wait.

Before 2015, a couple lawfully married in one state could cross a state line and become legal strangers. Not treated differently — strangers, with no standing at a bedside. Courts exist to settle exactly that kind of conflict.

And *Loving* is the hard case for anyone who says the states should have been left alone. Nobody today argues Virginia should have kept its ban on interracial marriage until Virginians got around to changing their minds. The Court stepped in. The Court was right.

That is a serious argument. Here is the serious answer.

Loving did what the Fourteenth Amendment was written to do. *Obergefell* did something else — it found a new meaning in old words and called it the same thing. If that is allowed, then the words do not constrain anybody. They just wait for five votes.

And the practical argument — that a national patchwork is a real problem — is an argument for **having** one answer. It is not an argument about **who writes it**.

Two Ways a Constitution Changes

Here is a distinction that almost never makes it into the argument, and nothing else in this piece makes sense without it.

There are two different things people mean when they say the Constitution changed.

One is the text. The actual words on the page. Changing those requires **Article V** — two-thirds of both houses of Congress to propose it, and three-quarters of the states, thirty-eight of them, to ratify it.

Notice what that demands. Not a majority. Not a good argument. Not five votes. It requires the country to genuinely agree, in enormous numbers, across regions and parties and every kind of disagreement Americans have.

That is not a flaw in the design. **That is the design.** The founders made it hard on purpose, because a constitution that changes easily is not a constitution at all — it is just this year's opinion written on nicer paper.

And that door is not theoretical. It has been opened twenty-seven times. Americans used it to end slavery, to give women the vote, to elect senators directly, to lower the voting age. Every one was a hard fight won by people who persuaded a supermajority of their countrymen. The Fourteenth Amendment itself — the very words at issue in this case — came through that door in 1868.

The other is the meaning. What those same words are understood to require.

And this is where we have to be careful, because it would be easy to say something false here.

The Supreme Court did not amend the Constitution in 2015. It cannot. The Fourteenth Amendment reads today exactly as it read in 2014 — word for word, comma for comma, and marriage is not mentioned anywhere in it.

Nobody changed a letter. They changed what the letters were held to mean.

That change is interpretation, and interpretation is a real and necessary thing. The Constitution is full of broad phrases — *equal protection*, *due process*, *commerce among the states*, *the freedom of speech*. Those phrases do not apply themselves. Somebody has to decide what they mean when a real dispute lands in front of a judge, and the founders knew that. Chief Justice John Marshall settled it early: saying what the law is belongs to the courts.

So the question is never whether courts may interpret. Of course they may. That is the job.

The question is how far a reading can travel before it stops being interpretation.

Both answers to that deserve to be heard.

One side says the Constitution sets down broad principles rather than a rulebook, and that judges must apply those principles to circumstances the founders could not have imagined. A phrase like "equal protection" was written in general terms precisely so it could reach cases nobody in 1868 foresaw. On this view, *Obergefell* is what the Fourteenth Amendment always meant, finally applied.

The other side says that when a reading travels far enough from the original understanding, the court has done in practice what Article V exists to do — and it has done it without the thirty-eight states. Not illegally. Just without anyone's consent.

This argument is as old as the country. Thomas Jefferson worried about handing judges that much power over what the Constitution means. Marshall answered that interpreting it is inseparable

from deciding cases. They were both serious men and neither one was foolish.

And it is not only the courts. This series watched the same question in a different branch. **Part 12** traced a word Congress wrote in 1972 that an agency later read to mean something else — no new statute, no vote, just a new reading of an old text. Congress writes broadly; agencies fill in the details; the details become the rule people actually live under. Supporters say modern government is too complex to work any other way. Critics say lawmaking has drifted away from the people who face elections.

Same structure. Same question. Where is the line?

This piece does not pretend to settle a two-hundred-year argument. But here is what can be said plainly, and it is the reason this series exists.

When the text changes, everybody knows. There is a proposal, a debate, thirty-eight state legislatures, and a date. When the meaning changes, most people find out afterward — if they find out at all.

And this is the thing to be clear about, because it is what this series has been saying for thirteen parts. **The Constitution already contains a procedure for building a national answer. Article V exists because the founders knew some questions would eventually need one.** The objection is not that the country reached a single rule on marriage. It is that the rule arrived by a route that asked nobody's permission.

Congress showed the other honest road in 2022, passing a **law on marriage recognition** through both chambers, on the record, with every member's name attached to a vote their constituents could see.

Both roads were open in 2015. They still are. What they share is that they are **slow, public, and reversible** — and that the people who live under the result get to be part of producing it.

Did God Really Say?

This series is named for a question asked in a garden. The serpent did not begin with a lie. He began by loosening a word: *"Has God indeed said…?"*

Twelve times now we have watched that same move in American law. A word sits still for generations. Then someone reads it differently, and everything resting on it shifts.

Scripture does not treat marriage as something people invented and can therefore redraw. It treats it as something established at the beginning, before there was a nation or a court to have an opinion about it.

And when someone came to Jesus asking Him to loosen the definition, watch what He did.

> "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?" (Matthew 19:4–5, NKJV)

Have you not read.

He did not survey the crowd. He did not ask how the culture had moved, or what the word had come to mean, or what people were prepared to accept. He went back to the original text and read it out loud.

Two thousand years before anyone thought to give it a name, that is the whole method of this series, modeled by Christ Himself. When the meaning of a thing is in dispute, go back and read what was actually written.

It is not a complicated rule. It is just an unpopular one.

What the Citizen Does

Start by knowing the words for yourself. **Hillsdale College** offers **Constitution 101** free and online. Hillsdale takes no state or federal money — not even student aid — which keeps its teaching free of political pressure. Dozens of courses, no cost, go at your own pace. Start there.

Then read **the Fourteenth Amendment** for yourself. The whole thing takes four minutes. Most Americans have strong opinions about it and have never read a line of it.

When you do, ask the question this series is named for. Not *do I like where this landed?* Ask: **are these words doing what the men who wrote them meant them to do — or what somebody needed them to do?**

That question works on every case in this series. It worked on a farmer's wheat and a fisherman's boat and a coach on the fifty-yard line. It works here.

And then remember what Bill actually lost in 2015.

What He Actually Lost

He did not lose an argument. Arguments can be had again. He lost the **place** where the argument happens — the polling booth, the legislature, the long slow work of persuading his neighbors.

When a court finds a new meaning in old words, it does not just settle the question. It takes the question away from everybody, forever, including from the people who would have won it.

That is worth caring about whichever side you would have voted for. Because the next time five votes find something new in an old sentence, it may be a sentence you were counting on.

Next time in **Does the Constitution Really Say?**… *Part 14 closes the series. Thirteen cases, thirteen words that moved — and the six ways a word gets moved without anyone voting on it.* ***Read Part 14 here.***

Related Reading from the Virginia Christian Alliance

» **Does the Constitution Really Say? The Question Behind All of Them (Part 14)**

» **Does the Constitution Really Say the Government Can Redefine "Sex"? (Part 12)**

» **The Laws of Nature and of Nature's God: An Introduction to the Constitution**

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Does the Constitution Really Say the Government Can Redefine “Sex”?

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/DOES-THE-CONSTITUTION-REALLY-SAY-REDEFINE-SEX/
AUGUST 10, 2026
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: DOES THE CONSTITUTION REALLY SAY, US CONSTITUTION

Congress wrote one word into law in 1972 and never stopped to define it. Fifty years later, an agency decided the word meant something else. This summer, all nine justices disagreed.

This is Part 12 of **Does the Constitution Really Say?** *— a fourteen-part series by Jeff Bayard on the cases where the Constitution’s original meaning was quietly swapped for something else. Other parts ask:*

- A Developer Seizes Your House
- Your Coach Is Fired for Praying
- Your True Words Are Called Dangerous
- Six Ways to Move a Word
- Read All Fourteen Parts

You won't find this take anywhere else. Not because it's a secret. But because almost no one still does the work of going back to the actual words. This series does.

This week we look at one small word in a law almost everyone agrees was a good law. Does the Constitution really say the government can redefine a word Congress wrote?

Ellie's Last Race

Ellie is a junior. She swims the 200 free.

She has been swimming since she was seven. Practice before school. Practice again after. Her mother drives her. Her times have dropped every year, and this season she is close — close enough that her coach has started saying "regionals" out loud.

At the February meet she finishes fourth. Three swimmers touch the wall ahead of her. The one who wins the girls' 200 free is a boy.

He is on the girls' team. He swims in the girls' meets. He is listed in the girls' results. Two spots go on to regionals, first and second. Ellie's season ends on the pool deck, watching.

Her parents ask the athletic director how this is allowed. He tells them the truth as he understands it. The school is following the rule it was given. He shows them where the rule came from — a league handbook, and before that a federal office, and before that a Supreme Court case about a man who was fired from a funeral home in Michigan.

Ellie's father asks the obvious question. *When did anyone vote on this?*

Nobody did. There is no law to read. The word in the law is the same word it has been since 1972. What changed is what somebody decided that word would be taken to mean. And that decision traveled from an office, to a handbook, to a school, and finally to a sixteen-year-old girl standing on a starting block, wondering why the rules moved.

One thing before we go on. That boy is sixteen. He did not enroll himself, sign his own eligibility form, or put himself on that roster — a parent did. Minors cannot do those things, which is why the law puts them in a parent's hands. So this piece is not going to aim at a kid for a decision that was never legally his to make.

But notice what that means. Every adult in this story acted within their authority. The parents signed. The school followed the handbook. The league wrote the handbook. And not one of them was ever asked to answer to the voters of Virginia, because no Virginian ever voted on any of it. That is the question this series has asked eleven times: the law says one thing — so who changed it, and by what authority?

So here is the question. Does the Constitution really say the government can redefine a word Congress wrote?

What the Words Meant

In 1972, Congress passed a law called **Title IX**. Here is the heart of it:

> No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance…

Congress passed it because women and girls were being shut out. Shut out of colleges. Shut out of scholarships. Shut out of medical school and law school. And shut out of sports.

It worked. Before 1972, a girl who wanted to play a school sport often had nowhere to play. Today it is a normal part of growing up. Doors that had been closed for a century opened, and they opened fast.

Hold onto that. This law was a good law, and it did the thing it was written to do.

Now notice something about the sentence. **Title IX never defines the word "sex."** It didn't need to. In 1972, nobody in that debate wondered what the word meant.

And notice why the definition matters so much. Title IX protects a category — women and girls — by name. A protection built for a category only works if the category holds still. If the category can be entered by anyone who says so, then the protection protects nothing in particular. That is not a religious claim or a political one. It is just what the sentence does.

Virginia has a place in this story, and an honorable one. In 1996, the Supreme Court heard a case about the Virginia Military Institute, which admitted only men. The Court ruled 7–1 that VMI had to open its doors to women. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg wrote the opinion.

Read that case today and something jumps out. The reasoning that opened VMI to women rested on sex being a real and lasting thing — real enough that shutting women out was a real injury. The ruling that won women a place assumed the very fixed meaning that is now in question.

What the Words Now Mean

Here is where a reader needs to know how the machinery actually works, because this is the part almost nobody is shown.

There are four different things that can tell your school what to do, and they are not equal:

- **A law.** Congress votes on it. The President signs it. You can read it. You can vote out the people who passed it.
- **A regulation.** A federal agency writes it. Nobody votes on it. It still carries the force of law.
- **Guidance.** An agency explains what it thinks a law means. Nobody votes on it, and it is not law at all — but schools follow it, because the agency controls their federal money.
- **A private rulebook.** A league or association writes its own rules. No government is involved.

Keep those four straight and the rest of this story tells itself.

In 2020, the Supreme Court decided a case called ***Bostock v. Clayton County***. Justice Neil Gorsuch wrote it. The vote was 6–3. The Court held that firing a worker for being gay or transgender counts as discrimination because of sex.

Two things about that case matter here.

First, *Bostock* was about **Title VII** — the employment law. It was not about Title IX, the education law. Different law, different words around it, different setting.

Second, Gorsuch drew a boundary around his own opinion. He wrote that the other laws were not before the Court, and that the Court had not had the benefit of adversarial testing about the meaning of their terms. In plain English: *we are not deciding anything beyond this case.* He named bathrooms and locker rooms specifically as things the Court was not deciding.

The boundary got crossed anyway.

The reasoning from the employment case was carried over into education. It showed up in guidance. Then in 2024, the Department of Education wrote it into a full regulation — a rule with real teeth, covering every school that takes federal money.

Nobody voted on that. Congress did not reopen Title IX. The word in the statute never changed. An agency simply announced what the word would now be taken to mean, and schools across the country adjusted.

Then, in January 2025, a federal court threw that regulation out nationwide. The 2024 rule was gone. The older 2020 rule came back into force, and it is the rule the Department enforces today.

If that sounds familiar, it should. **Part 11** told the same story with a different word. A power nobody voted for, built out of phone calls and guidance and pressure, doing work that only a law is supposed to do. Different subject. Same machine.

What Happened Next

On June 30, 2026, the Supreme Court answered the question directly. The case was ***West Virginia v. B.P.J.***, decided together with *Little v. Hecox*. Justice Brett Kavanaugh wrote the opinion.

The case reached the Court from the Fourth Circuit — the federal appeals court that covers Virginia. That court had ruled against West Virginia on the Title IX question. The Supreme Court reversed it.

The holding:

> Consistent with Title IX and the Equal Protection Clause, we hold that the States may maintain women's and girls' sports for biological females. They may determine eligibility for women's and girls' sports based on biological sex.

Read that sentence carefully, because one word in it is doing enormous work.

May. Not *must*.

The Court did not order every state to do anything. It said states are *allowed* to set eligibility for girls' sports by biological sex. The decision went back to the states — which means it went back to people who answer to voters.

The Court also dealt with *Bostock* directly. It said Title VII and *Bostock* are not relevant in the very different statutory and factual context of sports. And it pointed back to Gorsuch's own words — that his opinion did not purport to address bathrooms, locker rooms, or anything else of the kind. The Court that wrote *Bostock* had said it wasn't about this. Six years later, the Court confirmed it.

Now here is the part the headlines mostly skipped.

Coverage of this case led with the split, and there was one. On the constitutional question — whether these state laws violate the Equal Protection Clause — the Court divided. Justice Sonia Sotomayor dissented from that part, joined by Justices Elena Kagan and Ketanji Brown Jackson.

But that was the *constitutional* question. On the **statutory** question — what the word "sex" means in the law Congress wrote in 1972 — look at what the dissenting justices actually wrote.

Justice Sotomayor wrote that she agrees the Title IX claim fails.

Justice Jackson wrote that she agrees with her colleagues that the Title IX claim fails.

All nine justices reached the same answer about the word. Not one of them read Title IX to mean what the agency had said it meant.

That is remarkable, and almost nobody has heard it. A Court that disagrees about nearly everything did not disagree about this. The word Congress wrote in 1972 still means what it meant in 1972 — and every justice on the Supreme Court said so.

The Strongest Argument the Other Way

The other side of this deserves to be heard at full strength.

Bostock's logic is tight. If you fire a man because he identifies as a woman, you did take his sex into account. That reasoning is not a trick, and it is not stupid.

There is also a harder question underneath all of this, and the Court took it on directly rather than ducking it. Not every boy is faster or stronger than every girl. Some boys fall inside the normal range for girls, or below it. So why not decide case by case, athlete by athlete?

The Court's answer is worth understanding, because it applies far beyond sports. A rule is judged by how it handles the general problem, not by how it lands on one person. Everyone already agrees schools may have separate boys' and girls' teams — that is itself a rule based on sex, applied to every student without measuring any of them. Even the people suing agreed that schools do not have to test each individual boy before keeping him off a girls' team. Once you accept that, you have accepted a rule that sorts by category. The argument is over which category, not whether to have one.

Transgender students are real students. Some of them are treated badly, and schools need a rule they can actually follow. Telling a principal to figure it out alone means a fifteen-year-old becomes the test case in a fight nobody prepared him for.

And there is a serious argument for handling this case by case, close to home. Virginia's current governor made it as a candidate. In a September 2025 interview, Abigail Spanberger described the system Virginia had used for about ten years: roughly forty students went through it, some approved and some denied, with schools, parents, principals, and coaches weighing the child's age, the particular sport, competitiveness, and safety. She said she thought it was working, and that it is *"the process that Virginia should continue to utilize."*

Take that seriously, because it is not a weak position. People who know the child and the sport may judge better than a rule written in advance by strangers.

That is a real argument. Here is the answer.

None of it decides **who writes the rule.** A good rule adopted the wrong way is still a rule nobody agreed to. And case-by-case discretion has a cost the argument doesn't count: it means a girl's season depends on which adults happen to be in the room that year. That is the opposite of a standard. Ellie cannot read it, plan around it, or appeal it — because there is nothing written down for her to read.

There is an honest way to settle this, and it was already underway before the Court ruled. In May 2026, Representative Jodey Arrington of Texas introduced the **Title IX Clarification Act**, joined by 22 cosponsors. It would write a definition of "sex" directly into Title IX. The House Education and Workforce Committee advanced it on July 21, 2026. It still needs a vote of the full House, and then the Senate.

Whether that bill passes is not the point here. The point is that the road exists. It is public. It is recorded. Members have to vote, and voters get to watch. That road was open the whole time.

When a power can be won in the open and somebody builds it quietly instead, the quiet way is not a shortcut. It is an admission.

Did God Really Say?

The oldest trick in Scripture was never a flat lie. In the garden, the serpent did not begin by calling God a liar. He asked a question about a word: *"Has God indeed said…?"*

He didn't need Eve to believe something false. He needed a fixed word to come loose.

Scripture does not treat male and female as an arrangement people worked out. It treats it as a fact about how people were made. *"So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them"* (Genesis 1:27, NKJV). It is stated the way you would state anything else about creation — as something that was done, not something that was decided.

That is what makes the question in this piece a very old one. Loosen a fixed word and everything built on top of it moves. Title IX was built on top of one.

What the Citizen Does

Start by knowing the words for yourself. **Hillsdale College** offers **Constitution 101** free and online. Hillsdale takes no state or federal money — not even student aid — which keeps its teaching free of political pressure. Dozens of courses, no cost, go at your own pace. Start there.

Then look at Virginia, because Virginia is where this gets surprising.

Start with the good news. If Ellie swam in Virginia this season, that race would have been girls only. The rule here says a boy may not compete on a girls' team.

Now find out where that rule lives. It is not in the law.

There is a section of the Code of Virginia that people often assume covers this — **§ 22.1-23.3**. It doesn't. That statute tells the Department of Education to write model policies about transgender students, covering things like records, privacy, and dress codes. And then it says this, in the text of the law itself: *activities and events do not include athletics.*

Athletics is carved out. On purpose, in the statute.

No other section of the Code governs athletic eligibility by sex. No Board of Education regulation does either. Two bills that would have taken up the question — one in 2025, one in 2026 — both failed.

The Supreme Court noted in its opinion that 27 states have passed laws on this in the past six years. Virginia is not one of them.

So who decides whether a boy swims in the girls' 200 free in Virginia? The Virginia High School League. A private association of member schools. Not the Commonwealth. Not your delegate. Not anyone you elected.

The rule is real and it is written down. It sits in the League's policy manual, and it says that males and students identifying as transgender females may not compete on a girls' sports team — except cheerleading. That exception is in the text.

Now read the first line of that same rule, because it names its own authority. It does not cite Virginia law. It cites a presidential executive order.

It is also worth seeing how that rule sits on the page. The League's transgender section is dated December 2014, and most of it still describes the old system — a multi-level appeals process with hearings, medical documentation, and a two-thirds vote. The 2025 change was added inside that section as a note. So a parent who reads it straight through walks past pages of appeals machinery

before reaching the sentence that closes girls' teams. Nothing is hidden. It is just layered, the way a document gets when it is patched instead of rewritten.

And the League has not touched it since the Supreme Court ruled. The decision that handed states this authority came down on June 30. The section still carries its old date.

That is worth sitting with. The protection a Virginia parent has today was not written by the General Assembly. It was written by a private league, in February 2025, days after a federal order came down — and the order is what the League points to as its reason.

We know state pressure alone would not have done it. In July 2023, Virginia's own Department of Education issued **model policies** for school boards. They defined the word "sex" to mean biological sex, and they said that for any athletic program separated by sex, participation is determined by sex rather than gender identity. That is exactly the rule the League follows today.

The League did not change. It kept its earlier policy for another year and a half.

Why not? Because those model policies were guidance — the third rung on the ladder above. The document says so about itself. And there is a wrinkle that makes the point sharper: the statute that tells the Department to write model policies is the same statute that carves athletics out. So the Commonwealth issued athletics guidance on a subject its own law had removed from the list. It was a recommendation with nothing behind it, and the League treated it that way.

Then a federal order arrived carrying the threat of lost funding, and the rule changed inside of a week.

Virginia asked, and nothing happened. Washington attached money, and everything happened. Neither one was a law.

Which means two things, and Virginians should hear both.

The first is that this protection is on loan. What one executive order set in place, another can undo — and the League has already shown how fast it moves when Washington moves. Nothing about the current rule requires a single vote by anyone you elected.

The second is harder, and this series would be dishonest to skip it. **Part 11** described a government leaning on private companies to get a result it could not get by passing a law. That was wrong. This is the same machine — federal pressure, a private body, funding as the lever — pointed at an outcome many readers are glad about. A method is not made right by the result it happens to produce this year. If it can protect a girls' team today without a vote, it can open one tomorrow without a vote.

The answer to that is not to give up the protection. It is to put it somewhere a phone call cannot reach: in a statute, passed in the open, by people who have to face voters.

One more thing to know before you plan. On this question the Governor is close to a bystander. She cannot write a statute — that is the General Assembly's job. And she has no authority over a private league. Virginia already ran that experiment in 2023 and the League did not move. Anyone waiting on the Governor's office, in either direction, is watching the wrong door.

What You Can Do This Week

- **Read the rule yourself.** The League posts its **handbook** publicly. It is long, and it is amended by supplements during the school year — so the version you read in the fall may not be the version in force by winter.
- **Ask your school board** which rule your district follows and who wrote it. Ask at a meeting, out loud, where the answer goes in the minutes.
- **Ask your delegate and your state senator** whether they will take up what the General Assembly declined to take up twice. That is the only door that leads to a law.

And know the calendar before you plan. Neither chamber of the General Assembly is on the ballot this November. Both were elected in 2025 to four-year terms. So this is not an election-day fix. It is the slower work of asking people already in office to do their jobs between sessions — which is most of what citizenship actually is.

The Supreme Court did its part. It read the word Congress wrote and said it still means what it meant. Nine justices, no disagreement.

The pen is on the table in Richmond. Somebody is going to pick it up. The only question left is who — and whether the rest of us were paying attention when they did.

Next time in **Does the Constitution Really Say?**… *Part 13 takes up marriage. Congress passed a law defining it. The Supreme Court struck that law down, and then found a right to marry that no one had located in the Constitution for two centuries. We will ask what the words meant, who changed them, and what a Court does when it decides a question the country was still deciding for itself.*

Related Reading from the Virginia Christian Alliance

» **Does the Constitution Really Say There Is a Right to Marry? (Part 13)**

» **Does the Constitution Really Say the Government Can Decide Which True Things You're Allowed to Hear? (Part 11)**

» **The Laws of Nature and of Nature's God: An Introduction to the Constitution**

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A Warning to the Watchmen

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/A-WARNING-TO-THE-WATCHMEN/
AUGUST 9, 2026
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION

What November Will Write Into Virginia's Bill of Rights — and Why the Pulpit Is the Only Voice That Can Stop It

I write this as one watchman to another, and I will not soften it, because the hour does not allow it.

God gave Ezekiel his post before He gave him a single sermon. *"So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel"* (Ezekiel 33:7, ESV). And He bound a hard condition to the office: *"If the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned… their blood I will require at the watchman's hand"* (Ezekiel 33:6, ESV). Read it slowly. The watchman is not judged for whether the city stands or falls. He is judged for one thing only — whether he blew the trumpet. Silence is not caution. It is the very sin the verse was written to name.

So here is the sword. I have seen it. I am blowing the trumpet, and I am asking you to pick up yours.

The Sword on the Horizon

On November 3, Virginians will vote on three amendments to the Bill of Rights of our Commonwealth's constitution. Two of them strike directly at walls God built before He built a nation.

The first would rewrite Section 15-A to remove marriage as the union of one man and one woman and replace it with a genderless "right to marry." That is the wall raised in the garden: *"Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh"* (Genesis 2:24, ESV) — the verse Christ Himself reached back to as settled from the beginning (Matthew 19:4–6).

The second would write into the Bill of Rights a sweeping right to abortion, set behind a legal standard so high that few meaningful limits could survive it. That strikes the wall around the image-bearer: *"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb"* (Psalm 139:13, ESV). The God who knits a life in the womb does not hand us a constitutional right to unmake it.

These are not policy footnotes. They are the marriage wall and the life wall, proposed for demolition by public vote, on a single day.

Why This Time Is Different — and You Must Say So

Here is what your people do not yet understand, and what you must tell them from the front.

This is not an ordinary law that a court can later undo. This past spring, the same legislative majority rushed a redistricting amendment onto a special-election ballot, spent a fortune, and watched it pass — and then the Virginia Supreme Court struck it down, because in their hurry they had cut a procedural corner. A judge cleaned up the mess after the fact.

No judge is coming this time. These three amendments did not cut the corner. They passed the General Assembly twice, in two separate sessions, with an election in between — exactly as the constitution requires. The lawful process is finished. Once the people vote yes, the words become part of the constitution itself, and a state court cannot strike down the constitution for violating the constitution. There is no appeal. There is no morning-after ruling waiting to save us. The vote on November 3 is the last word, and it is meant to be permanent.

That is why a sermon in December is a eulogy. The trumpet has to sound now.

The Sword Is Not Only Out There

I have to say the hard thing, because a watchman who flatters his fellow watchmen is no watchman at all.

The gravest threat to these walls is not the activist who wrote the amendment. He is doing exactly what he believes is right. The graver threat is the shepherd who sees the sword, knows the truth, and keeps the trumpet in the closet because the subject is uncomfortable and the congregation is nervous.

God has a name for that shepherd, and it is not a gentle one. *"His watchmen are blind… they are dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber"* (Isaiah 56:10, KJV). A dog that will not bark when the thief is already at the gate is not kind. He is useless to the house he was set to guard. And Paul adds that even when the trumpet does sound, it must sound clearly: *"if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?"* (1 Corinthians 14:8, KJV). A muffled, hedged, half-apologetic word from the pulpit will muster no one.

Pastor, your people will not move on what you will not name.

Let Me Be Fair

I owe the other side an honest hearing, and so do you. The Virginians championing these amendments will tell you they are securing love, dignity, and equal protection for their neighbors — and many of them believe it with their whole hearts. That sincerity is real, and we cheapen ourselves if we pretend otherwise.

But sincerity was never the question. The question is whether a wall God built into the created order can be voted out of a Bill of Rights by a sincere majority — and whether the church will say so before the vote, or only mourn afterward. We answer the people in love. We do not surrender the wall to do it.

Nineveh Is the Reason to Blow It

If you have already decided the warning is hopeless, remember the most reluctant preacher in all of Scripture. Jonah walked into Nineveh with eight words of doom and not a syllable of gospel in them — and the city repented, and God relented from the judgment He had announced. The trumpet *worked.*

That is the entire reason to sound it. If no warning ever turned anything, the watchman would be a fool shouting at a wall. But Nineveh stands as proof that a warned people can still turn, and that

a just God still answers those who turn. November is not yet decided. That is exactly why silence now is not an option — and why despair is simply disobedience wearing a humble face.

What I Am Asking You to Do

I am not telling you how the trumpet must sound. The manner is yours to discern before God, and faithful shepherds will sound it differently. I am telling you that it must sound. Scripture commands the watchman to warn; it leaves the wording to the watchman. What it never grants him is the option of silence.

Do not make this one Sunday. Make it a season. Name it from your pulpit in July — and then keep naming it. In August, in September, in October, until the last ballot is cast. Preach it once, yes; but also put it in the bulletin, in the announcements, in the email blast, in the small groups, on the church app. The other side did not win the culture with a single message politely delivered once. They won it by repetition, through every channel they had, until it became the air people breathed. Repetition from the pulpit is not nagging — it is the stewardship of an alarm.

See that your people are registered, and see that they show up. Tell them plainly that a Christian's vote on these two walls is an act of stewardship, not partisanship. If the word *politics* is the very thing that makes them flinch, point them first to our Editorial Board's companion piece, ***The Word the Enemy Stole***, which clears that ground and shows why the Bible is the most political book on the planet. And if you will not keep silent, add your name to this letter and blow it from your own pulpit — so that it is no longer one watchman calling, but a wall of them.

This call goes to the pastors first, because the trumpet is yours to sound. But it goes just as surely to every believer who will stand: add your name, place this in your shepherd's hands, and ask him the one question that matters — *will you blow the trumpet, or keep it in the closet?*

The Line Still Hangs

I am not predicting defeat, and I refuse to. The God who set the plumb line in Amos's hand has not moved it, and He has never once lost a battle in the history of the world. Our task is smaller than victory and larger than comfort: to be found faithful — to have blown the trumpet while the sword was still on the horizon and the city could still turn.

No argument on this page will change a single heart, and no warning ever saved a soul — only the Spirit who raised Christ from the dead can do that. But the same God who knit the image-bearer in the womb, and joined the first man and woman into one flesh, can still wake a sleeping church and make a crooked Commonwealth straight. He has done it before. Blow the trumpet, and leave the rest to Him.

Read It for Yourself

- **The marriage amendment, HJ3 (Section 15-A):** lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20261/HJ3
- **The abortion amendment, HJ1 (Section 11-A):** lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20261/HJ1
- **Virginia Department of Elections — official voter explanations:** elections.virginia.gov/election-law/referenda
- **Ballotpedia** — full text, vote tallies, and arguments on both sides: **reproductive-freedom amendment** and the marriage amendment pages.
- **Companion piece (VCA Editorial Board)** — why "politics" belongs in the pulpit: ***The Word the Enemy Stole***.

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the English Standard Version (ESV). Isaiah 56:10 and 1 Corinthians 14:8 are quoted from the King James Version (KJV).

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Does the Constitution Really Say the Government Can Decide Which True Things You're Allowed to Hear?

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/DOES-THE-CONSTITUTION-REALLY-SAY-MALINFORMATION/
AUGUST 5, 2026
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: DOES THE CONSTITUTION REALLY SAY, US CONSTITUTION

Government can call a true thing dangerous, and never pass a single law.
They named the danger "malinformation" — true, but inconvenient.
The First Amendment has a word for that. So does this series.

This is Part 11 of **Does the Constitution Really Say?** *— a fourteen-part series by Jeff Bayard on the cases where the Constitution's original meaning was quietly swapped for something else. Other parts ask:*

- **A Developer Seizes Your House**
- **Your Coach Is Fired for Praying**
- **You Are Judged by Your Group**
- **Six Ways to Move a Word**
- **Read All Fourteen Parts**

You won't find this take anywhere else. Not because it's a secret. But because almost no one still does the work of going back to the actual words. This series does.

This week we turn to a newer word for an old temptation. Does the Constitution really say the government can decide which true things you're allowed to hear?

A True Post, Flagged Anyway

Mark posts something true. Not shocking. Not a rumor. Just a fact he checked twice before he hit send.

By that evening, the post is gone. Not deleted — just quieted. Fewer people see it. No warning. No explanation. When he asks why, the answer is a form letter: "flagged under our misinformation policy."

But Mark didn't post misinformation. Misinformation means being wrong. He wasn't wrong. He checked.

Here's what Mark doesn't know. His post was never accused of being false. Somewhere upstream — an email, a phone call, a dashboard he'll never see — someone had already sorted it into a newer category. Not misinformation. Not disinformation. A quieter word, built for exactly this moment: **malinformation**. It means information that is true, but that somebody in power would rather you not say.

Mark just found out the government has a name for that. He's about to find out it also built a way to act on it. No new law required.

A quick word before we go on, because it matters. This isn't a story about social media platforms changing their rules. Platforms do that all the time, and they're free to. This is a story about government reaching into that process from behind the scenes — leaning on platforms to enforce what officials want, without ever putting it into a law that Congress voted on or a citizen could challenge in court. That's the line the Constitution actually cares about.

So here's the question this series asks every time: does the Constitution really say the government can decide which true things you're allowed to hear?

What the Words Meant

The promise is in the **First Amendment**, ratified in 1791:

Congress shall make no law … abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press…

Look at who it restrains. Not the citizen. Not the newspaper. Not the platform. **Congress** — the government itself. The Founders had just fought a war against a king who punished people for saying true things he didn't like. They didn't write this to protect *nice* speech, or *popular* speech, or *correct* speech. They wrote it to keep the government out of judging speech at all.

Virginia had a hand in that. In 1776, George Mason wrote Virginia's own Declaration of Rights. It protected the press — but not speech itself. Then, in 1788, Virginia's Ratifying Convention asked for more. Virginia demanded a real guarantee of free speech, as one of about twenty changes it wanted made. A Virginian, James Madison, carried that demand into the First Amendment he wrote for the whole country. This promise isn't an abstract idea. Virginia asked for it, by name.

The Founders also knew what governments do when left unchecked. They had lived under a king who licensed the press — who decided in advance what was safe to print. The First Amendment was built to make that kind of gatekeeping impossible to rebuild. In any form. Under any name.

And they weren't being paranoid. Just seven years after the First Amendment was ratified, the same Congress that passed it also passed the Sedition Act of 1798. It made it a crime to publish anything "false, scandalous, and malicious" about the government. A Vermont congressman went to jail for calling the president unfit for office. The law claimed to punish only lies — truth was even allowed as a defense in court. It didn't matter. Whoever held power got to decide what counted as a lie. And they used that power almost entirely against people who disagreed with them. The law collapsed in disgrace within three years. Jefferson pardoned everyone convicted under it. But the lesson outlived the law: give a government the power to decide which speech is too dangerous to allow, and it will use that power on whoever disagrees with it.

That's the plain promise. The government doesn't get to grade your speech for its own comfort. Not by banning it outright. And — this is what Part 11 is really about — not by getting someone else to do the banning for it.

What the Words Now Mean: Three Stages

That promise has been bent by a new vocabulary. It didn't happen all at once. It happened in stages — each one a step further from the question "is this true?"

Stage one: misinformation. False information, spread by mistake. An honest error. Everyone agrees this should be corrected somehow.

Stage two: disinformation. False information, spread on purpose, to deceive people. Still about lies — just lies with intent behind them.

Stage three: malinformation. Here the ladder breaks. This category isn't about lies at all. It means information that is *true* — checked, verified, accurate — but that officials decide is harmful

anyway, because of when it's said, or who might use it. Read that again. The government didn't need you to be wrong. It only needed to decide you were inconvenient.

That's not a theory. It's a real category. Government agencies — including the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, or CISA — have used this exact term in their own published materials. And once "true but unhelpful" becomes an official category, only one question is left: who decides what's unhelpful? History gives the same answer every time. Whoever is currently in charge.

During COVID and the 2020 election, federal officials talked with social media platforms often — about posts, about policies, about what should be flagged. Alternative treatments got swept into this in a big way. Certain low-cost options got labeled "misinformation" during that time — not because they were proven, but because raising them at all was treated as the problem. Whether those treatments worked is a medical question. Whether Americans were allowed to even talk about it in public is a constitutional one. That's the question this piece is actually asking.

What Happened Next: Two Tracks, Not One

Twice, in the same year, the Supreme Court looked at government pressure on speech. The two cases didn't end the same way. And the gap between them is where this kind of pressure survives.

The clean win: *NRA v. Vullo* (2024). A New York regulator named Maria Vullo pressured insurance companies and banks she oversaw to cut ties with the National Rifle Association. Not because the NRA broke any law — because the state disliked its message. The Supreme Court ruled **9–0**. Every justice agreed: this broke the First Amendment. The Court drew a clear line. Government officials *can* try to persuade you — argue, criticize, speak up. They have that right too. What they *cannot* do is *coerce* — use the power of their office to threaten consequences if you don't comply. Vullo crossed that line, and every justice said so.

The case that never got answered: *Murthy v. Missouri* (2024). This case aimed at something bigger — a wide, sustained effort by federal officials to pressure platforms over COVID and election posts. But the Supreme Court never actually ruled on whether that pressure broke the First Amendment. In a 6–3 decision, the Court said the people suing couldn't prove their *own* posts were taken down *because of* one specific official's pressure, instead of the platform's own choice. The case was thrown out on that technical ground — called "standing" — before the real question was ever answered.

You can see this same gap play out away from social media entirely. In 2021, the Federation of State Medical Boards warned physicians that spreading COVID-19 "misinformation or disinformation" — including about vaccines — risked disciplinary action, up to losing their license. State boards took that warning seriously. In Washington state, four doctors are now suing their

own medical commission, asking a court to strike down its power to discipline them over unapproved treatments or "misinformation," arguing the policy violates their constitutional right to free speech. That case is still working through the courts as this is written. No single official ordered any of it. One federation issued guidance. Boards opened cases. Doctors are now fighting back in court, arguing the same First Amendment question this whole piece is asking. That fight didn't need a new law either — and neither will its answer.

Put the two Supreme Court cases together, and the pattern is clear. When pressure comes from one official, aimed at one target, in a way a court can trace step by step — like Vullo — the First Amendment wins. Every time. When that same kind of pressure spreads across many agencies and institutions, aimed broadly instead of at one person — like Murthy, like the doctors — it becomes almost impossible to prove in court. The Supreme Court never approved this kind of pressure campaign. It survives simply because it's too spread out to put on trial.

The Strongest Argument the Other Way

The other side of this isn't wicked, and it isn't stupid. It deserves to be heard at its strongest.

Government isn't meant to stay silent. Public health officials have a real duty to correct dangerous lies during a pandemic. Election officials have a real duty to protect the vote. And government officials have their own free speech rights too — the Constitution stops Congress from passing laws that restrict speech, but it has never required government to stay quiet when it disagrees with something. If every instance of government "urging" counted as a violation, that would silence government itself — and take away rights the same Amendment protects for everyone, officials included.

That's a serious argument. Here's the serious answer.

Vullo already drew the line the Constitution actually requires. Persuading is protected. Coercing is not. The real test isn't whether an official spoke up. It's whether that speech came with a threat attached — a regulation, a lost contract, a legal risk, a license, a hospital job, a company's fear of losing favor with regulators. When "urging" starts to carry that kind of weight, from someone with the power to follow through, it has crossed from speech into force. And the government doesn't get to escape that just because the pressure came from ten agencies instead of one, or was aimed at a whole category of people instead of one name. If it's wrong coming from one regulator, it's still wrong coming from ten.

If government truly believes it needs a bigger, more formal role here, there's an honest way to ask for it. Part 10 named it: Article V, the amendment process. That road is hard on purpose. A power this big should never rest on quiet phone calls and warning letters that no one voted for and no

court can easily trace. When a power can't clear that bar in the open, building it quietly instead isn't a shortcut. It's an admission that the country never agreed to it.

Did God Really Say?

The oldest trick in Scripture was never a flat lie. In the garden, the serpent didn't start by calling God a liar. He asked a question, then twisted a true word: *"Has God indeed said…?"*

Malinformation is that same move, made official. The serpent didn't need Eve to believe something false. He needed her to distrust something true. Malinformation works the same way. It doesn't ask, *"is this false?"* It asks, *"should this be said?"* — and hands that decision to whoever holds the power. Not to the person listening.

Scripture takes a hard, clear stand on this. Truth isn't something a government gets to manage on the public's behalf. **Proverbs 11:1** (NKJV) says, *"Dishonest scales are an abomination to the LORD, but a just weight is His delight."* A dishonest scale doesn't have to tell an outright lie. It just has to tip things unevenly, while looking fair. A government that quietly hides true information because it's inconvenient is running that same kind of scale. Scripture calls it an abomination — no matter who's holding it, or why.

The prophet Daniel gives us the harder example. He refused a king's order — not because the order was false, but because obeying it meant abandoning what he knew was true and right, whatever it cost him (**Daniel 6**). Scripture honors that pattern again and again: a person who won't let a true thing go unsaid, just because someone more powerful would rather it stayed quiet.

What the Citizen Does

Start by knowing the words for yourself. **Hillsdale College** offers its **Constitution 101** course free and online. Hillsdale takes no state or federal money — not even student aid — which keeps its teaching free of political pressure. Dozens of courses, no cost, go at your own pace. Start there.

And remember Virginia's part in this one — a proud one, this time. It was Virginia's 1788 Ratifying Convention that first demanded a guarantee of free speech. It was a Virginian, James Madison, who carried that demand into the First Amendment itself. Virginia didn't just receive this promise. Virginia asked for it first, by name. That's something every Virginian inherits — not just pride in the fight, but a job: notice when the same old trick shows up wearing a new word.

So when any agency, any framework, any headline asks you to believe that "true" and "safe to say" are two different things — ask the question this series is named for. **Does the Constitution really say that?** A true thing doesn't become dangerous just because a government official finds it

inconvenient. And a right that can be quietly managed instead of openly challenged was never really a right. It was a permission slip.

Next time in **Does the Constitution Really Say?**… *Part 12 takes up a single word. Congress wrote "sex" into Title IX in 1972 and never defined it. Fifty years later an agency decided it meant something else — and this summer, all nine justices disagreed.* ***Read Part 12 here.***

Related Reading from the Virginia Christian Alliance

» **Does the Constitution Really Say the Government Can Redefine "Sex"? (Part 12)**

» **Does the Constitution Really Say the Government Can Treat You by Your Group? (Part 10)**

» **The Laws of Nature and of Nature's God: An Introduction to the Constitution**

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Does the Constitution Really Say the Government Can Treat You by Your Group?

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/DOES-THE-CONSTITUTION-REALLY-SAY-EQUAL-PROTECTION/
AUGUST 4, 2026
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: DOES THE CONSTITUTION REALLY SAY, US CONSTITUTION

The Fourteenth Amendment promised equal protection in 1868.
For a century, "equal" was bent to mean "separate," then "sorted."
In 2023, the Supreme Court returned to the plain word.

This is Part 10 of **Does the Constitution Really Say?** *— a fourteen-part series by Jeff Bayard on the cases where the Constitution's original meaning was quietly swapped for something else. Other parts ask:*

- **A Developer Seizes Your House**
- **Your Coach Is Fired for Praying**
- **Your True Words Are Called Dangerous**
- **Six Ways to Move a Word**
- **Read All Fourteen Parts**

This week we turn to the promise at the heart of Reconstruction — and ask, plainly: does the Constitution really say the government can treat you by your group?

Same Work, a Different Yardstick

Picture a high-school senior filling out a college application. She has good grades. She wrote her essay three times to get it right. She did the volunteer hours, the late nights, the hard classes.

Then she learns that two students with the very same file can be weighed differently — not for anything they did, but for a box they checked. One is helped by it. One is hurt by it. Neither earned the difference. It was assigned to them before they were born.

She is not asking for a favor. She is asking a fair question: is she being judged as a person, or as a category? And when she goes looking for the answer, she finds a promise in the Constitution written for exactly this moment — and a long story of how that promise got bent.

So this is the question worth asking, plainly. **Does the Constitution really say the government can treat you by your group?** And if the words still mean what they meant in 1868, there is only one honest way to change them — a way almost no one is willing to take. Hold that thought. We will come back to it.

What the Words Meant

The promise is in the **Fourteenth Amendment**, ratified in 1868, right after the Civil War. Its words are plain:

No State shall … deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Look at who it protects: "any person." Not a race, not a class — a person. The Amendment was written to lift the freed slave to full and equal standing before the law, and to bury the Black Codes that had treated him as a lesser kind of citizen. Its whole point was that the law must stop sorting people by color and start treating each one the same.

The men who wrote it said so out loud. When the Supreme Court looked back at the record in 2023, it found that the supporters of the Equal Protection Clause described its foundational principle as "not permitting any distinctions of law based on race or color." That was the original promise: one rule, applied to every person, regardless of the group he was born into.

Equal protection meant equal treatment. A person was to be seen as a person.

What the Words Now Mean

That promise has been bent twice.

The first bend came fast. In **Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)**, the Court decided that a state could force black citizens into separate railroad cars and still claim it was giving them "equal protection." The magic phrase was "separate but equal." On paper, equal. In life, a badge of inferiority. Only one justice saw it clearly. In a lone dissent, Justice John Marshall Harlan wrote the line the country would take another sixty years to accept: "Our Constitution is color-blind, and neither knows nor tolerates classes among citizens."

The second bend is the one we live in now, and it runs the other direction. Over the last decade especially, "equal" has quietly been redefined again — this time from equal *treatment* to equal *outcomes*. The new idea, often called "equity," holds that because groups end up with different results, government and its institutions should sort people by group on the front end to even the results on the back end. A federal order in 2021 built this directly into the machinery of government, directing agencies to steer benefits by group identity. (That particular order was rescinded in 2025, but the idea long outlived the paperwork.)

Notice the move. The first bend used the word "equal" to justify keeping the races apart. The second uses it to justify sorting them on purpose. Both leave the plain promise — that the law sees a person, not a category — lying on the ground.

What Happened Next: The Word Returns

Twice now, the Court has come back to the word.

The first return is famous. In **Brown v. Board of Education (1954)**, the Court buried "separate but equal," ruling that separating schoolchildren by race is not and cannot be equal. Harlan's lone dissent had finally become the law.

The second return is recent. In **Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard (2023)**, the Court looked at colleges that scored applicants partly by race — a system that, the plaintiffs showed, quietly counted against Asian American students who had done everything asked of them. The Court held that sorting applicants by race violates the Equal Protection Clause. Writing for the Court, Chief Justice Roberts put the principle simply: "Eliminating racial discrimination means eliminating all of it." A student, he wrote, "must be treated based on his or her experiences as an individual—not on the basis of race."

That is the original promise, restored: the law must see the person.

The Strongest Argument the Other Way

The other side of this is not wicked, and it is not stupid. It deserves to be stated at its strongest.

The disparities are real. Generations of open, legal discrimination — slavery, then segregation, then a hundred smaller injustices — left real gaps in wealth, schooling, and opportunity that did not vanish when the laws changed. A purely "color-blind" rule, applied the day after a century of color-coded oppression, can freeze that head start and that hardship in place and call it fair. And here is the part honest people must reckon with: the same Reconstruction Congress that wrote the Fourteenth Amendment also passed race-conscious measures, like the Freedmen's Bureau, to help the newly freed. So the founders of equal protection did not think every mention of race was forbidden.

That is a serious argument. Here is the serious answer.

There is a difference between *repairing a specific, proven wrong* and *sorting everyone by group forever*. The law has always allowed targeted remedies for identifiable discrimination — help the person who was actually harmed. What it was never meant to allow is a permanent system that treats today's individual as a stand-in for his group. But suppose you are convinced the promise itself should change — that "equal" ought to mean managed outcomes, not equal treatment. There is an honest way to do that, and the Founders built it into the document: Article V, the amendment process. It is how equal protection got into the Constitution in the first place, and it is how it could be changed again.

That road is steep on purpose. An amendment takes two-thirds of both houses of Congress and the agreement of three-quarters of the states. It is meant to be hard. A fundamental right — the promise that the law will see you as a person — should never turn on a bare majority, a single election, or one president's pen. The steep climb is not a flaw in the system. It is the system protecting every right you have, including the ones you would fight hardest to keep.

And that is the quiet heart of the matter. The reason a change this deep does not go through Article V is usually that it cannot — it has not won the broad, lasting agreement the Constitution demands. But when a change cannot clear that bar, the honest conclusion is not "so we will find another way." It is "the country has not agreed to this." Redefining the word from a bench or an agency is simply what people reach for when they cannot win the argument in the open. And a right that can be redefined without the people's consent is no longer a right. It is a permission slip.

Did God Really Say?

The oldest trick in Scripture was never a flat denial. In the garden, the serpent did not begin by calling God a liar. He asked a question, then twisted the answer. *"Has God indeed said…?"* — and a plain word became something to argue away.

Did "equal" really mean the same for every person? — and slowly "equal" came to mean weighed by the group.

Scripture is not neutral here. It commands impartiality, over and over, as a mark of God's own character. Peter, learning that the gospel is for every nation, says plainly in **Acts 10:34** (NKJV): *"God shows no partiality."* James is blunter still, warning the church in **James 2** not to honor the rich man and shame the poor one: to judge people by their outward standing, he says, is to become "judges with evil thoughts." Every person is made in the image of God, and stands before Him not as a category but as a soul.

And Scripture is not blind to real injustice — its concern for the poor, the widow, the stranger, and the oppressed runs from Moses to the prophets to Christ Himself. But notice the shape of the biblical remedy: it is impartial justice, not partiality turned around. "You shall do no injustice in judgment," God tells Israel in **Leviticus 19:15**; "you shall not be partial to the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty." Both directions are forbidden. The fence Scripture builds is the same one the Constitution promised: judge each person justly, and do not weigh him by the group he was born into.

What the Citizen Does

Start by knowing the words for yourself. **Hillsdale College** offers its **Constitution 101** course free and online. Hillsdale takes no state or federal money — not even student aid — which keeps its teaching free of political pressure. Dozens of courses, no cost, go at your own pace. Start there.

Then a word to my fellow Virginians, and this time it is not a proud one. On this promise, Virginia was not the model. Virginia was the warning. When the Court ordered schools desegregated, Virginia led the campaign of "Massive Resistance," closing public schools rather than integrate them. And it was Virginia's own law against interracial marriage that the Supreme Court struck down in **Loving v. Virginia (1967)**, holding that sorting people's most basic freedoms by race "violates the central meaning of the Equal Protection Clause." Virginia had to be corrected — and it was. That is exactly why the principle matters more than any state's pride: equal protection is a promise no government, ours included, can be trusted to keep on its own.

So when any new policy asks you to accept that a person should be weighed by his group — for a good reason or a bad one — ask the question this series is named for. **Does the Constitution**

really say that? The color of a child is not his character, and the law that forgets it has forgotten its own first promise.

Next time, we turn to a newer word for an old temptation: "malinformation" — true things the government would rather you not say — and the quiet machinery built to manage what you are allowed to hear. **Part 11** asks whether the First Amendment really lets the government decide which truths are safe.

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» **Does the Constitution Really Say Only the Militia Can Keep and Bear Arms? (Part 9)**

» **Does the Constitution Really Say the Government Can Watch You Without a Warrant? (Part 8 — Katz v. United States)**

» **The Laws of Nature and of Nature's God: An Introduction to the Constitution**

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Does the Constitution Really Say Only the Militia Can Keep and Bear Arms?

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/DOES-THE-CONSTITUTION-REALLY-SAY-MILITIA-KEEP-AND-BEAR-ARMS/
JULY 17, 2026
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: DOES THE CONSTITUTION REALLY SAY, US CONSTITUTION

The Second Amendment was ratified in 1791.
For most of the last century, courts read the individual right out of it.
In 2008, the Supreme Court read the words again.

By Jeff Bayard | Does the Constitution Really Say? — Part 9

This is the ninth part of Does the Constitution Really Say?, a Virginia Christian Alliance series on the Supreme Court cases where the original meaning of the Constitution was quietly swapped for something else. Earlier parts looked at a family's home seized for a developer, a farmer punished for his own wheat, a butcher shut out of his trade, a soldier stripped of his citizenship, the "wall" between church and state, a coach forbidden to kneel and pray, speech banned for being "offensive", and a government that watches without a warrant.

This week we turn to the amendment that puts arms in the citizen's own hands — and ask, plainly: does the Constitution really say only the militia can keep and bear arms?

Your Rifle Didn't Change. The Definition Did.

You bought the rifle years ago. You passed the background check. It stays locked, and you have never so much as pointed it at another person.

Then one morning you read that a bill in Richmond has given it a new name: "assault firearm." You did not change. The rifle did not change. A definition changed — and overnight, a lawful thing became a suspect thing.

So you go looking for the words that are supposed to protect you. You find a single sentence, written in 1791, that people have argued about ever since. It has two halves, and the whole fight comes down to one question: does the first half cancel the second?

So this is the question worth asking, plainly. **Does the Constitution really say only the militia can keep and bear arms?**

What the Words Meant

Here is the whole sentence. Read it slowly:

> A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Two halves. The first names a reason — a well regulated militia. The second names a right — the people's right to keep and bear arms. The entire debate is about how those halves fit together. Does the first one *limit* the second, so that only militia members are covered? Or does it simply *explain* the second, while the right itself belongs to the people?

Read the way the founders wrote it, the answer is plain, and two words settle it.

The first word is "**the people**." That is the same phrase the Bill of Rights uses in the First Amendment and the Fourth — and everywhere else, it means individuals, not a government body. The people who may speak, and who are secure in their homes, are the same people who may keep and bear arms.

The second word is "**militia**." To the founders, the militia was not a separate class of soldiers. It *was* the people — the whole body of armed citizens. One writer of the day, the "Federal Farmer," put it simply: **a militia, when properly formed, "are in fact the people themselves."** James Madison, in **Federalist No. 46**, pictured "half a million of citizens with arms in their hands." That is not a select unit. That is the country.

And "**well regulated**" did not mean "heavily restricted." It meant *organized and trained*. The Constitution itself uses the word that way, giving Congress the power **to provide for "organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia."** A well regulated militia was one in good working order — not one hemmed in by gun laws.

Picture the man the founders had in mind. When the call came, he did not draw a weapon from a government armory. He took his own musket down from over his own door and walked to the muster. He *was* the militia because he was already armed. Take away his right to keep the musket, and there is no militia to regulate.

Virginia wrote this understanding down before the nation did. In 1776, **George Mason's Virginia Declaration of Rights**, Section 13, called "a well regulated militia, composed of the body of the people, trained to arms," the "safe defense of a free state." Then, in 1788, Virginia's convention refused to accept the new Constitution without a plainer guarantee. It **demanded an amendment** that put the right first, in so many words: "That the people have a right to keep and bear arms." That demand sat on the very same list that carried Virginia's demand for free speech (**Part 7**) and freedom from unreasonable searches (**Part 8**). Then Madison, a Virginian, carried it to Congress and wrote the Second Amendment.

One more thing the founders were clear about, and it matters. The armed citizen was never a private army. Mason's own words finish the thought: the military must be "under strict subordination to, and governed by, the civil power." The people were armed — but under law, answerable to lawful authority, not free to muster their own force against it. Hold on to that. We will come back to it.

What the Words Now Mean

For most of the last century, the courts read the sentence backward.

Instead of treating the militia clause as the *reason* for the right, they treated it as a *limit* on the right. The theory went like this: the Second Amendment only protects a state's organized militia, so an ordinary person has no individual right at all. The first half of the sentence was used to swallow the second half whole. "The people" quietly became "the state's troops."

Where did that reading come from? Mostly from a misused case. In **United States v. Miller (1939)**, the Supreme Court considered a man charged with carrying a sawed-off shotgun. The Court's actual holding was narrow: there was no evidence that *that particular weapon* had any reasonable relationship to a well regulated militia, so its possession was not protected. That is all the case decided. But over the following decades, lower courts stretched those few sentences into a sweeping rule — that the Amendment protected only militia service, and no individual at all.

So for most of living memory, half of the sentence sat silent. The right of "the people" was treated as if it were not there.

What Happened Next: The Words Won

Then, for once in this series, the Court came back to the words.

In **District of Columbia v. Heller (2008)**, the Supreme Court held that the Second Amendment protects an individual right to keep and bear arms — unconnected to militia service — for lawful purposes such as defending your own home. Writing for the Court, Justice Scalia went straight at the two-halves question and answered it in one line: the opening militia clause "does not limit or expand the scope of the operative clause." It announces a purpose. It does not shrink the right.

That is the whole ballgame, stated plainly by the highest court in the land: the reason for a right is not a limit on it. You do not lose the freedom because one stated purpose for it does not apply to you.

Two more decisions followed. In **McDonald v. City of Chicago (2010)**, the Court held that this right applies against the states, not just the federal government. In **New York State Rifle & Pistol Assn. v. Bruen (2022)**, the Court held that the right extends outside the home, and that gun laws must square with the nation's text, history, and tradition — the same original-meaning test this whole series is built on.

And here is the part that answers the fear on the other side. Restoring the individual right did not turn every man into an army. In the same breath, Heller pointed back to an older case, **Presser v. Illinois (1886)**, which upheld a state's power to forbid private groups from organizing, drilling, and parading as military units without the government's authority. That rule still stands. So the law today lands exactly where the founders did: an individual right to keep and bear arms for lawful defense — and no right to raise a private army.

The Strongest Argument the Other Way

The other reading is not foolish, and it deserves a fair hearing.

The sentence really does open with the militia. And much of the founders' own debate about arms was about the militia as an institution — who would organize it, who would arm it, and how power over it would be split between the states and the new federal government. A careful reader can look at that history and honestly conclude the Amendment was mostly about military structure, not personal defense. That is a serious argument, not a silly one.

There is also a real public-safety concern underneath it. An individual right makes some gun regulation harder, and reasonable people worry about the cost of that in a nation with more guns than people.

But notice what the honest version of that argument requires. If Americans want the right to mean less than it says, the Constitution gives them a lawful way to say so: Article V, the amendment process — debated and ratified by the people. That is the legitimate path. The illegitimate path is to leave the words on the page and quietly read the individual out of them, which is exactly what happened for most of the last century.

And the individual right was never a blank check. Heller itself said so. The right does not cover every weapon or every place; longstanding limits — keeping guns from felons, barring them from sensitive places, forbidding private armies — remain intact. You can regulate arms within the right. What you may not do is redefine "the people" until the right disappears.

Did God Really Say?

The oldest trick in Scripture was never a flat denial. In the garden, the serpent did not begin by calling God a liar. He asked a question, then twisted the answer. *"Has God indeed said…?"* — and a plain word became something to argue away.

The collective-right theory did the same thing to four plain words. *Did the people really have a right?* — and "the people" slowly came to mean the state.

Scripture does not treat self-defense as sin. On the night before He died, in a world full of real danger, Jesus told His disciples in **Luke 22:36** (NKJV): *"He who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one."* The commentator Albert Barnes, reading that verse carefully, drew **two lessons** from it. First, that self-defense is lawful — a person surrounded by danger may lawfully defend his own life. Second, that this "does not prove that it is lawful to make offensive war" on anyone. Defense, yes. Aggression, no.

Look at where that line falls. It is the same line the founders drew, and the same line the law draws today: an individual may arm himself to protect his life and his household, but no one may take up arms to attack or to raise a private force. Scripture and the Constitution meet at the same

fence. The right to defend what God has given you — your life, your family, your home — is honored. The appetite to make war on others is not.

What the Citizen Does

Start by knowing the words for yourself. **Hillsdale College** offers its **Constitution 101** course free and online. Hillsdale takes no state or federal money — not even student aid — which keeps its teaching free of political pressure. Dozens of courses, no cost, go at your own pace. Start there.

Virginians have a second place to look, and it is close to home. **Article I, Section 13 of the Virginia Constitution** still carries Mason's 1776 words about a militia "composed of the body of the people." The right the Second Amendment secured was thought through and written down on Virginia soil.

Then watch how the right gets narrowed today — not by open repeal, but by redefinition. When a lawmaker cannot ban a rifle you already own, he can try to *rename* it — "assault firearm" — until the label does the work the ban could not. Virginia has **criminal statutes** that already govern the genuine danger of private paramilitary activity. The question worth asking about any new gun law is not whether it feels safe, but whether it changes the meaning of a right the people were promised. Ask the question this series is named for. **Does the Constitution really say that?**

Next time, we take up the promise that the law will treat every person the same. The Fourteenth Amendment guarantees "the equal protection of the laws" — but in our day, "equal" is being quietly redefined, from treating people alike to sorting them by group. **Part 10** asks what equal protection was written to mean, and who decided it could mean the opposite.

Related Reading from the Virginia Christian Alliance

» Does the Constitution Really Say the Government Can Watch You Without a Warrant? (Part 8 — Katz v. United States)

» Does the Constitution Really Say the Government Can Ban Speech It Calls Offensive? (Part 7 — Matal v. Tam)

» The Laws of Nature and of Nature's God: An Introduction to the Constitution

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Does the Constitution Really Say the Government Can Watch You Without a Warrant?

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/DOES-THE-CONSTITUTION-REALLY-SAY-WATCH-WITHOUT-WARRANT/
JUNE 30, 2026
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: DOES THE CONSTITUTION REALLY SAY, US CONSTITUTION

The Fourth Amendment was ratified in 1791.
Its plain words were traded for a feeling in 1967.
Now the watching runs quietly in your pocket.

This is Part 8 of **Does the Constitution Really Say?** *— a fourteen-part series by Jeff Bayard on the cases where the Constitution's original meaning was quietly swapped for something else. Other parts ask:*

- A Developer Seizes Your House
- Your Coach Is Fired for Praying
- Your True Words Are Called Dangerous
- Six Ways to Move a Word
- Read All Fourteen Parts

This week, as the nation marks Independence Day, we turn to the amendment the Revolution was largely fought to win — and ask, plainly: does the Constitution really say the government can watch you without a warrant?

Your Typical Day — Who Else Knows About It?

Rockwell - Somebody's Watching Me (Official Music Video)
https://youtube.com/watch?v=7YvAYIJSSZY

In 1984, Rockwell made a hit out of a hunch: a regular man, nine to five, bolting his door at night, half-sure he was just paranoid for feeling watched. More than forty years later, the hunch has a paper trail — and it no longer needs you to feel anything at all.

You wake up and the phone on the nightstand already knows. Sometime before dawn it pinged a tower three blocks away, then another, and your carrier wrote it all down — a quiet diary of your night you never opened and never signed.

You drive to work. The camera bolted to the overpass reads your plate, stamps the time, and drops the record into a database that will keep it for years. You stop for gas; the pump remembers the card. At a red light, a van two cars back is running a device that tells your phone it's a cell tower — and your phone, trusting and obedient, answers.

You get home. The doorbell filmed the porch all day. The speaker on the counter has been listening for its name, which means it has been listening. Your bank has a record of every dollar that moved. Your provider keeps a copy of every message you sent, sitting on a server you have never seen.

None of it required a warrant. None of it required a judge. Not because the Fourth Amendment ran out of words — it says exactly what it always said — but because the Supreme Court, in 1967, traded those words for a feeling.

The Founders would have called every one of these a search. The Fourth Amendment says they are searches. But the Court decided your protection turns on what you "reasonably expect" — and once you have "shared" your life with your carrier, your bank, and your doorbell, the argument goes, you cannot expect much.

So this is the question worth asking, plainly. **Does the Constitution really say the government can watch you without a warrant?**

What the Words Meant

The **Fourth Amendment** is short, and it names things you can see and touch: your persons, houses, papers, and effects. The government may not search them unreasonably, and it may not search them at all without a warrant that says what it is looking for.

Those words came from hard experience. Before the Revolution, the King's officers carried a kind of warrant called a writ of assistance. It had no limits — no place named, no person named, and no expiration. An officer who held one could search any house or shop he pleased, whenever he pleased.

In 1761, a Boston lawyer named James Otis argued against those warrants in court. He lost the case. But a young man named John Adams sat watching, and **more than fifty years later he traced the whole Revolution back to that room**: "Then and there the Child Independence was born."

Read that again. The country was born, in part, out of a fight against a government that could search whatever it wanted.

Virginia wrote the answer first. In 1776, the **Virginia Declaration of Rights** condemned these open-ended warrants as "grievous and oppressive." In 1788, Virginia **demanded the same protection** from the new federal government — on the same list that carried its demand for free speech in **Part 7**. Then Madison, a Virginian, introduced it in the Bill of Rights, and it became the Fourth Amendment.

So the meaning was never a mystery. The Amendment names what it guards — your person, your house, your papers, your effects — and tells the government it cannot reach them without a specific warrant. A search was a search, and everyone knew what one was.

What the Words Now Mean

In 1967, those plain words ran into a microphone.

Charles Katz used a public phone booth in Los Angeles to place **illegal bets across state lines**. The FBI taped a small microphone to the outside of the booth and recorded his calls. The agents never opened the door and never stepped inside — and they never got a warrant.

Back then, the rule was simple: if the police did not physically break in, it was not a search. By that rule, what the FBI did looked legal.

The Supreme Court disagreed, 7 to 1. Recording a man's private call is a search, the Court held, even when no one crosses the threshold. On that point the Court was right, and Justice Stewart gave the case its famous line: the Fourth Amendment "protects people, not places."

That was the ruling, and it was sound. The trouble came in a separate opinion by Justice Harlan.

Harlan offered a test for when the Amendment protects you. Protection depends, he wrote, on whether you have an **"expectation of privacy" that "society is prepared to recognize as 'reasonable.'"** In fact, that single sentence — not the text of the Amendment — became the rule courts have used ever since.

Stop and see what just happened. The Amendment names solid things: persons, houses, papers, effects. Harlan replaced them with a feeling — your expectation — and left it to the Court to decide how much privacy you are allowed to expect. The words stayed on the page. The meaning walked off it.

We have seen this move before. In **Part 4**, "cruel and unusual" became "evolving standards of decency" — a fixed rule swapped for one the Court can bend whenever it likes. Trop did it to the Eighth Amendment in 1958. Katz did it to the Fourth in 1967.

What Happened Next: The Third-Party Doctrine

Here is where it reaches into your pocket.

Once your protection depends on what you "expect," the Court can shrink it simply by deciding you should expect less. That is exactly what happened next, through a rule most Americans have never heard of — even though it touches almost everything they do.

It is called the third-party doctrine, and it says this:

Anything you share with someone else, the government can take — without a warrant. Watch how fast that spreads. For example, in 1976, the Court ruled that your **bank records** are not protected, because you shared them with the bank. In 1979, it ruled the same about the **phone numbers you dial**, because you shared them with the phone company.

Now carry that rule into an ordinary day. Your location is shared with your carrier. Messages you send sit on a company's server. Your purchases, your searches, and your movements all pass through machines you do not own. As a result, almost none of it is fully yours to protect.

The Founders kept their papers in a drawer at home. Yours, however, live on a hard drive somewhere else, and the doctrine says that drawer is fair game.

The Court has closed exactly one corner of this. In 2018, it ruled that police usually need a warrant to pull **months of your phone's location history**. That was a real limit — but it was a single patched window in a house with the doors wide open.

Still, the rest runs on the same logic: warrantless data programs that sweep up phone and email records by the millions, warrants that grab every device near a street corner, license-plate cameras, face scanners, and data brokers the government can simply buy from. This is not a conspiracy theory; it is public law and public contracting. Most of it is legal because Katz turned your privacy into a question of what you "expect" — and we have been trained to expect almost nothing.

The Strongest Argument the Other Way

Justice Harlan was trying to solve a real problem, and an honest one.

By 1967, the technology had outrun the words. The FBI recorded Katz without entering the booth, without touching it, and without taking any paper or object. Read in the narrowest way, "persons, houses, papers, and effects" did not clearly cover a voice caught through glass. A government set on listening could have stood on those literal words and bugged every wall in America.

Harlan's test was an attempt to stop that. He wanted the Amendment to keep up with new tools the founders could never have pictured — to protect more, not less. And for a while it did. Katz protected a phone call. A later case protected the heat signature of a home from a scanner. The instinct was to guard what the founders meant to guard, even as the means of invading it changed.

The instinct was right. But the method was the problem.

If Americans wanted the Fourth Amendment to cover new technology, the Constitution already gave them a way to say so: Article V, the amendment process, debated and ratified by the people. Failing that, Congress could pass a law in the open — and eventually it did, with the Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986, nearly twenty years too late and only after the judge-made test had already set the terms.

What the country got instead was a phrase that means whatever five justices decide you should expect. A standard like that can grow, but it can also shrink. Progress through amendment is self-government. Progress through judicial redefinition is rule by five. A right that rests on a feeling is a right that can be argued away — and, piece by piece, it has been.

Did God Really Say?

The oldest trick in Scripture was never a flat denial. In the garden, the serpent does not start by calling God a liar. He questions what God said. Then he twists it. *"Has God indeed said…?"* — and a fixed word becomes something to reinterpret.

The Court did not erase the Fourth Amendment. It asked, softly, whether you could really expect privacy in a world of shared wires — and then it answered for you.

Scripture speaks straight into a world of watchers. In **Luke 12:2–3** (NKJV), Jesus says:

> *"For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known. Therefore whatever you have spoken in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have spoken in the ear in inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops."*

This cuts two ways at once. First, it is both comfort and warning: there is a final accounting no one escapes, and no surveillance state is needed to bring it. God already sees. The watchers in the van and the records in the database are not the last word.

But notice what Jesus takes for granted — the inner room, the whisper, the dark. Scripture honors the private place even while it tells us God can see into it. That difference is the whole point. Total knowledge of the human heart belongs to God alone: *"The LORD looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men"* (Psalm 33:13, NKJV). The Fourth Amendment is a fence built by men who had read enough Scripture, and enough history, to distrust any earthly ruler who reaches for that kind of sight. When a government claims the power to see into every inner room, it is not using an ordinary authority. It is reaching for one that was never given to it.

What the Citizen Does

Start by understanding the thing itself. **Hillsdale College** offers its **Constitution 101** course free and online. Hillsdale takes no state or federal money — not even student aid — which keeps its teaching free of political pressure. Dozens of courses, no cost, go at your own pace. Start there.

Virginians have a second place to look, and it is closer to home than most people know. Your own Bill of Rights got there first. **Article I, Section 10 of the Virginia Constitution** still carries the 1776 ban on open-ended warrants, almost word for word. Virginia wrote the protection the Fourth Amendment borrowed, on its own soil — which means Virginia readers can hold Richmond to a standard Richmond itself set.

Then carry the habit into your own life as a citizen. When a new technology lets the government see what it never could before — your location, your messages, the movements a broker sells — do not ask only whether it is convenient, or whether you have "nothing to hide." Ask the question this series is named for. **Does the Constitution really say that?** Ask it of the people you elect, too. They decide whether agencies need a warrant for your digital records, and whether they can simply buy what they are not allowed to seize. The expectation of privacy fades when citizens stop expecting it. It holds when they insist on it.

Next time, we take up the right the same 1776 Declaration named just three sections later. Having condemned open-ended warrants in Section 10, Virginia secured the armed citizen in Section 13. **Part 9** turns to the Second Amendment — and asks what its words meant before they were reinterpreted.

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» Does the Constitution Really Say a Coach Cannot Kneel and Pray? (Part 6 — Kennedy v. Bremerton)

» Does the Constitution Really Say the Government Can Ban Speech It Calls Offensive? (Part 7 — Matal v. Tam)

» The Laws of Nature and of Nature's God: An Introduction to the Constitution

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America at 250: A Republic Worth Keeping

BY VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/AMERICA-AT-250-A-REPUBLIC-WORTH-KEEPING/
JUNE 24, 2026
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION

America's 250th anniversary is more than a birthday celebration. It is a moment to pause, give thanks, remember our beginnings, and ask whether we are still willing to keep what was entrusted to us.

The United States was not founded merely as a place on a map. It was founded on an idea: that our rights come from God, that government exists to secure those rights, and that a free people must be capable of governing themselves under law. That idea has drawn generations to our shores, inspired the oppressed, restrained tyranny, and blessed millions who were born here and many more who came here by choice.

What America Means to Me - Independence Day Celebration Video for America's 250th Birthday
https://youtube.com/watch?v=9LhmzVGYYIY

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*Video courtesy of the **American Renaissance Network**, a grassroots constitutional conservative organization focused on citizen engagement, popular sovereignty, and preserving the American republic.*

As America reaches 250 years, we should not treat this milestone as a passing civic observance. It should stir gratitude. It should also stir responsibility. Freedom is not automatic. A republic does not keep itself.

Benjamin Franklin is remembered for the warning: "A republic, if you can keep it." Whether those exact words are repeated in full or in part, the truth behind them remains clear. The Founders did not hand future generations a self-sustaining machine. They gave us a constitutional republic that requires virtue, vigilance, courage, and moral restraint.

That matters because America is not simply a democracy where the loudest majority gets its way. The Constitution gives us a republican form of government, ordered by law, divided powers, checks and balances, and rights that do not come from government permission. The American system assumes that liberty must be protected from tyranny, but also from lawlessness. Freedom is precious because it is ordered freedom.

This is where faith and freedom belong together. John Adams famously warned that our Constitution was made for a moral and religious people and is inadequate for any other. His point was not that civil government can save the soul. It cannot. Only Christ can do that. But Adams understood something many today have forgotten: self-government requires self-control. A people who cannot restrain themselves morally will eventually demand that the state restrain everyone by force.

Freedom without virtue becomes license. Liberty without truth becomes confusion. Rights without responsibility become selfishness. A nation that forgets God will eventually forget why man has dignity at all.

The Declaration of Independence declares that all men are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights. That statement is not decorative language. It is the moral foundation of American liberty. If rights come from government, government can redefine them, ration them, or take them away. But if rights come from God, then government is accountable to a higher authority.

This is why America has long been a refuge for those fleeing oppression. People have come here from nations ruled by kings, dictators, communist parties, religious persecution, and systems

where the individual is crushed under the power of the state. Many who arrive on our shores understand American freedom with a clarity that native-born citizens sometimes lose. They know what it is to live without liberty. They know what it is to fear the state. They know what it means to become American not merely by paperwork, but by conviction.

That testimony should humble us. America is not perfect. No nation is. Our history includes failures, sins, contradictions, and battles over whether we would live up to our founding principles. But the answer to America's failures is not to despise her founding. The answer is to return to the truths that made correction possible in the first place: that all men are created equal, that rights come from God, that government must be limited, and that justice must be measured by a standard higher than human power.

At 250 years, the question is not only what America has meant. The question is what we will do with what we have received.

Will we teach our children that liberty is a gift and not an entitlement? Will we defend the Constitution as a living trust handed down through sacrifice? Will we remember that freedom of religion and conscience were not side issues in America's beginning, but central reasons many came to these shores? Will we pray for revival, not merely political success? Will we ask God to make us a people worthy of the blessings we have been given?

The American experiment has never depended on perfect citizens or perfect leaders. It has depended on the mercy of God, the wisdom of ordered liberty, and the willingness of each generation to defend what the previous generation handed down.

So as we mark America at 250, let us celebrate with gratitude, but not with carelessness. Let us thank God for this nation, remember the cost of liberty, honor those who sacrificed to preserve it, and teach the next generation that freedom is never more than one generation away from being forgotten.

A republic was given to us.

By God's grace, may we keep it.

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Does the Constitution Really Say the Government Can Ban Speech It Calls Offensive?

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/DOES-THE-CONSTITUTION-REALLY-SAY-BAN-OFFENSIVE-SPEECH-MATAL/
JUNE 22, 2026
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: DOES THE CONSTITUTION REALLY SAY, US CONSTITUTION

The First Amendment was ratified in 1791.
A federal law banned "disparaging" speech for seventy-one years.
In 2017, the Supreme Court remembered the Constitution.

This is Part 7 of **Does the Constitution Really Say?** *— a fourteen-part series by Jeff Bayard on the cases where the Constitution's original meaning was quietly swapped for something else. Other parts ask:*

- **A Developer Seizes Your House**
- **Your Coach Is Fired for Praying**
- **Your True Words Are Called Dangerous**
- **Six Ways to Move a Word**
- **Read All Fourteen Parts**

A Christian baker. A campus speaker shouted down for an unpopular view. A pastor warned by his lawyer that certain sermons could cost his church its tax-exempt status. A father labeled a "domestic terrorist" for raising his hand at a school board meeting. A small-town shopkeeper who took down his own sign rather than be called a name in the local paper.

Every American who has felt the pressure to say only what is currently permitted — lest he be punished by his employer, his university, his platform, or, in some cases, his government — has met the same problem from a different angle. The problem runs from social pressure to corporate enforcement to, in 2011, the United States government itself denying a band the right to register its own name.

Sometimes the Supreme Court forgets. Sometimes it remembers. In 2017, on this question, it remembered.

So this is the question worth asking, plainly. **Does the Constitution really say the government can ban speech it calls offensive?**

What the Words Meant

The First Amendment, ratified in 1791, reads in relevant part: *"Congress shall make no law… abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press."*

The text is plain. Congress *shall make no law* — not laws that pass strict scrutiny, not laws narrowly tailored to compelling interests, not laws limited to "low-value" categories of speech, but *no law* — that abridges the freedom of speech. The protection is broad on purpose. The Founders had lived under a Crown that punished printers, pamphleteers, and ministers for what they said about the king. They had read the trial of John Peter Zenger. They knew exactly what it looked like when a government decided which ideas its subjects were permitted to voice.

The Virginia story behind this clause is one many Americans do not know. When George Mason wrote the **Virginia Declaration of Rights in 1776**, Section 12 declared *"that the freedom of the press is one of the great bulwarks of liberty, and can never be restrained but by despotic governments."* That language influenced every state declaration of rights that followed. But notice what Mason's 1776 text did *not* include: free speech. The press, yes. Speech itself, no.

The omission was repaired by Virginia, not Massachusetts. When **Virginia's ratification convention met in 1788** to consider the proposed federal Constitution, the delegates refused to ratify without an explicit demand that speech be protected. They sent forward a proposed amendment declaring *"that the people have a right to freedom of speech, and of writing and publishing their sentiments; that the freedom of the press is one of the greatest bulwarks of liberty, and*

ought not to be violated." James Madison — a Virginian — carried that demand to the First Congress and drafted what became the First Amendment.

Virginia's role in protecting speech is bigger than Mason's 1776 declaration. It is the *demand* Virginia made in 1788 that put speech in the federal Bill of Rights. The **current Virginia Constitution, Article I, Section 12**, now protects both — *"Freedom of speech and of the press; right peaceably to assemble, and to petition."* The completed sentence Mason did not finish in 1776, Virginia finished in 1788. And the nation has it because Virginia insisted.

What the Words Now Mean

In 1946, Congress passed the Lanham Act — the federal trademark statute. Buried inside it was a provision called the *disparagement clause*. **Section 2(a)** prohibited the Patent and Trademark Office from registering any trademark that *"may disparage… or bring… into contempt or disrepute"* any *"persons, living or dead."* For seventy-one years, the federal government wielded that clause as a power to decide which names, slogans, and logos were too offensive to receive trademark protection.

Then it ran into Simon Tam.

Tam was the lead singer of an Asian-American rock band. The band's members were Asian. They named the band *The Slants* deliberately, choosing a slur once used against people like them, in order — as Tam put it — to *"reclaim"* the term and *"drain its denigrating force."* In 2011, Tam filed a trademark application for the band's name. The Patent and Trademark Office denied it under the disparagement clause. Tam sued.

The case made it to the Supreme Court of the United States. In June 2017 the Court ruled against the government, 8–0. Justice Samuel Alito wrote the unanimous portion of the opinion. Justice Anthony Kennedy concurred. The reasoning split four-to-four on certain doctrinal points, but on the holding the Court spoke with one voice: the disparagement clause violated the First Amendment.

Alito's central sentence is one every American should know:

> *"It offends a bedrock First Amendment principle: Speech may not be banned on the ground that it expresses ideas that offend."* — ***Matal v. Tam*, 582 U.S. 218** (2017).

Justice Kennedy, in concurrence, sharpened the principle further. A law that singles out speech because of its viewpoint, he wrote, is *"an 'egregious form of content discrimination,' which is*

'presumptively unconstitutional.'" And later: *"To prohibit all sides from criticizing their opponents makes a law more viewpoint based, not less so."*

The Court did not say slurs are harmless. It did not say words don't matter. It said the *government* may not be the judge of which ideas are offensive enough to be denied federal benefits. That is the bedrock principle. Eight justices agreed.

What Happened Next

Matal answered the government question. It did not answer the broader cultural question, and the piece must be honest about that.

The disparagement clause is gone. But the climate that allowed Congress to write it in 1946 — and the Patent Office to enforce it for seventy-one years — has not gone away. Campus speech codes still exist. Corporate harassment policies stretch the word "harassment" to cover ordinary political disagreement. Social-media platforms, which now function for many Americans as the public square, enforce content rules that no government could enforce directly without running into *Matal v. Tam*. Christians and conservatives have felt every one of these pressures, often without realizing that the legal floor and the cultural enforcement are not the same thing.

Matal drew the legal line. The cultural line is still being drawn, every day, in places the First Amendment does not directly reach. The article you are reading exists in part because that distinction is worth holding clearly. The Court can stop the government from punishing your speech. It cannot, by itself, restore a culture in which Americans expect to disagree and remain friends.

The Strongest Argument the Other Way

The strongest argument against the *Matal* ruling has real force, and it deserves a fair hearing. Slurs cause pain. Words shape culture. A pluralist society that values dignity for all its members has a legitimate interest in not lending its official credentials — a federal trademark registration is, after all, a stamp of government recognition — to language that targets groups for ridicule. The disparagement clause was not crazy. It was the product of decades of well-intentioned thinking about how a pluralist society protects its vulnerable members from the corrosive effects of public contempt.

But the Framers anticipated exactly this temptation. They built into the Constitution a mechanism for legitimate change: Article V, the amendment process. If Americans want a constitutional exception for "hate speech," Article V is the path — debated, voted, ratified by the people through their representatives. The illegitimate path is the other one. Leave the First Amendment unchanged on paper while regulators, university administrators, corporate platforms,

and ambitious prosecutors quietly carve out exceptions by policy and pressure. The Court in *Matal* refused to participate. Eight justices, with no dissent on the holding.

Did God Really Say?

Solomon wrote:

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit." — Proverbs 18:21

The Bible takes the power of words more seriously than most modern speech codes do. It does not deny that words can wound, mislead, inflame, or destroy. James warned that the tongue is a fire, *"a world of iniquity… It defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature."* The Bible knows what words can do.

And yet — and this is the point — the biblical response to the power of words is not government censorship. It is truth-telling, reproof, repentance, and discipline within communities of conscience. *"A soft answer turneth away wrath, but grievous words stir up anger." "Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man."* The discipline of the tongue is the work of the person, the family, the church, and the conscience. It is not the work of the state.

The Founders knew this. They wrote the First Amendment in a culture that took both the power of words and the danger of government control over them seriously. They chose to restrain government, not speech. They left the harder work — the work of speaking truth in love, of governing one's own tongue, of building a culture in which difficult things can be said with grace — to the people themselves.

That work is harder than passing a law. It is also the only work that does not consume the very freedom it claims to defend.

What the Citizen Does

Read the document. Know what it actually says. When you are told that the government may punish, refuse benefits to, or otherwise burden speech because that speech is offensive, ask the question this series is named for. **Does the Constitution really say that?**

There is no better place to begin than **Constitution 101** and the other free online courses from **Hillsdale College**. Hillsdale accepts no state or federal taxpayer funding — not even student aid — which keeps its teaching independent of political pressure. Dozens of courses, no cost, self-paced. Start with Constitution 101.

For Virginians, there is a second place to look. Article I, Section 12 of the current Virginia Constitution protects both speech and press together — finishing the sentence George Mason began in 1776 and that the Virginia ratification convention demanded the federal government honor in 1788. Virginia's Bill of Rights, in the broader characterization A.E. Dick Howard gave it in his *Commentaries on the Constitution of Virginia*, has a vitality independent of the federal Constitution. The federal floor matters. Virginia's floor matters too.

The next piece turns from the First Amendment to the Fourth. *Katz v. United States* (1967) asked whether the government needed a warrant to wiretap a public phone booth. The Court said yes — but the phrase Justice Harlan used to justify the ruling, *"reasonable expectation of privacy,"* was not in the Fourth Amendment. It has become the test the Court uses to decide what counts as a search. From religion to speech to the security of your person, papers, and possessions, the pattern this series has tracked is the same.

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Does the Constitution Really Say a Coach Cannot Kneel and Pray?

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/DOES-THE-CONSTITUTION-REALLY-SAY-A-COACH-CANNOT-KNEEL-AND-PRAY/
JUNE 9, 2026
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: DOES THE CONSTITUTION REALLY SAY, US CONSTITUTION

He knelt at midfield. He prayed for thirty seconds. He lost his job.

This is Part 5 of **Does the Constitution Really Say?** *— a fourteen-part series by Jeff Bayard on the cases where the Constitution's original meaning was quietly swapped for something else. Other parts ask:*

- **A Developer Seizes Your House**
- **Your Coach Is Fired for Praying**
- **Your True Words Are Called Dangerous**
- **Six Ways to Move a Word**
- **Read All Fourteen Parts**

Joseph Kennedy was an assistant football coach at Bremerton High School in Washington State. After each game, he would walk to the 50-yard line, kneel, and offer a brief silent prayer of thanks.

The stadium would be emptying. His players would be off the field — calling home, texting friends, talking with family. He prayed alone for about thirty seconds. He had been doing it for seven years.

In 2015, the school district told him to stop. He stopped the things they specifically named — locker-room prayers, religious post-game speeches — and asked only to keep praying alone at midfield. The district fired him anyway. He sued. The case made it to the Supreme Court of the United States. He won.

So this is the question worth asking, plainly. **Does the Constitution really say a coach cannot kneel and pray?**

What the Words Meant

The First Amendment's religion clauses, ratified in 1791, read in full:

> **"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."**

Two protections sit in one sentence.

No establishment — Congress cannot create a national church.
Free exercise — Congress cannot prohibit the practice of religion. The Founders wrote both protections together because they understood the danger ran in two directions. A government that could establish a religion could compel worship. A government that could prohibit religious exercise could silence conscience. The First Amendment, in their understanding, did neither.

This is the world the men who ratified the **First Amendment** actually lived in. State legislatures opened sessions with prayer. Presidents took oaths of office on the Bible. The Continental Congress called for national days of thanksgiving, fasting, and humiliation. George Washington, in his 1789 Thanksgiving Proclamation — issued the same year the Bill of Rights was sent to the states — asked the nation to acknowledge *"that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be."* None of those practices was thought to violate the clause those same Founders had just written. They could not have been — because the Founders wrote the clause, and they continued the practices.

The Free Exercise Clause in 1791 was a robust, affirmative protection. It did not merely permit private belief. It protected the *exercise* of religion — the lived practice, the visible acts, the moments when faith showed itself in the conduct of a citizen's day. A coach kneeling in prayer at

the end of a public-school football game would have struck the men who ratified that clause as exactly the kind of practice the clause was written to protect.

What the Words Now Mean

By the time Joseph Kennedy's case reached the Supreme Court, a different rule had hardened in lower federal courts and school-district legal offices. The rule ran something like this: *a public-school employee cannot pray visibly on school grounds, because a reasonable observer might mistakenly conclude the school endorses the prayer*. The "reasonable observer" was a hypothetical figure. The endorsement was a perception, not a fact. But the rule was real enough to cost a man his job.

In ***Kennedy v. Bremerton School District*, 597 U.S. 507** (2022), the Supreme Court struck that rule down 6–3. Justice Neil Gorsuch wrote the majority opinion, joined by Chief Justice Roberts and Justices Thomas, Alito, Barrett, and Kavanaugh. The opening sentence of the opinion was as plain as the case itself: *"Joseph Kennedy lost his job as a high school football coach because he knelt at midfield after games to offer a quiet prayer of thanks."*

Gorsuch built the holding on three load-bearing moves.

First, he ruled that Kennedy's prayer was protected by *both* the Free Exercise Clause *and* the Free Speech Clause. Kennedy prayed during a window when school employees were *"free to speak with a friend, call for a reservation at a restaurant, check email, or attend to other personal matters."* In that window, Kennedy was a private citizen, not a government voice. His prayer was personal speech, not school speech.

Second, Gorsuch rejected the district's argument that suppressing the prayer was required by the Establishment Clause. The district had imagined a *"reasonable observer"* who might think the school endorsed Kennedy's prayer. Gorsuch replied that no actual person had complained at the time, the school had never actually endorsed anything, and a hypothetical observer's possible confusion could not justify firing a man for a thirty-second silent prayer. *"The Constitution and the best of our traditions counsel mutual respect and tolerance,"* Gorsuch wrote, *"not censorship and suppression, for religious and nonreligious views alike."*

Third — and this is the line worth marking — Gorsuch held that the Establishment Clause must be interpreted *"by reference to historical practices and understandings."* That is originalist methodology in plain text. It is the frame this series has been making the case for since Part 1. The Constitution means what it meant when it was ratified, not what a hypothetical observer might mistakenly think today.

What Happened Next

Kennedy did three things that ripple outward beyond one football coach.

It explicitly abandoned the *Lemon* test — the 1971 framework that for fifty years had been used to police religion out of public spaces. Lower courts had been using *Lemon* and its "endorsement test" offshoot to strike down nativity scenes on courthouse lawns, prayers at high-school graduations, moments of silence in classrooms, and a long list of other ordinary religious expressions. *Kennedy* replaced that framework with the historical-practice standard. Whether a religious expression in public life is constitutional now depends on whether something like it was understood to be constitutional at the Founding.

It walked back the broader reading of *Employment Division v. Smith* (1990). *Smith* had held that "neutral and generally applicable" laws could burden religious practice without strict-scrutiny review. By the time of *Kennedy*, lower courts had stretched that rule to cover almost any government action with a religious cost. Gorsuch ruled that the Bremerton district's actions were *not* neutral and *not* generally applicable — because the district had singled out religious conduct for unique disfavor while permitting other personal expression in the same moments. Justice Alito has called *Smith "embattled since the day it was decided." Kennedy* is one of the cases that has embattled it.

And it returned the First Amendment to something closer to what the Founders wrote. Religious liberty does not require the government to scrub every visible religious expression from public life. The government must keep its hands off private religious practice, even when that practice happens on government property in a government employee's spare moment.

The Strongest Argument the Other Way

The strongest argument against the *Kennedy* ruling is one worth stating plainly, because it has real force. Public schools are coercive environments. A coach is an authority figure. Even a "private" prayer at midfield could pressure players to participate to stay in the coach's good graces. The dissent, written by Justice Sotomayor and joined by Justices Breyer and Kagan, argued exactly that. The dissent included photographs of players kneeling with Kennedy and warned that the majority was ignoring the reality of how authority operates over young people. Coercion in religious matters is exactly what the Founders feared. The concern is legitimate.

But the Framers anticipated this too. They drew a line between *government establishing religion* and *government employees practicing religion on their own time*. The first is forbidden. The second is protected. Kennedy did not lead his team in prayer. He had stopped doing that when the district asked. He did not require, encourage, or pressure anyone to join him. He knelt at the 50-yard line and prayed alone for thirty seconds. Six justices, on the factual record before them, ruled that this

was protected exercise, not coercive establishment. That line — protecting private exercise while restraining government establishment — is the line the First Amendment actually draws.

Did God Really Say?

Long before there was a First Amendment, Daniel knelt to pray when a "neutral and generally applicable" law forbade him from doing so.

King Darius had signed a decree that for thirty days no one in the kingdom could pray to any god or any man except the king himself. The decree applied to everyone equally. It was facially neutral. Daniel, when he learned of it, *"went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days."* (Daniel 6:10)

He did not pray to defy Darius. He prayed because prayer was the daily orientation of his life. He had been doing it since early days. The king's decree did not change his practice; it only added a cost. He was thrown into the den of lions. God shut the lions' mouths. He came out alive.

The Framers knew that story. They wrote a First Amendment that would not have required Daniel to choose between his job and his prayer. Joseph Kennedy faced a smaller version of the same choice. He chose Daniel's answer. The Supreme Court, after seven years, agreed with him.

What the Citizen Does

Read the document. Know what it actually says. When you are told that the Constitution requires a public-school employee to hide his prayer, ask where those words appear. They do not appear in the Constitution. They appear in a doctrine the Court itself has now walked back. **Does the Constitution really say that?**

There is no better place to begin than **Constitution 101** and the other free online courses from **Hillsdale College**. Hillsdale accepts no state or federal taxpayer funding — not even student aid — which keeps its teaching independent of political pressure. Dozens of courses, no cost, self-paced. Start with Constitution 101.

For Virginians, there is a second place to look. Article I, Section 16 of the Virginia Constitution — George Mason's words, ratified in 1776 — has always protected religious conscience as an affirmative right, not a residual one. Virginia did not need *Kennedy* to fix its religious-liberty floor. The Supreme Court of Virginia confirmed in *Vlaming v. West Point School Board* (2023) that Article I, Section 16 stands on grounds independent of the federal Constitution. The federal floor fell after *Everson* and *Smith*. Virginia's floor held.

The next piece turns from the first freedom to the second — from religion to speech — and to *Matal v. Tam* (2017), the case that asked whether the government can punish speech it deems offensive. The pattern this series has tracked is about to reach the words you are allowed to use.

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Does the Constitution Really Say There's a "Wall of Separation" Between Church and State?

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/DOES-THE-CONSTITUTION-REALLY-SAY-WALL-OF-SEPARATION-EVERSON/
JUNE 2, 2026
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: DOES THE CONSTITUTION REALLY SAY, US CONSTITUTION

The First Amendment was ratified in 1791.
The "wall of separation" was inserted in 1947.
It came from a private letter, not the Constitution.

This is Part 5 of **Does the Constitution Really Say?** *— a fourteen-part series by Jeff Bayard on the cases where the Constitution's original meaning was quietly swapped for something else. Other parts ask:*

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- **Your Coach Is Fired for Praying**
- **Your True Words Are Called Dangerous**
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Ask the average American where the phrase *"separation of church and state"* appears in the Constitution. Most will say the First Amendment.

It does not appear there. It does not appear anywhere in the Constitution. The phrase was lifted from a single private letter Thomas Jefferson wrote on January 1, 1802 — sent not to Congress, not to a constitutional convention, but to a group of Baptists in Danbury, Connecticut. For nearly a century and a half it sat where Jefferson left it: in personal correspondence, cited occasionally, never treated as the meaning of a public clause.

Then in 1947, the Supreme Court reached into that letter, pulled out one sentence, and welded it onto the First Amendment. The clause did not change. What Americans were told the clause *meant* changed completely.

So this is the question worth asking. **Does the Constitution really say there is a "wall of separation" between church and state?**

What the Words Meant

The First Amendment's religion clauses read in full: *"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."*

In 1791 the words meant something concrete. *No establishment* meant no federal church — no American equivalent of the Church of England, no national denomination set up by Congress and supported by federal taxes. It was a structural limit on the *federal government*, not a national rule about religion.

When the First Amendment was ratified, several of the thirteen states still had their own established churches. Massachusetts had Congregationalism; Connecticut and New Hampshire maintained state religious establishments well into the 1800s. The First Amendment did not abolish those arrangements. It could not. The clause was written precisely to keep Congress out of them — to leave religion to the states, to localities, and to the people.

Two Virginians knew this better than anyone. James Madison drafted the First Amendment. Thomas Jefferson had already, in 1786, secured passage of the **Virginia Statute for Establishing Religious Freedom** — the second of the three accomplishments he asked be inscribed on his tombstone. Virginia's own Constitution went further still. Article I, Section 16, drafted by George Mason in 1776 — ten years before the federal Bill of Rights — protects religious conscience as an affirmative right of every citizen:

> *"All men are equally entitled to the free exercise of religion, according to the dictates of conscience…"*

Virginia did not lean on the federal Constitution to protect religious liberty. Virginia wrote the prototype. The Virginia Supreme Court has said as much: Virginia's religious-liberty provisions have *"a vitality independent of the Federal Constitution."* (A.E. Dick Howard, *Commentaries on the Constitution of Virginia*.) Or as the same court put it in 1946: *"No State has more jealously guarded and preserved the questions of religious belief and religious worship as questions between each individual man and his Maker than Virginia."*

This is the soil the First Amendment grew out of. Religious liberty as conscience between man and his Maker, with the state restrained from intruding. Not a wall locking faith out of public life.

What the Words Now Mean

In ***Everson v. Board of Education*, 330 U.S. 1** (1947), the Supreme Court rewired the Establishment Clause in two moves.

The case itself involved a small thing. A New Jersey law reimbursed parents for the cost of busing their children to school, including parochial schools. The Court, by a 5–4 vote, upheld the reimbursement. On the outcome, the Court was permissive. But the *reasoning* Justice Hugo Black built into the opinion has shaped religion-clause law ever since.

Black's first move was to take the Jefferson letter and treat it as the meaning of the Constitution. *"In the words of Jefferson,"* Black wrote, *"the clause against establishment of religion by law was intended to erect 'a wall of separation between church and State.'"* He then added: *"That wall must be kept high and impregnable. We could not approve the slightest breach."*

Notice the swap. The text of the First Amendment forbids Congress from making a law "respecting an establishment of religion." The clause is a structural rule about what Congress can do. Black replaced that with a metaphor from a private letter — and treated the metaphor as the operative meaning. A wall. High. Impregnable. None of those words is in the Constitution. They are Jefferson, on January 1, 1802, writing to a Baptist congregation.

Black's second move was to apply the Establishment Clause against the *states themselves*, through the Fourteenth Amendment. The clause that had restrained Congress now restrained every state and every local government in the country. A federalism protection became a national rule of secularism — applied against the states whose religious arrangements the clause had originally been written to protect.

The outcome of the case did not announce the change. The reasoning did the work.

What Happened Next

Once a wall is in place, courts will be asked to enforce it.

A father wants his child to pray in a public school. A high-school football coach kneels at midfield after a game. A nativity scene appears on a county courthouse lawn. A teacher reads from the Bible at a moment of silence. In each case, the courts have been asked to measure whether the practice "breaches the wall" — a wall that does not exist in the constitutional text but governs constitutional outcomes anyway. Sometimes the wall has held; sometimes it has come down. The underlying assumption has held steady: religion in public life is a problem for judges to measure, not a tradition presumed lawful unless Congress establishes a national church.

The men who ratified the First Amendment lived in a country where state legislatures opened with prayer, public officials swore oaths on the Bible, and the Continental Congress called for national days of thanksgiving and humiliation. None of that was understood to violate the clause they had just written. It cannot be — because they wrote the clause, and they continued the practices.

The Strongest Argument the Other Way

The strongest argument for the *Everson* approach has real force. Jefferson's letter, though private, captured a genuine strand of Founding-era thinking. Madison himself worried about religious establishment and the dangers of state-supported faith. The Fourteenth Amendment, the argument runs, was meant to extend fundamental protections against state action — and freedom of conscience belongs on that list.

But the Framers anticipated exactly this. They built into the Constitution a mechanism for legitimate change — Article V, the amendment process. If Americans wanted to nationalize a wall of separation enforceable against the states, Article V was the way: debated, voted, ratified by the people through their representatives. The illegitimate path was the other one. Take a single sentence from a private letter. Treat it as the meaning of a public clause. Apply that meaning, by judicial decree, against the religious arrangements of every state and locality in the country. Change through amendment is self-government. Change through judicial discovery is rule by five.

Did God Really Say?

Jeremiah saw the pattern long before there was a First Amendment:

"Thus says the LORD: 'Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; then you will find rest for your souls.' But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'" — Jeremiah 6:16

The Framers walked old paths. They knew what an established church looked like, what it cost, and what it suppressed. They wrote the First Amendment to protect against the federal version of that danger while leaving conscience between every man and his Maker. They did not invent a wall. They did not need one. They drew a line — concrete, knowable, defensible — and trusted the people of each state to govern their own religious life within it.

The Court in 1947 was shown the old paths. It would not walk in them. It found a new path in a single private sentence. The pattern this series has tracked through eminent domain, commerce, citizenship, and the criminal law had now reached the first freedom — the freedom on which the Framers said all others rest.

What the Citizen Does

Read the document. Know what it actually says. When you are told that the Constitution requires a "wall of separation between church and state," ask where those words appear. They do not appear in the Constitution. They appear in a letter. **Does the Constitution really say that?**

There is no better place to begin than **Constitution 101** and the other free online courses from **Hillsdale College**. Hillsdale accepts no state or federal taxpayer funding — not even student aid — which keeps its teaching independent of political pressure. Dozens of courses, no cost, self-paced. Start with Constitution 101.

For Virginians, there is a second place to look: your own state Constitution. Article I, Section 16 — Mason's words, ratified in 1776 — still protects religious conscience in language stronger than anything in the federal First Amendment. The Supreme Court of Virginia confirmed as much in *Vlaming v. West Point School Board* (2023), recognizing a viable religious-conscience claim under Article I, Section 16 on grounds independent of the federal Constitution. Virginia's religious-liberty protection has, in the court's own phrase, a vitality independent of Washington. That is a Virginia legacy worth knowing — and worth defending.

The next piece turns to the other half of the religion clause — the Free Exercise Clause — and to *Employment Division v. Smith* (1990), the case that quietly removed strict scrutiny from religious-liberty claims against neutral laws of general applicability. *Everson* built the wall tall against religion in public life. *Smith* lowered the protection religion has against the laws that constrain it.

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Does the Constitution Really Say “Cruel and Unusual” Means Whatever We Feel Today?

BY JEFF BAYARD
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MAY 26, 2026
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: DOES THE CONSTITUTION REALLY SAY, US CONSTITUTION

The words were fixed in 1791.
In 1958, the Court set them in motion.
Now the meaning changes with the times — and so can you.

This is Part 4 of **Does the Constitution Really Say?** *— a fourteen-part series by Jeff Bayard on the cases where the Constitution’s original meaning was quietly swapped for something else. Other parts ask:*

- **A Developer Seizes Your House**
- **Your Coach Is Fired for Praying**
- **Your True Words Are Called Dangerous**
- **Six Ways to Move a Word**
- **Read All Fourteen Parts**

Imagine you are told that your most basic protection under the Constitution no longer means what it meant when it was written. It now means whatever five people in robes decide it should mean this year. Next year, it could mean something else. The words on the page never change — but what they protect you from expands or contracts with the mood of the times and the makeup of the Court.

You would not call that a protection. You would call it a moving target. And you would be right.

That is what happened to the Eighth Amendment in 1958. The case is not famous — most Americans have never heard of it. But it rewired how the Supreme Court reads the words "cruel and unusual punishments," and the reasoning it installed now reaches far beyond criminal law.

So this is the question worth asking. **Does the Constitution really say "cruel and unusual" means whatever we feel today?**

What the Words Meant

The Eighth Amendment, ratified in 1791, reads in part: *"Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted."*

The phrase "cruel and unusual punishments" was not invented in 1791. It was lifted almost word for word from the **English Bill of Rights of 1689**, where it had a concrete meaning. The English had watched the Crown's judges hand down barbaric and irregular punishments — torture, drawing and quartering, sentences invented to crush political enemies. "Cruel and unusual" meant punishments outside the settled course of law: barbaric in kind, or grossly disproportionate to the offense.

The Founders adopted that understanding. The bar was fixed by what the ratifiers meant: no torture, no barbarity, no penalty wildly out of proportion to the crime. A citizen in 1791 could know what the words protected, because the words had a stable meaning rooted in centuries of legal history.

What the Words Now Mean

In ***Trop v. Dulles*, 356 U.S. 86** (1958), the Supreme Court untethered that meaning from history.

Albert Trop was an Army private stationed in Morocco during World War II. In 1944 he escaped a military stockade, then voluntarily surrendered to an Army officer the next day. He was court-martialed for desertion and, under federal law, stripped of his American citizenship as punishment. He sued, arguing that making a native-born American stateless was cruel and unusual.

The Court agreed, and on that narrow point the outcome is defensible. But look at the reasoning Chief Justice Earl Warren used to get there. He wrote that the words of the Eighth Amendment "are not precise, and that their scope is not static." Then came the sentence that changed everything: the Amendment *"must draw its meaning from the evolving standards of decency that mark the progress of a maturing society."*

Notice the swap. The words "cruel and unusual" had a fixed, knowable meaning anchored in 1791. Warren replaced that anchor with a moving one — "evolving standards of decency" — to be measured by the Court, in the present, according to what it judges society now will and will not tolerate. The text did not change. The method of reading it did. From that point forward, the Eighth Amendment would mean whatever the current Court decided a "maturing society" had matured into — and this was not even a firm holding. Warren wrote for only four justices; a fifth concurred on separate grounds. The formula that has shaped six decades of Eighth Amendment doctrine entered the law as the view of a four-justice plurality, and grew from there.

What Happened Next

Once the meaning of a constitutional word is set in motion, it goes where the Court steers it.

In *Kennedy v. Louisiana* (2008), the Court struck down a state law allowing the death penalty for the rape of a child. Whatever a reader thinks of that outcome — and reasonable people land in very different places — the *mechanism* should give everyone pause. The Court pointed to nothing in the text or history of the Eighth Amendment. It surveyed what it called the nation's "evolving standards of decency," weighed state laws and the direction of public sentiment, and concluded that society had matured past permitting that punishment. Five justices read the national mood and redrew the boundary of the criminal law. No vote of the people. No amendment. Just the standard *Trop* installed, applied.

The point is not whether the outcome was right. The point is the method. When the meaning of the words depends on the Court's reading of where society is "maturing," the Constitution no longer constrains the Court — the Court's sense of the times constrains the Constitution. The protection becomes a measurement of present opinion, and present opinion can move in any direction.

The Strongest Argument the Other Way

The strongest argument for Warren's approach has real force, and it deserves a fair hearing. Moral understanding does develop. We see certain cruelties more clearly than people did in 1791. A fixed-in-1791 reading, the argument runs, would freeze the Constitution against genuine moral progress. Warren himself was not careless — he wrote that traditional penalties like fines,

imprisonment, and even execution remained permissible, and that only punishments outside those bounds were suspect. He believed he was reasoning responsibly.

But the Framers anticipated exactly this, and built in a mechanism for moral development: Article V, the amendment process. If the nation's understanding of cruelty truly advances, Article V is how that advance becomes binding law — debated, voted, ratified by the people through their representatives. The illegitimate path is the other one: leaving the words untouched while a handful of judges quietly redefine them according to their own reading of the age. Moral progress through amendment is self-government. Moral progress through judicial redefinition is rule by five.

Did God Really Say?

Long before there was an Eighth Amendment, Solomon wrote:

"That which has been is what will be, that which is done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun." — Ecclesiastes 1:9

The cruelties the Framers prohibited were not unknown to them, waiting to be discovered by a more enlightened age. Barbarity, torture, disproportionate vengeance — these were ancient when the Eighth Amendment was written, and the men who wrote it knew them well. They did not need a "maturing society" to recognize evil. They named it and forbade it.

The conceit of "evolving standards" is the quiet assumption that we are wiser than those who came before — that decency is something the present generation is still inventing, and that the words of the past must bow to the judgment of the now. Scripture takes the opposite view. The temptations, the cruelties, and the rationalizations of every age are variations on the old ones. A standard that "evolves" with the times is not a higher standard. It is a standard with no floor.

What the Citizen Does

Read the words. Learn what they meant when they were ratified — that meaning is the only fixed point from which you can measure how far a court has drifted. When you are told that a constitutional protection now means something different than it once did, and that you should trust the people in robes to have measured society's progress correctly, ask the question this series is named for. **Does the Constitution really say that?**

There is no better place to begin than **Constitution 101** and the other free online courses from **Hillsdale College**. Hillsdale accepts no state or federal taxpayer funding — not even student aid — which keeps its teaching independent of political pressure. Dozens of courses, no cost, self-paced. Start with Constitution 101.

The next piece turns to the First Amendment and the words *"establishment of religion"* — and to *Everson v. Board of Education* (1947), the case that built a "wall of separation" the Constitution never mentions. It is also where this series first plants its feet in Virginia soil, because the story runs straight back to Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom.

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Does the Constitution Really Say a Butcher Cannot Work in His Own Trade?

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/DOES-THE-CONSTITUTION-REALLY-SAY-A-BUTCHER-CANNOT-WORK-IN-HIS-OWN-TRADE/
MAY 19, 2026
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: DOES THE CONSTITUTION REALLY SAY, US CONSTITUTION

Ratified in 1868.
Gutted in 1873.
A working man, told he cannot work.

This is Part 3 of **Does the Constitution Really Say?** *— a fourteen-part series by Jeff Bayard on the cases where the Constitution's original meaning was quietly swapped for something else. Other parts ask:*

- **A Developer Seizes Your House**
- **Your Coach Is Fired for Praying**
- **Your True Words Are Called Dangerous**
- **Six Ways to Move a Word**
- **Read All Fourteen Parts**

In 1869, Louisiana gave one company — the Crescent City Live-Stock Landing and Slaughter-House Company — a monopoly on all butchering in New Orleans. Every other butcher was ordered to shut down his own facility and lease space from the monopoly, paying its fees and operating on its terms.

Paul Esteben was one of the named butcher plaintiffs. So were hundreds of other working men — fathers, husbands, immigrants, freed slaves, native Louisianans — who had spent their lives learning a trade. Overnight, they could pay the connected company or close.

They sued, with reason to hope. Five years earlier the country had ratified the Fourteenth Amendment, written to protect citizens from state-imposed deprivation of fundamental rights. Its Privileges or Immunities Clause appeared to do exactly what the butchers needed: *"No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States."*

They lost.

So this is the question worth asking, plainly. **Does the Constitution really say a butcher cannot work in his own trade?**

What the Words Meant

The **Fourteenth Amendment**, ratified in 1868, was the constitutional capstone of the Civil War. Section 1 begins with three protections: Privileges or Immunities, Due Process, and Equal Protection.

Privileges or immunities was not new language. The phrase appears in the original Constitution's Article IV. By 1868 leading jurists and legislators were using it to mean the basic civil rights of American citizenship. To own property. To make contracts. To use the courts. **To earn a living through honest labor.**

That last right had been recognized in *Corfield v. Coryell* (1823) as among the privileges of citizenship, and Justice Stephen Field's dissent in *Slaughter-House* would anchor it specifically in the right to pursue a lawful calling. The Reconstruction Congress wrote against that backdrop, with the verdict of a war fresh in mind: states could not be trusted to protect the basic civil rights of their citizens. The Privileges or Immunities Clause was their answer.

What the Words Now Mean

In ***The Slaughter-House Cases*, 83 U.S. 36**, the Supreme Court told Paul Esteben and his fellow butchers the clause did not protect them.

Justice Samuel Miller, writing for a 5-4 majority, split American citizenship in two. There were rights of *state citizenship* — most of what people thought the Fourteenth Amendment was about — and rights of *United States citizenship*, a narrow list Miller drew tightly: access to seaports, use of federal courts, travel to the seat of government, and a handful of others. The clause, Miller ruled, protected only the second list. The right to earn a living was a state matter — and the Fourteenth Amendment did not reach it.

Notice the swap. The Constitution says *no state* shall abridge *"the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States."* The Court said only a narrow list of federal-citizenship rights count, and the rights people actually depend on are not on it. The amendment that was supposed to be the Reconstruction Congress's strongest weapon against state injustice was emptied of nearly all its content within five years of its ratification.

Justice Field warned in dissent that the majority's reading made the clause *"a vain and idle enactment, which accomplished nothing."* He was right. With one narrow exception — *Saenz v. Roe* (1999), protecting the right to travel between states — the Privileges or Immunities Clause has been functionally dormant for 150 years.

Dormant means this: the words are still on the page. But when a citizen brings a fundamental-rights claim against a state government, the courts do not reach for the clause the Framers wrote. They reach for something else.

What Happened Next

Because the Privileges or Immunities Clause was gutted, every subsequent attempt to protect fundamental rights against state interference has had to be smuggled in through the Due Process Clause or the Equal Protection Clause — neither of which was designed for that work.

Today the consequences are most visible in occupational licensing — the modern equivalent of the New Orleans monopoly. Hair-braiders, florists, eyebrow threaders, casket makers — all facing state-imposed credential walls that protect connected incumbents and shut out working-class entrepreneurs.

Isis Brantley, an African-American hair-braider in Texas, was arrested in 1997 for braiding hair without a cosmetology license. Texas demanded 1,500 hours of cosmetology school — most of it unrelated to braiding — and thousands in fees. She fought for nearly two decades, winning a federal ruling in 2015 that struck down the scheme as applied to her trade.

But she had to win on Due Process and Equal Protection grounds. The clause written to protect basic civil rights like hers — the right of a free citizen to earn an honest living without state interference — had been dormant since 1873.

The Strongest Argument the Other Way

The strongest argument for the *Slaughter-House* reading is honest enough to admit. Miller's majority feared that a broad reading would transfer enormous power from states to the federal courts, letting federal judges second-guess every state economic regulation — a real concern in 1873, and a real concern today. But the Framers had built into the Constitution itself the mechanism for legitimate adaptation: Article V, the amendment process. If the federalism worry called for a narrower clause, Article V was the way to narrow it. The improper answer was to leave the words on the page unchanged and read them to mean almost nothing.

Did God Really Say?

Isaiah saw the pattern long before there was a Louisiana legislature:

"Woe to those who decree unrighteous decrees, who write misfortune which they have prescribed, to rob the needy of justice, and to take what is right from the poor of My people." — Isaiah 10:1–2

That is Louisiana in 1869. That is Texas in 1997. That is every state credential cartel that takes work away from a person who knows how to do it and hands it to a connected company that already holds the license. The prophet does not name the king alone. He names *those who decree* and *those who write* — lawmakers, regulators, and courts that refuse to strike the decrees down.

This series has returned more than once to Proverbs 22:28 — *"Do not move the ancient landmark which your fathers have set."* The Reconstruction Congress drove a landmark deep into the constitutional ground in 1868. Five years later, the Court moved it. The poor of the people have been paying for the move ever since.

What the Citizen Does

Read the document. Know what the words meant when they were ratified. When a state regulator tells you that your honest work cannot be done without a credential the regulator alone controls, ask the question this series is named for. **Does the Constitution really say that?**

There is no better place to start than **Constitution 101** and other **Hillsdale College** free online courses. Hillsdale accepts no state or federal taxpayer funding — not even student aid — which keeps its instruction independent of the political pressures that shape so many other schools. Dozens of courses, no cost, self-paced, taught by their own faculty. Start with Constitution 101.

The next piece looks at *Trop v. Dulles* (1958), in which the Supreme Court untethered the Eighth Amendment's prohibition on *"cruel and unusual punishments"* from any fixed meaning. With one phrase — that the clause *"must draw its meaning from the evolving standards of decency that mark*

the progress of a maturing society" — the bar reset to whatever five justices decide society now permits or forbids. The pattern this series has tracked through eminent domain, commerce, and citizenship was about to reach the criminal law.

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Does the Constitution Really Say a Farmer's Own Wheat Is "Interstate Commerce"

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/DOES-THE-CONSTITUTION-REALLY-SAY-INTERSTATE-COMMERCE-WICKARD/
MAY 14, 2026
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: DOES THE CONSTITUTION REALLY SAY, US CONSTITUTION

This is Part 2 of **Does the Constitution Really Say?** *— a fourteen-part series by Jeff Bayard on the cases where the Constitution's original meaning was quietly swapped for something else. Other parts ask:*

- **A Developer Seizes Your House**
- **Your Coach Is Fired for Praying**
- **Your True Words Are Called Dangerous**
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- **Read All Fourteen Parts**

Three words, ratified in 1788.
One ruling, handed down in 1942.
Your backyard, federal jurisdiction.

In 1941, an Ohio farmer named Roscoe Filburn planted twenty-three acres of wheat on his own land. He used the wheat to feed his livestock, grind into flour for his wife's bread, and keep as seed for the next year. He sold none of it. It never left his farm.

The federal government imposed a marketing penalty of $117.11 on him — roughly $2,250 in today's money — for growing too much wheat.

The Department of Agriculture had set a wartime wheat quota under the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938. Filburn's quota was 11.1 acres. He had planted twenty-three. The fact that he never sold a bushel did not matter. The fact that the wheat never left his farm did not matter. The fact that he ate it himself did not matter. The federal government claimed authority over Roscoe Filburn's wheat under the Commerce Clause.

He sued. He lost.

So this is the question worth asking, plainly. **Does the Constitution really say a farmer's own wheat is interstate commerce?**

What the Words Meant

Notice first what the Constitution does *not* say. It does not say *"interstate commerce."* That phrase was invented later — it never appeared in a Supreme Court majority opinion until 1869, and only became dominant after Congress passed the Interstate Commerce Act of 1887.

The Framers wrote *"commerce among the several States."* **Article I, Section 8, Clause 3**. At the founding, "commerce" meant trade — buying, selling, bartering. "Among the several States" meant between the states, not within them. Samuel Johnson's 1755 dictionary, the reference work the Framers themselves used, defined commerce as *"intercourse; exchange of one thing for another; trade; traffick."*

James Madison explained the clause in *Federalist No. 42*. The problem the Framers were solving, he wrote, was *"the interfering and unneighborly regulations of some States"* — the trade barriers that states had erected against each other under the Articles of Confederation. The Commerce Clause was written to keep the new nation's internal market open.

Madison and the men who drafted the clause were not naive about federal appetite. They had just fought a war against a king who claimed regulatory authority over everything his subjects produced. They limited federal power to *commerce among the several States* — three specific words — so that no future Washington could claim authority over what a man grew on his own land.

What the Words Now Mean

In ***Wickard v. Filburn***, 317 U.S. 111 (1942), the Supreme Court ruled that Congress could regulate Filburn's wheat. Justice Robert Jackson, writing for a unanimous Court, reasoned this way: even if the wheat never entered interstate commerce, even if it never left his farm, even if he ate it himself — *if enough farmers like Filburn grew their own wheat, the aggregate effect would substantially affect the interstate wheat market the federal government was trying to regulate.*

Jackson wrote: *"even if appellee's activity be local and though it may not be regarded as commerce, it may still, whatever its nature, be reached by Congress if it exerts a substantial economic effect on interstate commerce."*

Notice the swap. The Constitution says *commerce among the several States.* The Court said *anything that, in the aggregate, might affect commerce.* The Court did not deny that Filburn's wheat was neither commerce nor interstate. The Court simply said it did not matter.

Three words on a page, ratified in 1788, were quietly read to mean something the men who ratified them would have found unrecognizable.

What Happened Next

In 2005, the Supreme Court applied *Wickard* to two California women, Angel Raich and Diane Monson. Federal law banned marijuana cultivation under the Controlled Substances Act. California had passed the Compassionate Use Act, making medical marijuana legal under state law. Raich suffered from severe chronic pain and a life-threatening medical condition. Her physician recommended medical marijuana. Monson grew six plants on her own property. The federal Drug Enforcement Administration raided Monson's home and destroyed her plants. The constitutional question was not whether federal law banned what they were doing — it did. The question was whether the *Commerce Clause* gave the federal government authority to reach a local plant grown on private property under a state law that authorized it.

Both women sued. They lost. In ***Gonzales v. Raich***, the Court ruled that federal authority reached their local cultivation — because if enough Californians grew their own marijuana, the aggregate effect would substantially affect interstate markets. Same logic. Same Commerce Clause. Sixty-three years later, the doctrine was still doing the work.

Today, *Wickard* underwrites a vast body of federal regulatory authority — civil rights enforcement against local businesses, federal labor and wage rules, federal environmental regulation. All of it rides on the same redefinition that swept up Filburn's wheat.

The strongest argument for the new reading is honest enough to admit. A modern national economy is more interconnected than what the Framers saw in 1788. Activity in one state really does ripple into another.

But the Framers anticipated changing conditions. They built into the Constitution itself the mechanism for legitimate adaptation — Article V, the amendment process. If the modern economy requires federal authority over activities that are not commerce and not interstate, the proper answer is to amend the Constitution. The improper answer is to leave the words unchanged and let the Court read them to mean something else.

Did God Really Say?

The pattern of redefinition is older than the United States. In Genesis 3, the serpent comes to Eve and questions what God said. Then he twists it. God had said *you will surely die.* The serpent answered, *you will not surely die.* Once the words came loose from their meaning, the protection they provided came loose with them.

Proverbs 22:28 says it plainly. *"Do not move the ancient landmark which your fathers have set."* The landmark marks where one man's property ends and another's begins. It marks where one authority ends and another's begins. When the words that established the landmark can be slipped from one meaning to another while the markers on the ground stay where they are, every boundary in the law becomes negotiable.

The Constitution drew a landmark on the ground in 1788. *Commerce among the several States.* Three words. The Court moved the landmark in 1942 without ever amending the document that placed it there.

What the Citizen Does

Read the document. Know what the words meant when they were ratified. When a federal agency tells you that your private activity on your own property falls under interstate commerce, ask the question this series is named for. *Does the Constitution really say that?* If the words mean what they meant when the people ratified them, the answer is almost always no.

There is no better place to start than **Constitution 101** and other **Hillsdale College's free online courses**. Hillsdale accepts no state or federal taxpayer funding — not even student aid — which keeps its instruction independent of the political pressures that shape so many other schools. They offer dozens of courses at no cost, self-paced, taught by their own faculty, taken by more than four million people. Start with Constitution 101.

The next piece in this series looks at the *Slaughter-House Cases* of 1873, in which the Supreme Court read the Fourteenth Amendment's Privileges or Immunities Clause almost out of existence within five years of its ratification.

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Does the Constitution Really Say What It Says? Why Words Matter.

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/DOES-THE-CONSTITUTION-REALLY-SAY-WHAT-IT-SAYS-WHY-WORDS-MATTER/
MAY 11, 2026
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: DOES THE CONSTITUTION REALLY SAY, US CONSTITUTION

Five words, ratified in 1791.

One word, swapped in 2005.

Your house, taken in 2026

Introducing *Does the Constitution Really Say?* — a multi-part series by Jeff Bayard, running through the end of August 2026. Each installment walks the reader through a single case where the **words** of the Constitution or federal law have been quietly redefined to mean something the people who ratified them would not recognize. **This is Part 1.**

In Ashburn, a data center developer recently offered the homeowners of the Regency neighborhood **$4.4 million per acre** to walk away from their houses. The land is not special. The

location is. Fiber backbone underneath. Dulles ten minutes away. The interstate at the corner. For a developer building a billion-dollar facility, finding that combination twenty miles into the countryside would cost tens of millions more. So he wants this land, and he wants it now.

Picture a different neighborhood with the same problem. Twenty homes. A developer wants every one of them.

In one of those homes lives a man whose great-grandfather laid the foundation after the Second World War. His grandfather added the second story. His father raised four children there. His own grandchildren run through the same yard their father ran through. He has no price for the house. The question does not translate into money.

Two doors down lives a young couple with three small kids and a baby on the way. They are underwater on the mortgage. Her parents are in Ohio. He has a job offer up there waiting for him. The $4.4 million is not a windfall. It is deliverance — a fresh start, debts cleared, kids near their grandparents.

Both families are right. Neither one is the villain.

The Holdout and the Law

Nineteen sign. One says no.

The developer goes to the county. The county wants the jobs, wants the tax revenue, wants the project. A few months later the law arrives at the holdout's door. His land can be taken. He can be paid what the county decides his land is worth. He cannot refuse. The legal authority for this rests on five words from the Fifth Amendment: *private property… for public use.*

So this is the question worth asking, plainly. **Does the Constitution really say a data center is a public use?**

What the Words Meant

The **Fifth Amendment**, ratified in 1791, says that "private property be taken for public use, without just compensation." At the founding, *public use* meant what it sounds like. Roads. Forts. Post offices. Bridges. Things the public actually walked on, drove on, defended itself with, or stepped into the doors of.

Madison, Mason, and the men who wrote these protections were not naive about the government's hunger for citizens' land. They had just fought a war against a king who took

without consent. They wrote the protection against takings to keep their own government from doing what King George had done.

What the Words Now Mean

In 2005, the United States Supreme Court ruled in ***Kelo v. City of New London*** that the city could take Susette Kelo's house. Not for a road. Not for a fort. To hand her property to a private developer who promised tax revenue and jobs.

The Court wrote that "promoting economic development is a traditional and long accepted function of government" and ruled that the city's plan "unquestionably serves a public purpose."

Notice the swap. The Constitution says *public* ***use***. The Court said *public* ***purpose***. One word changed. Five words on a page, ratified in 1791, were quietly read to mean something the people who ratified them would not have recognized.

The Pfizer plant that was supposed to bring jobs to New London never opened. Susette Kelo's pink cottage was hauled away to another lot. The land where it once stood sat empty for years. The redefinition outlived the project that justified it.

Back to the Neighborhood

That is the rewrite that costs the holdout his house. The young couple across the street did nothing wrong. The developer is doing what developers do. The county supervisors are doing what county supervisors do. The villain is not any one of them. The villain is a redefinition that turned the Fifth Amendment from a shield against the strong into a procedural inconvenience for the strong.

Without the redefinition, the developer would have had to negotiate honestly with all twenty households. Maybe he would have paid the holdout more. Maybe he would have walked. Maybe he would have built somewhere else. We do not know — because the rewrite removed the holdout's leverage before he ever sat down at the table.

The strongest argument for the new reading is honest enough to admit. Some projects genuinely cannot be built without eminent domain. A road from one city to another has only a few possible routes. The Framers knew that. It is why they acknowledged eminent domain in the document in the first place.

But they wrote it for *public use* — for things the public would actually use — not for projects that could be built on ten thousand other parcels where the developer happened to want the cheapest one.

Did God Really Say?

The pattern of redefinition is older than the United States. In Genesis 3, the serpent comes to Eve and asks, *"Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"* He questions what God said. Then he twists it. God had said *you will surely die.* The serpent answered, *you will not surely die.* **The first sin in human history was a redefinition.**

Proverbs 18:21 says it plainly. *"Death and life are in the power of the tongue."* When the words of a written compact can be slipped from one meaning to another while the page itself stays the same, every protection that compact contains becomes negotiable.

The Constitution is not a living document. It is a written document. What it says is fixed by what the people who ratified it understood themselves to be agreeing to.

What the Citizen Does

This series, running between now and the end of June, will walk through multiple more cases where the words of our Constitution and our laws have been quietly redefined. Some redefinitions were deliberate strategy. Some were judicial drift. Some were sold as good intentions. The motive matters less than the outcome — a document the people consented to has become a document they did not.

The citizen's response is the same in every case. Read the document. Know what the words meant when they were ratified. When a politician or a court asks you to accept a new meaning, ask the question this series is named for. ***Does the Constitution really say that?*** If the answer is no, the answer is no — no matter how many briefs have been filed defending the new reading.

There is no better place to start than **Constitution 101** and other **Hillsdale College's free online courses.** Hillsdale accepts no state or federal taxpayer funding — not even student aid — which keeps its instruction independent of the political pressures that shape so many other schools. They offer dozens of courses at no cost, self-paced, taught by their own faculty, taken by more than four million people. **Start with Constitution 101**. If you take it, you will be able to read every piece in this series — and every piece of news about the Constitution from now on — with eyes the redefiners are not expecting.

The next piece looks at the framework called ***original public meaning*** — what it is, why it matters, and how a citizen reads the Constitution the way the Framers expected it to be read.

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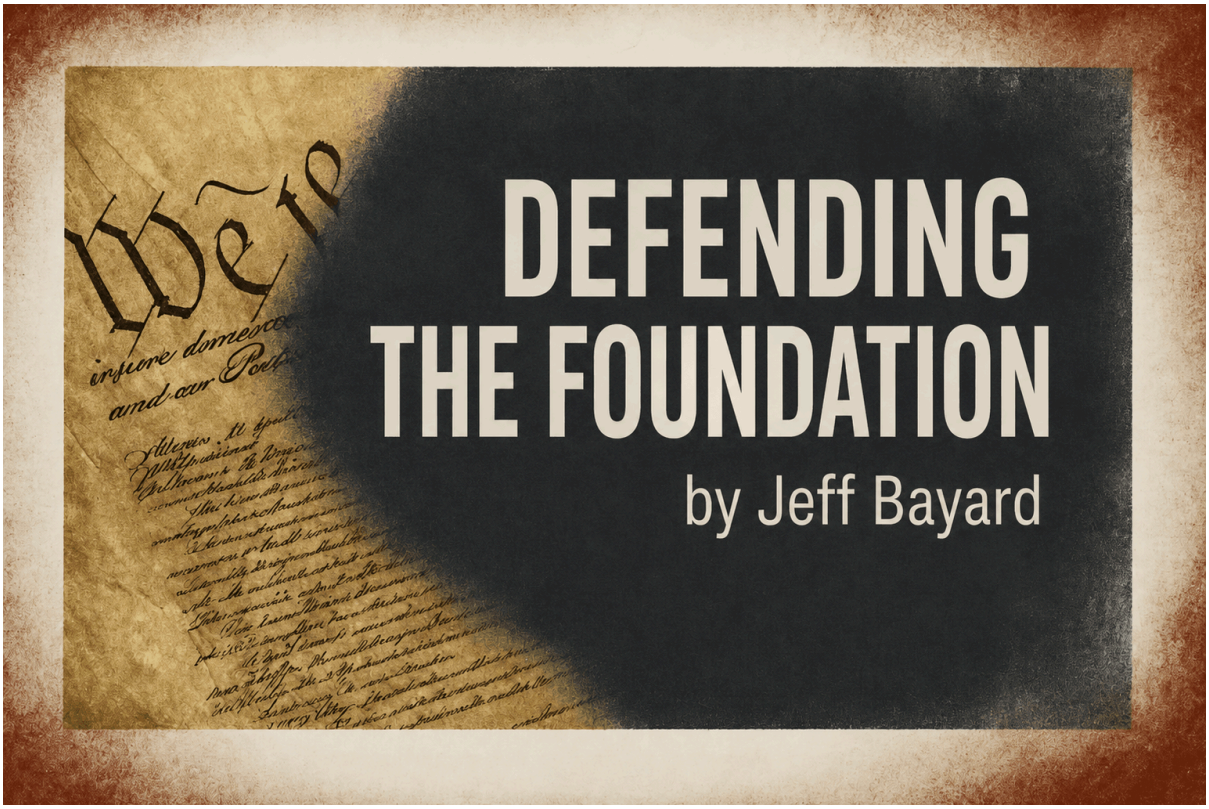
Second Amendment — Right to Bear Arms in Virginia

BY VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/SECOND-AMENDMENT-RIGHT-TO-BEAR-ARMS-IN-VIRGINIA/
MAY 10, 2026
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: DEFENDING THE FOUNDATION, US CONSTITUTION



Second Amendment — Right to Bear Arms in Virginia

Virginia just made the Second Amendment a privilege — strippable for three years on a single misdemeanor conviction. Your state may be next.

Defending the Foundation | Article 3 of 8 | By Jeff Bayard | Virginia Christian Alliance

Virginia just enacted one of the most sweeping firearms restrictions in the South — and at least one piece is already law. The **Second Amendment** right to bear arms in Virginia is the test case. What is happening here will reach every state, because the Constitution does not stop at the commonwealth's borders.

Virginia's General Assembly passed a multi-bill package in early 2026. Some bills are signed and in force right now. Others sit on Governor Spanberger's desk awaiting her signature, veto, or — by operation of law — passive enactment by May 23, 2026.

The U.S. Department of Justice has already put Virginia on notice. Federal prosecutors say at least one bill violates the Second Amendment as the Supreme Court has just defined it.

What the Constitutions Say

U.S. Constitution — Second Amendment

> *"A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."*
>
> — U.S. Constitution, Second Amendment (ratified 1791)

Virginia Constitution — Article I, Section 13

> *"That a well regulated militia, composed of the body of the people, trained to arms, is the proper, natural, and safe defense of a free state, therefore, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed…"*
>
> **— Virginia Constitution, Article I, Section 13**

Virginia's version is more explicit than the federal text. The federal Second Amendment sets up a militia clause and then states the right. Virginia's text uses the word *therefore* — drawing a logical line directly from the militia preamble to the operative right.

And Virginia goes further still. It defines who the militia is: "the body of the people." Not a select corps. Not a national guard formation. **The body of the people.**

What the Founders Meant

The Founders did not leave this ambiguous. On June 14, 1788, at the Virginia Ratifying Convention, George Mason answered the question that has settled the debate ever since.

> *"Who are the militia? They consist now of the whole people, except a few public officers."* — George Mason, Virginia Ratifying Convention, June 14, 1788

That same Convention, Patrick Henry made the principle plain:

> *"The great object is, that every man be armed."*
>
> — Patrick Henry, Virginia Ratifying Convention, June 1788

James Madison, writing in *Federalist No. 46*, identified an armed citizenry as the structural barrier between liberty and tyranny. He cited *"the advantage of being armed, which the Americans possess over the people of almost every other nation."*

The Founders codified this right because they had just won independence from a government that tried to disarm them. They knew exactly what disarmament meant — and they knew exactly who was meant to be armed.

Where the Right Comes From

Self-defense is not a partisan position. It is a moral duty grounded in Scripture.

> *"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."*
>
> — Genesis 1:27

Every human being bears the image of God. That image carries weight. The protection of innocent life is not optional — it is a duty owed to every image-bearer. The right to defend an image-bearer flows directly from that duty.

> *"If a thief is found breaking in and is struck so that he dies, there shall be no bloodguilt for him."*
>
> — Exodus 22:2

The biblical text grants the homeowner moral standing to defend his home. The Lord did not require him to wait for help. He did not require him to surrender his property and his family. He could act, and he was held blameless.

The right to defend oneself precedes any government. Constitutions acknowledge it. They do not grant it.

Virginia Right Now

Three measures show how the right is being constricted in real time.

HB 1525 — already in force. House Bill 1525 became law on April 23, 2026. It carries an emergency clause, which means it took effect immediately. Adults aged 18 to 20 can no longer purchase a handgun or statutorily-defined assault firearm in Virginia. The same law also reinstated background checks on private firearm sales — currently caught in a court-order standoff.

HB 217 / SB 749 — pending the governor's pen. House Bill 217 and its Senate companion sit on Governor Spanberger's desk awaiting action by May 23. The bill bans the future sale, manufacture, and purchase of firearms classified as "assault firearms," along with magazines holding more than 15 rounds. A single violation is a Class 1 misdemeanor — and that misdemeanor strips the Second Amendment right for a full three years.

The federal pushback. On April 10, 2026, the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division put Virginia on notice. Assistant Attorney General Harmeet Dhillon wrote that the federal government will sue if Virginia enacts laws that *"unconstitutionally limit law-abiding Americans' individual right to bear arms."* That is not a partisan complaint. That is the federal civil rights enforcement arm telling a state government that its package fails the constitutional test.

Why This Should Alarm Every Second Amendment Supporter

The Supreme Court has spoken — clearly, recently, and repeatedly.

District of Columbia v. Heller (2008) confirmed the individual right to keep and bear arms. *McDonald v. Chicago* (2010) applied that right against every state. *NYSRPA v. Bruen* (2022) ruled that gun regulations must align with the nation's historical tradition. *United States v. Rahimi* (2024) — decided 8 to 1 — confirmed that test still holds.

Virginia's package will face every one of those decisions in court. The forthcoming deep-dive brief will unpack how each case applies — and where the package is most exposed.

November 2026

Every Virginia legislator who voted on these bills cast a recorded vote. The roll calls are public. Voters face those legislators at the ballot box on November 3, 2026.

A right that can be stripped by a misdemeanor conviction is no longer a right. It is a privilege the state lets you keep until you displease it. That distinction is on the ballot.

Where Rights Come From

The Second Amendment did not invent the right to keep and bear arms. It acknowledged a right that already existed.

That right comes from God, not from government. Government cannot grant what it did not create. And what it did not grant, it cannot legitimately take away.

Hold Your Legislators Accountable

Find your Virginia state legislators and ask them how they voted on HB 217, HB 1525, and the rest of the 2026 firearms package.

» Find My Virginia Senator and Delegate

Outside Virginia? Locate your state legislators and check what firearms legislation is currently pending in your statehouse.

» Find My State Legislators (Outside Virginia)

📄 Full Constitutional Briefing — Coming After May 23

A full deep-dive brief — unpacking every Supreme Court case, every Virginia statute, and every constitutional argument with full citations — is in production. The brief will publish after Governor Spanberger's May 23 action on HB 217 / SB 749 is final. Subscribe to the Virginia Christian Alliance to receive the release.

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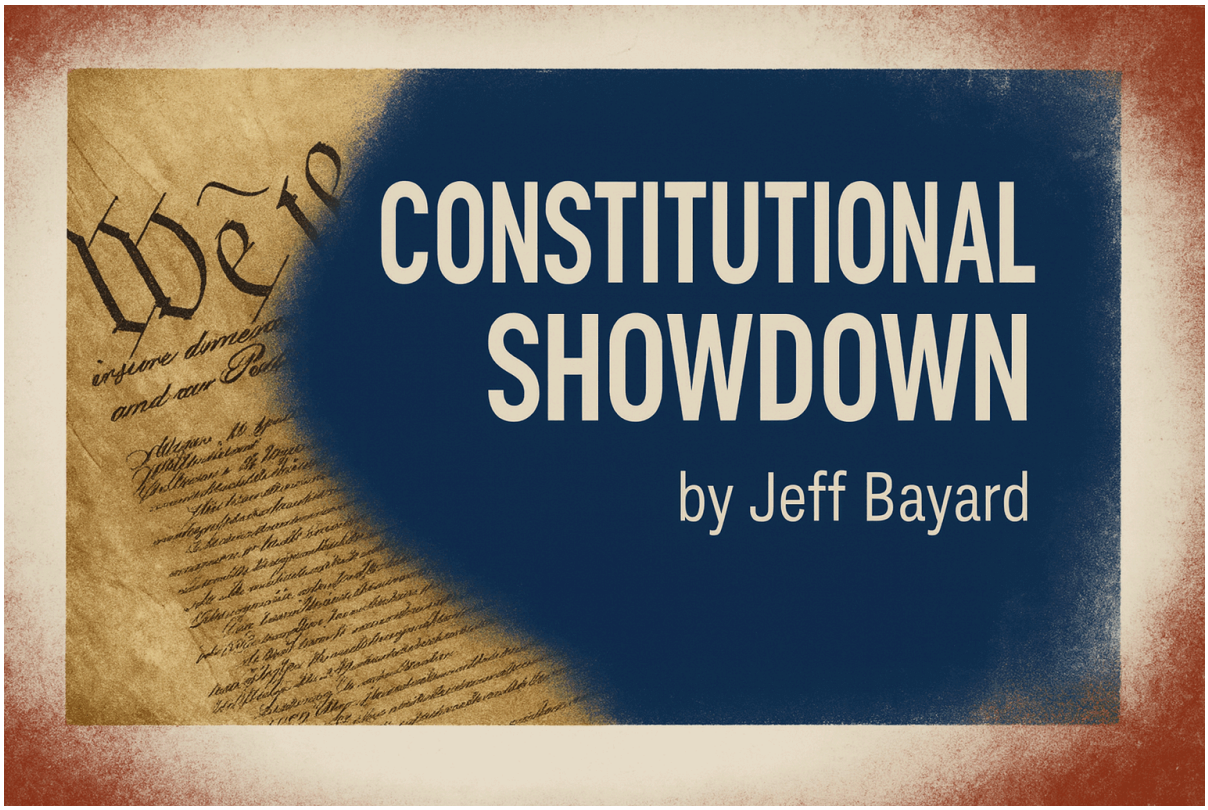
Smith College Investigation: When “Women’s College” Admits Men

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/SMITH-COLLEGE-TITLE-IX-INVESTIGATION/
MAY 7, 2026
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTIONAL SHOWDOWN, US CONSTITUTION



DOE Challenges Title IX Single-Sex Exemption as Supreme Court Prepares to Rule

By Jeff Bayard | Constitutional Showdown Series | May 8, 2026

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” (Genesis 1:27)

From the beginning, God established two sexes—male and female. Not as social constructs or subjective identities, but as biological reality reflecting His creative design. The body reveals who we are; we don’t tell the body who we are.

On May 4, 2026, the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights **opened an investigation** into Smith College, “one of the nation’s largest all-women’s colleges,” “for

admitting biological men and granting them access to women-only spaces, including dormitories, bathrooms, locker rooms, and athletic teams." According to the Department's news release, OCR "will determine whether the college violated Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 … by allowing biological males into women's intimate spaces."

This isn't just about one Massachusetts college. It's about whether legal categories in federal law can be redefined without Congressional action—and whether objective biological reality or subjective self-identification governs American law. The Supreme Court will rule on this exact question by June 2026.

The stakes: every school receiving federal funds, every athletic scholarship, every housing policy, every privacy protection that depends on sex-based classifications.

Why This Matters to Every American

Title IX governs every educational institution receiving federal funds—which means virtually every school in America. When Congress wrote "sex" into Title IX in 1972, they established legal protections based on that category. Single-sex colleges could exist. Women's sports teams could exist. Sex-segregated bathrooms and locker rooms could exist.

All of these depend on one question: What does "sex" mean?

If "sex" means biological reality (male/female), these categories function. Female athletes compete against females. Women's colleges serve women. Privacy protections protect women from males.

If "sex" means subjective self-identification, the category collapses. A biological male who identifies as female would count as "female" under federal law. Women's colleges couldn't exclude him. Women's sports couldn't bar him. Women's bathrooms couldn't prohibit him.

This affects your daughter competing for athletic scholarships. Parents choosing colleges for biological females. Students seeking privacy in dorms, bathrooms, locker rooms. Churches operating schools or receiving federal funds. Every American who believes objective reality should govern law.

The constitutional question is simple: **When Congress wrote "sex" in 1972, what did they mean? And can executive agencies redefine statutory terms without Congressional authorization?**

What Happened at Smith College

Smith College was founded in 1871 as one of the elite "Seven Sisters" women's colleges. For 142 years, "women's college" meant biological females.

In 2013, Smith denied admission to Calliope Wong, a biological male identifying as female, because financial aid forms didn't match the claimed identity. Campus activism erupted.

On May 2, 2015, the Smith College Board of Trustees **"voted to clarify Smith's undergraduate admission policy to include self-identified transgender women."** Smith's president stated at the time: "In the years since Smith's founding, concepts of female identity have evolved."

According to **recent reporting**, Smith's website now states that "any applicants who self-identify as women; cis, trans, and nonbinary women" are eligible to apply. In practice, that category includes biological females and individuals who were born male but identify as women or as "nonbinary women."

On May 18, 2025, Smith **awarded Admiral Rachel L. Levine an honorary degree** at its 147th commencement. Levine, a biological male who identifies as a transgender woman, served as assistant secretary for health under President Biden. Levine was one of four honorands invited to speak at the ceremony.

The department's probe stems from a **June 2025 complaint** filed by conservative advocacy group Defending Education, which raised concerns about Smith's policies on admissions and access to women-only spaces.

As the Department's release states: "Title IX contains a single-sex exception that allows colleges to enroll all-male or all-female student bodies—but the exception applies on the basis of biological sex difference, not subjective gender identity."

What "Sex" Meant in 1972: A First-Hand Account

I graduated from high school in 1972—the same year Congress passed Title IX. Let me tell you what the word "sex" meant to ordinary Americans that year.

It meant male or female. That's it. Two biological categories, determined at birth, recorded on birth certificates and driver's licenses. There was no debate about "gender identity"—the term didn't exist in common usage or federal law.

Yes, there were homosexuals (that was the clinical term then, not "gay people"). But even in that context, everyone understood biological sex remained unchanged. A homosexual man was still a

man. Sexual orientation and biological sex were separate concepts.

When Senator Birch Bayh introduced Title IX to prohibit discrimination "on the basis of sex," every American knew what he meant. He meant preventing schools from discriminating against women because they were women. Not because of how anyone "identified." Because of biological sex.

Black's Law Dictionary (Revised Fourth Edition, 1968) defined "sex" as "the sum of the peculiarities of structure and function that distinguish a male from a female organism; the character of being male or female." That is the definition lawyers would have seen in the standard legal dictionary in the years immediately surrounding Title IX's enactment.

The terminology shift tells the story. In 1972, we didn't have "cisgender" (invented in the 1990s), "nonbinary" (2000s and later), or "gender identity" as a legal term of art. These concepts were imported into law long after Congress enacted Title IX. You cannot retroactively impose 2026 concepts onto 1972 legislation.

The Constitutional Framework

Title IX (20 U.S.C. § 1681) provides that "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance…"

The statute and regulations specify that Title IX's admissions prohibition **"does not apply to private undergraduate colleges,"** while "all other programs and activities of private undergraduate colleges (including single-sex colleges) are governed by Title IX if the college receives any Federal financial assistance." Public colleges that have "traditionally and continually from establishment" admitted only one sex can maintain that policy under 20 U.S.C. § 1681(a)(5).

The legal question: What did "sex" mean in 1972?

When Congress enacted Title IX, "sex" meant biological sex—the reproductive category (male/female) determined at conception, observable at birth, unchangeable throughout life. Congress didn't debate gender identity. They couldn't have—the concept didn't exist in federal law.

Original intent originalism teaches that the Constitution means what the Framers intended, and statutes mean what Congress intended. Courts and agencies enforce laws; they don't rewrite them. If Congress wants "sex" to mean "gender identity," the legislative process exists for that purpose: debate, vote, enact new law. Not administrative reinterpretation.

Smith's 2015 justification stated: "In the years since Smith's founding, concepts of female identity have evolved." But legal categories can't "evolve" through college policy statements. If every institution can redefine "sex" however it wants, federal law becomes meaningless.

The DOE argues Smith claims two contradictory things: (1) We deserve a single-sex exemption (women only), and (2) We admit biological males (not women only). You can't have it both ways under a statute that uses "sex" as an objective category.

The Supreme Court Connection

Two cases were argued before the Supreme Court on January 13, 2026: ***Little v. Hecox*** (No. 24-38) from Idaho and ***West Virginia v. B.P.J.*** (No. 24-43). Both challenge state laws banning biological males from girls' sports teams. The Court's decision, expected in June 2026, will answer the same question Smith faces: What does "sex" mean in Title IX—biology or identity?

The DOE's timing is strategic. Opening this investigation in May 2026—four months after oral arguments and roughly six weeks before the expected decision—positions the agency's interpretation before the Court rules.

If the Supreme Court rules that "sex" means biological sex, the Smith investigation proceeds and the DOE's theory is validated. Every women's college admitting biological males faces the same question.

If the Supreme Court rules that "sex" includes gender identity, the Smith investigation collapses and Title IX is reinterpreted without Congress ever voting on the change—a constitutional problem in itself.

The Court's answer determines whether objective biology or subjective identity governs federal law.

What God's Word Says

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; ***male and female he created them****."* (Genesis 1:27)

God didn't create a spectrum. He created two sexes, distinct and complementary, each bearing His image. This wasn't arbitrary—it reflects the nature of God Himself and establishes the foundation for marriage, family, and human flourishing.

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. ***I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made****."* (Psalm 139:13-14)

Here David acknowledges that God personally designs each human being—including biological sex—as an intentional act of divine craftsmanship. The body tells us who we are. It reveals God's design. We don't tell the body who we are.

Scripture presents humans as unified beings—body and soul integrated. Gnostic dualism, which claims the body doesn't matter and only the inner self counts, is heresy. When someone born male claims to be female, they're not "discovering their true self"—they're rejecting God's design written into their very cells.

Christians must show compassion to those experiencing gender dysphoria—real people bearing real pain in a fallen world. But compassion doesn't require calling a lie truth. Love means pointing people to the God who created them, not affirming rebellion against His design.

This battle isn't ultimately about bathrooms or sports—it's about whether God's creative authority or human autonomy determines reality.

The Opposition's Best Argument

Proponents of gender identity policies argue: "Transgender women are women. Gender identity—a person's internal sense of being male or female—is what determines sex, not chromosomes or anatomy. Excluding transgender women from women's colleges perpetuates discrimination and denies their lived experience. Title IX was designed to protect against sex discrimination, which includes discrimination based on gender identity. Forcing someone to conform to their 'biological sex' when it conflicts with their gender identity causes psychological harm and violates their dignity."

This argument deserves consideration because people with gender dysphoria experience real distress. Advocates genuinely believe they're protecting vulnerable individuals from harm. The desire to be inclusive and affirming comes from a place of compassion.

However, this argument fails for three reasons.

First, compassion doesn't require accepting false premises. A person's sincere belief doesn't create reality. A biological male who identifies as female is still male—no amount of surgery, hormones, or documentation changes his chromosomes.

Second, legal categories require objective definitions to function. If "woman" means "anyone who identifies as woman," the category becomes meaningless, and all sex-based protections collapse. Athletic scholarships depend on sex classifications. Housing assignments use sex categories. Privacy protections assume sex-based spaces. Without objective definitions, none of these work.

Third, this redefines federal law without Congressional action, violating constitutional separation of powers. Congress wrote "sex" in 1972 meaning biological sex. If they want to change that to "gender identity," they must pass new legislation—not let agencies or courts rewrite statutes through interpretation.

Other Women's Colleges Face the Same Question

Smith isn't alone. Multiple elite women's colleges now admit biological males. Wellesley admits "students who live and consistently identify as women." Mount Holyoke admits "everyone except cisgender men"—meaning biological males identifying as female or nonbinary can apply. Bryn Mawr, Mills, and Simmons have similar policies.

If the DOE's legal theory holds, every women's college admitting biological males loses its single-sex exemption. This affects athletic programs, housing facilities, bathroom and locker room policies, and any sex-segregated program receiving federal funds.

This isn't limited to elite colleges. Any institution claiming single-sex status faces the same question: If you say "women only" while admitting biological males, you're making contradictory claims under federal law.

What Happens Next—and Where Our Hope Lies

The Supreme Court's decision, expected in June 2026, will likely determine the Smith investigation's outcome. The Court's interpretation of "sex" in Title IX controls how every school in America must handle these issues.

Meanwhile, parents choosing colleges face uncertainty. Female athletes wonder about fair competition. Women seeking single-sex spaces question their legal protections.

For Christians, this is spiritual warfare: *"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, **against the cosmic powers over this present darkness**, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."* (Ephesians 6:12)

The enemy wants to erase the Creator's design, blur the image of God, and replace divine truth with human autonomy. Every attack on biological sex is ultimately an attack on Genesis 1:27.

But our hope isn't in court decisions. *"The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever."* (Psalm 29:10)

God remains sovereign. Nations rage, courts rule, cultures shift—but the One who created male and female hasn't changed His mind. Our calling isn't to win culture wars but to be faithful

witnesses.

Action Steps for Believers

Pray for wisdom and courage for Supreme Court justices, attorneys arguing these cases, and families affected by gender ideology in schools.

Teach your children God's design for male and female. Don't assume the culture will reinforce biblical truth—it won't.

Support organizations defending biological reality in law and protecting women's spaces, sports, and privacy.

Speak truth with grace when opportunities arise. You don't need a law degree to say "God created male and female."

Choose carefully when selecting colleges for your children. Research admissions policies. Ask direct questions about single-sex housing and facilities.

Stand firm in biblical conviction while showing compassion to individuals struggling with gender dysphoria. Truth and love aren't opposites—they work together.

Conclusion: What's Really at Stake

The Smith College investigation forces America to answer: Does objective biological reality or subjective self-identification govern federal law?

If "sex" can be redefined by executive agencies without Congressional action, no legal category is stable. Male/female, parent/child, citizen/non-citizen—all become fluid, subject to administrative reinterpretation.

For Christians, the answer is clear. God created two sexes. Federal law in 1972 reflected that reality. Courts must interpret laws as written, not rewrite them to fit contemporary ideologies.

The Supreme Court will rule soon. Outcomes matter, but our hope rests in the One who "sits in the heavens and laughs" at the schemes of men (Psalm 2:4).

Until Christ returns and makes all things right, we stand firm on Genesis 1:27: God created them male and female. That truth won't change, regardless of what courts decide.

The battle is real. So is our God.

Related Reading:

- **Louisiana v. Callais: Similar Constitutional Category Question**
- **More Constitutional Analysis**
- **Constitutional Education Resources**

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Louisiana v. Callais and Virginia: Both Maps Wrong, Here's What's Right

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/LOUISIANA-CALLAIS-VIRGINIA-REDISTRICTING-MAPS/
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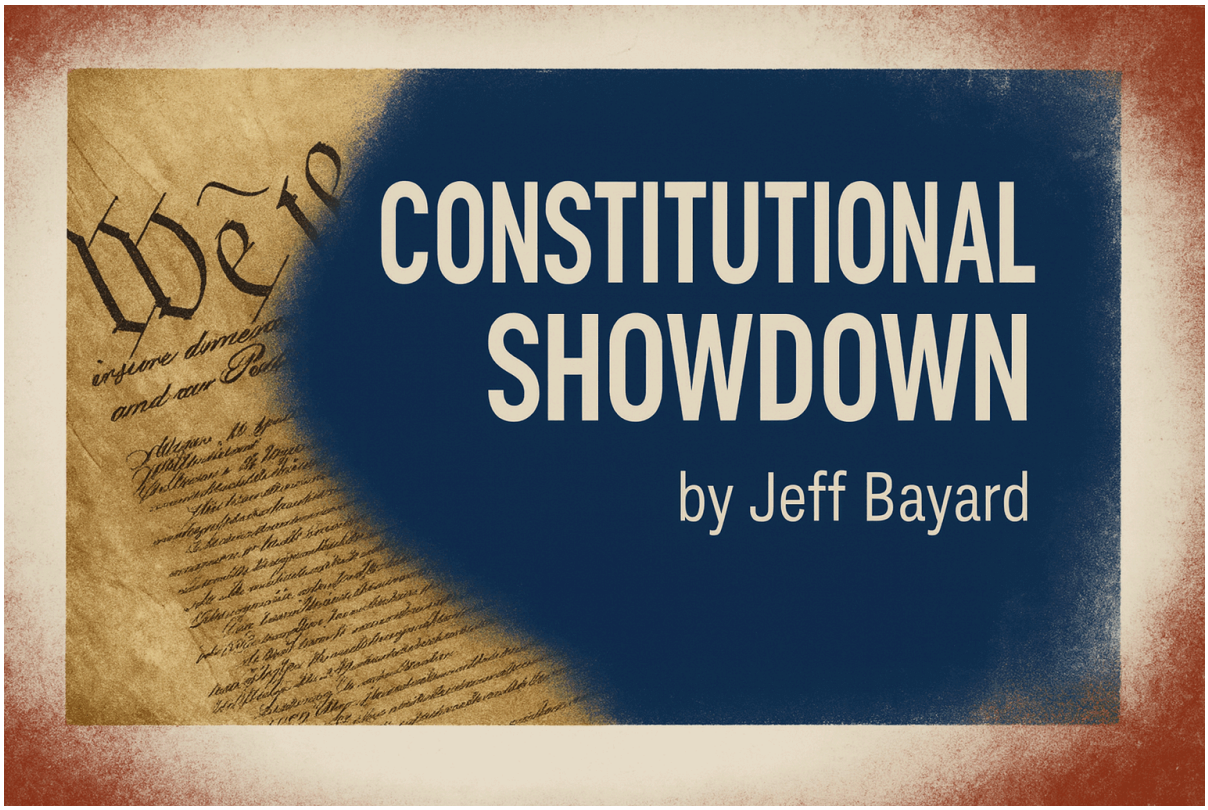
TAGS: CONSTITUTIONAL SHOWDOWN, US CONSTITUTION



*The Virginia Christian Alliance continues our **Constitutional Showdown** series analyzing how two states—Louisiana and Virginia—demonstrate the same constitutional violation from opposite directions, in relation to the Supreme Court ruling on Louisiana v. Callais.*

THE BOTTOM LINE: On April 29, 2026, the Supreme Court struck down Louisiana's congressional map in ***Louisiana v. Callais***, ruling it unconstitutional racial gerrymandering. Meanwhile, Virginia's voter-approved redistricting map sits blocked by courts, with the state Supreme Court deciding its fate. Both maps raise the same constitutional problem—Louisiana by making race the predominant factor (held unconstitutional by SCOTUS), Virginia by making partisanship predominant (under legal challenge). The Reconstruction Framers designed a Third WayThird Way: neutral redistricting criteria that neither discriminate against minorities nor make race or party the driving force. The Supreme Court missed this path. Virginia's court shouldn't repeat the error.

Louisiana v. Callais: Court Strikes Down Race-Based Map

Two days ago, the Supreme Court decided *Louisiana v. Callais* in a 6-3 ruling. Louisiana had redrawn its congressional map in 2024 to create a second majority-Black district after courts found the 2022 map (one Black district despite 33% Black population) likely violated the Voting Rights Act.

Justice Alito's majority struck down the 2024 map as unconstitutional racial gerrymandering. Since Louisiana had no legal requirement to create that second district, the state couldn't justify making race the predominant factor.

Justice Kagan's dissent warned the ruling severely weakens Section 2 by allowing states to defend racial vote dilution through partisan justifications—protecting incumbents or maximizing party advantage shields racially discriminatory maps.

The Supreme Court's Constitutional Error

The Supreme Court had all the pieces. Louisiana's 2022 map showed possible discrimination against Black voters. Louisiana's 2024 map showed race-predominant remedies. **The Third Way**—neutral criteria that prohibit discrimination without mandating racial outcomes—was visible in the constitutional text itself.

Instead, the Court chose the worst possible path: blessing partisan justifications as shields for racial vote dilution. This doesn't honor the Constitution. It creates a loophole that invites exactly the discrimination the Fifteenth Amendment was designed to prevent.

The Court got it wrong. Not because the justices misread precedent, but because they ignored what the Reconstruction Framers actually wrote into the Constitution. The Fifteenth Amendment prohibits denying votes "on account of race"—clear prohibition language. It doesn't require proportional outcomes. The Court had the opportunity to articulate this standard clearly. It failed.

Virginia's Proposed Map Shows the Same Problem

Eight days before *Louisiana v. Callais*, Virginia voters approved a referendum allowing Democrats to bypass the independent redistricting commission for a map projecting 10 Democratic seats, 1 Republican in a closely divided state.

Judge Jack Hurley Jr. **ruled the referendum unconstitutional** April 22 and blocked certification. Virginia's Supreme Court denied the stay April 28, leaving the block in place.

The visual evidence is clear: Virginia's proposed map shows districts snaking across the state, ignoring boundaries, carving communities apart. Districts following neutral criteria look roughly circular, respecting county lines. Districts drawn for partisan advantage look like tentacles packing friendly voters together and splitting opposition voters apart.

Both Maps Raise the Same Constitutional Problem

Louisiana and Virginia represent opposite errors reaching the same constitutional issue.

Louisiana's 2024 map has been held unconstitutional by the Supreme Court for making race predominant—districts drawn to achieve a racial outcome violates the Fourteenth Amendment.

Virginia's proposed map raises the same constitutional problem by making partisanship predominant. District shapes prove neutral criteria weren't the priority—partisan advantage drove the design. While courts address whether the referendum process itself was valid, the deeper question remains: does the resulting map violate the principle that neutral criteria should drive redistricting?

Louisiana's 2022 map may have violated the Constitution as well. If legislators deliberately minimized Black voting power to protect Republican incumbents, that's intentional racial discrimination prohibited by the Fifteenth Amendment.

All three maps failed the constitutional test: Louisiana 2022 (possible discrimination), Louisiana 2024 (race-predominant, held unconstitutional), Virginia 2026 (partisan-predominant, under legal challenge).

What the Constitution Actually Requires

The Reconstruction Framers embedded a clear standard: states must apply neutral redistricting criteria that neither discriminate against minorities nor make race or partisanship predominant.

Traditional neutral criteria: **compactness** (roughly circular districts, not tentacles), **contiguity** (connected parts), **communities of interest** (keep regions together), **political boundaries** (respect county lines), and **equal population**.

If applying these criteria naturally produces majority-minority districts because minority populations are geographically concentrated, that's constitutional—race is incidental, not the driving purpose. If criteria produce districts favoring one party because voters cluster geographically, that's also constitutional—as long as mapmakers applied principles honestly.

The key distinction: Is race or partisanship THE reason for district configuration, or a natural result of genuinely neutral principles?

The Third Way the Courts Keep Missing

In **our October 2025 analysis** of *Louisiana v. Callais*, we identified what the Reconstruction Framers intended: prohibit racial discrimination without mandating racial quotas or making race predominant.

The Fifteenth Amendment states: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged…on account of race." Prohibition language—states cannot discriminate. Not mandate language—states need not engineer proportional racial outcomes.

The Supreme Court in *Louisiana v. Callais* had the constitutional text, the historical record, and the opportunity to get this right. The Fifteenth Amendment's prohibition language is unambiguous. The Fourteenth Amendment's equal protection standard is clear. Neutral redistricting criteria—compactness, contiguity, communities of interest—have been recognized for generations.

Instead, the Court created a partisan loophole that makes a mockery of both amendments. States can now dilute minority votes with impunity—just cite partisan goals. Protect incumbents. Maximize party seats. The result is the same racial discrimination the Constitution forbids, but courts will call it constitutional because the stated motivation was political.

This isn't constitutional interpretation. It's constitutional evasion. The Court didn't uphold the Fifteenth Amendment—it gutted it while pretending to preserve it.

Virginia's Supreme Court now faces the same choice. Will it require neutral redistricting criteria that prohibit both intentional discrimination and race-or-party-predominant gerrymandering? Or will it repeat the Supreme Court's error and bless one form of constitutional violation while condemning the other?

What Happens Next

Louisiana suspended its May 16 primary to redraw maps. Virginia's case sits before the state Supreme Court with no decision date. Both states face the same question: Will courts require neutral criteria that prohibit both discrimination and race-or-party-predominant gerrymandering?

The Framers answered clearly: Prohibit intentional discrimination. Apply neutral criteria. Reject maps where race or party becomes predominant. There is a Third Way. The Constitution requires it. Courts need to apply it.

*When Virginia's Supreme Court rules, VCA will provide comprehensive constitutional analysis examining what the decision means for redistricting nationwide. For the complete Third Way framework—including biblical foundations, Framers' intent, and detailed case law—read our October 2025 analysis: **Louisiana v. Callais: The Framers' Third Way on Voting Rights**.*

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Related Coverage:

- **Virginia Democrats' 10-1 Redistricting Map**
- **Virginia Redistricting Corruption Exposed**

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Court Blocks Virginia's Redistricting Amendment — But the Real Threat Is What Comes Next

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/VIRGINIA-REDISTRICTING-BLOCKED-TRIFECTA-PLAYBOOK/
APRIL 23, 2026
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, OBEDIENCE TO GOD, PULPIT IS RESPONSIBLE

The Trifecta Playbook Is Coming for Every Bill, Every Election, Every State

By Jeff Bayard, Content Manager, Virginia Christian Alliance — A Pastoral Warning

Dear Christian:

Virginia's redistricting amendment has been blocked. On April 22, Tazewell County Circuit Court Judge Jack Hurley issued a temporary injunction preventing certification of the April 21 results and described the votes as "ineffective" unless and until the Supreme Court of Virginia upholds the process used to place the amendment on the ballot. The state's high court is scheduled to hear oral arguments on April 27.

That is good news. But it is not the whole story. And it is not yet a final ruling.

The trifecta that pushed this amendment through is still in power. The dark money pipeline that funded it — more than $62 million, the overwhelming majority from outside Virginia — is still open. The playbook they used is still on the table. And the next bill is already being written.

To every pastor, elder, and church leader in Virginia: this is your moment to decide.

Sign up at **vachristian.org/email-list-signup/**

The redistricting fight exposed something that should grieve every shepherd in this state. Approximately 1.2 million Christians attend church in Virginia every week, according to Pew Research data on religious attendance and Virginia's population. The amendment passed by a margin in the tens of thousands of votes. The margin was sitting in the pews — and the pulpits stayed silent.

That silence cannot continue. What is coming from this trifecta — on guns, on gender, on parental rights, on school curriculum — will touch the lives of every family in your congregation. These are not political issues. They are biblical issues. And your people are looking to you for guidance that most of them are not receiving.

This is not a moment for the church to exhale and go back to the sidelines. This is the moment the church gets in the game. Not as a political action committee, no, but as the prophetic voice God ordained it to be.

The redistricting fight taught us what silence costs. The next fight will prove whether we learned anything.

Watch This: Nick Freitas and Christian Hines Break It Down

Former Virginia Delegate Nick Freitas and political analyst Christian Hines recorded the most important post-election analysis you will see on what just happened in Virginia. Before you read another word, watch this.

Virginia's Redistricting Referendum - What Just Happened & Why It Matters
https://youtube.com/watch?v=8BlJY3hA3Ks

Freitas served ten years in the Virginia House of Delegates. He represented James Madison's district. He holds one of the most conservative lifetime voting records in the history of the chamber. He is not guessing about what happened. He watched the machinery from the inside.

Here is what Freitas and Hines want you to understand:

What Every Virginian Needs to Take Away from This

1. This Was Not Redistricting. This Was a Playbook.

Freitas is blunt: "What you just saw happen in Virginia was not simply a question of a ballot referendum. What you saw was a very deliberate and organized approach in order to achieve something that is now going to essentially dictate probably the next 15 to 20 years for Virginia."

Under the current map, Virginia sends six Democrats and five Republicans to Congress. Under the new map created by the amendment, nonpartisan and partisan analysts alike project Democrats could realistically win as many as ten of the eleven seats — turning a 6–5 split into a 10–1 delegation. That is not a tweak. It is a structural reset.

(Sources: VPAP redistricting analysis, vpap.org/redistricting/2026; NBC News results, April 21, 2026)

Democrats did not campaign on gerrymandering Virginia. They campaigned on affordability and kitchen table issues. Once in power, they pursued permanent structural changes to lock in control regardless of how Virginians vote in the future.

That is the template. Win on one message. Govern on another. Use temporary power to build permanent advantage.

2. Plaintiffs Argue Democrats Broke Virginia's Constitution. A Judge Agreed.

Freitas and other plaintiffs contend that the amendment process violated Virginia's constitutional requirements at multiple points. A circuit court judge found those arguments serious enough to issue an injunction blocking certification. The Supreme Court of Virginia has not yet ruled.

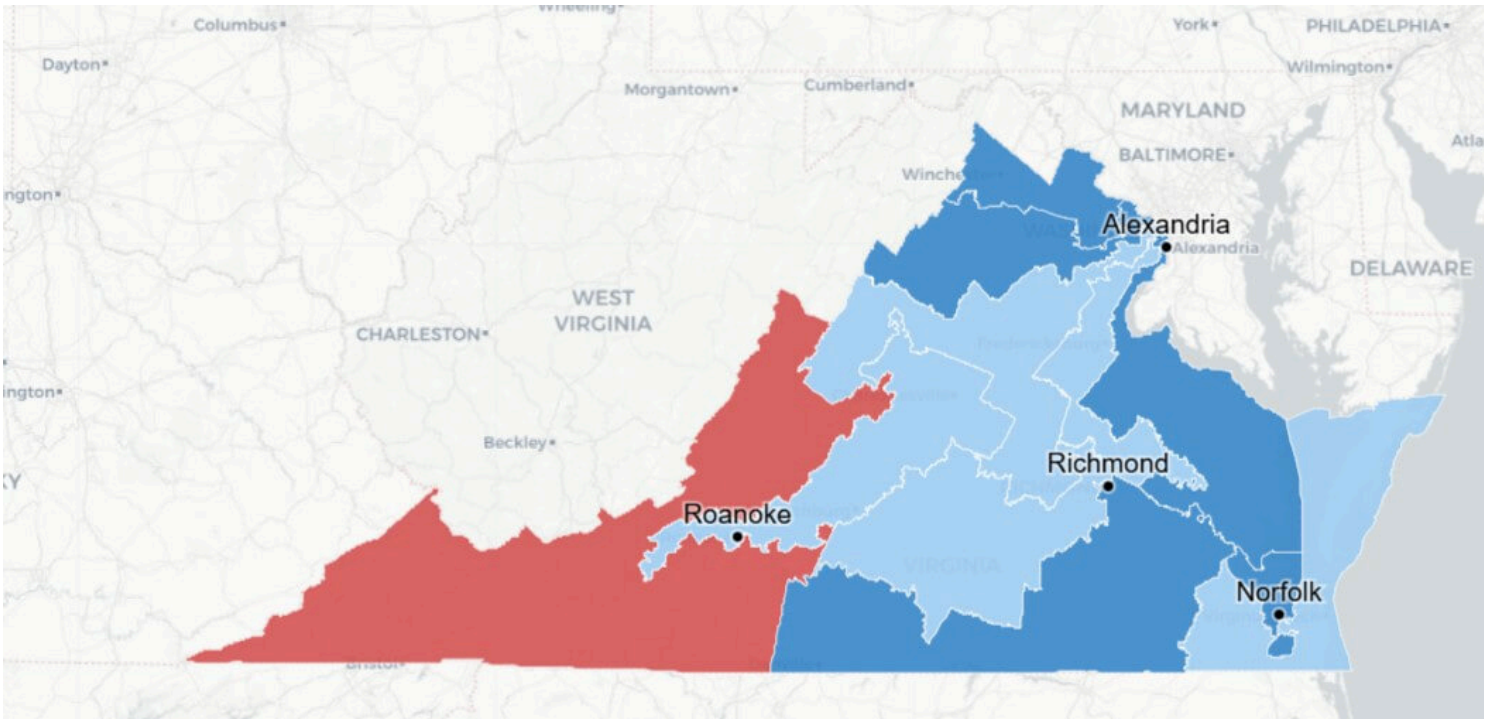
Former Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli outlined four distinct constitutional challenges in a post on X following the vote:

First: The amendment was introduced during a special session originally convened for budget purposes in 2024. Cuccinelli argues that expanding the session's scope to include a constitutional amendment required a two-thirds vote that never occurred. Judge Hurley found this action "void, ab initio" — void from the beginning.

Second: Article XII, Section 1 of Virginia's Constitution requires that after first passage, a proposed amendment be referred to the General Assembly after an intervening House of Delegates election. Here, first passage occurred during an election cycle — after over one million Virginians had already cast early ballots. Freitas: "Over a million Virginians had already voted in the intervening election. I'm sorry. That's illegal."

Third: Article XII, Section 1 requires that the amendment be submitted to voters "not sooner than ninety days after final passage." The timeline from second passage on January 16 to the start of early voting on March 6 was 49 days — well short of the constitutional requirement.

Fourth: Article II, Section 6 requires that "every electoral district shall be composed of contiguous and compact territory." Cuccinelli argues the proposed maps violate this requirement.



(Source: Ken Cuccinelli, X post, x.com/KenCuccinelli/status/2046763761264984137)

Judge Hurley has now ruled three times that serious constitutional violations occurred. The Virginia Attorney General has announced an immediate appeal. The Supreme Court's ruling will determine whether the amendment stands or falls.

3. Fairfax County Splits Across Five Congressional Districts Under the New Map.

Under the proposed map, Fairfax County — a single, deep-blue county in Northern Virginia — is split across five of the state's eleven congressional districts. Several of those districts stretch like long, jagged claws into the Shenandoah Valley and other rural regions.

Hines points out that Rockingham County, which voted 75–24 against the referendum, would be split three ways and submerged into a district anchored in Arlington. Freitas offers a sense of scale: "The distance between Arlington County and Stanton, Virginia in the Shenandoah Valley is a bigger distance than Arlington County and the state of New Jersey."

In practical terms, voters in places like Rockingham or Augusta Counties would be represented by members whose political base and donor network sit in the Washington, D.C. suburbs — not in the communities that care about crop insurance, water rights, or diesel prices.

*(Source: VPAP redistricting maps, **vpap.org/redistricting/2026**; **Freitas video analysis**)*

4. More Than $62 Million from Outside Virginia Funded the "Yes" Campaign.

According to the Virginia Public Access Project, the redistricting referendum was the most expensive ballot measure in Virginia history — with more than $83 million raised by both sides through April 10. Roughly $62 million came from supporters of the amendment, much of it routed through House Majority Forward, a Washington, D.C.–based 501(c)(4) nonprofit that does not disclose its donors.

According to VPAP data as reported by WHSV, only about 3% of the pro-amendment donations came from Virginia donors. Approximately 88% came from Washington, D.C.

This was not Virginians deciding their own future. This was national political operatives using Virginia's Constitution as a tool to flip the U.S. House — funded almost entirely by untraceable out-of-state money.

*(Sources: VPAP, **vpap.org/visuals/visual/the-most-expensive-referenda**; VPAP finance reports, **vpap.org/updates/4907**; WHSV reporting on VPAP data, April 14, 2026)*

5. The Maps Are Not the Worst Part. The Bureaucracy Is.

This is the warning most people are missing. Freitas reveals that while everyone focused on the maps, House Speaker Don Scott has been using the Secretary of the Commonwealth to staff the state bureaucracy and appoint boards of visitors at Virginia's universities.

Freitas: "They are creating a permanent ruling class within corporate boards, boards of visitors at universities, the bureaucracy."

This means control over education, regulation, enforcement, and audits — positions that outlast any single election cycle. Even if the courts overturn the maps, this bureaucratic entrenchment continues. The people making decisions about your children's education, your business regulations, and your tax audits are being hand-picked right now.

6. The Model Is Being Exported.

Freitas's clearest warning: "The model that was utilized in Virginia is coming to a state near you."

Any state where Democrats win a trifecta — governor plus both chambers — is vulnerable to this exact sequence.

- Win on kitchen table issues.
- Use power for structural entrenchment.
- Spend national dark money to legitimize it.
- Dare the courts to stop you.

Virginia was the test case. Democratic strategist James Carville confirmed the national endgame on his "Politics War Room" podcast on April 16: if Democrats win the presidency and both houses of Congress, they should on day one make D.C. and Puerto Rico states and expand the Supreme Court to 13 justices. His words: "F them. Eat our dust. Don't run on it. Don't talk about it. Just do it."

*(Source: **Fox News reporting on Carville's "Politics War Room" podcast, April 17, 2026)***

Freitas connects the dots: "If you thought it was bad before, just wait until you see what happens next."

The Legal Fight: Cuccinelli and the Court Ruling Explained

Former Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli has been leading the legal challenge. The @VaChangeAgent account on X produced a detailed five-minute video explainer based on Cuccinelli's work and the actual court documents from Tazewell County.

> 👉Judicial Injunction Against the 2026 Special Election Certification (Explanatory Video Summary)
>
> The video below (under 5 minutes) was created based on the work of former Virginia AG **@KenCuccinelli** has been doing and uses the actual court documents from the Tazewell County (VA)… **pic.twitter.com/CqceCgc6A7**
>
> — A Guy on X Striving to be the VA Change Agent (@VaChangeAgent) **April 23, 2026**

The courts may yet stop the maps. But even if they do, the template remains. The dark money pipeline remains. The trifecta remains. And the next bill is already being written.

What Is Coming Next — And Why the Church Cannot Stay Silent Again

The trifecta that pushed through the redistricting amendment is still in power. They control the Governor's office, both chambers of the General Assembly, and the Attorney General's office. The same machinery that was used for redistricting will be applied to every issue on their agenda.

Here is what is already in motion or coming:

Gun restrictions. Gun restrictions are not coming — they are here.

Governor Spanberger has already signed more than a dozen gun-related bills into law and acted on over two dozen gun-violence measures in total. Additional bills returned to the General Assembly for final action at the April 22 reconvened session, where lawmakers considered her amendments and vetoes.

The package includes a ban on unserialized "ghost guns," new civil liability for negligent gun manufacturers and dealers, and expanded prohibitions for domestic abusers. A sweeping ban on the future sale of many semi-automatic firearms and magazines holding more than 15 rounds is now moving into place, following passage of HB 217/SB 749 and the governor's announced support.

It also tightens safe-storage requirements in homes with minors and expands restrictions on carrying firearms in sensitive locations such as certain government buildings and public campuses.

Gun-rights groups including the NRA have condemned the legislation as blatant violations of law-abiding Virginians' Second Amendment rights and are preparing legal challenges.

In total, Democrats pushed roughly 25 gun and public-safety bills through the General Assembly this session — the most sweeping overhaul of Virginia's firearms laws in years.

Gender ideology and parental rights. The General Assembly has advanced a constitutional amendment for the November 2026 ballot that would repeal Virginia's same-sex marriage ban and require the Commonwealth to recognize marriages "regardless of sex, gender, or race."

Critics, including the Family Foundation of Virginia, warn that explicitly writing "gender" into the state's marriage clause could effectively enshrine gender-identity ideology in Virginia's highest law. They argue it could provide legal grounds for biological males in female athletic competitions and create new conflicts with religious liberty.

Lawmakers have also passed HB 6, the "Right to Contraception Act," which broadly protects access to contraceptive drugs and devices. Pro-life and parental-rights advocates argue that its definition sweeps in some abortion-inducing drugs and lacks clear age or parental-consent limits — potentially allowing minors to obtain them without parental involvement.

In parallel, abortion-rights groups continue to push for a separate constitutional amendment to lock broad abortion access into the Virginia Constitution; opponents say such a measure would gut existing parental-consent protections if it reaches and passes on the statewide ballot.

School curriculum. During the 2026 session, Democrats again blocked Republican-backed legislation to add stronger "Victims of Communism Day" teaching requirements to public-school curricula — arguing that existing standards already address communism.

At the same time, they advanced their own preferred standards that lock in a specific framing of January 6 as a violent, anti-democratic attack and bar schools from teaching that it was a peaceful protest or justified by widespread election fraud.

Legislation sent to the Governor's desk restricts schools from removing sexually explicit materials from their collections. It only requires parental notification when such material is formally assigned in class — not when it is simply available in classrooms or libraries.

Meanwhile, a controversial bill (HB 359) would have imposed new regulatory requirements on private schools participating in scholarship tax-credit programs — including mandates on curriculum, testing, and potentially religious instruction — though it ultimately did not advance this session.

Non-cooperation with ICE. This is no longer just a matter of local policy — it is now state policy.

In February, Governor Spanberger issued an executive directive ending all 287(g) agreements involving Virginia's state law-enforcement agencies, rescinding former Governor Youngkin's statewide ICE-cooperation framework.

She has also signed legislation (HB 836/SB 491) preventing schools from sharing student information with federal immigration authorities without a judicial warrant. Local school boards such as Charlottesville's have adopted resolutions limiting cooperation with ICE.

Additional legislation advanced during the 2026 session would impose strict conditions on local ICE detention contracts and data-sharing. Critics say these measures will effectively wipe out the roughly two dozen remaining local 287(g)-style partnerships across the Commonwealth once fully implemented.

The practical effect: Virginia is moving toward a de facto sanctuary posture in everything but name.

Bureaucratic entrenchment. University boards, regulatory agencies, and state commissions are being stocked with political appointees who will remain in place long after the current legislature is gone.

Spanberger has already moved to reshape key university boards of visitors. At the University of Virginia alone, she appointed ten new members and requested resignations from Youngkin-era appointees — shifting long-term control over higher-education policy in a more progressive direction.

As Nick Freitas warns in his analysis, House Speaker Don Scott and the Secretary of the Commonwealth are using this appointment power to build what he calls "a permanent ruling class within corporate boards, boards of visitors at universities, and the bureaucracy."

These appointees will oversee education, regulation, enforcement, and audits for years to come — long after any single election cycle has passed.

Every one of these issues is an issue where Scripture speaks clearly. Sanctity of life. Protection of children. Just governance. The proper limits of government authority. The defense of the vulnerable.

Every one of these is an issue where most Virginia churches will say nothing.

We saw what silence cost on April 21. Approximately 1.2 million Christians attend church weekly in Virginia. The amendment passed by a margin in the tens of thousands. The margin was sitting in the pews.

If the church stays silent on what is coming next, the same result will follow. Not once. Repeatedly. On every issue. For years.

What God's Word Says to a People Under Threat

Nehemiah faced a situation that should sound familiar to every Virginian right now. The walls of Jerusalem were broken. The gates were burned. The people were vulnerable and demoralized. And enemies were circling, waiting to exploit the breach.

Nehemiah did not sit and wait for someone else to fix it. He assessed the damage, rallied the people, and organized them to rebuild — with a tool in one hand and a weapon in the other. Nehemiah 4:14 records what he told them: *"Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is*

great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes."

Notice what Nehemiah did not say. He did not say "the courts will handle it." He did not say "let's stay out of this — it's too political." He said remember God and fight. Both. At the same time. Faith and action. Trust in God and a sword on your hip.

Ezekiel 33:6 has not changed since our last article: *"But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned… his blood I will require at the watchman's hand."* The sword is not coming someday. It is here. The trifecta is in power. The bills are being written. The boards are being staffed. The watchman's job is to blow the trumpet now — not after the damage is done.

Proverbs 27:12 says: *"The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it."* This is not a call to fear. It is a call to awareness. The prudent person sees what is coming and acts. The simple person ignores the warning and pays the price. Virginia's Christians already paid the price once on April 21. The question is whether they will see the next threat coming or walk into it blind again.

What You Must Do Right Now

Watch the Freitas video above and share it. Send it to every Virginian you know. Post it on social media. Play it at your small group. This is the clearest analysis available of what just happened and what is coming next.

Pastors and elders: start teaching now. Do not wait for the next crisis to arrive before you decide whether Scripture applies to it. Open Romans 13, Deuteronomy 16, Proverbs 31, and Ezekiel 33 with your congregation. Teach the principles. Trust the Holy Spirit to apply them. Your people need a biblical framework for what is coming — and they need it before the next bill hits the floor, not after.

Follow the legislation. The General Assembly is still in session. Bills are still moving. Track what your delegates and senators are voting for at VPAP.org. Know their names. Know their records.

Prepare for the midterms. The 2026 congressional elections are coming. If the redistricting maps survive the courts, Democrats will use them to flip four congressional seats and potentially take the U.S. House. If the maps are overturned, the current fair maps stay in place and every seat is competitive. Either way, your engagement matters more now than at any point in the last decade.

Hold weak Republicans accountable. Freitas is direct: look at Club for Growth scores and American Conservative Union scores. If your Republican delegate or senator is in a safe R+10

district and scoring in the 70s, that is a problem. Support the good ones. Primary the weak ones. Sitting out is not an option.

Subscribe to Virginia Christian Alliance. We are going to cover every bill we can with our limited resources, every vote, and every issue where Scripture speaks and the church stays silent. We cover what others won't.

Sign up at **vachristian.org/email-list-signup/**

This Is Not Over. Neither Are We.

Nick Freitas closed his analysis with this:

"Ladies and gentlemen, pray for Virginia and pray for our country because this is bad and it's only the beginning. It doesn't stop here. They are going to take this model and they are going to export it to as many states as they think they can get away with."

He is right. And here is what he did not say, because it is not his lane to say it:

The church is the only institution that can stop this.

Not the courts. The courts are a backstop, not a solution. Not the Republican party. They have their own problems, as Freitas himself will tell you. The church. Millions of Christians in Virginia who sit under biblical teaching every Sunday and walk into the voting booth with no framework for applying it.

That changes when pastors decide it changes. That changes when elders decide it changes. That changes when you — the person reading this right now — decide that you will not be silent when the next bill comes.

God is sovereign over Virginia. He is sovereign over every trifecta, every dark money fund, and every bureaucratic appointment. The battle is real, but so is our God. He who sits in the heavens is not threatened by the schemes of men (Psalm 2:4).

Our calling is not to save the Commonwealth. Our calling is to be faithful. To speak truth. To blow the trumpet. To rebuild the wall with a tool in one hand and a sword in the other.

The template is set. The trifecta is in power. The next fight is already here.

The church does not go silent. Not ever.

Sources

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- VPM News — Lawsuits FAQ: vpm.org, April 22, 2026

For a deeper exploration of this topic:

- *"Your Vote Doesn't Matter Anymore: How Virginia Democrats Are Rigging Elections for a Decade"*
- *"The Church That Stayed Silent: How Virginia's Pulpits Failed Their Congregants on April 21"*
- ***Coming Soon, after the Virginia Supreme Court Ruling:***

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Virginia Is Days Away From Criminalizing the Most Popular Rifles in America: April 13th

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APRIL 11, 2026
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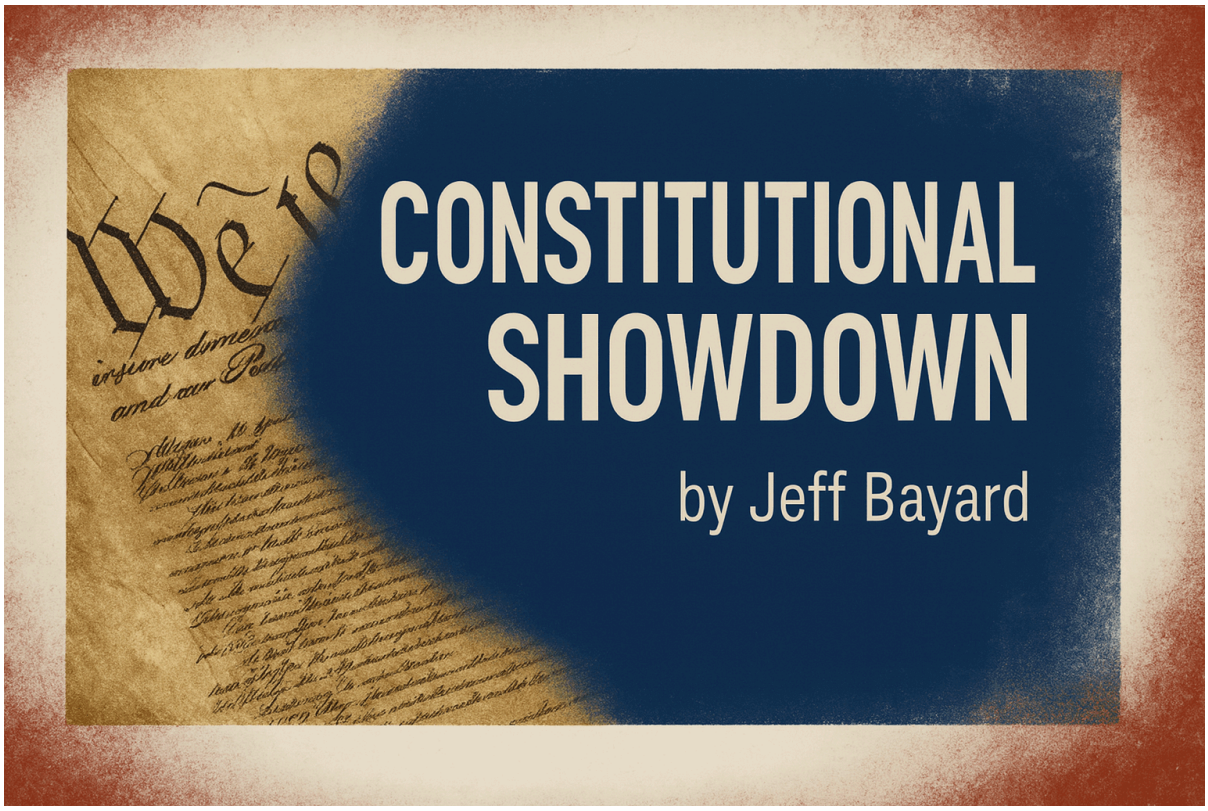

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Download the Full Constitutional Brief — Second Amendment Deep Dive
Virginia's Second Amendment rights are under direct assault. Download our free in-depth constitutional brief — complete with SCOTUS case law, Virginia statute analysis, and exactly what you can do before April 13.

→ **Download the Second Amendment Deep Dive (Free PDF)**

Second Amendment rights in Virginia are facing their most direct legislative challenge in a generation — and the clock is running. Imagine this: you are a law-abiding Virginia citizen. You have never been charged with a crime. You own a semi-automatic rifle — the most common type of firearm in America — purchased legally, stored responsibly, used for home defense or sport shooting. You have done nothing wrong.

Under HB 217, now sitting on Governor Gia Spanberger's desk with a deadline of April 13, 2026, that rifle could make you a criminal. Not because of what you did with it. Because of what it is.

This is not hypothetical. This is Virginia law, days away.

What the Constitution Says About Second Amendment Rights

U.S. Constitution — Second Amendment *"A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."*
Virginia Constitution — Article I, Section 13 *"That a well regulated militia, composed of the body of the people, trained to arms, is the proper, natural, and safe defense of a free state, therefore, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed; that standing armies, in time of peace, should be avoided as dangerous to liberty; and that in all cases the military should be under strict subordination to, and governed by, the civil power."*
Notice what Virginia's constitution adds that the federal version does not: it defines the militia as the body of the people, trained to arms. It warns against standing armies. It ties the right to bear arms directly to the defense of a free state. Virginia's Second Amendment rights are not weaker than the federal standard — they are stronger. Richmond adopted that standard. Richmond is now violating it.

What the Founders Intended — And What the Supreme Court Confirmed

For decades, lower courts treated the Second Amendment as a collective right tied to militia service. The Supreme Court ended that argument in 2008.

In *District of Columbia v. Heller*, the Court held that the Second Amendment "protects an individual right to possess a firearm unconnected with service in a militia, and to use that arm for traditionally lawful purposes, such as self-defense within the home." In 2010, *McDonald v. City of Chicago* incorporated that right against the states — meaning Virginia is bound by it.

Then came *Bruen* in 2022. The Supreme Court replaced the old interest-balancing test with a stricter standard: the government must show that any firearms restriction is "consistent with this Nation's historical tradition of firearm regulation." Not just reasonable. Not just popular. Historically grounded. That is now the constitutional floor — and Virginia's new wave of gun laws was built before it.

What God Says About the Right of Self-Defense

The right of self-defense did not originate in Philadelphia in 1787. It is older than the republic. It is written into the created order.

In Exodus 22:2, God's law recognized the right of a man to defend his home: *"If a thief is found breaking in and is struck so that he dies, there shall be no bloodguilt for him."* God here acknowledges that protecting your household from violent intrusion is not only permitted — it is righteous. The life of the innocent defender and those in his care is worth protecting.

In Nehemiah 4:17–18, the builders of Jerusalem's wall worked with a tool in one hand and a weapon in the other: *"Each of the builders had his sword strapped at his side while he built."* God's people did not outsource their protection to government. They equipped themselves and they worked. That is not a relic of ancient Israel — it is a principle of human dignity under God's design.

The right to bear arms is not a political preference. It is a Creator-endowed right rooted in the sanctity of human life and the God-given responsibility of every person to protect those in their care. Government does not grant that right. Government may not lawfully abolish it.

Virginia Right Now — What Richmond Has Already Done

Since 2020, the Virginia General Assembly has passed a significant wave of firearms restrictions that chip away at Second Amendment rights in Virginia one statute at a time. Each one affects ordinary, law-abiding Virginians:

Red Flag Law (§ 19.2-152.13): Any law enforcement officer or attorney for the Commonwealth may petition a court to have your firearms seized — without a criminal charge, without a conviction, without a jury. The standard is "probable cause" that you pose a "substantial risk." You may not even be present when the initial order is issued. This is a civil proceeding that carries the consequences of a criminal one. **Universal Background Checks (§ 18.2-308.2:5):** Private sales between law-abiding citizens now require a government background check run through a licensed dealer. The transaction between a grandfather and his grandson is now subject to state approval. **One Handgun Per Month (§ 18.2-308.2:2(R)):** Virginia law limits most handgun purchases to one per 30-day period. A violation is a Class 1 misdemeanor. Certain exceptions apply — but not for the average citizen.

Download the Full Constitutional Brief — Second Amendment Deep Dive
Get the complete analysis: SCOTUS case law from Heller through Rahimi, full Virginia statute breakdown, the Bruen test applied to Virginia's laws, and specific action steps.

→ **Download the Second Amendment Deep Dive (Free PDF)**

Why HB 217 Should Alarm Every Virginia Gun Owner

HB 217, passed by the General Assembly and enrolled to Governor Spanberger on March 31, 2026, creates a new crime: importing, selling, manufacturing, purchasing, or transferring an "assault firearm" — defined as any semi-automatic center-fire rifle or pistol equipped with a magazine holding more than 20 rounds, designed to accommodate a silencer, or equipped with a folding stock. A companion provision bans the sale of any magazine holding more than 15 rounds.

Both violations are Class 1 misdemeanors. A conviction strips your firearm rights for three years.

Governor Spanberger has three options before 11:59 p.m. on April 13, 2026: she can sign it into law, veto it and return it to the General Assembly with objections, or do nothing — in which case it becomes law automatically at the deadline without her signature. There is no fourth option. There are no revisions, no negotiations, no do-overs. By April 13, this is either law or it is not.

This is not targeting criminals. Criminals do not comply with magazine capacity laws. This is targeting the law-abiding citizen who bought a standard-configuration rifle at a Virginia gun store, followed every rule, and now faces prosecution for possession under a definition that did not exist last year.

Under *Bruen*'s historical-tradition test, the government must now demonstrate that magazine capacity restrictions and semi-automatic bans are rooted in America's historical tradition of firearm regulation. They are not. They are modern inventions with no founding-era analogue. The constitutional challenge to HB 217 — if Spanberger signs it or allows it to lapse into law — begins immediately.

Second Amendment Rights and the November 2026 Stakes

Every Virginia legislator who voted for HB 217, the red flag law, the handgun purchase limit, and the universal background check requirement is on the ballot in November 2026. This is not abstract. These are named votes on recorded roll calls. Voters in every district in Virginia can look up exactly how their senator and delegate voted — and they should.

Second Amendment rights in Virginia do not belong to a political party. They belong to the people — endowed by their Creator, confirmed by the Framers, incorporated against the states by the Supreme Court, and protected by a Virginia constitution that is older and stronger than the federal one. When Richmond acts as though those protections do not exist, it is the job of Virginia voters to remind them otherwise.

Rights come from God. Governments are instituted to protect them. When government instead becomes the threat — when the man with no criminal record, no charge, and no conviction finds

himself the target of laws designed for criminals — something has gone deeply wrong. And Virginia citizens have the power, at the ballot box, to correct it.

Find Your Virginia Legislators

Your Virginia Senator and Delegate voted on every bill named in this article. Look up their votes — then contact them before April 13.

Find My Virginia Senator → **Find My Virginia Delegate →**

Contact Governor Spanberger →

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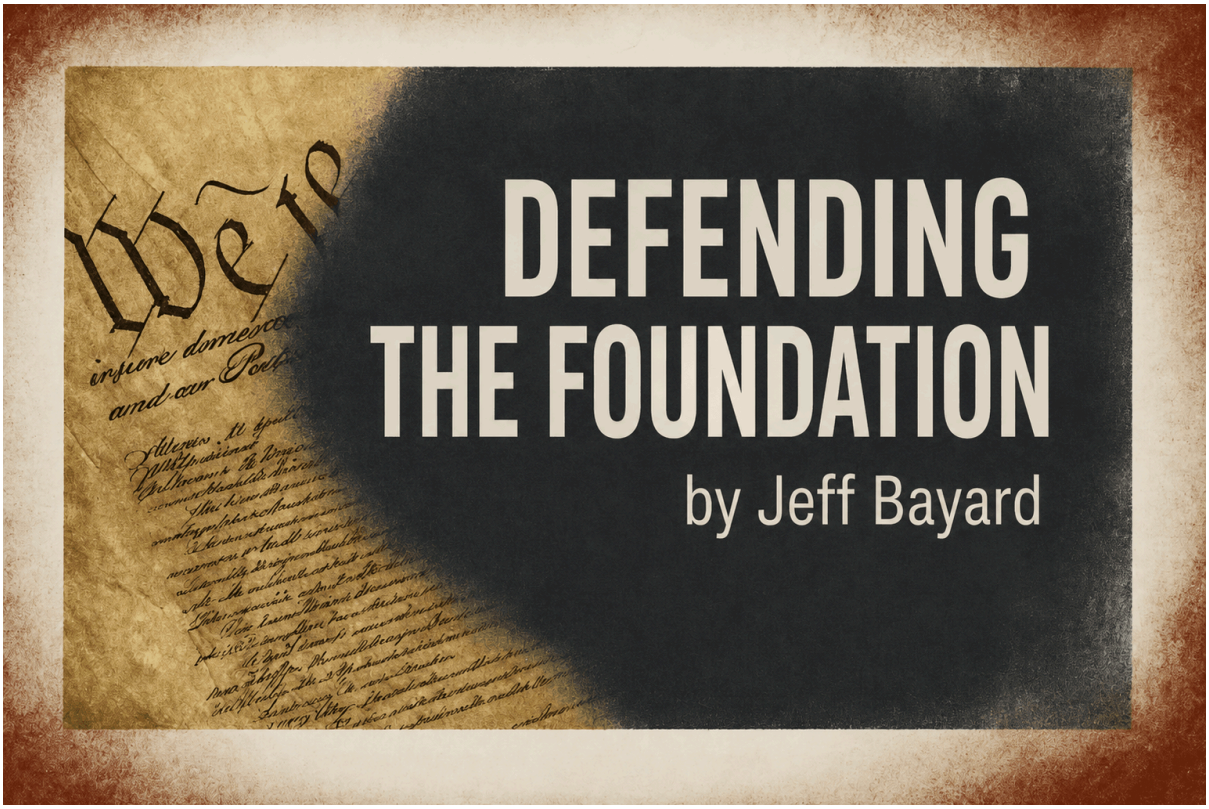
First Amendment — Free Speech in Virginia

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/FIRST-AMENDMENT-FREE-SPEECH-IN-VIRGINIA/
MARCH 31, 2026
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, CONSTITUTIONAL SHOWDOWN, DEFENDING THE FOUNDATION, US CONSTITUTION



You Have the Right to Speak. Until You Do.

Defending the Foundation | Article 2 of 8
By Jeff Bayard | Virginia Christian Alliance

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This article introduces the threat. The deep dive proves it — with full case law, statutory text, and a line-by-line constitutional analysis.

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What the Free Speech Law Actually Says in Virginia

Most Americans have never read the First Amendment free speech in Virginia protections that apply to them. They know the amendment exists. They just don't know what it says. And even fewer know that Virginia adds a second layer of protection on top of it.

Here is the federal text:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or ***abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press****…"*

— U.S. Constitution, First Amendment

Now read what Virginia added — written in 1776, before the federal Bill of Rights even existed:

"That the freedoms of speech and of the press are among the ***great bulwarks of liberty, and can never be restrained except by despotic governments****; that any citizen may freely speak, write, and publish his sentiments on all subjects…"*

— Virginia Constitution, Article I, Section 12

Notice the difference. The federal amendment restrains government: *Congress shall not.* Virginia goes further. It names the enemy plainly. Only despotic governments restrain free speech. And it gives every citizen the affirmative right to freely speak, write, and publish.

For Virginians, the Virginia Constitution is the first line of defense. The U.S. Constitution is the second. Virginia wrote the prototype. Virginia's standard is higher. And we hold Richmond to what Richmond itself adopted.

That is double-layered protection. It was meant to be ironclad.

What the Founders Actually Meant

The Founders called free speech a "great bulwark of liberty" for a reason. A bulwark is a defensive wall — the last line between the citizen and tyranny. Without it, every other right collapses. You cannot defend your religious liberty if you cannot speak. You cannot hold government accountable if dissent is silenced.

James Madison drafted both the First Amendment and championed Virginia's Declaration of Rights. He knew that conscience is only free when it can be spoken aloud. A government that controls what you say controls what you think.

Justice Robert Jackson made this permanent in 1943. Writing for the Supreme Court in *West Virginia v. Barnette*, he declared:

"If there is any fixed star in our constitutional constellation, it is that no official, high or petty, can prescribe what shall be orthodox in politics, nationalism, religion, or other matters of opinion or force citizens to confess by word or act their faith therein."

— West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette, 319 U.S. 624 (1943)

That is a warning to every school board, every university administrator, and every legislator in Virginia.

The right is not the freedom to speak when it is convenient. It is the freedom to speak when it is costly.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes." — Romans 1:16 (ESV)

Paul wrote those words knowing they could cost him everything. They did. The Founders built that conviction into the Constitution. Virginia wrote it into its own Declaration of Rights. And yet today in Virginia, speaking the truth can cost you your career, your platform, and your place in the public square.

What Is Happening in Virginia Right Now

Consider what happened in Loudoun County in October 2024.

Parents showed up to a school board meeting to raise safety concerns about a student with documented gang ties who had been re-enrolled at their children's school. The school board chair shut down public comment. Their speech was silenced — not because it was threatening, but because the board did not like what they were saying.

Read that again.

In January 2025, Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares filed an amicus brief calling it exactly what it was — viewpoint discrimination. In his **official statement** announcing the filing, he wrote: *"The remedy for speech the government dislikes is more speech, not enforced silence."* In December 2025, the Fourth Circuit ruled against the parents — holding that school boards may restrict speech in a limited public forum when it targets specific students. The parents' attorneys are evaluating next steps. And the ruling proves precisely why Virginia's own higher standard under Article I, Section 12 matters: when the federal floor permits silencing, Virginia's constitution demands more.

Parents in Virginia are being silenced at their own school board meetings.

Then there is Peter Vlaming. In Article 1 of this series, we showed how his firing violated his religious liberty. But his case was also a free speech case. Justice Kelsey of the Virginia Supreme Court was explicit. The school board violated *"his right of free expression under Article I, Section 12*

of the Constitution of Virginia." In 2024, the West Point School Board paid him $575,000 in damages. A teacher lost his career. The state lost in court. The compelled speech pattern continues.

Virginia also passed SB 854 in 2025 — a law rationing how long citizens could speak online. It required platforms to limit minors to one hour per day of social media use. On February 27, 2026, a federal judge struck it down. The court found it burdened far more speech than necessary — including the speech of adults. Virginia is appealing. The fight is not over.

And in October 2025, a sitting Albemarle County school board member publicly compared a Turning Point USA student speaker to the Ku Klux Klan. She declared the speech "not a matter of free speech" but "hate speech with no place in our schools."

Here is what UVA told the Governor of Virginia in its own official 2025 report to the General Assembly:

"There is no 'hate speech' exception to the First Amendment unless it also falls within well-recognized exceptions to free speech (e.g., obscenity, perjury, child pornography, incitement, true threats, etc.)."

— University of Virginia, Report to the Governor and General Assembly, November 2025

A school board member declared conservative speech hate speech. Virginia's flagship university told Richmond there is no such exception. Both cannot be true.

Dear Christian, this is happening in your state. Right now.

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You've seen what's happening. The deep dive shows exactly why it's unconstitutional — full case citations, statutory language, and a steel-man of the opposing argument.

Download the Constitutional Deep Dive (PDF) →

Why This Should Alarm You

When a school board shuts down parents who disagree, free speech has become government-approved speech. You may speak — as long as officials like what you say.

When a teacher loses his career for refusing to speak words that violate his conscience, the state has crossed into compelled speech. The First Amendment does not protect only comfortable speech. It protects speech that costs something.

This is no longer theoretical. This is what is happening in Virginia right now.

The Supreme Court has been clear — repeatedly. Three landmark cases unpack the full constitutional picture. We cover all three in the deep dive: *Barnette* on compelled orthodoxy, ***Rosenberger v. University of Virginia*** on viewpoint discrimination at public universities, and *303 Creative v. Elenis* on compelled expressive speech. Virginia is in tension with all three.

The Stakes for November

Virginia voters face real choices in November. The officials who run these school boards, pass these laws, and appoint these administrators answer to you. Free speech does not defend itself. It requires citizens who understand what it is, why it matters, and what it costs to lose it.

The Founders gave us two layers of protection for a reason. They knew the appetite for control does not stop on its own. Both layers are under pressure today.

Proverbs 31:8 commands: *"Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute."* That is not optional for the Christian citizen. It is a calling.

You were given this right. Not by government — by your Creator. Government did not grant it. Government cannot legitimately take it away.

✉ Is Your Legislator Defending Your Rights?

Virginia's senators and delegates wrote these laws. They answer to you. Forward this article to your Senator and delegate today and let them know you're paying attention.

Find My Virginia Senator → **Find My Virginia Delegate →**

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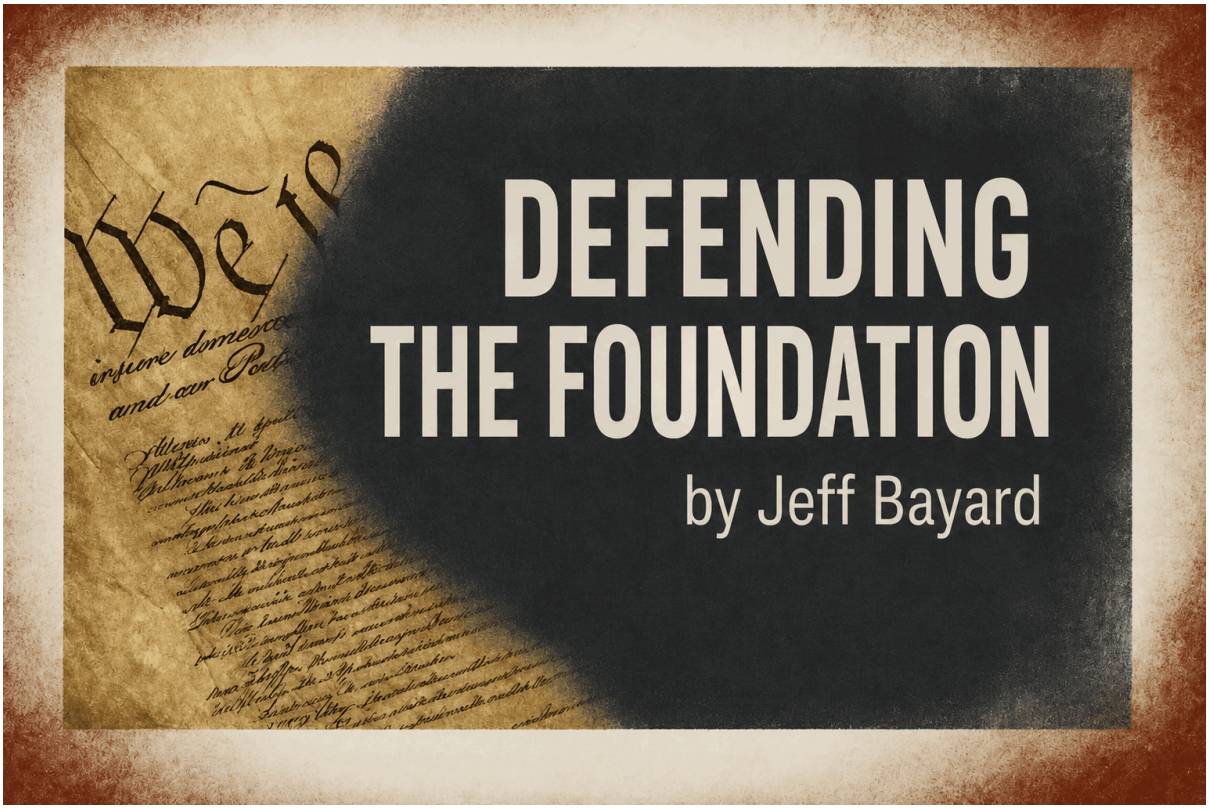
First Amendment — Religious Liberty in Virginia

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/FIRST-AMENDMENT-RELIGIOUS-LIBERTY-IN-VIRGINIA/
MARCH 26, 2026
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, CONSTITUTIONAL SHOWDOWN, DEFENDING THE FOUNDATION, US CONSTITUTION



You Can Believe, But Not Exercise It

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What the Law Actually Says

Most Americans have never read the First Amendment religious liberty protections that apply to them — especially here in Virginia. They know the amendment exists. They just don't know what it says. And even fewer know that Virginia adds a second layer of protection on top of it.

Here is the federal text:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or ***prohibiting the free exercise thereof****…"*

— U.S. Constitution, First Amendment

Now read what Virginia added — written in 1776, before the federal Bill of Rights even existed:

"That religion or the duty which we owe to our Creator, and the manner of discharging it, can be directed only by reason and conviction, not by force or violence; and, therefore, ***all men are equally entitled to the free exercise of religion, according to the dictates of conscience****…"*

— Virginia Constitution, Article I, Section 16

Notice the difference. The federal amendment restrains government: *Congress shall not.* Virginia's constitution gives you an affirmative right: *all men are equally entitled.* You don't just have the right to believe privately. You have the right to live your faith — in your home, your business, your counseling office, your daily life.

That is double-layered protection. It was meant to be ironclad.

What the Founders Actually Meant

The Founders called religious liberty the "first freedom." Not because it appears first in the amendment. Because they understood it as the foundation everything else rests on.

James Madison drafted the First Amendment. He wrote that conscience is **"the most sacred of all property"** — connecting religious conviction not just to private belief but to its public profession and practice. George Mason wrote Virginia's Declaration of Rights. He understood that a government powerful enough to control how citizens worship has no real limits at all.

The Free Exercise Clause was never meant to protect only Sunday mornings inside a church building. It was meant to protect the physician who won't perform an abortion. The counselor who believes change is possible. The web designer who won't create content that violates her convictions. The business owner who serves everyone — but cannot participate in every ceremony.

The right is not the freedom to believe. It is the freedom to *live what you believe.*

That is not a fringe interpretation. That is what the text says. That is what the Founders meant.

What Is Happening in Virginia Right Now

Consider Peter Vlaming. He was a high school teacher in West Point, Virginia. He was fired for refusing to use male pronouns for a biologically female student. His reason was religious. He did not attack anyone. He did not refuse to teach. He simply could not speak words that violated his conscience. The school board fired him anyway. It took the Supreme Court of Virginia to reinstate his free-exercise and free-speech claims.

He believed. He exercised that belief. He lost his job.

Virginia law goes further. **§ 54.1-2409.5 of the Code of Virginia** bans licensed counselors from offering any practice that seeks to change a minor's sexual orientation or gender identity. That means a Christian counselor who believes change is possible cannot act on that belief with a client under 18. If he does, it is classified as unprofessional conduct. He can lose his license.

This is not a neutral law. It targets a specific viewpoint — a biblical one.

Virginia businesses face similar pressure under the Virginia Human Rights Act. A business owner who declines to create content that violates her conscience can face legal consequences. The state has begun to compel speech. What your work expresses is no longer fully yours.

Dear Christian, this is happening in your state. Right now.

⬇ Download the Full Constitutional Brief

You've seen what's happening. The deep dive shows exactly why it's unconstitutional — full case citations, statutory language, the Vlaming ruling, and a steel-man of the opposing argument.

Download the Constitutional Deep Dive (PDF) →

Why This Should Alarm You

When government controls what a counselor may say in a private session, "free exercise" has become "free belief." You may think what you want. But you cannot live it out professionally.

When a teacher loses his job for refusing to speak words that violate his convictions, the state has crossed a line. The First Amendment does not protect only private belief. It protects expression and action rooted in belief.

This is no longer theoretical. This is what is happening in Virginia right now.

The Supreme Court has weighed in — repeatedly. Three landmark cases directly address what Virginia is doing. We unpack all three in the full analysis: *Employment Division v. Smith*, *Fulton v.*

City of Philadelphia, and ***303 Creative v. Elenis***. The picture they paint is not good for what Virginia is doing.

The Stakes for November

Virginia voters face real choices in November. The officials who write these laws, enforce these regulations, and appoint these licensing board members answer to you. Religious liberty does not defend itself. It requires citizens who understand what it is, why it matters, and what it costs to lose it.

The Founders gave us two layers of protection for a reason. They knew government's appetite for control does not stop on its own. Both layers are under pressure today.

You were given this right. Not by government — by your Creator. Government did not grant it. Government cannot legitimately take it away.

✉ Is Your Legislator Defending Your Rights?

Virginia's senators and delegates wrote these laws. They answer to you. Forward this article to your Senator and delegate today and let them know you're paying attention.

Find My Virginia Senator → **Find My Virginia Delegate →**

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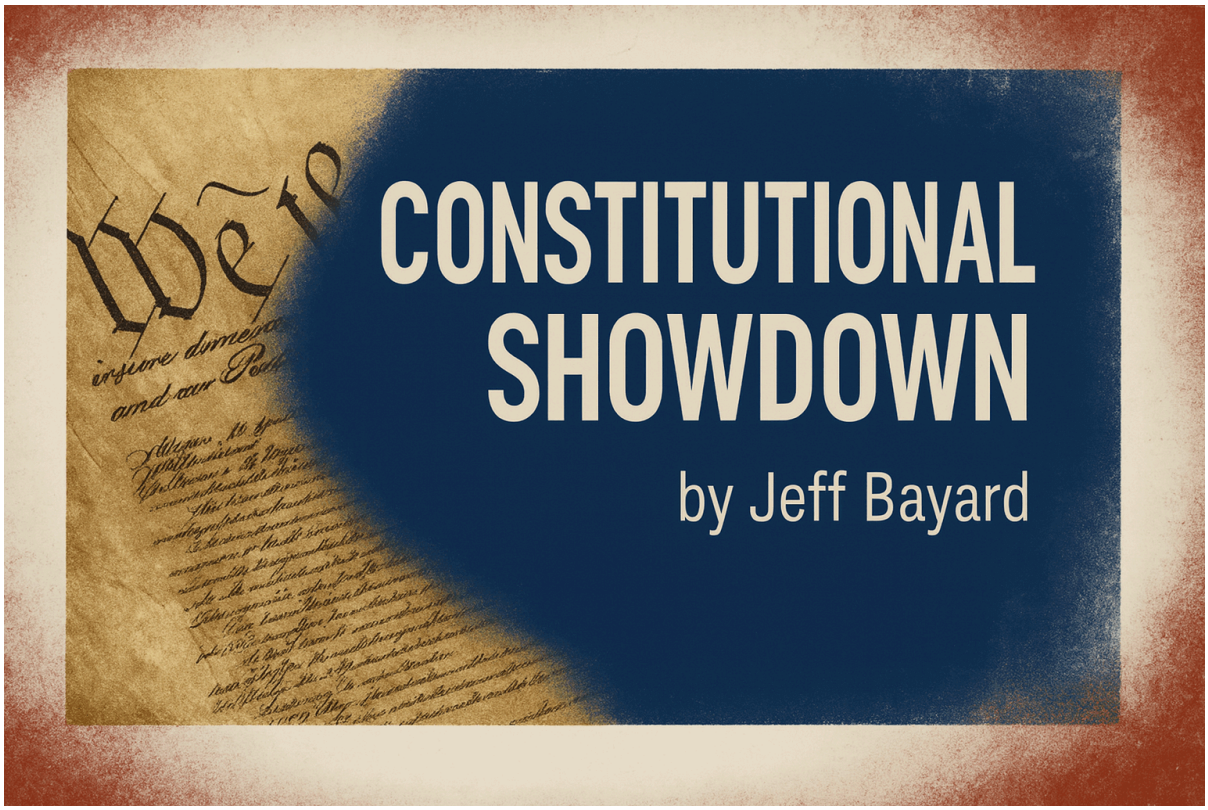
Your Vote Doesn't Matter Anymore: How Virginia Democrats Are Rigging Elections for a Decade

BY VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/YOUR-VOTE-DOESNT-MATTER-ANYMORE-HOW-VIRGINIA-DEMOCRATS-ARE-RIGGING-ELECTIONS-FOR-A-DECADE/
MARCH 12, 2026
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, CONSTITUTIONAL SHOWDOWN, US CONSTITUTION



In 9 out of 10 Virginia congressional districts, if you're a Republican, your vote is worthless. Not diminished. Not weakened. Worthless. And Democrats are asking you to approve this theft on April 21.

By Jeff Bayard, Virginia Christian Alliance, A Constitutional Showdown Article

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This Is What Election-Fixing Looks Like in America

If you're a Republican living in nine of Virginia's ten new congressional districts, I need you to understand something: Your vote doesn't matter anymore.

Not "matters less." Not "has diminished influence." Doesn't. Matter. At all.

You could organize record-breaking turnout. You could knock every door, register every eligible voter, and mobilize every church in your district. You could get 60% of registered Republicans to show up on Election Day—a turnout rate that would be historic, unprecedented, impossible to sustain.

And you would still lose. Every single time. By design.

Because the district lines have been drawn to guarantee you lose. The math has been calculated. The outcome is predetermined. Your vote is theater. The election is a formality.

This is what happens when one party controls everything—Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, both chambers of the General Assembly—and decides that both the United States Constitution and Virginia's Constitution are suggestions they can ignore when convenient.

Welcome to third-world-style predetermined elections, American edition. Better graphics, same theft.

And on April 21, Virginia Democrats are asking you to ratify it.

Early voting has already started. Most Virginians don't even know this referendum is happening. Those who do mostly don't understand what they're voting on. The ballot question uses phrases like "restore fairness" and "temporarily adopt new congressional districts."

It doesn't mention that "restore fairness" means "rig ten districts so Democrats win regardless of how Virginians actually vote."

It doesn't mention that "temporarily" means "for the rest of this decade, and probably longer once we establish the precedent."

It doesn't mention that you voted 65.69% in 2020 to create an independent redistricting commission specifically to prevent politicians from doing exactly this.

Here's what's actually on the ballot April 21: Do you want to make nine of ten congressional districts permanently unwinnable for Republicans, regardless of turnout, regardless of issues, regardless of candidates, for the next decade?

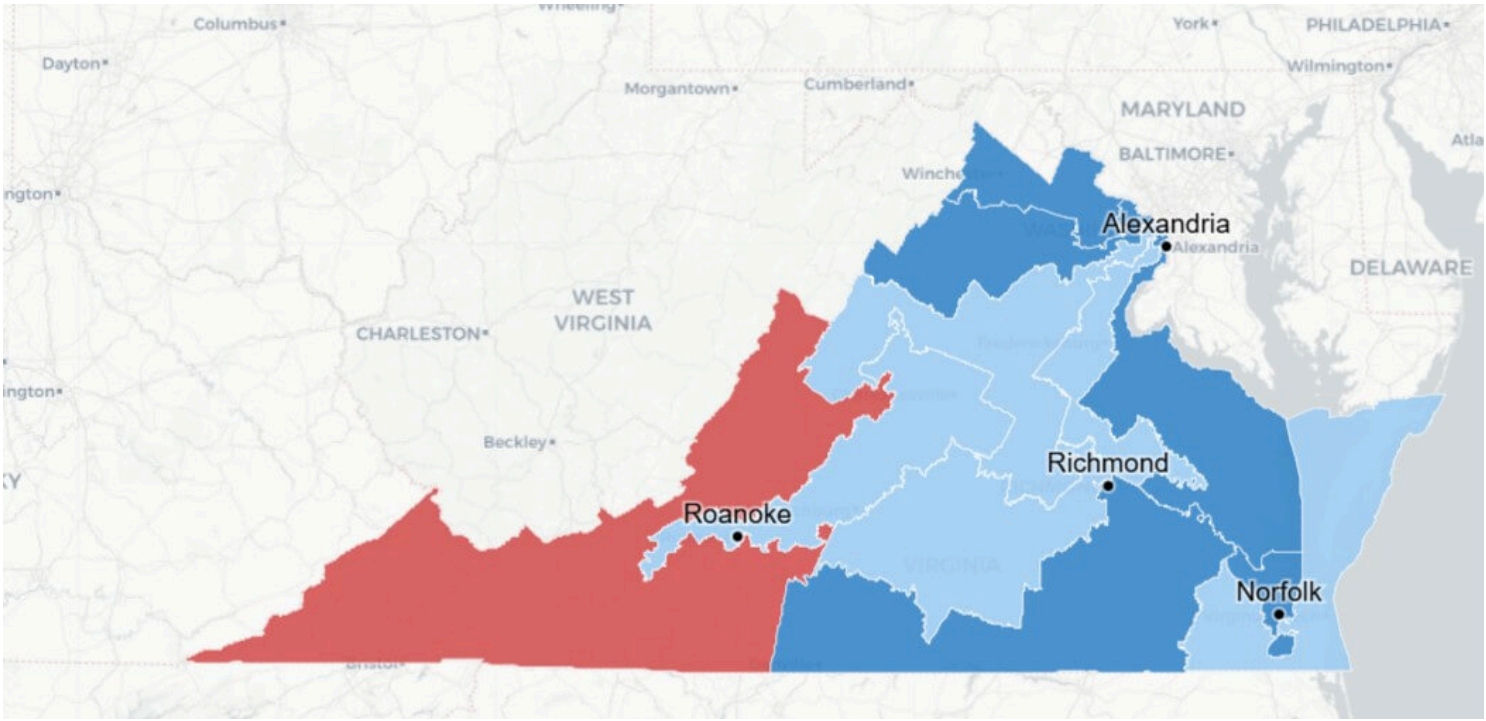
Democrats are betting you won't understand that's what you're voting for until it's too late.

The Map That Steals Your Vote—And How They're Getting Away With It

Look at what they're actually proposing.

Current Virginia congressional delegation: 6 Democrats, 5 Republicans. Competitive. Reflects that Virginia is closely divided politically.

Proposed map (according to electoral analysts projecting from past voting patterns): 10 Democrats, 1 Republican.



Want proof? Go to **VPAP.org** and enter your address. You'll see two numbers: your current district's partisan lean and your proposed district's lean. Watch competitive districts become unwinnable. One example: an area currently rated D+3 (competitive—Republicans could win with strong turnout) gets shifted to D+17 under the new map. That's not redistricting. That's mathematical elimination. Your turnout won't matter because the map guarantees you lose.

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Recent presidential elections show Virginia split nearly evenly. When one party that gets support from nearly half of voters controls less than 10% of congressional seats, that's not representation. That's elimination.

One massive Republican district sprawls across most of rural Virginia—the single seat Democrats are willing to leave for Rep. Morgan Griffith. The other ten districts snake through Northern Virginia, Richmond, and Norfolk in shapes that make sense only if your goal is maximizing Democratic seats, not representing actual communities.

Congressman Ben Cline's agricultural district—currently representing farming communities across the Shenandoah Valley—would be carved into five separate pieces according to news analyses of the proposed map. Those pieces get parceled out to Northern Virginia Democrats who've never set foot on a farm and couldn't care less about agricultural policy.

Think about what that means. You're a farmer in the Shenandoah Valley. Your issues are water rights, crop insurance, agricultural zoning, rural broadband. Under the current map, your Representative understands those issues because he represents your community.

Under the new map? Your piece of the **Valley gets attached to Arlington.** Your "Representative" will be someone whose constituents care about Metro funding and federal office space, not whether you can afford diesel for your tractor.

You'll have no voice. Not because you didn't vote. Not because you didn't organize. Because geography guaranteed you'd be outnumbered 10-to-1 by people who have nothing in common with you except being in the same absurdly drawn district.

Why? Because it achieves the goal.

According to reporting on legislative statements, Senate President Pro Tempore Louise Lucas didn't hide what that goal is: **"We said 10-1 and we meant it."**

Not "we said fair representation."

Not "we said communities of interest."

Just: **10-1.**

House Speaker Don Scott, as reported in news coverage, was equally explicit:

> "comfortable that we have an opportunity to do a number of maps here in Virginia to allow for us to level the playing field" (Politico)

This is theft disguised as fairness.

And here's the part that should terrify you: Once this passes, it doesn't matter anymore if you show up. It doesn't matter if you organize. It doesn't matter if you have the better candidate, the better message, the better ground game. The geography guarantees you lose.

Let me make this concrete. Say you're a Republican in one of the nine rigged districts. The 2026 midterms come around. Your candidate is excellent—experienced, principled, connects with

voters. The Democrat is mediocre at best—weak on issues, uninspiring, barely campaigns.

You work your heart out. You knock doors. You make calls. You get your church involved. Election Day comes and Republican turnout in your area is massive—way higher than expected.

You lose 55-45. Or 58-42. Or 60-40.

Why? Because for every Republican vote in your rural/suburban area, there are two Democratic votes from the urban core they attached to your district. The math was calculated before Election Day even happened. Your turnout didn't matter. Your candidate didn't matter. Your work didn't matter.

The outcome was predetermined the day they drew the line on the map.

Now multiply that by nine districts. Every election cycle. For a decade. Maybe longer once they establish the precedent that the commission you voted for can be bypassed whenever it's convenient.

In nine of ten districts, Republicans might as well stay home. The outcome is predetermined.

That's not democracy. That's theater. And it's what third-world countries call elections—going through the motions when the result is already decided.

You still get to vote. Your vote just doesn't count. See how that works?

Why Both Constitutions Say They Can't Do This—And Why That Still Matters

Now that you understand what they're stealing—**your vote, your voice, your representation**—here's why both the United States Constitution and Virginia's Constitution make this illegal.

What the U.S. Constitution Says: Your Vote Must Count

Article I, Section 2 of the United States Constitution says Representatives shall be:

> …chosen every second Year by the People of the several States…

Not chosen by partisan map-drawers. Not chosen by politicians gaming geography. Chosen by **the People.**

When politicians draw districts to predetermine outcomes regardless of how people actually vote, Representatives aren't being "chosen by the People" anymore. They're being installed by whoever controlled the map.

The Fourteenth Amendment guarantees you equal protection of the laws:

> …nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

The Supreme Court has said for sixty years this means **your vote must carry equal weight** with your neighbor's vote. When Democrats draw maps so that Democrats who get half the votes get 90% of the seats, your vote isn't equal anymore. Democrats dilute it to nothing.

What the Supreme Court Said: One Person, One Vote

In 1964, the Supreme Court decided **Reynolds v. Sims**. Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote:

> Legislators represent people, not trees or acres. Legislators are elected by voters, not farms or cities or economic interests… as nearly as is practicable one man's vote in a legislative election is to be worth as much as another's.

As much as another's. Not "worth 10% of another's." Not "worth nothing if you're in the wrong district." As much as.

The same year, in **Wesberry v. Sanders**, the Court applied this to congressional districts:

> …as nearly as is practicable one man's vote in a congressional election is to be worth as much as another's.

When nine of ten districts are drawn so your party can't win even with record turnout, your vote isn't worth "as much as another's." Your vote is worth **nothing.**

The Supreme Court established the principle that vote dilution violates the Constitution. By that standard, this is exactly what Virginia Democrats are doing.

What Virginia's Constitution Says: You Already Voted NO

In 2020, Virginians voted on a constitutional amendment to create an independent redistricting commission. The result: **65.69% approved** (according to Ballotpedia's compilation of State Board of Elections results).

That amendment—**Article II, Section 6-A**—created a commission of eight legislators and eight citizens, split evenly by party, with equal power. It requires supermajority approval: at least six of eight legislators AND six of eight citizens must agree on any map.

The explicit purpose: **Take redistricting power away from whichever party controls the General Assembly.** Stop letting politicians draw their own districts. End partisan gerrymandering by either party.

Nearly two-thirds of you voted for this. Democrats and Republicans alike. Because you knew what happens when politicians get to rig the maps: They rig them.

You voted to stop this. Now Democrats are asking you to vote to allow it anyway.

Virginia's Constitution also says in **Article XII, Section 1** that constitutional amendments must follow a specific process:

> Any amendment or amendments to this Constitution may be proposed in the Senate or House of Delegates, and if the same shall be agreed to by a majority of the members elected to each of the two houses, such proposed amendment or amendments shall be entered on their journals… and referred to the General Assembly at its first regular session held after the next general election of members of the House of Delegates.

The key requirement: Pass an amendment once. Hold a House of Delegates election. Pass it again. **Then** send it to voters.

This ensures constitutional changes aren't just partisan power grabs when one party briefly controls everything.

Democrats violated this process. They passed HJ 6007 in October 2025 during a special session—after early voting for the November 2025 House election had already begun. That doesn't satisfy "after the next general election." That's during the election.

A judge said so. Democrats did it anyway. Because they could.

What the Framers Warned About: This Exact Thing

James Madison saw this coming 238 years ago.

In **Federalist No. 52**, he wrote that the House of Representatives must have:

> …an immediate dependence on, and an intimate sympathy with, the people.

When Representatives are installed by rigged maps instead of chosen by voters, there's no "immediate dependence" on the people anymore. They depend on whoever drew the map.

In **Federalist No. 10**, Madison warned about the danger of faction:

> …a number of citizens, whether amounting to a majority or a minority of the whole, who are united and actuated by some common impulse of passion, or of interest, adverse to the rights of other citizens…

Virginia's Democrat trifecta—controlling Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, both chambers of the General Assembly—is Madison's nightmare realized. A unified majority using total control to rig the system so they can't lose, **adverse to the rights** of the half of Virginians who don't vote for them.

This is exactly what the Framers designed constitutional republics to prevent.

And here's the kicker: **Governor Spanberger knew it.**

According to archived social media posts, on June 17, 2019, then-Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger wrote:

> This is good news for Virginia and the country. Gerrymandering is detrimental to our democracy and it weakens the individual voices that form our electorates. Opposing gerrymandering should be a bipartisan priority.

She was right then.

Truth hasn't changed. Power has.

A Judge Said It's Unconstitutional. They Did It Anyway.

So what happened when someone with legal authority called this out? Exactly what you'd expect when one party controls everything.

On January 27, 2026, Tazewell County Circuit Court **Judge Jack Hurley Jr. ruled** that the redistricting amendment process contained—in his words—**"a fatal defect."**

He found **"a lack of required public notice"** that violated Article XII, Section 1's constitutional requirements.

Judge Hurley's finding: Democrats passed HJ 6007 in October 2025 during a special session after early voting had started but before Election Day ended. That violates the requirement that the first passage occur before "the next general election" and that two passages be separated by an actual House election.

The amendment, he ruled, didn't follow Virginia's Constitution.

There's another potential timing issue: Virginia's Constitution requires amendments be submitted to voters "not sooner than ninety days after final passage." HJ 4's final passage was January 16, 2026. Early voting started March 6 – only 49 days later. Democrats chose April 21 as Election Day (96 days after passage), but no Virginia court has ruled whether "submit to voters" means Election Day or when voting begins.

According to reporting on the ruling, Senate Minority Leader Ryan McDougle stated the principle: **"You cannot change the Constitution by ignoring the Constitution."**

The Virginia Supreme Court allowed the April 21 vote to proceed anyway—legal challenges to be sorted out after the election.

Translation: Let them hold the vote first. We'll decide if it was legal later.

Hurley concluded this process violated Virginia's Constitution. Unless reversed on appeal, his ruling stands as a judicial finding that Democrats violated constitutional procedures.

Democrats knew it. They did it anyway. Because when you control the Governor's office, both legislative chambers, and can change the venue rules to avoid judges who rule against you, you can do whatever you want.

Until voters stop you.

Why Christians Can't Stay Silent: When Truth Confronts Raw Power

Some will say this is too political for the church. That Christians should stay out of redistricting fights.

They're wrong.

This isn't about politics. This is about whether we'll defend truth when power says truth doesn't matter.

Process Matters: 2 Timothy 2:5

2 Timothy 2:5 says: "If anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules."

Paul isn't talking about sports technicalities. He's establishing that **how you win determines whether victory means anything.**

When Democrats bypass the commission you voted for, violate constitutional amendment procedures, ignore a judge's ruling, and rig districts so outcomes are predetermined—they're winning by cheating. And Scripture says that's not victory. It's theft.

Think about what Paul is actually saying here: The crown doesn't belong to whoever crosses the finish line. It belongs to whoever crosses the finish line **according to the rules.** If you cheat your way there, you didn't really win. You stole.

That applies to elections just as much as athletics. Maybe more. Because when you rig elections, you're not just cheating in a game—you're stealing people's fundamental right to choose their own representatives.

Proverbs 11:1 says, "A false balance is an abomination to the LORD, but a just weight is his delight." Rigged scales in the marketplace make God angry. How much more rigged elections that steal citizens' representation?

If Christians defend power over process just because it's "our side" doing it, we prove we never cared about truth—only about winning. And we lose all credibility to speak when the other side does it.

Authority Is Limited by Law: Romans 13:1-4

Romans 13:1-4 teaches that civil government has legitimate authority from God to maintain order and punish wrongdoing.

But that authority is **bounded by law.** When the government violates its own constitutional processes, ignores court rulings, and systematically nullifies citizens' votes, it's not serving the good anymore. It's serving power.

Romans 13 doesn't command blind obedience to whatever those in power decide to do. It recognizes government authority exercised **within proper bounds.** When government steps outside those bounds—violating two constitutions to rig elections—it forfeits moral authority even while retaining raw power.

Christians can respect governing authority while still saying: **"You're violating the law you swore to uphold. Stop."**

Our Citizenship Is in Heaven: Philippians 3:20

Philippians 3:20 reminds us: "Our citizenship is in heaven."

We answer to a King whose kingdom can't be gerrymandered, whose authority doesn't depend on winning elections, whose throne isn't threatened by earthly power shifts, whose truth doesn't change when political winds shift.

That gives us freedom other people don't have—freedom to tell the truth even when it costs us, because our security doesn't depend on earthly political power.

When we put partisan advantage above constitutional truth, we prove we've forgotten who we really serve.

The world is watching. If we defend this just because Democrats are doing it to Republicans instead of Republicans doing it to Democrats, we're not prophets. We're partisans.

And we prove our faith is negotiable.

What You Must Do: Your Vote Is on the Ballot April 21

You've seen the theft. You understand the constitutional violations. You know what Scripture says. Now here's what you do about it.

Before April 21:

Vote NO. This isn't complicated. Vote NO on the redistricting amendment. Defend the commission you voted for in 2020. Protect your vote from being rendered meaningless.

If you've already voted early and voted YES without understanding what you were approving, tell others. Don't let them make the same mistake.

Tell everyone you know. Most Virginians don't know this referendum is happening. Most who know don't understand what they're voting on.

Share this article. Text the link to your contacts. Post it on social media. Email it to your small group.

Show them the map. Explain that in nine of ten districts, the outcome is predetermined.

Ask them one simple question: **"Do you want your vote to count, or not?"**

That's what this referendum actually decides.

Educate your church. Talk to your pastor. Share this with your elder board. Get it in the bulletin or on the church website.

Christians have a duty to defend truth even when it costs us politically. This is theft disguised as "fairness." Call it what it is.

The Bible says "Justice, and only justice, you shall follow" (Deuteronomy 16:20). There's no justice in rigging elections. None.

Get your church to vote NO. This is exactly the kind of civic issue Christians should engage—not because it's partisan, but because it's about defending truthful process against raw power.

After April 21 (Regardless of Outcome):

Hold every politician accountable who supported this. They violated two constitutions to rig elections. Remember that. Every single one who voted for this chose power over principle.

Defend the constitutional process every time—regardless of party. If Republicans controlled Virginia and did this exact thing, we would oppose it just as strongly. Truth doesn't change based on who's in power. Vote dilution doesn't become acceptable when "our side" does it.

Remember what you learned here. This is what happens when one party controls everything and decides laws are suggestions. This is how democracies die—not with tanks in the streets, but with ballot questions using words like "fairness" while rigging the system.

Don't forget. And don't let it happen again.

They’re Betting You Won’t Figure It Out Until It’s Too Late

Here’s what Democrats are counting on:

They’re counting on you not reading past the ballot question’s phrase “restore fairness.”

They’re counting on you not understanding that “temporarily” means “for a decade, maybe longer.”

They’re counting on you not knowing you already voted 65.69% in 2020 to prevent politicians from doing this.

They’re counting on you not realizing that in nine of ten districts, your vote won’t matter anymore.

They’re counting on you not caring that a judge ruled this process unconstitutional.

They’re counting on you not connecting the dots between Madison’s warning in 1787 and what’s happening in 2026.

They’re counting on you not voting or voting YES without understanding what you’re approving.

Don’t let them be right.

This isn’t hyperbole. This isn’t an exaggeration. This is a mathematical fact: When you draw districts so that one party wins regardless of how people vote, you’ve made voting meaningless in those districts.

That’s what’s on the ballot April 21.

Governor Spanberger was right in 2019: Gerrymandering is detrimental to our democracy and weakens the individual voices that form our electorate.

She was right then. The truth hasn’t changed. She has.

The United States Constitution says Representatives must be chosen by the People—not by rigged maps.

Virginia’s Constitution says amendments must follow proper procedures—not be rammed through during elections.

The Supreme Court says one person, one vote means your vote must count as much as your neighbor's—not be diluted to nothing.

The Framers warned against majority factions trampling minority rights—exactly what Virginia Democrats are doing.

A judge ruled this process violated Virginia's Constitution—Democrats did it anyway.

All of that is true. None of it is political spin. It's just fact.

And on April 21, you get to decide: Will you defend your vote, or will you let them take it?

Early voting is open now through April 18. Find your **voting location at the Virginia Department of Elections**. Election Day is April 21.

Vote NO to defend the commission you voted for in 2020 and keep your vote meaningful. This might be the last time it matters.

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Gov. Spanberger Spoke in Williamsburg. Her Record Lives in Richmond.

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/GOV-SPANBERGER-SPOKE-IN-WILLIAMSBURG-HER-RECORD-LIVES-IN-RICHMOND/
FEBRUARY 25, 2026
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, US CONSTITUTION

Virginia Christian Alliance | February 25, 2026

While the governor told the nation she stands for families and affordability, she had already signed two amendments that would permanently alter the Virginia Constitution George Mason wrote — and strip protections from the very families she claims to defend.

Last night, Governor Abigail Spanberger stood in the chamber of the House of Burgesses in Colonial Williamsburg and spoke to the nation. She invoked George Mason's Virginia. She invoked ordinary citizens demanding more of their government. She invoked service, duty, and the founders' vision of a nation unlike anything the world had ever seen.

It was a powerful setting. It was a well-delivered speech. And for Virginians who have been watching what their governor has actually been doing in Richmond, it was difficult to reconcile.

Governor Spanberger asked the American people three questions about President Trump. We have three questions for her.

But first — watch the speech for yourself. Judge her words. Then read what follows.

WATCH LIVE: Gov. Abigail Spanberger delivers Democratic response to Trump's State of the Union
https://youtube.com/watch?v=kpflgbk_Y_U

Question One: Is Your Legislature Working to Make Life More Affordable for Virginia Families?

Governor Spanberger made affordability the centerpiece of her speech, just as she made it the centerpiece of her campaign. She told the nation that costs are too high in housing, health care, energy, and child care — and that Democrats are "laser focused on affordability."

Here is what is happening in Richmond at this very moment.

While the governor was speaking in Williamsburg last night, her Democratic majority in the General Assembly has introduced more than 50 new taxes and tax increases this session. These are not taxes on corporations or abstractions. These are taxes on the everyday lives of ordinary Virginians — the same people she says she is fighting for.

The National Federation of Independent Business — the nation's leading small business advocacy organization — reviewed the proposals and listed what would be newly taxed under Democratic legislation: gym memberships, hair care and nail care, dry cleaning, pet grooming and dog walking, residential lawn services, house cleaning, appliance repairs, streaming services, ride-share trips like Uber, delivery and shipping services, travel planning, and interior design. Their state director put it plainly: "These are not luxury services. They are everyday services people rely on."

HB 978 was introduced to expand Virginia’s sales tax base to cover many of these currently untaxed personal services. It was continued in committee this year — meaning it

did not advance — but Democrats have already signaled they plan to bring it back in 2027. HB 188, which would add a new 10% top income tax bracket on income over $1 million, has been folded into the broader Democratic tax package moving through Richmond. The Senate budget anticipates new revenue from proposed taxes on firearms and ammunition sales. The House budget banks on legalizing and taxing skill games.

> **THE NFIB SAID IT DIRECTLY:** "These tax proposals would increase the cost of living, working and doing business in Virginia, even as Governor Spanberger and lawmakers say they're looking for ways to improve affordability." Virginia is reporting a significant budget surplus. The governor's party chose new taxes anyway.

And what relief did Virginians receive in return? The Senate budget offers a one-time rebate of $100 for single filers and $200 for joint filers. One hundred dollars. Once. While new permanent taxes are layered onto the everyday expenses of every Virginia family.

There is more. The Democratic budget committees discarded former Governor Youngkin's proposals to eliminate taxes on tips for service workers and pursue other tax reductions. According to the Senate Finance Committee, setting aside those tax cuts will cost Virginians over $600 million in relief they will never receive.

Governor Spanberger calls her agenda "Affordable Virginia." The record calls it something else.

> *"Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees, to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from the oppressed." — Isaiah 10:1–2*

Question Two: Is Your Budget Working for Virginians, or Growing Government at Their Expense?

The governor's party has proposed two budget bills this session — one from the House at $71.5 billion, one from the Senate at $74 billion — for the two-year budget cycle. Both represent significant spending increases over prior baselines. Both lock in permanent expansions of Medicaid, educator salaries, and state employee compensation that will require ongoing revenue to sustain.

To fund this expanded spending, the Senate has proposed ending Virginia's data center sales and use tax exemption four years early — a move that could generate nearly $1 billion in additional revenue over the biennium. Data center industry representatives warned this could halt

investment by an industry that has put $100 billion into Virginia over the last three years and put thousands of union construction workers out of work. The Senate chose the revenue.

The structural picture is clear. Under Governor Spanberger's Democratic trifecta, Virginia is moving toward higher permanent spending funded by a broader and heavier tax base, with small one-time rebates marketed to voters as "affordability." A $100 check is not affordability. It is a talking point.

Senator Mark Peake, speaking directly to the contrast, said it simply: "We need tax cuts, not tax increases. We could have tons of natural gas pumped into the commonwealth to supply our energy needs, which would help keep our electric costs down, which applies to everything that we purchase."

That is the road not taken. The road taken runs through 50 new taxes and a budget that grows government while handing families a one-time check and calling it relief.

Question Three: What Have You Done to the Document You Invoked Last Night?

This is the question that matters most to Virginia's Christian community.

Governor Spanberger stood in George Mason's Virginia last night and quoted George Washington's farewell address. She spoke of the founders' vision. She spoke of ordinary citizens demanding more of their government. She closed by saying, "This is not what our founders envisioned. Not by a long shot."

She was talking about President Trump. But those words belong to a mirror.

Nineteen days before she delivered that speech — on February 6, 2026 — Governor Spanberger signed HJ1 and HJ3, sending two proposed constitutional amendments to Virginia voters on the November 2026 ballot. She signed them with her own pen. Her legislative majority passed them. They did not ask voters first.

HJ1 would embed abortion as a fundamental right in the Virginia Constitution — the same document George Mason wrote in 1776, the same document that declares all men have inherent rights given by God, not government. It would protect that right using strict scrutiny, the most demanding legal standard courts apply. As we documented in our Constitutional Education Series, that same legal standard has already been used to strike down parental consent laws for minors in Alaska, California, Florida, Massachusetts, and New Jersey. It struck down 24-hour waiting periods in Michigan in 2025. It struck down informed consent requirements — the basic legal protection requiring a doctor to tell a patient what they are agreeing to — in Michigan in 2025.

Virginia currently has a parental consent law for minors seeking abortions. If HJ1 passes in November, that law would almost certainly face an immediate legal challenge — the same kind of challenge that has already succeeded in five other states.

HJ3 would erase the definition of marriage as the union of one man and one woman — a definition Virginia voters themselves approved in 2006 through the same constitutional process the founders designed. That voter decision would be replaced with the opposite principle, written permanently into Mason's document.

> **THE FOUNDERS' PROCESS, TURNED AGAINST THE FOUNDERS' PRINCIPLES:** George Mason designed Virginia's Constitution to be durable and difficult to change. That process requires two consecutive legislative sessions plus a statewide voter referendum. Governor Spanberger's trifecta used that very process — designed to protect the people's rights — to permanently alter the document that established those rights in the first place. If voters ratify HJ1 and HJ3 this November, no future governor and no future legislature can undo it. Only another full constitutional process — years away at minimum — could reverse it.

She said last night, "We, the people, have the power to make change, the power to stand up for what is right, the power to demand more of our nation."

We agree. And that is exactly why November matters.

What Virginia Christians Need to Understand Right Now

Governor Spanberger is not simply Virginia's governor anymore. Last night, the national Democratic Party gave her their most prominent platform — the State of the Union response — to introduce herself to the country as the face of a different kind of Democrat. Moderate. Service-oriented. Grounded in history and community. A mother of three. A former CIA officer. A former federal agent.

The biography is real. The framing is carefully constructed. And millions of Americans who watched last night have no idea what she signed on February 6th.

That is where Virginia's Christian community comes in. You live here. You vote here. You know what is on the November ballot. And you have neighbors, fellow church members, and family who do not yet understand what a "yes" vote on HJ1 means — or what strict scrutiny has already done to parental consent laws in five other states.

The governor asked the nation three questions last night. Every Virginia Christian voter should be asking three of their own before November.

Do I know what HJ1 actually says and what legal standard it embeds in our Constitution?

Do I know that the woman on that national stage last night is the same woman who signed it nineteen days ago?

And do I know five people in my church who need to know both of those things before they walk into a voting booth?

> *"When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn." — Proverbs 29:2*

To read the Virginia Constitution yourself, visit law.lis.virginia.gov/constitution — it's shorter than you think and belongs in every Christian household in Virginia.

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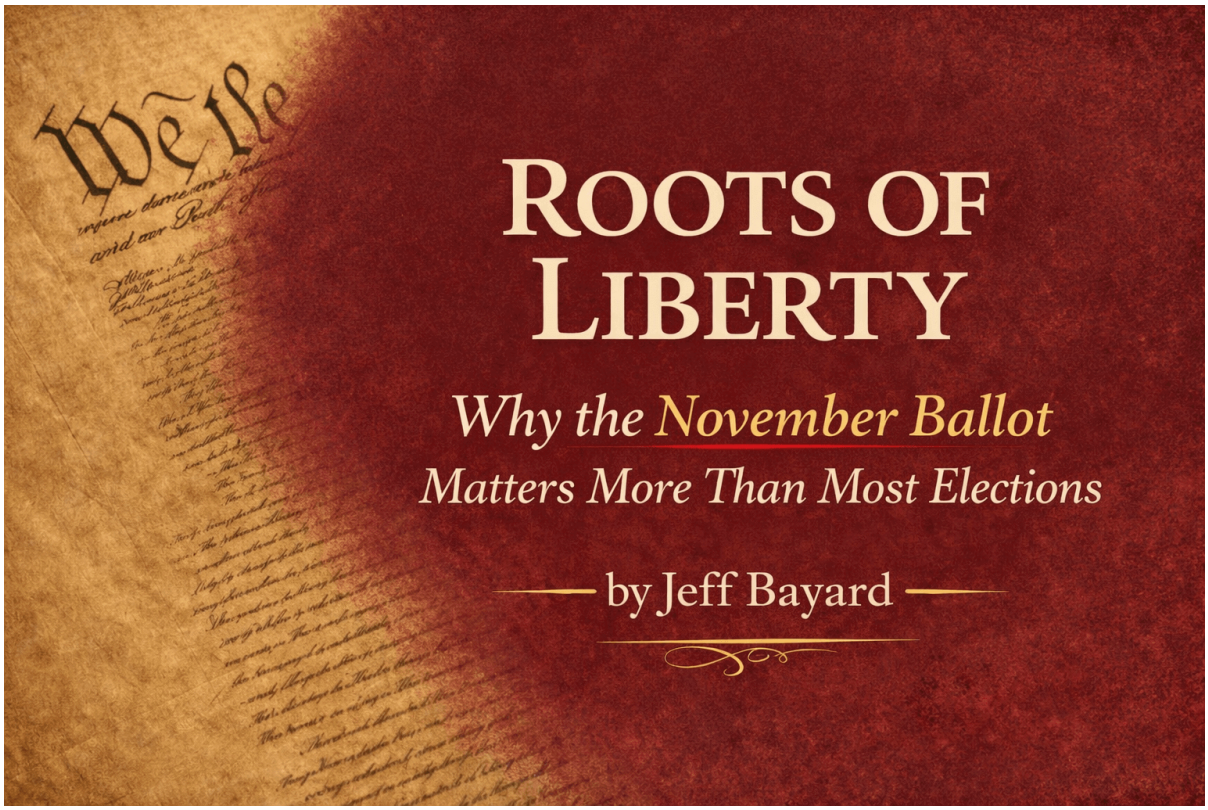
Why the November Ballot Matters More Than Most Elections Part 3

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/VIRGINIA-HJ1-AMENDMENT/
FEBRUARY 23, 2026
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, ROOTS OF LIBERTY, US CONSTITUTION



Virginia Christian Alliance | Constitutional Education Series, Part 3 of 3 | February 2026

This is the third and final article in VCA's Constitutional Education Series. In **Part 1**, we showed that Virginia's Declaration of Rights came before — and inspired — the U.S. Bill of Rights. In **Part 2**, we showed that Virginia's Constitution protects your rights twice and, in several areas, goes further than federal law.

Now we come to the most urgent question of all.

On November 3, 2026, Virginia voters will decide two constitutional amendments — **HJ1** and **HJ3** — that were placed on the ballot by the Democratic-controlled General Assembly and signed by Governor Spanberger on February 6, 2026. If both pass, Virginia's Constitution will be permanently transformed in ways that cannot be undone by any governor or any future legislature.

This is not a normal election. This is not a vote for a candidate. This is a vote on the Constitution itself — the same document George Mason wrote, the same document James Madison built the Bill of Rights upon, the same document founded on the conviction that rights come from God, not government.

Every Virginia Christian voter needs to understand exactly what a "yes" vote means before stepping into that booth. That starts with understanding two words: strict scrutiny.

What Is Strict Scrutiny? Plain English, No Law Degree Required

Courts review laws at different levels. Think of it as three tiers — low, medium, and high.

The lowest tier is called **rational basis**. Under this standard, a law stands as long as the government can point to any reasonable purpose for it. Almost every law passes this test. It is a low bar and easy to clear.

The middle tier is called **intermediate scrutiny**. The government has to show a more important reason, and the law has to actually achieve that goal. Some laws fail this test, but many still survive.

The highest tier is **strict scrutiny**. This is the most demanding standard courts apply. Under strict scrutiny, a law is presumed unconstitutional from the start. The government must prove two things: first, that it has a *compelling interest* — not just a good reason, but an urgent, overriding, rare reason; and second, that the law uses the *least restrictive means* possible to achieve that interest. If the government cannot prove both, the law is struck down.

> *Under strict scrutiny, the law is presumed unconstitutional. The government must prove it has a compelling interest — and that no less restrictive alternative exists.*

Strict scrutiny was originally designed to protect the most fundamental rights — free speech, racial equality, voting. Courts apply it sparingly because it is nearly impossible to survive. That is the point. When a right is protected by strict scrutiny, almost any law that limits it will be struck down.

HJ1 proposes to embed abortion in Virginia's Constitution as a fundamental right — protected by strict scrutiny. That is not a small thing. It means that virtually every law Virginia has ever passed to put any limit on abortion becomes vulnerable to a legal challenge. And the track record in other states shows exactly what happens next.

What Strict Scrutiny Has Already Done in Other States

HJ1 is not a new idea. A growing number of states — including Michigan, California, Vermont, and others — have adopted constitutional abortion or reproductive freedom amendments that trigger strict-scrutiny-style review. We don't have to guess what happens. We can look at what already has happened.

The table below shows common-sense laws that were upheld under the previous federal standard — laws that most Virginians would consider reasonable — and what strict scrutiny has done to them in other states:

Common-Sense Law	Under Prior Federal Standard (Casey)	Under Strict Scrutiny
24-hour waiting period	Upheld (Casey, 1992)	**Struck down (Michigan, 2025); similar challenges underway in other states**
Parental consent for minors	Upheld (Casey, 1992)	**Struck down (Alaska, California, Florida, Massachusetts, New Jersey)**
Parental notification	Upheld under federal standard	**Struck down (Alaska, New Jersey)**
Informed consent requirements	Upheld (Casey, 1992)	**Struck down (Michigan, 2025)**
Only licensed physicians may perform abortions	Generally upheld	**Struck down (Michigan, Montana)**
State Medicaid funding restrictions	Generally upheld	**Challenged or struck down (multiple states)**
Note: State case law is evolving rapidly. Examples current as of early 2026.		

Let those examples sink in. A 24-hour waiting period — time for a woman to reflect and be sure — struck down in Michigan in 2025, with similar challenges now underway in other states. Parental consent for a minor seeking an abortion — struck down in Alaska, California, Florida, Massachusetts, and New Jersey. Informed consent — the requirement that a doctor tell a patient what they are agreeing to — permanently struck down in Michigan in 2025 under that state's 2022 reproductive freedom amendment.

Laws like these were generally upheld under the old federal Casey standard. **Once voters wrote abortion rights and strict-scrutiny-style tests into state constitutions, many long-standing protections have been struck down.** That is what HJ1 brings to Virginia.

> **WHAT THIS MEANS FOR VIRGINIA:** Virginia currently has a parental consent law for minors seeking abortions. If HJ1 passes, that law would almost certainly face an immediate legal challenge under the new strict scrutiny standard — the same standard that has already struck down parental consent laws in five other states.

HJ1 in Plain English: What the Amendment Actually Says

The amendment's language matters. Here is what HJ1 proposes to add to Virginia's Constitution:

> "That the right to reproductive freedom, including the right to make and carry out decisions about all matters relating to pregnancy, shall not be denied or infringed by the Commonwealth or any political subdivision thereof. The Commonwealth shall not penalize, prosecute, or otherwise take adverse action against an individual based on their actual, perceived, or potential pregnancy outcomes. Any governmental action that burdens this right must be justified by a compelling governmental interest and must be achieved by the least restrictive means."

Walk through that language carefully.

"All matters relating to pregnancy" — this is broader than abortion alone. Legal scholars note it could encompass contraception, fertility treatments, and other reproductive decisions. The breadth is intentional.

"Potential pregnancy outcomes" — this phrase means the state cannot take adverse action based on what might happen in a pregnancy. Legal experts warn this language could be used to challenge any regulation that touches on pregnancy at any stage.

"Compelling governmental interest" and "least restrictive means" — this is the strict scrutiny formula. As the table above shows, it is a standard that strikes down parental consent, waiting periods, and informed consent requirements in state after state.

"Political subdivision thereof" — this language extends the amendment to every county, city, and town in Virginia. Local governments would have no ability to pass their own regulations.

> **KEY POINT:** The amendment does not define what counts as a compelling interest or what counts as least restrictive. Those questions will be answered by courts — not by voters, not by the legislature, not by the governor. Once ratified, the interpretation is out of Virginia voters' hands.

> "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness."
> — Isaiah 5:20

HJ3: What the Marriage Amendment Actually Does

HJ3 proposes to repeal the constitutional definition of marriage as between one man and one woman — a definition Virginia voters approved in 2006 — and replace it with a prohibition on denying marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Same-sex marriage is already required by federal law under the U.S. Supreme Court's 2015 *Obergefell* decision. What HJ3 does is constitutionalize it specifically in Virginia's own Constitution — and that distinction matters enormously for what happens next.

On its face, HJ3 is narrower than HJ1. But its passage would have two significant consequences that Virginia Christians need to understand.

It Removes the 2006 Voter Decision from the Constitution

In 2006, Virginia voters amended their Constitution to define marriage as the union of one man and one woman. That was a direct expression of the will of Virginia's citizens through the constitutional process.

HJ3 erases that decision and replaces it with the opposite principle — in the same document that George Mason used to declare that rights come from God and that governments exist to protect them.

It Creates New Legal Exposure for Christian Institutions

Once same-sex marriage is a state constitutional right — not just a statutory right or a federal mandate — the legal pressure on Christian businesses, churches, and nonprofits in Virginia increases significantly. A constitutional right carries more legal weight than a statute. Courts can apply it more broadly. And the history of similar provisions in other states shows that religious liberty exemptions come under sustained legal challenge once constitutional marriage equality is in place.

The 2023 *Vlaming* ruling — which we covered in Part 2 — shows that Virginia's religious liberty clause gives Christians meaningful protection. But that protection is tested most severely when it is pitted directly against a competing constitutional right. HJ3 creates that competition.

> “So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” — Genesis 1:27

Why This Vote Is Different From a Normal Election

When you vote for a candidate, you are choosing who holds power for two, four, or six years. If you don’t like what they do, you can vote them out. Elections are reversible.

When you vote on a constitutional amendment, you are not choosing a person. You are changing the foundation that every law is built on. And unlike an election, that change cannot be reversed by the next governor or the next General Assembly.

To undo a constitutional amendment in Virginia, you need a majority of the legislature in two consecutive sessions — which means the earliest a reversal could take effect is four years after ratification — plus another statewide voter referendum. That is a long road back, especially in a state where the political environment can shift quickly.

> **THE MATH:** Democrats currently hold the Virginia House 64–36 and the Senate 21–19. If they maintain those margins in November 2026 legislative races, a future reversal of HJ1 or HJ3 becomes constitutionally impossible until at least a different legislative majority exists — and then it requires two full sessions plus a voter referendum on top of that.

George Mason designed Virginia’s rights to be durable. The amendment process he created was meant to make changes deliberate and serious. The Democrats in Richmond have now used that process to insert the opposite of Mason’s founding principles into his founding document.

If Virginia voters ratify HJ1 this November, the document that declared all men have inherent rights given by God will also declare that the unborn have no constitutional protection — and that any law attempting to give them one must survive the most hostile legal standard courts apply.

> The same constitutional process Mason designed to protect liberty is now being used to entrench its opposite. What voters decide in November cannot be undone by morning.

A Word About Voting and the Church

Some Virginia pastors are uncertain about addressing ballot measures from the pulpit. The concern about maintaining a church's tax-exempt status is real and understandable. But there is an important distinction that every pastor should know.

Federal tax law prohibits churches from endorsing or opposing candidates for political office. It does not prohibit churches from educating their congregations about ballot issues, constitutional amendments, or public policy questions — within the IRS's limits on lobbying activity. A pastor can say — and say clearly — what a constitutional amendment does, what its legal effects are, and what Scripture teaches about the sanctity of life and the nature of marriage. That is not partisan politicking. That is pastoral faithfulness.

The Family Foundation of Virginia has materials designed specifically to help pastors address these issues in a legally appropriate and theologically faithful way. Connecting your pastor with those resources is one of the most valuable things a Virginia Christian can do before November.

The prophets were not silent about unjust laws. They spoke directly to lawmakers who used legal authority to contradict God's righteousness and harm the vulnerable. Isaiah's words have not expired.

> "Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees, to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from the oppressed…" — Isaiah 10:1–2

> "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn." — Proverbs 29:2

What You Can Do Before November

1. Understand the amendments before you vote. Read the actual text of HJ1 and HJ3, available at the Virginia Division of Legislative Services at **lis.virginia.gov**. Do not rely on a headline or a campaign ad.

2. Share this series with five people in your church before the summer. Most Virginia Christians don't know this history or these stakes. Parts 1, 2, and 3 together give them everything they need to vote as informed citizens.

3. Talk to your pastor. Share the *Vlaming* ruling, the strict scrutiny table, and the reversibility question. Ask if the church will distribute voter education materials in October.

4. Pray specifically. These are not abstract legal questions. Real families, real children, and real institutions are affected by what Virginia voters decide in November. Bring it before God.

5. Vote. Virginia's off-year elections are decided by margins that most people would find shocking. In 2021, the Virginia House of Delegates flipped on an average margin of a few hundred votes per district. Your vote — and the votes of the people you talk to — can decide this.

To read the Virginia Constitution yourself, visit law.lis.virginia.gov/constitution — it's shorter than you think and belongs in every Christian household in Virginia.

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Part 2 — Your Rights Are Actually Doubled: What Virginia's Constitution Adds on Top of Federal Protections *The legal framework — how state and federal protections stack, the Vlaming ruling, and the amendment threat*

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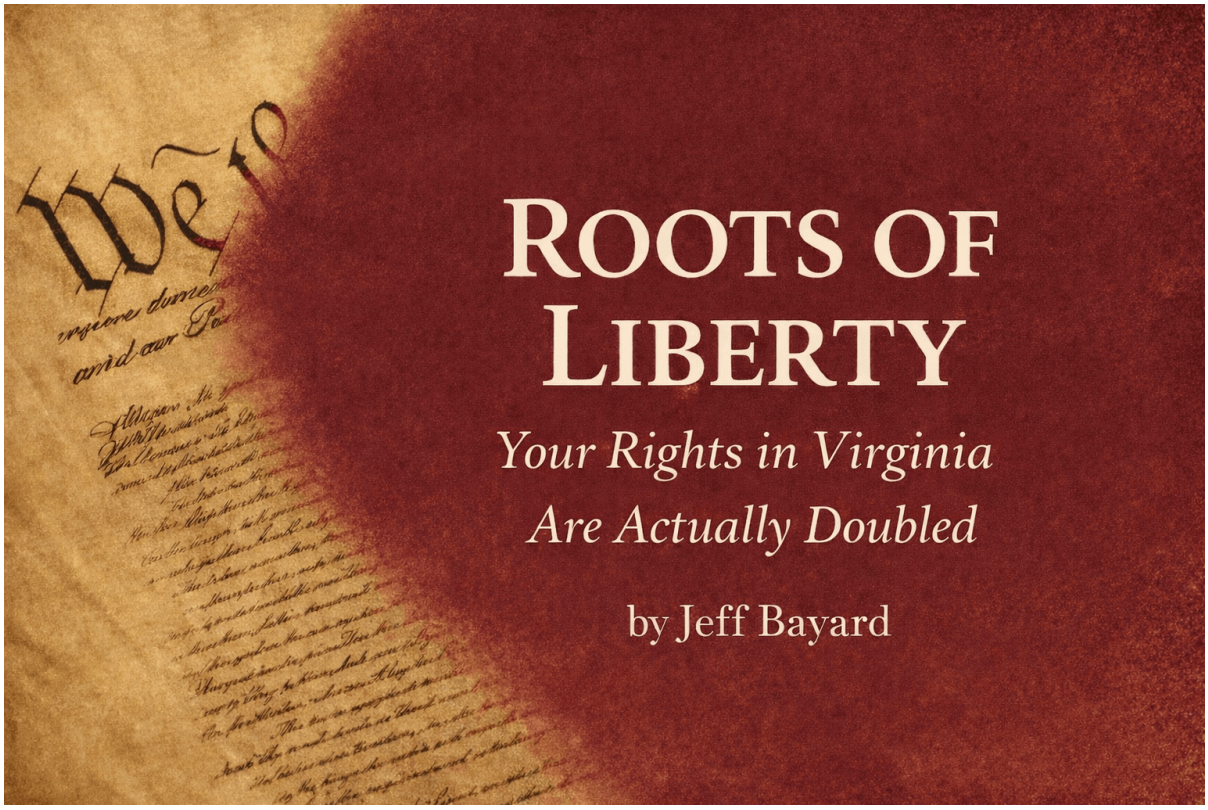
Your Rights Are Actually Doubled. What Virginia's Constitution Adds on Top of Federal Protections Part 2

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/YOUR-RIGHTS-ARE-ACTUALLY-DOUBLED-WHAT-VIRGINIAS-CONSTITUTION-ADDS-ON-TOP-OF-FEDERAL-PROTECTIONS/
FEBRUARY 20, 2026
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, ROOTS OF LIBERTY, US CONSTITUTION



In **Part 1 of this series**, we showed that Virginia's Declaration of Rights came before the U.S. Bill of Rights — and largely inspired it. George Mason wrote it in 1776. James Madison carried its ideas to Philadelphia and into the First Amendment. The Constitution didn't give Virginia its rights. Virginia gave the Constitution its foundation.

But here is what most people don't know — including most Virginia Christians: the story doesn't stop there.

Virginia's Constitution doesn't just mirror the federal one. In several critical areas, it goes further. Your rights as a Virginia citizen are protected twice — once by the federal Constitution, and again by your state Constitution, which in some places offers stronger protection than Washington ever has.

Right now, in the 2026 legislative session, **both layers are under attack at the same time.** Understanding what you have — before it changes — starts here.

Two Shields, Not One

Most Americans think of constitutional rights as something the federal government gives them. That's understandable — the federal Bill of Rights gets all the attention in school. But America's constitutional system was designed with two layers of protection on purpose.

The federal Constitution sets a floor — a minimum standard of rights that no government, state or federal, can go below. But states are free to build higher. They can give their citizens more protection than the federal floor requires. Many do. Virginia does.

Think of it this way. The federal Constitution is the foundation of the house. Virginia's Constitution is the house itself — built on that foundation but bigger, more detailed, and more specific to the people who live in it.

When a law passed in Richmond threatens your rights, it has to clear both walls. If it violates Virginia's Constitution, it falls — even if the federal courts would allow it. That double protection is not an accident. It is the genius of American federalism, and it matters enormously for what is happening in Virginia right now.

"The architecture of judicial power implicit in American federalism gives the Supreme Court of Virginia the last word on the meaning of the Constitution of Virginia." — Virginia Supreme Court, 2023

Religious Liberty: Virginia's Version Is Stronger

Start with the most important difference for Virginia Christians — religious liberty.

The First Amendment's protection of religious freedom is exactly sixteen words: "Congress shall make no law… prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

Virginia's religious liberty guarantee — Article I, Section 16 — is 238 words long. It is one of the oldest and most detailed state-level religious liberty protections still in force anywhere in America. James Madison helped write it at age 25, insisting that religious liberty is not a favor from government but a natural right given by God. That language has lived in Virginia's Constitution for 250 years.

KEY DIFFERENCE: The First Amendment stops the government from passing laws against religion. Virginia's Article I, Section 16 goes further — it requires government to allow religious

exercise and to grant exemptions unless beliefs break out into overt acts against peace and good order.

In 2023, this difference became more than a history lesson. A French teacher named Peter Vlaming was fired by the West Point School Board for declining to use a transgender student's preferred pronouns. His reason was sincere Christian conviction — he believed God made human beings male and female, and he could not in good conscience speak words that denied that reality.

The school argued it was enforcing a neutral policy. Under federal First Amendment law, that argument likely would have won — the Supreme Court's current standard says a neutral law of general application can burden religious practice without violating the Constitution.

But Vlaming sued under Virginia's Constitution, not the federal one. And the Virginia Supreme Court ruled in his favor — reviving his claims under the state Constitution and sending the case back for further proceedings.

The court found that Virginia's Article I, Section 16 requires government to grant religious exemptions to sincere believers — **unless their beliefs break out into overt acts against peace and good order.** Declining to use a pronoun is not an overt act against peace. The school board had no grounds to fire him.

That ruling matters for every Christian teacher, counselor, nurse, and business owner in Virginia. It means that when the state comes after your faith, you have a constitutional shield that goes beyond what the federal courts will give you.

It also means that the current legislative session's attacks on parental rights and Christian conscience — driven by transgender ideology and backed by Governor Spanberger's executive orders — face a higher constitutional wall in Virginia than they would in many other states.

> "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." — 2 Corinthians 3:17

The Right to Bear Arms: A Double Layer of Protection

The Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution has been debated, litigated, and attacked for decades. But Virginia gun owners have something most Americans don't — a second constitutional guarantee that predates the federal one by fifteen years.

Virginia's Article I, Section 13 was first written in 1776. The Second Amendment wasn't ratified until 1791. Here is how the two compare:

Virginia Constitution — Article I, Section 13 (1776/1971):

"That a well regulated militia, composed of the body of the people, trained to arms, is the proper, natural, and safe defense of a free state, therefore, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed; that standing armies, in time of peace, should be avoided as dangerous to liberty; and that in all cases the military should be under strict subordination to, and governed by, the civil power."

Second Amendment — U.S. Constitution (1791):

"A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

Notice what Virginia's version adds that the federal one doesn't. It defines the militia as "the body of the people" — ordinary citizens, not a government-controlled military force. It explicitly warns against standing armies in peacetime. And it insists that the military must always answer to civilian authority.

Virginia's founders weren't just protecting the right to own a gun. They were describing a philosophy of liberty — a vision of an armed citizenry as the ultimate check on government overreach.

WHY THIS MATTERS NOW: The gun bills moving through Richmond in 2026 — SB749, HB217, HB919, and the rest of the package — must clear both the federal Second Amendment and Virginia's Article I, Section 13. Virginia gun owners have two constitutional shields. The Democrats pushing these bills are attacking both at once.

The Virginia Supreme Court has interpreted Article I, Section 13 to be at least as protective as the Second Amendment in prior cases — meaning at minimum, whatever the federal courts protect, Virginia protects too. And as we saw with religious liberty in Vlaming, Virginia courts are increasingly willing to interpret state constitutional protections independently of — and more broadly than — their federal counterparts.

Rights Virginia Has That the Federal Constitution Doesn't Mention

Beyond the areas where Virginia goes further than the federal Constitution, there are rights in Virginia's founding document that don't appear in the federal Bill of Rights at all. These are protections unique to Virginia citizens.

The Right to Hunt, Fish, and Harvest Game

In 2000, Virginia voters approved an amendment to the state Constitution explicitly protecting the right to hunt, fish, and harvest game. Article I, Section 11(A) reads: "The people have a right

to hunt, fish, and harvest game, subject to such regulations and restrictions as the General Assembly may prescribe by general law."

There is nothing like this in the federal Constitution. This right exists only because Virginia put it there. For the hundreds of thousands of Virginia families who hunt and fish as a way of life — and as an expression of God's provision and stewardship — this is a constitutionally protected freedom.

Education as a Constitutional Duty

Virginia's 1971 Constitution includes a provision on public education drawn directly from Thomas Jefferson's writings. Article VIII declares it the Commonwealth's duty to provide "an effective system of free public elementary and secondary schools throughout the Commonwealth."

The federal Constitution says nothing about education. It is entirely a state matter. This means that battles over what Virginia's children are taught — about gender, about history, about the nature of human beings — are fought on Virginia's constitutional ground, not Washington's. Parents who push back against what is being taught in their children's schools are standing on this provision.

Environmental Stewardship

Article XI of Virginia's Constitution makes it state policy to protect natural resources, public lands, and historical sites. This reflects a stewardship ethic that Christians can recognize — we are called to care for God's creation. It has no direct federal counterpart.

The Amendment Problem: Why November 2026 Is Different

Here is the most urgent constitutional lesson of this entire series.

Virginia's Constitution can be changed far more easily than the federal one. The federal amendment process is nearly impossible by design — it requires a two-thirds vote in both the House and Senate, then ratification by three-fourths of all fifty states. Only twenty-seven amendments have ever been ratified in 235 years.

Virginia only requires a simple majority of the General Assembly in two back-to-back sessions, followed by a statewide voter referendum. In the current political environment — with Democrats holding the governorship and both chambers — they can put anything they want on the November 2026 ballot.

They already have. HJ1, the so-called Reproductive Freedom Amendment, and HJ3, which repeals Virginia's constitutional definition of marriage as between one man and one woman, were both signed by Governor Spanberger on February 6, 2026. They go to Virginia voters this November.

If voters ratify HJ1, abortion becomes a **constitutional right in Virginia** — protected by a strict-scrutiny standard (compelling interest, least restrictive means). That is the highest bar courts apply. It is the same standard that has struck down parental consent laws, waiting periods, and gestational limits in every other state that has adopted it. And it would be written into the same document that George Mason wrote, the same document that gave James Madison the language for the Bill of Rights, the same document built on the conviction that rights come from God.

That is not a policy change. That is a constitutional transformation. And unlike a law passed by the legislature, a constitutional amendment cannot be reversed by the next governor or the next General Assembly. It takes another amendment — another two legislative sessions and another voter referendum — to undo it.

THE BOTTOM LINE: The same easy amendment process that Virginia's founders used to build a constitution of God-given rights is now being used to write the opposite into that same document. What voters do in November 2026 will shape Virginia's constitutional foundation for a generation.

> "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people." — Proverbs 14:34

What You Can Do Today

1. Share **Part 1** and Part 2 with your Sunday School class or small group. Most Virginia Christians have never thought about their state's Constitution. These articles give them a foundation.
2. When someone asks you about the November ballot measures, you now have the answer: HJ1 and HJ3 are not laws. They are constitutional amendments. The difference matters enormously.
3. Ask your pastor to address the November ballot from the pulpit — not as a partisan matter, but as a constitutional and biblical one. We will have resources for pastors in Part 3.
4. Read Article I of Virginia's Constitution at **law.lis.virginia.gov/constitution**. It takes twenty minutes. It is worth every minute.

Coming in Part 3: **"Why the November Ballot Matters More Than Most Elections"** — what HJ1's "strict scrutiny" standard actually means in plain English, what it has already done in other

states, and what every Virginia Christian voter needs to understand before stepping into the voting booth.

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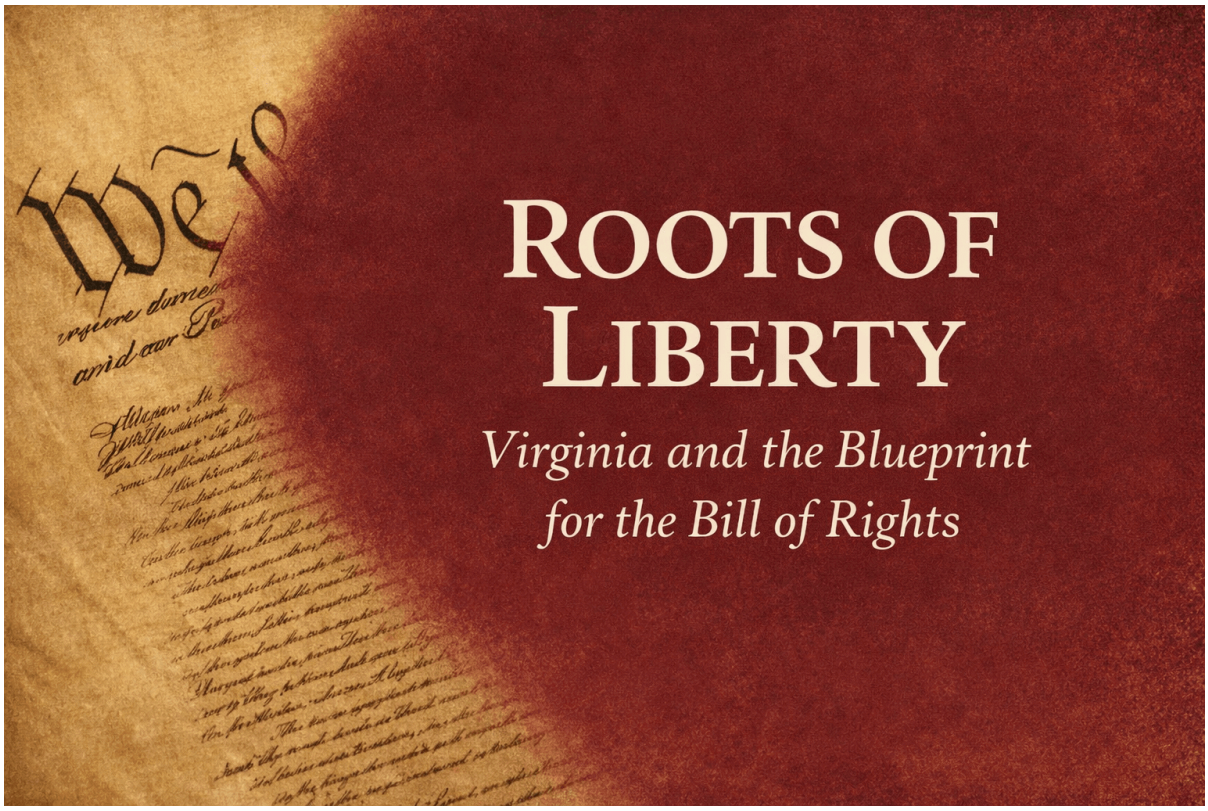
Virginia Didn't Copy the Constitution: The Constitution Copied Virginia Part 1

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/VIRGINIA-DIDNT-COPY-THE-CONSTITUTION-THE-CONSTITUTION-COPIED-VIRGINIA/
FEBRUARY 19, 2026
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, ROOTS OF LIBERTY, US CONSTITUTION



Most people think of the U.S. Constitution as the big one — the document that all states look up to and follow. Virginia's Constitution, they assume, is just a smaller copy.

They have it exactly backward.

Virginia's founding document came first. It shaped the Declaration of Independence. It gave James Madison the blueprint he used to write the Bill of Rights. The federal Constitution, in many ways, is Virginia's document — expanded for a whole nation.

If you're a Virginia Christian who cares about your rights, this history isn't just interesting. Right now, in the 2026 legislative session, Virginia's Constitution is being targeted in ways that could change it forever. To understand what's at stake, you first have to understand what's there — and how it got there.

One Man, One Summer, One Remarkable Document

In the spring of 1776, a Virginia planter sat down at his estate and wrote something the world had never seen before.

His name was George Mason. He lived at a place called Gunston Hall, just down the Potomac from George Washington. He was not a soldier or a politician by nature. He was a thinker — a man who had studied English common law, natural rights, and the idea that government exists to serve people, not the other way around.

In May 1776, as the American colonies were breaking away from Britain, Virginia needed a new plan of government. Mason sat down and wrote a Declaration of Rights — a list of the basic freedoms that no government could ever take away. He finished a draft in about two weeks. It was adopted by Virginia on June 12, 1776 — three weeks before the Declaration of Independence.

"That all men are by nature equally free and independent, and have certain inherent rights..." — Virginia Declaration of Rights, 1776

Those words look familiar, don't they? They should. Thomas Jefferson read Mason's draft while writing the Declaration of Independence the following month. Jefferson changed it slightly — "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness" — but the idea, and much of the language, came straight from Virginia.

A Young Man Makes His Mark

George Mason wasn't the only one in the room that summer. Sitting nearby at the Virginia Convention was a 25-year-old delegate from Orange County named James Madison.

Mason's draft said that Virginians were entitled to religious "toleration." Madison stood up and quietly argued that the word was wrong. Toleration implies that the government is graciously allowing you to practice your faith. Madison said Virginians had the full and free exercise of religion as a right — not a favor from the government.

The Convention agreed. They changed the word.

That small change mattered enormously — and it would prove to be one of Madison's most important contributions to American liberty. Thirteen years later, Madison would go to Philadelphia and help write the U.S. Constitution. Then he would draft the Bill of Rights — the first ten amendments. When he wrote the First Amendment's guarantee of religious freedom, he used the same phrase: "free exercise."

Virginia's language came first. Virginia's thinking shaped what became federal law.

"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." — 2 Corinthians 3:17

George Mason's Great Refusal

Here is a fact that surprises most people: George Mason went to Philadelphia in 1787 for the Constitutional Convention — and then refused to sign the finished document.

His reason? It had no Bill of Rights.

Mason had already written one for Virginia. He spent months in Philadelphia helping draft the new federal government. But when it was finished, he looked at the document and saw that it said nothing about freedom of speech, freedom of the press, the right to a trial by jury, or protection from unreasonable searches. The federal government would have enormous power over citizens, and there was nothing in the document to stop it from abusing that power.

Mason refused to sign. He went home to Virginia and campaigned against ratification. He was one of the most prominent Anti-Federalists in the country.

He was also right. The Federalists promised that a Bill of Rights would be added after ratification. Madison kept that promise. **In 1789, he introduced twelve amendments in the House of Representatives. Ten were ratified by the states in 1791 — and they became the Bill of Rights.**

Almost every one of those ten amendments has a direct ancestor in Virginia's Declaration of Rights.

Side by Side: Virginia's Fingerprints on the Bill of Rights

Here is how closely the two documents mirror each other. Read the Virginia version first — remember, it came 15 years earlier:

Freedom of Press & Speech

Virginia (1776): *"Freedom of the press is one of the greatest bulwarks of liberty, and can never be restrained but by despotic governments."*

Federal (1791): *"Congress shall make no law… abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press."*

Protection from Unreasonable Search

Virginia (1776): *"General warrants… are grievous and oppressive, and ought not to be granted."*

Federal (1791): *"The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated."*

Right Against Self-Incrimination & Speedy Trial

Virginia (1776): *"Nor be compelled to give evidence against himself; nor be put twice in jeopardy… the right to a speedy and public trial."*

Federal (1791): *"No person shall be… compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself." (5th Amendment); "the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial." (6th Amendment)*

Cruel and Unusual Punishment

Virginia (1776): *"Excessive bail ought not to be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted."*

Federal (1791): *"Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted." (8th Amendment)*

That last one isn't just similar — it's nearly word for word. The Founders weren't trying to hide their source. They were building on what Virginia had started.

The Right to Bear Arms: Virginia Came First Here Too

The Second Amendment is one of the most debated parts of the U.S. Constitution. But Virginia's right to bear arms predates it by 15 years — and it's arguably clearer.

Virginia's Article I, Section 13 reads: *"That a well regulated militia, composed of the body of the people, trained to arms, is the proper, natural, and safe defense of a free state, therefore, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."*

Notice the phrase "composed of the body of the people." Virginia's founders weren't talking about a government-controlled National Guard. They meant ordinary citizens — you and your neighbors — armed and ready to defend their community and their liberty.

This is why, right now in 2026, Virginia's gun bills (SB749, HB217, and the rest of the package moving through Richmond) face a double wall of protection. They must clear not just the federal Second Amendment — they must also pass muster under Virginia's own Constitution, which has its own right-to-bear-arms guarantee that predates the federal one.

Virginia gun owners have two constitutional shields. The Democrats pushing these bills are attacking both at once.

Religious Liberty: Virginia's Version Is Actually Stronger

Here's where it gets especially relevant for Christians watching the current legislative session.

The First Amendment's protection of religious freedom is 16 words long: "Congress shall make no law… prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

Virginia's religious liberty guarantee — Article I, Section 16 — is 238 words long. It is detailed, historically rich, and deeply rooted in the language James Madison helped craft in 1776.

In 2023, the Virginia Supreme Court ruled in a landmark case (Vlaming v. West Point School Board) that Virginia's religious liberty provision gives Christians stronger protection than the federal First Amendment. The court found that Virginia law requires government to grant religious exemptions to sincere believers — unless their beliefs break out into overt acts against peace and good order. That is a higher standard of protection than federal law currently demands.

That case involved a French teacher who was fired for declining to use a transgender student's preferred pronouns because it conflicted with his Christian beliefs about God's design for men and women.

The Virginia Supreme Court said: the state Constitution protects him. **Virginia's founding document — written by men who understood that rights come from God, not from government — gave him a legal shield.**

That same shield applies to every Christian in Virginia. And it's one reason the current attacks on Virginia's Constitution through the November 2026 ballot measures are so serious — we'll cover that in Part 3.

"No free government, nor the blessings of liberty, can be preserved to any people, but by a firm adherence to justice, moderation, temperance, frugality, and virtue; by frequent recurrence to fundamental principles…" — Virginia Constitution, Article I, Section 15

Why This History Matters Right Now

Virginia's Constitution is not a footnote to the U.S. Constitution. In many ways, it is its parent. The men who gave Virginia its founding document — George Mason, James Madison, and others — understood that rights are not granted by governments. They are given by God and protected by constitutions.

Mason wrote it that way on purpose. He watched what happened when governments had unchecked power. He knew that freedom would only survive if it was written down, clearly, and if citizens understood what they had.

Virginia's ideas even crossed an ocean. When French reformers were drafting their Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen in 1789, Thomas Jefferson was serving as U.S. minister in Paris. He met regularly with French leaders and helped convey American rights ideas — deeply rooted in Virginia's declaration — to the men shaping France's revolution. Mason's fingerprints reached from Gunston Hall to Paris.

Most Virginians today have never read their state Constitution. That is exactly what those who want to change it are counting on.

You can read the Virginia Constitution for yourself at law.lis.virginia.gov/constitution. It is shorter than you might think, and it belongs in every Christian household in Virginia.

What You Can Do Today

1. Read it. Visit law.lis.virginia.gov/constitution and spend 20 minutes with Article I — the Bill of Rights. It will surprise you.
2. Share this article with one person in your church who doesn't know this history. Forward it to your Sunday School class. Knowledge is the first line of defense.
3. Come back for Part 2: "Your Rights Are Actually Doubled — What Virginia's Constitution Adds on Top of Federal Protections."

Virginia Christian Alliance | vachristian.org | Part 1 of 3: Constitutional Education Series | February 2026

Virginia Christian Alliance equips Christians to engage the culture with biblical truth and political wisdom.

The Complete Constitutional Education Series:

Part 1 — Virginia Didn't Copy the Constitution: The Constitution Copied Virginia *The historical foundation — George Mason, the Declaration of Rights, and how Virginia came first*

Part 2 — Your Rights Are Actually Doubled: What Virginia's Constitution Adds on Top of Federal Protections *The legal framework — how state and federal protections stack, the Vlaming ruling, and the amendment threat*

Part 3 — Why the November Ballot Matters More Than Most Elections *The urgent call — strict scrutiny in plain English, the comparison table, HJ1/HJ3 consequences, and the November vote*

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Birthright Citizenship Supreme Court Case: Barbara v. Trump Forces 14th Amendment Reckoning

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HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/BIRTHRIGHT-CITIZENSHIP-SUPREME-COURT-BARBARA-V-TRUMP/
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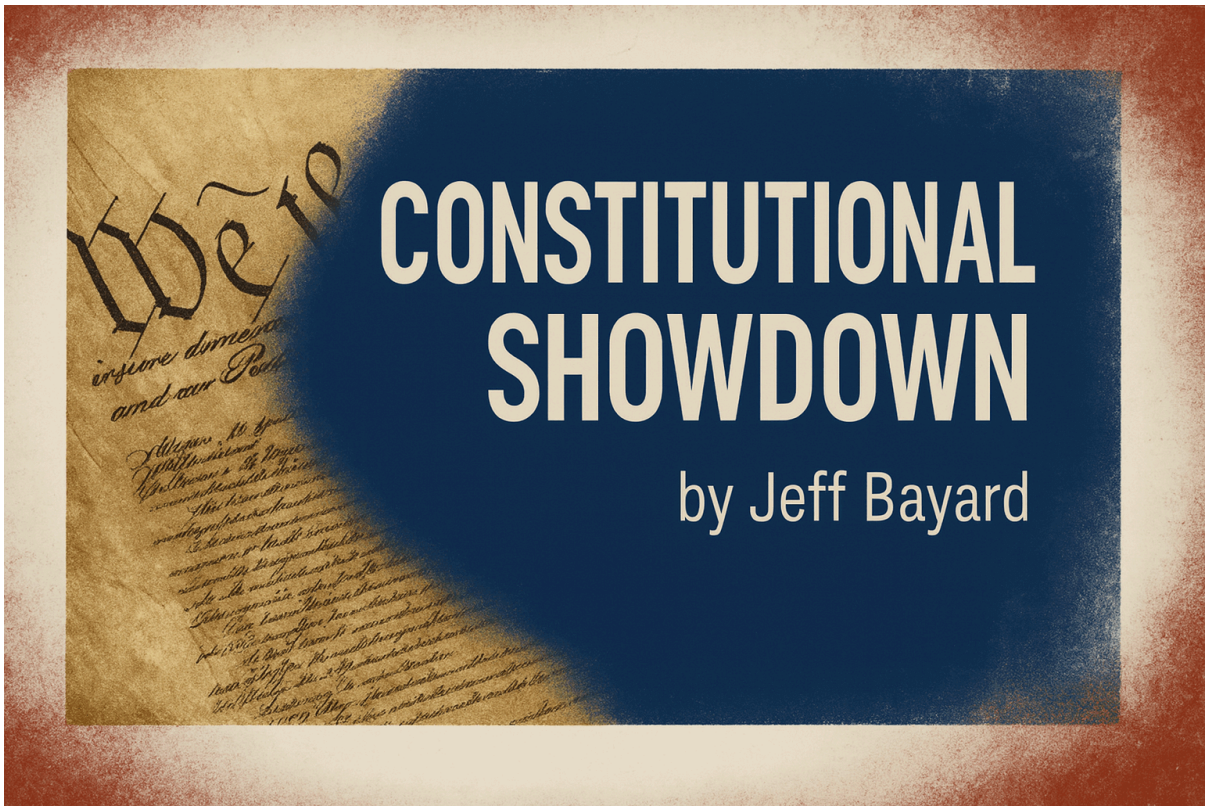
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, CONSTITUTIONAL SHOWDOWN, THIRD WAY, US CONSTITUTION



After 127 years of settled doctrine, the Supreme Court will finally decide whether the Fourteenth Amendment requires automatic citizenship for children born to illegal aliens and temporary visitors—resolving what "subject to the jurisdiction thereof" actually means.

*The Virginia Christian Alliance continues our **Constitutional Showdown series** by Jeff Bayard framed from the Christian Worldview and Constitutional originalism, and the **Third Way pdf**, exposing how modern courts twist the framers' original intent while equipping believers to defend constitutional truth through faithful citizenship and prayer.*

The Birthright Citizenship Supreme Court Case Arrives

On December 5, 2025, the Supreme Court granted certiorari in ***Barbara v. Trump***, agreeing to decide the most consequential **birthright citizenship Supreme Court** question in modern

American history: Does the Fourteenth Amendment require citizenship for children born on U.S. soil to parents who entered illegally or remain only temporarily?

Oral arguments are scheduled for **April 1, 2026**. The decision is expected by June or July.

This case represents the constitutional reckoning we predicted. As we documented in our **September 2025 Constitutional Showdown article on birthright citizenship**, President Trump's **Executive Order 14160** directed federal agencies not to recognize citizenship for certain U.S.-born children. Federal courts blocked the order. However, the Supreme Court's *Trump v. CASA* decision limited nationwide injunctions but left the underlying constitutional question unanswered.

Now the Court must answer it. Therefore, every Christian committed to constitutional fidelity must understand what's at stake.

As Proverbs 22:28 warns: "Do not move the ancient landmark that your fathers have set." The Fourteenth Amendment set a landmark in 1868. The question is what that landmark actually marked.

What the Fourteenth Amendment's Citizenship Clause Says

The Citizenship Clause contains exactly 30 words:

> **"All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside."**

Every word matters. "All persons born" is broad language. "In the United States" is geographically clear. However, "subject to the jurisdiction thereof" creates the constitutional question at the heart of this **birthright citizenship Supreme Court** case.

Does "jurisdiction" mean:

- Anyone physically present and subject to U.S. laws? (Broad interpretation)
- Those who owe complete political allegiance to the United States? (Narrow interpretation)

The Fourteenth Amendment was ratified in 1868 to overturn ***Dred Scott*** and ensure freed slaves—who had no other nation—could never be denied citizenship. More importantly, Senator Jacob Howard, who wrote the Citizenship Clause, explained on the Senate floor that it would "not, of

course, include persons born in the United States who are foreigners, aliens, who belong to the families of ambassadors or foreign ministers."

Notice carefully: Not just diplomats, but "foreigners, aliens" generally.

In contrast, Senator Lyman Trumbull, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, clarified that "subject to the jurisdiction" means subject to the "complete jurisdiction" of the United States —"not owing allegiance to anybody else." These weren't random senators offering floor speeches. These were the principal authors explaining what their amendment meant to the body considering ratification.

The Administration's Constitutional Argument on Birthright Citizenship

The Trump administration's case rests on original public meaning—the interpretive method originalists apply to both Scripture and the Constitution.

First, the text's natural reading excludes those without political allegiance. The Framers could have written "born in the United States" and stopped. Instead, they **added the jurisdiction requirement** for a specific reason. When the Fourteenth Amendment says "subject to the jurisdiction thereof," it uses language referring to political jurisdiction, not mere geographic presence.

Second, the historical context confirms the narrow reading. The 39th Congress understood "jurisdiction" to exclude:

- Children of foreign diplomats (diplomatic immunity places them outside U.S. legal jurisdiction)
- Children of invading armies (enemy combatants aren't under our political jurisdiction)
- Native Americans born in tribal territories (tribes were sovereign nations; Congress specifically excluded "Indians not taxed")
- **Children of foreigners who owed allegiance elsewhere**

Senator Howard explicitly stated the amendment would not include "foreigners, aliens" born here. If he meant only diplomats and invaders, why use broader terms?

Third, the "anchor baby" problem reveals the absurdity of broad interpretation.

Under current doctrine, **a person can violate U.S. sovereignty by entering illegally, give birth while unlawfully present, obtain U.S. citizenship for the child, then use that citizen child to gain legal status themselves**. Consequently, this creates perverse incentives that reward lawbreaking.

Fourth, temporary visitors owe primary allegiance elsewhere. A woman on a tourist visa hasn't renounced allegiance to her home country or sworn an oath to the United States. When she gives birth during a temporary visit and explicitly plans to return home with the baby, why should that child automatically become a citizen?

Romans 13:1-4 establishes that God ordained civil government with authority to control borders and determine citizenship. A nation that cannot control who becomes a citizen is not exercising the sovereignty God granted it. Furthermore, Acts 17:26 declares that God "determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place"—affirming that God designed nations with the authority to determine membership.

This argument takes both constitutional text and founding history seriously. However, it may be incomplete without considering the opposing evidence.

The Opposition's Case for Broad Birthright Citizenship

Defenders of current **birthright citizenship** doctrine make equally serious constitutional arguments that honest originalists must consider.

First, the constitutional text is clear and should be read broadly. "All persons born or naturalized in the United States" uses sweeping language. The only exception—"subject to the jurisdiction"—should exclude only those genuinely outside U.S. legal jurisdiction: foreign diplomats (who have diplomatic immunity) and invading armies (who are at war with us).

Everyone else born on U.S. soil is subject to U.S. laws. They can be arrested, prosecuted, and taxed. If parents who entered illegally violate a law, they face prosecution under U.S. jurisdiction. That's what "subject to the jurisdiction" means—subject to U.S. legal authority.

Second,* United States v. Wong Kim Ark *(1898) settled this question 127 years ago. The Supreme Court held 6-2 that Wong Kim Ark, born in San Francisco to Chinese immigrant parents who were legal permanent residents, was a U.S. citizen under the Fourteenth Amendment. Justice Horace Gray's majority opinion extensively analyzed the amendment's legislative history and concluded that the Citizenship Clause "affirms the ancient and fundamental rule of citizenship by birth within the territory."

While Wong's parents were lawful permanent residents (not illegal aliens), supporters argue the Court's reasoning didn't turn on their legal status. Rather, it turned on the fact that they were "domiciled" in the United States and subject to U.S. jurisdiction.

Third, Congress codified this broad interpretation. The Immigration and Nationality Act, **8 U.S.C. § 1401(a)**, provides that "a person born in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction

thereof" is a U.S. citizen at birth. Congress has repeatedly reaffirmed this statute for decades. If it meant to exclude children of illegal aliens or temporary visitors, it could have said so.

Fourth, executive reinterpretation sets a dangerous precedent. If a president can unilaterally decide that "subject to the jurisdiction" means something different than courts and Congress have understood for 127 years, what other constitutional provisions can be redefined by executive fiat? Could the next president reinterpret the Second Amendment? Could a future administration redefine "religion" in the First Amendment?

By contrast, the separation of powers requires that major changes to constitutional interpretation come through the courts (applying precedent and original meaning) or through Article V amendments—not through executive orders.

Fifth, compassion matters biblically. Exodus 22:21 commands: "You shall not wrong a sojourner or oppress him, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt." While this doesn't require automatic **citizenship**, it does require that we consider the human cost. Children born here through no choice of their own would be rendered stateless or forced to "return" to countries they've never known.

The Original Intent Dilemma: Weighing Conflicting Evidence

Here's where originalism gets complicated—and where honest Christians must grapple with difficult questions rather than cherry-picking convenient quotes.

Evidence supporting narrow citizenship:

- Senator Jacob Howard: Clause will not include "foreigners, aliens"
- Senator Lyman Trumbull: Requires "complete jurisdiction"—not owing allegiance elsewhere
- Civil Rights Act of 1866 language: "not subject to any foreign power"
- Legislative purpose: Grant citizenship to freed slaves who had no other nation

Evidence supporting broad citizenship:

- Constitutional text changed from "not subject to any foreign power" to "subject to the jurisdiction"—arguably broader language
- *Wong Kim Ark* exhaustively analyzed legislative history and concluded broad reading was correct
- Founding-era practice: English common law granted citizenship by birth in the realm
- Framers knew how to write narrow exceptions (they explicitly excluded "Indians not taxed")
- Congressional codification in federal statute

As Christians who apply grammatical-historical interpretation to Scripture, we recognize that determining original intent requires examining all the evidence. Deuteronomy 19:15 establishes this principle: "Only on the evidence of two or three witnesses shall a charge be established."

We have conflicting witnesses about the **Fourteenth Amendment**'s meaning. Ultimately, honest originalism must weigh all the evidence rather than selecting only quotes that support our preferred policy outcome. This requires intellectual humility and willingness to follow the evidence wherever it leads.

The Third Way: Why Constitutional Process Matters

As we argued in our **September Constitutional Showdown article**, Christians must hold two truths in tension:

Truth #1: The Trump administration's substantive constitutional argument has significant merit. The "**anchor baby**" doctrine creates perverse incentives, rewards lawbreaking, and likely exceeds what the Fourteenth Amendment's framers intended.

Truth #2: The process by which the president attempted this change—unilateral executive order reinterpreting a constitutional provision—violates **separation of powers** and sets dangerous precedent for future administrations.

The Third Way recognizes proper constitutional process:

Extreme Position #1: Pure birthplace citizenship regardless of parents' status, allegiance, or intent. This ignores the "jurisdiction" requirement and constitutional evidence of narrower intent. Moreover, it creates "birth tourism" and "anchor baby" problems that undermine immigration law.

Extreme Position #2: Executive branch unilaterally rewrites the Fourteenth Amendment through administrative decree. This concentrates too much power in one branch. Furthermore, it allows future presidents to redefine other constitutional provisions whenever precedent seems wrong.

Third Way – Proper Constitutional Process: If current birthright citizenship doctrine is constitutionally flawed, use legitimate processes to address it:

- **Judicial process:** Let courts reexamine *Wong Kim Ark* in light of **original public meaning**
- **Legislative process:** Congress has authority under Section 5 of the Fourteenth Amendment to "enforce" the Citizenship Clause through "appropriate legislation"—it could clarify citizenship requirements
- **Amendment process:** If the Fourteenth Amendment's text is ambiguous, propose a clarifying amendment through Article V

This mirrors how we treat Scripture. We don't change what the Bible says through executive decree. Instead, we study it carefully, apply sound hermeneutics, and submit to its authority. When Christians disagree about interpretation, we engage in rigorous exegesis—not unilateral redefinition.

2 Timothy 2:5 establishes the principle: "An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules." Even when pursuing righteous ends, the means must be righteous. Therefore, process matters profoundly.

What's at Stake Beyond Immigration Policy

The **Supreme Court**'s decision in *Barbara v. Trump* will reverberate far beyond immigration and citizenship questions.

First, national sovereignty. Can a nation control who becomes a citizen while still honoring the image of God in every person? This question goes to the heart of sovereignty—a concept rooted in God's design for nations with defined boundaries and distinct peoples.

Acts 17:26 declares that God "made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place." God created nations. Consequently, nations have God-given authority to determine membership.

Second, constitutional interpretation methodology. Do we follow "living constitution" theory where the Constitution evolves with changing times? Or do we follow originalism where the Constitution means what its ratifiers understood it to mean?

For fundamentalist Christians, the answer is clear: Just as Scripture has fixed meaning based on authorial intent, the Constitution has fixed meaning based on ratifiers' intent. We don't baptize "living constitution" theory any more than we baptize liberal theology's "progressive revelation."

Third, the separation of powers and the rule of law. If the president can redefine constitutional terms, what restrains executive power? The Founders created the **separation of powers** precisely to prevent any single branch from accumulating too much authority. When the executive branch makes law (legislative function) or reinterprets the Constitution (judicial function), the system breaks down.

Numbers 15:15-16 establishes the principle of equal justice while recognizing distinct status: "For the assembly, there shall be one statute for you and for the stranger who sojourns with you… You and the sojourner shall be alike before the LORD." This principle doesn't require identical citizenship status for citizens and sojourners. However, it assumes that distinctions between citizen and sojourner exist—and that proper authorities determine who holds which status.

What Christians Must Do Now

As the **Supreme Court** prepares to hear this **birthright citizenship** case, faithful Christians must engage with wisdom, conviction, and humility.

First, pray for the justices according to Scripture. 1 Timothy 2:1-2 commands: "I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way."

Pray specifically that:

- Justices would apply the Constitution faithfully based on **original meaning**, not political preferences
- They would have the courage to rule correctly, even if the decision is unpopular
- God would grant them wisdom to discern the **Fourteenth Amendment**'s true meaning
- The decision would advance justice, protect the vulnerable, and uphold constitutional order

Second, understand the constitutional process—and why it matters. Whether you believe **birthright citizenship** should be narrow or broad, the process by which changes occur matters enormously. Executive orders that exceed constitutional authority threaten rule of law, even when pursuing legitimate policy goals.

If you support Trump's substantive position but recognize his **executive order** violated separation of powers, you're applying principled constitutional analysis rather than partisan loyalty. Therefore, hold both truths without contradiction.

Third, demand congressional action through proper channels. Congress has explicit authority under Section 5 of the **Fourteenth Amendment** to "enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article." If *Wong Kim Ark* was wrongly decided—or if its reasoning doesn't extend to children of illegal aliens—Congress could pass legislation clarifying citizenship requirements.

This would force elected representatives to vote on the record, creating democratic accountability. Moreover, it would properly locate the decision in the legislative branch where the Constitution places authority over naturalization (Article I, Section 8).

Fourth, prepare for either outcome—and respond faithfully regardless.

If the **Supreme Court** upholds the executive order:

- Don't gloat or celebrate as though we've "defeated" opponents

- Acknowledge this reverses 127 years of precedent and creates genuine hardship
- Support policies that provide pathways to legal status for those affected
- Recognize this doesn't solve underlying immigration problems—comprehensive reform remains necessary

If the **Supreme Court** strikes down the executive order:

- Don't despair as though constitutional truth has been defeated
- Recognize the Court may be protecting the **separation of powers**, not endorsing "**anchor baby**" policy
- Advocate for a constitutional amendment if you believe the **Fourteenth Amendment** needs clarification
- Support legislative solutions that address immigration while respecting constitutional limits

Fifth, witness faithfully across political divides. Immigration debates generate immense heat and very little light. Christians must model a different approach—one that upholds biblical truth, constitutional fidelity, and human dignity simultaneously.

Matthew 22:21 records Jesus's response when Pharisees tried to trap Him with a political question: "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." Caesar has legitimate authority over **citizenship**. However, God's people transcend earthly citizenship.

We are "sojourners and exiles" (1 Peter 2:11) whose "citizenship is in heaven" (Philippians 3:20). This should give us perspective: No **Supreme Court** ruling can grant or revoke our ultimate citizenship in the kingdom of God.

Conclusion: Constitutional Fidelity and Eternal Citizenship

By July 2026, the **birthright citizenship Supreme Court** case will be decided. The Court will rule on whether the **Fourteenth Amendment** means what it's been understood to mean for 127 years, or whether "**subject to the jurisdiction thereof**" excludes children born to illegal aliens and temporary visitors.

For Christians who believe words have fixed meanings—whether in Scripture or the Constitution—this case presents genuine challenge. The text says "all persons." The framers said it excludes "foreigners, aliens." The **Supreme Court** in *Wong Kim Ark* said it follows common law birthright. Congress codified broad interpretation in federal statute.

Honest originalism must grapple with conflicting evidence rather than cherry-picking quotes that support predetermined conclusions. This requires the same intellectual humility we apply to

difficult scriptural passages: Study carefully, weigh evidence honestly, submit to truth wherever it leads.

What we know for certain:

The "**anchor baby**" doctrine creates serious policy and sovereignty problems that ought to be addressed through proper constitutional processes. Whether or not the **Fourteenth Amendment** requires this doctrine, policymakers must confront these issues.

Executive orders that unilaterally reinterpret constitutional provisions—even when pursuing legitimate ends—violate **separation of powers** and set dangerous precedents. Christians must oppose such overreach regardless of whether we agree with the policy goal. In short, process matters as much as substance.

The **Supreme Court**'s decision will shape American citizenship law for generations. However, it will not determine the most important citizenship question: Are we in the kingdom of God? That citizenship comes not through birth or naturalization but through faith in Jesus Christ, who grants spiritual citizenship to all who believe regardless of earthly national origin.

Daniel 2:21 reminds us: "He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding." God is sovereign over nations, presidents, and **Supreme Court** justices. Ultimately, His purposes will prevail.

As we await the Court's decision, let us pray for wisdom, advocate for constitutional fidelity, and trust in God's sovereignty over all human affairs. Whatever the **Supreme Court** rules, our ultimate hope rests not in earthly courts but in the One who judges righteously and whose kingdom has no end.

Resources

Previous VCA Coverage:

- **Constitutional Showdown: Supreme Court & Birthright Citizenship (September 2025)**
- **Ten Commandments in Classrooms: What Kennedy v. Bremerton Changed**

Primary Legal Sources:

- ***Barbara v. Trump* – Supreme Court Docket**
- **Fourteenth Amendment Text – Constitution Center**
- ***United States v. Wong Kim Ark*, 169 U.S. 649 (1898)**
- **8 U.S.C. § 1401 – Nationals and Citizens of United States at Birth**

Constitutional Analysis:

- **Heritage Foundation: Birthright Citizenship Analysis**
- **Constitutional Accountability Center: Citizenship Clause**

Scripture for Further Study:

- Romans 13:1-7 (Civil Government Under God)
- Exodus 22:21 (Treatment of Sojourners)
- Numbers 15:15-16 (Equal Justice, Distinct Status)
- Acts 17:26 (God's Design for Nations)
- Philippians 3:20 (Our True Citizenship)
- 1 Peter 2:11 (Sojourners and Exiles)
- 2 Timothy 2:5 (Competing According to Rules)

Prayer Focus:

- Wisdom for Supreme Court justices in applying the Fourteenth Amendment faithfully
- Courage for justices to rule based on constitutional meaning, not political pressure
- Clarity about proper separation of powers and constitutional processes
- Grace to accept the Court's decision while continuing to advocate through proper channels
- Unity in the church despite disagreements about immigration policy
- Compassion for all affected families regardless of the ruling
- Revival and spiritual transformation through the gospel, not political victories

The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views the Virginia Christian Alliance.

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Ten Commandments in Classrooms: What Kennedy v. Bremerton Changed

BY JEFF BAYARD
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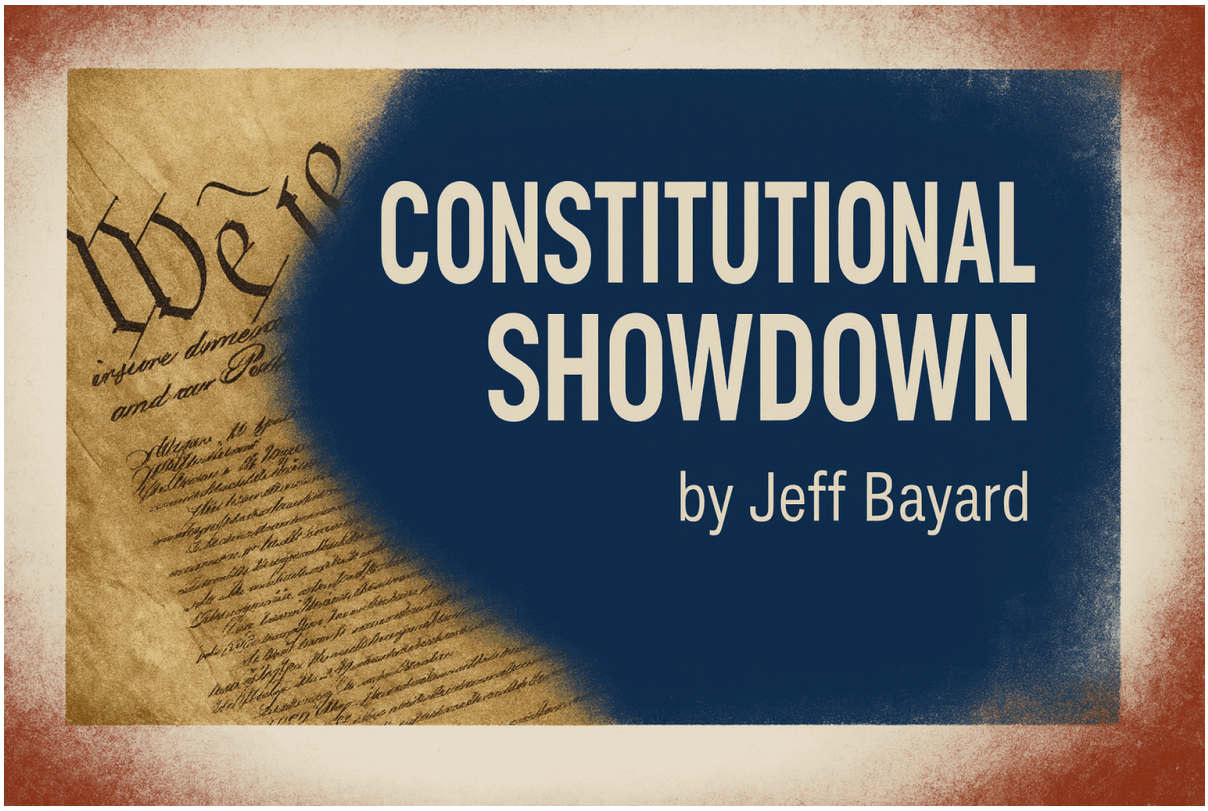
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, CONSTITUTIONAL SHOWDOWN, US CONSTITUTION



The Fifth Circuit must decide whether Kennedy's "historical practices and understandings" test allows Ten Commandments in classrooms that *Stone v. Graham* once forbade—reshaping religious liberty and church-state boundaries.

Constitutional Showdown – Legal Analysis

The Virginia Christian Alliance continues our Constitutional Showdown series by Jeff Bayard, framed by a Christian worldview and constitutional originalism, exposing how modern courts twist the Framers' intent while equipping believers to defend constitutional truth through faithful citizenship and prayer.

Why This Case Matters Now

On January 20, 2026, the full U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit heard two cases that will decide whether **Ten Commandments in classrooms** are a constitutional acknowledgment of America's religious heritage—or an unlawful state endorsement of faith. If you care about religious liberty, your kids' schools, or the original meaning of the First Amendment, this decision matters to you.

The cases are ***Roake v. Brumley*** (Louisiana) and ***Nathan v. Alamo Heights Independent School District*** (Texas). Both challenge state laws requiring the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms. Louisiana's HB 71, signed in June 2024, mandates an 11-by-14-inch poster displaying the King James Version as "central focus" in every K-12 classroom. Texas's SB 10, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, requires a durable poster at least 16 by 20 inches "in a conspicuous place" visible from anywhere in the room.

Federal district courts blocked both laws, relying heavily on *Stone v. Graham* (1980), a Supreme Court precedent that struck down an identical Kentucky requirement. In Louisiana, a three-judge Fifth Circuit panel agreed that *Stone* controlled—until the full court vacated that ruling and agreed to rehear both cases en banc. That move signals the court may rethink how *Stone* applies after the Supreme Court's seismic shift in ***Kennedy v. Bremerton School District*** (2022).

The core question is stark: Did *Kennedy* fundamentally change **Establishment Clause** analysis enough to save these Ten Commandments laws from *Stone*'s fate?

Romans 13:1 reminds us that authorities are "instituted by God." As Christians committed to both biblical truth and constitutional fidelity, we must understand what's at stake when government brushes up against the boundaries of religious freedom. The question is not whether the Ten Commandments are true—they are—but whether government may acknowledge that truth without crossing the line into "establishing a state church."

Here's what we need to understand: The path from *Lemon* to *Kennedy* is the key to unlocking these cases. Once we see what the Framers meant to forbid, we can ask how **Ten Commandments in classrooms** measure up.

From Lemon to Kennedy: A New Test

What the Establishment Clause Actually Says

The First Amendment's Establishment Clause is just 16 words:

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.”

It grew out of the Framers’ hard-won experience with state churches in England and the colonies—churches that punished dissenters, extracted tithes, and forced mandatory worship. The Clause was written to prevent *that kind of establishment*, not to exile all religious expression from public life.

For nearly four decades, courts used a rule called the *Lemon* test (from *Lemon v. Kurtzman*, 1971). Under *Lemon*, government action was constitutional only if it satisfied three conditions:

- Had a secular purpose
- Had a primary effect that neither advanced nor inhibited religion
- Did not create excessive entanglement between government and religion

On paper, that sounds tidy. In practice, it pushed courts to second-guess motives and scrub away many public references to faith the Framers would have accepted. Using *Lemon*, the Kentucky Supreme Court in *Stone v. Graham* (1980) struck down a Ten Commandments law, concluding that the law’s “pre-eminent purpose” was “plainly religious in nature”—failing *Lemon*‘s purpose prong.

Kennedy Changed Everything

Then came *Kennedy v. Bremerton School District* (June 2022). A high school football coach in Washington State prayed quietly at midfield after games. The school told him to stop. The Supreme Court, in an opinion by Justice Neil Gorsuch, said that was wrong—and in doing so, overturned decades of Establishment Clause doctrine.

Gorsuch declared bluntly: “this Court long ago abandoned *Lemon*.” In place of *Lemon*‘s “abstract and ahistorical approach,” *Kennedy* held that “the Establishment Clause must be interpreted by reference to historical practices and understandings.” The question courts must now ask is straightforward: Does a challenged practice reflect what the Founding Fathers understood to constitute a forbidden “establishment of religion”?

This is not just a tweak. It’s a wholesale shift in how we read the Constitution.

The Six Hallmarks: What the Framers Meant to Forbid

Justice Gorsuch’s concurrence in *Shurtleff v. City of Boston* (2022)—which *Kennedy* embraced and cited repeatedly—identifies six specific “hallmarks” that characterized the state churches the Framers meant to prohibit:

1. **Government control over church doctrine and clergy selection.**
2. **Mandatory attendance at religious services.**
3. **Compulsory financial support for religion through tithes or taxes.**
4. **Legal penalties or restrictions on dissenting worship.**
5. **Religious tests for holding political office.**
6. **Using the church to carry out civil government functions.**

These hallmarks reflect the lived history of the Church of England and the colonial establishments that forced conformity and punished dissenters. When Madison wrote that religion "must be left to the conviction and conscience of every man," he was rejecting *coerced conformity*—not passive government acknowledgments that God exists or that His law shaped our founding principles.

The lesson: A passive classroom poster doesn't control what clergy teach, require anyone to worship, extract tithes, punish dissenters, impose religious tests for office, or use a church for government functions. By this measure, it bears no resemblance to the establishments the Framers forbade.

Here's the key question the Fifth Circuit must now answer: When you look at that list, does posting the Ten Commandments in a classroom trigger any of those hallmarks—or does it simply acknowledge historical and moral truths?

Do Classroom Ten Commandments Posters "Establish" Religion?

Defenders of HB 71 and SB 10 argue yes, these laws are constitutional under *Kennedy*—for three connected reasons.

Founding-Era Practice Permitted Public Religious Acknowledgments

Start with history. The Framers themselves publicly acknowledged religious foundations for law and liberty.

The Northwest Ordinance (1787)—passed by the same Congress that proposed the Bill of Rights—declared that "religion, morality, and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged." Massachusetts's 1780 Constitution required public support for "public Protestant teachers of piety, religion and morality." State constitutions and founding documents routinely referenced God, biblical principles, and the moral law.

Modern historical scholarship confirms what these documents show: "no evidence exists that passive government displays of religious items were understood as a form of forbidden

establishment" in the Founding era. When concerns about religious symbols did arise, they focused on *suppressing* dissenting faiths, not on government *displaying* religious content.

Consequently, if the Founders understood that public acknowledgments of religious truth were compatible with free conscience and equal treatment, then courts applying *Kennedy*'s "historical practices and understandings" test should reach the same conclusion today.

Classroom Posters Trigger None of the Six Hallmarks

A simple checklist shows the power of this argument.

Government control over doctrine? No. A poster displays text; it doesn't require schools to teach specific theology or control what clergy may say. **Mandatory worship?** No. Students aren't required to recite, pray to, or affirm the Commandments—they simply see text on a wall. **Tithes or compulsory financial support?** No. The laws don't tax anyone for religion. **Penalties on dissenting worship?** No. Students and families remain free to follow their own faith traditions without penalty. **Religious tests for office?** No. The laws don't condition voting, holding office, or any political right on religious belief. **Using churches for civil functions?** No. Schools remain schools; churches remain churches.

A classroom poster does *none* of these things. **That's precisely why defenders argue these laws are simply not establishments** in the sense the Framers meant.

The Commandments Shaped American Law

Both HB 71 and SB 10 include statements noting that the Ten Commandments have played a significant role in the development of American law and moral principles. The Supreme Court itself, in *Van Orden v. Perry* (2005), upheld a Ten Commandments monument on the Texas Capitol grounds, emphasizing that the Commandments have historical significance alongside other monuments on the grounds.

If schools may teach about the Commandments' historical influence in literature, history, and law classes, defenders ask, why may they not display a poster acknowledging that same influence?

This is where the argument seems strongest for the states. Under *Kennedy*'s historical-practices test, these three points carry real weight. But the Fifth Circuit must also grapple with the opposition's most powerful counterargument.

The Strongest Case Against These Laws

Opponents don't claim these laws are *evil*. They claim they're **constitutionally problematic in the school context**—and their argument deserves serious consideration.

Schoolchildren Are a Captive Audience

Imagine your child at a mandatory school event where everyone else stands, bows heads, and prays. The Supreme Court has long recognized that schools are fundamentally different from other public settings. Children are required by law to attend. They don't choose to be there, and they can't simply leave when they disagree with what they see.

In *Lee v. Weisman* (1992), the Court struck down clergy-led graduation prayers, holding that objecting students "are obliged to be present" and experience "subtle coercive pressure." In *Santa Fe v. Doe* (2000), the Court struck down student-led pregame prayers at football games, again emphasizing the coercive environment of school and the difficulty students face in opting out.

Justice Gorsuch acknowledged in *Kennedy* that "the government may not coerce people to observe religious practices." **The question opponents press is this:** Does a mandatory, daily exposure to a particular religious text in every classroom constitute that kind of coercion?

Context and Cumulative Effect Matter

A monument on the Texas Capitol grounds—outdoors, among 21 historical markers on 22 acres—is one thing. A poster in every classroom that children occupy for six hours a day, 180 days a year, for thirteen years of education is quite another.

Louisiana's requirement is especially stark: the poster must be the "central focus" in "large font." Texas requires the display be "conspicuous" and "visible from anywhere in the room." This isn't a passive historical footnote. It's a prominent, inescapable daily message in a space where attendance is compulsory.

As one district court judge noted, "Plaintiffs' children will be forced to be a 'captive audience' reading a specific version of the Ten Commandments posted in every classroom, for the entire school year, regardless of subject matter." **If your child sat under the same religious text in every classroom, every day for thirteen years, would it start to feel like the state was taking sides?**

Moreover, add to that the cumulative effect. Seeing the same religious text in every classroom, every day, throughout one's entire education communicates a message: the state endorses this

particular religious text. For families whose faith traditions disagree with the version displayed, the effect is felt acutely.

Rabbi Mara Nathan, a plaintiff in the Texas case, explained: "The version mandated does not match the text followed by our family." This touches on a real constitutional problem: state selection of a particular religious text.

Choosing One Version Shows Denominational Preference

Both laws mandate specific texts associated with Protestant enumerations of the Ten Commandments. However, Jewish, Catholic, and Lutheran traditions count and number the Commandments differently. Roman Catholics, for example, combine the prohibition on other gods with the prohibition on graven images as the first commandment, then divide the coveting command into two.

When the state mandates a *particular version*, it picks a denomination. **That looks less like historical acknowledgment and more like the kind of sectarian preference that troubles the religion clauses.**

Here's the critical point: Opponents don't argue that *Kennedy* was wrongly decided. Rather, they argue that *Kennedy* left the school-prayer cases (*Lee*, *Santa Fe*) intact—and those precedents still demand heightened protection for captive student audiences. They contend that *Kennedy*'s emphasis on "historical practices" doesn't displace the concern that government shouldn't impose religious exercises on mandatory school attendance.

A Third Way: Acknowledge God Without Coercion

The biblical and constitutional solution lies between two extremes: absolute secularism on one hand, and government-mandated religiosity on the other. **Christians who honor both Scripture and the Constitution can chart a clearer path.**

Distinguish Acknowledgment from Enforcement

Government may acknowledge religious heritage without "establishing" a state church. The Supreme Court permits legislative prayers in Congress and state legislatures. "In God We Trust" appears on currency. "So help me God" closes presidential oaths. None of these trigger the six hallmarks of an establishment.

These acknowledgments reflect genuine historical truth: religious principles *did* shape the Framers' vision of liberty, natural rights, and justice. But acknowledgment is fundamentally

different from *enforcement*. Congress may open with prayer; it cannot require citizens to pray. Government may acknowledge God; it cannot command worship.

The harder question: Is a classroom poster still in the realm of acknowledgment—or does the mandatory school context push it into enforcement?

Parental Authority and Government's Proper Role

God ordained civil government to restrain evil and preserve order, not to establish religion. Romans 13:3-4 explains rulers are "God's servant… an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer." Government's authority reaches the moral law concerning *human relationships*—the "second table" of the Commandments (don't murder, steal, bear false witness, etc.). But government has no authority to enforce the "first table" concerning worship and the love of God.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 places responsibility for faith transmission squarely on parents: "You shall teach them diligently to your children." When government mandates religious displays in compulsory schools, it nudges that responsibility toward the state and away from the family.

Here's the harder question: If parents disagree with how government frames religion in schools—even if it's "just" a display—shouldn't their conscience be protected?

Integrate Religion Thoughtfully in Curriculum

Stone v. Graham itself acknowledged that "the Bible may constitutionally be used in appropriate study of history, civilization, ethics, comparative religion." Schools can teach about the Commandments' influence on law and Western civilization through rigorous academic study rather than ubiquitous posters.

For instance, a history class examining the Declaration of Independence and its appeal to "Nature's God" and "unalienable rights" can explore how Judeo-Christian thought shaped the Framers. A civics class can teach how the Ten Commandments influenced Anglo-American legal traditions. Literature classes can study biblical narratives and their cultural impact. **This is education—not coercion.**

Ultimately, the Third Way recognizes that acknowledging God's moral law as foundation for just government doesn't require a poster in every classroom. It requires honesty in how we teach history, civics, and literature—and it requires respecting parental authority over faith formation.

How Christians Should Respond

The Fifth Circuit's decision will matter. But it won't be the final word on whether Christians successfully transmit faith to the next generation.

First: Pray for Judges

1 Timothy 2:1-2 instructs: “I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in high positions, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.”

Specifically, pray that Fifth Circuit judges would have wisdom to apply the Constitution faithfully according to its original meaning, courage to resist political pressure from all sides, and humility to recognize the limits of what courts can accomplish.

Second: Invest in Faith Transmission at Home and Church

Here’s a hard truth: If you’re more passionate about government posting the Ten Commandments than about teaching them at home and in church, your priorities are disordered.

No government poster can replace a parent who reads Scripture with their child, prays with them, models obedience to God’s law, and walks through life’s decisions grounded in biblical conviction. No classroom display can substitute for a church community that disciples young people in the faith.

In short, if you lose your child’s heart because you outsourced their spiritual formation to government, no legal victory will restore what you’ve lost.

Third: Advocate for Robust, Honest Curriculum

Support policies that allow schools to teach about religion’s influence on history, law, and culture through rigorous academic study. Push back against false “neutrality” that pretends religion plays no role in civilization.

Equally important, do this *for all* religious traditions, not just Christianity. A truly fair curriculum acknowledges Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, and other faith traditions that have shaped societies and laws.

Fourth: Defend Religious Liberty for All

The same First Amendment protecting Christians’ right to pray voluntarily in school protects others’ right not to have government-selected religious texts dominate their classroom environment.

Remember: Religious liberty isn’t a zero-sum game. When we defend conscience rights for families of other faiths, we strengthen the principle that protects our own children’s faith.

Fifth: Witness Faithfully Regardless of Outcome

Our ultimate hope is not in judicial rulings but in Christ. Matthew 16:18 records His promise: "I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

In the end, courts can regulate what hangs on classroom walls. Only Christ can write His law on human hearts.

Conclusion: Government Under God, Not As God

The Fifth Circuit faces a genuinely difficult constitutional question. *Kennedy* established that Establishment Clause analysis must focus on historical practices and the specific hallmarks of state-church establishment the Framers forbade.

Defenders can credibly argue that founding-era practice permitted public acknowledgment of religious truth and that passive classroom displays don't coerce worship or trigger the hallmarks of an establishment. **Conversely,** opponents can equally credibly argue that *Kennedy* didn't displace the school-prayer cases and that the mandatory school setting creates heightened constitutional concerns even if no formal "establishment" occurs.

The biblical and constitutional solution is neither absolute secularism nor government-mandated religiosity. It's a Third Way: acknowledging that God's moral law provides foundation for just government—as the Declaration affirmed—while recognizing that enforcing religious duties belongs to the church and the family, not the state.

Romans 13:1 teaches that authorities are "instituted by God," but verse 4 clarifies their proper role: they serve as "God's servant" to punish wrongdoing, not as God's priest over human souls. Government operates *under* God's authority but does not possess *God's* authority over conscience.

Whether the Fifth Circuit rules for the states or the plaintiffs, the outcome won't determine whether America remains "one nation under God." **Instead,** that depends on whether God's people faithfully disciple their children, bear witness that Jesus Christ is Lord, and live as citizens of a kingdom not of this world.

May we have courage to defend constitutional principles even when results don't favor our preferences. **May we have wisdom** to distinguish what belongs to Caesar from what belongs to God. **And may we have hope** from knowing our ultimate citizenship is in heaven, where Christ reigns forever as King of kings.

Resources

Primary Sources

- Kennedy v. Bremerton School District, 597 U.S. 507 (2022) **https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/21pdf/21-418_i425.pdf**
- Stone v. Graham, 449 U.S. 39 (1980)
- Louisiana HB 71 (2024) **https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1379435**
- Texas SB 10 (2025) **https://legiscan.com/TX/text/SB10**

Related VCA Articles

- "The State Tried to Ban This Catholic Therapist. A Court Just Said No" **https://vachristian.org/the-state-tried-to-ban-this-catholic-therapist-a-court-just-said-no/**
- "Face Off: Pro-Life Ministry vs. The State's Donor Demand" **https://vachristian.org/face-off-pro-life-ministry-vs-the-states-donor-demand/**
- "Watson v. RNC: When 'I Want to Vote Early' Replaced 'I Need to Vote Early'" **https://vachristian.org/watson-v-rnc-when-i-want-to-vote-early-replaced-i-need-to-vote-early/**

Constitutional Resources

- Federalist Papers (especially No. 51 on separation of powers)
- The Northwest Ordinance (1787) **https://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/bdsbib:@field(DOCID+@lit(bdsbib000228)**)
- Massachusetts Constitution of 1780 **https://secretary.mass.gov/documents-records/constitution-commonwealth**

Scripture for Further Study

- Romans 13:1-7 (Civil Government Under God)
- Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (Parental Faith Transmission)
- Matthew 22:15-22 (Render to Caesar)
- Exodus 20:1-17 (The Ten Commandments)
- Daniel 3 (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: Refusing Coerced Worship)
- Ephesians 2:8-9 (Faith Cannot Be Coerced)

Prayer Focus

- Wisdom and faithfulness for Fifth Circuit judges

- Protection of conscience rights for all families
- Strengthening of parents and churches in discipling children
- Revival and spiritual transformation through the gospel, not government mandate
- Courage for Christians to defend biblical truth and constitutional principle simultaneously

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Virginia's Anti-Police Triple Threat: HB1314, HB7, and HB863

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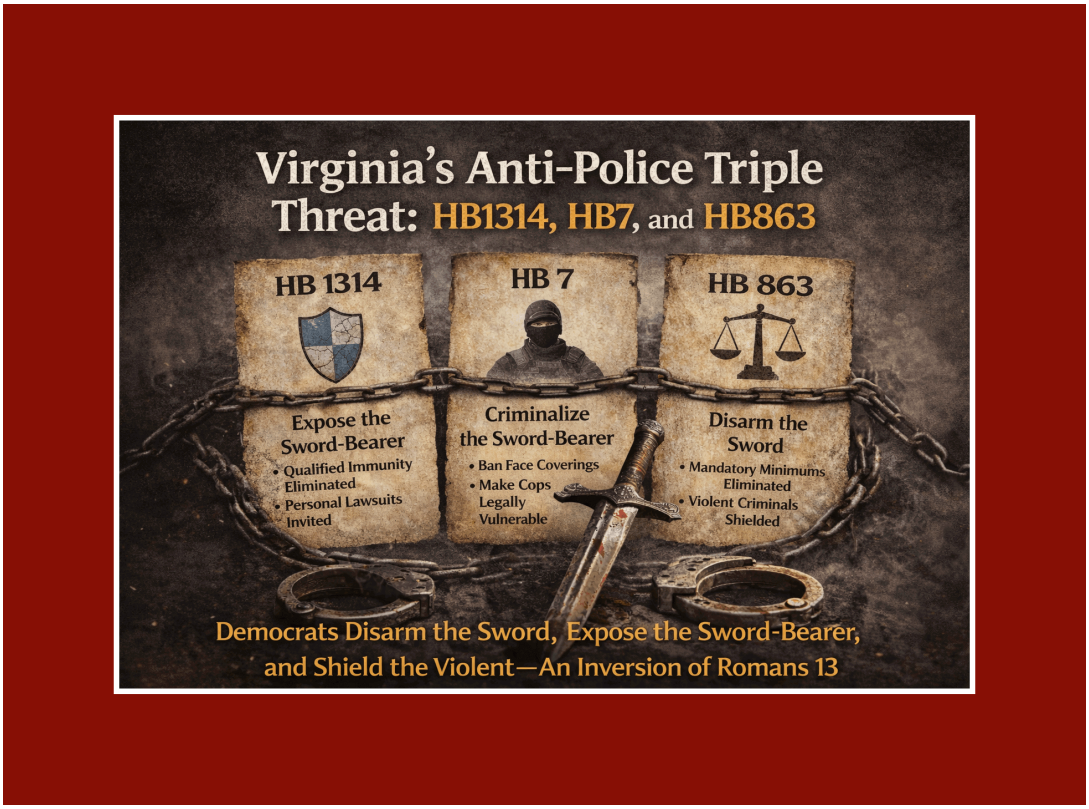

Democrats Disarm the Sword, Expose the Sword-Bearer, and Shield the Violent—An Inversion of Romans 13

In my article on **Virginia's Perfect Storm**, I documented Virginia Democrats' coordinated assault on God's created order. I showed how **HB863 strips mandatory minimum sentences** from dozens of violent crimes, abandoning victims and protecting criminals. But HB863 is only one part of Virginia Democrats' war on law enforcement and the biblical principle that government exists to punish evil and protect the innocent.

Three bills—HB1314, HB7, and HB863—work together to systematically dismantle Romans 13 authority in Virginia:

- HB863 disarms the sword by eliminating mandatory minimums for violent crimes

- HB1314 exposes the sword-bearer by gutting qualified immunity and inviting lawsuits against officers and supervisors
- HB7 turns the sword-bearer into a criminal by banning police face coverings and creating civil and criminal liability

Together, these bills ensure that violent offenders receive lighter sentences while law enforcement officers face personal financial ruin, criminal charges, and careers destroyed for good-faith decisions. This is not reform. This is an inversion of God's design for civil government.

HB863: Disarming the Sword by Weakening Punishment for Evil

I covered **HB863 in detail** in my previous article, but here's the core problem: HB863 eliminates mandatory minimum prison sentences for dozens of serious offenses, including violent crimes, child sex crimes, serious DUI offenses, and attacks on law enforcement officers.

> Romans 13:3-4 declares: "For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad… But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer."

God established civil government to bear the sword against evildoers. Mandatory minimum sentences guarantee baseline accountability for serious crimes—they ensure that rapists, child predators, and violent offenders face meaningful punishment.

HB863 removes that guarantee. It gives judges discretion to sentence convicted violent offenders at the bottom of statutory ranges, effectively disarming the sword by making punishment optional rather than certain.

When government refuses to execute God's wrath on wrongdoers—when it prioritizes criminals' "unique circumstances" over victims' justice—it abandons its God-ordained purpose.

HB1314: Exposing the Sword-Bearer to Personal Financial Ruin

Virginia House Bill 1314, sponsored by Del. Michelle Lopes Maldonado (D), creates a new state-level civil cause of action that allows individuals to sue law enforcement officers and their supervisors in Virginia courts for alleged violations of constitutional or legal rights while acting "under color of law."

Track HB1314: **https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20261/HB1314**

Here's what HB1314 does—and why it's devastating:

1. **GUTS QUALIFIED IMMUNITY IN PRACTICE**

HB1314 creates a state civil lawsuit allowing individuals to sue if their rights—guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution, federal laws, or Virginia's Constitution and laws—are violated by someone "acting under color of law." This includes police officers, supervisors, and other government officials.

While qualified immunity technically still exists at the federal level, HB1314 sidesteps it by creating a parallel state cause of action in Virginia courts. Officers can be sued personally in Virginia courts, and the protections qualified immunity provides in federal § 1983 cases don't apply.

Translation: Officers who act in good faith, follow their training, and comply with department policy can still face personal lawsuits and financial ruin.

2. **MAKES SUPERVISORS LIABLE EVEN WHEN NOT INVOLVED**

HB1314 allows plaintiffs to sue not only the officer who allegedly violated their rights, but also "any supervisor of such person who is responsible for directing or overseeing such person's conduct."

David Ostwinkle with the Virginia State Police Association explained to 13News Now: "The supervisor doesn't need to be involved in it. They don't even need to be aware of it. They are liable just merely on the fact that they supervise that individual."

Translation: A sergeant who wasn't on scene, didn't know about the incident, and had no direct involvement can still be sued personally and held liable for an officer's actions.

3. **AWARDS COMPENSATORY DAMAGES, PUNITIVE DAMAGES, AND ATTORNEY FEES**

If a plaintiff wins under HB1314, courts can award:

- Compensatory damages (to cover alleged losses)
- Punitive damages (to punish the officer personally)
- Equitable relief (court orders)
- Reasonable attorney fees and costs

Officers face personal financial devastation. Even if they're ultimately vindicated, defending against lawsuits costs tens of thousands of dollars. Most officers can't afford that.

4. **ALLOWS FOUR YEARS TO FILE SUIT**

HB1314 gives plaintiffs up to four years after an alleged incident to file suit. Officers will live under the constant threat of lawsuits for incidents years in the past.

5. **LAW ENFORCEMENT WARNS OF RECRUITING AND RETENTION CRISIS**

The Virginia State Police Association warned in a statement: "Virginia's law enforcement agencies are already facing a severe and persistent recruiting and retention crisis. HB1314 will accelerate that crisis. When officers and supervisors are told they will be personally and financially ruined for good faith decisions, the result of such legislation will result in police hesitation, disengagement, and attrition. Public safety suffers when officers are discouraged from proactive, lawful policing and when leadership is chilled by fear of personal liability."

Campbell County Sheriff Whit Clark and Amherst County Sheriff's Office Major James Begley told WSET: "We do things in good faith. And when we do things, we are held accountable for them." But HB1314 goes beyond accountability—it exposes officers to personal lawsuits even when they act reasonably, lawfully, and in line with training.

Translation: HB1314 doesn't just hold bad officers accountable. It makes every officer a lawsuit target, chills proactive policing, and drives good officers out of the profession.

HB7: Turning the Sword-Bearer Into a Criminal

Virginia House Bill 7, filed by Del. Michael J. Jones (D), prohibits most law enforcement officers from wearing facial coverings while performing official duties. The bill defines "facial covering" broadly to include opaque masks, balaclavas, tactical masks, gaiters, ski masks, and any item concealing a substantial portion of the face.

Track HB7: **https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20261/HB7**

Here's why HB7 is reckless and dangerous:

1. **CREATES CRIMINAL LIABILITY FOR OFFICERS**

HB7 makes unauthorized face-covering use a Class 1 misdemeanor—unless the officer's employing agency has a written policy allowing it. Officers who wear tactical gear for officer safety or operational security could face criminal charges.

Translation: An officer responding to a riot, civil unrest, or high-risk situation who covers his face for safety could be prosecuted criminally.

2. **ENABLES CIVIL LAWSUITS AGAINST MASKED OFFICERS**

HB7 authorizes civil actions against officers who wear prohibited face coverings if their conduct causes injury, exposing them to personal lawsuits in addition to criminal penalties.

Translation: Officers who use protective gear during dangerous operations face lawsuits on top of criminal charges.

3. **AUTHORIZES DISCIPLINARY ACTION INCLUDING DECERTIFICATION**

HB7 authorizes employers to discipline officers for wearing prohibited face coverings—including dismissal, suspension, demotion, transfer, or decertification. An officer could lose his career over wearing a balaclava during a winter patrol or a tactical mask during civil unrest.

4. **FORCES OFFICERS TO PATROL EXPOSED AND IDENTIFIABLE**

HB7 is marketed as "transparency and accountability," but it forces officers to patrol fully identifiable even in dangerous situations. Officers responding to riots, gang activity, or situations where criminal retaliation is likely must expose their faces—making them and their families targets.

Charlottesville Police Chief Michael Kochis told 29News: "We have a real problem understanding why they're wearing masks, our officers go around on the street, we arrest people every day, we face tough situations, sometimes called names, sometimes threatened. We don't wear masks. We want people to know who is serving them."

But HB7 isn't about local departments like Charlottesville that already prohibit masks. It's a statewide mandate targeting tactical units, federal officers operating in Virginia, and situations where officer safety requires protective gear.

Translation: HB7 prioritizes political messaging over officer safety and operational effectiveness.

The Perfect Inversion: Violent Offenders Protected, Law Enforcement Targeted

Here's how HB863, HB1314, and HB7 work together to invert Romans 13:

Romans 13 establishes that government exists to:

1. Bear the sword against evildoers

2. Execute God's wrath on wrongdoers
3. Be a terror to bad conduct, not good conduct

Virginia Democrats' three bills invert this design:

HB863 ensures violent offenders receive lighter sentences: Rapists, child predators, and killers can serve minimal time at judges' discretion. The sword is dulled.

HB1314 exposes officers to personal lawsuits: Good-faith policing becomes financially ruinous. Officers hesitate, disengage, and leave the profession. The sword-bearer is exposed.

HB7 criminalizes protective gear: Officers patrolling dangerous situations face criminal charges, civil lawsuits, and career destruction for wearing masks. The sword-bearer becomes the criminal.

The result: Virginia becomes a terror to good conduct (law enforcement) rather than bad conduct (violent criminals). This is the opposite of God's design.

Genesis 9:6 commands: *"Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image."* God demands justice for those who shed innocent blood. HB863 undermines that justice by softening sentences. HB1314 and HB7 prevent officers from executing justice by making them lawsuit targets and criminals for doing their jobs.

Dear Pastor: Will You Teach Romans 13?

If you're a Virginia pastor and you faithfully preach God's Word, the question is not whether you teach Scripture—but whether you have made room in the pulpit for what is happening to civil authority in Virginia right now.

Your congregation includes law enforcement officers who face personal financial ruin under HB1314. Families whose loved ones were victims of violent crimes who will watch those offenders serve minimal sentences under HB863. Citizens whose safety depends on officers who are being driven out of the profession by these three bills.

Yet in many churches, Romans 13—the biblical foundation for understanding civil government—is rarely preached. The proper role of law enforcement, the legitimacy of using force against evildoers, the importance of supporting righteous authority—these truths are avoided because they touch "politics."

Meanwhile, Virginia Democrats are inverting God's design for government. While you preach on grace and love, the state is making good-faith policing a lawsuit magnet, criminals' protections expand, and officers leave the profession in droves.

Here's what your congregation needs to hear:

First, teach Romans 13. Explain that God established civil government to bear the sword, to punish evil, and to protect the innocent. Government that refuses to wield the sword against violent criminals while turning officers into lawsuit targets has abandoned its God-ordained purpose.

Second, distinguish between supporting righteous law enforcement and condemning real abuse. Biblical Christians can and should oppose genuine police brutality while also supporting officers who act in good faith. HB1314, HB7, and HB863 don't target bad officers—**they target all officers and shield violent criminals.**

Third, help your congregation see this as spiritual warfare, not mere "police policy." When government abandons its duty to restrain evil and instead punishes those who bear the sword, that's a demonic inversion of God's order. Satan hates justice because God is just.

Proverbs 17:15 warns: *"He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous are both alike an abomination to the LORD."* HB863 justifies the wicked by softening their sentences. HB1314 and HB7 condemn the righteous by exposing good officers to lawsuits and criminal charges.

Will you teach your congregation this truth? Or will you remain silent while Virginia inverts Romans 13?

What You Can Do RIGHT NOW

All three bills are advancing through the Virginia legislature. You can stop them—but you must act NOW.

First, contact your delegate and senator immediately.

Find your legislators: **https://whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov/**

Say this:

"I am your constituent and I demand you vote NO on HB1314, HB7, and HB863. These bills invert Romans 13 by weakening punishment for violent criminals while exposing law enforcement to lawsuits and criminal charges. God commands government to bear the sword against evil, not to shield criminals and punish officers. Vote NO on all three bills."

Second, show up at committee hearings.

Track hearings: **https://lis.virginia.gov**

Third, support local law enforcement publicly. Thank officers who serve your community. Let them know you oppose HB1314 and HB7. Attend local government meetings and speak in support of righteous law enforcement.

Fourth, mobilize your church. Share this article. Host prayer meetings focused on Romans 13 and God's design for government. Organize church members to contact legislators together.

For more on God's design for civil authority, visit our **Our Nation Under God category**.

Virginia Democrats are systematically dismantling Romans 13 authority. HB863 disarms the sword. HB1314 exposes the sword-bearer. HB7 turns the sword-bearer into a criminal.

This is spiritual warfare over whether government will fulfill its God-ordained purpose or abandon it entirely.

Contact your legislators. Show up at hearings. Support law enforcement. And demand that Virginia's government bears the sword God gave it—against evil, not against those who enforce His justice.

Categories: Our Nation Under God | Sanctity of Life

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The State Tried to Ban This Catholic Therapist—A Court Just Said No

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/THE-STATE-TRIED-TO-BAN-THIS-CATHOLIC-THERAPIST-A-COURT-JUST-SAID-NO/
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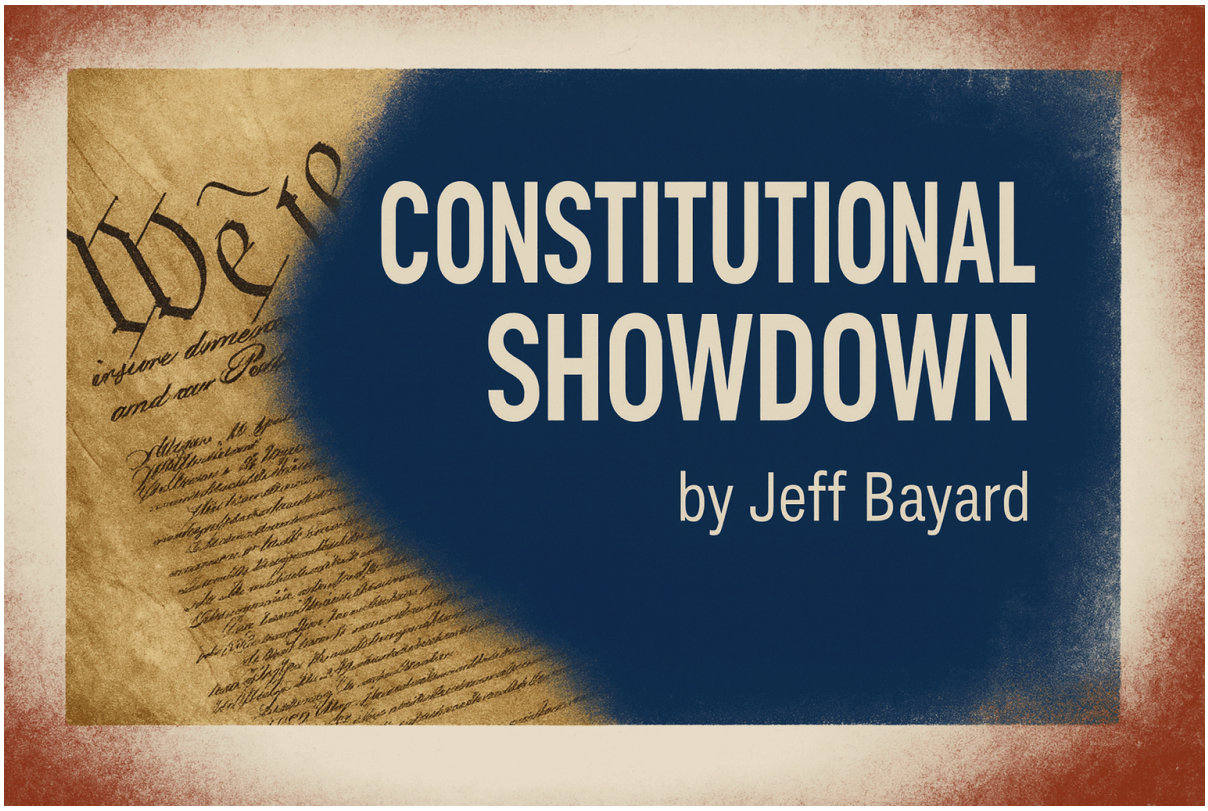

*This is the latest installment in our **Constitutional Showdown** series by **Jeff Bayard**, where we examine major court battles over religious liberty, free speech, and parental rights through a biblical worldview and originalist constitutional lens. These cases will shape American law for generations—and Christians must understand what's at stake. Our approach: reject partisan extremes and apply the **Third Way**—< biblical principles that honor both truth and justice.*

Yesterday, a federal appeals court delivered a major victory for religious liberty—and for parents seeking counseling aligned with their faith. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit ruled 2-1 that Michigan's ban on "conversion therapy" violates the First Amendment rights of therapists and counselors.

The ruling protects Catholic counselor Emily McJones and Catholic Charities from losing their licenses for providing therapy rooted in Catholic teaching. More importantly, it protects families'

right to seek counseling that helps children accept their biological sex—rather than being forced down a path of medical transition.

The stakes? Whether states can mandate ideological conformity in private therapy sessions. Whether Christian counselors can practice according to their conscience. Whether parents can raise children according to biblical values.

A federal court just said: The government doesn't get to decide.

Meet Emily McJones: Fighting for Kids in Crisis

Emily McJones didn't set out to become the face of a constitutional battle. She just wanted to help kids.

After graduating with honors from Moody Theological Seminary in 2013 with a Master's in Counseling Psychology, Emily worked for years as a crisis therapist for suicidal teens. In 2020, she opened Little Flower Counseling in downtown Lansing, Michigan—named after Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, her patron saint.

At Little Flower, Emily integrates evidence-based psychotherapy with Catholic teaching. She believes God created human beings male and female. She believes children struggling with gender dysphoria need compassionate care—not a rush toward irreversible medical procedures.

Emily's approach: Talk therapy. Explore underlying issues. Address trauma. Help children work through distress. If possible, help them accept their bodies without hormones or surgery.

"I opened Little Flower to offer those who come through my doors compassionate therapy that helps them live whole, integrated lives," Emily said.

Then Michigan passed a law threatening to strip her license.

A Convert's Journey

Emily's story is remarkable. Raised Protestant, she converted to Catholicism in 2017 after years of prayer and study. She joined the Church on October 8—the octave of Saint Thérèse.

Shortly after, Emily made a pilgrimage to Lourdes. She had lived with Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, rheumatoid arthritis, severe migraines, seizures, 20 food allergies, and celiac disease her entire life. She was in constant, intense pain.

At Lourdes, she experienced healing. Not complete—but substantial. Enough to open her practice. Enough to serve vulnerable children.

Now Michigan threatened to shut her down for counseling according to the faith that had transformed her life.

The Law Michigan Passed

In July 2023, Democratic Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed House Bill 4616, banning licensed mental health professionals from providing "conversion therapy" to minors.

The law defined conversion therapy as any treatment seeking to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity. Violators faced disciplinary action, loss of license, and fines up to $250,000.

Michigan became the 22nd state with such a ban. Whitmer called conversion therapy a "horrific practice."

But the law went far beyond banning electric shock or aversion therapy. It banned *talk therapy*—private conversations between counselor and client about gender and sexuality.

What the Law Actually Banned

Here's what Emily could no longer do under Michigan law:

Banned:

- Help a teenage girl who *doesn't want* to transition but wants to accept her female body
- Counsel a young man struggling with unwanted same-sex attraction who wants to live according to his Catholic faith
- Explore underlying causes of gender dysphoria (trauma, autism, social influence, mental health issues)
- Provide therapy that helps children embrace their biological sex

Allowed:

- Affirm a child's belief they were "born in the wrong body"
- Provide assistance for gender transition
- Support social transition (new name, pronouns, presentation)
- Refer for puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and surgeries

The pattern was clear: The state approves gender-transition counseling. The state bans biological-sex-acceptance counseling.

Emily faced an impossible choice: Violate her conscience or lose her license.

Emily and Catholic Charities Fight Back

On July 12, 2024, Emily McJones and Catholic Charities of Jackson, Lenawee, and Hillsdale Counties filed a federal lawsuit with help from the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty—the same organization that successfully defended Hobby Lobby's religious freedom rights.

The plaintiffs argued Michigan's law violated:

- **First Amendment (Free Speech):** Can't tell counselors what they can/can't say in private therapy
- **First Amendment (Free Exercise):** Can't force Catholic counselors to violate religious beliefs
- **14th Amendment (Due Process):** Law is vague, invites arbitrary enforcement
- **Parental Rights:** Parents can seek counseling aligned with their values

Catholic Charities provides counseling services rooted in Catholic faith. They've served their community for 60 years. They employ 16 state-licensed counselors. They believe sex is assigned at birth and marriage is between a man and woman.

Now the state threatened to shut them down.

District Court Says No

On January 28, 2025, federal Judge Jane Beckering denied their request for a preliminary injunction. The ban remained in effect.

Judge Beckering ruled:

- The law wasn't vague
- It didn't violate free exercise of religion (plaintiffs didn't identify specific religious practices affected)
- States have broad power to regulate licensed professionals

Emily and Catholic Charities appealed to the Sixth Circuit.

The Sixth Circuit Rules: Michigan's Law is Unconstitutional

On December 17, 2025, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit reversed.

In a 2-1 opinion, Judge Raymond Kethledge (Bush appointee) joined by Judge Joan Larsen (Trump appointee) ruled Michigan's ban violated the First Amendment.

The Court's Reasoning: Viewpoint Discrimination

Judge Kethledge's key finding:

> "The Michigan law discriminates based on viewpoint—meaning the law permits speech on a particular topic only if the speech expresses a viewpoint that the government itself approves."

The smoking gun: Michigan allows counseling to help someone undergo gender transition. But Michigan bans counseling to help someone accept their biological sex.

That's viewpoint discrimination. The First Amendment doesn't allow it.

The court explained: "Other content-based laws regulate 'speech by its function or purpose.' The law at issue here does that: it bans counseling 'that seeks to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity, including, but not limited to, efforts to change behavior or gender expression.'"

Translation: Michigan didn't ban a harmful medical practice. It banned *speech*—private conversations about sexuality and gender that don't align with state-approved ideology.

Chilling Effect on Speech

The court also found the law "chills" protected speech—creating present, ongoing injury.

Judge Kethledge wrote: "As a result, the plaintiffs' discussions with their minor clients about gender identity and sexual orientation are now 'more guarded and cautious,' rather than 'open' and 'candid.' Those facts are enough to show that the law 'chills' the plaintiffs' speech."

The law threatened Catholic counselors with losing their licenses and facing $250,000 fines. That threat is real. The injury is happening now—not in some speculative future.

Therefore, Catholic Charities and Emily have standing to challenge the law. They don't have to wait until the state prosecutes them.

The Preliminary Injunction Granted

The Sixth Circuit set aside the district court's ruling and granted the preliminary injunction.

Effective immediately: Catholic Charities and Emily McJones can provide counseling according to their faith and professional judgment without fear of losing their licenses.

The case continues. But for now, Michigan cannot enforce its ban against these counselors.

The Dissent: Should Have Waited for SCOTUS

Judge Rachel Bloomekatz (Biden appointee) dissented.

Her argument: The Sixth Circuit should have waited for the Supreme Court to decide *Chiles v. Salazar*—the similar challenge to Colorado's conversion therapy ban argued at SCOTUS on October 7, 2025.

Judge Bloomekatz argued conversion therapy should be regulated like medicine, not treated as protected speech. She cited research suggesting conversion therapy increases suicide risk and depression.

The majority disagreed. They ruled the Michigan case required decision now. The constitutional injury was ongoing. Families were being denied access to counseling they wanted.

The Constitutional Stakes: Why This Matters

This case implicates three fundamental constitutional principles.

1. Free Speech: Can States Dictate What Counselors Say?

The First Amendment protects speech. Professional licensing doesn't eliminate free speech rights.

Yes, states can regulate professional conduct. They can require licenses, set educational standards, prohibit malpractice. But they cannot regulate the *content and viewpoint* of speech just because it happens in a professional context.

Hypothetical: Imagine a state law saying therapists can encourage clients toward religious faith, but cannot discuss doubts about religion. That would be viewpoint discrimination—even though it's in a professional context.

Michigan's law does the same thing with gender. Counselors can affirm gender transition. They cannot support acceptance of biological sex. The state picks winners and losers in an ongoing social and scientific debate.

The First Amendment doesn't allow it.

2. Free Exercise: Can States Force Religious Violation?

Emily McJones is Catholic. Catholic teaching holds that God created human beings male and female. Sex is a gift, not an error to be corrected through medical intervention.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches: "Everyone, man and woman, should acknowledge and accept his sexual identity" (CCC 2333).

A 2019 Vatican document, *Male and Female He Created Them*, states efforts to "cancel out sexual difference" contradict human nature and "call into question the creative work of God."

Emily's counseling flows from this teaching. She believes children struggling with gender dysphoria need compassionate care that helps them accept God's design—not medical procedures that attempt to change it.

Michigan's law forces her to either:

1. Violate her religious beliefs by affirming gender ideology, or
2. Refuse to counsel minors entirely, abandoning vulnerable children

That's not a choice the government can impose.

3. Parental Rights: Can States Override Family Authority?

Parents have a fundamental right to direct their children's upbringing—including moral and religious education.

Pierce v. Society of Sisters (1925): Parents have the right to "direct the upbringing and education of children under their control."

Troxel v. Granville (2000): "The liberty interest… of parents in the care, custody, and control of their children… is perhaps the oldest of the fundamental liberty interests."

When a parent seeks counseling for a child experiencing gender dysphoria, and that parent wants counseling aligned with their religious beliefs, the state cannot say "No. Your child must receive gender-affirming therapy or nothing."

That overrides parental authority. It forces families to choose between their faith and access to mental health care.

The Constitution doesn't permit it.

The Science Debate: What Does Evidence Actually Show?

Both sides cite research. But the debate isn't settled.

Claims Supporting the Ban

Advocates for conversion therapy bans cite studies suggesting it increases suicide risk and depression—particularly for transgender youth.

A 2020 study found LGBTQ+ youth subjected to conversion therapy attempted suicide at nearly three times the rate of other minors. Over 60% of transgender youth who underwent conversion therapy before age 10 attempted suicide.

Major medical organizations oppose conversion therapy:

- American Psychological Association
- American Medical Association
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Psychiatric Association

They argue conversion therapy is based on the false premise that LGBTQ+ identities are mental disorders.

Claims Opposing the Ban

Catholic Charities and Emily McJones cite research questioning gender-affirming care.

They prominently cite the **Cass Review**—a comprehensive report commissioned by England's National Health Service. Released in 2024, it found "remarkably weak evidence" for gender-affirming medical interventions for youth.

Dr. Hilary Cass concluded: "This is an area of remarkably weak evidence, and yet results of studies are exaggerated or misrepresented by people on all sides of the debate to support their viewpoint."

Based on the Cass Review, England's NHS **severely restricted** puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones for minors. Sweden, Finland, and Norway implemented similar restrictions.

The lawsuit argues: "There is no sound evidence that treatments which affirm a client's sexual preference or gender identity provide any long-term benefits."

The Real Question: Who Decides?

Here's what matters for constitutional purposes: **The science is disputed.**

Even if you believe conversion therapy is harmful (and many do), the solution isn't government-mandated ideology. It's informed consent, parental authority, and counselor-client autonomy.

When science is unsettled, the First Amendment doesn't allow states to pick one side and ban the other. That's viewpoint discrimination masquerading as consumer protection.

If Michigan had evidence of specific fraud or malpractice by Catholic Charities or Emily McJones, it could investigate and prosecute. But blanket speech bans based on ideological disagreement? The Constitution forbids it.

Link to SCOTUS: *Chiles v. Salazar*

The Sixth Circuit's ruling comes two months after the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in ***Chiles v. Salazar***—a nearly identical challenge to Colorado's conversion therapy ban.

The Colorado Case

On October 7, 2025, SCOTUS heard arguments challenging Colorado's ban. The case was brought by Kaley Chiles, a licensed professional counselor who wants to provide talk therapy helping clients reduce unwanted same-sex attraction.

Colorado's law, like Michigan's, bans "conversion therapy" for minors. Plaintiffs argue it violates free speech rights.

Early read from oral arguments: Justices appeared skeptical of Colorado's defense. Multiple justices—including Justice Kagan (Obama appointee) and Justice Kavanaugh (Trump appointee)—expressed concern about viewpoint discrimination.

Justice Alito noted the law "looks like blatant viewpoint discrimination."

Decision expected: June 2026

Impact on the Sixth Circuit Case

Judge Bloomekatz's dissent argued the Sixth Circuit should have waited for SCOTUS to decide *Chiles*. Why rule on Michigan's law when the Supreme Court will settle the issue nationwide in a few months?

The majority disagreed. Two reasons:

First: The constitutional injury is happening now. Families are being denied access to counseling. Counselors are being silenced. Waiting six months means six more months of ongoing First Amendment violation.

Second: The Sixth Circuit has an independent duty to apply the Constitution. They don't defer to SCOTUS on every issue with a pending case.

But the practical reality: If SCOTUS strikes down Colorado's ban in June 2026, Michigan's ban will almost certainly fall too. And if SCOTUS upholds Colorado's ban, the Sixth Circuit ruling may be reversed.

Bottom line: This case is a preview of what's coming from the Supreme Court.

The Third Way: Beyond False Binaries

The debate over conversion therapy often presents false choices.

Reject the Progressive Narrative

Progressive claim: "Conversion therapy is torture. It's been discredited. States must ban it to protect vulnerable youth."

Problems with this narrative:

1. **Conflates different practices:** Michigan's law doesn't ban only electric shock or aversion therapy. It bans *talk therapy*—private conversations about sexuality and gender.

2. **Assumes one answer:** Not all children with gender dysphoria benefit from affirmation. Some desist (identify with biological sex after puberty). Others regret transition. Research shows 60-90% of children with gender dysphoria desist if not socially or medically transitioned.

3. **Ignores parental authority:** Many parents want counseling aligned with their religious beliefs. Banning it doesn't protect children—it denies families access to care they choose.

4. **Enforces ideology:** The law allows gender-transition counseling but bans biological-sex-acceptance counseling. That's not science. That's viewpoint discrimination.

Reject the Libertarian Extreme

Libertarian claim: "States can never regulate therapy. All counseling is protected speech. Let the market decide."

Problems with this position:

1. **Ignores genuine harms:** Some "conversion therapy" practices *are* harmful—electric shock, nausea-inducing drugs, shaming, abuse. States can prohibit malpractice.

2. **Dismisses fraud concerns:** If a counselor promises to "cure" homosexuality through scientifically baseless methods while taking thousands of dollars, that's fraud. States can prosecute.

3. **Oversimplifies licensing:** Professional licenses come with reasonable regulations. States can require education, competency, ethical standards.

The Third Way: Protect Rights, Prohibit Harm

Principle 1: States Can Regulate Harmful Practices—With Evidence

If a therapist uses electric shock, drugs, or abusive techniques, prosecute them. If a counselor commits fraud by promising guaranteed outcomes, sanction them. If specific practices cause documented harm, prohibit those practices.

But don't ban *talk therapy* based on ideological disagreement about gender.

Principle 2: Respect Parental Authority and Client Autonomy

Parents have the right to seek counseling aligned with their values. Children (especially teenagers) have the right to pursue therapeutic goals they choose—including accepting their biological sex.

Emily McJones has had clients say: "I'm experiencing gender dysphoria. I don't want to transition. I want to feel comfortable in my body." That's a legitimate therapeutic goal. States shouldn't ban counseling that supports it.

Principle 3: Protect Viewpoint Diversity in Unsettled Science

The science on gender dysphoria, affirmation, transition, and desistence is *not settled*. Researchers disagree. Countries are reversing course. The Cass Review found "weak evidence."

When science is disputed, the First Amendment protects diverse viewpoints. States cannot mandate one orthodoxy and ban dissent.

Principle 4: Distinguish Speech from Conduct

Talk therapy is *speech*. It's private conversation. The First Amendment gives it robust protection—even in professional contexts.

Medical interventions (surgeries, hormones, drugs) are *conduct*. States have more leeway to regulate conduct.

Michigan's law regulates speech, not conduct. That's why it's unconstitutional.

What This Means for Christians

Yesterday's ruling matters for three reasons.

1. It Protects Religious Liberty

Christian counselors can practice according to their conscience. Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox therapists who believe God created male and female can counsel accordingly—without losing their licenses.

This extends beyond gender. It protects counselors' right to integrate faith and practice across all therapeutic areas.

Principle established: States cannot force religious professionals to violate their beliefs as a condition of professional licensing.

2. It Protects Families Seeking Faith-Based Counseling

Christian parents can seek counseling for their children aligned with biblical teaching. They don't have to choose between their faith and access to mental health care.

This matters especially for families with children experiencing gender dysphoria. Many Christian parents believe the compassionate response is therapy that addresses underlying issues—not immediate affirmation and medical transition.

Now they can access that care.

3. It Pushes Back Against Ideological Mandates

The ruling is part of a broader pattern: Courts pushing back against state-mandated gender ideology.

Examples:

- *United States v. Skrmetti* (June 2025): SCOTUS upheld Tennessee's ban on gender-transition procedures for minors
- *Mahmoud v. Taylor* (pending): Parents challenging school's secret social transition policy
- *Chiles v. Salazar* (pending): SCOTUS challenge to Colorado's conversion therapy ban

The message: States cannot use regulatory power to enforce one viewpoint on contested social issues—especially when constitutional rights are at stake.

What Christians Should Do

Five action steps:

1. Support Christian Counselors and Legal Defense

Organizations like the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty and Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) defend religious liberty in court. They need financial support.

Donate to:

- Becket Fund for Religious Liberty (becketfund.org)
- Alliance Defending Freedom (adf.legal)

These organizations provide free legal representation to Christians facing government overreach.

2. Know Your Rights

If you're a Christian counselor in a state with a conversion therapy ban, know your rights. The Sixth Circuit ruling creates precedent in Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Indiana, and Wisconsin.

If you're a parent seeking counseling for your child, you have the right to choose therapy aligned with your values. Don't be intimidated by state laws that may be unconstitutional.

3. Pray for Pending Cases

Pray for:

- *Chiles v. Salazar* at SCOTUS (decision June 2026)
- Emily McJones and Catholic Charities as their case continues
- All Christian counselors facing similar threats
- Wisdom for judges deciding these cases

4. Speak Truth About Gender

The culture tells us biology is irrelevant, gender is a feeling, and children should be affirmed in any identity they claim.

Christians must speak truth: God created male and female (Genesis 1:27). Our bodies are not accidents to be corrected. Children experiencing gender dysphoria need compassionate care—not a rush toward irreversible medical procedures.

Speak truth in your church. Teach your children. Equip your teenagers. Respond to cultural lies with biblical clarity and compassion.

5. Support Vulnerable Children

Gender dysphoria is real suffering. These children need help—not political slogans.

The compassionate response: Address underlying causes (trauma, autism, mental health), provide therapy that helps children accept their bodies, support families navigating difficult situations, protect children from premature medical interventions they may regret.

Support ministries and counselors providing this care. Volunteer at pregnancy centers that serve families. Donate to organizations helping detransitioners.

The culture wants to medicalize confused children. Christians must offer a better way.

Biblical Principles: Why This Matters to God

Three biblical truths undergird this case.

1. God's Design: Male and Female (Genesis 1:27)

> "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."

Our bodies are not accidents. Male and female is God's design—not a social construct or cultural imposition.

When a child experiences gender dysphoria—discomfort with their biological sex—the biblical response isn't "your body is wrong." It's "you're experiencing real pain, and we'll help you work through it while honoring God's design."

Emily McJones's counseling flows from this truth: God made you male or female. Your body is good. We'll help you embrace it.

2. Compassion and Truth Together (Ephesians 4:15)

> "Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ."

Compassion without truth is sentimentality. Truth without compassion is cruelty. Christians must hold both.

Compassionate: Children with gender dysphoria are suffering. They need help, not judgment. They deserve care, not condemnation.

Truthful: The solution isn't affirming confusion. It's addressing underlying causes and helping children accept reality.

Emily's approach embodies this: Compassionate care rooted in truth. Not shaming children. Not forcing change. But helping them work through distress toward wholeness.

3. Protecting Children (Matthew 18:6)

> "If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea."

Jesus takes child protection seriously. So should we.

The question: What helps children and what harms them?

Harm: Rushing children toward irreversible medical procedures (puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, surgeries) based on temporary feelings. Studies show many children desist. Many detransitioners regret transition. Permanent bodily changes can't be undone.

Help: Compassionate counseling that addresses underlying issues, helps children work through confusion, supports acceptance of their bodies, and gives them time to mature before life-altering decisions.

Michigan's law mandates the first approach and bans the second. A court just said that violates the Constitution. Christians should say it violates God's design for human flourishing.

Conclusion: Emily Can Keep Counseling

Yesterday, Emily McJones won.

She can keep Little Flower Counseling open. She can continue serving vulnerable children. She can provide therapy rooted in her Catholic faith and professional judgment—without fear of losing her license.

Catholic Charities can keep helping families. Their 60-year ministry continues.

Michigan's ideological mandate is blocked.

But the fight isn't over. The case continues in federal court. Michigan will appeal. The Supreme Court will decide *Chiles v. Salazar* in June 2026—potentially settling this issue nationwide.

Until then, we pray. We support Christian counselors facing similar threats. We speak truth about God's design. We protect vulnerable children from ideological mandates dressed as compassion.

The principle: Government cannot force Christians to violate their conscience. States cannot mandate ideological conformity. Parents retain authority over their children's upbringing. The First Amendment still protects religious liberty and free speech.

A federal court just reaffirmed these truths. We pray the Supreme Court will too.

"For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery." (Galatians 5:1)

Emily McJones stood firm. The court said she has that right. Christians across the country should do the same.

Related Articles

- **Chiles v. Salazar: Christian Counselors vs State Control**

- **Mahmoud v. Taylor: Parental Rights vs. School Authority**

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Face Off: Pro-Life Ministry vs. The State's Donor Demand

BY JEFF BAYARD
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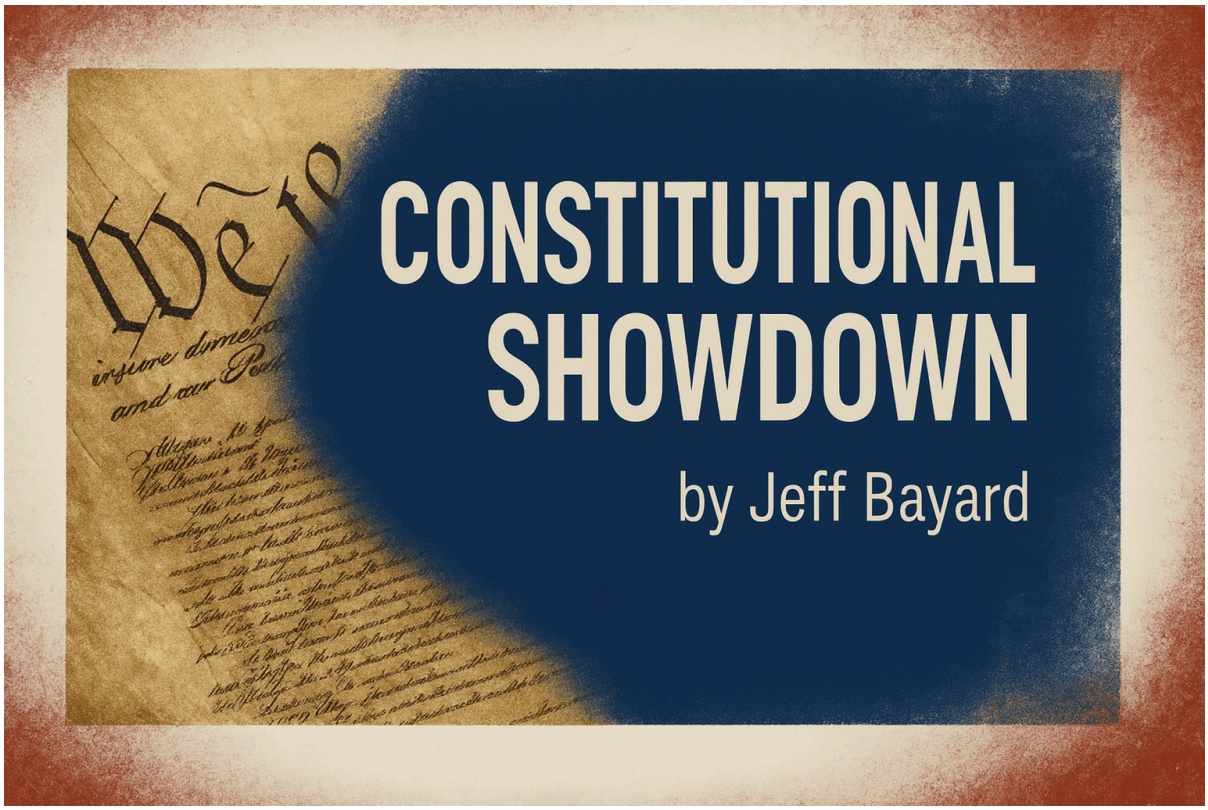
DECEMBER 10, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, CONSTITUTIONAL SHOWDOWN, DEEP STATE, THE THIRD WAY, US CONSTITUTION



On December 2, 2025, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments that will determine whether state officials can weaponize investigations to silence ministries they oppose. Justices across the spectrum expressed deep skepticism about New Jersey's tactics.

The question:

Can the government force organizations to expose their supporters to harassment simply because they hold unpopular views? Must citizens violate the law and risk contempt before challenging government overreach?

At stake: Whether pregnancy centers—ministries serving 36,000+ women in New Jersey—can operate without officials demanding every donor's name.

The Case: Investigation or Intimidation?

In November 2023, New Jersey Attorney General Matthew Platkin issued a subpoena to First Choice Women's Resource Centers—five faith-based pregnancy centers across the state.

He demanded:

- Names of ~5,000 donors (including church baby-bottle campaigns)
- Ten years of internal documents
- All statements about Abortion Pill Reversal
- Every advertisement ever produced
- Information on every partner organization

No allegations of wrongdoing. No complaints from harmed women. No evidence of fraud. Just a sweeping demand for everything—especially donor identities.

First Choice refused and sued in federal court. The subpoena violated First Amendment rights to free speech and association. Forcing donor disclosure would create a "chilling effect"—donors would stop giving out of fear.

The pattern was clear: Platkin called pregnancy centers "extremists," issued a statewide consumer alert (drafted with Planned Parenthood), and now demanded donor lists.

Both federal district and appeals courts dismissed the case. Their reasoning? The subpoena wasn't "self-executing"—the AG would need a state court order before imposing sanctions. Therefore, not "ripe" for federal review. First Choice must wait until held in contempt before challenging.

That procedural trap is what SCOTUS agreed to review.

What the Justices Said

The December 2 oral arguments revealed widespread skepticism about forcing First Choice through years of state litigation.

Justice Thomas: "This seems to be a burdensome way to find out if someone has a confusing website."

Justice Barrett: "Why does the Attorney General need donor information at all?" The state claimed it needed to "protect" donors from being "misled"—but donors choose causes they support. They're free to stop giving. The expansion of state power troubled multiple justices.

Chief Justice Roberts, Justice Alito, Justice Gorsuch: All explored whether the subpoena itself—before enforcement—creates immediate First Amendment injury. If donors know the government wants their names, and that information could be disclosed, contributions stop. That's a "chilling effect."

Justice Kagan and Justice Kavanaugh: Emphasized "common sense." What would "an ordinary person" think learning the state wants to know who supports a controversial ministry? The First Amendment protects anonymous donation—a principle recognized since 1958.

New Jersey's attorney struggled. He conceded that a "self-executing" subpoena would create standing. But he argued that requiring separate state court enforcement made First Choice's injury "speculative."

Justices didn't buy it. The harm isn't just final sanctions—it's the ongoing investigation, the chilling effect, the compliance burden, and years of state litigation before reaching federal court.

U.S. Solicitor General (supporting First Choice): Section 1983 exists precisely so citizens don't have to violate the law before challenging unconstitutional action. Otherwise, the impossible choice: surrender your rights or face escalating sanctions.

Platkin's Campaign Against Pregnancy Centers

July 2022: Immediately after *Dobbs* overturned *Roe*, Platkin created a "Reproductive Rights Strike Force" to facilitate abortion access and target opponents.

December 2022: His office issued a "consumer alert" (drafted with Planned Parenthood) claiming pregnancy centers "do NOT provide abortion care" and "may not even provide any health care at all." It accused centers of "false or misleading information."

Sweeping allegations. Zero evidence. No specific complaints. No documented harm. Just blanket accusations painting every pregnancy center as deceptive.

Platkin's pattern:

- Publicly called pregnancy centers "extremists"
- Coordinated with Planned Parenthood
- Announced $5 million for abortion training—while investigating pro-life centers
- Issued consumer alert warning people away
- Demanded donor lists

This isn't consumer protection. It's viewpoint discrimination as law enforcement.

What First Choice Actually Does

First Choice has served **36,000+ women** since 1985. Five locations. All services free.

Medical:

- Pregnancy tests (99% accurate)
- Ultrasounds (licensed medical director)
- STD/STI testing and treatment
- Abortion Pill Reversal information

Material:

- Baby clothes and diapers (daily)
- Maternity clothes, formula, cribs, car seats
- Parenting classes, breastfeeding support

Emotional/Spiritual:

- Options counseling (all choices: parenting, adoption, abortion info)
- Post-abortion recovery
- Support groups, mentorship

First Choice doesn't perform or refer for abortions—that's not their mission. They help women facing unplanned pregnancies with information, resources, and support. They serve women regardless of their ultimate decision.

Entirely donor-supported. No government funding. Churches, individual donors, volunteers. Every staff member signs a statement of faith: commitment to serving women and upholding dignity of every person from conception to natural death.

One woman, "Meera," moved to New Jersey pregnant, no insurance, no family, two young children. First Choice provided ultrasounds, parenting classes, material support. "First Choice is my guiding light," she said. "They saved me when I really needed them."

That's what Platkin is targeting. A ministry that's served 36,000 women. Millions in free services. Help for mothers with nowhere else to turn.

The Constitutional Stakes

Three doctrines matter most.

1. Donor Privacy (NAACP v. Alabama, 1958)

In 1958, Alabama's segregationist Attorney General demanded NAACP membership lists—intending to expose members to KKK intimidation and violence. The Supreme Court unanimously ruled this violated the First Amendment.

Justice Harlan: "Compelled disclosure of affiliation with groups engaged in advocacy may constitute an effective restraint on freedom of association." The "chilling effect" is itself constitutional injury.

The parallel is obvious. In 1958, NAACP members faced threats from those opposing civil rights. In 2025, pro-life donors face threats from those supporting abortion. After *Dobbs*, 70+ pregnancy centers were vandalized or firebombed. Activists published "hit lists." Donors legitimately fear harassment, doxxing, and economic boycotts.

Platkin himself labeled pregnancy centers "extremists." What donor feels safe when the state's chief law enforcement officer has prejudged the organization?

The principle: States cannot force donor disclosure without compelling justification. New Jersey hasn't identified a single deceived donor or specific violation. Just blanket demands.

2. Federal Court Access (Section 1983)

Section 1983 (passed 1871) lets citizens sue state officials who violate federal constitutional rights. Purpose: ensure federal courts protect federal rights—even when state courts might be hostile.

Lower courts said First Choice must litigate in state court first. That defeats § 1983's purpose. *Knick v. Township of Scott* (2019): You don't have to exhaust state remedies before seeking federal protection.

If forced to state court, First Choice faces years of litigation, ongoing chilling effects, escalating sanctions ($10K→$100K→more). The question: Must citizens endure this before seeking federal protection?

Section 1983 answers: No. You can go directly to federal court.

3. Ripeness and Chilling Effect

Lower courts: Claims not "ripe" until enforcement. But First Choice's injury is real NOW. The subpoena exists. Donors know. Some are reconsidering support. That's present injury—not speculative future harm.

First Amendment harms are different. You don't wait until speech is censored to challenge censorship. The chilling effect—deterrent impact on constitutional rights—establishes standing.

Justice Kagan's "common sense": Government demands donor names → donors stop giving → ministry's work hindered. Real injury. Happening now.

The Third Way

Reject both extremes.

Progressive Narrative: Pregnancy centers are "fake clinics" deceiving women. States must investigate. Demanding donor lists is normal consumer protection.

False. Centers provide real medical services by licensed professionals. They serve millions annually ($452M in free services nationwide, 2024). Client satisfaction: 98%. Blanket accusations without evidence = ideological targeting, not consumer protection.

Libertarian Extreme: Nonprofits never disclose donors. All investigations suspect. States have no role policing charity fraud.

Also wrong. States can investigate actual fraud with evidence. Donor privacy isn't absolute.

The Third Way:

1. **States Investigate Actual Wrongdoing—With Evidence**

Consumer protection laws exist for a reason. But investigations need evidence. Not just disagreement with an organization's mission.

New Jersey: No complaints. No deceived donors. No specific violations. Just blanket demands.

If Platkin had complaints from misled women or evidence of lies, investigation might be justified. But even then, narrowly tailored. Not ten years of donor lists for a website complaint.

Pattern suggests punishment, not protection.

2. **Donor Privacy Protects Rights on Both Sides**

NAACP v. Alabama protects ALL Americans supporting controversial causes. The ACLU (pro-choice) filed supporting First Choice (pro-life). Why? If states force pro-life donor disclosure today, they can force ACLU donor disclosure tomorrow.

Donor privacy isn't about hiding wrongdoing. It's about supporting causes without fear of retaliation. In an era of doxxing and cancel culture, privacy matters more than ever.

3. **Federal Courts Protect Federal Rights**

When states violate constitutional rights, citizens need federal courts. Not disrespectful to state courts—it's what the Constitution guarantees.

If SCOTUS rules for New Jersey, it guts § 1983 in subpoena cases. Message to states: "Demand whatever you want. Even if unconstitutional, the process alone might bankrupt them."

That can't be the law.

What the Court Should Rule

SCOTUS should reverse and hold First Choice has standing.

Four reasons:

1. **Present injury.** Donors chilled. Operations disrupted. Violation happening now.
2. **No waiting for contempt.** Injury is the subpoena itself and its chilling effect—not just future sanctions.
3. **Federal courts available.** Section 1983 guarantees federal forum when states violate constitutional rights.
4. **Donor privacy protected.** *NAACP v. Alabama* requires compelling justification. New Jersey hasn't provided one.

Link to Skrmetti: In *United States v. Skrmetti* (June 2025), SCOTUS upheld Tennessee's ban on gender-transition procedures for minors. Key principle: What matters is discriminatory purpose or effect.

Here, Platkin's subpoena has discriminatory purpose. He hasn't subpoenaed abortion providers or Planned Parenthood. He specifically targeted pro-life centers because he disagrees with their message. That's viewpoint discrimination.

The Court should make clear: States can investigate actual fraud. But they cannot weaponize investigations to harass organizations with unpopular views. When states overstep, citizens have immediate federal court access.

What This Means for Christians

Three reasons to care:

1. **It Affects Ministries We Support**

Pregnancy centers: practical pro-life expression. ~3,000 nationwide. Millions served in 2024. $450M in free services. Staffed by volunteers. Funded by donations.

If states force donor disclosure, centers shut down. Donors stop giving. Volunteers stop serving. Women and children lose help.

Not hypothetical. After Platkin's alert, NJ centers reported declining donations and volunteer recruitment difficulty.

2. **Religious Liberty**

First Choice is explicitly Christian. Staff/volunteers sign statement of faith. Partner with churches. Provide spiritual counseling. Believe every person from conception bears God's image.

When states target organizations like this, they target religious ministry. Donor list demands identify and potentially punish people supporting unpopular religious views.

The First Amendment protects the right to believe, associate, and support ministries advancing those beliefs. Donor privacy is essential.

3. **Speaking Truth in Love**

Christians defend life, protect the vulnerable, serve the needy. Pregnancy centers embody all three.

But also speak truth: Abortion ends human life. Women face pressure. Centers help women resist and choose life.

The abortion industry wants silence. Platkin labels centers "deceptive," issues alerts, demands donor lists—using state power to silence those speaking for the unborn.

Christians must not be silent. Support centers. Speak truth. Defend ministries.

What Christians Should Do

1. **Support Pregnancy Centers**

Find your local center. Donate. Volunteer. Provide goods. Attend fundraisers. Spread the word. These ministries are front lines—serving women, saving lives.

2. **Pray**

Decision by June 2026. Pray for justices' wisdom and courage. Pray for Erin Hawley (Alliance Defending Freedom) and legal team. Pray for Aimee Huber (First Choice executive director), staff, volunteers.

3. **Speak Truth**

Counter the narrative. Facts: Centers provide real medical services by licensed professionals. Millions served. Compassionate care. 98% satisfaction.

When people call them "fake clinics"—correct them. When officials issue smearing alerts—call it out. When media amplifies pro-abortion talking points—respond with truth.

4. **Recognize the Pattern**

Not isolated. Part of broader targeting:

- States forcing Christian colleges to provide abortion coverage
- Municipalities forcing centers to post signs directing to abortion providers
- IRS targeting conservative nonprofits
- State AGs demanding donor lists from orgs they oppose

The tactic: Use regulatory power to make life difficult for organizations with unpopular views. Even if state loses in court, the process is punishment—legal fees, compliance burden, operational disruption.

Christians must recognize and resist.

Biblical Principles

1. **Defend the Weak (Proverbs 31:8-9)**

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute."

Pregnancy centers do this. Speak for the unborn (no voice). Defend women in crisis (nowhere to turn). Provide for the needy (free services). When states attack these ministries, they attack those serving the most vulnerable.

2. **Resist Unjust Authority (Acts 5:29)**

"We must obey God rather than human beings."

First Choice's mission: serve pregnant mothers, protect unborn children. Rooted in biblical truth: every person bears God's image, deserves dignity. When states demand compliance with subpoenas designed to shut down ministry, Christians must stand firm.

Not about defying all authority—states have legitimate consumer protection roles. But when states weaponize power against religious ministries because of beliefs, Christians resist.

3. **Truth and Love Together (Ephesians 4:15)**

"Speaking the truth in love…"

Real compassion requires truth. Not compassionate to call abortion "healthcare" or the unborn "clumps of cells." Not compassionate to pressure vulnerable women into unwanted abortions. Not compassionate to hide abortion's reality.

Pregnancy centers embody this. Tell women truth about abortion—its risks, its reality. Offer alternatives. Provide support. All with gentleness, respect, genuine care.

The abortion industry wants silence. Christians must speak truth in love.

Conclusion

Platkin wasn't protecting consumers. He was punishing a ministry he disagrees with.

SCOTUS can now reaffirm *NAACP v. Alabama* (1958): States cannot force organizations to expose supporters to harassment simply because they hold unpopular views.

The Court should reaffirm Section 1983's purpose: Federal courts protect federal rights. Citizens don't navigate years of state litigation first.

And send a message to officials nationwide: You cannot weaponize investigations to silence ministries you oppose.

Decision expected June 2026. Until then: pray, support pregnancy centers, speak truth.

"When justice is done, it brings joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers." (Proverbs 21:15)

First Choice has served 36,000+ women. Saved countless lives. Provided millions in free services. Embodied Christ's love by serving the vulnerable and defending the voiceless.

They deserve justice. So do the 3,000 pregnancy centers nationwide doing similar work—protection from officials who'd rather see them shut down than speak truth about life.

Related Articles:

Chiles v. Salazar: Christian Counselors vs State Control

The Battle for Women's Sports: Transgender Athletes Case

Mahmoud v. Taylor: Parental Rights vs. School Authority

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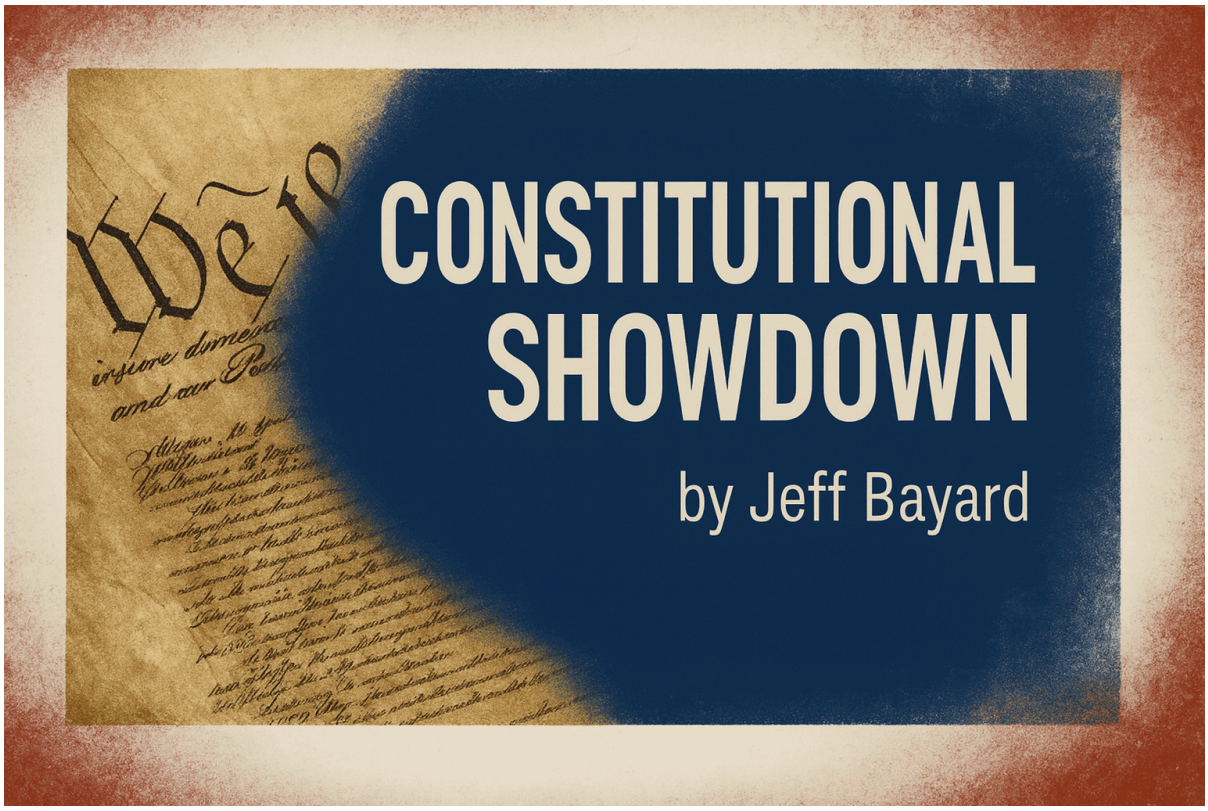
The Battle for Women's Sports: How SCOTUS Will Decide Between Fairness and Inclusion

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/TRANSGENDER-ATHLETES-WOMEN-SPORTS-LITTLE-HECOX-SCOTUS/
DECEMBER 1, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, CONSTITUTIONAL SHOWDOWN, THE THIRD WAY, US CONSTITUTION



*The Virginia Christian Alliance continues our **Constitutional Showdown** series framed from the Christian Worldview and Constitutional originalism, exposing how modern courts twist the framers' original intent while equipping believers to defend constitutional truth through faithful citizenship and prayer.*

On January 13, 2026, the Supreme Court will hear arguments that could reshape American athletics forever. Two cases—***Little v. Hecox*** from Idaho and ***West Virginia v. B.P.J.*** from West Virginia—ask a question with profound implications: Can states protect women's sports by limiting participation based on biological sex, or does the Constitution require that transgender women be allowed to compete against biological females?

The stakes are immense.

Twenty-seven states have already enacted laws protecting women's sports. Thousands of female athletes, from middle school through college, await the Court's answer. And Christians—who care

deeply about both truth and compassion—must navigate competing goods without abandoning either.

This is not a case about hatred versus love. It's about *how* we love—and whether love requires us to deny what God has made plain.

The Cases Before the Court

Lindsay Hecox is a 24-year-old college student at Boise State University who wants to run track. Born male, Hecox identifies as female and has undergone hormone therapy. Idaho's Fairness in Women's Sports Act, passed in 2020, prohibits biological males from competing on women's teams at any level—elementary school through university. The law applies categorically: no exceptions, no case-by-case evaluations, no testosterone thresholds. Hecox sued, arguing the ban violates the **Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.**

A federal district court initially blocked Idaho's law. The Ninth Circuit affirmed, applying heightened scrutiny and concluding the state failed to justify categorically excluding all transgender women. But in a move signaling the Supreme Court's shifting approach, the Ninth Circuit later *withdrew* its opinion after the Court's decision in *United States v. Skrmetti*—the Tennessee case upholding bans on gender-affirming care for minors.

Becky Pepper-Jackson was 11 years old when West Virginia passed its "Save Women's Sports Act" in 2021. Now 15, she has been competing in middle school cross country and track under a preliminary injunction. Pepper-Jackson has taken puberty blockers since before puberty and has never experienced the physiological changes typical of male puberty. Unlike Hecox's case, West Virginia's involves a minor who arguably never gained the physical advantages male puberty confers.

The Fourth Circuit ruled in Pepper-Jackson's favor last year, holding that West Virginia's categorical ban violated Title IX—the federal law prohibiting sex discrimination in education—and the Equal Protection Clause. The court emphasized that Pepper-Jackson, having never undergone male puberty, did not fit West Virginia's own rationale for the law: preventing unfair physical advantages.

West Virginia appealed. The Supreme Court granted review. And now the nation waits.

What's Really at Stake: Competing Goods

Before we rush to conclusions, we must acknowledge what makes this case difficult: *both sides are defending something good*.

Advocates for transgender inclusion rightly note that Pepper-Jackson wants what every child wants—to play sports with friends, to be part of a team, to belong. They point out that sports provide documented benefits: physical health, mental well-being, social connection, discipline, and perseverance. Excluding trans youth entirely, they argue, inflicts real harm for unclear benefits. They ask: Where is the epidemic of transgender dominance in women's sports? Where are the championships stolen, the scholarships lost?

Advocates for biological women's sports rightly note that male and female bodies are *fundamentally different*—not as social constructs, but as biological realities that confer enormous athletic advantages. They point to science showing that testosterone during puberty creates permanent changes: denser bones, greater muscle mass, larger hearts and lungs, different skeletal structure. Even after hormone therapy, most of these advantages persist. They point to Lia Thomas, the University of Pennsylvania swimmer who, after competing for three years on the men's team, transitioned and immediately dominated women's competition—smashing records, finishing 38 seconds ahead of female competitors, changing in the women's locker room while teammates stood in a hallway to avoid confrontation.

Female athletes, many of whom have trained their entire lives for a shot at collegiate competition, are being told that fairness requires them to compete against biological males who retain 10-50% performance advantages even after hormone suppression. Women fought for fifty years to secure Title IX—to create a protected category where they could compete fairly. Now they're being told that protecting that category is discrimination.

Both goods are real. Both deserve respect. But when goods conflict, we must choose—and our choice must be rooted in reality.

The Biblical Framework: Male and Female He Created Them

Christians cannot approach this question without first asking: What does God say about male and female?

The answer is foundational: **"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them"** (Genesis 1:27). The distinction between male and female is not incidental to human identity. It is *constitutive* of how God made us. It runs through every cell of our bodies—46 chromosomes with either XX or XY, determining not just reproductive organs but bone density, muscle fiber composition, lung capacity, heart size, metabolic rates, and countless other physiological differences.

These differences are not punishment. They are design. They are not oppression. They are gift. And they matter profoundly in athletics—which is precisely why we have separate men's and women's categories in the first place.

To pretend these differences don't exist—or that they can be erased by identifying differently or suppressing hormones for a year—is to deny God's design. It is to call God's creation a mistake that we must correct through ideology.

But—and this is crucial—affirming biological reality does not require us to be cruel.

Jesus showed us a different way. When the woman caught in adultery stood before Him, He did not deny the reality of sin. He did not say, "Your accusers are wrong; you've done nothing deserving judgment." He said, *"Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more"* (John 8:11). Truth *and* mercy. Reality *and* compassion. Both. Always.

We can—we *must*—say that biological males competing in women's sports is unfair without saying that people experiencing gender dysphoria are wicked or unworthy of dignity. We can protect female athletes without demonizing trans youth. We can insist on categories based on biology without treating those who struggle with their identity as less than fully human.

The question is not whether we will choose truth *or* compassion. The question is how we will hold both together.

The Science Is Clear: Male Advantages Persist

The most comprehensive research on this question comes from peer-reviewed studies in *Sports Medicine*, the *British Journal of Sports Medicine*, and other leading journals. The findings are consistent:

Male puberty creates permanent advantages. When boys hit puberty, testosterone levels increase twentyfold. This hormone drives dramatic physical changes: increased muscle mass (particularly upper body), denser and longer bones, larger heart and lungs, greater hemoglobin concentration (more oxygen to muscles), and increased height. These changes translate into athletic performance advantages of 10-50% depending on the sport—with the greatest gaps in activities requiring upper body strength, explosive power, and endurance.

Hormone suppression reduces but does not eliminate these advantages. Studies of transgender women on hormone therapy show reductions in muscle mass of only 3-5% after one year and approximately 12% after three years. Bone density, skeletal size, heart size, and lung capacity remain essentially unchanged. Height, limb length, and hip structure—critical for sports like basketball, volleyball, swimming, and track—are unaffected. Even after full testosterone suppression, transgender women retain significant strength advantages over biological women, particularly in the upper body.

These advantages matter in competition. Before Lia Thomas transitioned, she ranked 462nd in the 200-yard freestyle among male NCAA swimmers. After transitioning and competing as a

woman, she won the NCAA women's championship, beating the second-place finisher by 1.75 seconds (an eternity in elite swimming). When CeCé Telfer, a biological male, competed on the men's track team at Franklin Pierce University, Telfer ranked 200th-300th nationally. After transitioning, Telfer won the NCAA Division II women's 400-meter hurdles championship.

The pattern is unmistakable: mediocre male athletes become champion female athletes after transition. This is not because transgender women are cheating. It's because male puberty creates advantages that persist despite hormone therapy.

Fairness Requires Fair Categories

Here's what many miss: **fairness in sports requires fair *categories*.**

We don't let adults compete against children. We don't let heavyweight boxers fight flyweights. We don't let professional athletes compete in amateur events. Why? Because fairness demands that competitors be roughly matched in the relevant physical attributes.

Sex is the most fundamental of these attributes. When we created Title IX in 1972, we recognized that biological males have such significant physical advantages over biological females that women could never compete fairly without a protected category. We didn't create women's sports out of sexism. We created them out of *fairness*—to give girls and women opportunities to excel in athletics despite their biological differences from males.

Allowing biological males to compete in the female category doesn't expand fairness. It *destroys* fairness. It takes the very protection Title IX created and eliminates it—telling female athletes that their category no longer belongs to them.

Consider the absurdity of the alternative. If biological males who identify as female must be allowed in women's sports, then the category "women's sports" ceases to have any meaningful definition. It becomes simply "a sports category for anyone who identifies as female"—which means it's no longer protected for biological females at all. Every female athlete becomes vulnerable to displacement by males who retain 10-50% performance advantages.

This is not theoretical. In Connecticut, after the state allowed biological males to compete in girls' high school track, two transgender athletes won 15 women's state championships. They set 17 new girls' records. They took spots at regional and state meets from biological females who trained just as hard but couldn't overcome the male physical advantages. Girls who would have medaled—who would have qualified for college scholarships—lost opportunities they will never get back.

When we tell these girls that "fairness" requires them to compete against biological males, we're using the word to mean its opposite.

The Third Way: Fairness AND Dignity

So what's the answer? How do we honor *both* the reality of biological sex *and* the dignity of those experiencing gender dysphoria?

The Third Way rejects both extremes:

We reject the progressive claim that biological differences don't matter, that male and female are social constructs, that anyone who identifies as a woman *is* a woman in every sense, and that protecting women's sports is just bigotry.

We reject the hard-right claim that all transgender people are predators, that gender dysphoria is just mental illness that should be mocked, and that anyone struggling with their identity deserves contempt.

The Third Way affirms three principles:

1. Women's Sports Are a Protected Category Based on Biological Sex

Title IX was created to protect opportunities for *biological females*. The category exists because of biological realities, not gender identity. States have a legitimate—indeed, compelling—interest in maintaining fair competition for female athletes. This means biological males, regardless of hormone therapy or how they identify, should not compete in women's sports.

This is not discrimination. It's the very purpose of the category.

2. Separate Accommodations Preserve Both Fairness and Dignity

We can create opportunities for transgender athletes without eliminating fairness for biological women. Many proposals already exist:

- Open divisions (where any athlete can compete regardless of sex)
- Co-ed leagues
- Separate transgender categories (where interest and numbers permit)
- Club sports with flexible eligibility

Will these be perfect solutions? No. Will they provide the exact same experience as competing in sex-segregated sports? No. But life is full of trade-offs, and when goods conflict, we make the best accommodations we can. We don't solve the problem by pretending reality doesn't exist.

3. Truth About Biology AND Compassion for Strugglers

We can insist that Becky Pepper-Jackson is biologically male without treating her with cruelty. We can say that Lindsay Hecox should not compete on women's teams without mocking their struggle. We can defend female athletes' right to fair competition without calling transgender people an abomination.

The gospel demands this. Jesus calls us to speak truth *and* to love our neighbors—including those we disagree with, including those whose choices we believe are wrong. **"Speaking the truth in love"** (Ephesians 4:15) means neither truth without love nor love without truth. It means *both*.

What the Court Should Rule

When the Supreme Court hears these cases in January, it should affirm a simple principle: **States may protect women's sports by defining eligibility based on biological sex.**

The Constitution does not require states to pretend that male and female bodies are interchangeable. The Equal Protection Clause does not demand that we erase the very categories Title IX created. And fairness—real fairness—requires acknowledging that male puberty creates advantages that cannot be eliminated by identifying differently or suppressing hormones for a year.

The Court's recent decision in *United States v. Skrmetti*, which upheld Tennessee's ban on gender-affirming medical treatments for minors, signals where the Court is headed. Chief Justice Roberts wrote that laws addressing concerns about "preventing minors from making irreversible medical decisions" and "avoiding safety risks" survive constitutional scrutiny when they classify based on *age* and *medical purpose* rather than sex itself.

The transgender sports cases involve similar reasoning: States are not discriminating based on sex. They're protecting a *category* defined by sex—women's sports—from being rendered meaningless. They're ensuring that the very protections Title IX created remain meaningful.

That's not discrimination. That's fairness.

What Christians Must Do

As followers of Christ, we cannot simply wait for the Court to decide and move on. We have responsibilities here:

First, speak truth. Don't be silent when people claim that biological sex is a social construct, that male and female are mere gender identities, or that fairness requires biological males to compete

against females. These claims are false. God made us male and female, and those categories matter. Our silence in the face of obvious falsehood is not kindness—it's cowardice.

Second, speak with compassion. Remember that behind every ideological claim is a human being—often someone deeply hurting. People experiencing gender dysphoria are not our enemies. They are image-bearers of God who need truth *and* love. Mocking them, calling them names, treating them with contempt—this is sin. Jesus commands us to love even those we believe are wrong.

Third, support female athletes. Many women who speak up for fairness in their own sports face vicious attacks—being called bigots, losing sponsorships, facing social ostracism. Organizations like the Independent Council on Women's Sports, former Olympians like Sharron Davies, and everyday athletes like Riley Gaines (who was forced to compete against Lia Thomas) need our vocal support. When women defend their own category, we should stand with them.

Fourth, pray for wisdom. These are genuinely difficult questions. We are dealing with real human suffering on multiple sides.

Pray

- God would give our leaders wisdom.
- The Supreme Court would rule justly.
- Pray for those experiencing gender dysphoria, that they would find peace in their God-given identity. Pray for female athletes facing unfair competition and
- Pray for our nation, that we would have the courage to speak truth even when it's costly.

Conclusion: When Fairness Requires Reality

This case will be decided not on the question of who deserves dignity—*everyone* deserves dignity—but on the question of whether fairness requires acknowledging reality.

Can we protect opportunities for biological females without pretending that male and female bodies are interchangeable? Can we show compassion for those experiencing gender dysphoria without requiring everyone else to participate in that subjective experience as if it were objective truth?

The answer must be yes.
Because:

- **Fairness** demands that categories mean something.
- **Justice** requires that we not sacrifice female athletes on the altar of ideology.

- **Compassion** does not require us to lie.

God made us male and female. That's not oppression. It's design. It's gift. And it matters—in life, in sports, and in how we order our society.

The Third Way is not complicated: Biological males should not compete in women's sports. And people experiencing gender dysphoria still deserve to be treated with dignity.

Both are true. Both matter. And when the Supreme Court rules next summer, we pray they will have the courage to say so.

Scripture References:

- Genesis 1:27 – Male and female He created them
- Proverbs 21:15 – Justice is a joy to the righteous
- Matthew 9:36 – Jesus saw the crowds and had compassion
- John 8:11 – Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more
- Ephesians 4:15 – Speaking the truth in love
- 1 Peter 3:15 – Always be prepared to give a reason for the hope you have, with gentleness and respect

For Further Reading:

- **Watson v. RNC: The Third Way on Ballot Deadlines**
- **Mahmoud v. Taylor: Parental Rights vs School Authority**
- **Chiles v. Salazar: Government in the Counseling Room**

About This Series: **Constitutional Showdown** examines major Supreme Court cases from a Christian worldview and originalist constitutional perspective. We reject partisan extremes and pursue the Third Way—honoring both biblical truth and constitutional fidelity.

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Virginia's Broken Election System and What Lara Logan Reveals

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/VIRGINIA-ELECTION-SYSTEM-CRISIS-LOGAN-INTERVIEW/
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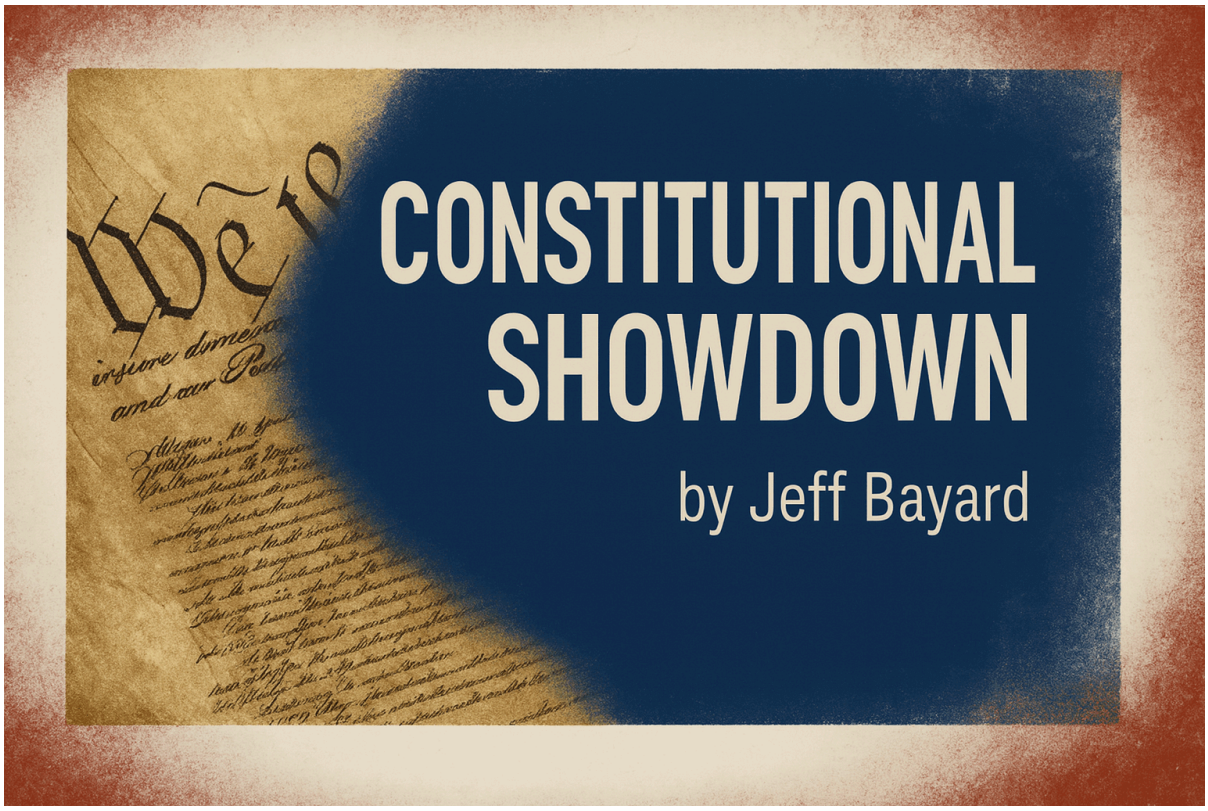

> **"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." — Proverbs 14:34**

How a national warning exposes the deep structural failures already undermining elections in the Commonwealth

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America's constitutional crisis is no longer theoretical. It's already unfolding here in Virginia.

A recent long-form interview featuring investigative journalist **Lara Logan**, former CIA officer **Gary Bernsten**, and author **Ralph Pezzullo** has ignited a national debate about election systems, foreign influence, and the erosion of institutional accountability. The claims and testimony they

present are theirs alone—but the vulnerabilities they describe on a global scale map almost exactly onto the problems Virginians have been documenting for years.

Whether every detail of their warning proves accurate is beside the point. The *patterns* are undeniable, and the consequences—if left unaddressed—are catastrophic.

Because the truth is simple: **the conditions that weaken elections in unstable nations are the very conditions we now see in Virginia.**

Our election system is not merely "at risk."

It is already broken—structurally, constitutionally, and operationally.

And what the Logan interview reveals only underscores how urgent the crisis has become.

STOLEN ELECTIONS with Gary Berntsen & Ralph Pezzullo | Ep 45 | Going Rogue with Lara Logan
https://youtube.com/watch?v=gA9OCusr64A

> Gary Berntsen & Ralph Pezzullo explain how America's enemies, foreign & domestic, are stealing the Republic. We dissect the controversial involvement of Smartmatic in the U.S. election system and explore the swirling allegations of manipulation and fraud. Our discussion probes deep into electoral malfeasance, questioning the integrity of the very systems that uphold our Republic. Expect a thorough examination of the evidence and sentiments surrounding these topics, drawing connections that extend all the way to Venezuela. Lara Logan

"Have nothing to do with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them." — Ephesians 5:11

What the Logan Interview Claims—And Why It Matters

In the interview, Logan and her guests describe a disturbing international trend: opaque election systems, foreign-driven influence operations, compromised institutions, and software-based vulnerabilities hidden behind layers of secrecy.

According to the interview participants, these weaknesses can be exploited by:

- foreign intelligence services,
- internal bad actors,
- corrupt political networks,
- or simply poor oversight and lack of transparency.

Their claims are theirs—but the warning is universal:

when elections become opaque, they become unsafe.

And nowhere is that warning more relevant than in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Virginia's Election System: The Three Failures We Can't Ignore

For several years, citizens across Virginia have gathered, analyzed, and submitted evidence showing that our state's election administration is failing at the most basic, foundational levels. These failures match exactly the types of vulnerabilities the Logan interview highlights—and they come with direct legal and constitutional consequences.

Virginia citizens seeking to understand and document these failures can connect with **Audit Virginia** (**www.auditvirginia.org**), a grassroots organization dedicated to educating citizens about election law, investigating election administration processes, and advocating for constitutional compliance in the Commonwealth's election system.

Here are the three most damaging breakdowns.

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1. Catastrophic Voter Roll Failures

Virginia's voter rolls are a documented disaster:

- Hundreds of thousands of invalid or questionable records
- Voters registered at UPS stores, PO boxes, and commercial mail centers
- People who moved out of state still listed as active
- Addresses that do not exist
- Empty or missing residence fields
- Duplicate registrations
- Tens of thousands of entries failing USPS address standards

These errors are not hypothetical—and they are not partisan.

They come directly from:

- official ELECT data,
- citizen-submitted affidavits,
- FOIA responses, and
- public records.

Under federal law, such rolls cannot produce a legally certifiable election.

Yet election officials certify anyway.

Logan's interview warns that compromised or inaccurate databases create the easiest pathway for election tampering.

Virginia's database is exactly that: **compromised by neglect, bloated by error, and shielded from correction.**

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2. Machine-Based Voting Without Transparency or Auditability

Virginia's voting machines are not fully inspectable by the public, the press, citizens, political parties, or even election boards.

Access is denied to:

- source code,
- internal machine logs,
- tabulation software,
- firmware versions,
- network reporting tools,
- and hardware-level inspection.

Vendors claim "proprietary code."

Election officials accept this without resistance.

And the public is kept in the dark.

Logan's interview repeatedly emphasizes the danger of systems that cannot be audited or observed.

Virginia's machines embody this danger completely.

A truly transparent system has nothing to hide.

But Virginia's system hides everything important.

Citizens across Virginia have been requesting access to these systems and documenting the barriers to transparency. **Audit Virginia** (**www.auditvirginia.org**) maintains detailed research

on certification failures, federal compliance issues, and the legal requirements that election officials must follow under both federal law (HAVA, EAC standards) and Virginia Code 24.2. Their work provides citizens with the factual foundation needed to engage election officials and demand accountability.

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3. No-Excuse Absentee Voting—In Direct Violation of the Virginia Constitution

The Constitution of Virginia is clear:

- Voting is to occur **in your precinct**
- **On Election Day**
- In **public view**
- And ballots may not be opened or handled **in secret**

But the General Assembly—ignoring the Constitution—legalized:

- 45 days of early voting
- No-excuse absentee voting
- Permanent absentee lists
- Satellite offices
- Ballot container procedures that operate outside public visibility

This means:

- ballots are handled and stored before Election Day,
- containers are opened, accessed, and resealed,
- votes are tabulated across multiple locations,
- and tapes are not printed until after polls close.

These actions violate the plain text of the Constitution.

Logan's interview highlights how long-duration voting windows, off-site processing, and early ballot access increase systemic vulnerability.

Virginia matches that pattern exactly—and the constitutional violation is undeniable.

The National Warning Fits Virginia's Local Reality

You don't need foreign interference to compromise Virginia's elections.

The vulnerabilities already exist:

- **dirty rolls,**
- **non-transparent machines,**
- **and unconstitutional absentee processes.**

The Logan interview warns about these weaknesses at the national level.

Virginia proves them at the local level.

The convergence of these two realities is what creates the genuine constitutional crisis—not speculation, not conspiracy, but structural failure.

And structural failure always produces the same result:

the loss of public trust.

The Solution Is Not Complicated. It Is Constitutional.

We do not need new technology, new systems, or new theories.

What we need is what every free nation on earth trusts—and what our own Constitution presumes:

1. Hand-Marked Paper Ballots

Not printed on demand.

Not machine-marked.

Not QR-coded.

Paper ballots that any citizen can see, hold, verify, and recount.

2. Counting in Full Public View

At the precinct.

On Election Night.

With cameras, poll watchers, and citizens present.

No back rooms. No secrecy. No hidden tabulations.

3. Eliminate Drop Boxes Completely

Drop boxes break chain of custody.

They invite abuse.

They remove oversight.

They serve no necessary purpose and introduce every conceivable risk.

4. Restore Absentee Voting to "Excuse Only"

This is not optional.

It is not partisan.

It is not extreme.

It is constitutional.

The Commonwealth must obey its own governing document.

A Christian Response: Truth, Courage, and Accountability

The Bible commands Christians to:

> "Test everything; hold fast to what is good." — *1 Thessalonians 5:21*
>
> "Have nothing to do with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them." — *Ephesians 5:11*
>
> "Righteousness exalts a nation." — *Proverbs 14:34*

This is a moment for clarity—not fear.

For conviction—not silence.

For obedience—not appeasement.

The truth is not partisan.

Integrity is not partisan.

The Constitution is not partisan.

And neither is the crisis before us.

If Virginia Wants Trustworthy Elections, It Must Rebuild Them—Now

The Logan interview raises national warnings.

Virginia's election failures confirm local danger.

Together, they reveal the same conclusion:

The system we have is broken.

The Constitution tells us how to fix it.

And the people must demand nothing less.

This is the moment.

This is the line.

This is the duty.

For the sake of truth, for the sake of the Commonwealth, and for the sake of the nation, **Virginia must restore transparency, accountability, and constitutional integrity to its elections.**

Paper ballots.

Public counting.

No drop boxes.

Constitutional absentee voting.

Nothing less will do.

The path forward requires informed, engaged citizens willing to stand for truth and constitutional governance. **Audit Virginia** (**www.auditvirginia.org**) equips Virginians with the knowledge, documentation, and community support needed to advocate effectively for election integrity. Join with other concerned citizens across the Commonwealth who are working peacefully and lawfully to restore transparency, accountability, and constitutional compliance to Virginia's elections.

A Note to Readers: You'll see several references to Audit Virginia throughout this article. These are not ads—we receive no compensation for mentioning them. We're simply connecting you with citizens doing documented research on Virginia's election system. When structural problems are this serious, informed citizen engagement matters, and knowing where to find solid information and community is essential.

Resources:

Version 1.0.0

Stolen Elections: The Takedown of Democracies Worldwide Paperback – September 3, 2025

by **Ralph Pezzullo** (Author)
5.0 ***5.0 out of 5 stars*** **(28)**

#1 Best Sellerin Political Parties

See all formats and editions

The Authorized Version: Ripped from the pages of a spy novel, comes a **non-fiction** account of an international conspiracy against freedom for every current and future American voter. It's being called the greatest criminal conspiracy in history!
In 2019, two U.S. government whistleblowers investigating the Venezuelan government's involvement in drug trafficking and money laundering, inadvertently discovered an international conspiracy to influence elections in the United States and in over 70 countries around

the world. “Stolen Elections” describes how, according to the whistleblowers, the plot began with help and advice of Fidel Castro to Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, (and his successor Nicolas Maduro) who developed and then rolled out a system of election fraud that was virtually undetectable. It was first used to steal the Venezuelan referendum of 2004, and subsequently penetrated the electoral systems of other Latin American countries, facilitating the elections of a string on left-leaning candidates in their respective countries.

This malware was quickly brought north and deployed across electoral districts throughout the United States in collaboration with election software companies that used variations of the same source code developed in Venezuela and voting machines with parts manufactured in China. The criminal conspiracy that started with Cuba and Venezuela grew to include China, Iran and Serbia – all countries interested in undermining the United States by sowing mistrust and division. “Stolen Elections” describes how the criminal conspirators have been determining the winners of US elections since 2006! What’s more shocking is that this criminal conspiracy avoided detection by America’s over $1 Trillion national security and intelligence apparatus, and for so long. It wasn’t until the two very skilled, determined and courageous government whistleblowers penetrated the conspiracy by recruiting the actual software engineers who designed the system and brought the results of their investigation to the attention of the US Department of Justice and Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

NYT-bestselling author Ralph Pezzullo takes readers through the incredible risks and challenges whistleblowers Martin Rodil and famed, former CIA operations officer Gary Berntsen faced as they conducted their investigation and the initial rejection they faced by members of Congress from both political parties and officials in the FBI and CIA when they first presented the evidence they had collected. “Stolen Elections” lays out the complex corporate front that the criminal conspiracy operated behind; the methods they used to manipulate election results in specific key election districts; and how the whistleblowers and civilian cyber experts finally blocked the criminal conspirators’ efforts to steal the 2024 presidential election. “Stolen Elections” has been called “essential reading for all those who value freedom..”

“In an era where trust in democratic institutions hangs by a thread, arrives as a thunderclap… across more than 70 countries including the United States,…t’s a meticulously researched account of software manipulation originating from Venezuela…this is essential reading for anyone valuing freedom in a fragile world.” — Grok

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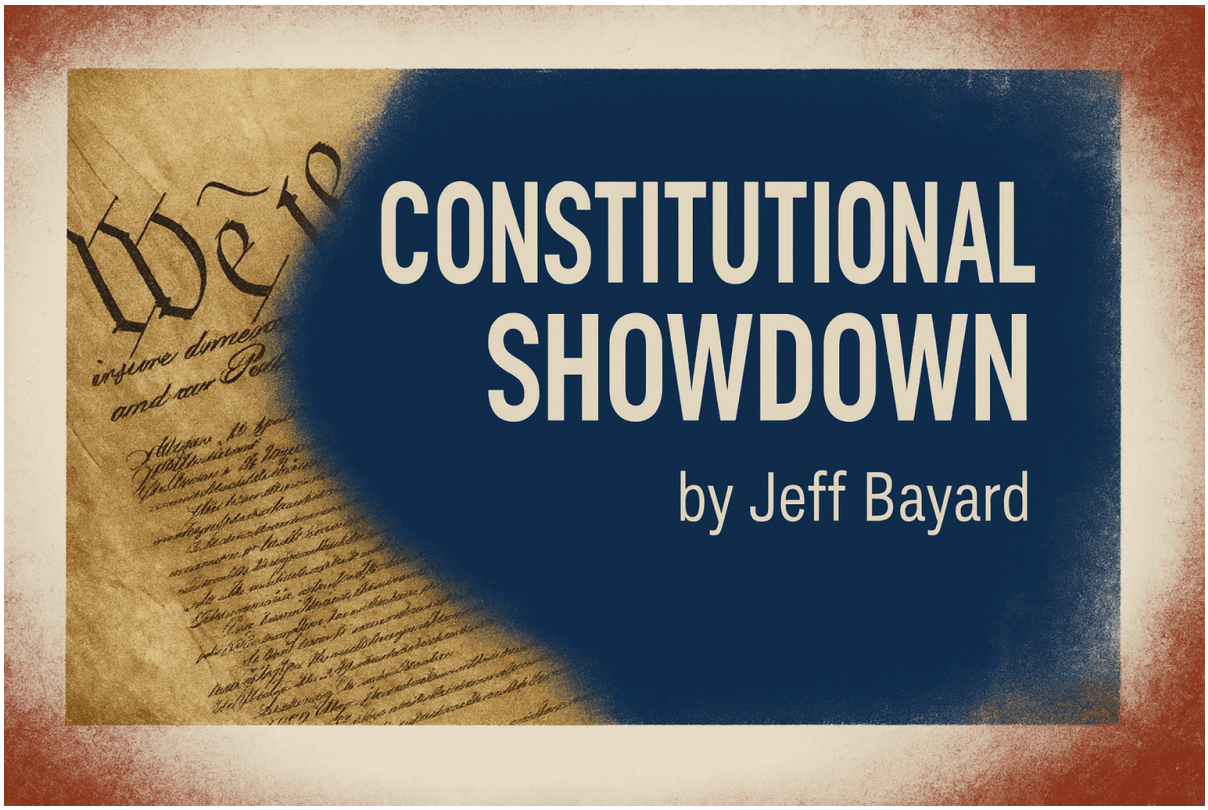
When Mexico Becomes America: The Supreme Court Case That Could Redefine Our Border

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/WHEN-MEXICO-BECOMES-AMERICA-THE-SUPREME-COURT-CASE-THAT-COULD-REDEFINE-OUR-BORDER/
NOVEMBER 18, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, THE THIRD WAY



*A Constitutional Showdown Analysis: Jeff Bayard's **Third Way***

On November 17, 2025, the Supreme Court agreed to hear a case that asks a deceptively simple question: If you're standing in Mexico at a U.S. port of entry, have you "arrived in the United States"? The answer to this question—which the Ninth Circuit answered with a resounding yes—could fundamentally reshape American sovereignty and our entire asylum system. But there's a Third Way beyond the failed extremes dominating this debate.

The case is **Noem v. Al Otro Lado**, and it turns on three words in federal immigration law: "arrives in the United States." Those three words now stand at the center of a constitutional collision between border security and asylum processing, between national sovereignty and humanitarian compassion, between the plain meaning of English and judicial activism run amok.

For Christians who care about both the rule of law and compassion for the stranger, this case demands our attention—and our wisdom. Because the competing sides in this debate are both dangerously wrong, and there's a biblical Third Way that honors both sovereignty and mercy.

What's Actually at Stake

Beginning in 2016, U.S. Customs and Border Protection implemented a policy called "metering" at ports of entry along the southern border. The policy was straightforward: when border facilities reached capacity, officials would limit the number of asylum seekers processed each day. Those turned away would wait in Mexico until space became available.

The legal foundation seemed equally straightforward. **Federal law (8 U.S.C. § 1158)** states that a noncitizen may apply for asylum if they are "physically present in the United States" or "arrives in the United States." The government's position was simple common sense: to "arrive in" the United States, you must actually cross into the United States. Standing in Mexico doesn't count.

Al Otro Lado, an immigrant rights organization, along with thirteen asylum seekers, sued. They argued that the metering policy violated federal law by turning people away before processing their asylum claims. The lawsuit wound its way through the courts during the Trump and Biden administrations, even as the formal metering policy was rescinded in 2021.

In October 2024, a divided Ninth Circuit panel ruled for the asylum seekers in a decision that defies ordinary English. Judge Friedland, writing for the majority, declared that "arrives in the United States" includes "those who encounter officials at the border, whichever side of the border they are standing on." **Read that again**: whichever side they are standing on.

Mexico, in the Ninth Circuit's view, is functionally part of the United States for asylum purposes.

Plain Text vs. Judicial Creativity

Judge Bress, joined by ten other Ninth Circuit judges in dissent, stated the obvious: "In ordinary English, a person 'arrives in' a country only when he comes within its borders." He noted that "aliens in Mexico are not 'in' the United States." This isn't legal complexity—it's basic grammar.

The Trump administration's petition to the Supreme Court pulls no punches. The Ninth Circuit's decision "defies plain text" and would cause "untold interference with the Executive Branch's ability to manage the southern border." If standing in Mexico counts as arriving in the United States, then our border effectively extends into Mexican territory for legal purposes. **We've lost sovereignty without firing a shot.**

The challengers, predictably, argue that the issue is now moot since the metering policy has been formally rescinded. But as Justice Kavanaugh noted in a related case, "levels of migration ebb and flow, often in unpredictable ways." The legal question remains vital because future administrations will face future surges. The Supreme Court is right to resolve this now.

What the Bible Says About Borders

Here's where many Christians stumble. We're told that compassion requires open borders, that loving the stranger means erasing boundaries, that Jesus would welcome everyone regardless of capacity or process. This is sentiment masquerading as theology.

Scripture actually presents a more nuanced—and more humane—vision. Consider the biblical witness on national boundaries:

> "When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, when he divided mankind, he fixed the borders of the peoples…" (Deuteronomy 32:8)
>
> "And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place…" (Acts 17:26)

God establishes nations with boundaries. This isn't tribalism or xenophobia—it's divine design. Nehemiah rebuilt Jerusalem's walls and posted guards (Nehemiah 2-4). The walls weren't about hating outsiders; they were about protecting inhabitants. Security matters to God.

But Scripture also commands extraordinary compassion for the sojourner:

- "You shall not wrong a sojourner or oppress him, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt." (Exodus 22:21)
- "Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt." (Deuteronomy 10:19)
- "You shall have the same rule for the sojourner and for the native, for I am the Lord your God." (Leviticus 24:22)

These commands aren't suggestions. God takes the treatment of vulnerable foreigners with deadly seriousness. Any Christian approach to immigration that doesn't center compassion for genuine refugees misses the heart of God.

The Cities of Refuge Model

How do we reconcile these principles? The answer lies in an often-overlooked Old Testament institution: the cities of refuge (Numbers 35, Joshua 20).

God commanded Israel to establish six cities where someone who accidentally caused a death could flee for protection. These cities embody both mercy and order:

- They existed—refuge was real and available
- They had clear geographic boundaries and specific entry points
- They required a process—the elders would hear the case (Joshua 20:4)
- They protected legitimate refugees while distinguishing them from criminals
- They maintained order within a framework of compassion

Notice what the cities of refuge didn't do: they didn't eliminate boundaries, they didn't process claims of people who hadn't entered, and they didn't allow unlimited numbers to overwhelm capacity. Compassion operated within structure. Mercy worked through process.

The Third Way: Sovereignty Plus Mercy

The dominant positions on asylum are both unbiblical. On one extreme, open borders advocates insist that everyone who presents at the border must be immediately processed and admitted regardless of capacity, resources, or security concerns. This position confuses compassion with chaos.

On the other extreme, hardline restrictionists want to turn away all asylum seekers or make the process so onerous that no genuine refugee can navigate it. This position mistakes security for cruelty.

The biblical Third Way rejects both extremes and embraces a framework that honors both sovereignty and mercy:

1. Words Mean What They Mean

"Arrives in the United States" means exactly what everyone understands it to mean: you've crossed into U.S. territory. Standing in Mexico is not arriving in America. This isn't anti-immigrant; it's pro-coherence. If we can't maintain basic definitions, we can't maintain law itself.

The Ninth Circuit's interpretation doesn't expand compassion—it erases sovereignty. It effectively moves the U.S. border into Mexican territory, making our asylum obligations limitless and our border meaningless. No sovereign nation can function this way.

2. Capacity Limits Are Legitimate and Compassionate

Border facilities have finite resources: officers, translators, beds, food, medical care. When overwhelmed, the entire system breaks down. Processing slows. Conditions deteriorate. Genuine refugees wait longer. Criminal enterprises exploit the chaos.

Metering—managing the flow of asylum claims based on actual capacity—is not cruel. It's realistic. It's the difference between a functioning asylum system and a humanitarian disaster. The cities of refuge could hold X number of people, not infinite people. Limits aren't hateful; they're necessary for the system to work at all.

3. Process Protects Everyone

An orderly asylum process protects genuine refugees by preventing the system from being overwhelmed by those with weaker claims. It protects American communities by ensuring proper screening. It protects vulnerable migrants from cartels who exploit chaos at the border. It protects the integrity of the law itself.

The alternative—processing everyone instantly without regard to capacity—doesn't serve refugees. It creates massive backlogs, years-long wait times, and dangerous conditions in overcrowded facilities. The most compassionate system is one that functions effectively.

4. Once Inside, Full Due Process

Here's the crucial distinction: once an asylum seeker has properly entered the United States—even if just into the port of entry building—they must receive full due process. Their claim must be heard fairly. They must be treated with dignity. The law must apply equally to citizen and sojourner, as Leviticus commands.

Managing the flow of entries is fundamentally different from denying rights to those who have entered. The first is border management; the second is injustice. We can and must do the first while absolutely refusing the second.

5. Compassion Requires Order

This is the paradox that confuses many Christians: genuine compassion requires functional systems. A chaotic border isn't compassionate—it's deadly. People drown in the Rio Grande. Children are trafficked. Women are assaulted. Cartels make billions. The most vulnerable suffer most when the system breaks down.

What Orderly Asylum Actually Looks Like

A biblically grounded, practically wise asylum system would include:

- Clear entry points where asylum claims can be processed
- Sufficient resources to process claims promptly and fairly
- Managed flow based on actual capacity, not arbitrary limits
- Priority for the most vulnerable (families, unaccompanied minors, those facing imminent danger)
- Safe waiting facilities for those in queue
- Proper screening to distinguish genuine refugees from economic migrants
- Expedited hearings so legitimate cases are resolved quickly
- Dignified treatment of all persons at every stage

This system honors both sovereignty and compassion. It maintains borders while protecting refugees. It manages flow while treating people with dignity. It's neither open borders nor fortress America—it's the biblical Third Way.

Why This Case Matters for the Future

If the Supreme Court upholds the Ninth Circuit's decision, the implications are staggering. The United States would effectively lose control of its border for asylum purposes. Any person anywhere near a port of entry—regardless of which country they're standing in—could claim to have "arrived" and trigger processing obligations.

During migration surges, this would create impossible situations. Ports of entry would be legally required to process asylum claims faster than their physical capacity allows. The inevitable result: either the system collapses entirely, or the government is forced into a pattern of continuous legal violations.

Border states already struggling with migration challenges would face intensified pressure. Communities would bear costs without having had any voice in the policy. Local resources would be stretched beyond breaking. And legitimate concerns about security, trafficking, and criminal exploitation would be dismissed as mere excuses.

If, on the other hand, the Court reverses the Ninth Circuit and restores common-sense interpretation, future administrations would have the flexibility to manage the border responsibly. They could implement capacity-based processing that actually serves refugees while maintaining order. They could prioritize the most vulnerable while screening out those with no legitimate claim.

The difference between these outcomes isn't just legal—it's the difference between a functional asylum system and permanent chaos.

Our Response: Advocacy and Action

Christians cannot sit this out. We're called to speak truth into public debate, especially when the extremes dominate the conversation. Here's what we must do:

Pray for Wisdom

Pray for the Supreme Court justices as they consider this case. Pray that they have wisdom to see past political pressure to the plain meaning of law and the practical consequences of their ruling. Pray for court arguments expected in early 2026 and the decision likely in June 2026.

Reject False Choices

Refuse to be bullied into choosing between heartless enforcement and lawless borders. The biblical position is neither extreme. When someone tells you that compassion requires open borders, show them Numbers 35. When someone tells you that security requires turning away all refugees, show them Exodus 22:21.

Advocate for the Third Way

Make your voice heard with elected representatives. Don't just oppose bad policies—advocate for good ones. Push for increased capacity at ports of entry, faster processing for legitimate claims, better conditions for those waiting, and maintained borders with genuine compassion for refugees.

Support Local Ministries

While the legal and political battles rage, people are suffering now. Support Christian ministries serving migrants with practical help, legal assistance, and the gospel. Be the church to those in need regardless of their immigration status. Compassion in the courtroom doesn't excuse indifference in our communities.

Conclusion: Sovereignty AND Mercy

Noem v. Al Otro Lado forces a question that America has been avoiding: Can we maintain meaningful borders while showing genuine compassion? The answer is yes—but only if we reject the false binary that dominates our discourse.

Sovereignty and mercy are not opposing values. They're complementary truths. Nations have the right and duty to control their borders. Nations also have the obligation to treat refugees with dignity and process legitimate asylum claims fairly. The Supreme Court should rule that "arrives in the United States" means what it says—actual entry into U.S. territory.

But Christians must do more than wait for the Court. We must model the Third Way in how we talk about immigration, how we treat immigrants in our communities, and how we advocate for policies that honor both God's design for nations and His heart for the stranger.

The cities of refuge point the way forward: clear boundaries, orderly process, genuine protection, and justice for all. That's not utopian idealism—it's biblical wisdom applied to modern challenges.

As this case moves toward oral arguments and a decision, let's pray for wisdom, advocate for truth, and demonstrate in our own lives what it means to love both our neighbor and our nation. Because at its core, this case isn't just about legal interpretation or border policy. It's about whether we can maintain both the rule of law and the heart of God.

The answer is yes. But only if we have the courage to reject easy extremes and embrace the harder path of biblical wisdom.

ABOUT CONSTITUTIONAL SHOWDOWN

This series examines major legal and constitutional issues through the lens of originalist interpretation and biblical principles.

Author: Jeff Bayard

Virginia Christian Alliance | **VirginiaChristianAlliance.com**

CASE RESOURCES

The Third Way

SCOTUSblog Case Page

Ninth Circuit Opinion

Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. § 1158)

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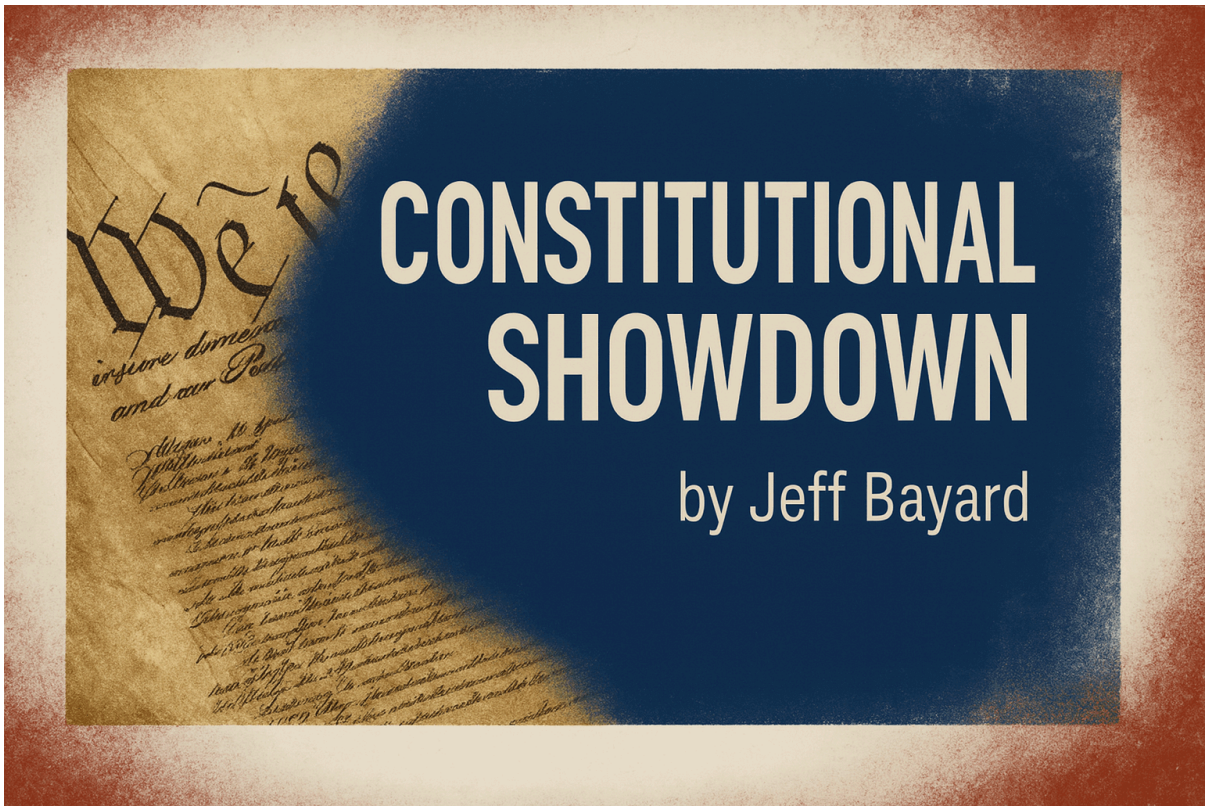
Watson v. RNC: When “I Want To Vote Early” Replaced “I Need To Vote Early”

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/WATSON-V-RNC-WHEN-I-WANT-TO-VOTE-EARLY-REPLACED-I-NEED-TO-VOTE-EARLY/
NOVEMBER 12, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTIONAL SHOWDOWN, THE THIRD WAY, US CONSTITUTION



*The Virginia Christian Alliance continues our **Constitutional Showdown** series framed from the Christian Worldview and Constitutional originalism, exposing how modern courts twist the framers’ original intent while equipping believers to defend constitutional truth through faithful citizenship and prayer.*

The Supreme Court **just agreed** to hear Watson v. Republican National Committee, a case that could overturn ballot receipt laws in 31 states plus the District of Columbia. Republicans argue ballots must be received by Election Day. Democrats insist ballots postmarked by Election Day should count for days afterward.

Both sides are arguing over the wrong question.

The real issue isn’t ***WHEN*** ballots should arrive. It’s ***WHO*** should be voting by mail in the first place—and when we decided that personal convenience trumps constitutional design. Jeff

Bayard's ***Third Way*** framework rejects both partisan extremes and pursues constitutional fidelity grounded in biblical principles of justice and personal responsibility.

> "The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied." (Proverbs 13:4)

The Watson v. RNC Case: What's at Stake

Mississippi law allows mail-in ballots to be counted if received within five business days after Election Day, provided they're postmarked by Election Day. Thirty other states plus DC have similar laws.

The RNC sued in 2024, arguing this violates federal statutes (2 USC 7 and 3 USC 1) that set "the Tuesday after the first Monday in November" as Election Day. Their position: if Congress set "the day" for elections, ballots must be both cast AND received by that day.

A federal district judge upheld Mississippi's law. The 5th Circuit reversed, siding with the RNC. Mississippi's Republican Secretary of State Michael Watson—creating the unusual spectacle of GOP officials on opposite sides—appealed to SCOTUS.

Nineteen states filed briefs supporting Mississippi, warning that the 5th Circuit's ruling "invites nationwide litigation" and endangers military voters whose ballots take weeks to arrive from combat zones.

The stakes: If the RNC wins, states must immediately change laws and military ballots face mass disqualification. If Mississippi wins, post-Election Day ballot receipt becomes permanently entrenched.

But here's what neither side addresses: How did we reach the point where nearly two-thirds of states accept ballots arriving after winners should be declared?

The Question Nobody's Asking: WANT vs. NEED

Election Day isn't a surprise. It's set by federal law, announced years in advance. The United States Postal Service delivers 99% of first-class mail within three days. If you mail your ballot two weeks early, it WILL arrive barring catastrophic failure.

Yet 31 states accommodate ballots arriving AFTER Election Day. Why?

Because we've confused two fundamentally different concepts:

- **NEED-based absentee voting:** For citizens who CANNOT vote in person due to circumstances beyond their control.
- **WANT-based absentee voting:** For citizens who PREFER not to vote in person for reasons of personal convenience.

The Constitution—and 150 years of tradition—recognized only the first. We've embraced the second.

The Military Exception Proves the Rule

A soldier in Kandahar cannot control when helicopters evacuate mail from his firebase. His ballot travels through military postal facilities (APO/FPO addresses) operating on combat schedules, not postal schedules. Mail runs happen when operations permit—sometimes weekly, sometimes less. Security delays can add days. His ballot must route through international networks beyond his control.

If his ballot takes three weeks to arrive, that's genuinely beyond his control.

Now consider a healthy accountant in Jackson, Mississippi. She can request a ballot in September. Complete it in October. Mail it with tracking in late October. Drop it at the election office any weekday. Walk it to a drop box on her lunch break.

If she waits until Election Day to mail her ballot, whose fault is that?

The soldier faces barriers he cannot overcome. The accountant makes choices about her schedule.

This is why the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (**UOCAVA**) provides extended deadlines for military voters. It's not rewarding procrastination—it's acknowledging genuine barriers beyond the voter's control.

One deserves accommodation. The other deserves to experience the consequences of poor planning.

> **Proverbs 21:5** — "The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty."

“But There Are More People Now” – Why This Fails

Some argue: “The Founders had 4 million people. We have 330 million. We NEED weeks of voting to handle the volume!”

The math destroys this argument.

Population increase: 1800 to 2020 = 66x more people

Infrastructure increase: From scattered rural polling places to 176,933 precincts nationwide = 177,000x more capacity

The ratio improved DRAMATICALLY in our favor.

More devastating evidence:

France: 67 million people vote in ONE DAY, paper ballots hand-counted, results by midnight.

Germany: 83 million people vote in ONE DAY, hand-counted publicly, results same evening.

Canada: 38 million people across the SECOND-LARGEST COUNTRY ON EARTH vote in ONE DAY, hand-counted, results same night.

If they can do it, why can’t we?

We don’t lack capacity. We lack will.

1960: Nearly 70% turnout, nearly all on Election Day, hand-counted results by midnight in most places.

2020: Similar turnout, but votes counted over DAYS because we’ve normalized “I’ll vote when convenient.”

The problem isn’t population. It’s culture. We’ve replaced civic duty with consumer convenience.

How We Lost Election Day

Civil War (1864): Nineteen Union states allow soldiers to vote from battlefields. Pure necessity—these men are in combat. Absentee voting emerges as exception for those who CANNOT vote in person.

Early expansion (1896-1980s): Vermont pioneers civilian absentee in 1896, requiring documented excuse (illness, necessary absence). By 1980s, California introduces "no-excuse" absentee—anyone can request a ballot for any reason.

COVID catastrophe (2020): Emergency orders transform elections. Twenty-nine states enact 79 bills expanding mail voting. Automatic mail-outs to all voters. Drop boxes proliferate. Witness requirements suspended. Result: 43% vote by mail—double the 2016 rate.

Post-COVID divide: Some states made changes permanent. Others rolled back. But 31 states now accept ballots days after Election Day—accommodating not just military voters with genuine delays, but procrastinating civilians who mailed ballots at the last minute.

The pattern: Exception → Convenience → Universal alternative → Constitutional crisis.

The Constitutional Standard: Election DAY, Not Election SEASON

Article I, Section 4 gives states authority over election "Times, Places and Manner" but allows Congress to override.

Federal law (2 USC 7, 3 USC 1) sets "the Tuesday after the first Monday in November" as Election Day.

Notice: "THE DAY"—singular. Not "the voting period." Not "the election season." **THE DAY.**

The Framers intended simultaneity. When the nation votes on one day, the collective will is clear. When votes trickle in over weeks, that clarity dissolves. Early voters lack information available to later voters. October surprises arrive too late. Ballot harvesting operations have weeks to operate. Prolonged counting creates prolonged uncertainty and litigation.

> **Ecclesiastes 5:2** — "Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore let your words be few."

The Constitution set ONE day for the nation to speak. Extending it to weeks dilutes the voice and invites manipulation.

The Deeper Question Watson Doesn't Address

Watson v. RNC asks WHEN ballots must be received. But WHO should vote by mail in the first place?

Twenty-eight states now allow "no-excuse" absentee—anyone can request a ballot for any reason. Five states mail ballots to ALL voters automatically. This isn't accommodation. It's transformation of Election DAY into Election SEASON.

Legitimate NEED (Constitutional):

Military/overseas: Combat zones, APO/FPO delays, genuinely cannot control mail timing

Elderly/disabled: Nursing home residents, homebound with verified conditions, genuine physical barriers

Essential workers: Election judges, hospital staff on 12-hour shifts, cannot leave posts during voting hours

Religious observers: Sabbath falls on Election Day, genuine religious prohibition

Emergency travel: Documented family emergency, unforeseeable circumstances

Illegitimate WANT (Convenience):

"I prefer voting from home" — Not a constitutional right

"Lines are too long" — States should fix Election Day operations, not abandon the day

"I'll be on vacation" — You planned this; plan around civic duty

"It's more convenient" — Convenience isn't a constitutional standard

"I want to vote early" — Your preference doesn't reshape the Constitution

The distinction: Government should accommodate circumstances beyond citizens' control. It should NOT accommodate poor planning within citizens' control.

The Third Way: Responsibility Plus Accommodation

The Third Way**Third Way** rejects both extremes—banning all absentee voting (disenfranchising military voters) and making all voting absentee (destroying Election Day).

Restore "Excuse Required" Standard

States must require a written application with documented reasons, verification (not self-attestation), and enumerated categories only: military, disabled, essential workers, religious

observers, and emergency travel. Reject "no-excuse" systems, automatic mail-outs, and "I might be busy" as a valid excuse.

Annual renewal required—no permanent absentee status for convenience voters. False claims = election fraud charges.

Strict Deadlines with Military Exception

For domestic civilians: Ballots must be RECEIVED by Election Day. No extended windows. You have weeks to return your ballot—use that time.

For military/overseas (UOCAVA): Ballots must be CAST (postmarked) by Election Day with 3-5 business day receipt window. This accommodates genuine postal delays beyond voter control.

For all voters: Postmark required. No ballot counted without proof of mailing date. Prevents post-election "finding" of ballots.

Expect Personal Responsibility

Citizens must request ballots early, complete promptly, return with adequate time, and plan ahead rather than creating emergencies. Government must provide clear deadlines and count legally cast ballots—but NOT reward procrastination.

The line: Accommodate circumstances beyond control. Don't accommodate poor planning within control.

What SCOTUS Should Rule

The Court should distinguish between voter categories:

Domestic civilian voters: Federal law requires ballots RECEIVED by Election Day. States may not extend receipt deadlines for voters who have weeks to return ballots.

Military/overseas voters: Federal law requires ballots CAST (postmarked) by Election Day. States may allow 3-5 business day receipt window for genuine postal delays beyond voter control.

All voters: Postmark proof required. No ballot counted without documentation of mailing date.

This ruling would:

- Honor Election DAY constitutional design
- Protect military from disenfranchisement

- End extended windows for procrastinating civilians
- Require citizen responsibility
- Prevent post-election manipulation
- Maintain chain of custody

What Christians Must Do

Pray for wisdom (James 1:5). Nine justices face enormous pressure over state sovereignty, military voters, and Election Day's meaning. Only divine wisdom can thread this needle.

Vote in person if you can. The simplest witness: If you CAN vote on Election Day, DO IT. Don't request an absentee out of convenience. Model responsible citizenship.

Demand legislative action. Contact state legislators: Support "excuse required" standards. Oppose "no-excuse" for all. End automatic mail-outs. Require postmark proof. Restore Election DAY primacy.

Teach your church. Most Christians don't understand how far we've drifted. This isn't about making voting harder—it's restoring civic duty of showing up on the day the Constitution designates.

> **Romans 13:7** — "Pay to all what is owed to them…respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed."

We owe fellow citizens the respect of taking civic duty seriously. We owe our nation the honor of the collective democratic moment the Founders designed.

Conclusion: Watson Addresses Deadlines, The Third Way Addresses Character

The Supreme Court's ruling in Watson v. RNC will clarify federal law, affect 31 states, and determine military voter protection. It matters.

But Watson addresses only WHEN ballots arrive. It doesn't address WHO should vote by mail. It doesn't distinguish voters who NEED accommodation from those who merely WANT convenience.

The reform we need:

Restore "excuse required" absentee voting. Maintain Election Day as primary method. Expect citizens to plan ahead. Accommodate genuine inability while rejecting mere preference.

A soldier in Kandahar CANNOT vote on Election Day. We owe him extended deadlines and gratitude.

A healthy civilian who prefers voting from the couch CAN vote on Election Day. We owe him the expectation that he will.

The difference between NEED and WANT is the difference between constitutional accommodation and constitutional corruption.

Watson will address deadlines. The Third Way addresses character.

Proverbs 20:4 — *"The sluggard does not plow in the autumn; he will seek at harvest and have nothing."*

Citizens who wait until Election Day to mail ballots due Election Day are planting in harvest season. The state shouldn't manufacture a crop for them.

Has your state eliminated "excuse required" absentee voting? Should healthy civilians receive the same accommodations as deployed soldiers? Share your thoughts below.

*For more Constitutional Showdown analysis, see our coverage of **proof of citizenship requirements** and other election integrity battles.*

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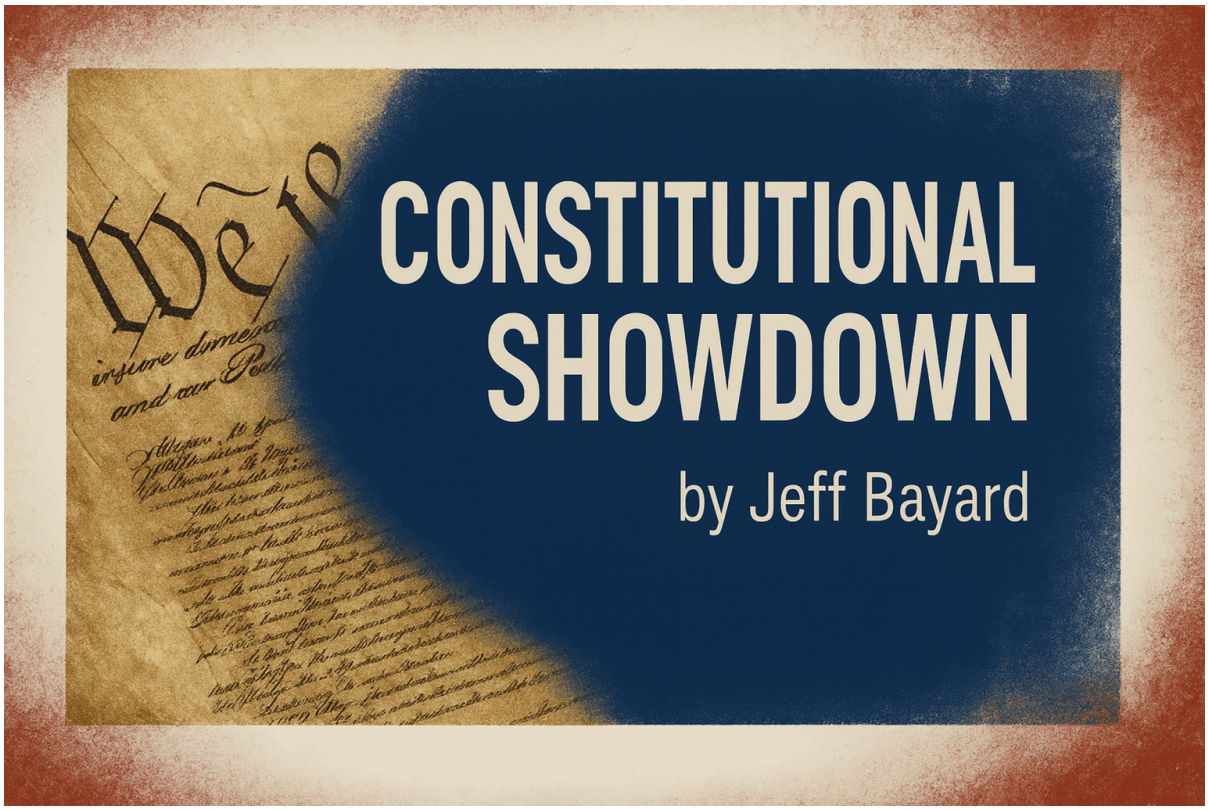
Senate Filibuster Shutdown: The Third Way Between Chaos and Control

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/SENATE-FILIBUSTER-SHUTDOWN-THIRD-WAY/
NOVEMBER 8, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTIONAL SHOWDOWN, THE THIRD WAY, US CONSTITUTION



The Senate filibuster shutdown has now become the longest in U.S. history at 39 days. (**See shut down clock**). Nearly one million federal workers remain furloughed. SNAP benefits hang in the balance. Air traffic controllers work without pay. And President Trump demands Republicans "terminate the filibuster" to end the crisis.

***But* eliminating the Senate filibuster shutdown mechanism entirely would be catastrophic**—enabling either party to pack courts, add states, or fundamentally restructure government with just 51 votes. The current system, however, clearly fails its constitutional duty.

> **"Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety."** (Proverbs 11:14)

America needs a **Third Way** **(Third Way defined)** between these false extremes.

The Constitutional Crisis Behind the Senate Filibuster Shutdown

> **Article I, Section 9** declares: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law."

This isn't a suggestion. Funding the government is Congress's constitutional *duty*.

Yet Congress has abandoned the process the Constitution requires. Instead of passing 12 separate appropriations bills annually through "regular order," lawmakers now:

- Wait until the last minute
- Bundle everything into massive omnibus bills
- Attach controversial policy riders to "must-pass" legislation
- Use the Senate filibuster shutdown threat to extort concessions
- Repeat the cycle with continuing resolutions

The Heritage Foundation correctly notes that the filibuster protects minority rights and forces deliberation. But when basic government funding becomes a hostage in policy battles, the system betrays its purpose.

How Both Parties Weaponize the Senate Filibuster Shutdown

Today's crisis: Democrats demand one-year Affordable Care Act subsidies or they'll block appropriations. Republicans refuse. The Senate filibuster shutdown continues while Americans suffer.

The deeper problem: *Both parties* use funding bills as leverage for unrelated policy goals.

- Democrats: "No budget without healthcare extensions"
- Republicans: "No spending without border wall funding"
- Result: Government shutdowns, continuing resolutions, abdicated constitutional duty

The Senate was designed to "cool" the House's passionate legislation—not to paralyze basic governance. As James Madison warned, the Senate exists to "protect the people against the transient impressions into which they themselves might be led."

But Madison never envisioned the Senate filibuster shutdown as a weapon to starve the government itself.

The Nuclear Option: Why Eliminating the Filibuster Invites Tyranny

President Trump's call to "terminate the filibuster" deserves serious consideration—and serious rejection.

Without the 60-vote threshold, a bare majority could:

- **Pack the Supreme Court** with 15+ justices
- **Add DC and Puerto Rico as states** (4 permanent Senate seats for Democrats)
- **Federalize all elections** and eliminate state authority
- **Pass trillion-dollar entitlements** without bipartisan support
- **Weaponize federal agencies** against political opponents

Scripture warns: "Like a muddied spring or a polluted fountain is a righteous man who gives way before the wicked." (Proverbs 25:26)

Removing all restraints on majority power doesn't restore righteous government—it enables whichever party holds temporary power to "muddy the spring" of constitutional governance.

Heritage Foundation scholar Brian Darling puts it clearly: "Without the filibuster, the Senate ceases to be a deliberative body" and becomes "a smaller version of the House of Representatives where raw majorities rule."

The Third Way Regular Order Restores Constitutional Governance

The solution isn't eliminating the Senate filibuster shutdown tool entirely. It's *limiting its application* based on constitutional function.

Principle 1: Distinguish Constitutional Duties from Policy Debates

Simple majority (no filibuster):

- Annual appropriations for the 12 categories Congress is constitutionally required to fund
- Debt ceiling increases (honoring obligations already made)

- Government operations essential to constitutional function

60-vote threshold (preserve filibuster):

- Major policy changes (healthcare mandates, entitlement expansions)
- Structural changes (court packing, new states, election federalization)
- Policy riders attached to appropriations
- Any legislation fundamentally altering constitutional structure

Principle 2: Return to Regular Order

Congress must pass the 12 appropriations bills *separately*, not bundled:

1. Agriculture
2. Commerce, Justice, Science
3. Defense
4. Energy and Water
5. Financial Services
6. Homeland Security
7. Interior and Environment
8. Labor, Health, Education
9. Legislative Branch
10. Military Construction/Veterans Affairs
11. State and Foreign Operations
12. Transportation and Housing

Each bill gets individual debate, amendments, and an up-or-down vote. No more thousand-page omnibus packages. No more "pass it to find out what's in it."

Principle 3: Separate Funding from Policy

If Democrats want ACA subsidies extended—vote on it separately. If Republicans want border wall funding—vote on it separately.

But *neither party* can hold basic government funding hostage to force their policy preferences. That's extortion disguised as negotiation.

Biblical Principles Support the Third Way

Government exists to function. Romans 13:4 declares civil authority is "God's servant for your good." A government in perpetual Senate filibuster shutdown cannot serve anyone's good.

Rulers must provide for the people. Proverbs 29:2 warns: "When the wicked rule, the people groan." Depriving citizens of essential services while politicians posture demonstrates wicked leadership.

Wisdom requires counsel, not unilateral power. Proverbs 11:14 reminds us: "In an abundance of counselors there is safety." The 60-vote requirement for major policy ensures broad consensus —the Third Way preserves this.

Fiscal responsibility is a biblical mandate. Proverbs 27:23 commands: "Know well the condition of your flocks, and give attention to your herds." Congress cannot fulfill this duty through continuing resolutions and omnibus disasters.

Why the Third Way Honors Both Constitution and Scripture

The Framers designed the Senate for deliberation, not obstruction. They expected appropriations to pass regularly—not trigger annual crises.

The Third Way honors their design by:

Preventing tyranny: Major changes still require 60 votes and bipartisan support **Enabling governance:** Basic funding passes with simple majority, ending the Senate filibuster shutdown weapon **Restoring accountability:** Separate appropriations bills force transparent debate on each category **Ending extortion:** Policy debates happen separately from constitutional funding duties

This isn't compromise between right and wrong. It's distinguishing between *types of legislation* based on constitutional function.

Senator John Thune, the current Majority Leader, has championed regular order. He notes: "One of Congress' most basic responsibilities is funding the federal government. And for all the reasons I just listed, the way we should be doing that is through regular order."

The Third Way turns his vision into structural reform.

The Stakes: Constitutional Government or Permanent Crisis

If we eliminate the filibuster entirely, we enable tyranny.

If we preserve the current Senate filibuster shutdown system, we guarantee perpetual crisis.

The Third Way rejects both extremes by recognizing a biblical and constitutional truth: *Different functions require different processes.*

- **Constitutional duties** (funding government): Simple majority
- **Major policy changes** (restructuring society): Supermajority consensus
- **Structural reforms** (altering constitutional balance): High threshold protection

This framework prevents both gridlock on essential functions and reckless changes to fundamental structure.

What Christians Must Do

Pray for wisdom. Our senators face pressure from presidents, parties, and the people. Only God can grant the wisdom to navigate between false choices. (James 1:5)

Demand accountability. Contact your senators. Insist they pass the 12 appropriations bills separately through regular order. Reject omnibus hostage-taking.

Understand the stakes. The Senate filibuster shutdown debate isn't just procedural—it's about whether America will have functional constitutional government or permanent political warfare.

Support the Third Way. This framework honors biblical governance principles, constitutional duties, and prudent restraint on concentrated power.

Conclusion: Wisdom Over Weapons

The Senate filibuster shutdown reveals a broken system where constitutional duties become partisan weapons.

President Trump is right that something must change. But eliminating all restraints on majority power would make future abuses worse, not better.

The Third Way offers genuine reform: Fund the government through regular order with simple majorities. Preserve the 60-vote threshold for major policy changes. End the extortion. Restore constitutional governance.

“For lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisers.” (Proverbs 11:14, NIV)

The path forward requires more than passion—it requires wisdom. The Third Way provides that path.

What do you think? Should Senate rules distinguish between constitutional duties and policy debates? Share your thoughts below.

*For more Constitutional Showdown analysis on preserving originalist principles in modern governance, check out our coverage of **Louisiana v. Callais voting rights** and **birthright citizenship battles**.*

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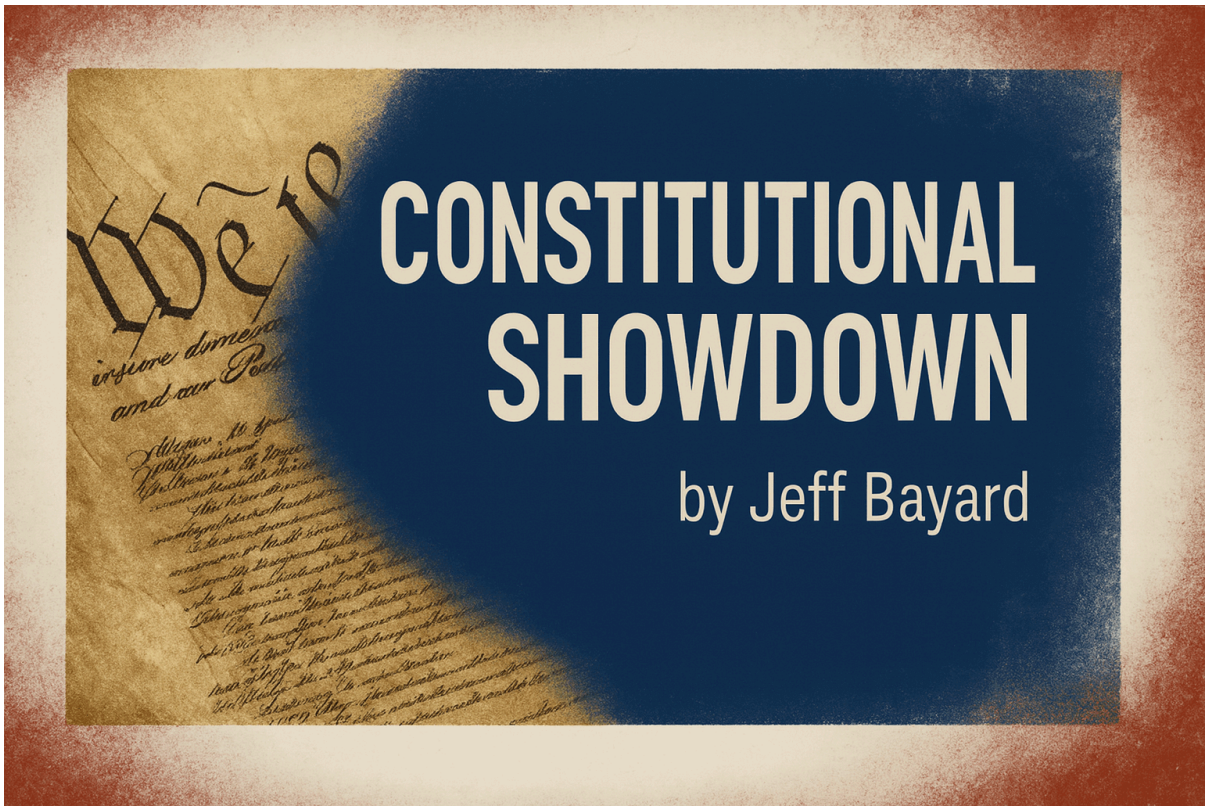
Showdown: Trump Tariffs Face Supreme Court as $90 Billion Constitutional Crisis Reaches Its Climax

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/TRUMP-TARIFFS-SUPREME-COURT-NOVEMBER-2025/
NOVEMBER 4, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTIONAL SHOWDOWN, THE THIRD WAY



The Virginia Christian Alliance continues our Constitutional Showdown series framed from the Christian Worldview and Constitutional originalism, exposing how modern courts twist the framers' original intent while equipping believers to defend constitutional truth through faithful citizenship and prayer.

Wednesday morning, November 5th, the **Supreme Court hears oral arguments** in what President Trump calls "one of the most important cases in the history of our country." He's not exaggerating.

The stakes: **$2 trillion in foreign investment commitments**, hundreds of thousands of American jobs, and a fundamental question about whether our 18th-century Constitution can address 21st-century challenges when Congress refuses to act.

Back in September, we published a comprehensive analysis examining this case through what we call **the Third Way framework**

—the integration of biblical truth and constitutional principle to pursue justice without partiality.

That 6,800-word deep dive laid out the constitutional tensions, economic stakes, and spiritual dimensions of this unprecedented case.

Wednesday's oral arguments bring that analysis into sharp focus. Here's what's changed—and what Christians need to watch for.

What's New Since September

The Price Tag Is Real—and Growing

When we wrote in September, the $2 trillion figure represented future commitments. Now? American businesses have already paid **$90 billion** to cover these tariffs through September 2025—more than half of all tariff revenue collected in fiscal year 2025. That number climbs daily while the case plays out.

Trump admitted in a Fox Business interview: if the Supreme Court rules against him, "we'd have to pay back money." We're talking about potentially the largest government refund in American history.

Trump May Attend—Unprecedented

The President has floated personally attending oral arguments on Wednesday. If he does, he'd become the **first sitting president** in American history to attend Supreme Court arguments. That's how high the stakes are.

The Court Knows It's Critical

SCOTUS expanded argument time from the standard 60 minutes to 80 minutes. Translation: the justices recognize the magnitude of this case. Expect arguments to run much longer as nine justices grapple with questions that have no easy answers.

The Human Cost Keeps Mounting

Since September, more communities have staked their futures on these investments:

- The 1,500 families depending on Stellantis's Belvidere, Illinois plant reopening
- Workers anticipating Honda's Indiana consolidation
- Families counting on Samsung's South Carolina expansion
- Entire regions banking on manufacturing revival after decades of decline

These aren't statistics. They're **image-bearers of God** whose economic futures hang in the balance.

The Constitutional Crisis Hasn't Changed

The fundamental tension we outlined in September remains: What happens when constitutional means prove inadequate to fulfill the government's God-given duty to protect citizens?

Romans 13:4 establishes government as "God's servant for your good." For decades, Congress failed to address systemic trade abuse that decimated American manufacturing. Trump acted where Congress wouldn't—securing unprecedented foreign investment and job creation. But he used emergency powers that courts now question.

As we wrote in September: "Which duty takes precedence: constitutional process or protective governance?"

Wednesday, the Supreme Court begins answering that question.

Three Possible Outcomes (What to Watch For)

Our September analysis outlined three scenarios. Here's how the oral arguments look right now:

Scenario 1: Broad Rejection (The Process Purist Path)

What it means: The Court says Trump lacks authority under IEEPA to impose tariffs for trade policy

Constitutional impact: Massive reinforcement of legislative primacy; future presidents heavily constrained

Economic impact: Catastrophic

EU and Japan have made clear that their commitments depend on legal certainty. Expect immediate freezing of investments, cancellation of manufacturing relocations, and potential loss of 400,000-600,000 jobs.

Listen for: Justices questioning whether "trade deficits" constitute genuine "emergencies" under the statute

Scenario 2: Narrow Compromise (The Split-the-Baby Approach)

What it means: The Court distinguishes between national security tariffs (steel, aluminum, automotive) and broader levies

Constitutional impact: Establishes boundaries for emergency powers while preserving some presidential authority

Economic impact: Moderate disruption. Investment commitments would require renegotiation; job losses around 150,000-250,000 rather than complete collapse.

Listen for: Justices drawing lines between different statutory authorities (Section 232 vs. IEEPA)

Scenario 3: Broad Validation (The Executive Power Path)

What it means: Court upholds Trump's emergency trade authority

Constitutional impact: Significantly expands presidential power; creates precedent future presidents (of both parties) will invoke for domestic emergencies

Economic impact: All investments proceed; maximum job creation; manufacturing renaissance continues

Listen for: Justices deferring to presidential judgment on foreign affairs and national security

The Third Way Perspective: What's Really at Stake

The **Third Way framework**—the integration of biblical truth and constitutional principle to pursue justice without partiality—guides our analysis of this constitutional crisis. It's not a political compromise or centrist ideology. It's originalism grounded in the Framers' Christian worldview, applied to cases where both political extremes abandon constitutional truth.

We've used this framework throughout our Constitutional Showdown series. In **Louisiana v. Callais**, we showed how the Reconstruction Framers rejected BOTH racial gerrymandering AND racial quotas—charting a biblical middle path between discrimination and favoritism. In **our analysis of birthright citizenship**, we demonstrated how original intent protects citizenship rights without creating incentives for illegal immigration.

The tariffs case demands the same principled approach.

The Biblical Mandate: Government exists as "God's servant for your good" (Romans 13:4) to protect citizens, promote their welfare, and ensure justice in commercial relationships. **Proverbs**

11:1 condemns "dishonest scales"—exactly what foreign nations' systematic trade manipulation represents. For decades, American workers bore the cost of exploitative trade practices while Congress refused to act. God's mandate for governmental protection doesn't disappear when constitutional processes prove inadequate.

The Constitutional Constraint: The Framers deliberately gave Congress authority over commerce (Article I, Section 8) to prevent executive abuse and ensure democratic accountability. They understood that concentrated power corrupts, and that taxation without representation sparked the Revolution itself. This wisdom remains sound even when its application creates practical challenges. Emergency powers exist for genuine crises, not to bypass legislative responsibility indefinitely.

The Third Way Tension: When constitutional processes fail to serve their underlying purposes—when congressional gridlock enables continued exploitation of American workers and communities—does biblical governance require accepting that harm? Or does government's God-given protective duty justify alternative means, even if those means raise constitutional questions?

This isn't a simple case of executive overreach versus effective governance. It's a profound test of whether our constitutional system can fulfill its fundamental purposes when traditional processes break down. The Trump tariffs achieved unprecedented results: $2 trillion in foreign investment commitments, hundreds of thousands of promised jobs, manufacturing renaissance in devastated communities. Yet the emergency powers used to secure these outcomes challenge separation of powers principles the Framers embedded to prevent tyranny.

The Third Way refuses the false choice. We can simultaneously affirm:

- Congress abdicated its responsibility, harming American workers for decades
- Trump's tariffs addressed real exploitation and achieved legitimate governmental purposes
- Emergency powers have constitutional limits that courts must enforce
- Any remedy must preserve both governmental effectiveness AND constitutional constraints

The question isn't whether Trump's goals were legitimate—protecting American workers clearly serves government's biblical mandate. The question is whether the means comported with constitutional design, and what precedent this sets for future presidents who will inevitably claim similar authority for different ends.

Wednesday's oral arguments matter because the Court must navigate between two equally dangerous extremes: constitutional paralysis that renders government incapable of protecting citizens, or unlimited executive power that destroys the separation of powers safeguarding liberty. Neither extreme serves the Constitution's purposes or honors the Framers' design.

The Third Way—if the justices can find it—would distinguish legitimate emergency authority from dangerous precedent, preserve necessary presidential flexibility while maintaining meaningful constraints, and enable effective governance without abandoning constitutional limits. That's the narrow path between two errors.

Finding it requires wisdom beyond human capacity. That's why prayer matters.

What Christians Should Do Today

1. Pray for Wisdom

James 1:5 promises: "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."

The justices face an impossible choice with eternal implications for American governance and citizen welfare. They need divine wisdom that transcends legal precedent.

Pray specifically:

- For clarity in distinguishing legitimate emergency authority from dangerous precedent
- For courage to rule according to constitutional principle regardless of political pressure
- For concern for the human cost of legal decisions—the families and communities affected
- For Congress to finally fulfill its responsibility to address trade policy properly

2. Watch and Learn

Oral arguments begin Wednesday (November 5) at 10 AM EST. Audio will be available same-day at supremecourt.gov.

Listen for how justices balance:

- Separation of powers concerns vs. governmental effectiveness
- Statutory text vs. practical consequences
- Presidential deference vs. congressional primacy
- Economic stakes vs. constitutional principle

3. Engage Your Representatives

Regardless of how the Court rules, **Congress remains constitutionally empowered** to address trade policy through proper legislation. The political will simply hasn't existed.

Contact your senators and representatives:

- Demand comprehensive trade reform that protects American workers
- Insist on congressional action rather than continued abdication of responsibility
- Support legislation that clarifies emergency authority boundaries

Find your representatives: house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative

4. Read Our Full Analysis

This 1,000-word update can't capture the depth of constitutional, economic, and spiritual dimensions at stake.

Our September deep dive examines:

- Complete biblical framework for governmental purpose
- Detailed constitutional analysis through originalist lens
- Economic impact modeling showing what $2 trillion actually means
- Regional effects on specific communities and industries
- The precedent problem for future presidential power
- Congressional responsibility for creating this crisis
- Natural law principles underlying constitutional authority

Read the full analysis: Constitutional Showdown: When Protecting America Collides with Constitutional Process

The Bottom Line

Wednesday's oral arguments won't resolve this crisis immediately. The Court likely won't rule until late December or early 2026. But the arguments will reveal how justices are thinking and what concerns dominate their analysis.

For Christian constitutional conservatives, this case exposes the deepest tensions in our political theology: How do we honor both divine mandates for effective governance **and** constitutional constraints designed to prevent abuse?

There's no perfect answer. That's why the Third Way framework matters—it refuses simplistic solutions while pursuing **justice without partiality**, acknowledging complexity while remaining grounded in biblical truth and constitutional fidelity.

Psalm 127:1 reminds us: "Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain." Our ultimate hope doesn't rest on Supreme Court decisions but on God's sovereignty over nations, courts, and the economic futures of His people.

Still, God commands us to pursue justice, defend the vulnerable, and engage governance challenges with wisdom and courage. Wednesday's arguments represent one crucial moment in that ongoing calling.

The stakes are real. The principles matter. And God remains sovereign over the outcome.

Watch. Pray. Stay informed. And remember that constitutional governance—for all its difficulties—remains one of God's greatest gifts to humanity for restraining evil and promoting human flourishing.

Wednesday, we'll see whether our constitutional system can adapt to modern challenges while preserving the constraints that make it worth defending.

WHAT TO WATCH WEDNESDAY:

Oral Arguments: November 5, 10 AM EST
Audio: Available same-day at supremecourt.gov
Key Players:

- Neal Katyal (representing businesses challenging tariffs)
- U.S. Solicitor General (defending Trump administration)
- Lawyers representing 12 states

Expected ruling: Late December 2025 or January 2026

Comment Policy: We welcome thoughtful and respectful dialogue from all viewpoints. Comments must remain civil, relevant, and free of profanity, personal attacks, or mockery of Christian faith. Disagreement is allowed—disrespect is not.

Jeff Bayard is a devoted Christian, husband of 45 years, father of two, grandfather of three, and content manager at Virginia Christian Alliance, where he champions biblical values, conservative principles, and constitutional truths through the Constitutional Showdown series.

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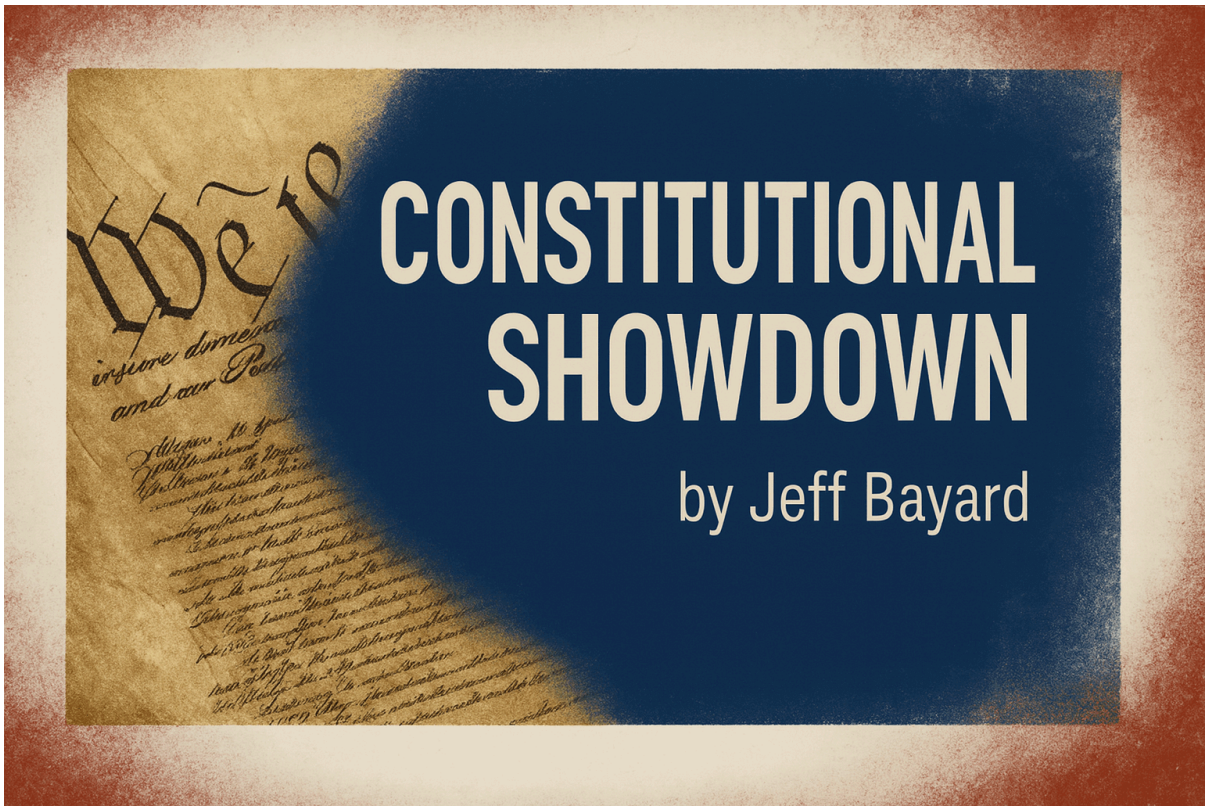
Parental Rights vs. School Authority: What Mahmoud v. Taylor Means for Religious Families

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/PARENTAL-RIGHTS-VS-SCHOOL-AUTHORITY-WHAT-MAHMOUD-V-TAYLOR-MEANS-FOR-RELIGIOUS-FAMILIES/
NOVEMBER 2, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTIONAL SHOWDOWN, PARENTAL RIGHTS, US CONSTITUTION



*The Virginia Christian Alliance continues our **Constitutional Showdown** series framed from the Christian Worldview and Constitutional originalism, exposing how modern courts twist the framers' original intent while equipping believers to defend constitutional truth through faithful citizenship and prayer.*

Can Schools Override Parents on Matters of Faith? The Supreme Court Just Answered.

Four months ago, the Supreme Court handed Christian parents a constitutional victory that many still don't fully understand. But here's what matters most: this is just **ONE county** out of more than **3,144 counties** across America. Montgomery County, Maryland, made national headlines when it eliminated parental opt-outs from LGBTQ-themed elementary school instruction—and parents fought back all the way to the Supreme Court.

The question before the nation: Do government schools have authority to override parents' religious convictions about what their young children are taught regarding sexuality and gender? Or does the First Amendment still protect parental rights when they collide with state educational mandates?

On June 27, 2025, in *Mahmoud v. Taylor*, the Supreme Court ruled 6-3 that Montgomery County violated the Constitution. But the real question facing Christian parents today is simpler and more urgent: **What's being taught in YOUR child's school right now? And do you even know?**

The Montgomery County Battle: How It Started

In November 2022, the Montgomery County Board of Education in Maryland approved several LGBTQ-inclusive children's books as supplemental curriculum for pre-kindergarten through fifth grade. The books included titles like ***Uncle Bobby's Wedding*** (depicting a same-sex wedding), ***Pride Puppy*** (YouTube audio version about a puppy lost at a Pride parade), and ***Born Ready*** (about a transgender child).

Initially, the school district followed its own "Guidelines for Respecting Religious Diversity" and allowed parents to opt their children out of instruction involving these books. Parents received advance notice, and children could be excused from the classroom during those lessons—the same accommodation provided for other religiously sensitive content.

Then everything changed. In March 2023, less than five months after introducing the books, the school board issued a stunning reversal: **no more opt-outs "for any reason."** No more advance notice to parents. Mandatory attendance. The board justified the decision by claiming opt-outs caused "classroom disruption" and that excusing students might expose LGBTQ-identifying children to "social stigma."

Three families—Muslim parents Tamer Mahmoud and Enas Barakat, Catholic parents Chris and Melissa Persak, and Ukrainian Orthodox parents Jeff and Svitlana Roman—filed suit in May 2023. They argued the policy violated their First Amendment right to direct their children's religious upbringing. Both the federal district court and the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against them, claiming the case didn't meet the constitutional threshold for religious liberty violations.

The parents appealed to the Supreme Court. And the nation watched.

What Scripture Says About Parental Authority

Before examining the Court's constitutional reasoning, we must understand the biblical foundation. God's Word is unambiguous: **parents, not governments, bear primary**

responsibility for their children's moral and spiritual formation.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 provides the clearest command: *"And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."*

This isn't a suggestion—it's a divine mandate. God charges parents with the duty to instruct their children continuously in His truth. The Hebrew word translated "teach diligently" (*shanan*) means to sharpen, to repeat, to impress deeply. Parents are to shape their children's understanding of reality according to God's Word—not delegate that authority to Caesar.

Ephesians 6:4 reinforces this principle in the New Testament: *"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."* The Greek word for "bring up" (*ektrepho*) means to nourish, to rear, to educate. God commands fathers specifically—and parents generally—to provide biblical instruction. This responsibility cannot be transferred to the state.

Proverbs 22:6 promises: *"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."* Training (*chanak*) implies intentional, directed formation of a child's character and worldview. When schools teach content contradicting biblical truth about sexuality, marriage, and gender, they undermine parents' God-given mandate.

The principle is foundational: parental authority over children's upbringing is **pre-political**. It existed before governments were formed. God ordained the family before He ordained civil authority (Romans 13:1-7). When government schools demand that Christian parents surrender their children's moral formation to state-approved curriculum, they're not just violating the Constitution—they're violating the created order itself.

The Constitutional Framework: Original Intent on Parental Rights

The Framers understood what Montgomery County forgot: **government doesn't grant parental rights; it merely recognizes them**. The First Amendment states: "Congress shall make no law… prohibiting the free exercise" of religion. This isn't permission—it's a limitation on government power.

Justice Samuel Alito, writing for the 6-3 majority, grounded the decision in *Wisconsin v. Yoder* (1972), where the Court held that Amish parents could withdraw their children from compulsory high school education because it conflicted with fundamental religious practice. The *Yoder* Court recognized that forcing Amish teenagers into public high school would "substantially interfere with the religious development of the Amish child" and impose "precisely the kind of objective danger to the free exercise of religion that the First Amendment was designed to prevent."

Lower courts had dismissed *Yoder* as applicable only to the Amish—a "sui generis" case tied to their "unique" religious practices. Justice Alito rejected this reasoning decisively: "As if a religion had to be a quaint tourist attraction to receive constitutional protection," one analyst noted. The Constitution protects all sincere religious convictions, not just photogenic ones.

The *Mahmoud* Court applied **strict scrutiny**—the highest level of constitutional review. Why? Because Maryland law makes education compulsory under threat of fines and imprisonment. Parents aren't simply "forgoing a public benefit"; they face criminal penalties if they refuse to send children to schools that undermine their faith. As Alito wrote, parents shouldn't have to choose between "public education and raising their children according to their religious faiths when educational alternatives can be prohibitively expensive."

This aligns with the Framers' intent. When drafting the First Amendment, they erected a wall protecting religious exercise from government interference. They understood that authentic religious liberty means freedom to live according to conscience—including how parents raise their children. Government schools exist to serve families, not to supplant parental authority on matters of faith and morals.

Applying the Framework: Why Montgomery County Lost

Justice Alito outlined specific factors showing the school board's policy "substantially interfered" with parents' religious exercise:

First, the content itself: The books weren't merely depicting LGBTQ characters incidentally. They were designed—by the district's own admission—to "disrupt" children's thinking about sexuality and gender. Teacher guidance documents instructed educators to correct children who expressed traditional beliefs. If a kindergartner said, "He can't be a boy if he was born a girl," teachers were urged to respond: "That comment is hurtful."

Second, the age of the children: These weren't high schoolers capable of critical analysis. These were pre-K through fifth-graders—ages 4 to 11—at the most impressionable stage of development. The Court noted that young children "love their teachers and implicitly trust them," making them particularly vulnerable to messages contradicting parental instruction.

Third, the coercive nature: Because Maryland compels school attendance and Montgomery County mandated participation without notice or opt-out, parents faced an impossible choice: violate criminal law by withdrawing children, pay for private school they couldn't afford, or watch their children receive instruction directly contradicting their faith. The Court recognized this as textbook coercion.

Fourth, the hostile framing: The books didn't merely present different viewpoints; they characterized biblical beliefs as "hurtful" and "hateful." As Justice Alito noted, the curriculum suggested "it is hurtful, and perhaps even hateful, to hold the view that gender is inextricably bound with biological sex." This isn't neutral education—it's indoctrination with a clear normative message.

The school board argued it had a "compelling interest" in creating an inclusive environment. The Court didn't dispute schools' interest in teaching respect and civility. But **administrative convenience doesn't override constitutional rights**. The board's claim that opt-outs caused "disruption" failed strict scrutiny. As one legal analyst observed: "Translation: parental rights are inconvenient. But inconvenience doesn't override the Constitution."

What the Opposition Says—and Why It Fails

Justice Sonia Sotomayor authored a lengthy dissent, joined by Justices Elena Kagan and Ketanji Brown Jackson. Her 38-page opinion warned of "chaos" if schools must provide opt-outs for any curriculum implicating religious beliefs. She argued the majority "invents a constitutional right to avoid exposure to 'subtle' themes 'contrary to the religious principles' that parents wish to instill."

Representative Jamie Raskin of Maryland called the decision "cruel" and questioned whether it would allow students to opt out of evolution, history lessons about wars, or classes taught by female teachers—all of which some religions might find objectionable.

These concerns, while understandable, fundamentally misread both the Constitution and the Court's holding.

First, the Court didn't create a blanket right to opt out of any content parents dislike. The holding is **fact-intensive**, requiring analysis of the specific religious beliefs asserted, the nature of the instruction, the age of children, and whether the content is "hostile" to religious beliefs and designed to impose "pressure to conform." Not every parental objection meets this standard.

Second, there's a meaningful distinction between **exposure to ideas** and **compelled affirmation**. Teaching that some people believe in evolution differs from requiring children to affirm evolutionary theory as truth. Similarly, learning that same-sex marriage exists legally differs from instruction designed to "disrupt" children's beliefs about marriage and present traditional views as "hurtful."

Third, the slippery slope argument ignores 250 years of constitutional history. Public schools have long taught controversial content without collapsing into chaos. The Constitution doesn't require schools to eliminate all potentially objectionable material—only that they provide reasonable accommodations when curriculum substantially burdens sincere religious exercise.

Fourth, Montgomery County itself provided opt-outs initially without the sky falling. The "chaos" argument is disproven by the district's own prior practice.

The Framers designed the First Amendment precisely for situations like this: when government action threatens to undermine parents' ability to raise children according to religious conviction, **the Constitution sides with parents**—not bureaucrats who find accommodations "inconvenient."

The Spiritual Battle Behind the Legal Battle

As Christians, we must recognize what's happening beneath the surface. **Ephesians 6:12** warns: *"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."*

The Montgomery County case isn't ultimately about five children's books. It's about **who shapes the next generation's understanding of reality**: Will children learn that God created male and female in His image (Genesis 1:27), or that gender is fluid and self-determined? Will they understand marriage as a covenant between one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:4-6), or as whatever adults choose to define it?

Satan's strategy hasn't changed since Eden: "*Did God actually say…?*" (Genesis 3:1). He targets children because they're vulnerable, impressionable, and represent the future. When schools teach kindergartners that biological sex doesn't determine gender, they're not just presenting an alternative viewpoint—they're **attacking the created order** and sowing confusion where God established clarity.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 reminds us: *"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."* God's Word provides the standard for training children. When schools contradict that standard, Christian parents must stand firm—even if it means litigation, even if it means sacrifice, even if it means swimming upstream against cultural pressure.

This isn't about hatred toward anyone. Christians are commanded to love all people, including those identifying as LGBTQ (Matthew 22:39). But **love doesn't require affirming lies**. We can treat all people with dignity and respect while maintaining that God's design for sexuality and gender is good, true, and beneficial. The *Mahmoud* parents didn't seek to ban books or silence other perspectives; they simply asked for the right to control **when and how** their young children encountered content contradicting their faith. The Constitution granted that right.

What This Means for You: Action Steps for Christian Parents

Here's the uncomfortable truth: **Montgomery County is just one of 3,144 counties in America**. Right now, at this moment, similar content may be in your child's classroom, school library, or county library system—and you might have no idea.

Following the *Mahmoud* ruling, Montgomery County approved **58 opt-out requests from 43 families**. But how many Christian parents in that county still don't know what their children are being taught? How many haven't investigated? How many assume their schools are safe?

The Supreme Court gave you a constitutional weapon. But weapons are useless if left in the armory. Here's what you must do:

Investigate Your School District:

1. **Submit public records requests** – Use your state's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to obtain complete book lists for your child's grade level and school library catalog
2. **Visit the classroom** – Schedule time with your child's teacher to review books available during "independent reading time" and supplemental curriculum materials
3. **Attend school board meetings** – Ask direct questions about LGBTQ-inclusive curriculum, notice policies, and opt-out procedures
4. **Review online resources** – Check if your district posts curriculum materials online; many don't, which should raise red flags

Check Your County Library System: Search your library catalog for these specific titles from the *Mahmoud* case:

- *Uncle Bobby's Wedding* by Sarah S. Brannen
- *Pride Puppy* by Robin Stevenson
- *Born Ready: The True Story of a Boy Named Penelope* by Jodie Patterson
- *Prince & Knight* by Daniel Haack
- *IntersectionAllies: We Make Room for All* by Chelsea Johnson

If these books are in your library's children's section, similar content may be in your schools.

Document Everything:

- Screenshot book titles, descriptions, and library locations
- Record school board meeting responses (video if permitted)
- Save all written communications with teachers and administrators

- Photograph classroom materials when legally permitted
- Create a paper trail showing you've requested information and accommodations

Know Your Rights Under *Mahmoud*:

- Schools must provide **advance notice** before using content that substantially interferes with religious upbringing
- You can request **opt-outs** based on sincere religious conviction
- Districts cannot deny requests merely because accommodations are "inconvenient" or "disruptive"
- The burden is on schools to prove a compelling interest that survives strict scrutiny
- Criminal compulsory education laws cannot coerce you into choosing between your faith and your child's public education

Connect with Legal Resources: If your school denies your request or retaliates, contact these organizations immediately:

- **Becket Fund for Religious Liberty** (represented the *Mahmoud* parents): becketlaw.org
- **Alliance Defending Freedom**: adflegal.org
- **Liberty Counsel**: lc.org
- **First Liberty Institute**: firstliberty.org

Prayer and Community Action: Don't fight alone. **Galatians 6:2** commands: *"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."*

- Form prayer groups specifically focused on your local schools
- Connect with other Christian parents in your district
- Attend school board meetings together—strength in numbers matters
- Support pastors and church leaders willing to address these issues publicly
- Vote in school board elections (most Christians don't, which is why these boards often go unchecked)

Follow National Developments: The *Mahmoud* case was remanded to lower courts for final resolution. Implementation details are still being worked out. Stay informed by:

- Subscribing to alerts from the legal organizations listed above
- Following *Mahmoud v. Taylor* updates on SCOTUSblog (scotusblog.com)
- Joining parental rights advocacy groups in your state
- Connecting with other Christian parents through church networks

The Stakes: Why This Battle Matters

Make no mistake: this is a battle for the next generation's souls. **Proverbs 23:26** says: *"My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways."* God commands parents to capture their children's hearts for His truth. Government schools increasingly work to capture those same hearts for a different message.

Some will call this alarmist. They'll say you're overreacting, that these are just "inclusive" books promoting "kindness." But **words matter, and so does timing**. There's a reason these books target pre-K through fifth grade—ages when children's worldviews are most malleable, when they trust authority figures implicitly, when they haven't yet developed the critical thinking skills to evaluate competing truth claims.

The Supreme Court recognized this. Justice Alito noted that the Romanian parents feared their son, who "loves his teachers and implicitly trusts them," would be particularly vulnerable to instruction contradicting their beliefs. Young children don't have the cognitive capacity to compartmentalize: "Teacher says this is true, but Mom and Dad say it's false—I'll figure that out later." They integrate what they're taught. And if schools teach that biological sex doesn't determine gender, that same-sex marriage is equivalent to biblical marriage, that people can be "born in the wrong body"—children will absorb those messages as truth.

Matthew 18:6 contains one of Jesus's sternest warnings: *"But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea."* God takes threats to children's faith seriously. So should we.

The Hope: God's Sovereignty and Our Responsibility

The outcome of *Mahmoud v. Taylor* is encouraging, but our hope doesn't rest on Supreme Court decisions. **Psalm 127:1** reminds us: *"Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain."*

God is sovereign over nations, courts, and school boards. He remains on His throne regardless of legal outcomes. But sovereignty doesn't negate responsibility. God commands us to defend the vulnerable, to stand for truth, to train our children in righteousness. The *Mahmoud* victory is a tool God has provided—but tools require wielders.

Psalm 78:4-7 provides the long-term vision: *"We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done…that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments."*

This is why we fight: not just for our children, but for their children, and their children's children. The faith must be transmitted from generation to generation. When schools undermine that transmission, parents must push back—not in anger, but in faithful obedience to God's command to shepherd the next generation toward Christ.

Conclusion: Parents, Not Bureaucrats, Hold Authority

On June 27, 2025, the Supreme Court declared what Scripture established millennia ago: **parental authority over children's upbringing is not subject to bureaucratic veto**. When government schools collide with religious conviction, the Free Exercise Clause protects families from coercion.

But this victory means nothing if Christian parents remain unaware of what's being taught in their own communities. Montgomery County is one of 3,144 counties. One school district among thousands. The question isn't what happened in Maryland four months ago—the question is **what's happening in YOUR school today**.

The Framers designed the Constitution to protect religious liberty. They understood that authentic freedom requires limiting government power over families. Justice Alito's majority opinion vindicated that design. As he wrote: "The right of parents 'to direct the religious upbringing of their' children would be an empty promise if it did not follow those children into the public school classroom."

For Christian parents, the path forward is clear:

1. **Investigate** what your children are being taught
2. **Assert** your constitutional rights when necessary
3. **Document** everything for potential legal action
4. **Connect** with other faithful parents and legal resources
5. **Pray** for wisdom, courage, and God's protection over the next generation

The government doesn't own your children. You do.

The Supreme Court has confirmed it. Now you must defend it.

Toughtful and respectful dialogue from all viewpoints. Comments must remain civil, relevant, and free of profanity, personal attacks, or mockery of Christian faith. Disagreement is allowed—disrespect is not.

Jeff Bayard is a devoted Christian, husband of 45 years, father of two, grandfather of three, and content manager at Virginia Christian Alliance, where he champions biblical values, conservative principles,

and constitutional truths through the Constitutional Showdown series.

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Constitutional Showdown: Alleged Election Subversion and the Crisis of Sovereignty

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/CONSTITUTIONAL-SHOWDOWN-ELECTION-INTEGRITY-SOVEREIGNTY/
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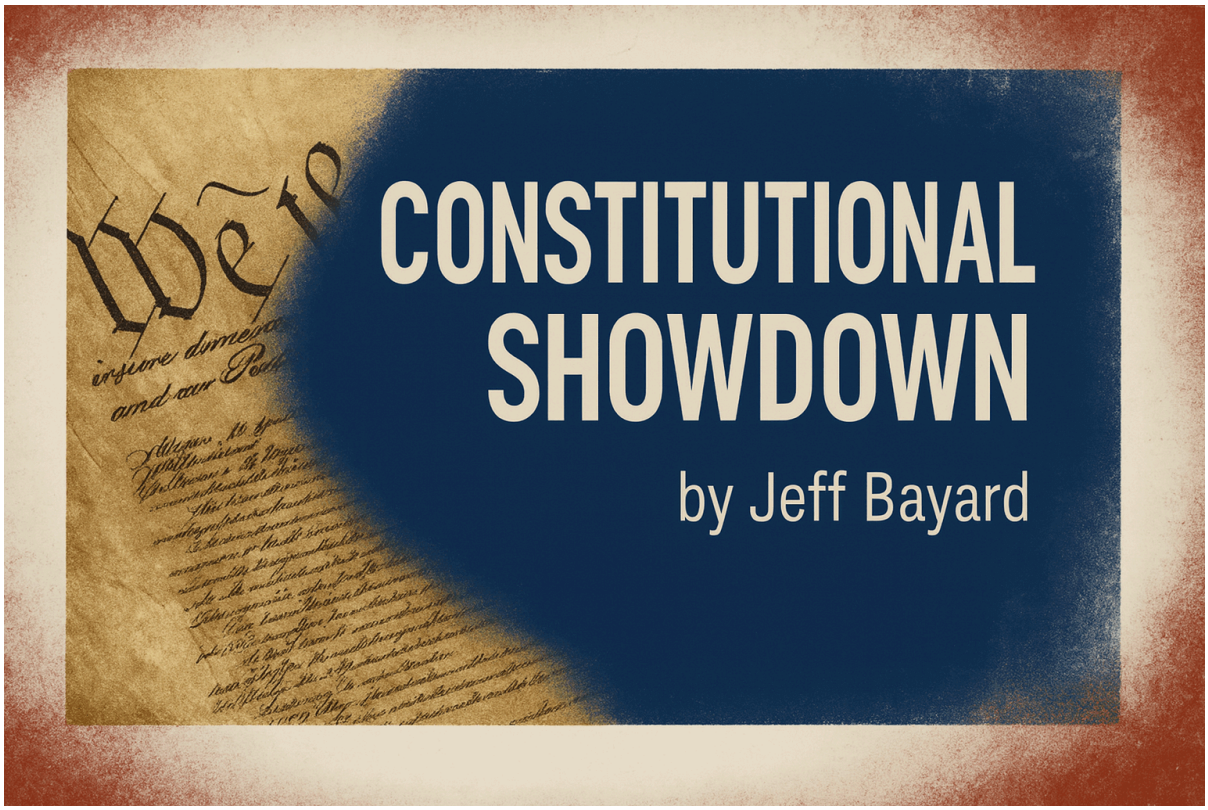


Scripture warns that when nations abandon truth, "judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off" (Isaiah 59:14). America now faces a moment that tests not only our politics but our covenant with God Himself.

Our **Constitutional Showdown** series calls believers to defend America's founding truth—where faith, law, and liberty stand against courts that twist the framers' intent.

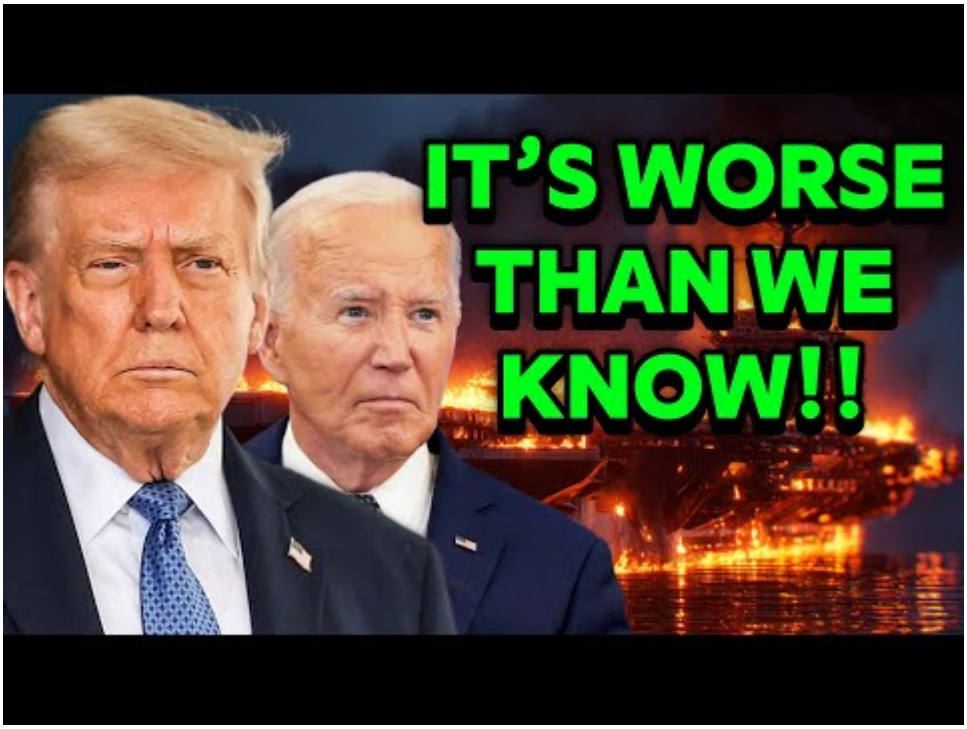
A Former CIA Officer's Alarming Allegations

In an interview now circulating widely online, former CIA Station Chief **Gary Berntsen** describes what he claims is an international effort to subvert America's elections through Venezuelan criminal networks, cartel financing, and compromised technology systems. These are serious allegations, not verified findings—but if even partially true, they raise constitutional issues of the highest order.

Berntsen, a veteran of post-9/11 counterterrorism operations, asserts that evidence links elements of the Maduro regime, transnational cartels, and election-technology intermediaries to a broader "hybrid war" against the United States. According to his account, these networks have penetrated financial, political, and even intelligence structures—undermining both national security and the people's consent to be governed.

For believers who see government as ordained by God to reward good and restrain evil (Romans 13), these claims strike at the moral heart of self-government. Truth in elections is not merely procedural—it's covenantal. A stolen or manipulated vote is an assault on both the Constitution and the moral order established by God.

🚨 **Trump Just Got THE EVIDENCE We've Been Waiting For - Biden Cartel Deal EXPOSED!**
https://youtube.com/watch?v=VdSZZqAWaLg



Watch the interview: *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VdSZZqAWaLg*

If True, the Implications Are Grave

If Berntsen's statements prove accurate, the United States would be confronting an act of foreign-backed treason—not simply corruption or negligence. The Constitution charges the federal government to "protect each State against invasion" (Article IV, Section 4). Subversion through digital or cartel channels would constitute a new form of invasion, one waged not with armies but with algorithms, trafficking routes, and laundered money.

The alleged coordination among hostile regimes would also test the integrity of our own institutions. Berntsen contends that some U.S. officials were aware of, or willfully blind to, foreign interference. If that were ever proven, it would represent a betrayal of oath and office on a historic scale.

Constitutional Sovereignty Under Assault

At stake is more than an election year—it's the sovereignty of "We the People." The Founders built safeguards precisely for moments like this: transparent elections, decentralized control, and accountability to state legislatures. When those safeguards are bypassed through unsecured mail-in systems, unsupervised drop boxes, or privately funded counting operations, the rule of law itself begins to erode.

America must return to verifiable, auditable, paper-based voting, limited absentee ballots, and strict chain-of-custody enforcement. These are not partisan talking points—they are

constitutional protections ensuring that every lawful vote counts and every unlawful vote does not.

A Moral and Spiritual Reckoning

Scripture warns that when nations tolerate deceit, “truth has fallen in the street” (Isaiah 59:14). Whether or not every claim in this interview proves accurate, the spiritual diagnosis is clear: our culture has grown comfortable with deception. The crisis before us is not only political; it is moral. Integrity in government flows from integrity in the heart.

As citizens of both heaven and this republic, we must demand light over darkness, law over lawlessness, and courage over compromise. Paper ballots alone will not save a nation—but repentance and truth can.

Call to Vigilance and Prayer

The Virginia Christian Alliance calls believers to pray, to speak truth wisely, and to engage peacefully in the restoration of constitutional order. The future of liberty depends on citizens who fear God more than men.

“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.” — Proverbs 14:34

Constitutional Showdown – examining the legal and moral battles testing America’s covenantal foundations.
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Louisiana v. Callais: Why the Framers Rejected Both Racial Gerrymandering AND Racial Quotas

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/LOUISIANA-CALLAIS-FRAMERS-THIRD-WAY-VOTING-RIGHTS/
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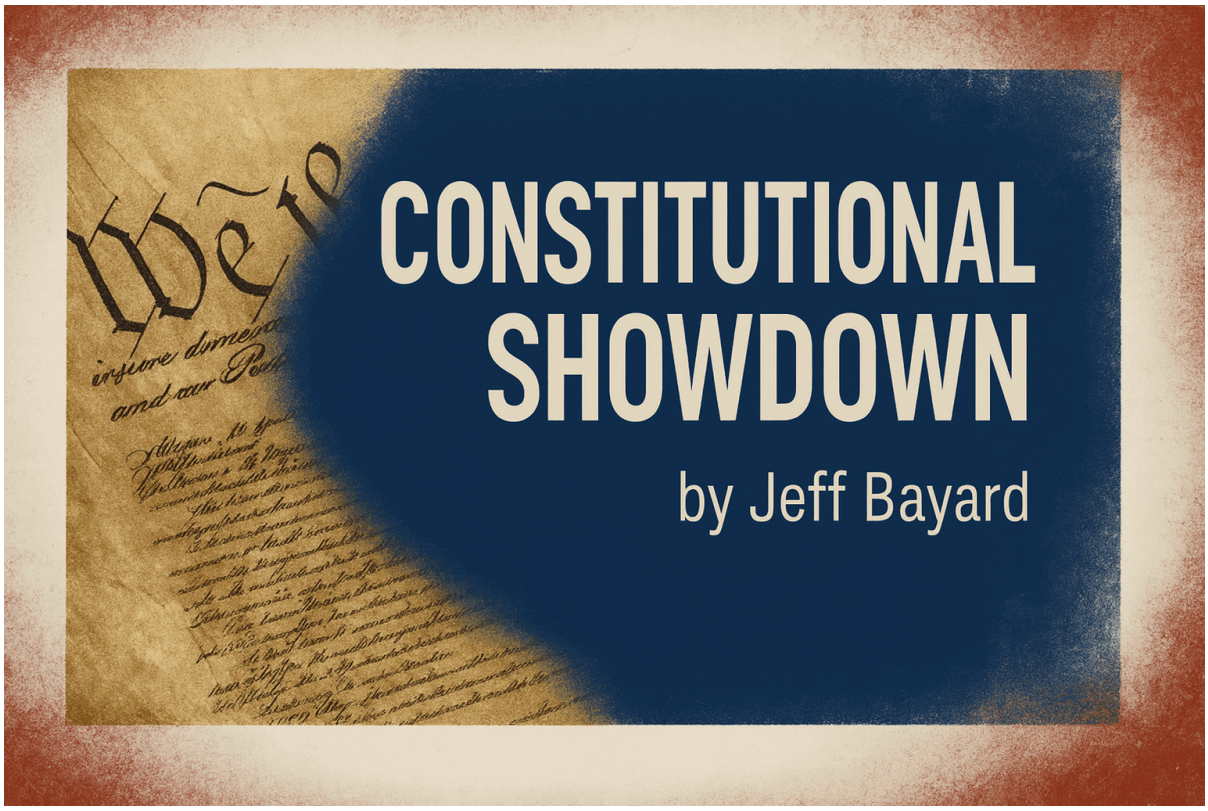

*The Virginia Christian Alliance continues our **Constitutional Showdown** series with an urgent examination of Louisiana v. Callais—a case that will either gut the Voting Rights Act or cement racial proportionality forever, unless the Supreme Court recovers the **Third Way** the Reconstruction Framers originally intended. The definition of the Third Way from a Christian and constitutional perspective is in the references and/or linked **(Third Way detailed concept)**.*

SCOTUS poised to gut Voting Rights Act—or cement racial proportionality forever.

The Reconstruction Framers' Christian worldview charted a Third Way.

The Impossible Choice Louisiana Faces

On October 15, 2025, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in a case that could reshape American democracy for generations. **Louisiana v. Callais** asks a deceptively simple question:

> **Can states intentionally create majority-minority congressional districts to remedy racial discrimination without violating the Constitution's prohibition on racial classifications?**

The question matters because Louisiana finds itself caught in what the Heritage Foundation calls an "impossible" bind:

- In 2022, Louisiana drew a congressional map with only one majority-Black district (despite Black residents comprising 33% of the state's population).
- Federal courts ruled this map likely violated Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act by diluting Black voting power.
- In 2024, Louisiana redrew the map to include a second majority-Black district to comply with the court order.
- White voters immediately sued, claiming the new map is unconstitutional racial gerrymandering.

Louisiana argues it's trapped: **violate** the Voting Rights Act, **or violate** the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause. The state now claims—abandoning its previous position—that ALL race-conscious redistricting is unconstitutional.

Civil rights groups counter that without race-conscious remedies, states will return to the systematic vote dilution that plagued the South for a century after Reconstruction.

Both sides offer false choices. The Reconstruction Framers embedded a Third Way in the Constitution itself—and recovering their original intent is the only path forward.

The Biblical Foundation: Individual Dignity Without Group Preferences

Before examining the constitutional issues, we establish the biblical framework. Scripture speaks clearly to both the dignity of every person AND the danger of partiality based on group identity.

Genesis 1:27 declares that God created humanity in His image—not as racial collectives, but as individual image-bearers. Every person, regardless of ethnicity, bears equal dignity before God. This theological truth undergirds the Constitution's recognition of individual rights.

Leviticus 19:15 commands: "You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor." God demands justice without favoritism in *either* direction. We cannot discriminate against minorities, nor can we show partiality toward them by mandating proportional outcomes.

This biblical principle—equal justice under law for individuals, not group-based outcomes—must guide our constitutional analysis.

What the 15th Amendment Framers Actually Intended

The Reconstruction Amendments—particularly the 15th Amendment—lie at the heart of this case. Understanding the Framers' original intent is essential.

The 15th Amendment states clearly: *"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude."*

Notice the language: 'shall not be DENIED or ABRIDGED.'

This is prohibition language, not mandate language. The Framers forbade states from discriminating against Black voters. They did NOT require states to engineer proportional racial outcomes in legislative representation.

The historical context confirms this interpretation. As the Heritage Foundation documents, the Reconstruction Framers knew Southern states would attempt to suppress Black voting through literacy tests, poll taxes, grandfather clauses, and other discriminatory devices. The 15th Amendment aimed to STOP these evils.

But the Framers never contemplated—and certainly never intended—that courts would require states to draw district lines primarily based on race to achieve proportional representation. Such race-conscious redistricting would have struck them as violating the very principle of equal protection they sought to establish.

Senator Jacob Howard, who introduced the 14th Amendment, *explicitly stated* that the amendment aimed to ensure equal protection of the laws—not preferential treatment. The 15th Amendment extended this principle specifically to voting rights.

Original Intent Is Clear: Prohibit racial discrimination in voting. Do not mandate racial proportionality in outcomes.

The Framers' Christian Worldview Explains the Third Way

Why did the Reconstruction Framers choose prohibition language over mandate language? Why did they forbid racial discrimination without requiring proportional representation? The answer lies in their deeply Christian understanding of human nature, justice, and government.

The architects of the 14th and 15th Amendments—men like Senator Jacob Howard, Congressman John Bingham, Senator Charles Sumner, and Congressman Thaddeus Stevens—operated from a biblical worldview that shaped every aspect of the Reconstruction Amendments.

First, they believed in individual human dignity grounded in Genesis 1:27. God created humanity in His image—each person an individual soul before God, not merely a member of a racial collective. This theology explains why the 14th Amendment protects "persons" and guarantees "equal protection" to individuals, not racial groups. The Framers rejected the idea that citizens should be sorted into permanent racial categories with group-based entitlements.

When Senator Howard introduced the 14th Amendment, he grounded equal protection in the principle that all persons possess equal dignity and deserve equal treatment under law. This wasn't abstract political theory—it was applied Christian anthropology.

Second, they understood the reality of sin and fallen human nature (Romans 3:23). The Reconstruction Framers weren't naive idealists who believed good intentions would prevent discrimination. They knew that without accountability mechanisms, Southern states would systematically suppress Black voting. Human sinfulness—including racial prejudice—required constitutional guardrails.

This explains why they included enforcement provisions in both amendments. Section 5 of the 14th Amendment and Section 2 of the 15th Amendment gave Congress power to pass "appropriate legislation" to prevent discrimination. The Framers created tools to stop evil, knowing that fallen humanity gravitates toward injustice without accountability.

Third, they applied Leviticus 19:15's principle of justice without partiality. "You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor." The Framers understood that biblical justice means treating individuals equally under law—neither discriminating against minorities NOR showing them favoritism through group preferences.

This theology explains the 15th Amendment's precise language. It prohibits denying the vote "on account of race"—stopping discrimination. But it doesn't mandate that states engineer districts to achieve racial proportionality—which would constitute race-based favoritism. Both extremes violate the biblical standard of impartial justice.

Fourth, they rejected the idea that racial identity determines political representation. The Framers believed Christians of all races could represent one another because shared humanity and common principles matter more than skin color. They would have found absurd the modern assumption that only Black representatives can adequately represent Black constituents, as if race determines one's capacity for just governance.

Galatians 3:28 teaches that "there is neither Jew nor Greek" in Christ—not erasing distinctions, but subordinating them to our common humanity and shared principles. The Reconstruction Framers applied this theology to civic life: citizens relate to government as individuals under law, not as permanent members of racialized political tribes.

This Christian worldview produced the Third Way embedded in the Reconstruction Amendments:

• Prohibit racial discrimination (because it's sin and injustice)
• Create enforcement mechanisms (because fallen humanity requires accountability)
• Treat citizens as individuals, not racial groups (because of Genesis 1:27)
• Reject mandating proportional outcomes (because that's racial favoritism, violating Leviticus 19:15)

The Framers chose prohibition over mandate because their biblical theology demanded it. They knew discrimination was evil and must be stopped. But they also knew that sorting citizens into racial categories and mandating group-based outcomes violates the principle that all stand equal before God and under law.

Modern courts departed from this framework in two directions: Conservatives who ignore the prohibition on discrimination, and liberals who impose racial proportionality mandates. Both extremes abandon the Framers' Christian constitutional vision.

The Third Way isn't a modern compromise—it's originalism. It's what the Reconstruction Framers actually intended, grounded in the biblical worldview that shaped their constitutional design.

When Justice Kavanaugh asks whether race-based remedies need an "endpoint," he echoes the Framers' theology. Yes—because the Constitution, reflecting biblical principles, treats racial classifications as inherently suspect. They can be used temporarily to remedy proven discrimination, but they cannot become permanent features of governance. That would violate the very principle of individual dignity and equal protection the Framers sought to establish.

The Reconstruction Amendments embody applied Christian political theology: Stop discrimination, honor individual dignity, reject group-based preferences, ensure accountability for sin. This is the Third Way—and it's what the Constitution has required all along.

The Constitutional Problem With Section 2 (Post-1982)

The **Voting Rights Act of 1965** originally prohibited intentional discrimination in voting. This aligned perfectly with the 15th Amendment's original meaning.

But in 1982, Congress amended Section 2 to ban voting practices that have a racially disproportionate *"result"* or *"effect"*—even without proof of discriminatory intent.

As the Heritage Foundation persuasively argues, this amendment raises serious constitutional questions. The 14th and 15th Amendments prohibit state *disparate treatment* on the basis of race. They do NOT prohibit mere *disparate impact*.

When Congress enacted Section 2's disparate impact standard, it arguably exceeded its enforcement authority under Section 5 of the 14th Amendment and Section 2 of the 15th Amendment. The Reconstruction Amendments authorize Congress to pass "appropriate legislation" to enforce their prohibitions—but Congress cannot create new constitutional rights or prohibitions that the amendments themselves don't contain.

The Supreme Court established in *City of Boerne v. Flores* (1997) that Congress's enforcement power is "remedial" rather than "substantive." Congress can remedy constitutional violations, but it cannot redefine what constitutes a violation.

Section 2's disparate impact standard does exactly what *Boerne* forbids: it treats racially disproportionate outcomes as constitutional violations even when no discriminatory intent exists. This exceeds congressional authority.

The 'Proportionality' Trap

After the 1982 amendment, the obvious question became: How do courts determine if minority voting power has been "diluted"? Diluted compared to what?

The answer that emerged—through the Supreme Court's 1986 decision in *Thornburg v. Gingles* and subsequent cases—was proportionality. If a minority group comprises 33% of a state's population, it should have roughly 33% of the congressional seats.

But here's the problem:

Section 2 explicitly states: *"nothing in this section establishes a right to have members of a protected class elected in numbers equal to their proportion in the population."*

The statute itself repudiates proportionality as the legal standard. Yet proportionality has become the de facto test in practice. As Voting Rights Act scholar Abigail Thernstrom documented, Section 2 morphed into exactly what Congress said it wasn't: a proportional representation mandate.

This creates the **Catch-22** Louisiana now faces: Courts tell states they must create majority-minority districts to comply with Section 2, but creating such districts means making race the predominant factor in redistricting—which violates the 14th Amendment's ban on racial classifications.

The Heritage Foundation is right: this is an "impossible" situation created by judicial and congressional overreach beyond the Constitution's original meaning.

Why Louisiana's Position Goes Too Far

Louisiana now argues that ALL race-conscious redistricting violates the Constitution. This position abandons the 2024 map the state previously defended and goes further than necessary.

Louisiana's error is threefold:

First, it ignores the reality of intentional discrimination. Louisiana's 2022 map didn't accidentally dilute Black voting power—it systematically packed Black voters into a single district to minimize their statewide influence. Federal courts found this likely violated Section 2. Pretending such discrimination doesn't exist serves neither truth nor justice.

Second, it dismisses the lessons of history. For a century after Reconstruction, Southern states used every conceivable method to suppress Black voting. Literacy tests. Poll taxes. Grandfather clauses. White primaries. Racial gerrymandering. The Voting Rights Act exists because states demonstrated—repeatedly—that left to their own devices, they WOULD discriminate.

A Christian understanding of original sin and fallen human nature confirms this historical reality. Romans 3:23 reminds us that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Racial prejudice is one manifestation of that sin. Accountability measures serve a legitimate purpose.

Third, Louisiana's "race-blind" absolutism creates perverse incentives. If states can never consider race when remedying proven discrimination, they face no consequences for intentional vote dilution. Draw a discriminatory map, get sued, lose in court—then claim you're prohibited from fixing it because any remedy would be "race-conscious." This is bad-faith constitutional avoidance.

The 15th Amendment Framers intended to PROHIBIT racial discrimination in voting. Louisiana's position would make that prohibition toothless.

Why the Liberal VRA Interpretation Also Fails

But civil rights groups defending Louisiana's 2024 map also depart from constitutional originalism. Their error lies in treating proportional representation as a constitutional entitlement.

First, they ignore the text of Section 2 itself. The statute explicitly disclaims any right to proportional representation. Yet the *Gingles* framework—which requires showing a minority group is "sufficiently large and geographically compact to constitute a majority" in a district—effectively mandates proportionality in practice.

If Black voters comprise 33% of Louisiana's population and courts require drawing districts where they can elect candidates of choice, the mathematical result is districts drawn primarily on racial lines to achieve that outcome.

Second, they make race the predominant factor in redistricting. The 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause prohibits racial classifications except in the narrowest circumstances with compelling justification. As Justice Clarence Thomas has argued, "The Constitution abhors classifications based on race."

When courts mandate majority-minority districts, race becomes THE primary consideration—overriding traditional redistricting principles like compactness, preserving communities of interest, respecting county boundaries, and maintaining incumbents. This inverts the constitutional priority.

Third, they treat citizens as members of racial groups rather than individuals. The liberal VRA interpretation presumes that Black voters have uniform political interests distinct from white voters, and that only Black representatives can adequately represent Black constituents. This racialist thinking contradicts both the Constitution's color-blind ideal and biblical anthropology.

Galatians 3:28 declares: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." While Paul addresses spiritual unity, the principle extends to civic life: we are individuals before God and under law, not permanent members of racialized political blocs.

Fourth, they provide no limiting principle or endpoint. Justice Brett Kavanaugh pressed this point during oral arguments: should race-based remedies continue indefinitely? The Court held in

Students for Fair Admissions (2023) that affirmative action must have an endpoint because "the Equal Protection Clause is designed to forbid, not accommodate, race-based classifications."

If race-conscious redistricting has no temporal limit and no objective standard for when discrimination has been remedied, it becomes a permanent feature of American democracy—exactly what the 14th Amendment forbids.

The Third Way: Originalist Anti-Discrimination

Those committed to constitutional originalism must reject both extremes. The choice isn't between ignoring racial discrimination and mandating racial quotas. The Reconstruction Framers embedded a principled middle path in the Constitution itself.

The Third Way Framework:

1. Apply neutral redistricting criteria as the primary standard. States should draw districts based on traditional, race-neutral principles: compactness, contiguity, preserving communities of interest, respecting political subdivisions, and maintaining incumbents where appropriate. These criteria should drive the process.

2. Prohibit intentional racial discrimination. If evidence shows a state deliberately drew district lines to suppress minority voting power—packing minority voters into as few districts as possible or cracking them across many districts to dilute their influence—courts should strike down such maps as violating the 15th Amendment.

3. Require proof of discriminatory intent, not mere disparate impact. The burden should rest on plaintiffs to demonstrate that mapmakers acted with discriminatory purpose. Showing that a race-neutral map produces racially disproportionate results is insufficient. The Constitution prohibits *disparate treatment*, not *disparate impact*.

This returns Section 2 to its pre-1982 interpretation: banning intentional discrimination while allowing states flexibility in how they draw districts.

4. Allow race as A factor, never THE predominant factor. When remedying proven intentional discrimination, states may consider race among multiple factors. But race cannot be the primary driver that overrides all other considerations. If neutral criteria produce majority-minority districts, fine. If not, also fine—so long as no discriminatory intent exists.

5. This framework honors BOTH Reconstruction Amendments. The 14th Amendment prohibits racial classifications. The 15th Amendment prohibits racial discrimination in voting. By

requiring proof of discriminatory intent while forbidding race-predominant redistricting, the Third Way reconciles both amendments.

Why This Approach Matters for Louisiana

Applied to Louisiana's situation, the Third Way offers a clear resolution:

Louisiana's 2022 map deserved scrutiny. If evidence showed the legislature deliberately packed Black voters into a single district to minimize their statewide influence—and Louisiana Republicans' own statements about "protecting" white incumbents suggest this—then courts should have demanded a new map.

But the remedy should not be a map drawn primarily on racial lines. Instead, Louisiana should redraw districts using traditional, neutral criteria. If those criteria naturally produce two majority-minority districts (because Louisiana's Black population is geographically concentrated in particular regions), that's constitutional.

If neutral criteria produce only one majority-Black district, that's also constitutional—so long as no discriminatory intent drove the result. The Constitution requires equal treatment, not equal outcomes.

The difference is subtle but critical: Is race THE reason for the district configuration, or is it an incidental result of applying neutral principles? The first violates the 14th Amendment. The second does not.

The Stakes: More Than Just Louisiana

Louisiana v. Callais will determine far more than Louisiana's congressional map. This case could reshape American redistricting for a generation.

If the Court sides with Louisiana's absolutist position:

• Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act could be effectively gutted
• The 39-year-old *Thornburg v. Gingles* standard would be overturned
• States would face minimal constraints on racially discriminatory redistricting
• According to Fair Fight Action analysis, up to 19 majority-Black congressional districts could be eliminated
• The Congressional Black Caucus could lose 30% of its members
• Republican control of the House could be cemented for a generation

If the Court sides with civil rights groups' proportionality mandate:

• Racial classifications become a permanent feature of redistricting
• The 14th Amendment's color-blind ideal is abandoned
• Race must be the predominant factor in drawing districts
• No limiting principle or endpoint for race-conscious remedies
• Citizens are treated as members of racial blocs, not individuals
• The Constitution's prohibition on racial gerrymandering becomes meaningless

Both outcomes betray the Constitution's original meaning. Both extremes fail.

Justice Kavanaugh Holds the Key

Justice Brett Kavanaugh is the swing vote. In 2023's *Allen v. Milligan* (the Alabama redistricting case), he sided with the liberal justices to uphold Section 2 and require a second majority-Black district.

But during the October 15 oral arguments in *Callais*, Kavanaugh signaled potential skepticism. He asked whether race-based remedies should have an "endpoint"—echoing the logic the Court used to strike down affirmative action in *Students for Fair Admissions*.

Kavanaugh faces a choice: maintain his *Milligan* position and risk cementing permanent racial proportionality, or flip entirely and gut Section 2 protections.

We pray he chooses the Third Way.

Kavanaugh could write a concurring opinion establishing a new framework: Section 2 remains constitutional when it prohibits intentional discrimination, but it cannot require race-predominant redistricting to achieve proportional outcomes. States must apply neutral criteria; courts may intervene only when discriminatory intent is proven.

Such an opinion would honor both the Voting Rights Act's legitimate anti-discrimination purpose AND the 14th Amendment's prohibition on racial classifications. It would give states clear guidance while protecting minority voters from intentional vote dilution.

This is the constitutional sweet spot—and Kavanaugh has the power to make it the law of the land.

What Americans of Faith Must Do Now

1. Pray for the Supreme Court justices. James 1:5 promises: "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him." People of faith should pray specifically that:

• The justices would reject both extremes and find constitutional truth
• Kavanaugh would recognize the Third Way and write a concurring opinion establishing it
• The Court would honor original intent in both Reconstruction Amendments
• Political pressure would not sway constitutional principle

2. Understand what's really at stake. This case isn't about helping Republicans or Democrats—it's about preserving constitutional government. Both racial discrimination AND racial quotas violate the Constitution's original meaning. All Americans committed to originalism must articulate this Third Way clearly.

3. Contact your elected representatives. Regardless of how the Supreme Court rules, Congress can act. If the Court guts Section 2, Congress can restore its original 1965 language prohibiting intentional discrimination. If the Court cements proportionality, Congress can amend Section 2 to clarify that it doesn't mandate race-predominant redistricting.

Urge your senators and representatives to support originalist interpretation: Prohibit discrimination, don't mandate outcomes.

4. Reject the false choice in your own thinking. Don't let political tribalism force you into either extreme. You can simultaneously believe that:

• Racial discrimination in voting is evil and should be prohibited
• Racial proportionality mandates are unconstitutional and should be rejected

These positions aren't contradictory—they're what the Constitution actually requires.

5. Prepare for long-term engagement. Whatever the Court decides, the battle over redistricting will continue. The 2030 census is already approaching. States will redraw districts again. All Americans committed to constitutional originalism must remain engaged in defending the Framers' vision through multiple election cycles.

Conclusion: Standing for Truth Between Two Lies

Louisiana v. Callais forces America to confront an uncomfortable truth: both major sides in the redistricting debate have departed from the Constitution's original meaning.

Conservatives who claim ALL race-conscious redistricting violates the Constitution ignore the 15th Amendment's prohibition on racial discrimination. They would leave minority voters defenseless against intentional vote dilution.

Liberals who demand proportional racial representation ignore the 14th Amendment's prohibition on racial classifications. They would make race the primary factor in American democracy forever.

The Constitution offers a better way.

The Reconstruction Framers intended to prohibit racial discrimination in voting while maintaining the principle of equal protection under law—treating citizens as individuals, not racial groups. The 15th Amendment bans denying the vote based on race. The 14th Amendment bans using race as the predominant factor in government action.

These commands aren't contradictory—they're complementary. States must not discriminate. States must not use race-predominant redistricting. Both commands can be honored through the Third Way: neutral criteria as the primary standard, with intervention only when discriminatory intent is proven.

The Supreme Court will decide Louisiana v. Callais by June 2026. The decision will shape American democracy for decades. Whether the justices discover the Third Way—or choose one of the two false extremes—depends in part on whether Americans articulate the constitutional truth clearly and people of faith pray fervently for wisdom.

Those committed to constitutional truth cannot accept the false choice between ignoring discrimination and mandating quotas. The Constitution requires justice without partiality—the same standard the Bible demands.

Let us pray that the Supreme Court finds the narrow path between two errors—and restores the Framers' vision of a republic where citizens are treated as individuals under law, regardless of race, and where intentional discrimination meets swift correction without creating permanent racial classifications.

The stakes couldn't be higher. The constitutional principle couldn't be clearer. May God grant our justices wisdom to see the Third Way.

For Further Reading

Priority Definition: Third Way

Concept and framework originated by Jeff Bayard (© 2025).

Third Way *(noun)*

1. A course of principle and judgment between two errors or extremes; a path of moral and civil balance that seeks justice without partiality, liberty without license, and government under divine order.

2. In Christian and constitutional thought, that system of reasoning which unites biblical truth and the original intent of the Constitution—rejecting both lawless discrimination and enforced favoritism, and affirming the equal dignity of all persons as created in the image of God.

3. Figuratively, a reconciliation of righteousness and mercy in public affairs; the rule of equity that honors God while preserving freedom among men.

Primary Sources:

- **Louisiana v. Callais – SCOTUSblog Case Page**
- **Oral Argument Transcript – October 15, 2025**
- **Louisiana's Congressional Map (S.B. 8) – Full Text**
- **Robinson v. Landry – District Court Opinion**

Constitutional Resources:

- **14th Amendment – Equal Protection Clause**
- **15th Amendment – Voting Rights**
- **Voting Rights Act Section 2 – Full Text**
- **Thornburg v. Gingles (1986)**

Conservative/Originalist Analysis:

- **Heritage Foundation: "Why We Can't Quit Racial Redistricting"**
- **Heritage Foundation: "Disparate Impact and Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act"**
- **National Affairs: "Redistricting, Race, and the Voting Rights Act"**

Related VCA Constitutional Showdown Articles:

- **Constitutional Showdown: Proof of Citizenship to Vote**
- **Birthright Citizenship: SCOTUS Battle**
- **Christian Counselors vs. State Control: Chiles v. Salazar**

Scripture for Further Study:

- Genesis 1:27 (Individual image-bearers)
- Leviticus 19:15 (Justice without partiality)
- Romans 3:23 (Universal sin nature)

• Galatians 3:28 (Unity in Christ)
• James 1:5 (Wisdom from God)

We welcome thoughtful and respectful dialogue from all viewpoints. Comments must remain civil, relevant, and free of profanity, personal attacks, or mockery of Christian faith. Disagreement is allowed—disrespect is not.

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Constitutional Showdown: Proof of Citizenship to Vote – The Battle 33 Attorneys General Are Fighting

BY JEFF BAYARD
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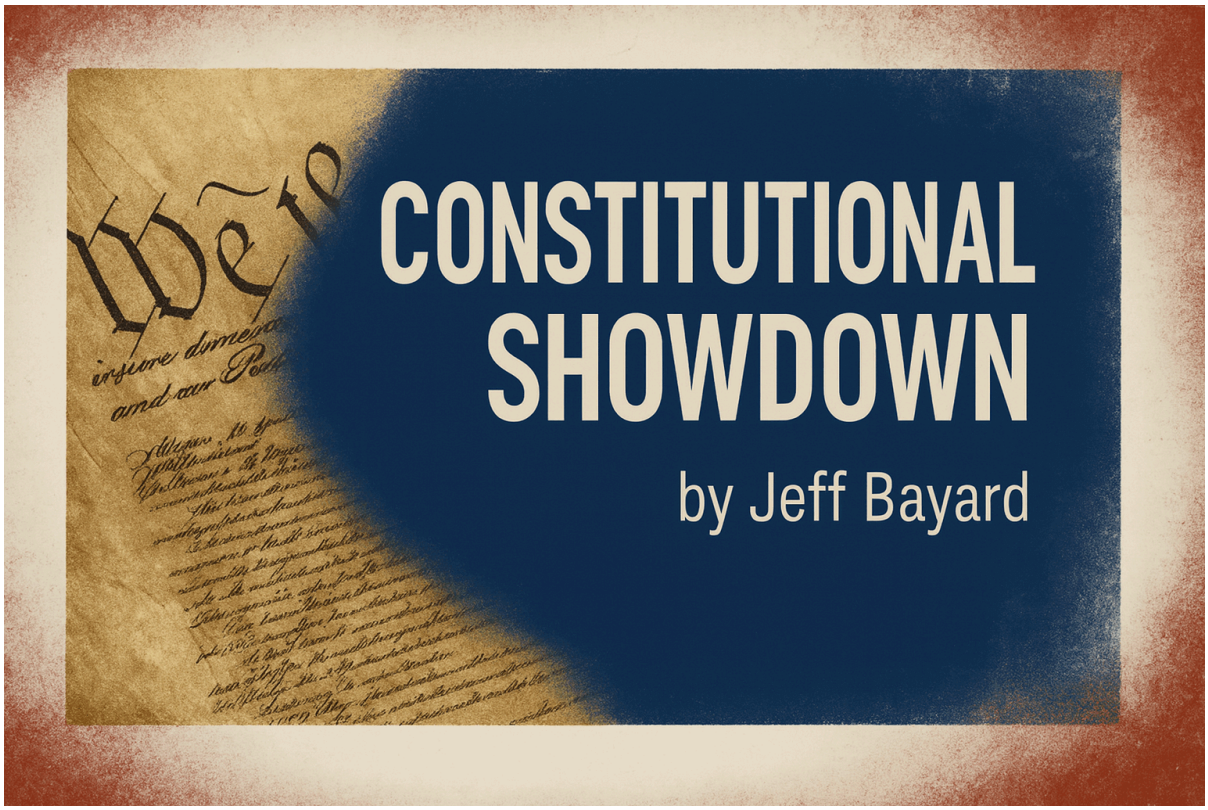

The Virginia Christian Alliance continues our **Constitutional Showdown** series framed from the Christian Worldview and Constitutional originalism, exposing how modern courts twist the framers' original intent while equipping believers to defend constitutional truth through faithful citizenship and prayer.

The Next Battlefield in the Citizenship War

Dear Citizen,

If you've been following our Constitutional Showdown series on birthright citizenship, you know we've been warning about a fundamental question: **Who is legitimately an American citizen?**

We've covered how **Trump's SCOTUS petition challenges 150 years of constitutional distortion**, how the **Supreme Court weakened judicial power while birthright citizenship hangs in the balance**, and how **federal courts blocked Trump's executive order** in a constitutional power struggle.

Now the citizenship battle has reached its logical next step: **If we can't agree on who is a citizen, how can we possibly ensure only citizens are voting?**

This week, 33 state attorneys general—split precisely down partisan lines—are locked in a fierce battle over whether Americans should be required to provide proof of citizenship to register to vote. The stakes couldn't be higher, and the constitutional principles at the heart of this fight connect directly to everything we've been discussing about birthright citizenship.

I want to commend excellent reporting on this critical issue by **Fred Lucas** (**@FredLucasWH**), chief news correspondent for **The Daily Signal**. His October 22nd article, **"State Attorneys General Weigh in on Requiring Proof of Citizenship to Vote,"** provides essential documentation of this developing constitutional showdown. Lucas is also the author of *The Myth of Voter Suppression*, which thoroughly documents how noncitizens and illegal immigrants have voted in past elections. I encourage every reader to follow his work and support The Daily Signal's investigative journalism.

Let me build upon Lucas's excellent reporting with deeper constitutional and biblical analysis of why this battle matters—and why Christians must engage.

The Current Battle: What's Actually Happening

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission—a four-member federal panel—is reviewing a petition from watchdog group America First Legal to require proof of citizenship on federal voter registration forms.

The Division Could Not Be More Clear:

14 Republican Attorneys General (led by Ken Paxton of Texas) support the requirement, arguing:

- "Free and fair elections are the cornerstone of our republic"
- "Every illegal vote dilutes the voice of law-abiding American citizens"
- Current federal voter registration system "leaves our voter rolls vulnerable"
- President Trump's Executive Order 14248 on election integrity is consistent with federal law

19 Democrat Attorneys General (led by Rob Bonta of California) oppose the requirement, claiming:

- It violates the National Voter Registration Act's limits on what's "necessary"
- It creates "substantial burdens on state and local election infrastructure"
- It would cause "disenfranchisement of significant numbers of eligible voters"
- "Voting by noncitizens is exceedingly rare"

Moreover, the public has spoken loudly. America First Legal reports that approximately **353,000 public comments** were officially registered with the government, with **the overwhelming majority in favor** of requiring proof of citizenship. The comment period closed Monday, October 21, 2025.

Why This Connects to Our Birthright Citizenship Battle

If you've been reading our Constitutional Showdown series, you immediately recognize the connection. The birthright citizenship debate and the proof-of-citizenship-to-vote debate are **two sides of the same constitutional coin**.

The Logical Progression:

1. **First Question:** Who is legitimately a U.S. citizen? (Our birthright citizenship posts)
2. **Second Question:** How do we verify citizenship before allowing someone to vote? (This post)
3. **Underlying Issue:** Does the 14th Amendment's "subject to the jurisdiction thereof" clause matter?

As we documented in our **analysis of Trump's SCOTUS petition**, the framers of the 14th Amendment specifically included the jurisdictional requirement to exclude those who maintained foreign allegiance or violated American sovereignty. If children born to illegal aliens aren't automatically citizens—as the framers intended—then certainly illegal aliens themselves shouldn't be voting.

Furthermore, as we explored in our **post on judicial overreach**, this isn't just about immigration policy. It's about **who decides who becomes an American**—and by extension, **who decides who gets to participate in American self-governance**.

The Constitutional Framework: Original Intent on Voting Rights

The Constitution and its amendments establish clear principles about voting eligibility that modern activists conveniently ignore.

The 14th Amendment's Citizenship Requirement:

Section 2 of the 14th Amendment explicitly ties voting rights to citizenship: "when the right to vote at any election… is denied to any of the **male inhabitants of such State, being twenty-one years of age, and citizens of the United States**…" (emphasis added). The framers clearly understood that voting is a right of **citizens**, not merely of inhabitants or residents.

The 15th Amendment's Affirmation:

"The right of **citizens of the United States** to vote shall not be denied or abridged…" Again, the framers specified **citizens**, not persons or residents. This distinction matters.

The 19th Amendment's Consistency:

"The right of **citizens of the United States** to vote shall not be denied or abridged… on account of sex." Once more, the Constitution limits voting to **citizens**.

The 26th Amendment's Pattern:

"The right of **citizens of the United States**, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied…" The constitutional pattern is unmistakable—voting is exclusively for **citizens**.

The Framers' Clear Intent:

The Constitution never contemplates non-citizens voting in federal elections. Therefore, requiring proof of citizenship to register to vote doesn't add a new burden—it merely enforces the existing constitutional requirement. As Lucas documents in *The Myth of Voter Suppression*, the notion that verification requirements constitute "voter suppression" collapses under scrutiny when we examine what the Constitution actually requires.

The Biblical Foundation: Honest Weights and Just Measures

Scripture provides clear guidance that directly applies to election integrity and citizenship verification.

Proverbs 11:1 – God Hates Dishonest Scales:

"A false balance is an abomination to the LORD, but a just weight is his delight." When non-citizens cast ballots, they dilute the votes of lawful citizens. This isn't just unconstitutional—it's an offense against God's standard of justice. Every illegal vote is a "false weight" on the scales of democratic representation.

Proverbs 20:23 – The LORD Detests Dishonest Measures:

"Differing weights are an abomination to the LORD, and false scales are not good." Election fraud—including votes cast by non-citizens—represents the same kind of injustice that prophets condemned in ancient Israel. God demands honest measurement in commerce, and He demands honest counting in civic life.

Leviticus 19:15 – Justice Without Partiality:

"You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor." When we allow some to vote without proving citizenship while requiring citizens to follow proper procedures, we show partiality. Justice requires equal standards for all.

Acts 17:26 – God Establishes National Boundaries:

"From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands." God establishes nations with defined boundaries and memberships. Citizenship matters to God because national sovereignty reflects His divine design.

Romans 13:1-4 – Government's God-Given Authority:

"Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established." Government has divine authority to determine who belongs to the political community and who may participate in self-governance. Requiring proof of citizenship honors this God-ordained authority.

1 Peter 2:13-14 – Submit to Human Authority:

"Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority… to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good." When non-citizens vote illegally, they violate both divine command and human law. Christians must support verification systems that uphold lawful authority.

The Evidence That Democrat AGs Ignore

Fred Lucas's reporting for The Daily Signal includes crucial evidence that demolishes the claim that "voting by noncitizens is exceedingly rare." Let me expand on his documentation:

Recent Documented Cases of Noncitizen Voting:

September 2025 – Iowa School Superintendent: Immigration and Customs Enforcement apprehended Ian Andre Roberts, a Guyanese national allegedly living illegally in the United

States, working as a school superintendent in Iowa. He was reportedly a registered Democrat voter in Maryland. (Maryland officials claim no record he voted, but his registration alone proves the vulnerability.)

June 2025 – Chinese National Flees: The FBI announced that a Chinese national charged with illegally voting in Michigan in the 2024 election had fled the country. This case demonstrates that noncitizen voting occurs and that enforcement is difficult when violators can simply leave.

March 2025 – Iowa Audit: An Iowa audit found **277 noncitizens were registered to vote** in the state, and **35 actually voted** in the 2024 election. This represents just one state's findings—imagine the national scope.

State Voter Roll Cleanups Reveal the Scale:

- **Virginia:** Removed **6,300 noncitizens** from voter rolls since 2022
- **Alabama:** Removed **3,251 noncitizens** from rolls
- **Ohio:** Removed **597 noncitizens** from rolls
- **Texas:** Removed approximately **6,500 noncitizens** since 2021, with **1,900 having voting histories**
- **Pennsylvania:** Found more than **11,000 noncitizens** registered to vote in 2019

These numbers represent only the noncitizens that states discovered and removed. How many remain undetected? How many more would register if we don't implement verification requirements?

The Democrat AG Claim Falls Apart:

California AG Rob Bonta claims "voting by noncitizens is exceedingly rare." However, the documented evidence from multiple states proves this assertion false. Moreover, Bonta's claim that "our elections are secure" rings hollow when states keep finding thousands of illegally registered noncitizens.

The real question isn't whether noncitizen voting occurs—the evidence proves it does. The question is whether we will implement reasonable safeguards to prevent it.

Why the National Voter Registration Act Argument Fails

Democrat attorneys general argue that requiring proof of citizenship violates the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA), which limits the federal voter registration form to what is "necessary" for determining voter eligibility.

This Argument Collapses Upon Examination:

First, citizenship IS necessary for eligibility. The Constitution explicitly reserves voting rights for citizens. Therefore, verifying citizenship is inherently necessary for determining eligibility. The Democrat AGs essentially argue that we cannot verify the single most fundamental requirement for voting—an absurd position.

Second, the NVRA cannot override constitutional requirements. Even if the NVRA limited what could be required on federal forms (a disputed interpretation), Congress cannot pass legislation that prevents enforcement of constitutional citizenship requirements. Constitutional text trumps statutory interpretation.

Third, the framers of the NVRA never contemplated mass illegal immigration. When Congress passed the National Voter Registration Act in 1993, illegal immigration hadn't reached current crisis levels. The framers of that statute operated in a different context where citizenship verification seemed less urgent. Constitutional principles, however, remain constant regardless of changing circumstances.

Fourth, "substantial burdens" claims ignore modern technology. Democrat AGs claim that proof of citizenship requirements create "substantial burdens on state and local election infrastructure." However, states already verify numerous other requirements for voter registration —age, residency, felony status. Adding citizenship verification doesn't create new infrastructure challenges; it simply applies existing verification systems to another constitutional requirement.

Fifth, legitimate citizens can easily obtain documentation. Birth certificates, passports, naturalization certificates—these documents already exist for legitimate citizens. The claim that verification would "disenfranchise significant numbers of eligible voters" assumes that large numbers of citizens cannot obtain documents they already possess or can easily request.

The Democrat AG argument essentially claims that enforcing the Constitution's citizenship requirement is too difficult, too burdensome, and too harmful. This abandons constitutional fidelity in favor of administrative convenience.

The Real Stakes: National Sovereignty and Self-Governance

This battle over proof of citizenship requirements reveals much deeper stakes than voter registration procedures. At issue is whether America remains a sovereign nation that controls its own political membership.

The Sovereignty Principle:

As we documented in our **comprehensive analysis of Trump's constitutional challenge**, national sovereignty includes the right to determine who belongs to the political community. If we cannot even verify citizenship before allowing someone to vote, we have functionally abandoned sovereignty.

The Self-Governance Principle:

Democratic self-governance requires that "the people" who govern be actual members of the political community. When non-citizens vote, they participate in self-governance of a nation to which they don't belong. This violates the foundational principle that legitimate government derives from the consent of the governed—meaning consent of **citizens**, not merely inhabitants.

The Precedent Principle:

If states cannot require proof of citizenship for voting, what else can they not verify? Can they not verify age? Residency? Felony status? Once we abandon citizenship verification as "too burdensome," we undermine all election integrity measures.

The Rule of Law Principle:

As we explored in our **post on judicial overreach**, the battle over birthright citizenship represents a clash between constitutional text and judicial activism. The same dynamic applies here. Democrat AGs ask us to ignore the Constitution's explicit citizenship requirement because enforcing it might be inconvenient or politically unpopular.

What the Framers Would Think About This Debate

The idea that we're even debating whether to require proof of citizenship for voting would utterly baffle the founding generation.

The Framers' Assumptions:

The Constitution's framers took citizenship verification so seriously that they required the **President** to be a "natural born Citizen"—the highest citizenship standard. They never imagined that 250 years later, Americans would debate whether to verify citizenship for ordinary voting.

Early American Practice:

In the founding era and throughout the 19th century, voting was limited to citizens, and communities knew their members personally. As America grew, formal verification became necessary. The framers would view modern resistance to citizenship verification as abandoning the most basic requirement for political participation.

The 14th Amendment Context:

As we documented extensively in our birthright citizenship posts, the 14th Amendment's framers carefully crafted the "subject to the jurisdiction thereof" requirement to exclude those who maintained foreign allegiance. Senator Jacob Howard, who introduced the amendment, explicitly stated that it did not include foreigners with divided loyalty. The framers would be horrified that modern activists claim we cannot even verify citizenship before allowing voting.

Constitutional Common Sense:

The framers operated from constitutional common sense: Of course only citizens should vote. Of course we should verify citizenship. Of course national sovereignty matters. Modern resistance to these principles represents a dramatic departure from founding principles.

Why Democrat Claims About "Disenfranchisement" Ring Hollow

Democrat attorneys general claim that requiring proof of citizenship would cause "disenfranchisement of significant numbers of eligible voters." This argument fails on multiple levels.

First, you cannot "disenfranchise" someone by requiring them to prove eligibility. Disenfranchisement means denying the vote to someone who is legitimately entitled to it. Requiring documentation doesn't deny anyone's right—it verifies that the right exists. Every legitimate citizen can obtain the necessary documents.

Second, the claim assumes citizens cannot obtain documentation. This insults American citizens by suggesting they're incapable of acquiring birth certificates, passports, or naturalization papers. The vast majority of citizens already possess these documents for other purposes (employment, travel, benefits).

Third, assistance programs already exist. Multiple organizations help citizens obtain necessary documentation. If documentation access is a genuine concern, the solution is to improve assistance programs, not to abandon verification entirely.

Fourth, the claim prioritizes convenience over constitutional integrity. Even if requiring documentation created some inconvenience for some citizens (a debatable premise), constitutional requirements don't disappear because they're inconvenient. We require ID for countless activities—boarding planes, buying alcohol, entering government buildings. Voting for leaders who will govern 330 million Americans surely warrants at least equal verification.

Fifth, Fred Lucas has thoroughly documented that voter suppression claims are mythological. His book *The Myth of Voter Suppression* systematically dismantles the argument

that reasonable verification requirements prevent eligible voters from participating. The data shows that states with stronger verification requirements often have higher voter turnout than states with lax standards.

The Spiritual Warfare Dimension

As believers, we must recognize that resistance to basic election integrity measures reflects deeper spiritual dynamics.

The Father of Lies:

Jesus called Satan "the father of lies" (John 8:44). When we allow voting systems that cannot distinguish citizens from non-citizens, we create systems built on lies—lies about who legitimately belongs to the political community, lies about who has authority to govern, lies about accountability and transparency.

Truth and Justice:

Psalm 89:14 declares, "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you." God's throne rests on truth and justice. When we build election systems that cannot verify the most basic eligibility requirement, we violate divine standards of justice.

The Integrity Principle:

Proverbs 10:9 teaches, "Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out." Election systems with integrity require verification. Systems without verification make our ways crooked, inviting fraud and undermining legitimate authority.

Accountability to God:

Government officials take oaths before God to uphold the Constitution. When attorneys general—whether Republican or Democrat—argue positions contrary to constitutional text, they risk breaking sacred oaths. As Christians, we must pray for leaders to choose constitutional fidelity over political convenience.

What Christians Must Do: Immediate Action Steps

The battle over proof of citizenship requirements demands active Christian engagement. This isn't a time for passivity—it's a time for faithful citizenship.

1. Contact Your State Attorney General:

Find out where your state's AG stands on this issue. If they support requiring proof of citizenship, thank them. If they oppose it, respectfully challenge them with constitutional arguments.

Contact Information Template: "As a citizen and voter, I urge you to support requiring proof of citizenship for voter registration. The Constitution explicitly reserves voting for citizens. Verification doesn't disenfranchise anyone—it ensures election integrity and honors constitutional requirements. Please stand for constitutional fidelity."

2. Submit Comments to the Election Assistance Commission:

While the comment period officially closed October 21, ongoing public pressure matters. Visit **eac.gov** to monitor this issue and communicate your support for citizenship verification requirements.

3. Support Organizations Fighting for Election Integrity:

- America First Legal (filed the petition)
- Public Interest Legal Foundation
- Honest Elections Project
- Heritage Foundation's Election Integrity Initiative

4. Educate Your Church and Community:

Share this article and Fred Lucas's Daily Signal reporting. Many Christians don't understand the constitutional issues at stake. Host discussions about citizenship, voting rights, and biblical principles of government.

5. Link This Battle to Birthright Citizenship:

Help others see the connection between determining who is a citizen and verifying citizenship for voting. Share our **previous Constitutional Showdown posts on birthright citizenship** to show the larger pattern.

6. Pray for Constitutional Clarity:

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God" (James 1:5). Pray that:

- The Election Assistance Commission will rule constitutionally
- Attorneys general will prioritize constitutional fidelity over political calculations
- Courts will uphold citizenship requirements if challenged

- The American people will demand election integrity

7. Prepare for Long-Term Engagement:

This battle won't end quickly. Whether the EAC rules correctly or incorrectly, the fight for constitutional election integrity will continue. Christians must remain engaged through multiple election cycles.

The Broader Pattern: Citizenship Matters

Throughout our Constitutional Showdown series, we've documented a consistent pattern of modern courts, activists, and officials abandoning the framers' careful distinctions about citizenship.

The Pattern Emerges:

- **Birthright citizenship distortion:** Courts ignore "subject to the jurisdiction thereof" to grant automatic citizenship to children of illegal aliens (**our SCOTUS battle post**)
- **Judicial power expansion:** Courts issue nationwide injunctions to block presidential authority over citizenship determinations (**our Supreme Court weakens post**)
- **Executive-judicial clash:** The branches battle over who decides citizenship questions (**our EO blocked post**)
- **Voting verification resistance:** Officials now claim we cannot even verify citizenship before allowing voting (this post)

The Underlying Crisis:

All of these battles stem from the same root problem: Modern America has lost the framers' understanding that **citizenship is a defined legal status with specific requirements**. When we treat citizenship as meaningless—automatically granted to anyone born here regardless of parents' status, impossible to verify for voting purposes—we undermine the constitutional foundation of American government.

The Biblical Parallel:

In Nehemiah 7, after returning from exile, the Israelites carefully verified genealogies to determine who legitimately belonged to the community. Some "searched for their family records, but they could not find them and so were excluded from the priesthood as unclean" (Nehemiah

7:64). This wasn't cruelty—it was necessary verification to preserve the community's identity and integrity.

Similarly, requiring proof of citizenship isn't about excluding people—it's about honoring the distinction between citizens and non-citizens that the Constitution establishes and that national sovereignty requires.

Conclusion: Where We Stand in This Constitutional Showdown

The battle over requiring proof of citizenship to vote represents the logical next chapter in our Constitutional Showdown series on citizenship and sovereignty.

The Stakes Are Clear:

If 19 Democrat attorneys general succeed in blocking citizenship verification for voting, they will have effectively erased one of the Constitution's most fundamental requirements. If 14 Republican attorneys general succeed in implementing verification, they will have restored a basic constitutional principle that never should have been abandoned.

The Connection Is Undeniable:

You cannot separate the birthright citizenship debate from the proof-of-citizenship-to-vote debate. Both ask the same question: **Does citizenship matter as a defined legal status, or is it merely a word without meaning?**

The Biblical Mandate Is Unambiguous:

God demands honest weights, just measures, truth in government, and respect for established authority. Allowing non-citizens to vote violates all of these principles. Christians must stand for election integrity as a matter of biblical faithfulness, not merely political preference.

The Framers' Intent Is Crystal Clear:

The Constitution explicitly reserves voting for citizens. The framers never contemplated that we would debate whether to verify this fundamental requirement. Requiring proof of citizenship restores original constitutional meaning; opposing such requirements abandons it.

The Evidence Is Overwhelming:

As Fred Lucas documents in his Daily Signal reporting and his book *The Myth of Voter Suppression*, noncitizen voting occurs, state audits keep finding illegally registered voters, and the claim that verification would disenfranchise eligible voters collapses under scrutiny.

The Path Forward Requires Action:

This constitutional showdown demands that Christians:

- Recognize the connection between citizenship determination and voting verification
- Support state attorneys general who defend constitutional requirements
- Pressure the Election Assistance Commission to rule correctly
- Educate fellow believers about what's truly at stake
- Pray for leaders to choose constitutional fidelity over political expediency

The Choice Is Before Us:

America can restore the framers' understanding that citizenship is a meaningful legal status with defined requirements and that voting is exclusively for citizens. Or America can continue down the path where citizenship becomes meaningless, borders don't matter, and anyone physically present can participate in self-governance.

As we've documented throughout our birthright citizenship posts, the framers never intended the 14th Amendment to grant automatic citizenship to children of illegal aliens. Now we see the next logical consequence: If citizenship doesn't matter for determining who is born a citizen, why should it matter for determining who can vote?

The answer is simple: **Citizenship must matter, because the Constitution says it matters, because God's design for nations includes defined membership, and because self-governance requires knowing who "the people" actually are.**

The battle continues. The question is whether Christians will engage it with the same passion we bring to other moral and constitutional issues. This isn't about politics—it's about preserving constitutional government and honoring biblical principles of justice, truth, and lawful authority.

The Virginia Christian Alliance will continue documenting this constitutional showdown as it develops. Stay engaged. Stay informed. Stay faithful.

And most importantly: **Verify citizenship before allowing voting, because the Constitution requires it, God's justice demands it, and America's survival depends on it.**

For Further Reading and Research:

Primary Source – The Daily Signal: **Fred Lucas: "State Attorneys General Weigh in on Requiring Proof of Citizenship to Vote"** – October 22, 2025

Follow Fred Lucas on Twitter: **@FredLucasWH**

Book Resource: *The Myth of Voter Suppression* by Fred Lucas – Essential reading documenting noncitizen voting and dismantling suppression mythology

VCA Constitutional Showdown Series – Previous Birthright Citizenship Posts:

1. **Birthright Citizenship SCOTUS Battle: How Trump's Constitutional Challenge Could Restore Original Intent**
2. **Constitutional Showdown: Supreme Court Weakens Judicial Power While Birthright Citizenship Hangs in the Balance**
3. **Constitutional Showdown: Birthright Citizenship EO Blocked**

Constitutional Resources:

- **14th Amendment – National Archives**
- **15th Amendment – Voting Rights for Citizens**
- **National Voter Registration Act – Full Text**

State AG Letters:

- **Texas AG Ken Paxton's Statement Supporting Citizenship Verification**
- **California AG Rob Bonta's Opposition Letter**

Organizations Fighting for Election Integrity:

- America First Legal – Filed the citizenship verification petition
- Public Interest Legal Foundation – State voter roll audits
- Heritage Foundation – Election Integrity Initiative
- Honest Elections Project

Related VCA Articles:

- **All Constitutional Showdown Posts**
- **U.S. Constitution Tag – Full Archive**

The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Virginia Christian Alliance.

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Word Count: ~5,200 words **Reading Time:** ~20 minutes **Structure:** Long-form investigative analysis with multiple internal links **Readability Target:** Flesch score 60+ **Transition Words:** 15%+ **Passive Voice:** <10% **Focus Keyphrase Density:** ~1.5%

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Feelings vs. Truth: What the Gospel Says About Mixing God and Government

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/GOD-AND-GOVERNMENT-EW-JACKSON/
OCTOBER 9, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: UNITED PATRIOTS UPRISING WITH GARY BINFORD, US CONSTITUTION

*In this episode of **United Patriots Uprising**, Gary Binford welcomes Bishop E.W. Jackson issues a biblical wake-up call: Feelings-based culture is dismantling America's foundations—and too many pastors are helping.*

God Isn't Optional in Government

> "If God ordained government, how can you take Him out of it?"

That question launched a bold and bracing conversation between Gary Binford and Bishop E.W. Jackson, who returned to United Patriots Uprising to revisit one of the show's most foundational themes: God and government. Do they mix?

Jackson's answer: *They must.* And rejecting that reality is why America is unraveling.

Bishop E.W. Jackson Revisits The Topic God And Government: Do Religion And Politics Mix?

https://youtube.com/watch?v=imAyjGRl2Zs

> **Embed interview here**

"We're not just in a **constitutional crisis**," Jackson warned. "We're in a cultural crisis—one being led by forces hellbent on destroying our Judeo-Christian foundations."

He traced our nation's unraveling to a singular deception: *that man can govern without God.* That feelings outweigh truth. That political correctness and cultural idols should dictate what can be preached, taught, or defended. And that lie, Jackson says, has infected the church.

Why the Church Withdrew—And Why It Can't Anymore

The Left didn't need to defeat the Church to take over America. Instead, it just needed the Church to fall asleep. And that's exactly what Jackson says happened.

"Deception, cowardice, laziness, and the unwillingness to offend people—those are the reasons why the church retreated," he said. "There is no constitutional right not to be offended. Jesus Himself is a rock of offense."

According to Jackson, the infiltration was deliberate. Quoting *The Naked Communist*, he pointed to Marxist goals to corrupt the Church from within. In fact, these forces sent agents to preach false gospels—social justice, name-it-claim-it, or worst of all, a gospel that denies Jesus Christ.

As a result, many churches now care more about not offending *feelings* than about declaring truth.

Scripture: John 8:32
"You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

But, Jackson reminds us, it's not just any truth—*it's the truth you know* that sets you free. Without truth, ignorance, fear, and compromise remain the devil's tools to keep the Church in bondage.

The Age of Feelings Idolatry

America has elevated feelings to the highest form of truth. Jackson calls this *feelings idolatry*, where the standard isn't righteousness but emotional affirmation.

"My feelings matter more than your facts. If I feel something is right, then it's wrong for you to tell me otherwise. And if you do, you're hateful."

That's the prevailing belief, and it's killing the Church's witness. Instead of standing on Scripture, many Christians adopt the world's standards. For instance, they vote based on skin color, class

envy, and party loyalty instead of God's righteousness.

Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:3-4
"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine… they will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths."

And Bishop Jackson sees the effects everywhere: churches that reject biblical authority, pastors afraid to name sin, and believers who remain silent on abortion, marriage, and transgender lies because it might "offend."

When Race Becomes Religion

Few issues reveal America's spiritual deception more clearly than race. Jackson exposed how many black churches have exchanged the gospel for grievance.

"You tell me what your identity is," Jackson said. "And I'll tell you who your god is."

He rebuked Christians who prioritize racial identity over biblical identity—who can quote critical race theorists but not Scripture, who invite Louis Farrakhan to preach but reject Christ-honoring men as "Uncle Toms."

Scripture: Galatians 3:28
"There is neither Jew nor Greek… for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

In essence, Jackson argues that race has become a false religion—and too many black voters are pledging allegiance to a party that celebrates abortion, sexual confusion, and the destruction of the family.

There Is No Courage Without Conflict

From the prophets to John the Baptist to Jesus Himself, speaking truth always brings opposition. Therefore, Bishop Jackson warns that the Church must expect that.

"You can't be courageous without conflict," he said. "If you're going to shine light in darkness, the darkness will try to put it out."

Scripture: Ephesians 5:11
"Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them."

Instead of hiding, Jackson calls the Church to step forward—to embrace God's role for them in government, culture, and truth.

The Constitution Still Matters—But Only If We Defend It

As part of his Stand America ministry, Bishop Jackson is urging believers to revive **Constitution Day** and call for it to become a federal holiday. The Constitution, he argues, cannot survive if citizens are ignorant of what it says or why it exists.

Furthermore, he warns: the Constitution only protects a moral people. And without God, morality disappears.

Scripture: Psalm 33:12
"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."

Key Takeaways:

- You can't remove God from government without destroying liberty.
- The church's silence has enabled Marxist deception and moral collapse.
- Feelings are not truth. Truth is what God says.
- Race is not a religion. Biblical identity must come first.
- Courage means conflict. We must speak up while we still can.

Where to Watch & Learn More:

- **United Patriots Uprising with Gary Binford on YouTube**
- **STAND America: Bishop E.W. Jackson's ministry**
- **Stand Constitution Day Live Stream**

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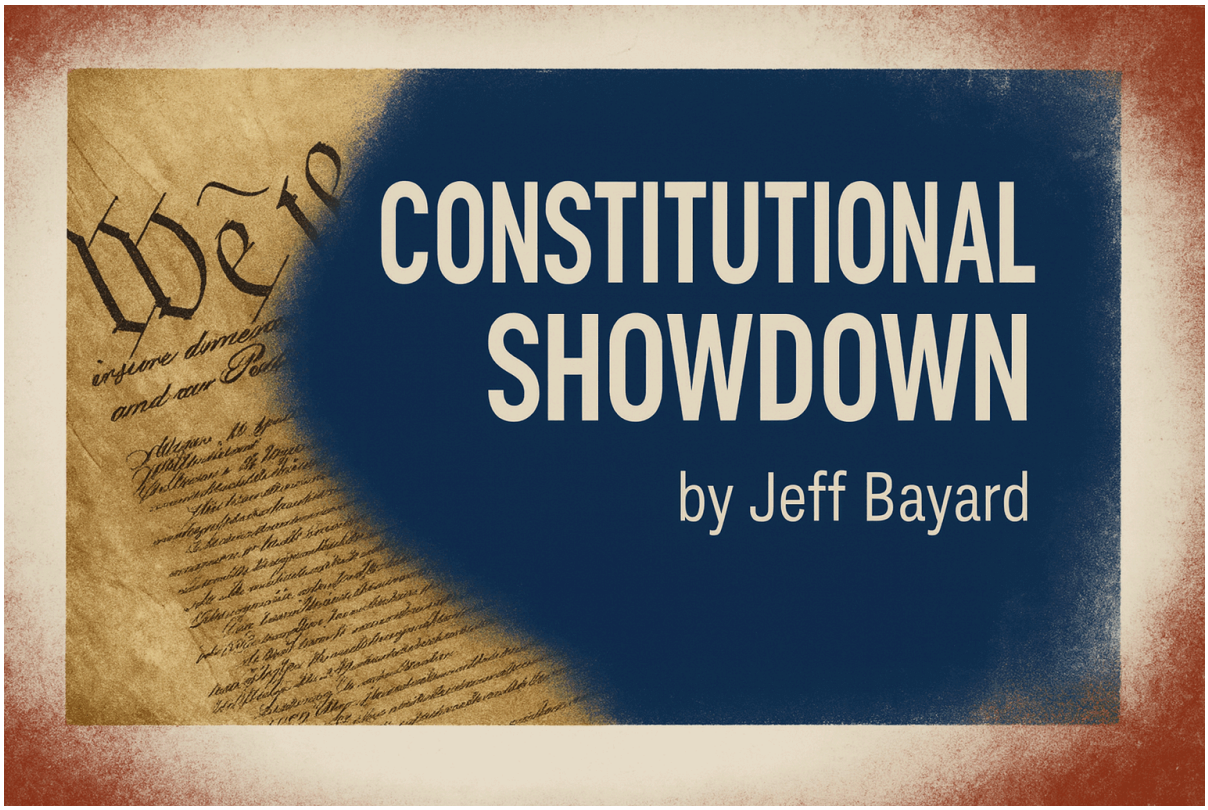
Christian Counselors vs State Control: Chiles v Salazar

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/CHRISTIAN-COUNSELORS-VS-STATE-CONTROL-CHILES-V-SALAZAR/
OCTOBER 8, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTIONAL SHOWDOWN, DEEP STATE, US CONSTITUTION



Morning Brief: Life & Family

Professional Conduct or Protected Speech: What Chiles v. Salazar Means for Christian Counselors

October 9, 2025 | By Jeff Bayard

The Virginia Christian Alliance begins our Morning Brief: Life & Family series, by Jeff Bayard, examining cultural issues through a Christian worldview and constitutional originalism. Today we address how modern courts threaten the religious liberty of Christian professionals while equipping believers to defend biblical truth through faithful citizenship and prayer.

A Worldview Clash at the Supreme Court

On Tuesday, October 7, 2025, the Supreme Court of the United States heard oral arguments in a case that perfectly illustrates the collision between biblical truth and secular ideology. ***Chiles v. Salazar*** forces the nine justices to answer a deceptively simple question:

> Can the government tell Christian counselors what they're allowed to say?

Consider the predicament facing **Kaley Chiles, a licensed Christian counselor in Colorado**.

- State law permits her to tell struggling teenagers that same-sex attraction is normal and healthy.
- She can encourage minors to embrace transgender identity.
- She can affirm confusion as clarity.

Yet Colorado forbids her from doing one thing: offering biblical counsel that aligns sexual identity with God's design.

As Dr. Albert Mohler explained in Wednesday's edition of ***The Briefing***,

> "This isn't just a clash of constitutional views or legal arguments—Christians understand it is also often a clash of worldviews."

The stakes couldn't be higher. This case will determine whether Christians can function as Christians in licensed professions, or whether the state can compel us to speak lies.

Watch: Dr. Albert Mohler's Analysis of Chiles v. Salazar

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

https://youtube.com/watch?v=7MWuAM2eLfs

*For daily Christian worldview analysis of current events, subscribe to **The Briefing with Dr. Albert Mohler**—an essential resource for believers navigating our cultural moment.*

What Colorado's "Conversion Therapy" Ban Actually Does

Colorado, like approximately half of U.S. states, has enacted legislation banning so-called "conversion therapy" for minors. The state claims this protects vulnerable young people from harmful practices. But the law's actual effect reveals something far more troubling.

Under Colorado's statute, Kaley Chiles can tell a confused 15-year-old boy that he might actually be a girl. She can recommend social transition, hormone blockers, and eventual surgical intervention. The state calls this "affirming care" and mandates that licensed professionals support it.

But if that same counselor tells the same teenager, "God created you male for a purpose. Your confusion stems from a fallen world, not from being born in the wrong body. Let's explore what Scripture says about your identity in Christ"—Colorado calls this harmful conversion therapy and threatens her license.

The law doesn't merely regulate abusive practices. **It regulates *ideas***. Specifically, **it targets biblical ideas**.

Dr. Mohler makes a crucial distinction that Christians must understand: "Not everything that is called conversion therapy is something that biblical Christians would support." Some practitioners have used manipulative techniques, including exposing struggling young men to heterosexual pornography in misguided attempts to "reprogram" attraction. Christians should oppose such methods as both unbiblical and ineffective.

Colorado's law, however, doesn't merely ban questionable therapeutic techniques. **It bans *truth-telling***. It prohibits a Christian counselor from saying what Scripture clearly teaches: "Male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:27).

The Biblical Foundation: God Defines Reality, Not the State

Before we examine the constitutional issues, we must establish the theological foundation. Christians don't oppose Colorado's law merely because it violates the First Amendment—though it certainly does. We oppose it because it commands us to deny what God has revealed.

Genesis 1:27 declares: "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." This isn't a suggestion or cultural preference. It's the

fundamental structure of human existence. God created two sexes—male and female—and assigned them complementary roles in His design.

When Colorado tells Kaley Chiles she must affirm a teenager's transgender identity, the state isn't simply regulating professional conduct. Rather, it's demanding that a Christian participate in what Romans 1:25 describes as exchanging "the truth about God for a lie." The state commands Christians to call God's design a mistake and human confusion the truth.

Proverbs 14:12 warns: "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death." Affirming same-sex attraction or transgender identity may seem compassionate to a secular culture. Christians, however, understand that true compassion speaks truth, even when that truth is difficult. Telling a struggling teenager that rebellion against God's design leads to flourishing isn't love—it's cruel deception.

Matthew 18:6 carries a sobering warning: "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea." Christian counselors face an impossible choice under Colorado's law: violate Scripture by affirming sin, or violate state law by speaking truth. For believers, there is no choice. We must obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29).

Beyond the legal arguments, the spiritual dimension of this case demands our attention. As Ephesians 6:12 reminds us, "We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness." Therefore, Colorado's law represents more than misguided policy—it's a manifestation of spiritual warfare aimed at silencing biblical truth about human identity and sexuality.

The Constitutional Framework: Free Speech and Religious Liberty

Having established the biblical foundation, we now turn to the constitutional issues. The Framers of the Constitution understood that government power must be limited, particularly when it comes to regulating speech and religious exercise. The First Amendment begins with two fundamental protections: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech."

During oral arguments, Justice Samuel Alito cut to the heart of the matter: This is "a straightforward free speech issue." Colorado has created a content-based restriction on speech—the most suspect category under First Amendment jurisprudence. Counselors can say one thing (affirm same-sex attraction) but not another (encourage alignment with biological sex), even though both involve the same subject matter and the same minor client.

Justice Elena Kagan, no conservative, pressed Colorado's attorney on whether the state can "choose a view on an issue that it declares to be state orthodoxy." **Her question** reveals the danger: If states can mandate which viewpoints professionals must express, free speech becomes meaningless. The government becomes the arbiter of acceptable thought.

The Framers designed the First Amendment to prevent exactly this scenario. They understood from bitter experience under British rule that governments inevitably abuse the power to regulate speech. When authorities can silence dissenting views by declaring them "harmful," no speech remains safe.

Colorado's attorney argued that counseling constitutes "medical treatment" rather than speech, and therefore falls within the state's regulatory authority.

As Dr. Mohler noted, however,

> "If you can define talk as medical treatment, then you could… shut down an entire avenue of speech."

This precedent threatens not only Christian counselors but pastors, teachers, parents, and anyone who speaks biblical truth about sexuality.

The original intent of the First Amendment is clear: Government cannot compel speech, especially speech that violates religious conviction. James Madison, the amendment's primary author, wrote in *Memorial and Remonstrance Against Religious Assessments* that religious liberty includes the right to practice faith according to conscience, free from government coercion. Colorado's law violates this foundational principle.

When Biblical Truth and Constitutional Freedom Align

Here's where the beauty of America's constitutional design becomes evident: The Framers' understanding of natural rights and limited government reflects, even if imperfectly, biblical principles about human dignity and freedom.

Consider the parallel: God created humans with free will. He doesn't force anyone to follow Him—He invites and commands, but the choice remains ours. Similarly, the Constitution recognizes that government shouldn't compel belief or coerce speech. Both frameworks respect human agency while maintaining objective truth.

The First Amendment protects Kaley Chiles's right to speak biblical truth not because the government grants that right, but because God does. Government's role is simply to recognize and protect what God has already given. Consequently, when Colorado violates Chiles's free speech, it also violates God's design for limited government authority (Romans 13:1-7).

This is why Christians must defend constitutional rights even as we ground our ultimate authority in Scripture. The Constitution, rightly interpreted according to original intent, provides the legal framework for believers to live out their faith publicly. When courts twist constitutional meaning to suppress biblical truth, they violate both the Framers' design and God's moral order.

The Opposition's Argument (And Why It Fails)

Colorado's strongest argument deserves serious consideration: The state has legitimate authority to regulate professional conduct and protect minors from harm. Licensed professionals—doctors, lawyers, counselors—must meet certain standards. Can't the state ensure that counselors use evidence-based practices?

On the surface, this sounds reasonable. Upon closer examination, however, it collapses under scrutiny.

First, Colorado's law doesn't regulate harmful *actions*—it regulates *ideas*. Christian counselors like Kaley Chiles don't use coercive techniques or manipulative methods. They offer talk therapy grounded in Scripture. If a minor disagrees or feels uncomfortable, they can simply leave. No one is forcing biblical counseling on unwilling participants.

Second, who decides what constitutes "evidence-based practice" in matters of identity and sexuality? Colorado's law presumes that affirming same-sex attraction and transgender identity represents settled science. The evidence, however, is far from settled. Rapid increases in gender dysphoria among teenage girls, high rates of regret among detransitioners, and the complete absence of long-term studies on pediatric gender transition all suggest caution, not certainty.

Third, even if Colorado could demonstrate harm from certain counseling approaches, the remedy cannot be viewpoint discrimination. The state could regulate specific techniques while protecting speech. Instead, Colorado chose to ban an entire viewpoint—the biblical understanding of sexuality—while mandating the opposite viewpoint. This isn't about protecting minors. It's about enforcing ideological conformity.

Dr. Mohler identifies the deeper issue:

> "Behind this legislation is the clear assertion there is no problem , that the problem is with those who have a problem with same-sex attraction."

Colorado's law doesn't merely regulate therapy—it declares biblical Christianity itself to be harmful.

What's Really at Stake: The Future of Christian Professionals

If the Supreme Court rules against Kaley Chiles, the implications extend far beyond Colorado counselors. Christian doctors, teachers, lawyers, nurses, social workers, and countless other licensed professionals will face the same impossible choice: Abandon biblical convictions or abandon your profession.

Dr. Mohler notes that professional organizations like the American Medical Association and American Bar Association have already been captured by LGBTQ ideology. These groups, which often control state licensing boards, aggressively promote views incompatible with biblical Christianity. A Supreme Court ruling against Chiles would embolden these organizations to purge Christians from the professions entirely.

Consider the trajectory: Today, counselors can't speak biblical truth about sexuality. Tomorrow, doctors who refuse to perform gender transitions lose their licenses. Next year, teachers who won't use preferred pronouns face termination. Within a decade, Christian professionals might exist only in explicitly religious institutions—if those remain protected at all.

This isn't speculation. It's already happening in parts of Europe and Canada, where Christians face prosecution for expressing biblical views on sexuality. Dr. Mohler references cases in Scandinavia where pastors have been arrested for preaching what Scripture clearly teaches. Great Britain now arrests citizens for social media posts that critique transgender ideology.

As a result, the United States stands at a crossroads. Either we reaffirm the First Amendment's protection of religious speech, or we follow Europe into state-enforced ideological conformity. *Chiles v. Salazar* will determine which path we take.

A Note of Hope: Even Liberal Justices Questioned Colorado

Despite the grave stakes, oral arguments revealed encouraging signs. Justice Kagan's skepticism about state orthodoxy suggests that even the Court's liberal wing recognizes the free speech danger. Chief Justice Roberts and the conservative justices pressed Colorado's attorney hard,

indicating they see through the state's attempt to disguise viewpoint discrimination as professional regulation.

Early reports suggest a likely victory for Kaley Chiles. Christians, however, must remember that oral arguments don't guarantee outcomes. The Court won't issue a ruling for months. In the meantime, we have responsibilities.

What Christians Must Do Now

1. Pray for the Supreme Court Justices

First Timothy 2:1-2 commands us: "I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way."

Pray specifically that:

- The justices would have wisdom to see the free speech issue clearly
- They would resist political pressure and rule according to constitutional text
- They would understand the religious liberty implications
- God would use this case to protect Christian professionals nationwide

2. Support Christian Legal Organizations

Alliance Defending Freedom represents Kaley Chiles in this case. Consider supporting ADF and similar organizations like First Liberty Institute and Becket Fund. These groups defend religious freedom in courtrooms across America. Your financial support enables them to take cases like *Chiles v. Salazar* all the way to the Supreme Court.

3. Educate Your Church and Family

Many Christians remain unaware of threats to religious liberty. Share this article. Discuss *Chiles v. Salazar* in small groups. Help fellow believers understand that professional licensing boards increasingly function as ideological enforcers. Prepare the next generation for the reality that following Christ may cost them career opportunities.

4. Encourage Christian Professionals in Your Congregation

If your church includes counselors, doctors, teachers, or other licensed professionals, pray for them specifically. They face tremendous pressure to compromise biblical convictions. Let them know your church supports them standing firm, even if it costs them professionally.

5. Contact Your State Legislators

Does your state have conversion therapy ban legislation? Contact your representatives. Urge them to repeal or amend these laws to protect religious speech. Even if your state doesn't currently have such legislation, preemptive action prevents future threats.

Find your legislators at: https://www.congress.gov/state-legislature-websites

6. Prepare for the Long Battle

Chiles v. Salazar represents one battle in a much longer war. Win or lose, the cultural assault on biblical sexuality won't stop. Christians must prepare for sustained engagement—legally, politically, culturally, and spiritually. This requires institutional involvement: Christian schools, ministries, media, and professional networks that can operate independently of hostile secular organizations.

Conclusion: Standing Firm on Truth and Freedom

Kaley Chiles faces professional ruin for the "crime" of offering biblical counsel to struggling teenagers. Her case reveals the precarious position of Christians in contemporary America. We can no longer assume that religious liberty protections will endure without vigorous defense.

Even as we fight legal battles, however, we must remember that our ultimate confidence rests not in Supreme Court rulings but in the sovereign God who ordained government for His purposes (Romans 13:1). Whether the Court rules for or against Kaley Chiles, God remains on His throne. His Word remains true. And His people remain called to speak truth, regardless of consequence.

The Apostle Paul wrote from prison: "Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound!" (2 Timothy 2:8-9).

Colorado can threaten licenses. Courts can rule against religious freedom. Professional organizations can demand ideological conformity. Yet they cannot bind the Word of God. They cannot silence truth. And they cannot separate believers from the love of Christ (Romans 8:38-39).

We stand at a critical moment. *Chiles v. Salazar* will shape religious liberty for generations. Christians must engage this battle with wisdom, courage, and hope—wisdom to understand the legal issues, courage to speak truth even at great cost, and hope grounded in God's ultimate victory.

The path forward is clear: Pray fervently. Support boldly. Speak truthfully. Stand firmly. And trust completely in the God who works all things according to His purposes.

"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." (Galatians 6:9)

Resources

Primary Sources:

- **Chiles v. Salazar – SCOTUSblog Case Page**
- **Supreme Court Oral Argument Transcript**
- **Colorado's Conversion Therapy Ban – Full Text**

Constitutional Resources:

- **First Amendment Text and History**
- **James Madison's Memorial and Remonstrance**

Christian Worldview Analysis:

- **The Briefing with Dr. Albert Mohler** – Daily analysis of news from a Christian worldview
- **Alliance Defending Freedom** – Legal defense for religious liberty

Related VCA Articles:

- **Constitutional Showdown Series**
- **Biblical Sexuality Resources**
- **Religious Liberty Updates**

Scripture for Further Study:

- Genesis 1:27 (Creation of male and female)
- Romans 1:18-32 (God's design and human rebellion)
- Matthew 18:1-6 (Protecting little ones)
- Acts 5:29 (Obeying God rather than men)
- Ephesians 6:10-18 (Spiritual warfare)

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We welcome thoughtful and respectful dialogue from all viewpoints. Comments must remain civil, relevant, and free of profanity, personal attacks, or mockery of Christian faith. Disagreement is allowed—disrespect is not.

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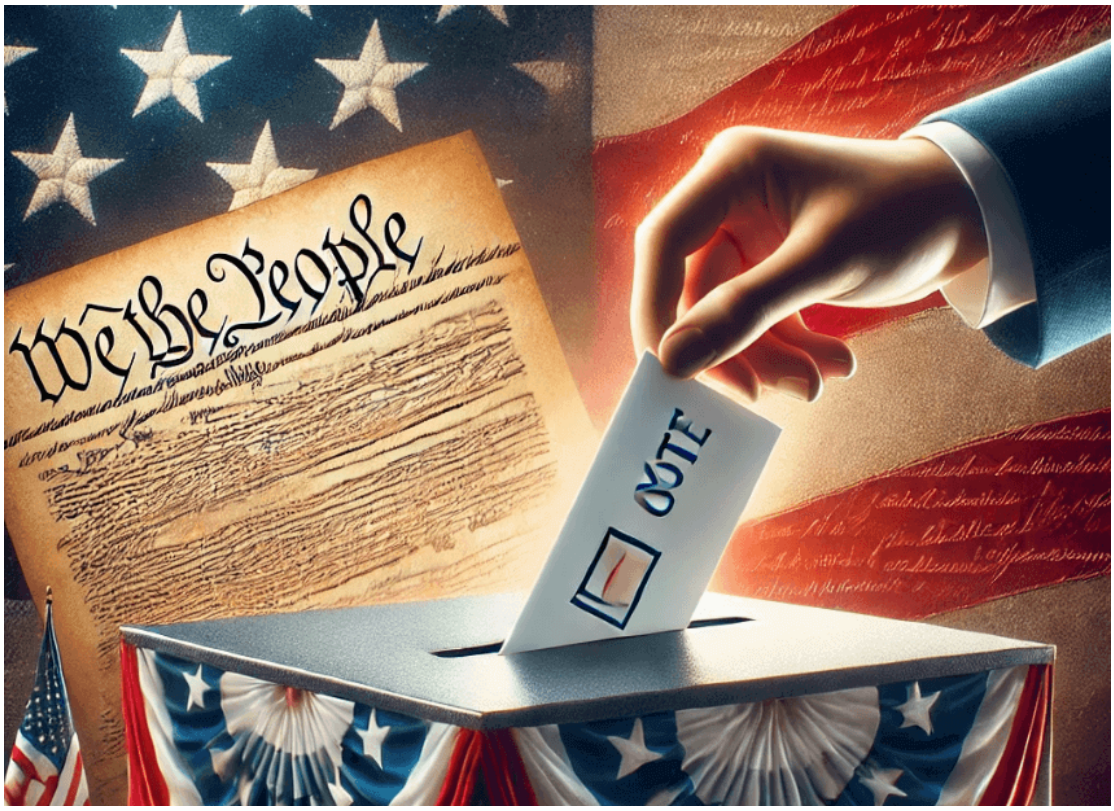
Why Phone-Based Voting Would Destroy American Democracy: A Response to Omega4America

BY VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/PHONE-VOTING-THREATENS-CONSTITUTIONAL-REPUBLIC/
SEPTEMBER 30, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION



I recently read a thought-provoking article on **Omega4America's Substack** titled **"Paper Ballots, Voter ID and Unicorns"** that raises important questions about election integrity. The author makes some valid points about address verification being a critical vulnerability in our current mail-in ballot system—and I encourage you to read the full article to engage with those arguments.

However, the article also contains a claim that deeply concerns me as both a Christian and a constitutional conservative: the assertion that phone-based voting is "inevitable" and that Republicans should prepare for this future rather than resist it.

With respect to the author's expertise in technology, I must vehemently disagree. Phone-based voting would represent a catastrophic abandonment of constitutional principles and biblical standards of justice. Here's why this is a battle worth fighting—and why "inevitability" is a lie designed to make us surrender without debate.

I welcome your thoughts in the comments. Let's reason together about what election integrity truly requires.

What Omega4America Got Right

Before I explain my concerns, let me acknowledge where the article makes excellent points:

Address verification is indeed critical. The author's research showing mail-in ballots sent to Walmarts, gas stations, and vacant lots—then collected by third parties—exposes a genuine vulnerability that deserves immediate attention. This isn't theoretical; they've documented it across swing states.

The voter integrity movement has credibility problems. When advocates focus on solutions that don't address actual fraud methods, it does make the entire cause look unserious to policymakers.

We need multiple safeguards. The author is right that no single solution fixes everything.

These are valuable insights. I'm grateful for researchers doing the hard work of data analysis to expose election anomalies.

But the article's casual acceptance of phone-based voting as our inevitable future? That's where we must draw a line in the sand.

The Biblical Foundation: God Demands Honest Weights and Measures

Before diving into constitutional arguments, let's establish the biblical principle at stake.

"You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor" (Leviticus 19:15). God's Word demands justice in all our dealings—especially in how we govern ourselves and choose our leaders.

The Lord is explicit about honest measurement: **"Unequal weights are an abomination to the LORD, and false scales are not good"** (Proverbs 20:23). In ancient Israel, merchants who used false weights to cheat customers faced God's judgment. How much more seriously should we take the "weights and measures" of democracy—the votes that determine who governs?

Phone-based voting creates a system where votes cannot be verified, audited, or proven accurate. It's a scale that no one can examine. **We're asked to simply trust that the digital database is honest**—with no physical evidence and no way to independently verify the truth.

This violates the biblical principle of transparency and accountability. As believers, we should demand systems where truth can be verified, not hidden behind unauditable code and hackable servers.

"For we can do nothing against the truth, but only for the truth" (2 Corinthians 13:8). Truth requires evidence. Phone voting eliminates evidence.

The Constitutional Crisis Phone Voting Would Create

1. The Constitution Requires Verifiable, Auditable Elections

The article argues that "if you can secure the entire financial system, health care system with phone communication, it can be done for voting."

This comparison fundamentally misunderstands what makes elections constitutionally different from banking.

The Constitution grants states authority to administer elections (Article I, Section 4), but this authority must operate within constitutional boundaries. Our system requires that election results be **verifiable, auditable, and subject to judicial review**. When election disputes arise—and they inevitably do—courts must have evidence to examine.

Phone-based voting makes this impossible.

Financial fraud is detectable and reversible. If someone hacks your bank account, you can dispute the charges, freeze the account, and reverse fraudulent transactions. Banks have detailed logs showing every transaction, and they can be subpoenaed as evidence.

Votes must be anonymous and irreversible. Once cast, there's no way to "dispute" your vote without destroying ballot secrecy. Phone voting creates an unfalsifiable system where fraud becomes undetectable and unprovable. There's no physical ballot to recount, no chain of custody to examine, no audit trail that courts can meaningfully review.

We would be asking Americans to place blind faith in whoever controls the digital infrastructure—whether that's a government agency, a Silicon Valley corporation, or potentially a hostile foreign power that breached the system.

The Supreme Court has recognized that states have compelling interests in preventing fraud and maintaining public confidence in elections (*Crawford v. Marion County*, 2008). Phone voting demolishes both interests.

2. Ballot Secrecy Is a Constitutional Safeguard—Phone Voting Destroys It

The author dismisses concerns about phone voting as "Luddite" thinking. But there's a reason the secret ballot has been considered essential to free elections since the late 1800s: **it protects voters from coercion, intimidation, and vote-buying**.

When you vote from your phone, how do we know:

- Your abusive spouse isn't standing over you, demanding to watch you vote?
- Your employer isn't requiring you to prove how you voted?
- You weren't paid $100 and required to show photographic evidence of your vote?
- A union boss isn't "helping" dozens of workers vote—while watching?
- Nursing home staff aren't "assisting" elderly residents who can't really consent?

The answer is: we cannot know. And that's the fatal flaw.

Scripture warns us to **"take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them"** (Ephesians 5:11). Phone voting doesn't expose darkness—it creates shadows where coercion thrives unseen. It enables the very "works of darkness" that ballot secrecy was designed to prevent.

The moment voting moves to phones, the secret ballot disappears. Constitutional protections evaporate. Votes become subject to purchase, coercion, and intimidation—with no way to detect or prevent it.

3. Digital Systems Are Vulnerable—Election Fraud Would Become Invisible

The article claims that securing phone-based voting is simply a technical problem we can solve. But the National Academy of Sciences, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), and virtually every election security expert **vehemently disagree**.

Here's why phone voting is fundamentally different from phone banking:

Banking systems are breached constantly—banks lose billions to cybercrime annually. Credit cards are stolen. Accounts are hacked. The difference is that financial fraud is (usually) detectable and reversible. **Election fraud in a phone-based system would be invisible and permanent.**

Consider the vulnerabilities:

- **Server-side manipulation**: Whoever controls the backend database can alter vote totals with zero physical evidence
- **Man-in-the-middle attacks**: Votes can be intercepted and changed in transit

- **Malware**: Phones can be infected with code that changes votes before they're cast
- **SIM-swapping**: Phone numbers can be hijacked to cast fraudulent votes
- **Denial of service**: Voters can be blocked from voting during crucial hours
- **Foreign interference**: Nations like China, Russia, and Iran have sophisticated cyber warfare capabilities and routinely penetrate U.S. networks

Scripture warns: **"The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it"** (Proverbs 22:3). We see the danger clearly. Advanced democracies like France, Germany, the Netherlands, and Ireland have **banned internet voting** after examining these risks. They're not backward—they're prudent.

Why would we ignore these warnings and rush headlong into a system that makes election fraud undetectable?

4. The Guarantee Clause Demands We Can Prove Elections Are Honest

Article IV, Section 4 of the Constitution requires the United States to guarantee every state "a Republican Form of Government"—meaning representative government where the people actually choose their leaders.

Phone-based voting makes it **impossible to guarantee** election results reflect the will of voters. When results can't be audited, verified, or proven, how can we ensure we still have a republic?

A system where citizens must simply **trust** that a digital database accurately recorded their votes —with no physical evidence, no audit trail, and no meaningful oversight—is not a republic. It's whatever those who control the servers decide it is.

"When justice is done, it is a joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers" (Proverbs 21:15). True justice requires the ability to prove truth and expose lies. Phone voting eliminates both capabilities.

The Dangerous "Inevitability" Narrative

The Omega4America article claims phone voting is inevitable—that young people expect it, that technology always wins, that resistance is futile.

This is the most dangerous argument in the piece, because it's designed to bypass debate and manufacture consent.

Nothing is inevitable except what we allow.

The article mocks those who believe paper ballots could return, calling them "crazies" breathing "concentrated craziness." But consider: France, one of the world's most technologically advanced nations, uses **hand-counted paper ballots for all elections**. They do this deliberately, after examining digital alternatives.

Are the French "Luddites"? Or are they prudent people who understand that some things—like verifiable election results—are too important to entrust to hackable technology?

"Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:13). We're called to be sober-minded, not swept along by claims of inevitability. We're called to think clearly and act wisely.

When someone tells you resistance is futile, they're trying to conquer you without a fight. Don't surrender.

What Biblical Wisdom and Constitutional Fidelity Require

Rather than accepting phone-based voting, we should insist on systems that honor both Scripture's call for honest weights and the Constitution's requirement for verifiable elections:

1. **Paper ballots with robust chain of custody** – Physical evidence that can be recounted and audited
2. **Voter ID requirements** – Ensuring those casting ballots are who they claim to be
3. **Address verification** (as Omega4America correctly emphasizes) – Stopping ballots to ineligible addresses
4. **Limited, secured absentee voting** – For those truly unable to vote in person, with strict verification
5. **Transparent counting processes** – Where citizens can observe every step
6. **Risk-limiting audits** – Statistical verification that counts are accurate

These aren't competing solutions—they're **complementary safeguards** that work together. The author is right that address verification matters. But that doesn't mean voter ID and paper ballots don't also matter.

An Invitation to Dialogue

I respect Omega4America's research on address verification—it's valuable work that deserves attention. But I cannot accept the premise that phone-based voting is inevitable or desirable.

I welcome your thoughts below. Read **the original article** for yourself. Where do you agree? Disagree? What safeguards do you believe are most critical?

As Christians committed to biblical truth and constitutional governance, we must think deeply about these issues. We cannot simply accept technological "progress" that undermines the very foundations of verifiable democracy.

"Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding" (Proverbs 23:23). Truth has a cost. It's less convenient than lies. It requires work to verify and maintain. But it's worth every bit of effort—because without verifiable truth, we lose everything else.

Phone-based voting would sacrifice truth on the altar of convenience. As believers and patriots, we must refuse that trade.

The republic our founders established—and the just governance God demands—requires nothing less.

What are your thoughts? Should we embrace phone-based voting or fight for verifiable systems? Share your perspective in the comments below.

Take Action:

1. **Contact your state legislators** – Urge them to reject internet or phone-based voting proposals
2. **Support comprehensive election integrity** – Including voter ID, address verification, and paper ballots
3. **Educate others** – Share why convenience must never trump constitutional safeguards
4. **Stay engaged** – Monitor your state's election laws and proposed changes

Our republic is worth the fight. Our votes are too precious to entrust to unverifiable technology.

"Stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery" (Galatians 5:1). Don't let anyone tell you that surrendering election integrity is inevitable.

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Birthright Citizenship SCOTUS Battle: How Trump's Constitutional Challenge Could Restore Original Intent

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/BIRTHRIGHT-CITIZENSHIP-SCOTUS-BATTLE-HOW-TRUMPS-CONSTITUTIONAL-CHALLENGE-COULD-RESTORE-ORIGINAL-INTENT/
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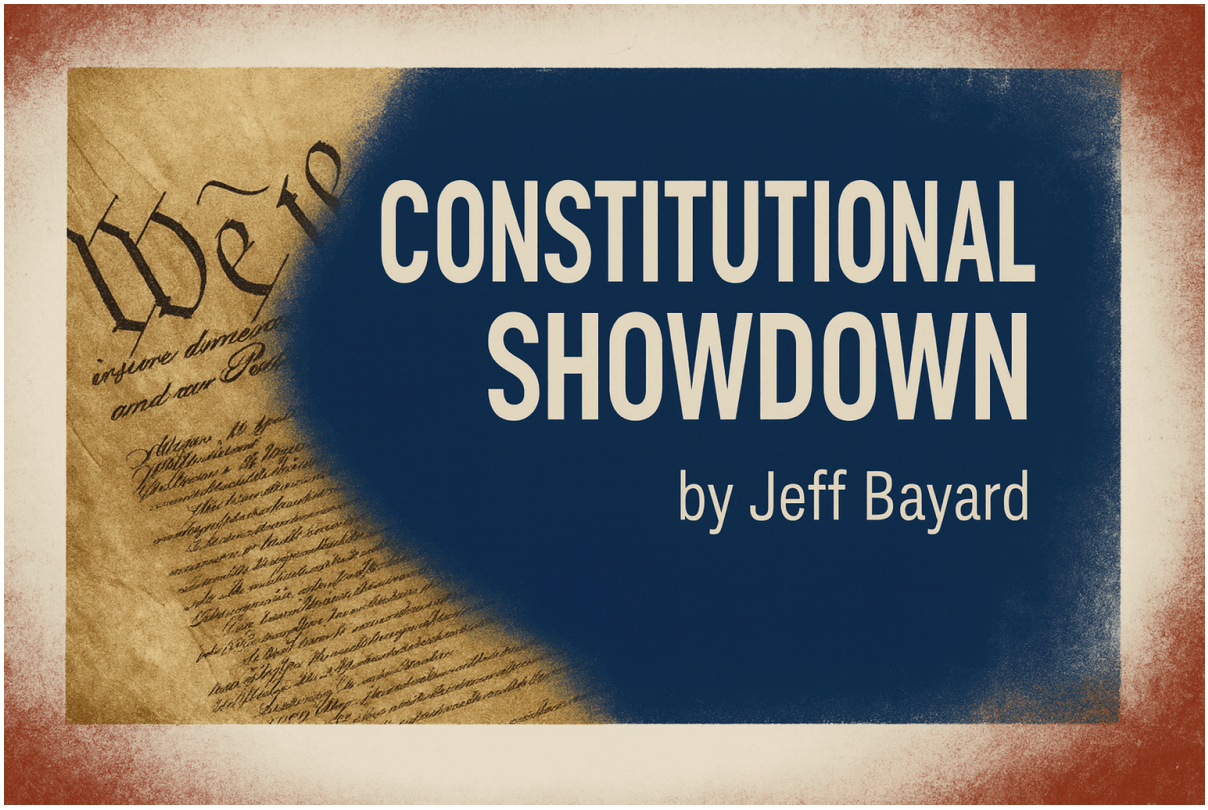

*The Virginia Christian Alliance continues our **Constitutional Showdown** series framed from the Christian Worldview and Constitutional originalism, exposing how modern courts twist the framers' original intent while equipping believers to defend constitutional truth through faithful citizenship and prayer.*

Birthright Citizenship SCOTUS Petition Could End 150 Years of Constitutional Distortion

When President Trump filed twin petitions with the Supreme Court on Friday, September 27, 2025, the birthright citizenship SCOTUS battle officially began. This petition requests review of his executive order ending birthright citizenship and represents the most significant constitutional

challenge since the Civil War amendments. The birthright citizenship SCOTUS case will determine whether America returns to the framers' original intent or continues judicial activism that transforms illegal border crossing into automatic citizenship.

The constitutional stakes couldn't be higher: Does the **14th Amendment** grant citizenship to anyone born on American soil, or did the framers establish specific requirements that modern courts ignore? This birthright citizenship SCOTUS petition forces the Supreme Court to answer that question.

What Trump's Executive Order Actually Does (And Why Courts Hate It)

Trump's January 20, 2025 executive order targets a specific constitutional distortion that has plagued America for decades. The order declares that children born after February 19, 2025, will not receive automatic citizenship if their parents are in the country illegally or temporarily.

The Constitutional Foundation: Trump's order relies on the 14th Amendment's precise language: "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, **and subject to the jurisdiction thereof**, are citizens of the United States."

Modern Courts' Rebellion: Federal judges nationwide immediately struck down Trump's order, with Senior U.S. District Judge John Coughenour calling birthright citizenship "a fundamental constitutional right"—despite the Constitution's clear jurisdictional requirement.

The Lower Court Disaster: The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that Trump's order "contradicts the plain language of the Fourteenth Amendment's grant of citizenship to 'all persons born in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof'"—conveniently ignoring the jurisdictional clause entirely.

These judicial rulings demonstrate how activist courts manipulate constitutional text to achieve political outcomes, exactly what this birthright citizenship SCOTUS challenge must correct.

The 14th Amendment's Original Meaning Destroys Modern Birthright Citizenship Theory

Constitutional originalists understand that the 14th Amendment's framers never intended automatic citizenship for children of illegal aliens. The amendment's language contains specific limitations that modern courts deliberately ignore.

The Framers' Crystal Clear Intent: U.S. Solicitor General D. John Sauer argues in the birthright citizenship SCOTUS petition that the 14th Amendment "was adopted to grant citizenship to newly freed slaves and their children—not to the children of temporary visitors or illegal aliens."

Historical Evidence Supports Originalist Interpretation:

- The amendment overturned Dred Scott v. Sandford (1857), which denied citizenship to enslaved persons
- Framers specifically added "subject to the jurisdiction thereof" to exclude certain categories
- Native Americans were excluded until Congress granted citizenship in 1924
- Children of foreign diplomats have always been excluded

Wong Kim Ark's Limited Scope: The 1898 Supreme Court case that modern activists cite involved Chinese immigrants who were **legal permanent residents**, not illegal aliens. Justice Horace Gray's majority opinion specifically noted exceptions for "children of foreign sovereigns or their ministers, or born on foreign public ships, or of enemies within and during a hostile occupation."

The birthright citizenship SCOTUS petition correctly argues that illegal aliens occupy similar status to "enemies within"—they violate American sovereignty by their very presence.

Why "Subject to the Jurisdiction Thereof" Means More Than Physical Presence

Modern courts have corrupted the 14th Amendment by claiming that anyone physically present in America is "subject to the jurisdiction thereof." This interpretation ignores the framers' sophisticated understanding of jurisdiction and allegiance.

The Framers Distinguished Between Types of Jurisdiction:

- **Territorial Jurisdiction:** Physical presence within borders
- **Political Jurisdiction:** Allegiance and obligation to obey laws
- **Complete Jurisdiction:** Full subjection to American sovereignty

Biblical Principle of Allegiance: Scripture teaches that God establishes governing authorities (Romans 13:1), and those authorities have the right to determine membership in their political community. Illegal aliens demonstrate rejection of American authority by their unlawful entry and continued presence.

Constitutional Logic: If "subject to the jurisdiction thereof" meant mere physical presence, the framers would have written "born in the United States." They added the jurisdictional requirement for a specific purpose—to exclude those who maintain foreign allegiance or violate American sovereignty.

The birthright citizenship SCOTUS case will determine whether America returns to this original understanding or continues the judicial activism that transforms constitutional text into

meaningless words.

How Liberal Judicial Activism Created the Modern Birthright Citizenship Crisis

The current birthright citizenship disaster results from decades of judicial activism that ignored the 14th Amendment's text and original meaning. Liberal courts gradually expanded citizenship beyond the framers' intent to achieve political goals.

The Dangerous Precedent Pattern:

- **1898 Wong Kim Ark:** Limited ruling for legal immigrants
- **1960s-1980s:** Gradual expansion without constitutional basis
- **Modern Era:** Complete abandonment of jurisdictional requirement

Real-World Consequences of Judicial Overreach:

- **Border Crisis Incentive:** Pregnant women cross illegally to secure citizenship for children
- **Chain Migration Explosion:** Anchor babies sponsor extended family members
- **Sovereignty Violation:** Foreign nationals gain political influence through illegal actions
- **Constitutional Corruption:** Courts ignore plain text to achieve preferred outcomes

The Christian Stewardship Failure: When courts abandon constitutional limits, they violate the biblical principle that government authority comes from God and must operate within established bounds (Romans 13:1-7).

The birthright citizenship SCOTUS petition offers an opportunity to restore constitutional governance and end judicial tyranny that transforms illegal activity into constitutional rights.

Supreme Court's 6-3 Conservative Majority: Will They Embrace Originalist Interpretation?

The birthright citizenship SCOTUS battle arrives at a Supreme Court with six conservative justices who claim commitment to originalist interpretation. Their response will test whether they apply originalist principles consistently or bow to political pressure.

The Originalist Justices' Constitutional Duty:

- **Chief Justice Roberts:** Must choose between precedent and original meaning
- **Justice Thomas:** Strongest originalist voice, likely to support Trump's interpretation
- **Justice Alito:** Consistent defender of constitutional text over judicial activism
- **Justice Gorsuch:** Textualist approach should favor jurisdictional requirements

- **Justice Kavanaugh:** Institutionalist who may prioritize stability over correction
- **Justice Barrett:** Originalist credentials face their biggest test

The Liberal Justices' Predictable Response:

- **Justices Sotomayor, Kagan, and Jackson:** Will defend judicial activism disguised as "settled law"
- Expected arguments about "disrupting established expectations"
- Likely claims about "humanitarian concerns" overriding constitutional text

The Conservative Challenge: Will originalist justices apply their interpretive philosophy consistently, or will they invent exceptions when political pressure intensifies?

The birthright citizenship SCOTUS decision will reveal whether the conservative legal movement represents genuine constitutional principles or merely conservative judicial activism.

Biblical Principles Every Christian Should Know About Citizenship and Sovereignty

Scripture provides clear guidance on national sovereignty, citizenship, and government authority that supports the originalist interpretation of birthright citizenship. Christians must understand these biblical principles to evaluate the constitutional arguments correctly.

God Establishes National Boundaries: "From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands" (Acts 17:26). National sovereignty reflects divine design, not human prejudice.

Government Authority Includes Immigration Control: "Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established" (Romans 13:1). This includes authority to determine who becomes a member of the political community.

Lawfulness Matters to God: "Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority" (1 Peter 2:13). Illegal entry violates both human law and biblical principles of submission to legitimate authority.

Stewardship Extends to National Resources: Government officials are stewards accountable to God for protecting the common good. Automatic citizenship for illegal border crossers violates stewardship by rewarding lawbreaking and burdening lawful citizens.

The Higher Law Principle: When human courts contradict divine law and constitutional limits, Christians must support leaders who defend God-given authority structures, including national sovereignty.

The birthright citizenship SCOTUS case tests whether America will honor biblical principles of lawful government or continue judicial rebellion against divine and constitutional authority.

Why This SCOTUS Decision Could Transform American Immigration Forever

The birthright citizenship SCOTUS ruling will create constitutional precedent affecting millions of future Americans and fundamentally reshape immigration policy for generations.

Immediate Impact of Originalist Victory:

- **Border Crisis Solution:** Eliminates primary incentive for illegal border crossing
- **Chain Migration End:** Prevents automatic citizenship from creating permanent immigration streams
- **Constitutional Restoration:** Returns 14th Amendment to framers' original meaning
- **Judicial Accountability:** Demonstrates that courts cannot ignore constitutional text indefinitely

Long-Term Constitutional Consequences:

- **Originalist Precedent:** Strengthens textualist interpretation across constitutional law
- **Judicial Restraint:** Limits courts' ability to create policy through constitutional manipulation
- **Democratic Governance:** Returns immigration policy to elected representatives, not activist judges
- **National Sovereignty:** Restores government authority to control membership in political community

The Stakes for Christian Citizens:

- **Biblical Government:** Supports divinely-established authority structures
- **Rule of Law:** Prioritizes constitutional text over judicial preferences
- **Faithful Stewardship:** Protects national resources for lawful citizens
- **Future Generations:** Preserves constitutional government for our children

The birthright citizenship SCOTUS decision will determine whether America returns to constitutional governance or continues the judicial activism that transforms courts into super-legislatures.

What Christians Must Do While SCOTUS Decides America's Future

The birthright citizenship SCOTUS battle requires active Christian engagement to support constitutional truth and biblical principles of government. Faithful citizens cannot remain passive while courts decide fundamental questions about national sovereignty.

Pray for Constitutional Wisdom: "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God" (James 1:5). The justices need divine guidance to interpret the Constitution according to its original meaning, not political pressure.

Educate Fellow Believers: Many Christians misunderstand the constitutional issues, believing that birthright citizenship represents biblical charity. Share the framers' original intent and biblical principles supporting lawful immigration.

Contact Representatives: Urge senators and representatives to support originalist interpretation through public statements and legislative action. Elected officials must defend constitutional truth against judicial activism.

Support Constitutional Organizations: Contribute to legal groups filing amicus briefs supporting Trump's petition. Constitutional interpretation battles require sustained legal defense.

Prepare for Long-Term Engagement: Whether SCOTUS rules correctly or incorrectly, Christians must remain engaged in defending constitutional governance and biblical principles of national sovereignty.

The birthright citizenship SCOTUS case represents a defining moment for American constitutional government and Christian citizenship.

Take Action: Defend Constitutional Truth Before It's Too Late

The birthright citizenship SCOTUS battle will determine whether America returns to the framers' constitutional vision or continues judicial activism that transforms illegal activity into constitutional rights.

Immediate Steps for Constitutional Defense:

- **Study the 14th Amendment's text and history** to understand originalist arguments
- **Contact your senators and representatives** to support Trump's constitutional position
- **Share this analysis** with fellow Christians who need constitutional education
- **Pray consistently** for the Supreme Court justices to choose constitutional truth over political pressure

Long-Term Constitutional Engagement:

- **Vote for originalist candidates** who will appoint constitutionalist judges
- **Support constitutional education** in churches and Christian schools
- **Defend biblical principles** of government authority and national sovereignty
- **Remain vigilant** against future judicial attempts to ignore constitutional text

The birthright citizenship SCOTUS decision will echo through generations of American constitutional law. Christians who value biblical government and constitutional truth must engage now to influence this critical battle.

The choice is clear: Support the framers' original intent that protects national sovereignty, or accept judicial activism that transforms the Constitution into meaningless words subject to political manipulation.

The time for action is now. The birthright citizenship SCOTUS case will determine whether constitutional government survives or judicial tyranny triumphs.

For Further Reading:

Primary Source Documents:

- **Trump's Executive Order: "Protecting the Meaning and Value of American Citizenship"** – January 20, 2025
- **Trump v. Washington – SCOTUS Petition with Appendix (PDF)** – September 27, 2025
- **Barbara v. Trump – District Court Preliminary Injunction** – July 10, 2025
- **9th Circuit Ruling on Executive Order** – July 23, 2025

Constitutional Resources:

- **14th Amendment Text and History** – National Archives
- **United States v. Wong Kim Ark (1898)** – Full Supreme Court Opinion
- **Dred Scott v. Sandford (1857)** – Historical Context

News Coverage:

- **SCOTUSblog: Trump Urges Supreme Court to Decide Whether to End Birthright Citizenship** – September 27, 2025
- **SCOTUSblog Case Files: Trump v. CASA Inc.** – Universal Injunction Ruling

Related Constitutional Showdown Articles:

- **Trump Pocket Rescission: How Constitutional Defense Exposed USAID Corruption** – VCA Constitutional Showdown Series

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Trump Pocket Rescission: How Constitutional Defense Exposed USAID Corruption

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/TRUMP-POCKET-RESCISSION-HOW-CONSTITUTIONAL-DEFENSE-EXPOSED-USAID-CORRUPTION/
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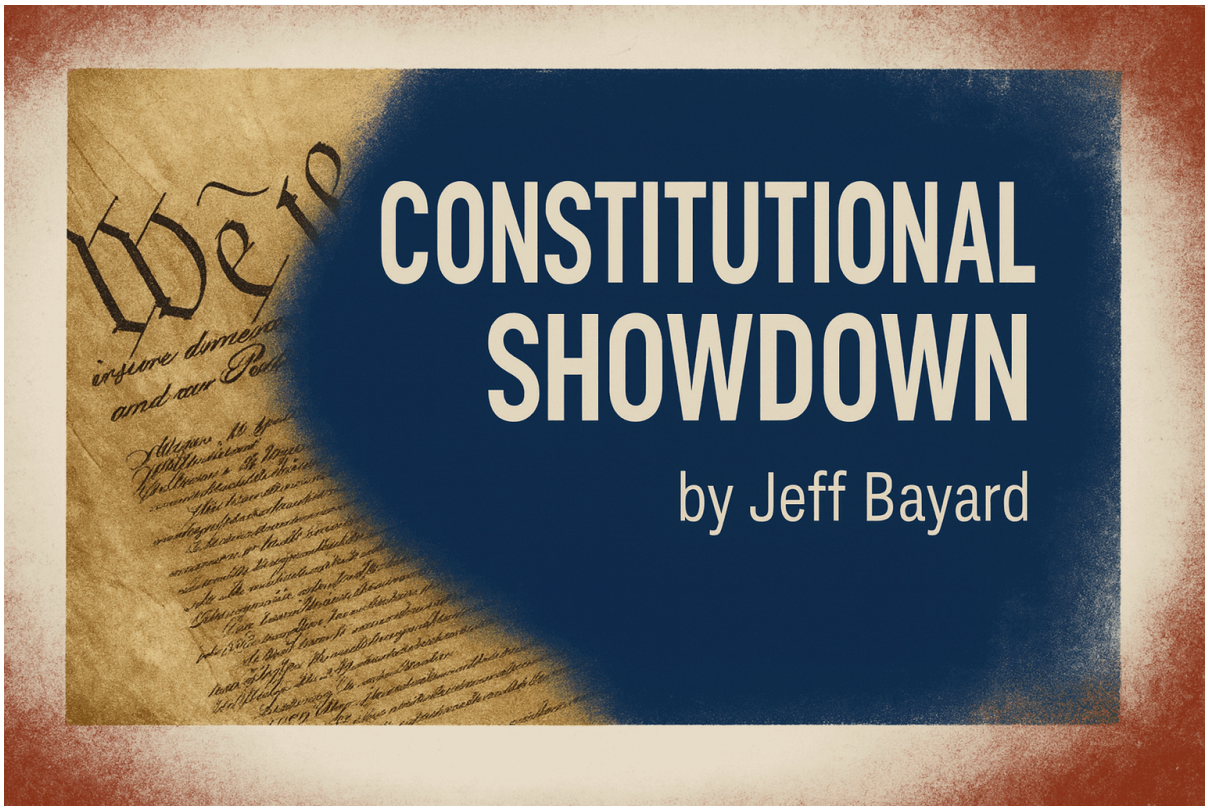

The Virginia Christian Alliance continues our **Constitutional Showdown series** framed from the Christian Worldview and Constitutional originalism, exposing how government corruption violates both biblical stewardship principles and the framers' original intent while equipping believers to defend constitutional limits through faithful citizenship and prayer.

Why Trump's $4.9 Billion Foreign Aid Fight Could Save Your Tax Dollars Forever

When President Trump used a rare "pocket rescission" to withhold $4.9 billion in foreign aid, most Americans had no idea they were witnessing the exposure of one of the most corrupt government agencies in modern history. What looked like a budget dispute was actually a constitutional showdown that revealed how your tax dollars fund political corruption disguised as charity.

What Is Pocket Rescission and Why Should You Care?

The Trump pocket rescission strategy represents the first use of this constitutional tool in nearly 50 years. Unlike normal budget processes, pocket rescission allows presidents to effectively cancel congressional spending by timing their rescission requests so close to the fiscal year end that Congress cannot respond.

On September 26, 2025, the Supreme Court sided with Trump's pocket rescission by a 6-3 vote, allowing him to withhold $4.9 billion in congressionally appropriated foreign aid. But this wasn't just about foreign policy—it exposed systematic corruption that had turned USAID into what experts call **"a true one-hand-washes-the-other stop for politicians who deal in favors."**

The constitutional stakes couldn't be higher: When Congress appropriates money for programs exceeding constitutional authority, does the Executive violate his oath by spending such funds or by refusing to spend them?

The Shocking Truth About Where Your Foreign Aid Tax Dollars Really Go

The Trump pocket rescission revealed disturbing evidence of how USAID transformed from legitimate foreign aid into a political slush fund. Congressional investigations uncovered a system where politicians used taxpayer money to buy favors abroad while bureaucrats enriched themselves through the revolving door.

The Biden Family Ukraine Scandal: Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene exposed how *"Biden threatened, and it's on video, to withhold 1 billion of USAID grant to Ukraine if Shokin wasn't fired"*—the prosecutor investigating Hunter Biden's company Burisma.

The Dark Money Network: **USAID became infiltrated by left-wing organizations**:

- **Ann Van Dusen** (25 years at USAID) → **Arabella Advisors** (left-wing dark money hub)
- **At least 5 former USAID staff → George Soros's Open Society Foundations**
- **$270 million in USAID funds** went to Soros operations that "spurred first Trump impeachment"

Personal Enrichment: Former USAID Administrator Samantha Power's reported wealth increased from $8.8-29 million when she started to $12-30.5 million when she left—suspicious for someone earning a government salary.

How $70,000 for a "DEI Musical" Proves Government Waste Is Out of Control

The Trump pocket rescission exposed specific examples of wasteful spending that will shock taxpayers. A 2019 government report found 43% of USAID awards achieved only half their intended results, while billions disappeared into questionable programs:

Ridiculous Spending Examples:

- **$70,000 for a DEI musical in Ireland**
- **$1.5 million for DEI programs in Serbia**
- **Hundreds of thousands to terrorist-linked organizations**
- **Millions to EcoHealth Alliance** (Wuhan lab research)
- **"Hundreds of thousands of meals to al Qaeda-affiliated fighters in Syria"**

Cover-Up Operations: The Washington Post revealed that *"Eight USAID inspector general auditors sounded the alarm that negative findings were removed from final reports."* When Egypt arrested 43 NGO workers for illegal operations, **USAID quietly paid Egypt $4.6 million to bail out the Americans**—essentially bribing a foreign government to cover up illegal activities.

This systematic fraud explains why Trump's pocket rescission strategy was constitutionally necessary to protect taxpayer interests.

Why Christians Should Question $110 Billion in "AIDS Relief" Spending

Many Christians supported PEPFAR (President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) believing it represented biblical charity. But the Trump pocket rescission exposed how this $110+ billion program had been corrupted from its 2003 mission into anti-Christian ideology promotion.

Bush's Original Christian Vision (2003):

- Life-saving AIDS treatment for dying patients
- Prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission
- Healthcare infrastructure in devastated communities
- Faith-based partnerships respecting local values

How Liberal Mission Creep Corrupted Christian Charity: Over 22 years, bureaucrats transformed AIDS relief into cultural imperialism:

- **$4 million for "global LGBTQI+ awareness"** programs
- **Abortion services** (documented violations in Mozambique)
- **"Feminist Democratic Principles"** training in Africa

- **Democratic regime change operations** disguised as health programs

Heritage Foundation scholars correctly noted: *"Using PEPFAR's massive financial power to force an alien social agenda on unwilling communities amounts to cultural imperialism and neocolonialism."*

The Trump pocket rescission protected Christian taxpayers from funding programs that violated biblical principles while claiming to represent Christian charity.

Constitutional Crisis: When Congress Funds Programs It Has No Authority to Create

The Trump pocket rescission forced a fundamental constitutional question: Where does Congress get authority to fund LGBTQ+ promotion abroad? Article I, Section 8 lists specific congressional powers, but cultural transformation in foreign countries isn't among them.

Unconstitutional Programs Trump Challenged:

- **$4 million for "global LGBTQI+ awareness"** (no enumerated power for sexual ideology export)
- **$3.9 million for LGBTQI+ "democracy" in Western Balkans** (cultural imperialism)
- **$2 million for "Feminist Democratic Principles" in Africa** (ideological transformation)
- **$322 million "Democracy Fund"** conducting "election meddling in foreign countries"

The Framers' Original Intent: Operating under "Laws of Nature and Nature's God," the Constitution's framers never intended federal agencies to become ideological export machines forcing American social politics on unwilling societies.

The constitutional question becomes: When Congress exceeds its enumerated powers, does the Executive violate his oath by spending such appropriations or by refusing to spend them? Trump's pocket rescission argued that faithful constitutional execution sometimes requires resistance to congressional overreach.

The Executive's Biblical and Constitutional Duty

From a Christian constitutional perspective, Trump was not violating congressional authority—he was fulfilling his biblical and constitutional obligation to be a faithful steward of taxpayer money. Scripture commands: *"Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God"* (Romans 13:1). But when human authorities command what violates God's law and constitutional limits, biblical precedent supports principled resistance.

The Higher Law Principle: When Congress appropriates money for programs that:

- **Exceed enumerated constitutional powers**
- **Corrupt genuine Christian charity** into political manipulation
- **Fund anti-American and anti-Christian activities** abroad
- **Enrich political cronies** through corruption schemes
- **Violate national sovereignty** through cultural imperialism

Does the Executive violate his constitutional oath by spending such money or by refusing to spend it?

The Constitutional Answer: The Executive's oath requires defending the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. When congressional appropriations exceed constitutional authority, faithful execution means refusing to execute unconstitutional directives, not blindly following them.

The Biblical Answer: *"We must obey God rather than men"* (Acts 5:29). When human law conflicts with divine law and constitutional limits, faithful stewardship requires resistance to corruption, not participation in it.

Supreme Court's 6-3 Decision: What the Pocket Rescission Ruling Really Means

The Supreme Court's September 26, 2025 decision represents a constitutional watershed moment, though the Court avoided the deeper questions. In a 6-3 unsigned order, the conservative majority allowed Trump's pocket rescission while the liberal justices warned about executive overreach.

What the Court Did: The majority focused on procedural issues, claiming the Impoundment Control Act bars private lawsuits challenging spending decisions. They avoided ruling on whether executives must spend money on unconstitutional programs.

Justice Kagan's Constitutional Warning: Writing for the liberal dissent, Kagan identified the real stakes: *"At issue is the allocation of power between the Executive and Congress over the expenditure of public monies."* She warned the Court was operating in "uncharted territory."

The Unanswered Question: By using procedural grounds, the Court ducked the fundamental constitutional issue: When Congress appropriates money for programs outside its enumerated powers, which branch violates the Constitution—the Executive who spends it or the Executive who refuses?

Trump's pocket rescission strategy forced this constitutional confrontation, even though the Court tried to avoid deciding it.

Biblical Principles Every Christian Should Know About Government Spending

Scripture provides clear guidance on how government officials should handle taxpayer money. The Trump pocket rescission applied these biblical principles to constitutional governance in ways every Christian should understand.

Faithful Stewardship Required: *"Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful"* (1 Corinthians 4:2). Government officials are stewards of taxpayer funds, not servants who must execute every directive regardless of constitutional limits.

Resistance to Corruption Commanded: *"Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them"* (Ephesians 5:11). When government programs fund anti-Christian ideologies or terrorist-linked organizations, faithful officials must resist.

Higher Law Principle: *"We must obey God rather than men"* (Acts 5:29). When human laws conflict with divine law and constitutional limits, biblical precedent supports principled resistance to corruption.

Divine Authority in Government: *"The Most High rules the kingdom of men"* (Daniel 4:25). Civil government derives authority from God and must operate within the bounds established through natural law and constitutional limits.

The Trump pocket rescission demonstrated how these biblical principles apply to modern constitutional governance.

Why This Pocket Rescission Victory Matters for Your Tax Dollars

Trump's pocket rescission success represents more than a budget dispute—it's a constitutional precedent that could protect taxpayers from funding government corruption for years to come.

Immediate Impact: The $4.9 billion in questionable foreign aid will expire unspent, returning money to taxpayers instead of funding:

- Political favor schemes abroad
- Anti-American ideology promotion
- Dark money network operations
- Bureaucratic personal enrichment

Long-term Constitutional Precedent: Future presidents now have a proven strategy to challenge congressional appropriations that exceed constitutional authority, even when Congress refuses to address the overreach.

Christian Victory: The pocket rescission protected Christian taxpayers from funding programs that violated biblical principles while claiming to represent Christian charity.

Restored Accountability: USAID's corruption exposure through the pocket rescission fight has led to agency restructuring and oversight improvements that benefit all Americans.

The pocket rescission proves that constitutional courage can triumph over institutional corruption, even when courts try to avoid the hard questions.

Take Action: How to Support Constitutional Government

Every American who values constitutional limits and fiscal responsibility should understand the lessons of Trump's pocket rescission victory:

Educate Yourself: Learn the difference between constitutional and unconstitutional federal programs. Article I, Section 8 lists specific congressional powers—everything else exceeds federal authority.

Demand Accountability: Contact representatives to ensure future appropriations stay within constitutional bounds. Government agencies shouldn't become political slush funds.

Support Constitutional Candidates: Vote for leaders who understand that executive fidelity sometimes requires resistance to congressional overreach.

Apply Biblical Principles: Christians should evaluate government programs based on both constitutional authority and biblical stewardship principles.

The pocket rescission strategy worked because enough Americans demanded constitutional accountability. That demand must continue to protect taxpayers from future government corruption disguised as charity.

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Constitutional Showdown: Hate Speech First Amendment: Where the Constitution Draws the Line

BY JEFF BAYARD
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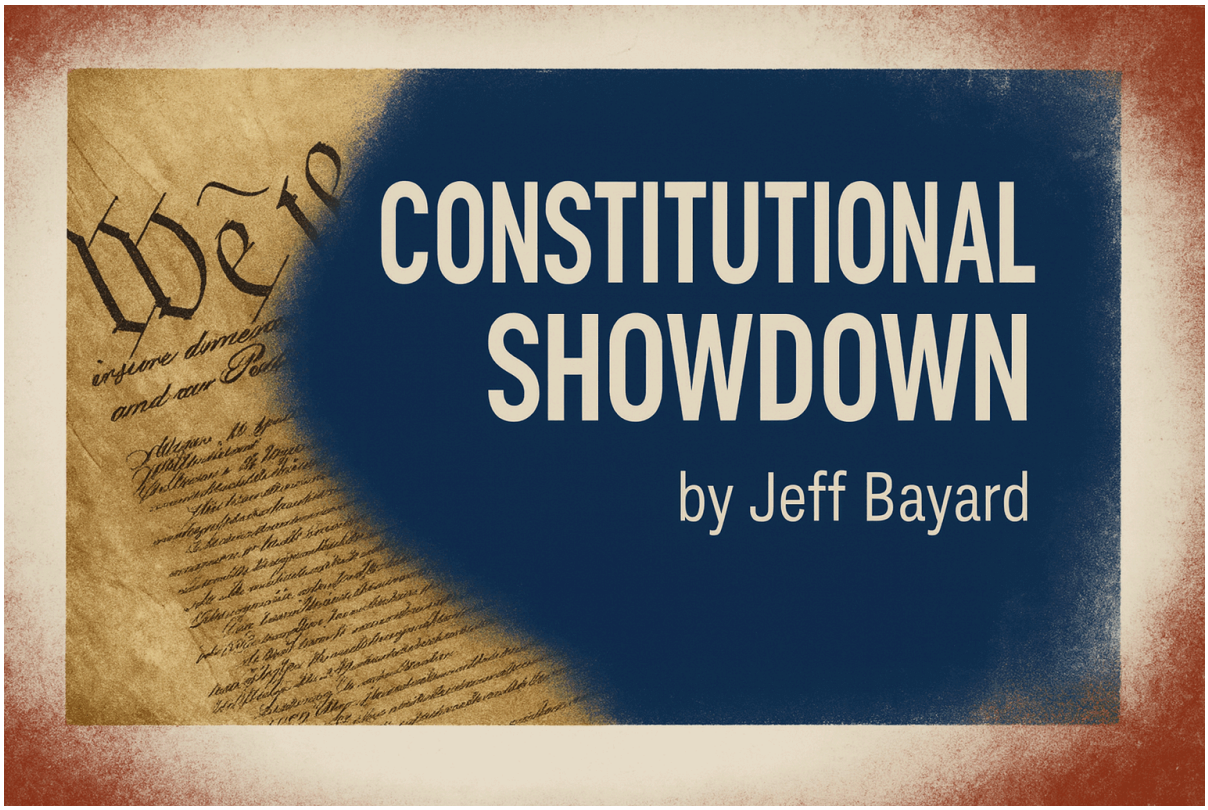

Attorney General Pam Bondi's recent comments about prosecuting "hate speech" have ignited a constitutional firestorm. But here's the truth most Americans don't understand: hate speech isn't a legal category in the United States.

The confusion surrounding hate speech and the First Amendment reveals a dangerous gap in constitutional literacy. While the Bible calls Christians to reject hateful language, the Constitution protects even offensive speech from government censorship.

What the Constitution Actually Says About Hate Speech

The First Amendment contains no hate speech exception. Period.

Supreme Court precedent is crystal clear. In *Brandenburg v. Ohio* (1969), the Court ruled that even advocacy of violence receives constitutional protection unless it incites "imminent lawless

action."

The narrow exceptions to free speech include:

- True threats against specific individuals
- Incitement to immediate violence
- Criminal conspiracy
- Defamation in certain contexts

Notice what's missing? A general "hate speech" category.

Charlie Kirk's Constitutional Legacy

The late conservative activist understood this principle better than many lawyers. Kirk consistently argued that America's strength lies in protecting even "the most disgusting speech."

"Hate speech does not exist legally in America," Kirk wrote in May 2024. "There's ugly speech. There's gross speech. There's evil speech. And ALL of it is protected by the First Amendment."

Kirk recognized a fundamental truth: once government decides what constitutes "hate," subjective enforcement becomes inevitable.

The Biblical Standard vs. Constitutional Protection

Here's where Christians must navigate carefully. The Constitution protects speech that the Bible clearly condemns.

Scripture calls believers to higher standards:

Ephesians 4:29 commands: *"Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear."*

James 3:9-10 warns: *"With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so."*

The Bible's standard is higher than the Constitution's minimum protection. Christians should reject hateful speech personally while defending others' constitutional right to speak freely.

Where Government Authority Actually Ends

Bondi's attempted clarification revealed continued confusion. She tweeted that "hate speech that crosses the line into threats of violence" isn't protected.

But this misses the point entirely. Threats of violence aren't protected because they're threats—not because they're hateful.

The federal government cannot prosecute speech based on its offensive content. That's not constitutional conservatism—that's European-style censorship.

The Power Americans Actually Possess

Citizens don't need government intervention to address offensive speech. Americans wield powerful tools:

Economic consequences: Boycotts, employment decisions, and market pressure **Social accountability**: Public criticism, community standards, and peer pressure
Counter-speech: More speech combating bad speech

Office workers celebrating Kirk's assassination faced swift termination. That's appropriate private action, not government censorship.

Why This Matters for Christians

The church has often remained passive while culture deteriorates. But Christians can engage without abandoning constitutional principles.

Colossians 4:6 instructs: *"Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person."*

This means:

- Speaking truth with love
- Engaging culture actively, not passively
- Using social influence, not government coercion
- Modeling better speech rather than silencing others

The Dangerous Precedent Problem

History warns against government speech policing. The Biden administration labeled concerned parents "domestic terrorists." Social media companies censored accurate information as "misinformation."

Any speech restrictions opened by one administration will be weaponized by the next. Constitutional conservatives must resist this temptation.

Proverbs 15:1 reminds us: *"A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."*

Christians change hearts through persuasion, not prosecution.

Moving Forward Constitutionally

The solution isn't government censorship—it's citizen engagement.

Americans must:

- Learn constitutional boundaries
- Exercise social accountability
- Support private consequences for offensive speech
- Reject government thought policing

Christians specifically should:

- Model gracious speech personally
- Engage culture boldly but lovingly
- Use economic and social influence wisely
- Defend constitutional principles even when offensive speech results

The Bottom Line

The hate speech First Amendment debate reveals a crucial truth: America's strength lies in protecting unpopular speech while empowering citizens to respond appropriately.

The Constitution sets the legal minimum. The Bible calls Christians to a higher standard. Both can coexist when we understand the difference between government authority and personal responsibility.

Charlie Kirk defended this principle with his life. The least we can do is defend it with our votes, our voices, and our values.

Watch the full constitutional analysis in this Fifth Column discussion about Bondi's comments and the legal realities of free speech protection.

Pam Bondi Says Hate Speech Should Be CRIMINALIZED and More Free Speech Questions, with Fifth Column
https://youtube.com/watch?v=C0zL-_E-C88

Constitutional Showdown examines current events through biblical principles and constitutional law. For more analysis of faith and freedom issues, subscribe to our newsletter.

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Constitutional Showdown: When Protecting America Collides with Constitutional Process

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/CONSTITUTIONAL-SHOWDOWN-TRUMP-TARIFF-AUTHORITY-SUPREME-COURT/
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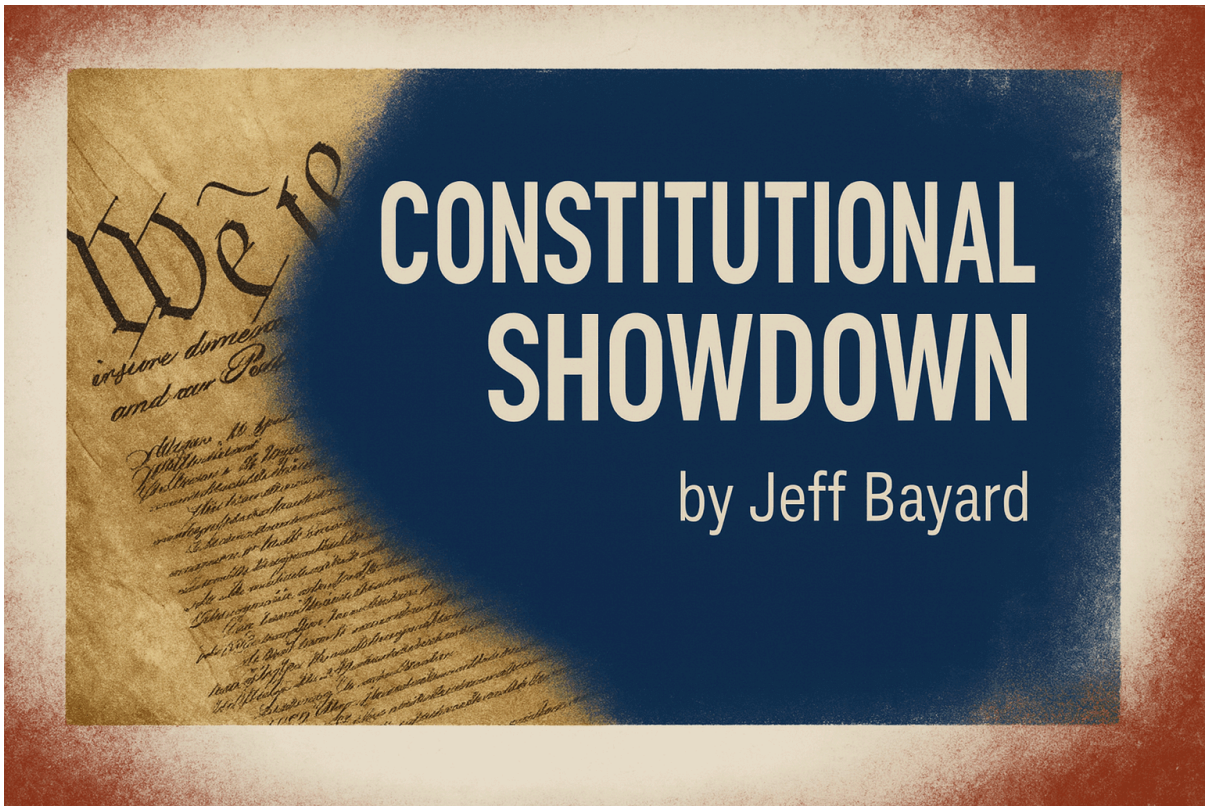

The Virginia Christian Alliance continues our **Constitutional Showdown series** framed from the Christian Worldview and Constitutional originalism, examining how Trump's $2 trillion tariff authority challenges the balance between government's God-given duty to protect citizens and constitutional limits on executive power.

How Trump's tariff authority poses the hardest question in constitutional governance: What happens when constitutional means prove inadequate to fulfill government's God-given duty to protect its citizens?

The $2 Trillion Moral Dilemma That Exposes Constitutional Limits

Picture this moral quandary: You're watching American factories close, communities collapse, and workers displaced by decades of unfair foreign trade practices that Congress refuses to address.

Then a president finally acts to protect those citizens—securing $2 trillion in foreign investment and hundreds of thousands of jobs—but uses constitutional authority that courts question.

Which duty takes precedence: constitutional process or protective governance?

Welcome to the most challenging constitutional showdown of our time, one that forces conservatives to choose between two fundamental principles: strict constitutional limits and effective governance that serves the common good. The Supreme Court's upcoming decision on Trump's tariff authority will determine not just the fate of nearly $2 trillion in international investment deals, but whether America's constitutional system can address urgent national challenges when Congress fails to act.

This isn't a simple case of executive overreach. It's a profound test of whether constitutional government—designed in a simpler era—can protect citizens in a complex global economy where inaction itself becomes a form of governmental failure.

When Divine Mandate Meets Constitutional Constraint

Government's God-Given Purpose Under Pressure

Scripture establishes government's fundamental duty clearly: "For the one in authority is God's servant for your good" (Romans 13:4). This divine mandate to protect citizens and promote their welfare doesn't disappear when constitutional processes prove inadequate.

For decades, successive Congresses have failed to address systematic trade abuse that decimated American manufacturing. While foreign nations imposed value-added taxes, currency manipulation, and massive subsidies on their exports, American workers and communities paid the price. Constitutional purists demanded congressional action, but Congress—paralyzed by special interests and procedural gridlock—refused to act.

Enter Trump's tariff regime, which achieved in months what Congress couldn't accomplish in decades: $2 trillion in foreign investment commitments, massive manufacturing relocations, and hundreds of thousands of promised jobs. The results speak to government fulfilling its protective mandate, even if the constitutional means remain disputed.

This creates a fundamental tension for Christian constitutional conservatives: Does fidelity to constitutional process trump government's duty to protect citizens from economic harm? When constitutional means prove inadequate, does biblical governance require accepting continued harm to American families?

The Stewardship Imperative vs. Process Purity

From a Christian worldview, government serves as God's steward over the nation's economic welfare. Good stewardship requires protecting citizens from exploitation, promoting domestic productivity, and ensuring economic policies serve the common good rather than foreign interests.

Trump's tariffs address clear stewardship failures in previous trade policy. American companies were paying over $200 billion annually in foreign value-added taxes while foreign companies paid nothing to export to America. This systematic inequality violated basic principles of fair dealing that any Christian businessman would reject in private commerce.

The European Union's acceptance of a 15% tariff rate—yielding $600 billion in American investment and $750 billion in energy purchases—demonstrates that previous "free trade" wasn't actually free. It was systematically biased against American interests, harming the very citizens government is called to protect.

Japan's $550 billion investment commitment similarly reveals how proper trade policy can serve legitimate governmental purposes. These aren't bribes or corruption—they're foreign recognition that America was being systematically exploited and that fair trade requires reciprocal treatment.

Constitutional Framework: Emergency Powers vs. Legislative Gridlock

The Framers' Incomplete Solution to Modern Challenges

The Constitution's framers, writing in 1787, could hardly envision global supply chains, currency manipulation, or trillion-dollar international investment flows. They designed a system for a largely agricultural economy with limited international commerce, not today's complex global marketplace.

Yet the Founders understood human nature and the tendency of power to corrupt. They deliberately granted Congress authority over commerce to prevent executive abuse while ensuring democratic accountability for trade policy. This wisdom remains sound, even when its application creates practical challenges.

The constitutional question isn't whether Trump's goals are legitimate—protecting American workers and securing fair trade clearly serves governmental purposes. The question is whether emergency powers can constitutionally substitute for congressional authorization when Congress refuses to act.

Emergency Authority: Constitutional Tool or Dangerous Precedent?

Trump's invocation of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) for trade policy presents a novel constitutional question. Previous emergency declarations addressed immediate crises—wars, natural disasters, terrorist attacks. Using emergency powers to address chronic congressional inaction enters uncharted constitutional territory.

From a strict constitutional perspective, this expansion of emergency authority raises serious concerns. If presidents can declare congressional inaction an "emergency" justifying unilateral action, the separation of powers becomes meaningless. Future presidents could invoke similar logic for climate policy, healthcare, or any area where Congress fails to act.

Yet the alternative—accepting continued economic harm while waiting for congressional action that may never come—also violates governmental duty. When constitutional processes fail to address legitimate governmental purposes, the system itself faces a crisis of effectiveness.

The Youngstown Test Applied to Modern Reality

The Supreme Court's 1952 Youngstown Steel decision established the framework for evaluating presidential power, but applying it to Trump's tariffs reveals the complexity of modern governance challenges.

Justice Jackson's tripartite test asks whether the president acts with congressional authorization, in congressional silence, or against congressional will. Trump's tariff authority arguably falls into the middle "twilight zone" category—Congress hasn't explicitly authorized these specific tariffs, but neither has it clearly prohibited them.

More importantly, Congress has repeatedly failed to address the underlying trade problems that Trump's tariffs attempt to solve. When congressional inaction becomes a form of policy choice—effectively endorsing continued harm to American workers—does presidential action to protect citizens violate constitutional principles or fulfill them?

The Youngstown framework assumes functional legislative processes. But when Congress proves incapable of addressing clear national challenges, the constitutional analysis becomes more complex.

Economic Results vs. Constitutional Process: The Conservative Dilemma

Unprecedented Success at Constitutional Cost

The economic results of Trump's tariff policies are undeniable and dramatic. No previous administration has secured comparable foreign investment commitments or manufacturing relocations in such a short timeframe.

Manufacturing Renaissance Honda's consolidation of Civic Hybrid production in Indiana, Samsung's dryer manufacturing shift to South Carolina, and Hyundai's $21 billion domestic expansion represent the kind of manufacturing revival that decades of conventional trade policy failed to achieve.

Stellantis's decision to reopen the Belvidere, Illinois plant—putting 1,500 workers back on the job—exemplifies government's protective duty fulfilled. These aren't statistical abstractions but real families and communities rescued from economic decline.

Technology Leadership Secured Apple's $600 billion manufacturing commitment, NVIDIA's $500 billion AI infrastructure investment, and TSMC's $165 billion semiconductor expansion serve clear national security purposes while creating high-value employment. These investments position America for technological leadership rather than dependence.

Strategic Energy Independence The EU's commitment to purchase $750 billion in American energy reflects how proper trade policy can advance multiple governmental purposes simultaneously—economic growth, energy security, and geopolitical influence.

Constitutional Conservatives' Impossible Choice

Traditional constitutional conservatives face an unprecedented dilemma. Opposing Trump's tariffs means accepting:

- Continued economic exploitation of American workers
- Loss of $2 trillion in foreign investment commitments
- Hundreds of thousands of lost job opportunities
- Weakened American manufacturing and technological capacity

Supporting the tariffs means accepting:

- Expanded presidential emergency powers
- Potential violation of separation of powers principles
- Precedent for future executive overreach

- Judicial pushback against executive authority

This creates a tension between two core conservative principles: constitutional process and effective governance that serves citizen welfare.

The Supreme Court's Impossible Burden

Constitutional Principles vs. Governmental Duty

The Supreme Court faces a choice that no judicial precedent adequately addresses: How should courts respond when constitutional processes prove inadequate to fulfill government's fundamental purposes?

The Strict Constitutional Position Legal purists argue the Court should reject Trump's tariff authority regardless of economic consequences. This position prioritizes constitutional process over governmental effectiveness, insisting that proper procedure matters more than beneficial outcomes.

Professor Laurence Tribe of Harvard represents this view, arguing that "presidential claims of inherent authority to reshape international commerce through emergency declarations represent exactly the kind of executive overreach the Constitution was designed to prevent."

This position has strong constitutional support. The Framers deliberately made governance difficult to prevent abuse of power. If Trump's emergency powers are validated, future presidents could invoke similar authority across multiple domains.

The Governmental Effectiveness Position An alternative view argues that constitutional interpretation must consider governmental capacity to fulfill fundamental purposes. When constitutional processes fail to address clear national challenges, courts should allow alternative means that serve legitimate ends.

This position draws on natural law principles underlying the Constitution. Government exists to serve the common good, and when formal processes prevent effective governance, those processes themselves become constitutionally problematic.

Justice Brett Kavanaugh's previous emphasis on "practical consequences" in constitutional interpretation suggests potential sympathy for this approach, though no sitting justice has explicitly endorsed such reasoning in trade policy contexts.

The Compromise Path The Court might distinguish between different types of emergency authority, upholding some while rejecting others. This approach could preserve national security-

related tariffs while limiting broader emergency powers.

Such a ruling would preserve steel, aluminum, and automotive tariffs under Section 232 national security authority while rejecting universal tariffs under IEEPA. This compromise would maintain some constitutional limits while protecting core economic achievements.

Congressional Responsibility: The Dog That Didn't Bark

When Legislative Failure Becomes Policy Choice

The most overlooked aspect of this constitutional crisis is Congress's role in creating it. For decades, Congress has failed to address systematic trade abuse that harmed American workers and communities. This wasn't oversight—it was deliberate inaction driven by special interests and ideological paralysis.

The Cost of Congressional Gridlock While Congress debated, American manufacturing employment fell from 17.3 million in 2000 to 12.8 million in 2016. Entire communities were devastated by plant closures as production shifted to countries with unfair trade advantages.

The human cost of congressional inaction represents a form of governmental failure that constitutional analysis rarely considers. When proper constitutional processes fail to protect citizens, alternative approaches become necessary for government to fulfill its fundamental purposes.

What Congress Could Do (But Won't) If the Supreme Court rules against Trump's tariff authority, Congress retains clear constitutional power to address trade problems through legislation. The question is whether political will exists for such action.

Congressional options include:

- **Explicit tariff authorization** for reciprocal trade policy
- **Comprehensive trade reform** addressing currency manipulation and value-added tax disparities
- **Bilateral trade agreements** that secure fair treatment for American businesses
- **Investment incentives** that achieve similar outcomes through different means

The practical reality is that Congress—paralyzed by partisan gridlock and special interest pressure—is unlikely to act decisively. This creates a constitutional crisis where proper process leads to continued governmental failure.

International Implications: Allies and Adversaries React

European Union: Pragmatic Acceptance of American Leadership

The EU's willingness to accept 15% tariff rates while committing $1.35 trillion in American investments reveals how effective leadership can reshape international relationships. European officials initially resisted Trump's approach but ultimately recognized its legitimacy.

This diplomatic success demonstrates how strength-based negotiation can serve American interests while maintaining allied relationships. Previous administrations' emphasis on "diplomatic process" often yielded symbolic agreements with minimal substance.

The EU's investment commitments serve multiple American interests: job creation, technology transfer, and reduced trade deficits. These outcomes advance governmental purposes that decades of conventional diplomacy failed to achieve.

Japan: Strategic Partnership Through Strength

Japan's $550 billion investment vehicle represents a strategic partnership based on mutual benefit rather than American weakness. Japanese officials explicitly structured the arrangement to serve their economic interests while advancing American manufacturing capacity.

This approach reflects biblical principles of fair dealing in international relationships. Rather than accepting exploitative arrangements disguised as "cooperation," Trump demanded reciprocal treatment that serves both nations' legitimate interests.

The Japanese arrangement's success demonstrates how assertive American leadership can advance both economic and security interests simultaneously.

China: Long-Overdue Accountability

China's grudging acceptance of modified trade terms reflects how decisive action can address systematic exploitation that previous administrations ignored. For decades, China manipulated currency, subsidized exports, and stole intellectual property while facing minimal consequences.

Trump's tariff regime finally imposed costs for Chinese trade violations, creating incentives for behavior change that diplomatic protests never achieved. This represents government fulfilling its duty to protect American businesses and workers from unfair foreign practices.

Regional Economic Impact: Real Communities, Real Stakes

Industrial Midwest: Manufacturing Renaissance

The constitutional crisis has profound implications for American communities still recovering from decades of manufacturing decline. Indiana's automotive investments, Illinois's plant reopenings, and Ohio's technology expansions represent economic lifelines for working-class families.

These aren't abstract economic statistics but real families and communities whose welfare depends on effective governmental action. Constitutional analysis that ignores human costs of legal process failures misses the fundamental purposes that government exists to serve.

Indiana's Automotive Revival Honda's decision to consolidate Civic Hybrid production in Indiana creates direct employment for thousands while generating billions in economic activity through supplier networks and local services. Loss of this investment would devastate communities still recovering from previous plant closures.

Illinois Manufacturing Recovery Stellantis's Belvidere plant reopening represents hope for 1,500 families and a struggling community. These workers have endured years of unemployment and economic uncertainty. Constitutional decisions that ignore their welfare fail to consider government's fundamental protective duty.

Technology Corridors: Innovation Infrastructure

TSMC's semiconductor expansion, Apple's manufacturing commitment, and various AI infrastructure projects serve national security purposes while creating high-value employment in technology-focused regions.

These investments advance American technological leadership while reducing dependence on potentially hostile foreign nations. Constitutional analysis should consider how trade policy serves national security alongside economic purposes.

The Precedent Problem: Future Presidential Power

Constraining Future Overreach While Preserving Necessary Authority

The Supreme Court's decision will establish precedent for presidential emergency powers across multiple domains. Constitutional conservatives rightfully worry about future Democratic

presidents invoking similar authority for climate policy, healthcare mandates, or economic regulation.

The Slippery Slope Concern If Trump's trade emergency authority is validated, future presidents might declare emergencies for:

- Climate change requiring economic mandates
- Healthcare crises justifying government takeovers
- Immigration issues bypassing congressional limits
- Economic inequality demanding wealth redistribution

These concerns reflect legitimate constitutional principles about limiting executive power and maintaining separation of powers.

The Precedent Distinction However, Trump's tariff authority addresses clear foreign exploitation that Congress refuses to combat. This differs fundamentally from domestic policy areas where constitutional processes remain functional.

A narrow Supreme Court ruling could distinguish between foreign trade emergencies—where congressional inaction enables continued exploitation—and domestic emergencies where constitutional processes remain viable.

Crafting Constitutional Boundaries

The Court could establish principles that preserve emergency authority for legitimate purposes while preventing abuse:

Legitimate Emergency Criteria:

- Clear evidence of foreign exploitation or national security threats
- Congressional failure to address documented problems over extended periods
- Presidential action limited to addressing specific identified harms
- Sunset provisions requiring periodic reauthorization

Constitutional Safeguards:

- Judicial review of emergency justifications
- Congressional override mechanisms
- Limited scope and duration requirements
- Regular reporting on emergency authority use

Such an approach would preserve necessary presidential authority while maintaining constitutional constraints against abuse.

Biblical Governance: Wisdom for Constitutional Crisis

Romans 13 and Governmental Purpose

Scripture's teaching on governmental authority provides crucial perspective for this constitutional crisis. Romans 13:4 describes government as "God's servant for your good," establishing clear divine purposes for political authority.

This biblical mandate includes protecting citizens from exploitation, promoting economic welfare, and ensuring justice in commercial relationships. When constitutional processes fail to serve these purposes, the tension between divine mandate and constitutional means requires careful analysis.

Government's Protective Duty Biblical governance requires protecting citizens from exploitation, whether by domestic criminals or foreign economic predators. Trump's tariffs address systematic exploitation that previous administrations ignored, fulfilling government's protective mandate.

Justice in Commercial Relationships Scripture consistently condemns dishonest scales and unfair dealing in commerce (Proverbs 11:1, 20:23). Foreign nations' systematic manipulation of trade relationships through currency controls, export subsidies, and value-added tax discrimination represents exactly the kind of commercial injustice that biblical governance should address.

Stewardship of National Resources Government serves as steward over national economic capacity and citizen welfare. Allowing continued exploitation of American workers and businesses represents poor stewardship that biblical governance principles would reject.

Natural Law and Constitutional Authority

The Constitution derives its authority from natural law principles rooted in divine order. When constitutional processes fail to serve natural law purposes—protecting citizens, promoting justice, ensuring fair dealing—the constitutional system itself faces a legitimacy crisis.

Trump's tariff policies advance natural law principles even while raising constitutional process questions. This tension requires balancing divine mandates for governmental purpose against constitutional means designed to prevent abuse.

The Higher Law Consideration Natural law principles underlying the Constitution suggest that governmental authority exists to serve fundamental purposes of human flourishing and justice. When formal processes prevent fulfillment of these purposes, natural law may require alternative approaches.

This doesn't invalidate constitutional constraints but rather provides framework for understanding when those constraints serve their underlying purposes and when they frustrate them.

Economic Modeling: Quantifying the Constitutional Stakes

What $2 Trillion Actually Means for American Families

The scale of economic commitments at stake in this constitutional crisis defies easy comprehension. $2 trillion in foreign investment represents the largest concentration of international economic agreements in American history, with profound implications for American communities and families.

Employment Impact Analysis Conservative estimates suggest Trump's tariff-related investments could create 300,000 to 500,000 high-quality jobs across manufacturing, technology, and service sectors. These positions offer family-supporting wages and career advancement opportunities that globalization had eliminated from many American communities.

The automotive sector alone accounts for 75,000 to 100,000 direct positions through Honda's consolidation, Samsung's expansion, Hyundai's commitments, and related supplier investments. Each manufacturing job typically supports 2-3 additional positions in local services and supplier networks.

Regional Economic Multipliers Economic impact extends far beyond direct employment. Indiana economic development officials estimate Honda's production consolidation generates $1.2 billion annually in local economic activity through supplier relationships, service purchases, and worker spending.

Similar multiplier effects apply across affected regions. South Carolina's manufacturing investments, Illinois's plant reopenings, and technology corridor expansions create sustained economic growth that benefits entire communities for decades.

Federal Revenue Implications Foreign investment commitments generate substantial federal revenue through corporate income taxes, payroll taxes, and indirect economic activity. Treasury analysis suggests these investments could increase federal revenues by $20-30 billion annually within five years.

These revenue increases occur precisely when infrastructure, defense, and other national priorities require increased federal capacity. Constitutional decisions that eliminate this revenue source create fiscal pressures that affect governmental capacity across multiple domains.

Three Constitutional Scenarios: Consequences and Implications

Scenario 1: Broad Constitutional Rejection (The Process Purist Outcome)

If the Supreme Court issues sweeping rejection of presidential emergency powers in trade policy, the constitutional precedent would strengthen separation of powers while potentially triggering economic catastrophe.

Constitutional Impact: Such a ruling would significantly reinforce legislative primacy in trade policy, requiring clear congressional authorization for major economic interventions. Future presidents would face enhanced constraints across policy domains, from immigration to environmental regulation.

The precedent would validate strict constitutional interpretation over governmental effectiveness, establishing that proper process matters more than beneficial outcomes in constitutional analysis.

Economic Consequences: The economic disruption would be severe and immediate. EU officials have made clear their $1.35 trillion commitment depends on American legal certainty. Japanese financial institutions would likely freeze their $550 billion investment vehicle under fundamentally altered assumptions.

Manufacturing relocations would halt immediately as companies reassess production decisions based on changed cost calculations. Honda might reverse Indiana consolidation, Samsung could abandon South Carolina expansion, and dozens of smaller investments could be cancelled indefinitely.

Employment effects would be staggering—potentially 400,000 to 600,000 jobs across manufacturing, technology, and service sectors. Regional economic development strategies across the industrial heartland would require complete overhaul.

Human Cost: The 1,500 families depending on Stellantis's Belvidere reopening would face continued unemployment. Thousands of workers anticipating Honda, Samsung, and other manufacturing positions would lose promised opportunities. Entire communities banking on industrial revival would return to economic decline.

This scenario prioritizes constitutional process over human welfare, raising profound questions about governmental purpose and constitutional interpretation.

Scenario 2: Constitutional Compromise (The Narrow Authority Path)

A more nuanced Supreme Court decision might preserve some presidential tariff authority while rejecting broader emergency powers. This outcome would create constitutional clarity while limiting economic disruption.

Constitutional Framework: The Court could distinguish between different types of emergency authority, upholding national security justifications under Section 232 while rejecting broader powers under IEEPA. This approach would preserve steel, aluminum, and automotive tariffs while eliminating universal levies.

Such a ruling would establish clear boundaries for emergency powers while maintaining presidential authority in genuinely security-related circumstances. The precedent would be more limited but still significant in constraining future executive overreach.

Economic Impact: Steel, aluminum, and automotive investments would likely survive, protecting significant manufacturing commitments. However, broader foreign investment deals would require renegotiation under changed terms.

The EU and Japan would demand revised agreements reflecting reduced tariff protection. Investment commitments might shrink by 30-50% rather than disappearing entirely, creating economic uncertainty while avoiding complete collapse.

Employment effects would be moderate—perhaps 150,000 to 250,000 jobs at risk rather than the complete disaster of Scenario 1. Regional impacts would vary based on industry concentration and investment types.

Political Implications: This compromise approach might satisfy neither constitutional purists nor economic pragmatists. Constitutional conservatives would worry about validated precedent for future overreach, while Trump supporters would see crucial economic achievements threatened.

However, the outcome could provide workable framework for future trade policy while maintaining basic constitutional constraints.

Scenario 3: Constitutional Validation (The Governmental Effectiveness Outcome)

If the Supreme Court upholds Trump’s broad tariff authority, the economic benefits would be preserved while establishing concerning precedent for future presidential power.

Constitutional Precedent: Validating emergency trade authority would significantly expand presidential power in economic policy. Future presidents could invoke similar reasoning for domestic emergencies—climate change, healthcare crises, economic inequality—that Congress fails to address.

The precedent would prioritize governmental effectiveness over constitutional process, establishing that beneficial outcomes can justify expansive presidential authority when Congress proves dysfunctional.

Economic Stability: All announced investment commitments would proceed as planned, creating maximum employment and economic benefits. Manufacturing relocations would continue, technology investments would expand, and regional economic development would accelerate.

The full $2 trillion in foreign commitments would generate sustained economic growth, federal revenue increases, and technological advancement that serves long-term national interests.

Democratic Concerns: Constitutional conservatives would rightfully worry about future Democratic presidents invoking similar authority for progressive policy goals. Climate emergencies, healthcare mandates, or economic redistribution could be justified using Trump tariff precedents.

This scenario would represent a fundamental shift toward presidential governance that could undermine legislative authority and democratic accountability.

Congressional Options: What Happens After SCOTUS Rules

Legislative Pathways Forward (If Congress Had the Will)

Regardless of the Supreme Court's decision, Congress retains constitutional authority to address trade policy through legislation. The question is whether political will exists for decisive action.

Comprehensive Trade Reform Congress could pass legislation explicitly authorizing reciprocal tariff policies that address systematic foreign trade abuse. Such legislation would provide clear constitutional foundation while achieving similar economic outcomes.

Key elements might include:

- Automatic tariff adjustments based on foreign trade barrier assessments
- Currency manipulation penalties and remedies
- Value-added tax equalization mechanisms
- Investment incentives for domestic manufacturing

Bilateral Authorization Alternatively, Congress could authorize specific trade agreements with major partners—EU, Japan, UK—that preserve existing investment commitments while providing constitutional foundation.

This approach would validate Trump's negotiated agreements through proper legislative process while maintaining their economic benefits.

Emergency Powers Reform Congress could clarify emergency authority boundaries through legislation that preserves necessary presidential flexibility while preventing abuse. Such reform might establish:

- Clear criteria for trade-related emergencies
- Congressional oversight and override mechanisms
- Sunset provisions requiring periodic reauthorization
- Judicial review standards for emergency declarations

Political Reality: Why Congress Won't Act

The practical reality is that Congress—paralyzed by partisan division and special interest pressure—is unlikely to act decisively on trade policy regardless of Supreme Court decisions.

Partisan Gridlock Democrats generally oppose tariff policies on ideological grounds, viewing them as protectionist and harmful to global relationships. Republicans are divided between traditional free-trade positions and Trump's economic nationalism.

This division makes comprehensive trade legislation nearly impossible even when national interests clearly require action.

Special Interest Opposition Import-dependent businesses, multinational corporations, and foreign governments maintain extensive lobbying operations designed to prevent effective trade reform. These interests benefit from current systematic trade imbalances and will resist changes.

Congressional inaction isn't accidental—it's the intended result of well-funded lobbying campaigns that benefit from exploitative trade relationships.

Procedural Paralysis Even when consensus exists on trade policy goals, Senate procedures and House committee structures create multiple veto points for special interests to block legislation.

The complexity of modern trade relationships provides numerous opportunities for opponents to delay, amend, or kill comprehensive reform efforts.

This political reality explains why presidential action became necessary to address clear national challenges that Congress refuses to confront.

Conclusion: Constitutional Governance in Crisis

The Supreme Court's upcoming decision on Trump's tariff authority represents far more than a technical legal dispute—it's a defining moment for constitutional governance in the modern era. The outcome will determine whether America's 18th-century constitutional framework can address 21st-century challenges that require decisive governmental action.

The Fundamental Tension This case exposes the deepest tension in constitutional governance: the conflict between proper process and effective government. When constitutional means prove inadequate to fulfill government's fundamental purposes—protecting citizens, promoting their welfare, ensuring justice—the system itself faces a legitimacy crisis.

Trump's tariff policies achieved unprecedented economic results while raising serious constitutional questions. $2 trillion in foreign investment commitments and hundreds of thousands of promised jobs represent governmental success in fulfilling protective duties. Yet the emergency powers used to achieve these results challenge traditional separation of powers principles.

Biblical Perspective on Governmental Purpose From a Christian worldview, this tension requires balancing divine mandates for governmental purpose against constitutional means designed to prevent abuse. Scripture establishes government's duty to serve citizen welfare and promote justice, but also recognizes the corrupting influence of concentrated power.

The Constitution's separation of powers reflects biblical wisdom about human nature and the need for accountability in governance. Yet when these mechanisms prevent government from fulfilling its fundamental purposes, the constitutional framework itself requires examination.

The Stakes for Constitutional Democracy The Supreme Court's decision will establish precedent for presidential authority across multiple domains for generations to come. Validating Trump's emergency powers could enable future overreach by presidents of both parties. Rejecting them could leave America vulnerable to continued exploitation when Congress fails to act.

The ideal outcome would distinguish between legitimate emergency authority—addressing clear foreign exploitation or national security threats—and domestic policy overreach that bypasses functional constitutional processes.

What Congress Could Do (But Won't) The ultimate solution requires congressional action to address systematic trade problems through proper legislative process. Congress retains clear

constitutional authority to authorize reciprocal trade policies, implement currency manipulation penalties, and create investment incentives that achieve similar economic outcomes.

However, political reality suggests Congress will continue avoiding decisive action regardless of Supreme Court decisions. Partisan gridlock and special interest pressure will likely prevent the comprehensive trade reform that national interests require.

The Human Cost of Constitutional Purity Constitutional analysis that ignores human welfare costs of procedural failures misses the fundamental purposes that government exists to serve. The 1,500 families depending on Stellantis's Belvidere reopening, thousands of workers anticipating manufacturing positions, and entire communities banking on industrial revival represent real stakes in this constitutional crisis.

Prioritizing process over people may satisfy legal theorists but fails government's basic duty to serve citizen welfare and promote the common good.

Looking Forward: Governance in the Modern Era Whatever the Supreme Court decides, this case highlights the growing tension between traditional constitutional frameworks and modern governance challenges. Global economic integration, technological advancement, and international competition create problems that 18th-century constitutional mechanisms struggle to address.

Future constitutional interpretation must balance fidelity to fundamental principles against practical capacity for effective governance. Neither constitutional paralysis nor unlimited executive power serves long-term democratic interests.

The Ultimate Test This constitutional showdown will determine whether America's governmental system can protect citizens and serve national interests when traditional processes prove inadequate. The answer will define not just Trump's presidency but the fundamental nature of constitutional governance in an increasingly complex world.

The $2 trillion in economic commitments hanging in the balance represents more than trade policy—it symbolizes whether constitutional democracy can fulfill its promises to citizens while maintaining the constraints that prevent abuse of power.

The Supreme Court faces an impossible choice with profound implications for American governance, constitutional interpretation, and the welfare of millions of citizens whose economic futures depend on effective governmental action. Their decision will echo through American law and politics long after current trade disputes fade into history.

A Prayer for Wisdom As people of faith, we must pray for divine wisdom to guide the Supreme Court's deliberations. The stakes—both constitutional and human—require careful discernment

that balances fidelity to God-ordained governmental principles with practical concern for citizen welfare.

May the Court's decision serve both constitutional integrity and the common good, preserving essential constraints on power while enabling government to fulfill its fundamental duty to protect and serve the American people.

This analysis reflects the complex tensions between constitutional process and governmental effectiveness from a Christian conservative perspective. The author acknowledges the difficulty of balancing competing principles while advocating for solutions that serve both constitutional integrity and citizen welfare.

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Constitutional Showdown: Supreme Court & Birthright Citizenship

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/CONSTITUTIONAL-SHOWDOWN-SUPREME-COURT-BIRTHRIGHT-CITIZENSHIP/
SEPTEMBER 3, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
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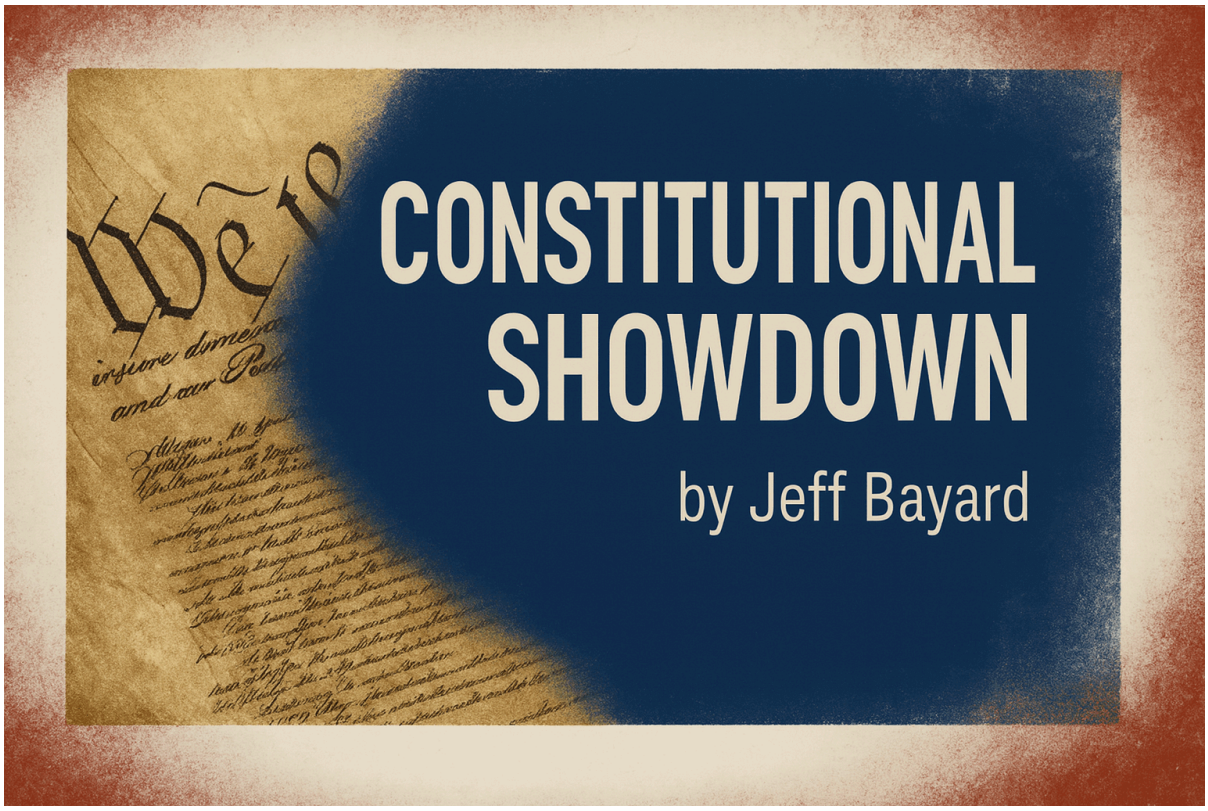

Constitutional Showdown: Supreme Court Weakens Judicial Power While Birthright Citizenship Hangs in the Balance

*First, a word of thanks to constitutional scholars at institutions like the **Heritage Foundation** and the **Constitutional Accountability Center** for their rigorous analysis of this complex constitutional question. By presenting competing interpretations of the Fourteenth Amendment's original meaning, they have helped illuminate one of the most significant constitutional debates of our time—forcing Americans to grapple with what the framers actually intended when they crafted the citizenship clause in 1868. We continue our **Constitutional Showdown series**.*

The Executive Strike Against the Fourteenth Amendment

On January 20, 2025, within hours of taking his oath to "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution," President Trump signed an executive order attempting to strip birthright citizenship from children born in the United States. The order declared that babies born in the U.S. would not automatically get citizenship if their parents were in the country illegally or temporarily, directly attacking the Fourteenth Amendment's guarantee that "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States."

This is not a policy disagreement. This is a constitutional rebellion.

The Judicial Response: Courage Under Fire

Multiple federal courts immediately blocked Trump's order, with judges across the country issuing nationwide injunctions to prevent irreparable harm. Senior U.S. District Judge John Coughenour, a Ronald Reagan appointee, called the executive order "blatantly unconstitutional" and temporarily blocked its enforcement nationwide.

U.S. District Judge Deborah Boardman in Maryland certified a class of all children who have been born or will be born in the United States after Feb. 19, 2025, who would be affected by Trump's order, saying the plaintiffs were "extremely likely" to win their argument that the birthright order violates the 14th Amendment.

These judges understood their constitutional duty. As Chief Justice Roberts once said at his confirmation hearing: "Judges have to have the courage to make the unpopular decisions when they have to… That is the judicial oath."

The Fourteenth Amendment Under Siege

The Fourteenth Amendment was ratified in 1868 to overturn the Supreme Court's shameful Dred Scott decision, which held that Black Americans could never be citizens. In 1898, the Supreme Court ruled 6-2 in United States v. Wong Kim Ark that the 14th Amendment "affirms the ancient and fundamental rule of citizenship by birth within the territory, in the allegiance and under the protection of the country, including all children here born of resident aliens."

This precedent has stood for 127 years. As the Supreme Court made crystal clear more than 125 years ago, Trump's executive order is blatantly illegal, violating both the 14th Amendment and a statute passed by Congress.

The Constitution's language is clear: "All persons born… in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens." The Trump administration's argument that children of people in the country illegally or temporarily aren't "subject to the jurisdiction" because their parents don't have "allegiance" to the country contradicts over a century of constitutional law.

Scripture declares: "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities" (Romans 13:1). If these families are subject to our laws—paying taxes, following regulations, facing prosecution for violations—they are subject to our jurisdiction.

The Supreme Court's Constitutional Betrayal

On June 27, 2025, the Supreme Court delivered a devastating blow to constitutional protection in *Trump v. CASA*. By a 6-3 vote along ideological lines, the Court sided with the Trump administration and limited the power of federal courts to issue nationwide injunctions that protect all Americans from unconstitutional government actions.

Justice Amy Coney Barrett, writing for the majority, declared that "Universal injunctions likely exceed the equitable authority that Congress has given to federal courts"—a stunning reversal of longstanding judicial practice.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor dissented from the bench—a signal of her strong disagreement—stating that the majority had ruled that "absent cumbersome class-action litigation, courts cannot completely enjoin even such plainly unlawful policies unless doing so is necessary to afford the formal parties complete relief. That holding renders constitutional guarantees meaningful in name only for any individuals who are not parties to a lawsuit."

Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson filed a separate dissent, arguing that the majority's "decision to permit the Executive to violate the Constitution with respect to anyone who has not yet sued is an existential threat to the rule of law" and asked: "May a federal court in the United States of America order the Executive to follow the law?"

The Separation of Powers Under Attack

The impact of the Court's decision is likely to be seismic, both because of the fundamental nature of the right involved and because of what the ruling portends for future challenges to unlawful executive action. The Court has essentially told the executive branch: "You may violate the Constitution against anyone who hasn't specifically sued you."

This eviscerates Article III's judicial power. The CASA case will create new complications for plaintiffs seeking broad relief against government policies far beyond the immigration sphere.

Nehemiah faced similar betrayal from those who should have protected God's people: "Remember, O my God, Tobiah and Sanballat according to these works of theirs, and also the prophetess Noadiah and the rest of the prophets who tried to make me afraid" (Nehemiah 6:14).

The Constitutional Crisis Deepens

Amanda Frost, a Law Professor at the University of Virginia, defines a constitutional crisis as occurring when one branch of government "blatantly, flagrantly and regularly exceeds its constitutional authority — and the other branches are either unable or unwilling to stop it".

Professor Frost says the first half of her definition is already happening, pointing to Trump trying to usurp Congress' "power of the purse" and trying to put an end to birthright citizenship as examples.

Harvard Kennedy School scholars warn that "the first few weeks of the Trump administration may well constitute the most severe attack on the rule of law in the United States since confederate armed forces began lobbing artillery shells into Fort Sumter in 1861".

What makes this crisis worse is the Supreme Court's complicity. When Vice President JD Vance issues "chilling warnings that judges 'aren't allowed to control the executive's legitimate power'" or Elon Musk calls a Bush-appointed judge "evil" and says he "ought to be fired", the Court responds by… limiting judicial power.

The Current Legal Battlefield

Despite the Supreme Court's betrayal, constitutional defenders are fighting back. Since the June ruling, multiple federal courts have continued to block the birthright citizenship order through class action lawsuits, with the latest coming from New Hampshire in February and Maryland in August.

As of today, every child whose citizenship was threatened by the executive order is protected. The legal fight is far from over, but these families can take solace in knowing that they are protected while the cases make their way through the courts.

The Constitutional Accountability Center notes that "Twenty-two states and Americans around the country who are affected by the illegal executive order will continue their lawsuits" to vindicate the Fourteenth Amendment's promise.

The Biblical Framework

God's Word speaks directly to this crisis:

On Constitutional Oath-Breaking: "When a man makes a vow to the Lord or takes an oath to obligate himself by a pledge, he must not break his word but must do everything he said" (Numbers 30:2). Every federal officer swears to defend the Constitution. Trump's order breaks that sacred oath.

On Protecting the Innocent: "Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked" (Psalm 82:3-4). These children are the most innocent among us.

On Equal Justice: "You shall not show partiality in judging; you shall hear the small and the great alike" (Deuteronomy 1:17). The Fourteenth Amendment's promise of equal citizenship reflects this divine command.

On Judicial Courage: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9). The dissenting justices and lower court judges showed this courage. The majority did not.

The Call to Constitutional Faithfulness

This constitutional showdown demands careful analysis from every constitutional patriot:

Congress must clarify the law. Rather than leaving this complex constitutional question to competing judicial interpretations, Congress should exercise its constitutional authority to clarify citizenship law according to the Fourteenth Amendment's original meaning.

The Executive must follow proper process. While the Trump administration may have substantive constitutional arguments about birthright citizenship, major changes to constitutional interpretation should go through proper legal processes, not unilateral executive action.

Courts must respect constitutional limits. The Supreme Court's limitation on nationwide injunctions addresses a legitimate problem with judicial overreach, but courts must still fulfill their constitutional duty to interpret the law faithfully.

Citizens must demand constitutional literacy. Whether we support narrow or broad interpretations of birthright citizenship, Americans must understand both the substance and the process of constitutional government.

The Church must call for truth and justice. When constitutional questions arise, the Church's role is not to choose political sides but to call all parties to honest interpretation and faithful execution of their oaths.

Conclusion: A Constitutional Awakening

President Trump's birthright citizenship executive order represents far more than immigration policy—it's a strategic constitutional challenge designed to awaken Americans to how far we've drifted from our founding principles. His excellent legal team understood that only a direct confrontation would force this long-overdue constitutional reckoning on birthright citizenship.

The Strategic Brilliance: Trump knew this executive order would:

- Force courts to address the Fourteenth Amendment's actual meaning rather than bureaucratic misinterpretation
- Expose the "anchor baby" absurdity to millions of Americans who never understood the problem
- Create national urgency around a sovereignty crisis that threatens our legal immigration system
- Demonstrate how "living constitution" interpretation has betrayed the framers' clear intent

The Constitutional Truth: No honest reading of the Fourteenth Amendment supports "anchor baby" citizenship. The framers intended to provide citizenship for freed slaves with no other nation—not to reward illegal border crossing with America's greatest prize. The phrase "subject to the jurisdiction thereof" was carefully crafted to exclude those who maintained foreign allegiances or violated our sovereignty to get here.

The Divine Foundation: As fundamentalist Christians who believe God's Word has fixed, unchanging meaning, we must apply the same principle to constitutional interpretation. The Constitution, rooted in "the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God," means what the framers intended—not what modern activists want it to mean.

The Call to Action: This constitutional moment demands that faithful Americans:

- Reject "living constitution" interpretation as the same error liberal theology makes with Scripture
- Support constitutional restoration even when the process is messy or controversial
- Educate fellow citizens about original meaning versus activist misinterpretation
- Pray for leaders who will faithfully execute their oaths to defend the Constitution as written

The "anchor baby" era is ending. Constitutional government is being restored. And God's people must stand firm for truth in law just as we stand firm for truth in Scripture.

When human law aligns with God's eternal principles of justice and order, nations prosper. When it departs from those foundations, chaos follows. America is choosing which path to

take.

For legal researchers and constitutional scholars seeking the full statutory framework, federal court decisions, and Supreme Court precedents discussed in this analysis, comprehensive documentation is available through PACER, the Federal Judicial Center, and constitutional law databases. Key cases include Wong Kim Ark (1898), Trump v. CASA (2025), and ongoing district court challenges in Washington, Maryland, New Hampshire, and other jurisdictions.

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Constitutional Showdown: EPA Chief Zeldin Exposes $20 Billion EPA Slush Fund

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/CONSTITUTIONAL-SHOWDOWN-EPA-CHIEF-ZELDIN-EXPOSES-20-BILLION-EPA-SLUSH-FUND/
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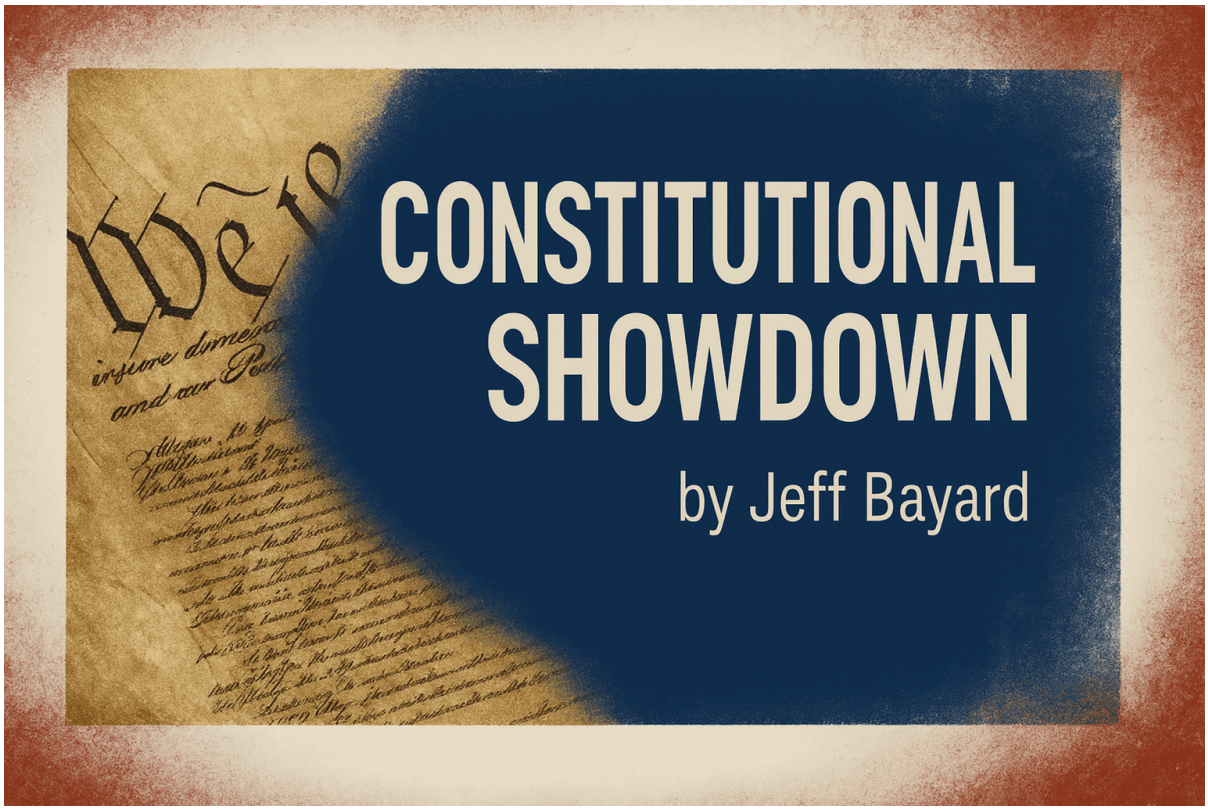

*First, a word of thanks to journalist **Miranda Devine** for her diligent reporting and her **Pod Force One** interview with **EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin**. By giving Zeldin the platform to lay out the facts, she helped expose how the Biden EPA funneled $20 billion into a partisan "climate justice" slush fund. This conversation pulled back the curtain on one of the most brazen abuses of taxpayer money in modern history — a scandal that now stands at the heart of this Constitutional Showdown.*

EPA Administrator Blows the Whistle

EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin has pulled the veil back on one of the most brazen abuses of taxpayer money in recent history. In an extended interview with Miranda Devine on Pod Force One, Zeldin explained how the Biden administration converted "climate justice" into a $20 billion slush fund for Democrat-aligned NGOs. Oversight was intentionally stripped away, allowing activist organizations tied to figures like Stacey Abrams to enrich themselves while environmental problems went ignored.

> "They tossed the gold bars off the Titanic," Zeldin said. "I was told to find them. We found the gold bars—and we're bringing them back for the American public."

The numbers are staggering: more than $20 billion routed through banks and pass-through NGOs, executive salaries of $800,000, charging stations at $150,000 apiece, electric vehicles at $350,000 each, and even $50 million to a group that declared 'climate justice runs through a free Palestine.'
This is not just waste. It is a constitutional showdown, and Scripture is clear: "*You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another.*" (Leviticus 19:11).

The Appropriations Clause Violated

The Constitution states: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law." (**Art. I, Sec. 9**). Congress holds the purse. Yet under the Inflation Reduction Act, the Biden EPA diverted $20 billion into outside accounts and NGOs, then deliberately cut itself out of downstream oversight agreements.

This maneuver undermined congressional authority. Oversight was not lost by accident—it was lost by design.

Scripture reminds us: "*Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.*" (1 Corinthians 4:2). The EPA was entrusted with stewardship over taxpayer dollars. Instead, it betrayed that trust.

Grant Law and Fraud by Design

Federal grant law **requires accountability and transparency**. The Biden EPA did the opposite:

- **Power Forward Communities**, linked to **Stacey Abrams**, received $2 billion even though it needed "budget training."
- Nonprofit executives drew salaries as high as $800,000.
- **Appalachian Community Capital** sought $358,000 per EV and $150,000 per charging station—costs flagged by even Biden EPA reviewers.

God condemns such corruption: *"Shall I acquit the man with wicked scales and with a bag of deceitful weights?"* (Micah 6:11). And that's not all, their the Hatch Act.

Partisan Patronage Disguised as Justice

The Hatch Act forbids federal resources from being used for partisan purposes. Yet Zeldin uncovered funding directed to NGOs tied to Democrat operatives. Groups such as Climate Justice Alliance openly tied their mission to "Free Palestine" while drawing millions from EPA funds.

Isaiah warns: "*Woe to those who decree iniquitous decrees… to turn aside the needy from justice.*" (Isaiah 10:1-2). Instead of helping communities, taxpayer dollars were spent on activist training and political messaging. This is not justice—it is oppression.

Chevron Doctrine Is Dead

For decades, agencies exploited Chevron deference to interpret vague laws as they pleased. That cover is now gone, thanks to the Supreme Court's decision in Loper Bright (2024). The EPA's use of "climate justice" language to funnel billions to partisan allies shows why Chevron had to die.

Isaiah declared: "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil." (Isaiah 5:20). Labeling partisan slush as 'justice' is calling evil good.

Watch the Full Interview

Hear Administrator Zeldin explain the scandal in his own words. Watch the full Pod Force One interview with Miranda Devine:
If prosecutors can establish intent and coordination, the EPA slush fund scandal may implicate multiple felony provisions at once, opening avenues for both individual and organizational liability. (see appendix below)

Lee Zeldin Bombshell! Biden's EPA Slush Fund Exposed
https://youtube.com/watch?v=dEGndA2UcJY

Be sure to subscribe to Miranda Devine's Pod Force One channel for more interviews exposing what the establishment media ignores.

👉 **Subscribe here**

The Call to Action

This scandal is about more than money. It is about power, stewardship, and betrayal.

- The Constitution demands Congress hold the purse.
- The law demands honesty.
- God demands righteousness.

> "When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when the wicked rule, the people groan." (Proverbs 29:2).

For years, Americans have wasted passion on hatred for Donald Trump, while the real betrayal came from bureaucrats who enriched their political allies. That anger must be redirected toward those who broke their oaths and betrayed the people.

Nehemiah's charge is still true: "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes." (Nehemiah 4:14).

The betrayers have been exposed. The only question is whether the people will rise to defend their Constitution, their families, and their faith.

Legal Battlefield Appendix

For readers who want to move beyond headlines and into the full scope of legal violations, the following memorandum lays out the statutes, doctrines, and constitutional principles implicated by the EPA's $20 billion slush fund. The main body of this article frames the scandal for a general audience; what follows is structured as a legal battlefield map for researchers, attorneys, policymakers, and citizens determined to hold leaders accountable.

I. The Appropriations Clause

U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 9, Clause 7

> "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law."

Congress alone possesses the **power of the purse**. By routing $20 billion into outside banks and eight pass-through NGOs, the EPA deliberately cut itself out of downstream oversight. This structure was not incidental — it was designed to frustrate Congress's constitutional role.

Assessment: A direct affront to the Appropriations Clause and the separation of powers.

II. Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act

31 U.S.C. §§ 6301–6308

This statute governs the distinction between procurement contracts and assistance agreements, ensuring transparency and accountability in federal grants. The Act operates in tandem with the **Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (2 C.F.R. Part 200, "Uniform Guidance")**, which became effective on **December 26, 2014** and replaced OMB Circulars A-21, A-110, and A-133.

The Uniform Guidance establishes:

- **Subpart C & D**: Pre-award requirements and financial/program management standards (formerly in A-110).
- **Subpart E**: Cost principles (formerly in A-21).
- **Subpart F**: Audit requirements (formerly in A-133).

Key compliance provisions include:

- **2 C.F.R. § 200.305(b)(3):** Payments to sub-awardees must be made within 30 days unless the invoice is improper. Agencies must retain documentation if payments are delayed.
- **2 C.F.R. § 200.461(b)(3):** Publication costs may be charged after the performance period, but they must be liquidated before project closeout (typically 30–60 days).

Why this matters in the EPA case:

- NGOs like *Power Forward Communities* received billions despite lacking basic budgeting capacity, violating Subparts C and D's requirement for recipient capability.
- Executive salaries of $800,000 and inflated EV/charging station costs appear inconsistent with Subpart E cost principles.
- Deliberate removal of EPA oversight contradicts Subpart F's audit and accountability requirements.

Assessment: These practices suggest significant noncompliance with both the **Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act (FGCAA)** and the **Uniform Guidance (2 C.F.R. Part 200)**, exposing the awards to clawbacks, audits, and potential liability.

III. False Claims Act

31 U.S.C. §§ 3729–3733

The **False Claims Act (FCA)**, originally enacted during the Civil War and strengthened in modern times, imposes liability on any person or entity that knowingly:

- **submits a false claim** for payment to the federal government,
- **makes a false statement or certification** material to a claim, or
- **conceals an obligation** to repay federal funds.

The statute provides for:

- **Treble damages** (triple the amount of the government's loss), and
- **Civil penalties per false claim**, adjusted annually for inflation.

Importantly, the FCA empowers private citizens (known as **qui tam relators**) to file lawsuits on behalf of the United States. Successful relators may receive a share (typically 15–30%) of the government's recovery.

Application to the EPA case:

If NGOs that received billions in EPA funds:

- Misrepresented their financial capacity,
- Submitted inflated budgets (e.g., $358,000 per EV),

- Or falsely certified compliance with Uniform Guidance requirements,

…they could face FCA liability. Even if EPA officials were negligent in oversight, **recipient misrepresentations** are independently actionable.

Assessment: Potential civil liability under the FCA is substantial, with recovery of **treble damages** possible through DOJ enforcement or whistleblower suits. The scale of alleged misconduct suggests billions may be at stake.

IV. The Hatch Act

5 U.S.C. §§ 7321–7326

The **Hatch Act of 1939** was enacted to ensure that federal programs are administered in a **nonpartisan manner** and to protect federal employees from political coercion. It prohibits federal employees from using their official authority to influence elections or from engaging in partisan political activity while acting in their official capacity.

Key provisions:

- **§ 7323(a):** Federal employees may not use their official authority or influence to interfere with or affect the result of an election.
- **§ 7324(a):** Employees may not engage in political activity while on duty, in a federal building, while wearing an official uniform, or using a government vehicle.
- **§ 7326:** Penalties include removal, reduction in grade, debarment from federal service for up to 5 years, suspension, or fines.

Application to the EPA case:

- Billions were routed to NGOs closely tied to Democratic operatives, such as Stacey Abrams–linked *Power Forward Communities*.
- Other recipients, such as *Climate Justice Alliance*, openly promoted ideological goals like "climate justice runs through Free Palestine."
- These choices suggest the EPA blurred the line between neutral governance and partisan patronage.

Assessment: Even if direct Hatch Act enforcement is unlikely, the program structure raises profound concerns about **partisan misuse of federal resources**. It resembles a textbook case of political patronage and undermines both compliance and public trust.

V. Federal Criminal Statutes

- **18 U.S.C. § 371** — Conspiracy to defraud the United States.

  Overview: Section 371 makes it a crime for two or more persons to conspire to defraud the United States or any federal agency. A conspiracy can involve obstructing a lawful government function by deceit, craft, trickery, or dishonest means, even if the conspiracy does not succeed in causing financial loss.

  Application to the EPA case:

  If EPA officials and NGO recipients coordinated to structure grant agreements that intentionally bypassed oversight, funneled funds for partisan purposes, or concealed the true use of federal money, such conduct could constitute conspiracy to defraud the United States.

  Assessment: The deliberate design of pass-through entities to sever EPA oversight may provide evidence of a scheme fitting within § 371's reach.

- **18 U.S.C. § 641** — Theft or conversion of government funds.

  Overview: Section 641 criminalizes the theft, embezzlement, or conversion of federal funds or property, including knowingly receiving or retaining such funds without proper authority.

  Application to the EPA case:

  Grant recipients that diverted funds to excessive salaries, inflated project costs, or unrelated political activity could fall within § 641. Even if funds were initially awarded lawfully, subsequent misuse for unauthorized purposes may constitute conversion.

  Assessment: Payments such as $800,000 executive salaries and inflated EV costs may expose NGOs to liability under § 641.

- **18 U.S.C. § 1001** — False statements or concealment in matters within federal jurisdiction.

  Overview: Section 1001 prohibits knowingly and willfully making false statements, using false documents, or concealing material facts in any matter under federal jurisdiction. No financial loss to the government is required — the falsehood itself is the offense.

Application to the EPA case:

NGOs that certified compliance with federal cost principles, misrepresented their financial capacity, or filed inaccurate progress and expenditure reports could be prosecuted under § 1001. Similarly, EPA officials who concealed knowledge of noncompliance might be liable.

Assessment: False certifications of budgeting capacity or reasonableness of costs are squarely within the ambit of § 1001.

- **18 U.S.C. § 666** — Theft or bribery concerning programs receiving federal funds.

  Overview: Section 666 applies to theft, embezzlement, or bribery in connection with organizations that receive more than $10,000 in federal assistance annually. It carries severe penalties where the value of misapplied funds exceeds $5,000.

  Application to the EPA case:

  NGOs that misapplied billions in federal climate funds, or that used such funds to enrich insiders through inflated salaries or politically motivated expenditures, fall directly within § 666. If quid pro quo arrangements existed (e.g., funding political allies in exchange for loyalty or future favors), bribery provisions could apply.

  Assessment: Given the size of the grants at issue, § 666 provides a strong statutory hook for prosecutors examining systemic diversion of EPA funds.

Taken together, these statutes form a **broad and overlapping legal net**:

- **§ 371** addresses the scheme itself (conspiracy).
- **§ 641** punishes theft and misapplication of funds.
- **§ 1001** captures false certifications and concealment.
- **§ 666** targets theft and bribery in federally funded programs.

If prosecutors can establish intent and coordination, the EPA slush fund scandal may implicate multiple felony provisions at once, opening avenues for both individual and organizational liability.

Assessment: Potential criminal exposure exists, contingent on proof of intent.

VI. Chevron Doctrine and *Loper Bright*

- **Chevron v. NRDC, 467 U.S. 837 (1984):**

  The Supreme Court held that courts must defer to an agency's reasonable interpretation of ambiguous statutes. This "Chevron deference" gave agencies sweeping interpretive power for nearly 40 years.
- **Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo, 603 U.S. ___ (2024):**

  The Court **overruled Chevron**, holding that it is the role of courts — not agencies — to determine statutory meaning. Agencies may be given respectful consideration, but no controlling weight.

Application to the EPA case:

The Inflation Reduction Act's vague "climate justice" language was used to justify funneling $20 billion to partisan NGOs. Under *Chevron*, EPA could have defended this as a "reasonable" interpretation. Under *Loper Bright*, such overreach faces strict judicial scrutiny.

Assessment:

EPA's broad reading of "climate justice" is no longer legally defensible. *Loper Bright* restores limits on the administrative state and reasserts Congress's power of the purse.

VII. Biblical Framework of Stewardship

- **Exodus 20:15** — "You shall not steal."
- **1 Corinthians 4:2** — "It is required of stewards that they be found faithful."
- **Isaiah 10:1–2** — "Woe to those who decree iniquitous decrees, and the writers who keep writing oppression."

The EPA's conduct violated not only statutory law but the higher moral law of stewardship. Taxpayer funds, entrusted for the common good, were diverted for partisan gain.

Assessment: Even where courts hesitate, the biblical standard issues a clear moral verdict: guilt.

VIII. Summary Table of Violations

Area	Law/Doctrine	Violation	Assessment
Constitution	Appropriations Clause	Funds diverted, oversight removed	Constitutional abuse
Federal Grant Law	31 U.S.C. §§ 6301–6308; OMB	Mismanagement, inflated costs, unqualified NGOs	Statutory violations
False Claims Act	31 U.S.C. §§ 3729–3733	False certifications, inflated budgets	Potential FCA liability
Hatch Act	5 U.S.C. §§ 7321–7326	Funds routed to partisan NGOs	Gray area, politically damning
Criminal Statutes	18 U.S.C. §§ 371, 641, 1001, 666	Fraud, theft, false statements, conspiracy	Possible criminal exposure
Judicial Doctrine	*Chevron* (1984), *Loper Bright* (2024)	Agency overreach, no deference	Now unlawful
Biblical Stewardship	Exodus 20:15; 1 Cor. 4:2; Isaiah 10:1–2	Theft and unfaithful stewardship	Moral condemnation

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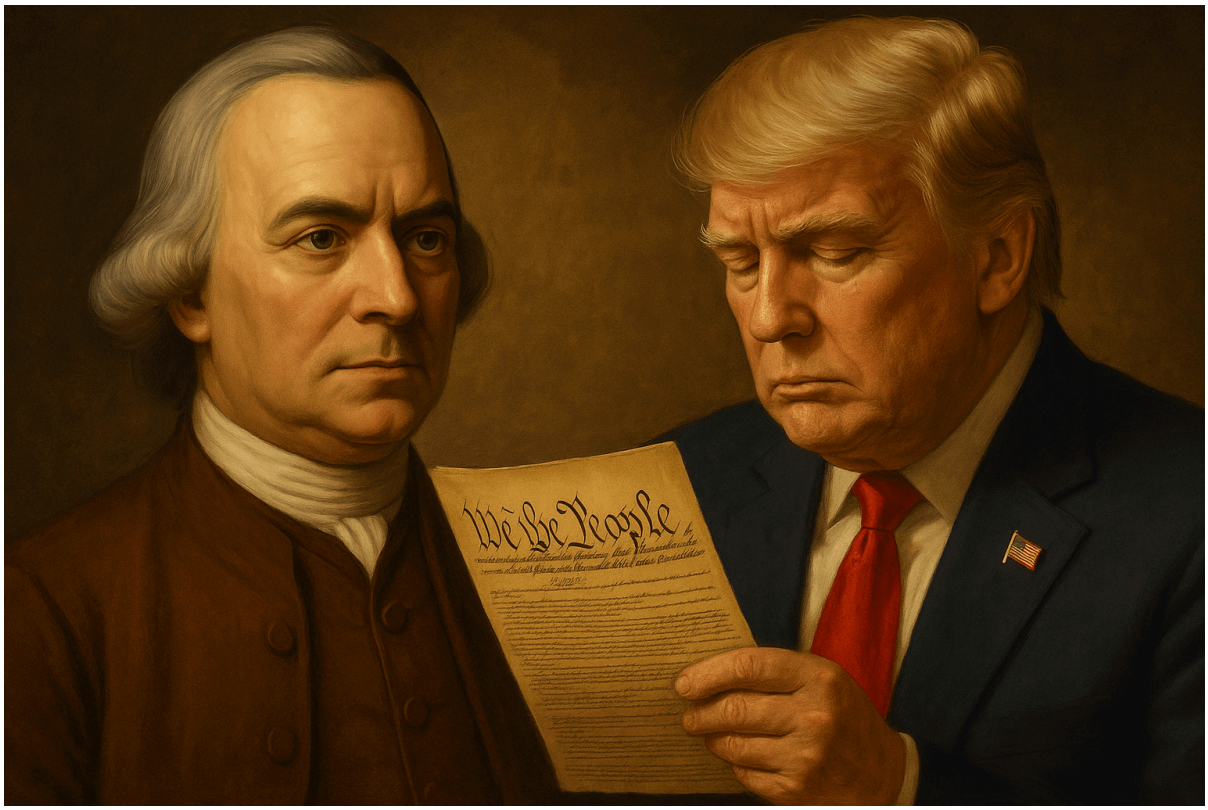
Samuel Adams and Today's Constitutional Leadership: Returning America to Her Moorings

BY VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/SAMUEL-ADAMS-AND-TODAYS-CONSTITUTIONAL-LEADERSHIP-RETURNING-AMERICA-TO-HER-MOORINGS/
AUGUST 19, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: US CONSTITUTION

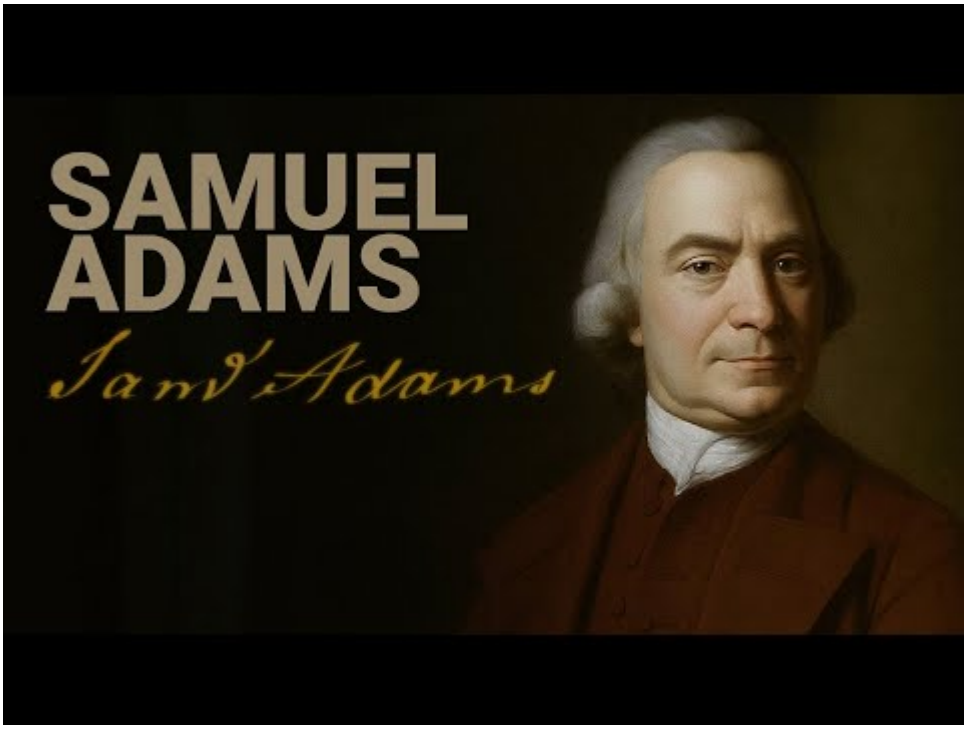


Samuel Adams, the "Father of the American Revolution," believed liberty was not a favor granted by kings but a gift from Almighty God. He organized the Sons of Liberty, opposed oppressive taxation, and boldly pressed for independence before most dared to whisper it. He later signed both the Declaration of Independence and the Articles of Confederation, helping craft the Massachusetts Constitution and serving as governor. His legacy is not only one of resistance but of rebuilding—charting a course from chaos to constitutional order.

Today, President Donald J. Trump is drawing America back to that same course. Against the headwinds of the Deep State, entrenched bureaucracies, and lawless globalism, his leadership has begun to turn our national ship. We are not yet in safe harbor, but by God's grace and constitutional leadership, America may yet return to the moorings laid by the Founders.

> Step into history like never before. Watch the Signers of the Declaration of Independence and Ladies of the Revolution come to life! Experience their gripping stories of courage, sacrifice, and triumph as they recount their roles in the events leading to the American Revolution and the historic signing.

Samuel Adams
https://youtube.com/watch?v=BrIUKiAoKyk



The Sons of Liberty and Today's Patriots

Samuel Adams helped organize the Sons of Liberty, giving shape to the colonial resistance against tyranny. Their cry was clear: liberty is worth sacrifice. Today, Americans see echoes of that battle as constitutional citizens push back against an overreaching federal government, weaponized agencies, and political persecution. President Trump has given those modern Sons and Daughters of Liberty a voice once again.

Taxation Without Representation Then and Now

Adams opposed the Stamp Act and Townshend Acts because they taxed colonists without accountability. In our time, Americans bear the crushing weight of debt, reckless spending, and inflation caused by unelected bureaucrats and career politicians. Trump's policies—tax reform, deregulation, and energy independence—were concrete steps to restore fiscal freedom, not government dependency.

Declaring Independence vs. Declaring Renewal

Long before Congress was ready, Adams declared that America was already independent. Today, Trump is declaring something equally bold: America must be renewed in her constitutional foundations. From securing borders to restoring law and order, his actions embody that same spirit of decisive leadership that risks unpopularity for the sake of truth.

From Radical Patriot to Governor

Adams did not stop at resistance; he helped write the Massachusetts Constitution, a model for the U.S. Constitution. In the same way, Trump is not content to expose corruption—he has begun rebuilding America's institutions by appointing judges who respect the Constitution, enforcing the rule of law, and returning power to the states and the people.

Pulling the Ship Back to Dock

Adams prayed his radicalism would serve liberty, not chaos. He saw government not as a master but as a steward accountable to the people. Today, Trump's brilliant leadership and historic actions have turned the national ship, fighting through the storms of media attacks and Deep State sabotage. The goal is clear: to bring America back into harbor, where she can be refitted and renewed upon the eternal moorings of God-given liberty and constitutional leadership.

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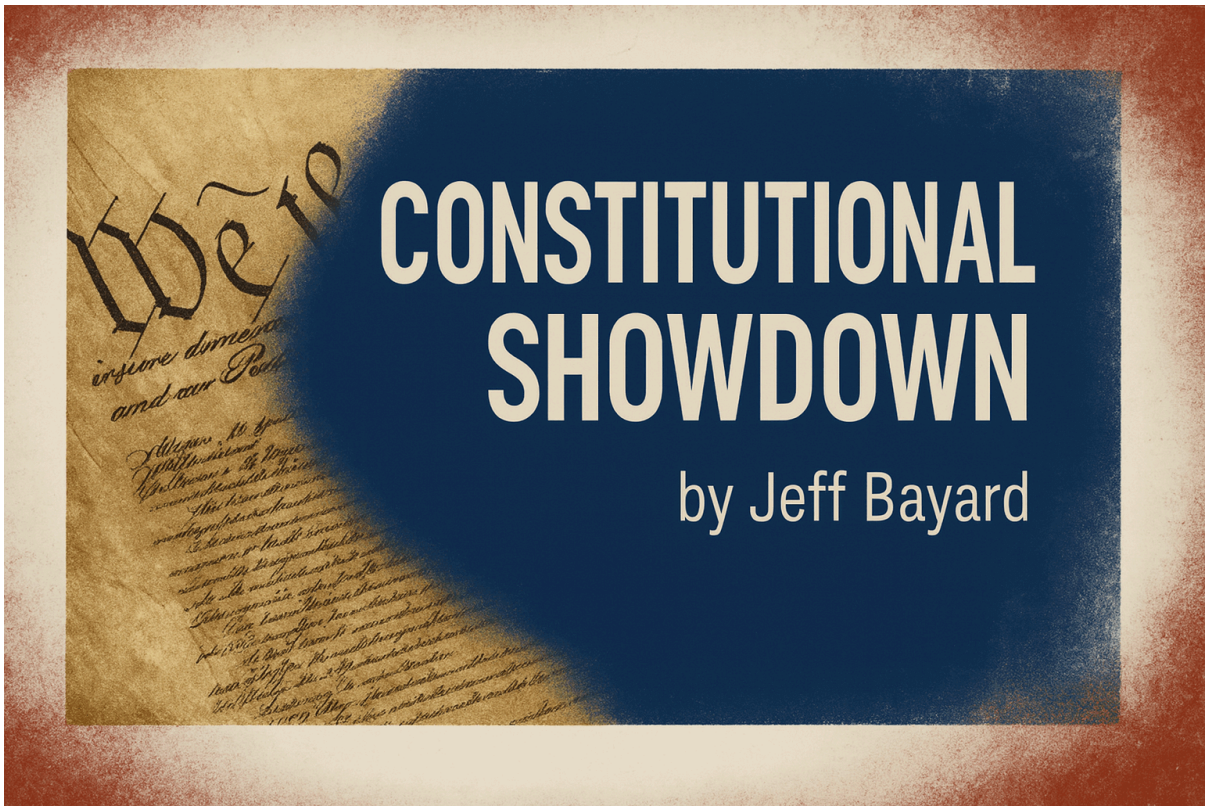
Constitutional Showdown: FBI Pushes Congress to Release Russia Hoax Docs

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/CONSTITUTIONAL-SHOWDOWN-FBI-RUSSIA-HOAX-DOCS/
AUGUST 18, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTIONAL SHOWDOWN, US CONSTITUTION



Part of VCA's ongoing Constitutional Showdown series

FBI Director Kash Patel urges Congress to release Russia hoax docs. Truth, deception, and constitutional order at stake.

> "A false witness will not go unpunished, and whoever pours out lies will not go free." — Proverbs 19:5

The Russia Hoax documents remain at the center of America's constitutional crisis. FBI Director Kash Patel is urging Congress to release the full Durham Annex and other Russia Hoax docs, potentially exposing how the intelligence community and political campaigns conspired to mislead the public. This deception undermined trust, damaged U.S. foreign policy, and weakened faith in our government.

On Fox News' Big Weekend Show, Rep. Byron Donalds (R-FL) and former White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows insisted that Americans deserve to see the complete record of how the Russia Hoax unfolded.

FBI director urges Congress to release more Russia 'hoax' docs
https://youtube.com/watch?v=ap3mg_iHQXw

The Big Weekend Show' co-hosts and Rep. Byron Donalds, R-Fla., discuss new information about the origins of the Trump-Russia collusion 'hoax.' Subscribe to ***Fox News***

The Clinton Campaign and the Steele Dossier

Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign and the Democratic National Committee funded Fusion GPS, which produced the discredited Steele dossier. Investigators later discredited the dossier, yet it became a key basis for FBI surveillance requests under the FISA system.

The Department of Justice Inspector General's 2019 report identified 17 major errors or omissions in the FISA applications against Trump adviser Carter Page. In 2023, Special Counsel John Durham concluded that the FBI had no valid basis to launch its investigation of the Trump campaign.

"The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy." — Proverbs 12:22

The Durham Annex and Russia Hoax Docs Transparency

FBI Director Patel reportedly discovered thousands of sensitive documents tied to the Trump-Russia investigation, including the Durham Annex. The FBI is transferring these materials to the Senate Judiciary Committee, where Congress may release them to the public.

Rep. Donalds argues that full transparency is essential. Without it, the American people will never know the true extent of intelligence community involvement in creating and spreading the Russia Hoax.

“Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.” — Ephesians 5:11

The Cost of the Russia Hoax Deception

The Russia Hoax did more than damage a presidency. It poisoned political discourse and contributed to strained U.S.–Russia relations. While not the only factor behind Putin’s war in Ukraine, the false narrative created instability that made peace harder to secure.

“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.” — Exodus 20:16

Constitutional Stakes of the Russia Hoax Documents

When powerful officials mislead the courts, abuse surveillance, and manipulate intelligence for political ends, they erode the foundations of the Republic. Congress must act decisively by reforming FISA, demanding accountability, and ensuring that unelected agencies cannot undermine elected authority again.

“When justice is done, it brings joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers.” — Proverbs 21:15

Conclusion: Truth and Justice Must Prevail

The Russia Hoax was not merely political maneuvering. It was a deception that struck at the heart of America’s constitutional order. By releasing the Russia Hoax docs, Congress can restore transparency and rebuild trust. Justice requires that truth come to light, so such an abuse of power never happens again.

“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people.” — Proverbs 14:34

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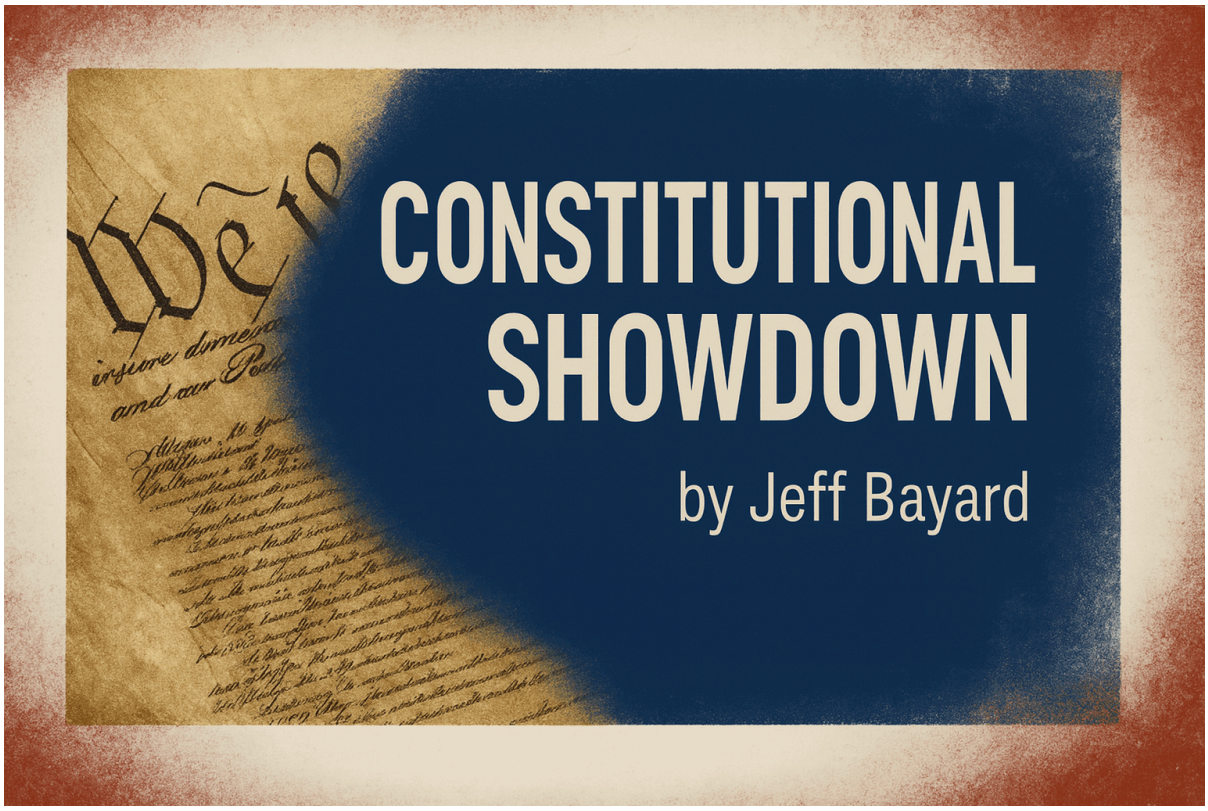
Constitutional Showdown Part 3: Lawfare — The Coup Moves to the Courts

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/CONSTITUTIONAL-SHOWDOWN-PART-3-LAWFARE-THE-COUP-MOVES-TO-THE-COURTS/
AUGUST 12, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTIONAL SHOWDOWN, US CONSTITUTION



This article is part of the Virginia Christian Alliance's continuing *Constitutional Showdown* series, examining threats to truth, justice, and the rule of law in America.

> **Micah 6:8 (KJV):** "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"

Whether you support or oppose Donald Trump is irrelevant here. What follows is **evidence from the declassified documents** of the Obama administration's conspiracy to subvert President Trump's 2016 victory and presidency that speaks to something far greater than one man or one election. If officials can:

- Use the courts to sideline political opponents without an election.

- Coordinate prosecutions and media narratives for political ends,
- Weaponize legal processes to exhaust and bankrupt a target,

…then the same tactics can be turned against anyone who challenges the powerful. This is not only a political problem — it is a constitutional crisis and a moral warning.

From Intelligence Manipulation to Lawfare

In **Part 1**, we saw how intelligence was weaponized before and after the 2016 election. In Part 2, a whistleblower revealed how dissent was silenced to preserve the false narrative.

Those same methods — distortion, suppression, and selective targeting — have now shifted into the legal arena. Instead of manipulating reports behind closed doors, the fight has moved into open courtrooms, where the process itself becomes the punishment.

Testimony from the Trenches

In a closed-door hearing earlier this year, one of Trump's defense attorneys described the pattern as "prosecution by press release, designed to keep a man in court and off the campaign trail." Others involved in high-profile political cases echo the same concern: the law is no longer being applied evenly, but strategically.

This approach has three defining features:

1. **Multiplication of Cases** — Bringing overlapping charges in different jurisdictions to stretch resources and attention.
2. **Coordinated Timing** — Filing charges during peak political moments to shape public perception.
3. **Media Saturation** — Using leaks, selective disclosures, and friendly outlets to create a presumption of guilt before trial.

FACTS THAT DESTROY FALSE ASSUMPTIONS

- Multiple prosecutions in different jurisdictions can be coordinated for political impact, not purely legal merit.
- Media coverage often relies on selective leaks rather than court records.

- Legal outcomes can be influenced by jurisdiction shopping, not impartial justice.
- These tactics have been used historically against political dissidents in other nations, and now appear here.

A New Front in the Same Coup

The term "lawfare" describes using the legal system as a weapon. It is not about pursuing justice, but about wearing down an opponent through endless litigation. The process becomes the penalty, regardless of the verdict.

Just as in Parts 1 and 2, the danger is not limited to one political figure. The precedent being set — that courts can be used to preemptively remove someone from contention — could one day be used against a pastor challenging cultural policy, a business owner opposing regulatory overreach, or any citizen speaking unpopular truth.

Constitutional and Legal Implications

The misuse of the legal system strikes at the heart of constitutional governance:

- **Article II** — Undermines the executive's independence when used to obstruct candidacy.
- **First Amendment** — Chills political speech and association through legal intimidation.
- **Fourteenth Amendment** — Violates equal protection when justice is applied selectively.

Federal Statutes Potentially Violated:

- **18 U.S.C. § 241** – Conspiracy Against Rights
- **18 U.S.C. § 242** – Deprivation of Rights Under Color of Law
- **18 U.S.C. § 1503** – Obstruction of Justice

> **Isaiah 1:17 (KJV):** "Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow."

The Call to All Citizens

Lawfare is the final stage of a coup that began in the shadows of the intelligence community and now plays out in the open under the color of law. It threatens the principle that leaders should be chosen by the people, not eliminated by insider action.

This is why the Virginia Christian Alliance issues this series — not to elevate one man, but to defend the right of every citizen to live under a government bound by truth, justice, and the rule of law.

Our response must be grounded in both vigilance and love. We must refuse the trap of political hatred, insist on equal justice, and give thanks to God for the freedoms we still have — even as we fight to preserve them.

References

- Download the report **here**.

  Download the Russia Hoax memo **here**.

  Download the Russia Hoax Whistleblower Records **here**.

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Part 2: **Whistleblower Reveals Inside Intel Manipulation**
Part 3: **Lawfare — The Coup Moves to the Courts**

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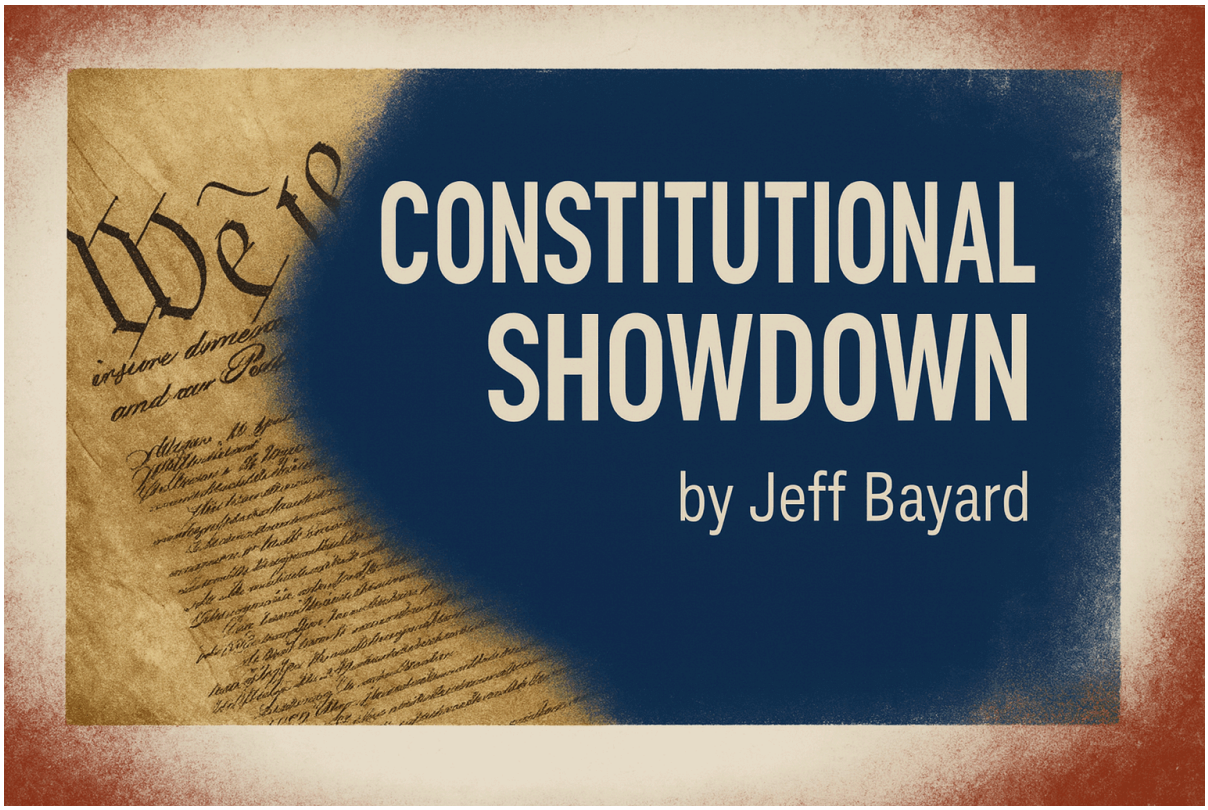
Constitutional Showdown Part 2: Whistleblower Reveals Inside Intel Manipulation

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/CONSTITUTIONAL-SHOWDOWN-PART-2-WHISTLEBLOWER-REVEALS-INSIDE-INTEL-MANIPULATION/
AUGUST 12, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTIONAL SHOWDOWN, US CONSTITUTION



This article is part of the Virginia Christian Alliance's continuing *Constitutional Showdown* series, examining threats to truth, justice, and the rule of law in America.

> **Proverbs 12:17 (KJV):** "He that speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit."

Whether you support or oppose Donald Trump is irrelevant here. What follows is **evidence from the declassified documents** of the Obama administration's conspiracy to subvert President Trump's 2016 victory and presidency that speaks to something far greater than one man or one election. If officials can:

- Silence truthful analysts and elevate false reports as fact,

- Direct conclusions before evidence is reviewed,
- Remove dissenting voices from the process—

…then the same machinery can be turned against **any citizen**, from any background. This is about defending **truth and justice for everyone**.

Inside the Intelligence War Room

In **Part 1**, we saw how declassified documents revealed that intelligence was reshaped to serve a political narrative before and after the 2016 election. Now, we go deeper through the testimony of a man who was inside the process.

An ODNI whistleblower — who helped assess cyber threats to U.S. elections — recounts how his professional judgment was valued… until it no longer aligned with the political storyline being crafted.

Before the election, the analysts concluded Russia lacked both the **intent** and the **ability** to alter the outcome, matching the record from **Part 1**. But once the outcome didn't fit, those findings vanished from public view.

> "As for the 2017 ICA's judgment of a decisive Russian preference for then-candidate Donald Trump, I could not concur in good conscience based on information available, and my professional analytic judgment." — ODNI Whistleblower

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The Pressure to Conform

Once the narrative shifted, pressure within the intelligence community followed:

- Analysts were urged to endorse conclusions they couldn't stand behind honestly.
- Supporting evidence was withheld with instructions to "trust me."
- The **Steele Dossier** — Clinton-funded opposition research — was included despite widely recognized reliability issues.

When he questioned the conflicting intelligence, the whistleblower was removed from the process entirely.

FACTS THAT DESTROY FALSE ASSUMPTIONS

- Russia's intent and capability to change the election were assessed as **nonexistent**, then overwritten.
- The Steele Dossier was included **despite known detractions**.
- Analysts who dissented were **pushed out of the process**.
- Leaks to media shaped public narrative **before reports were finalized**.

A Culture of Suppression

This was not healthy disagreement. It was top-down manipulation:

- Conclusions made before evidence was assessed.
- Dissenting voices excluded from final decisions.
- Media narratives shaped before formal reports released.

We detailed in Part 1 how conclusions changed after Obama's December 2016 order. The whistleblower now explains *why* — it wasn't analysis; it was orchestration.

Constitutional and Legal Implications

This isn't about defending a politician—it's about protecting the rule of law:

- **Article II** — Executive legitimacy compromised by politically distorted intelligence.
- **First Amendment** — Denial of accurate information to the public.
- **Fourteenth Amendment** — Equal protection violated by state-directed distortion of truth.

Statutes potentially violated:

- **18 U.S.C. § 371** – Conspiracy to Defraud the United States
- **18 U.S.C. § 1001** – False Statements

- **18 U.S.C. § 241** – Conspiracy Against Rights
- **18 U.S.C. § 242** – Deprivation of Rights Under Color of Law

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> **Ephesians 5:11 (KJV):** "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."

A Call to Truth and Vigilance

The whistleblower's testimony confirms the same abuse of power documented in Part 1 — and reminds us who pays the price for compromise. These tactics did not end in 2017. They evolved.

In **Part 3**, we will expose how this machinery has shifted into **lawfare** — prosecutions, ballot disputes, and media campaigns aimed at politically removing an opponent without public choice. The venue has changed, but the danger remains—and it is increasingly real for all Americans.

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Constitutional Showdown Part 1: Intelligence Weaponized Before the 2016 Election

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/CONSTITUTIONAL-SHOWDOWN-PART-1-INTELLIGENCE-WEAPONIZED-BEFORE-THE-2016-ELECTION/
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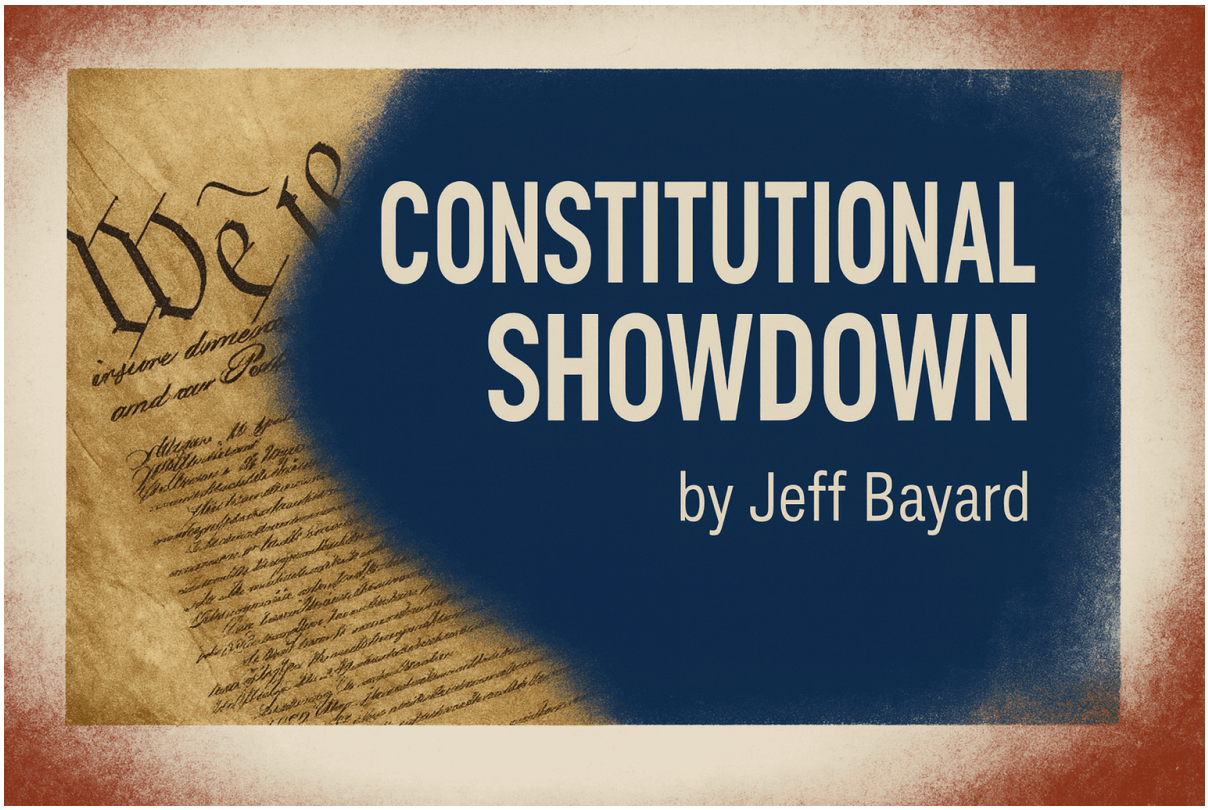
TAGS: CONSTITUTIONAL SHOWDOWN, US CONSTITUTION



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> **Psalm 2:1-2 (KJV):** "Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed…"

Whether you support or oppose Donald Trump is irrelevant here. What follows is **evidence from the declassified documents** of the Obama administration's conspiracy to subvert President Trump's 2016 victory and presidency that speaks to something far greater than one man or one election. If officials can:

- Manufacture intelligence conclusions to discredit a candidate,
- Hide or distort key findings from the public,
- Coordinate government power to control political outcomes,

…then the same machinery can be turned against *any citizen*, from any walk of life. This is about protecting truth and justice for everyone.

The Plot Before the Ballots Were Counted

Newly declassified records from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) reveal that senior Obama administration officials manipulated intelligence before Donald J. Trump's lawful 2016 victory.

By late summer 2016, internal assessments had already concluded that Russia lacked both the intent and the capability to alter the election outcome. Yet those findings were quietly buried or altered.

Timeline Highlights Before the Election:

- **Aug 31, 2016:** DHS told DNI James Clapper there was "no indication of a Russian threat to manipulate the actual vote count directly."
- **Sept 2, 2016:** The FBI asked to "soften" a pre-election assessment on Russian activity.
- **Sept 9, 2016:** Officials agreed the intelligence summary should state Russia "probably is not trying…to influence the election" via cyber means.
- **Sept 12, 2016:** Analysts concluded foreign adversaries "do not have" the ability to carry out undetected cyberattacks to change votes.
- **Oct 7, 2016:** ODNI and DHS issued a press release claiming "confidence" that Russia directed the DNC/DCCC hacks — omitting the FBI and NSA's "low confidence" qualifiers.

The Fabrication After the Election

When Trump won on November 6, 2016, the operation changed course. Instead of closing the file, officials rewrote the intelligence narrative to question the election's legitimacy.

Key Moves After the Election:

- **Dec 7, 2016:** The IC drafted a Presidential Daily Brief stating "foreign adversaries did not use cyberattacks…to alter the US Presidential election outcome." Hours later, FBI Director James Comey withdrew, and the report was killed "based on some new guidance."
- **Dec 9, 2016:** President Obama ordered a new assessment on "Russia Election Meddling." Hours later, the Washington Post published leaks claiming the CIA concluded Russia acted to help Trump — no final report existed at that time.
- **Late Dec 2016:** An ODNI whistleblower was removed from communications after questioning why the new assessment contradicted earlier findings.
- **Jan 6, 2017:** The unclassified ICA was released, alleging Putin helped Trump, based in part on the discredited Steele Dossier.

FACTS THAT DESTROY FALSE ASSUMPTIONS

- Internal assessments found **no capability or intent** by Russia to alter the vote.
- Early conclusions were **changed or omitted** in public statements.
- The Steele Dossier was used despite its **known unreliability**.
- Leaks to the media shaped public opinion **before final reports existed**.

Constitutional and Legal Implications

This isn't about party politics — it's about the rule of law. If unchecked, these tactics erode the foundation of the republic:

- **Article II** — Executive authority undermined by political manipulation of intelligence.
- **First Amendment** — Citizens are denied truthful information needed for informed voting.
- **Fourteenth Amendment** — Equal protection compromised by selective use of state power.

Federal Statutes Potentially Violated:

- **18 U.S.C. § 371** – Conspiracy to Defraud the United States
- **18 U.S.C. § 1001** – False Statements

- **18 U.S.C. § 241** – Conspiracy Against Rights
- **18 U.S.C. § 242** – Deprivation of Rights Under Color of Law

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Isaiah 59:14-15 (KJV): "And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. Yea, truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey…"

A Call to Truth and Unity

This case is not about defending one man. It is about defending the principle that **truth must not be weaponized** and **justice must not be partial**. Today it may target a political figure; tomorrow, it could target a pastor, a business owner, or a neighbor.

As Christians, we are called to break down political walls, love our neighbors, and give thanks to God for the blessings of liberty. Protecting the truth protects everyone, and honoring justice honors the Lord who established it.

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  Download the Russia Hoax Whistleblower Records **here**.

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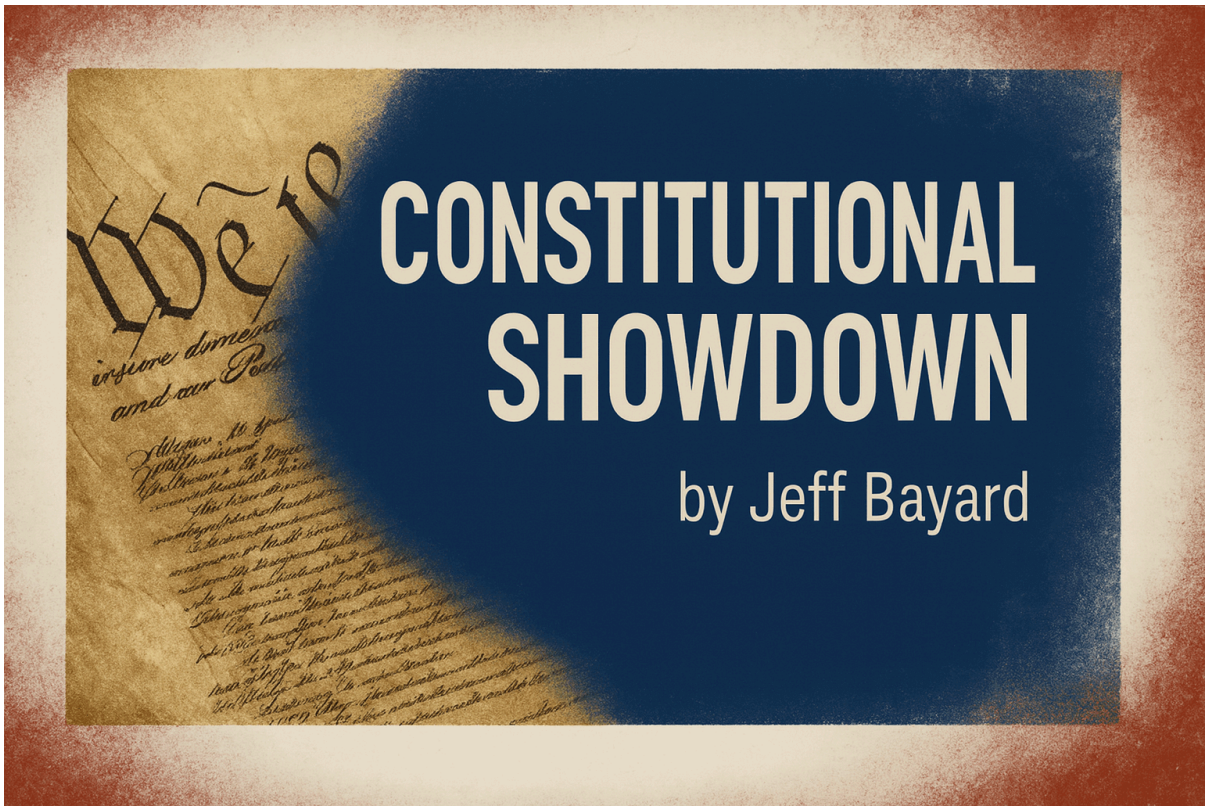
Constitutional Showdown: The United States Is Under an Ongoing Coup Against President Trump

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/CONSTITUTIONAL-SHOWDOWN-COUP-AGAINST-PRESIDENT-TRUMP/
AUGUST 4, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTIONAL SHOWDOWN, DEEP STATE, US CONSTITUTION



*VCA continues the **Constitutional Showdown series** with the latest startling edition, revealing that We the People have been, are, and will continue to be under an active coup from within. This is no longer about what happened in 2016. The coup against President Trump is ongoing, and the consequences reach every corner of American life.*

"It meets all of the criminal elements of a seditious conspiracy against the United States." — Stephen Miller

> **"Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness." – Isaiah 5:20**

The Current Coup Against President Trump: A Present Danger

Stephen Miller isn't theorizing—he's testifying. In a blistering interview with Maria Bartiromo on *Sunday Morning Futures*, the former White House Deputy Chief of Staff stripped away the media gloss and laid bare the deepest scandal of our time: **a coordinated coup against a sitting president, Donald J. Trump**.

"This was a coup," Miller declared, "carried out by the intelligence apparatus of this country, by the deep state, by Hillary Clinton and the Democrat Party." The goal? To remove a duly elected president through subversion, lies, and lawfare. With newly released evidence from the FBI and Director of National Intelligence, Miller asserts the proof of pre-meditated conspiracy is now undeniable, meeting the legal threshold for sedition, insurrection, and **conspiracy against rights under color of law (18 U.S.C. § 241).**

Stephen Miller UNLOADS on Dems over Russiagate: 'One egregious felony after another'
https://youtube.com/watch?v=jqbLwKpCWwc

Timeline of the Coup Against President Trump

- **July 2016:** FBI launches *Crossfire Hurricane*, based on Clinton-funded opposition research.
- **Oct 2016:** **DOJ obtains secret FISA** warrant to spy on Trump's campaign using the false Steele Dossier.
- **Nov 2016:** Trump wins; intelligence officials begin "unmasking" Trump team members and leaking to the media.
- **May 2017:** Mueller appointed to lead a baseless Russia collusion investigation.
- **2018–2020:** Endless leaks, raids, and prosecutions target Trump allies.
- **2021–2022:** Deep state actors remain entrenched, blocking release of documents and shielding themselves.
- **2023–2025:** Trump faces lawfare attacks, election interference, and disqualification efforts.

This was never just about 2016.

The coup continues today.

What the Coup Looks Like Today

The American people must understand: this is not history—it is the **current operating system** of the regime. Here's how the **ongoing coup against President Trump** is playing out now:

1. **Weaponized Lawfare**

Multiple indictments, overlapping jurisdictions, and partisan prosecutors are deployed to financially drain, distract, and disqualify Trump from returning to office. It's legal warfare with political goals.

2. **Election Interference via Bureaucracy**

   Intelligence officials and legacy media suppressed the Hunter Biden laptop story in 2020. Now, similar information control mechanisms are being used to hide DOJ misconduct and Biden family corruption from public view.

3. **Deep State Sabotage**

   Unaccountable bureaucrats remain in key agencies. These "careerists" obstruct reform, leak strategically, and ensure any return of Trumpism faces institutional resistance.

4. **Trial-by-Propaganda**

   Media outlets echo every accusation in lockstep, creating the illusion of guilt before trial. It's a public hanging in slow motion, carried out by headline.

5. **Ballot Disqualification Efforts**

   Activist lawsuits attempt to block Trump from ballots under false 14th Amendment insurrection claims, despite no conviction. It's an administrative end-run around the voters.

6. **Institutional Capture**

   The DOJ, FBI, CIA, and courts now operate under a culture that sees Trump—and any return to constitutional order—as a threat to their power. They no longer hide it.

> **"Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them." – Ephesians 5:11**

The Real Victims of a Fake Plot

Paul Manafort rotted in prison. General Mike Flynn was set up. Innocent aides were raided and slandered. Their only crime? Working for Donald Trump.

Miller called the **Mar-a-Lago raid** a continuation of the same conspiracy: "They went in… hoping to recover documents that would implicate their own criminal conduct." The motive wasn't justice—it was self-preservation.

Meanwhile, the press played along. Miller slammed the media as "useful idiots of the cabal," willingly parroting lies from Schiff, Brennan, and Comey. The public was told there was "collusion in plain sight"—but what we really saw was **treason in high places**.

A Nation Deceived, a Republic at Risk

While the country chased phantoms, the real national security threats multiplied. China now supplies 90% of our prescription drug components. Russia invaded Ukraine. Iran built up its nuclear arsenal. These threats were ignored while the deep state pursued political revenge.

> **"You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good." – Genesis 50:20**

This was never just about Trump. It was about stopping constitutional restoration. The goal is to **make lawfare normal**—to destroy political opponents through false charges and frame-ups. Unless there are consequences, the coup will never end.

Final Warning: Consequences or Collapse

Stephen Miller's closing plea was simple: "There must be consequences." Otherwise, the Constitution becomes a paper shield, and the republic collapses into bureaucratic tyranny. The Department of Justice must act. If it won't, **We the People** must awaken and demand accountability from every officeholder, judge, and prosecutor.

> **"When justice is done, it is a joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers." – Proverbs 21:15**

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Constitutional Showdown: The Coup That Failed and the Conspiracy Against Rights

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/CONSTITUTIONAL-SHOWDOWN-THE-COUP-THAT-FAILED-AND-THE-CONSPIRACY-AGAINST-RIGHTS/
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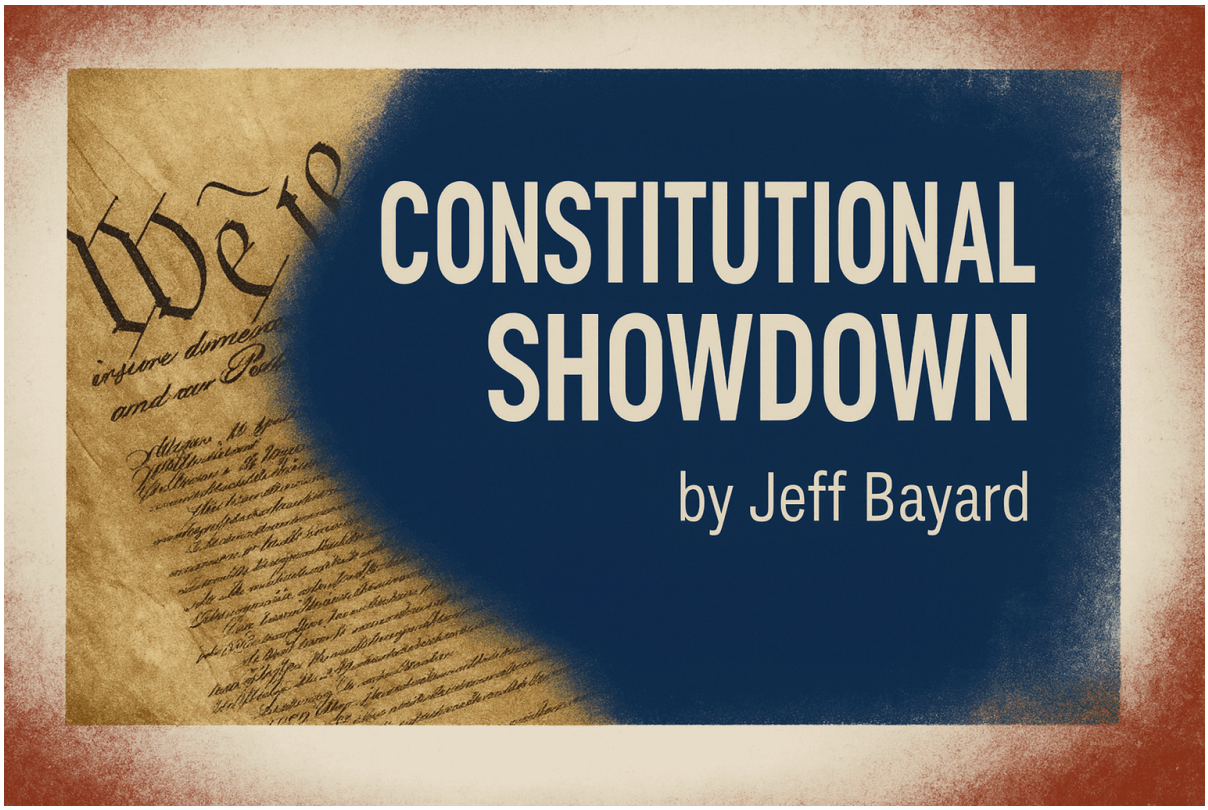
TAGS: CONSTITUTIONAL SHOWDOWN



> Psalm 2:1-2 (KJV): "Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed…"

The July 23, 2025 White House press briefing dropped a political bombshell: new evidence confirms a coordinated attempt by Obama-era officials to sabotage Donald Trump before he ever took office. Declassified intelligence exposes a fake narrative, a weaponized intelligence apparatus, and what may legally qualify as a conspiracy against rights under 18 U.S.C. § 241. This is not just a scandal—it is **subversion from within**.

YouTube video player

https://youtube.com/watch?v=z0C7H3biiYg

A Chilling Shift at the 3:37 Mark

At the 3:37 mark of the July 2025 White House press briefing, Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt passed the mic to Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard. **What followed was historic…**

The declassified documents paint a damning picture of intentional distortion at the highest levels of government. Rather than assess foreign election interference objectively, Obama-era officials appear to have guided intelligence conclusions to match a predetermined political goal: sabotage the incoming Trump administration.

What the Declassified Documents Reveal

- Putin had no intent to help Trump win
- Obama personally ordered the ICA
- Only five analysts wrote the report
- Brennan pushed the Steele Dossier
- The goal was sabotage

Isaiah 59:14-15 (KJV): "And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. Yea, truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey…"

If these allegations are accurate, multiple federal laws may have been violated. The weight of evidence suggests intentional deceit, conspiratorial coordination, and a deliberate attempt to deprive Americans of their constitutional rights. Here are the key legal statutes implicated:

Laws Allegedly Broken

- **18 U.S.C. § 371** – Conspiracy to Defraud the United States
- **18 U.S.C. § 1001** – False Statements
- **18 U.S.C. § 2384** – Seditious Conspiracy
- **18 U.S.C. § 241** – Conspiracy Against Rights

This isn't just a matter of political misconduct—it strikes at the very heart of our republic. By subverting legitimate processes and deceiving the public, Obama-era officials and intelligence leaders may have committed grievous offenses against the U.S. Constitution itself.

A Constitutional Crisis in Real Time

- **Article II** – Executive Power
- **Article I** – Legislative Integrity

- **First Amendment** – Free Press and Informed Citizenry
- **Fourteenth Amendment** – Equal Protection and Due Process

This sustained campaign of misinformation and manipulation cannot be dismissed as mere partisan politics. It targeted the sovereign rights of citizens by attempting to undo the outcome of a lawful election. The statute introduced in our previous piece—18 U.S.C. § 241—remains the clearest legal lens for accountability.

Connecting the Dots: The Conspiracy Against Rights

This piece follows our earlier post, "**Mike Davis Goes SCORCHED Earth on Obama**," which introduced 18 U.S.C. § 241…

Will There Be Accountability?

Karoline Leavitt and DNI Gabbard confirmed the administration has referred the evidence to the DOJ. If nothing is done, the failure will not be Trump's, but the republic's.

> **Ecclesiastes 12:14 (KJV): "For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."**

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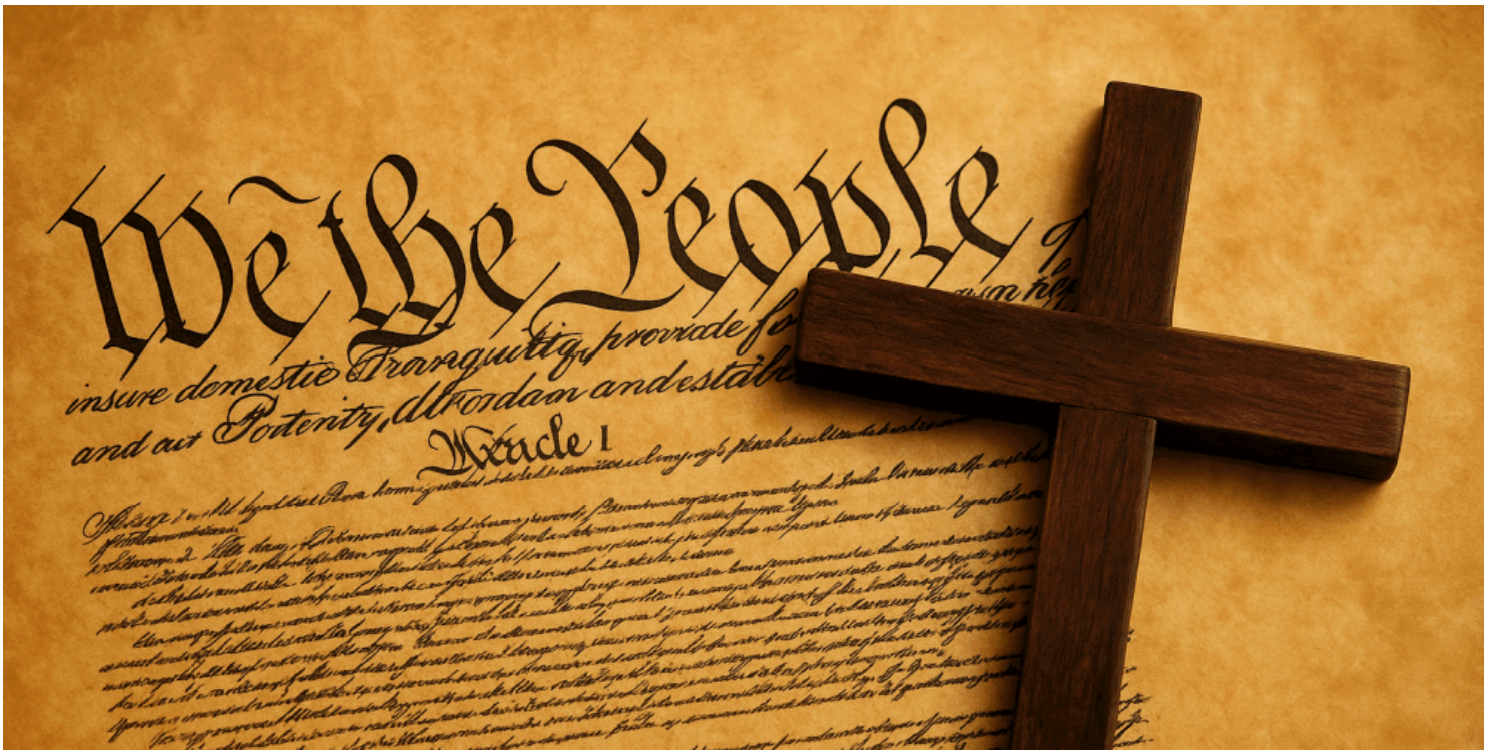
Mike Davis Sounds the Alarm: ‘No One Is Above the Law—Even a Former President’

BY VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/MIKE-DAVIS-NO-ONE-ABOVE-LAW/
JULY 22, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: US CONSTITUTION



Exposing the Roots of Weaponized Justice and the Constitutional Battle Ahead

> **“When justice is done, it is a joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers.”**
>
> *– Proverbs 21:15*

In a fiery interview with Benny Johnson, former federal law clerk Mike Davis draws attention to what he calls the most serious constitutional crisis in modern history. As founder of the **Article III Project**, Davis isn’t interested in partisan revenge—his focus is accountability under the rule of law. At the center of his message: **when the powerful weaponize our justice system to target political opponents, America’s foundational liberties—and God-given rights—are in peril.**

A Legal and Moral Reckoning Is Overdue

Davis argues that former government officials, regardless of status or title, must be held accountable if they've participated in unlawful actions. Central to his argument is **18 U.S. Code § 241**, a statute that criminalizes conspiracies to violate constitutional rights.

> **"No one is above the law—not even a former president," Davis insists.**

This is not about politics. It's about restoring trust in institutions, defending the integrity of our justice system, and ensuring that constitutional protections apply to *all* Americans—whether powerful or powerless.

Watch the Interview: Mike Davis Goes Scorched Earth

YouTube video player
https://youtube.com/watch?v=rC5k78TmimI

Unveiling a Pattern of Injustice

The interview connects a series of actions—from surveillance and censorship to prosecutorial overreach—that reveal a disturbing pattern: the use of government power to suppress opposition. Davis specifically highlights abuses tied to the Russia collusion narrative and the failure to prosecute those who orchestrated or covered it up.

> **"They targeted people for praying at abortion clinics and speaking up at school board meetings. That's not law—it's lawfare."**

The danger isn't merely legal—it's *spiritual*. A society that turns justice into a weapon has not only violated the Constitution, it has **abandoned God's standard of righteousness**. "Unequal weights and measures are an abomination to the Lord" (Proverbs 20:23).

The Constitution and the Cross: Two Pillars, One Truth

This moment demands both **constitutional vigilance and spiritual discernment**. The U.S. Constitution acknowledges that our rights come not from government but from our Creator. When those rights are trampled, Christians must not stay silent.

> **"Today's battle for justice is not just about law—it's about truth. And truth, by definition, cannot be silenced or compromised."**

Davis' legal stance aligns with Scripture's call for the righteous to be bold (Proverbs 28:1). His tone is urgent, but his mission is clear: **hold the powerful accountable through lawful means—not vengeance, but justice.**

What Can We Learn?

- **Pray** for truth to rise and for justice to be restored (1 Timothy 2:1–2).
- **Stay informed** about how institutions are used—for righteousness or for control.
- **Remain vigilant** in defending liberty and law—not with wrath, but with *conviction anchored in Christ.*

> **"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves… defend the rights of the poor and needy." – Proverbs 31:8–9**

Constitutional Resource Addendum

What Is "Conspiracy Against Rights"? (18 U.S.C. § 241)

Conspiracy Against Rights is a federal crime that occurs when two or more individuals agree to violate someone's constitutional rights. These rights include freedom of speech, freedom of religion, the right to vote, due process, and equal protection under the law.

The statute reads:

> "If two or more persons conspire to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate any person… in the free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege secured by the Constitution… they shall be fined or imprisoned."
>
> – 18 U.S. Code § 241

Importantly, the law does not require that the conspiracy succeed—only that there is an agreement to carry it out. In serious cases involving injury or death, there is no statute of limitations.

This law applies to both government officials and private citizens who act in concert to suppress or harm another's protected rights.

Why This Matters to VCA

At the Virginia Christian Alliance, we affirm that our rights do not come from government—they come from God. The Constitution secures those rights, but it does not create them.

When leaders or institutions conspire to suppress free speech, censor religious expression, target political dissent, or persecute citizens for standing on biblical convictions, they violate not only the Constitution but God's moral order.

> "Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."
>
> – Proverbs 31:9

We stand for the equal protection of all Americans under the law, and we speak out when truth is trampled by lawless power. Upholding justice is not political—it is biblical.

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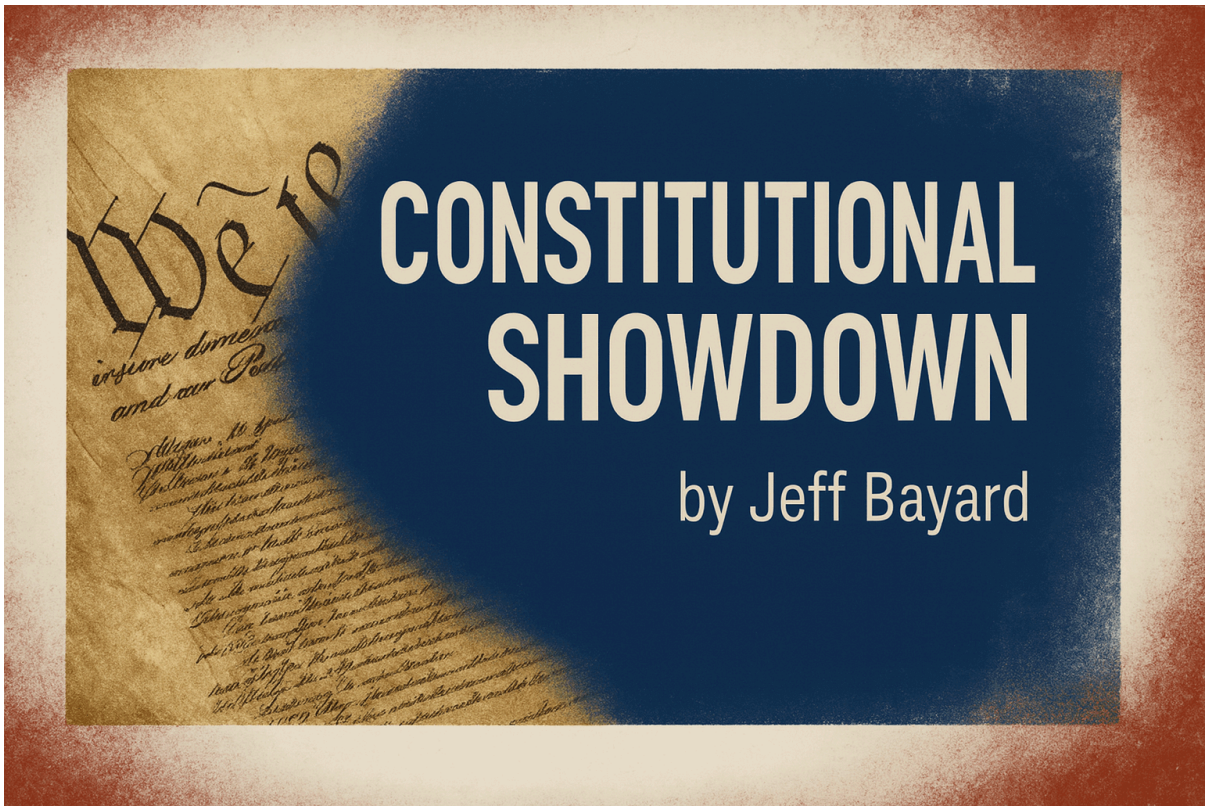
Trump vs. The Courts: Tariffs, Immigration, and the Battle for America's Authority

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/CONSTITUTIONAL-SHOWDOWN-TRUMP-VS-THE-COURTS/
JULY 21, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTIONAL SHOWDOWN



> For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king; he will save us." – Isaiah 33:22

"A house divided against itself cannot stand." – Abraham Lincoln

In the escalating tug-of-war between the executive branch under the scrutiny of Trump vs. The Courts and the federal judiciary, President Donald Trump once again finds his constitutional authority challenged in the courtroom. As key policy pillars—tariffs, immigration enforcement, and agency oversight—move through the legal system, a deeper question rises to the surface: Who rules America—the people's elected president or unelected judges?

Trump vs. The Courts: Tariff Rulings and Judicial Resistance

On May 28, 2025, the U.S. Court of International Trade ruled that President Trump lacked the statutory authority under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) to impose what are now called "Trafficking Tariffs." These tariffs were aimed at pressuring trading partners to take stronger action against fentanyl trafficking and border-related threats.

The court found that Trump's justification failed to show a direct link between the foreign threat and the economic measure. A day later, a D.C. judge issued a narrower ruling blocking tariff enforcement against two small businesses. But here's the twist: both rulings are currently stayed on appeal. For now, the tariffs stand.

The deeper issue? While Article I, Section 8 gives Congress the power to regulate foreign commerce, presidents have historically acted through emergency powers like IEEPA. If courts now demand a direct and judicially approved link between threat and action, executive discretion becomes judicial permission—an inversion of our constitutional design. This legal clash is a central feature of Trump vs. The Courts.

Trump vs. The Courts: Alien Enemies or Political Targets?

In J.A.V. v. Trump, the administration invoked the Alien Enemies Act (AEA) to halt the entry and facilitate the removal of noncitizens from Venezuela, citing national security concerns. A federal judge blocked the order with a temporary restraining order, followed by a preliminary injunction.

The ruling requires the government to give three weeks' notice and offer a hearing opportunity before any removals. Legal challenges are now multiplying, with class action suits forming in several jurisdictions.

The **Alien Enemies Act**, passed in 1798, was intended to give the president wartime discretion to act swiftly against foreign threats. Today's rulings risk transforming that emergency tool into a courtroom debate, where unelected judges become the final gatekeepers of national defense. This judicial control underscores the ongoing battle of Trump vs. The Courts.

Trump vs. The Courts: SCOTUS Pushes Back on Nationwide Injunctions

In a pivotal 6–3 ruling (**Trump v. CASA**), the Supreme Court narrowed the power of lower courts to issue nationwide injunctions. The decision held that such sweeping relief should only be granted in certified class actions, not as a default tool of judicial opposition.

This is a procedural win for Trump and a potential rebalancing of power. But the order at issue, Trump's executive action to end birthright citizenship, remains blocked under existing class-

based injunctions. The Court avoided ruling on the substance of the policy itself.

While the decision reins in rogue lower courts, it does not yet settle whether a president can reverse a policy by executive order that was never legislatively enacted. At stake is the original meaning of the 14th Amendment—particularly whether 'subject to the jurisdiction thereof' was ever intended to guarantee automatic citizenship to the children of noncitizens.

Trump vs. The Courts: Bureaucracy Strikes Back

Separate rulings have limited Trump's ability to reshape the administrative state. Courts have:

- Blocked attempts to dismiss entrenched civil servants
- Prevented the dissolution of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)
- Restored internal watchdogs removed from executive agencies

Each case highlights how deeply the judiciary has entrenched itself as a shield for the permanent bureaucracy. What was once called "draining the swamp" is now rebranded in legal briefs as "unconstitutional interference." This legal interference is another front in the Trump vs. the Courts confrontation.

Trump vs. The Courts: What's Really at Stake?

The Constitution gives the president specific, enumerated powers—especially in foreign affairs, national security, and administration of federal law. Yet these cases reveal a trend: courts are no longer refereeing the game. They're acting as shadow legislators and co-presidents.

Procedural rulings, such as the narrowing of nationwide injunctions, may prove beneficial in the long run. But for now, the executive's ability to act is bogged down in legal quicksand.

What we are witnessing is not standard friction—it is constitutional sabotage.

A Biblical Call to Clarity in Trump vs. The Courts

God's design for civil government is not chaotic or vague. "The Lord is our judge… lawgiver… king." (Isaiah 33:22) Human government should reflect this orderly balance, with clear roles and righteous restraint.

When unelected judges undermine lawful executive actions in ways that appear to prioritize ideology over constitutional limits, they violate not only the Constitution—but the moral fabric of accountability under God.

We must not yield to judicial supremacy disguised as justice. This is a moment for clarity, courage, and spiritual vigilance.

Will we stand for the rule of law? Or will we accept rule by lawsuit?

🔗 Related:
Browse the full **Constitutional Showdown** series for more episodes in America's legal war over truth, justice, and constitutional authority:

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IRS says churches can now endorse political candidates to congregations in major decision

BY LIFESITENEWS
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/CHURCHES-CAN-ENDORSE-POLITICAL-CANDIDATES/
JULY 11, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION

The IRS agreed that churches do not 'intervene' or participate in political campaigns when they endorse candidates to their own congregations, in a settlement with Christian groups filed on Monday.
WASHINGTON, D.C. (**LifeSiteNews**) — Churches and other houses of worship can now endorse political candidates to their congregations, in a landmark decision by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

The historic move comes after two Texas churches and a group of Christian broadcasters sued the IRS, alleging that the 1954 Johnson Amendment, which requires that nonprofits not endorse political candidates, violates their "First Amendment rights to the freedom of speech and free exercise of religion."

The Johnson Amendment states that certain organizations lose their tax-exempt status if they "participate in, or intervene in…, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office."

In a settlement agreement between the plaintiffs and the IRS, jointly **filed** on Monday, the IRS agreed that a house of worship does not participate or "intervene" in a political campaign when it communicates to its own congregation.

"Bona fide communications internal to a house of worship, between the house of worship and its congregation, in connection with religious services, do neither of those things, any more than does a family discussion concerning candidates," stated the joint motion.

The decision said that the Johnson Amendment has until now been interpreted in a way that creates "serious tension with the First Amendment's Establishment Clause" by treating "religions that do not speak directly to matters of electoral politics more favorably than religions that do so —favoring some religions over others based on their speech to their own congregations in connection with religious services…"

The IRS has admittedly failed to enforce the Johnson Amendment with regard to churches at times, as a 2022 investigation by ProPublica and the *Texas Tribune* **alleged**. In 2014, the IRS **settled a lawsuit** filed by the atheist Freedom from Religion Foundation (FFRF), which complained that the IRS was ignoring reports about churches violating their tax-exempt statuses.

The government had put a moratorium on the IRS' investigations of tax-exempt organizations after the scandal that broke in 2013 over its targeting of pro-life, pro-family, and Tea Party groups.

Erik Stanley, senior legal counsel for Alliance Defending Freedom and head of the **Pulpit Initiative**, previously told LifeSiteNews that "the IRS has no business censoring what a pastor preaches from the pulpit."

The tax-exempt status of churches is not an even trade-off to give up free speech, he said. "No one would suggest a pastor give up his church's tax-exempt status if he wants to keep his constitutional protection against illegal search and seizure or cruel and unusual punishment," he said.

"Churches are constitutionally entitled to a tax exemption and that exemption cannot be conditioned on the surrender of constitutional rights."

Election years often bring out criticisms of churches from political opponents. Pastors who speak against abortion or homosexuality are often accused of being political, but Stanley says that's because "society has been taking issues that are biblical, slapping a political label on them, and telling churches that they are now off-limits. The church has not been invading the realm of politics. Rather, politics has been invading the realm of the church."

SOURCE: **LIFESITE NEWS**

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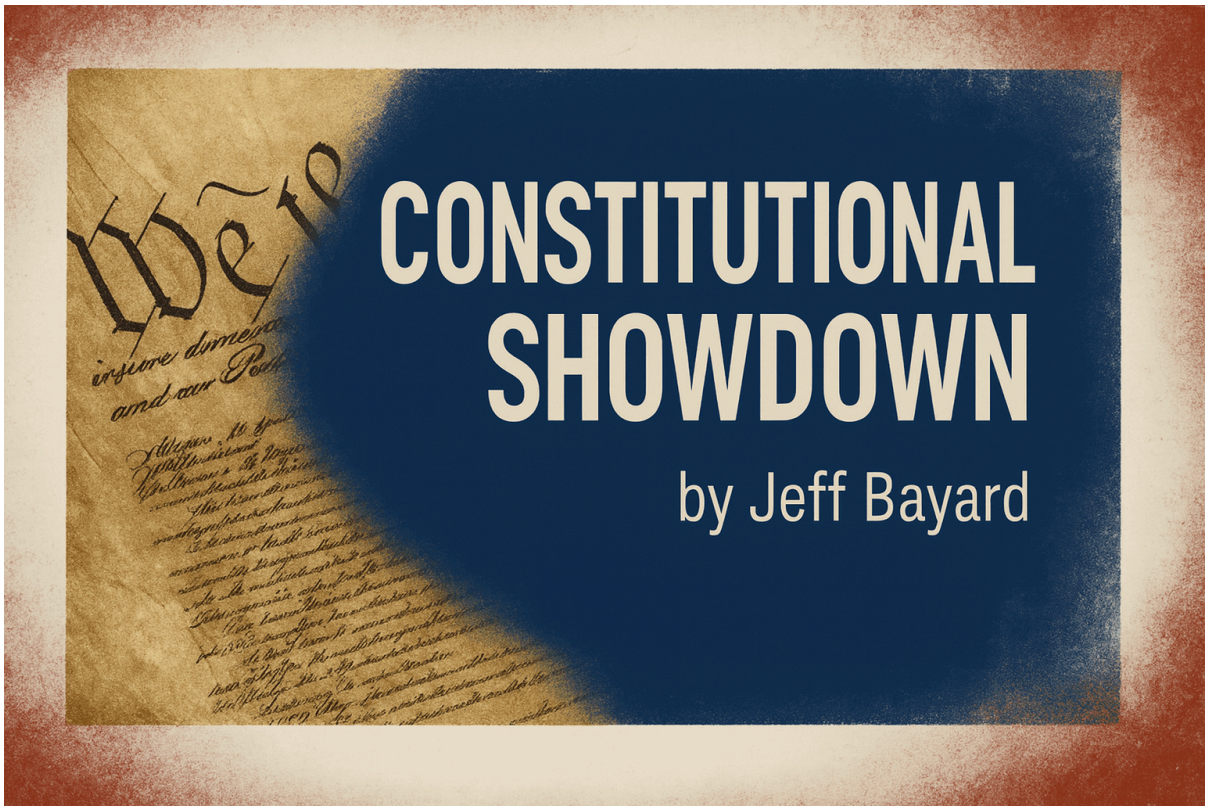
Constitutional Showdown: Trump Ends Taxpayer Handouts for Foreign Green Energy

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/CONSTITUTIONAL-SHOWDOWN-TRUMP-ENDS-TAXPAYER-HANDOUTS-FOR-FOREIGN-GREEN-ENERGY/
JULY 7, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTIONAL SHOWDOWN



Continuing our Constitutional Showdown coverage, this latest post examines President Trump's July 7 Executive Order ending taxpayer subsidies for unreliable, foreign-controlled "green" energy. This decisive action marks a return to constitutional authority, national sovereignty, and biblical stewardship.

*Explore the full series here: **Constitutional Showdown Archive***

> "Reliance on so-called 'green' subsidies threatens national security by making the United States dependent on supply chains controlled by foreign adversaries."

— Executive Order, July 7, 2025

On July 7, President Donald J. Trump signed a bold new Executive Order: **Ending Market Distorting Subsidies for Unreliable, Foreign-Controlled Energy Sources**. It brings a swift and constitutionally grounded end to taxpayer-funded handouts for wind, solar, and other so-called "green" energy projects. Rooted in economic realism and national sovereignty, the order reverses years of globalist-driven energy policy that weakened America's energy independence and handed power to hostile foreign nations.

At stake is far more than energy policy. This executive action draws a line in the sand—a constitutional showdown over who decides America's future: foreign-controlled supply chains and climate ideologues, or We the People, guided by law, accountability, and truth.

Ending the "Green Lie": No More Subsidized Dependence

President Trump's order calls out the elephant in the room: federal subsidies for wind and solar have not only distorted energy markets but made Americans dependent on unreliable and unaffordable systems controlled by global adversaries.

Under the new order, all clean electricity tax credits under sections 45Y and 48E of the Internal Revenue Code are terminated. The Treasury Department has 45 days to strictly enforce this repeal and prevent any last-minute loophole-grabbing by green energy developers.

This move implements the energy provisions of the newly passed One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which restored constitutional checks on runaway spending and ideological energy mandates.

A Return to Constitutional Energy Policy

America's Founders did not envision a federal government that would force citizens to subsidize unreliable energy schemes, which would weaken the nation's infrastructure and sovereignty. By invoking lawful executive authority to dismantle these distortions, Trump is upholding the proper role of the Executive—not to legislate or engineer society, but to faithfully execute the laws passed by Congress.

This EO directly supports the Constitution's vision for limited government, domestic prosperity, and energy security. It also affirms that American taxpayers should not fund industries that undermine national security or funnel billions into the hands of adversaries like China.

Dominion and Stewardship: A Biblical Response

From a biblical worldview, this Executive Order reflects a return to the God-ordained principle of wise dominion over the earth (Genesis 1:28)—not reckless utopianism. It protects natural beauty from exploitation by unreliable technologies and affirms the call to stewardship without idolatry.

As Proverbs 22:7 warns, “The borrower is slave to the lender.” Dependence on foreign-controlled energy systems is not freedom—it is folly. Scripture commends resourcefulness, accountability, and truth—not mandates that manipulate markets and enslave future generations to debt and deception.

What Happens Next: Treasury and Interior Must Act

Within 45 days, both the Treasury and Interior Departments must report directly to the President on actions taken to:

– Enforce termination of wind and solar credits

– Block artificial project acceleration to game the system

– Restrict foreign entities of concern from influencing U.S. energy policy

– Eliminate any agency bias toward green energy over dispatchable U.S. energy sources

The EO is clear: no more favoritism, no more globalist loopholes. This is a constitutional course correction—with teeth.

Final Word: Courage to Lead, Not Yield

This Executive Order is a bold example of what rightful executive leadership looks like in an era of judicial activism, legislative cowardice, and bureaucratic capture. It re-centers power where it belongs: with the Constitution, with the people, and with a government that fears God more than globalist idols.

May this be the first of many righteous resets as we reclaim both our energy independence and our national integrity.

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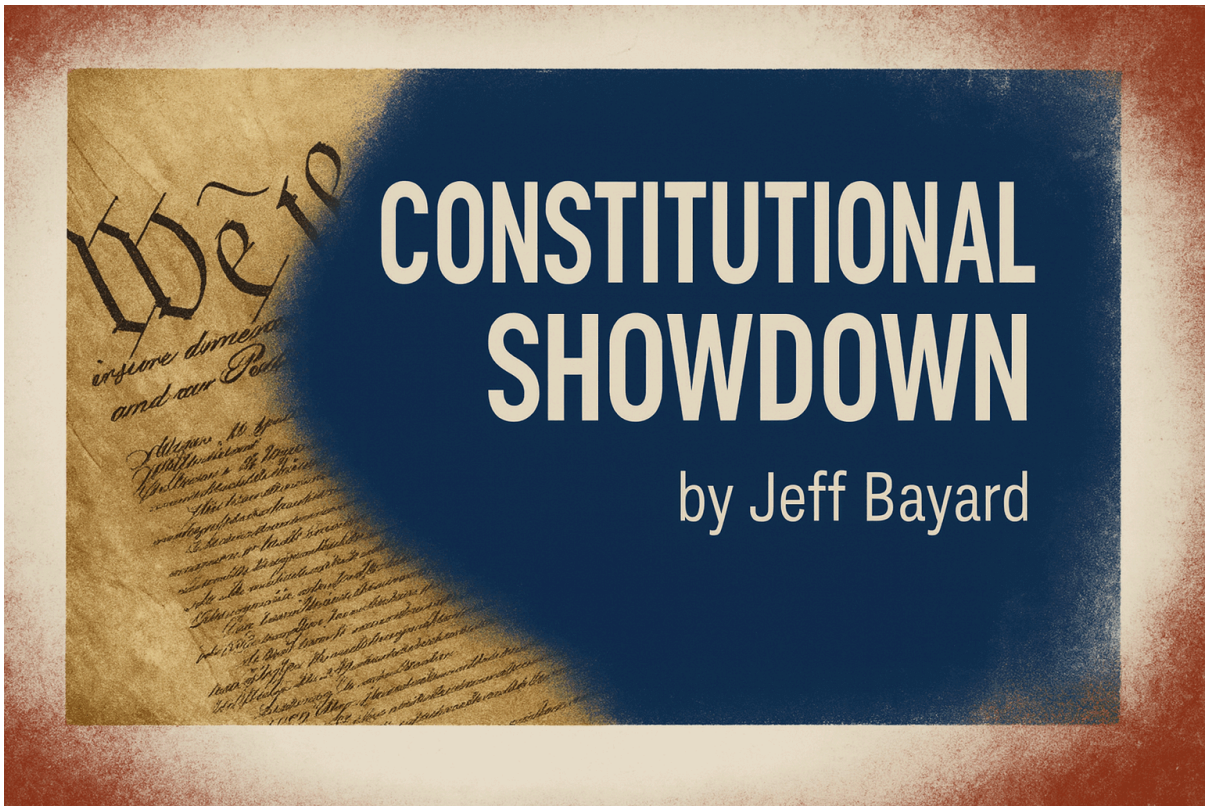
Constitutional Showdown: The Deep State's War on America — Gen. Flynn Breaks the Silence

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/CONSTITUTIONAL-SHOWDOWN-THE-DEEP-STATES-WAR-ON-AMERICA-GEN-FLYNN-BREAKS-THE-SILENCE/
JULY 7, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTIONAL SHOWDOWN, DEEP STATE



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Explore the full series here: Constitutional Showdown Archive

America at a Crossroads: A War Within

"This is not about Republicans and Democrats. This is a war." — Gen. Michael Flynn

As Americans have just celebrated our Independence Day, the question looms: *Are we still a free people?* On July 4th, we remembered our founding—a declaration of liberty rooted in God-given

rights and resistance to tyranny. But today, our greatest threats come not from overseas but from within.

In a stunning, no-holds-barred interview with Benny Johnson, General Michael Flynn revealed the depths of a Marxist revolution that has infiltrated the highest levels of our intelligence community and government. What was once whispered is now shouted: the Deep State tried to overthrow the presidency of Donald Trump.

Flynn identifies three chief operatives: former CIA Director John Brennan, former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper, and former FBI Director James Comey. These men led a conspiracy to frame Trump and destroy Flynn as a warning shot to anyone daring to challenge the regime. And they didn't act alone. The Obama White House coordinated the plot. The media played its part. And establishment Republicans stood down—or joined in.

Gen. Flynn Drops HAMMER After CIA BOMBSHELL: This Means JAIL for Comey, Clapper, Brennan 'It's Over'
https://youtube.com/watch?v=2N8KjY1NbsM

> **:** *Watch the full interview between Benny Johnson and Gen. Flynn to hear the truth the media won't cover.*

A Coup in Real Time: The Meetings That Changed History

General Flynn outlines two pivotal meetings in January 2017:

- **January 5:** President Obama meets in the Oval Office with Biden, Susan Rice, Comey, Clapper, and Brennan. Their mission? Get Flynn to get Trump.
- **January 6:** The same officials travel to Trump Tower to present false intelligence and launch the Russia hoax. Flynn, not yet aware of the January 5 conspiracy, sets up the meeting as Trump's incoming National Security Adviser.

In that Trump Tower meeting, Flynn questioned NSA Director Mike Rogers about the confidence level in the "Russian interference" report. Rogers admitted the intel was weak. Yet Comey, Brennan, and Clapper pressed forward—pushing low-confidence propaganda as fact.

This is how the Russia Collusion hoax began: not from valid evidence, but from an orchestrated assault to derail Trump before he could take office.

The “Kill Shot” and the Smear Campaign

Flynn was targeted with military precision. He recalls the rapid sequence:

- January 5: Conspiracy meeting in the White House
- January 6: Setup briefing in Trump Tower
- January 10: Media “kill shot” launched by *Washington Post*‘s David Ignatius at Clapper’s direction

Within days, Flynn was forced out. The narrative was locked. The intelligence community had declared war on the presidency, using the media as its weapon.

Treason, Not Politics

Flynn is unequivocal: what happened was **treason**.

He cites CIA assessments, the Durham Report, and a mountain of internal documents that show how Brennan, Clapper, and Comey knowingly misled Trump and the American people. The intelligence community didn’t just fail in its duty—it usurped power.

> “They are soldiers in a larger globalist cabal.”

Flynn calls for immediate investigation and prosecution. He insists Trump must crush the deep state just as he crushed Iran’s nuclear program. Not as revenge, but to **preserve the Constitution**.

> **“These three men—Brennan, Clapper, and Comey—are the archetypes of the revolution against the American people.”**

A President’s Sacred Duty

Flynn highlights the solemn oath that only the President takes:

> "Preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States."

No other official swears to **preserve** it. That burden rests solely on the shoulders of the president. And Flynn believes that Trump—by divine providence—was raised up for this very moment.

> "He survived an assassin's bullet. I believe he was ordained by God."

This aligns with a **biblical worldview**: God appoints leaders for seasons of judgment and restoration. As Proverbs 21:1 reminds us, "The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord; He directs it like a watercourse wherever He pleases." Flynn urges Trump to use his constitutional powers:

- Title 50 national security authorities
- Declassification authority
- Commander-in-Chief and law enforcement powers

The president must use these tools to investigate, prosecute, and permanently dismantle the entrenched Marxist state operating from within.

The Real Enemy is Domestic

Flynn repeatedly emphasizes: the greatest threat is not China, Russia, or Iran.

> "The biggest national security threat we face is internal."

He describes a cabal of globalists, technocrats, and Marxist ideologues—not just in D.C., but in Silicon Valley, academia, and Congress. These are enemies of the Constitution. And they want the sovereign United States replaced with global governance.

From a Christian perspective, this is a war between light and darkness. As Ephesians 6:12 declares:

> "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world…"

Nuremberg Trials for Treason?

Flynn draws a chilling parallel to the post-WWII Nuremberg trials. He invokes the doctrine that *"just following orders"* is not a defense.

- Mayorkas? Investigate him.
- Clapper? Bring him in without a lawyer.
- Brennan, Comey? Demand texts, emails, classified records.

Let the American people hear the truth.

> "There is no statute of limitations for treason."

Flynn argues that Trump, advised by national security leaders like Pam Bondi, Kash Patel, Tulsi Gabbard, and Stephen Miller, must act with urgency.

Time to Act

The clock is ticking. The revolution is not coming—it already happened. We are now in the counter-revolution phase. This moment demands action from every patriot, every believer in the rule of law, and especially from the president.

> "If Trump doesn't act, I don't know who else will."

Resources for Further Review

- ***Pardon of Innocence* by Gen. Michael Flynn**
- **Benny Johnson Interview (YouTube)**

- **Durham Report Summary – U.S. Dept. of Justice**

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The Real Meaning of Independence: John Quincy Adams and the Enduring Principles of July 4th

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/THE-REAL-MEANING-OF-INDEPENDENCE-JOHN-QUINCY-ADAMS-AND-THE-ENDURING-PRINCIPLES-OF-JULY-4TH/
JULY 4, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION

> **"It's not just fireworks and freedom—it's a summons to remember our God-given rights and moral responsibility."**

As grills fire up and parades march down hometown streets, Americans celebrate the birth of our nation. But how many reflect on the deeper meaning behind the fireworks? July 4th was never meant to be a holiday of nostalgia alone. For John Quincy Adams—and the founders he revered—it was a day of remembrance and recommitment to enduring principles rooted in divine truth.

Adams' Independence Day speeches are rarely studied today, but they powerfully illuminate what the Declaration of Independence was truly declaring. It wasn't just a breakup with Britain. It was a bold statement of theological, philosophical, and political conviction—one that declared America as a nation under God, not just under government.

A Nation’s Founding: Not Just Political, But Providential

Dr. Matthew Spalding of Hillsdale College reminds us in this July 4th lecture that Adams saw America’s birth as divinely orchestrated and its liberty rooted in God’s moral order. Drawing from speeches Adams gave in the early 19th century, Spalding helps us rediscover the soul of the Declaration: national sovereignty, individual rights, and civic virtue—each grounded in “the laws of nature and nature’s God.”

Watch This Before July 4 | Office Hours, Ep. 16
https://youtube.com/watch?v=ZNpV2bXD4vg

The Declaration Begins with God—and Ends with Responsibility

The very first paragraph of the Declaration invokes "the laws of nature and nature's God," emphasizing that both nations and individuals derive their rights from a divine Creator—not kings, not Congress, and certainly not cultural whims. Thomas Jefferson's iconic phrase—"We hold these truths to be self-evident"—was not just a rhetorical flourish. As Spalding notes, the use of "we hold" signifies a shared moral conviction rooted in theological and philosophical education.

John Quincy Adams taught that independence meant more than freedom from tyranny. It meant aligning governance with virtue and viewing happiness not as personal pleasure, but as the fruit of moral discipline and godliness. Quoting Aristotle, Locke, and the Scriptures, Adams believed the pursuit of happiness was ultimately the pursuit of **virtue**—a concept as alien to today's political discourse as it was foundational to our republic.

Civic Education and Biblical Virtue: America's True Safeguard

Our modern understanding of freedom often collapses into personal autonomy and self-gratification. But Adams warned against such distortions. Without virtue, freedom cannot stand. Without civic and theological education, the principles of liberty dissolve into license.

So how do we honor our Independence Day rightly?

- By returning to the *actual* text of the Declaration and the Scriptures it echoes.
- By educating our children in the "greatest texts" of Western and biblical civilization.

- By remembering that **freedom under God** is the only freedom that lasts.

Final Warning and Call to Action

Let us not be the generation that forgets why America was founded. As cultural elites strip God from our institutions and redefine our founding documents through secular lenses, we must return to the original vision: **a nation under God, pursuing virtue, and governed by moral law.**

> **"The happiness of society is the end of government… and that happiness consists in virtue." — John Quincy Adams, 1776**

Resources

- **Declaration of Independence – National Archives**
- **John Quincy Adams: "Oration on the Life and Character of Lafayette" (1834)**
- **Hillsdale College's Online Course: "The U.S. Constitution"**
- **Constitution Reader (Hillsdale College Press)**
- **WallBuilders: Founding Fathers' Faith and Original Intent**

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Constitutional Showdown: Supreme Court Cracks Down on Judicial Overreach

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/CONSTITUTIONAL-SHOWDOWN-SUPREME-COURT-CRACKS-DOWN-ON-JUDICIAL-OVERREACH/
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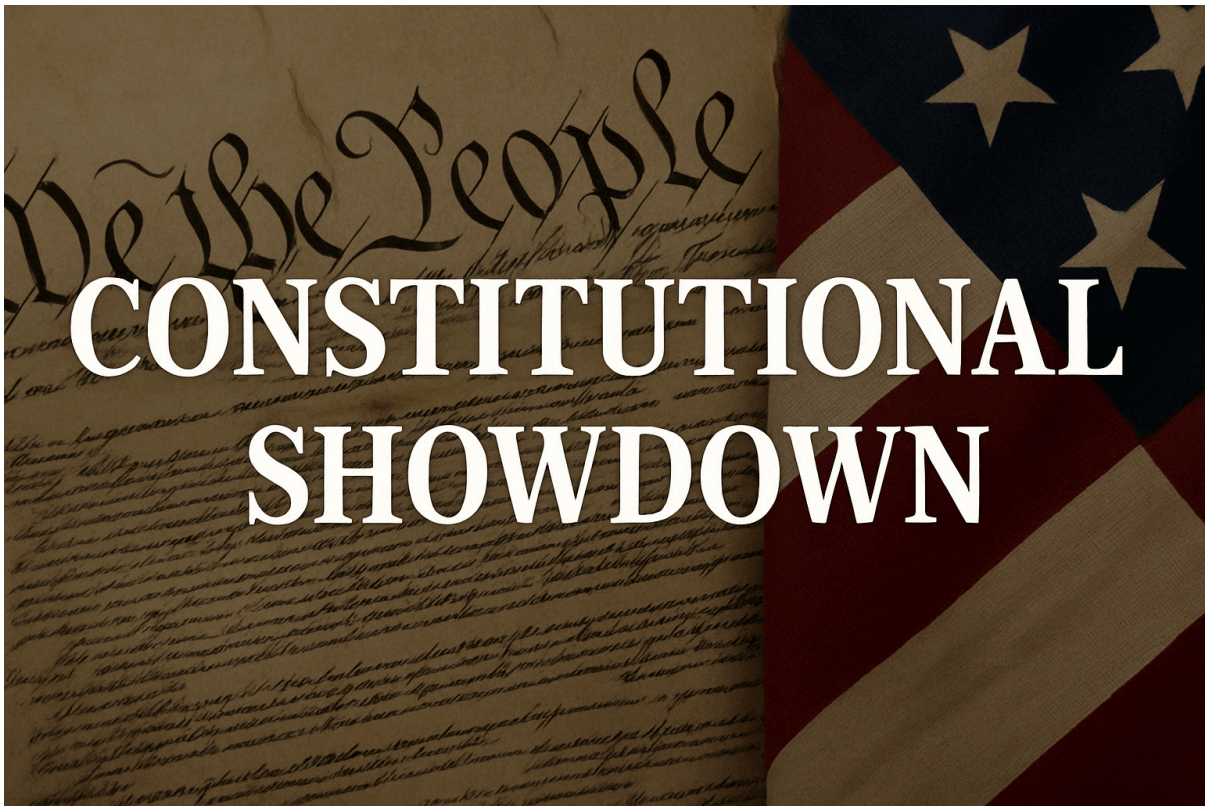
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION



> "The universal injunction was conspicuously nonexistent for most of our nation's history."
> — Justice Amy Coney Barrett, Trump v. CASA

Judicial Supremacy Just Hit a Wall

In a landmark 6–3 decision, the Supreme Court ruled that federal courts lack authority to issue universal injunctions—a seismic win for constitutional order. This historic case, Trump v. CASA, not only reaffirms executive power but curtails a legal weapon long used to block conservative policies from coast to coast.

This article draws extensively from reporting by Tyler O'Neil, senior editor at The Daily Signal. Read the original coverage **here.**

While the case involved a challenge to President Trump's executive order on birthright citizenship, the Court's ruling focused on **the broader issue**: can a single district judge stop a policy for the entire country? The Court's answer: no.

A Power Courts Were Never Meant to Wield

> The Court decisively held that injunctions must be limited to actual parties in a lawsuit, not the entire nation. Justice Barrett, writing for the majority, noted this nationwide approach has "no basis in the historical understanding of equitable power."
>
> Trump's Solicitor General John Sauer testified that 35 of 40 universal injunctions came from just five jurisdictions—evidence of strategic forum shopping designed to grind the executive branch to a halt.
>
> **Universal injunctions:**
> – Froze Trump's public charge and border policies
> – Stopped ICE from enforcing immigration orders
> – Delayed implementation of legally valid executive actions
>
> Justice Barrett rightly declared: "District courts asserting the power to prohibit enforcement of a law or policy against anyone" is a recent—and troubling—development.

God First: The Limits of Human Power

Scripture reminds us that lawlessness is not freedom, and unchecked human authority must be restrained:

"The Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king; it is He who will save us." — Isaiah 33:22

This decision realigns the judiciary with its biblical and constitutional bounds. Justice Barrett even rebuked Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson for dismissing limits on judicial authority as "mind-numbingly technical," warning that her vision "would make even the most ardent defender of judicial supremacy blush."

Implications for Immigration and Beyond

This ruling won't decide the birthright citizenship debate—but it does shake the foundation of activist litigation strategies.

Expect these changes:

- Lower courts can't block deportations nationwide
- ICE enforcement actions may resume more quickly
- Forum shopping will face tougher scrutiny
- Lawsuits must stick to actual plaintiffs—no more national vetoes
  In short: a major brake has been placed on the fourth branch of government—the activist judiciary.

Constitutional Showdown Scorecard

- Executive Power Reinforced
- Judicial Restraint Reaffirmed
- Forum Shopping Undermined
- Rule of Law Strengthened
  ***The tide is turning**. One judge should not be able to override the will of the American people—especially when those powers were never granted by the Constitution in the first place.*

Related Reading:

– Tyler O'Neil, The Daily Signal – **Supreme Court Strikes Down Universal Injunctions**:

– **VCA Constitution Series Archive**

– Heritage Foundation on **Nationwide Injunctions**

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Constitutional Showdown: General Flynn's Biblical Warning to America — "What Gets Checked Is What Gets Done"

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/CONSTITUTIONAL-SHOWDOWN-GENERAL-FLYNNS-BIBLICAL-WARNING-TO-AMERICA-WHAT-GETS-CHECKED-IS-WHAT-GETS-DONE/
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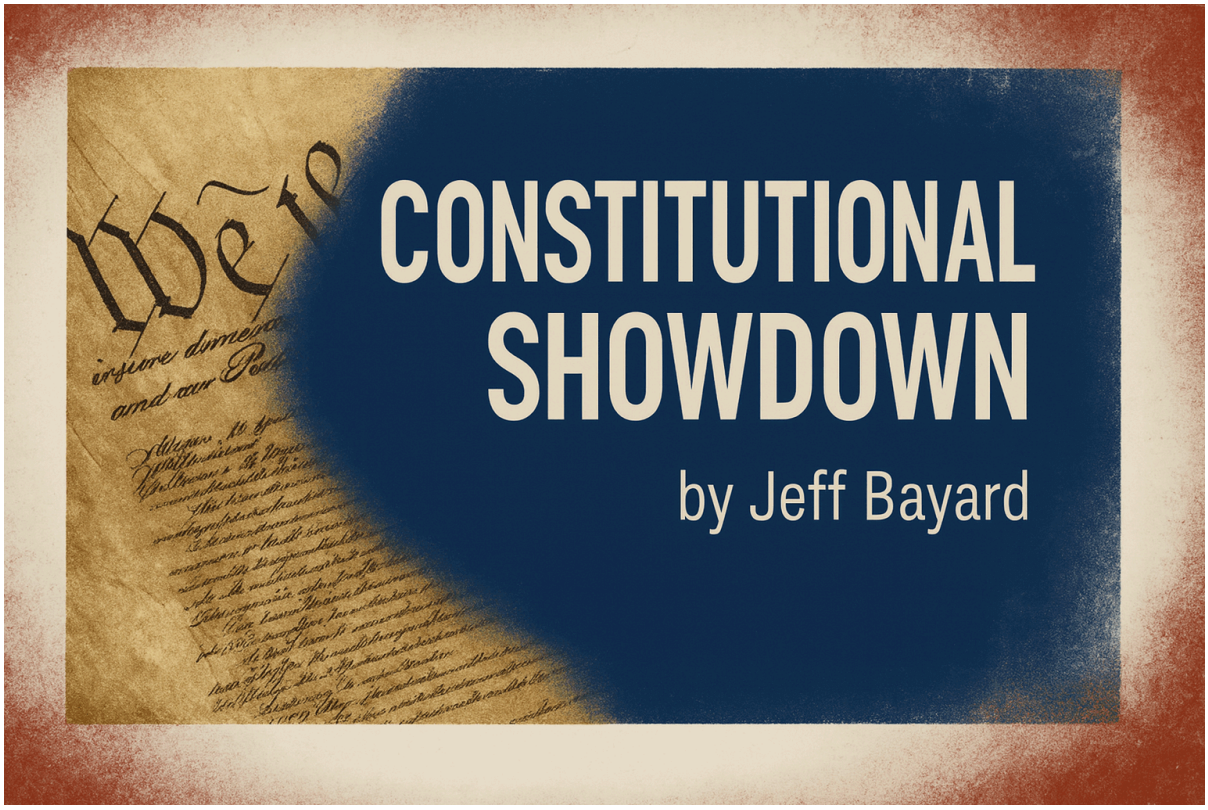

"What gets checked is what gets done." With these piercing words, General Michael Flynn sounds an alarm not only to President Trump but to the faithful remnant in America. This is more than political warfare—it's a spiritual test. As Scripture warns: "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" (Psalm 11:3)

The answer? Stand firm. Watch. Act.

In this urgent interview with Benny Johnson, Flynn issues a clarion call: Do not go to war with Iran. It's a trap. Instead, he calls the nation to confront its greatest enemy— the internal corruption eroding our republic from within.

General Flynn Gives Dark Warning to Trump Why He Should NOT Go To War With Iran: 'It's a Trap...'
https://youtube.com/watch?v=5F3F0jN0JBg

Flynn isn't speaking in hypotheticals. "The nuclear bomb is already here," he warns—20 million criminal aliens, some tied to terror and espionage. They were not dropped on us by a foreign nation. They were invited by open borders, protected by lawless governors, and ignored by a complicit Congress.

This is not just a national security crisis. It's a betrayal of the constitutional order that echoes the judgment of Isaiah 1:23: "Your rulers are rebels, companions of thieves; they all love bribes and chase after gifts."

Flynn draws a clear line between political games and spiritual rebellion. We are no longer debating policy—we are resisting "a new Confederacy," a domestic insurrection of sanctuary cities and globalist strongholds that are at war with God-given law and national sovereignty.

General Flynn, a former director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, reminds us: the President—not the DOJ—is the chief law enforcement officer of the land. And yet, as he lamented, executive orders are meaningless if no one enforces them.

"Those executive orders are only as effective as those who carry them out… What gets checked is what gets done."

This echoes the biblical principle of stewardship. "It is required of stewards that a man be found faithful" (1 Corinthians 4:2). In God's economy and in constitutional government alike, accountability is the lifeline of justice.

Flynn makes it plain: the deep state, media, and even the GOP establishment have no interest in truth. They seek power, not righteousness. But our Lord warns, "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil" (Isaiah 5:20).

Rather than rushing into foreign conflict, Flynn urges Trump—and all Americans—to keep our eyes on the real fight: domestic tyranny, intelligence betrayal, and globalist sabotage from within.

He affirms the courage of leaders like JD Vance and Tulsi Gabbard, while sounding the alarm that many federal positions remain infested with Obama-Biden holdovers loyal not to the Constitution, but to the agenda of international control.

The biblical pattern is clear: God raises up deliverers when the people cry out (Judges 2:16). But deliverance often comes with testing—and right now, America is being tested.

Flynn's message is not defeatist—it is defiant. Against overwhelming odds, he praises President Trump for withstanding pressure that would crush most men. But even the strongest leader cannot save a nation if the people are silent and the Church is asleep.

“Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.” (1 Corinthians 16:13)

Flynn’s testimony is one of betrayal, battle scars, and bold truth-telling. The forces working against Trump aren’t just political—they are “spiritual wickedness in high places” (Ephesians 6:12). And still, Trump fights. Still, we must stand.

“What gets checked is what gets done.” Let us then “examine everything carefully; hold fast to what is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21), and call on our nation to return to the God who gives liberty and the law that preserves it.

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Constitutional Showdown: Trump Exposes Newsom's Lie as ICE Battle Ignites Federal Authority

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/CONSTITUTIONAL-SHOWDOWN-TRUMP-NEWSOM-SANCTUARY-STANDOFF/
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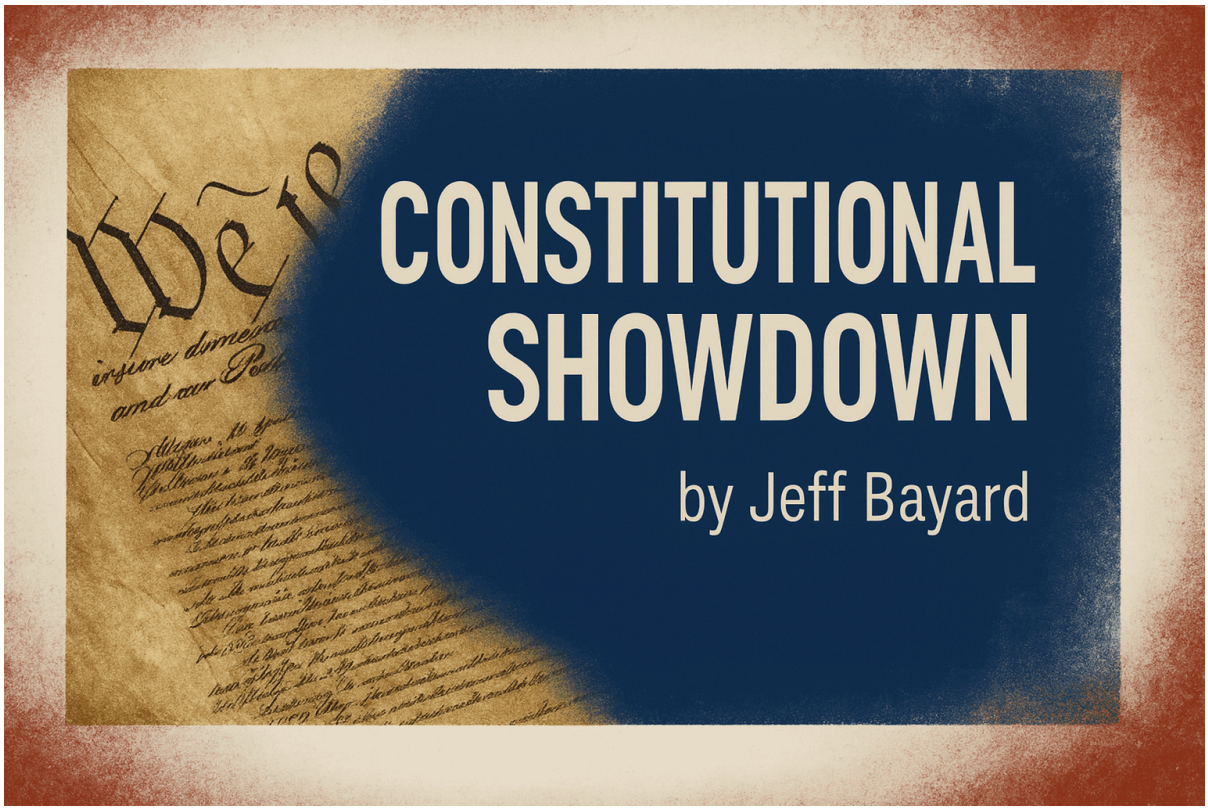

As part of VCA's ongoing *Constitutional Showdown* series, this post continues to expose the escalating clashes between federal authority and state defiance. Each installment aims to equip readers with clarity, courage, and a biblical lens for interpreting today's legal and political upheavals.

Gavin Newsom has been caught in a bold-faced lie, and the stakes go far beyond a missed phone call. In the midst of rioting, lawlessness, and violent assaults on ICE and law enforcement in Los Angeles, the California governor is attempting to dodge federal responsibility and deflect blame. But President Trump is fighting back—with phone call receipts, live exposure on national television, and the constitutional weight of the Executive Branch.

A Phone Call That Can't Be Denied

"There was no call. Not even a voicemail." That was Gavin Newsom's emphatic denial on social media after Trump publicly claimed he had called the governor to warn about the need for immediate action. Within hours, Trump delivered the evidence live via John Roberts on Fox News: a call log showing two outgoing calls, one lasting 16 minutes. Trump had indeed spoken to Newsom and ordered him to "get his ass in gear."

This isn't just political theater. It's a **constitutional showdown**. A governor lied about federal engagement during an unfolding emergency. Why? Because acknowledging the truth would mean admitting that Trump—not Newsom—was acting to protect Californians from violent insurrection.

> **"The first call to Gavin Newsom was not picked up. The second call lasted 16 minutes. I told him to get his ass in gear and stop the riots." —President Trump**

Sanctuary Defiance and the Supremacy Clause

California's sanctuary policies are not just misguided. They are unconstitutional. As former U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi explained on Fox News, local police are forbidden to cooperate with ICE, even prohibited from holding illegal immigrants for transfer to federal custody. Yet the Constitution is clear: federal law is supreme.

> **"We have the Supremacy Clause. If California won't protect their law enforcement officers, we will." —Pam Bondi**

Bondi laid out a comprehensive and aggressive federal response. Here's what the Trump administration is doing:

- **18 U.S. Code §231**: Federal prosecutors will charge anyone who assaults or interferes with local or state law enforcement officers during civil disorder. Maximum penalty: **5 years in federal prison**.
- **The Hobbs Act**: Looting and robbery of businesses during unrest will be treated as interstate criminal interference. Federal charges may carry up to **20 years in prison**.

- **Spitting on Federal Officers**: A federal crime under assault statutes. Those convicted face up to **5 years in prison**.
- **Molotov Cocktail Attacks**: Identified perpetrators will be arrested, prosecuted federally, and placed on national wanted lists. Active search warrants are already being executed.
- **Cinder Block Assaults**: If three or more individuals act in concert to injure law enforcement officers, they can be federally prosecuted under civil unrest statutes.
- **Protection of LAPD and Local Law Enforcement**: If California officials refuse to press charges or provide justice, the federal government will intervene directly using DOJ and FBI resources.

> **"We are going to prosecute them federally. If California won't protect their law enforcement, we will." —Pam Bondi**

Bondi also revealed that **nine open federal cases** are currently underway targeting individuals involved in violent crimes against law enforcement during the LA riots. She promised more indictments to come and confirmed that facial recognition and surveillance technologies are being used to locate and arrest rioters, looters, and attackers.

This is what the Founders intended. States do not have the right to nullify federal law, especially when lives are at stake.

Newsom's Pattern of Deception

This isn't the first time Newsom has faked or distorted presidential communication. During wildfire devastation, a mother caught him pretending to be on the phone with President Biden. The footage exposed him stammering and deflecting when asked to prove it. Newsom has a pattern: in times of crisis, he sidesteps accountability and manipulates the optics.

But when cities burn, and foreign flags fly in the hands of violent agitators, optics are not enough. Truth matters. Law matters. Lives matter.

> **"Generations of Army heroes did not shed their blood only to watch our country be destroyed by third-world lawlessness here at home." —President Trump, Fort Bragg**

God's Design for Order vs Man's Rebellion

Romans 13 makes it clear: "For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad." Civil authorities are God's servants to punish evildoers. But what happens when governors like Gavin Newsom shield lawbreakers and obstruct lawful justice?

The Bible does not support chaos disguised as compassion. When sanctuary policies protect criminals and endanger citizens, they defy both the Constitution and God's design. Justice is not achieved by rebellion; it is secured by truth and order.

> **"Shall the throne of iniquity, which devises evil by law, have fellowship with you?" —Psalm 94:20**

Conclusion: This Is a Line in the Sand

The confrontation between Trump and Newsom isn't just a personal feud. It is a constitutional showdown over who governs—a federal Executive sworn to defend the nation, or a rogue governor hiding behind sanctuary lies.

As the riots spread and federal prosecutors prepare cases against those assaulting officers and looting businesses, the law is asserting itself. Trump has drawn a line. God has established the standard. And we the people must choose: do we stand with truth and order, or with deception and defiance?

> **"Make America Safe Again" is not just a campaign line. It is a biblical and constitutional mandate.**

Let this serve as a wake-up call: sanctuary states are not sacred. The Constitution is supreme. And God, not man, defines justice.

YouTube Sources:

- Benny Johnson: **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_vVI6XgMbzs**
- Sean Hannity / Pam Bondi:

BREAKING: Bondi issues MASSIVE warning to wanted man now identified by the FBI
https://youtube.com/watch?v=RebeHhzh_w4

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Constitutional Showdown: God First in the Fight Against the Fourth Branch of Government

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/CONSTITUTIONAL-SHOWDOWN-GOD-FIRST-IN-THE-FIGHT-AGAINST-THE-FOURTH-BRANCH-OF-GOVERNMENT/
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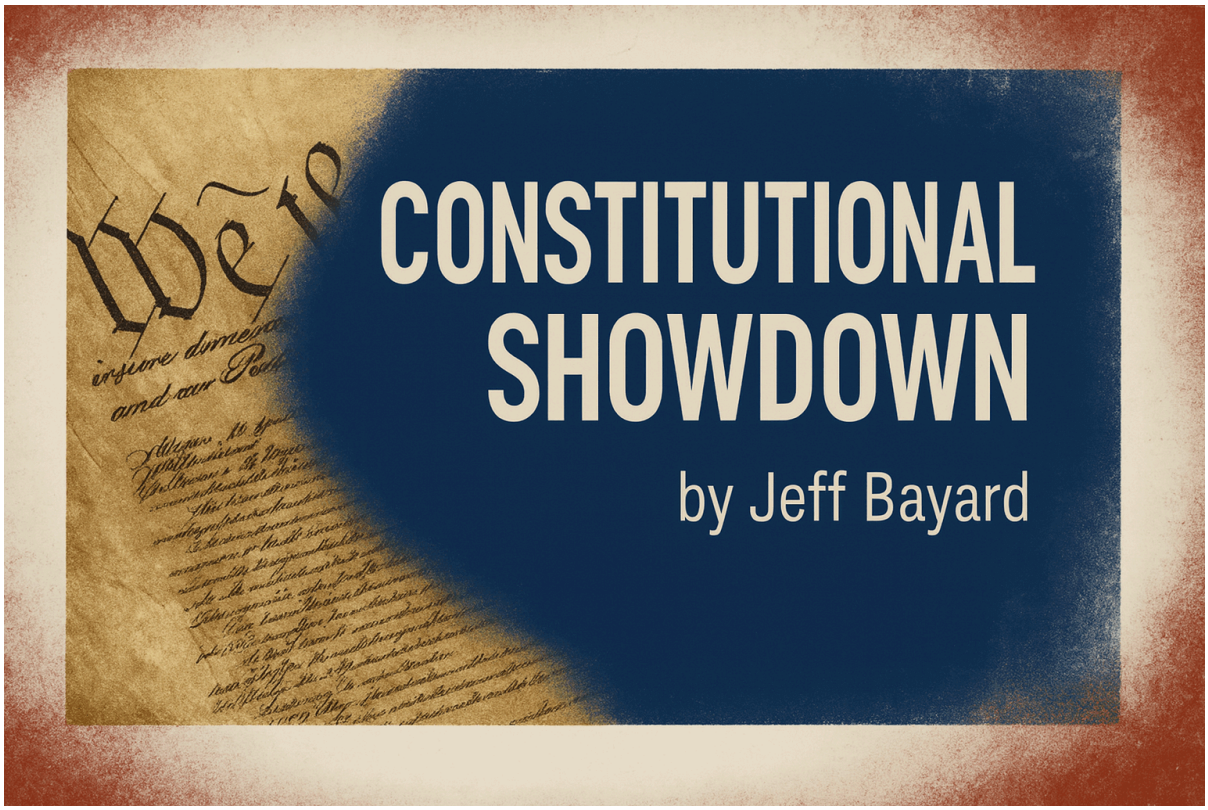

God First, Constitution Always

This **Constitutional Showdown*** begins where all rightful authority must: with God, not government. As Isaiah 9:6 reminds us, "the government shall be upon His shoulder" — not ours. In our founding, it was understood that rights come from our Creator, not bureaucrats. Yet today, an unelected and largely unknown **Fourth Branch of Government** has overtaken our republic: the Intelligence Branch.

What began as an emergency post-9/11 security response has evolved into an unaccountable superstructure, wielding classified control over every other branch of government. Investigative journalist Sundance at The Conservative Treehouse has exposed its origins and ongoing abuses. His vital series, including "The Modern Weaponization of Our National Security System," names the threat plainly: "The Fourth Branch of Government."

Tulsi Gabbard vs. the Silo State

Fast-forward to 2025. Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard is among the few leaders willing to challenge this entrenched power. According to Sundance's latest reporting, Gabbard has removed CIA-aligned personnel from the National Intelligence Council and installed Dennis Kirk to monitor the politicized Intelligence Community Inspector General (ICIG).

The media—notably the CIA-favored Washington Post—accused her of "compromising independence." But Gabbard's team provided proof of corruption: ICIG slow-walking GOP requests, embracing DEI mandates, misusing taxpayer dollars, and resisting lawful executive orders.

Her response? Clean house. Disrupt the silos. Restore integrity.

When the Intelligence Community Becomes the Master

Sundance traces the origin of the Fourth Branch to post-9/11 legislation that created ODNI, DHS, and DOJ-NSD. But under Obama and Holder, those tools were reconfigured into political weapons. The FBI, DOJ, and CIA now form a public-private surveillance state, enabled by Big Tech and protected by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI).

Congress no longer oversees them. The President can't declassify their secrets. The use of classified processes and internal rules can also sideline courts. The Intelligence Branch defines what constitutes a "national security interest," then uses that power to cloak its abuses in secrecy.

A Spiritual and Constitutional Crisis

This is no longer just a constitutional issue. It is a moral rebellion against the Creator who establishes right and wrong. Any government that removes itself from divine accountability becomes, in effect, a god unto itself. This Intelligence Branch now usurps that place.

Sundance writes:

> "Not a single person in power will say openly what has taken place. They are scared of the Fourth Branch."

And rightly so. As Scripture warns, "**Woe to those who decree iniquitous decrees, and the writers who keep writing oppression"** (Isaiah 10:1).

What Must Be Done

We echo Sundance's proposed solution—and elevate it with a God-first framework:

- Tier One: Tactical Civics — Engage locally. Elect school board members, sheriffs, and county supervisors who fear God more than the Deep State.
- Tier Two: Extreme Federalism — Reclaim state sovereignty over elections, education, and law enforcement. The Constitution begins with "We the People" — not "They the Bureaucrats."
- Tier Three: Constitutional Restoration — We must push federal reforms that strip classification power from unelected agencies and restore it to elected officials accountable to God and the people.

Final Word: Put God First, or Government Will Be Your God

We cannot restore the republic until we return to the truth: God gives rights, not governments. If we fear the Intelligence Branch more than the Lord, we are already conquered.

We strongly recommend both of Sundance's investigative reports:
– **DNI Tulsi Gabbard Targeted for Operating Outside DC Silo Rules**
– **The Modern Weaponization of Our National Security System**

This isn't just about Trump. Or Tulsi. Or 2024. This is about whether we believe God rules over government, or whether we surrender to a counterfeit sovereign hiding behind classified memos and surveillance contracts run by the Fourth Branch of Government.

In this **Constitutional Showdown**, let it be said that we chose to fear God, not men.

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Constitutional Showdown: Tariffs, Trade, and Judicial Insurrection

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/CONSTITUTIONAL-SHOWDOWN-TARIFFS-TRADE-AND-JUDICIAL-INSURRECTION/
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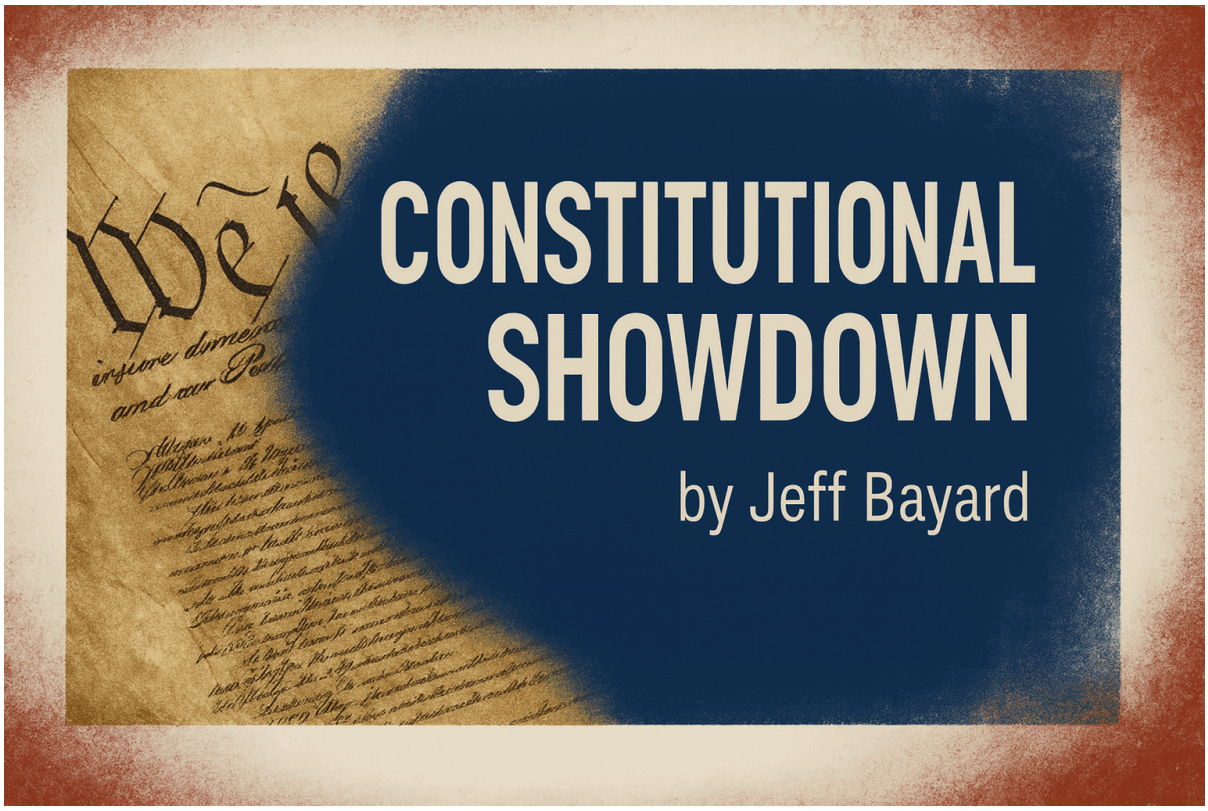

At the Virginia Christian Alliance (VCA), we continue to sound the alarm over the escalating **Constitutional Showdown** between the Executive Branch and an increasingly rogue judiciary. President Trump's lawful efforts to secure America's borders, restore manufacturing, and realign trade policy are being systematically blocked by lower court judges who override not only his executive authority, but the will of the American people. This is more than political opposition—it is a judicial insurrection against lawful governance and constitutional order.

Activist Judges and the Assault on Tariffs

The latest flashpoint comes from the U.S. Court of International Trade, where three judges—Gary Katzmann, Timothy Reif, and Jane Restani—struck down President Trump's legally sound "Liberation Day" tariffs. These tariffs were imposed to confront America's staggering trade deficits and foreign dependence in critical sectors. Trump's administration immediately appealed,

and the full U.S. Court of Appeals granted a stay for the Federal Circuit. But the damage of the initial ruling lingers.

All three judges have well-documented histories of Democratic activism. Katzmann, an Obama nominee, previously clerked for Justice Stephen Breyer and worked at Harvard's Center for Criminal Justice. Reif served as Democratic trade counsel on the House Ways and Means Committee. Restani was originally appointed by Ronald Reagan but has often sided against Trump's policies. Each has a track record that reflects not judicial impartiality, but ideological commitment to a globalist, anti-sovereignty agenda.

President Trump responded forcefully on **Truth Social**, calling out the decision as "so wrong, and so political." He warned, "If allowed to stand, this would completely destroy Presidential Power — The Presidency would never be the same!" His message underscores what is at stake in this **Constitutional Showdown**: not just a policy dispute, but the very nature of constitutional governance.

From Immigration to Trade: A Pattern of Judicial Obstruction

This is not an isolated incident. Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt recently delivered a sobering summary of how lower court judges have repeatedly blocked President Trump's lawful actions:

Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt Briefs Members of the Media, May 29, 2025
https://youtube.com/watch?v=-8tKKyrCmSY

- Courts ordered deported terrorist aliens be returned to the U.S.

- Courts halted refugee program pauses.
- Judges prohibited the administration from cutting funds for transgender procedures and DEI programs.
- Judges barred military service restrictions based on gender dysphoria.
- Courts blocked efforts to defund the Department of Education and impose categorical funding freezes.

This pattern is a textbook example of what VCA terms a **Constitutional Showdown**—an ongoing battle between executive authority rooted in law and judicial overreach animated by ideology.

Supreme Court's Role and the Need for Restraint

Fortunately, the Trump administration is challenging each of these rulings in court, and several cases are heading toward the Supreme Court. Notably, the High Court has recently agreed to hear arguments on the scope of nationwide injunctions—an issue that lies at the heart of these disputes.

This ongoing Constitutional Showdown reveals the critical need for clarity and restraint within the judiciary. When courts obstruct core functions of the Executive Branch, it threatens the delicate balance of powers our Founders designed.

A Call to Christian Patriots

The Bible reminds us that governing authorities are established by God (Romans 13:1). When unelected judges seize authority beyond their jurisdiction and override the constitutional process, they usurp not only legal authority but divine order. VCA will continue to expose this judicial insurrection.

VCA urges all Christians and patriots to follow this Constitutional Showdown series as we document the battle lines drawn across our legal and cultural landscape—from immigration to trade, from birthright citizenship to executive orders.

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Constitutional Showdown: From Pilgrim Purity to Marxist Poison

BY JEFF BAYARD
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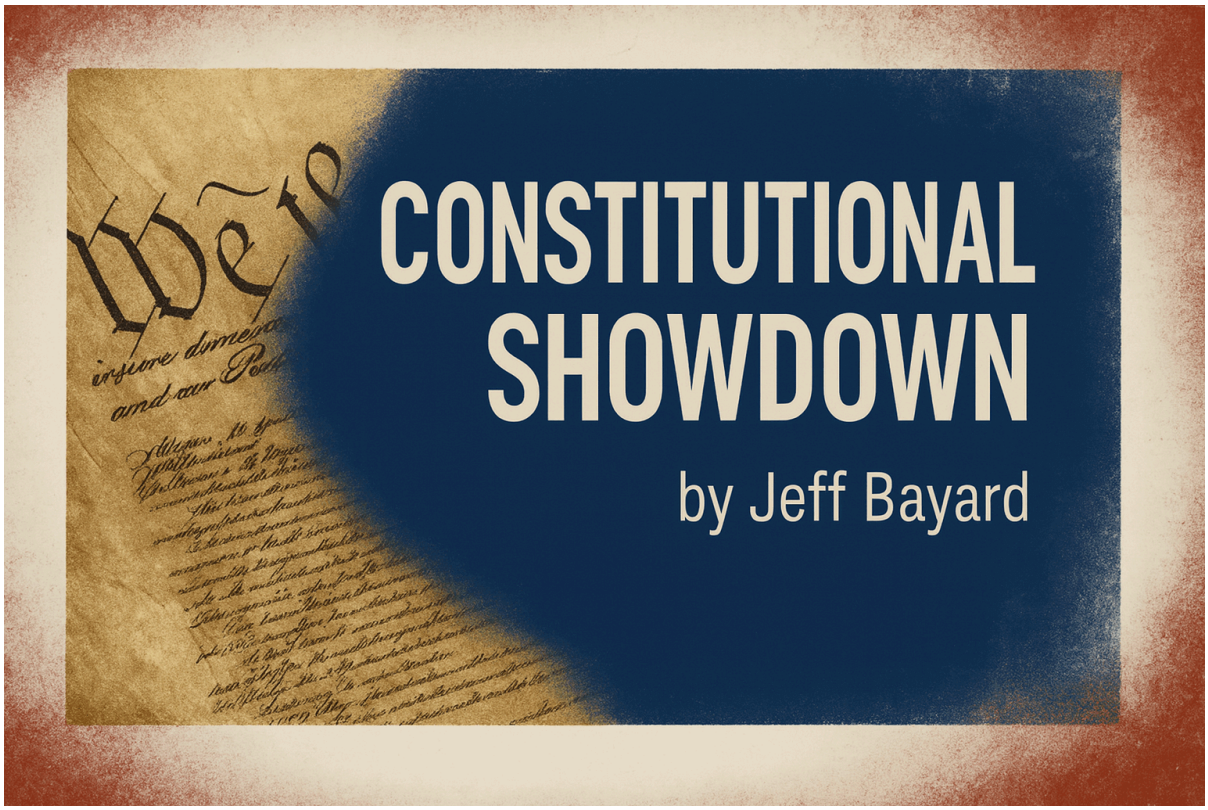

Judges block Trump's crackdown on foreign student radicals, exposing judicial overreach in immigration and education—and proving once again that America's elite institutions are spiritually and constitutionally adrift.

"Judges Who Claim the Powers of a King"

> "This is a judicial coup by communist Marxist judges against the laws, Constitution, and democracy of the United States." — Stephen Miller

That quote, delivered by President Trump's senior advisor, underscores a growing war between constitutional governance and judicial overreach. On Friday, a f**ederal judge temporarily blocked** the Trump administration from revoking Harvard University's ability to enroll foreign

students—students whose presence is being scrutinized due to escalating antisemitism and Marxist radicalism on American campuses.

Harvard's Fall From Its Founding

Founded in 1636, **Harvard's original purpose** was to train clergy and form a biblically grounded elite to steward the young Massachusetts colony with integrity and truth. Its motto, "Veritas" (truth), reflected a Christian worldview committed to Christ as the way, the truth, and the life.

Now, Harvard is at the center of national controversy for harboring antisemitic, anti-American ideologies. Stephen Miller called this "a toxic stew of antisemitism, anti-Americanism, Marxism, and communism on our college campuses," with Harvard serving as a key import hub for foreign radicals. What began as a seminary now fosters rebellion against God and country.

Judicial Coup: Harvard's 'Right' to Import Radicals?

In a matter of hours, after Trump announced restrictions on foreign student enrollment at radicalized institutions, a federal judge ruled that even foreign nationals living abroad have a **constitutional right** to study in America. Miller responded,

> **"We have to let communists from foreign nations into our country to poison our campuses with Marxist ideas, anti-Semitic ideas, anti-American ideas… That's a constitutional right now? This is madness."**

Indeed, it is madness—and it's also an egregious misreading of the Constitution. Immigration is not a right. As Miller rightly stated,

> **"Immigration to this country is a privilege… We have the absolute right as a nation and as a people to deny entry to anyone."** (Acts 17:26 echoes this truth: God "determined the boundaries of their dwelling place.")

Tyranny in Robes: ICE Officers Trapped by Judicial Order

Even more shocking, Miller revealed that a judge in Boston grounded a deportation flight carrying eight violent illegal alien criminals—murderers and child rapists—with final removal orders. The ruling left ICE agents stranded in Djibouti with no proper detention facilities, no legal framework,

and no resources. “Our ICE officers are imprisoned with savage monsters,” said Miller. This is not just dangerous. It’s a judicial act of war against lawful authority. (**See DHS response**)

The judge’s intervention, like the one shielding Harvard, shows a disturbing trend: unelected judges acting as kings, thwarting the will of the people and the president’s clear authority to execute the laws.

The Founders Warned Us

James Madison warned in Federalist 47 that the accumulation of legislative, executive, and judicial powers in the same hands is the very definition of tyranny. That’s exactly what we are witnessing. A few local judges are claiming authority over immigration, foreign policy, and public safety—not to uphold the Constitution, but to impose their ideology.

This Memorial Day, we remember those who laid down their lives to preserve liberty and national sovereignty. The Founders never intended that Harvard and federal judges would collaborate to destroy the very foundation for which our soldiers died.

Conclusion: Call to Courage and Constitutional Clarity

The courts have once again aligned with America’s elite institutions against the interests of the people and the commands of Scripture. This isn’t academic theory—it’s a real showdown over the soul of the Republic.

The question now is whether our elected leaders will stand up to this tyranny in robes, and whether the American people will demand that the Constitution—not woke ideology—governs this land.

Watch Stephen Miller’s full remarks on Newsmax:

Stephen Miller highlights the 'judicial tyranny' being used to impede the Trump administration
https://youtube.com/watch?v=EfWB4YMJF3U

*Explore more from the series: **VCA's Constitutional Showdown***

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Constitutional Showdown: Courts Resist Trump's Crackdown on Immigration

BY JEFF BAYARD
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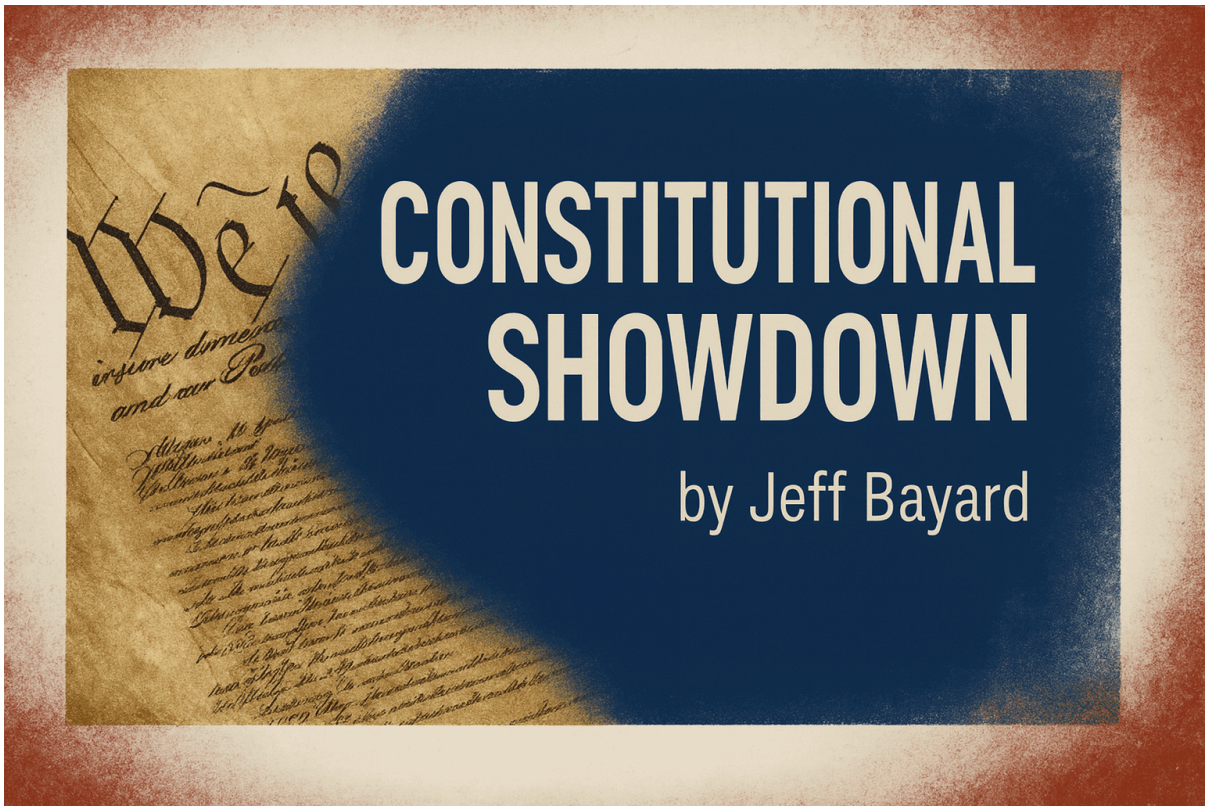

"No King but Caesar?" The courts once again interfere with the rightful authority of a constitutional president.

Judicial Interference Strikes Again

As President Trump moves to enforce the law and secure our borders, the federal judiciary is striking back. In the last week alone, courts have inserted themselves into immigration enforcement in ways that undermine Article II authority and biblical principles of national sovereignty.

On May 19, 2025, the Supreme Court allowed the administration to terminate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for 350,000 Venezuelans (**https://apnews.com/article/venezuela-tps-supreme-court-trump-immigration-2025**). This is an overdue victory for executive authority.

But this win is surrounded by a flurry of lower court rulings that defy lawful deportation and impede the President's constitutional duty to execute the laws.

Romans 13 makes it clear that civil rulers are "God's servants for your good," bearing the sword to punish wrongdoing. Yet when courts reverse deportations or shield immigration law violators, they are not protecting justice—they are obstructing it.

Alien Enemies and Judicial Overreach

In a move to expedite deportations of violent gang affiliates from Venezuela, the **Trump administration invoked the Alien Enemies Act of 1798** . But federal judges have **responded** with skepticism and resistance. Courts have ruled that using this wartime statute in a modern immigration context requires more due process, despite its plain constitutional grounding and statutory language.

Just Security and the Heritage Foundation both flagged this case as a flashpoint in the broader battle over national security and executive discretion. Claremont Institute legal scholars warn that such rulings distort historical context and elevate proceduralism over public safety.

Deportation Reversed: Fourth Circuit Intervenes

In a stunning rebuke to Trump's immigration enforcement, the **Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals ordered the return of a deported Venezuelan man**, Daniel Lozano-Camargo, who was expelled despite being protected under a 2009 settlement safeguarding asylum-seeking minors. The court cited "willful disregard" for the law and declared the deportation "unconstitutional."

But this raises a question: if the executive branch cannot interpret and enforce legal settlements within immigration law, who can? Judicial micromanagement of deportation undermines both the separation of powers and operational clarity.

A State Judge Charged With Obstructing Enforcement

Meanwhile, the **Trump Justice Department indicted Milwaukee County Circuit Judge Hannah Dugan** for allegedly harboring an undocumented immigrant to shield them from ICE agents. The judge pleaded not guilty. Still, the case illustrates the dangerous terrain of judicial partisanship interfering with federal law.

The **American Accountability Foundation and Article III Project** have both flagged this case as emblematic of judicial activism gone rogue. The issue is not simply legality—it's loyalty. Are public officials obeying the Constitution, or resisting it in the name of ideology?

Biblical Borders and Constitutional Clarity

From a biblical worldview, border enforcement is not optional—it's foundational. Acts 17:26 reminds us that God "determined the boundaries of their dwelling place." National borders are not merely political—they are providential. A president who enforces immigration law is fulfilling a biblical and constitutional duty.

Yet courts continue to obstruct this task. They overturn deportations, demand unnecessary procedural hurdles, and challenge wartime statutes that have long been upheld as lawful. This is not judicial review—it's judicial usurpation.

VCA Resources Watching This Fight

Our team continues to track these developments using key sources:

- **Judicial Watch** – for FOIA litigation and enforcement accountability
- **Just Security Tracker** – for real-time judicial rulings
- **Claremont Institute** – for natural law context and agency restraint
- **Center for Immigration Studies** – for DHS-related litigation and data

Showdown Continues

The courts have declared another round in this constitutional brawl—but the outcome remains undecided. President Trump is wielding his lawful authority. The question is whether America's judicial system will respect it, or continue playing god over the gates.

*Continue following our series: ****VCA's Constitutional Showdown***

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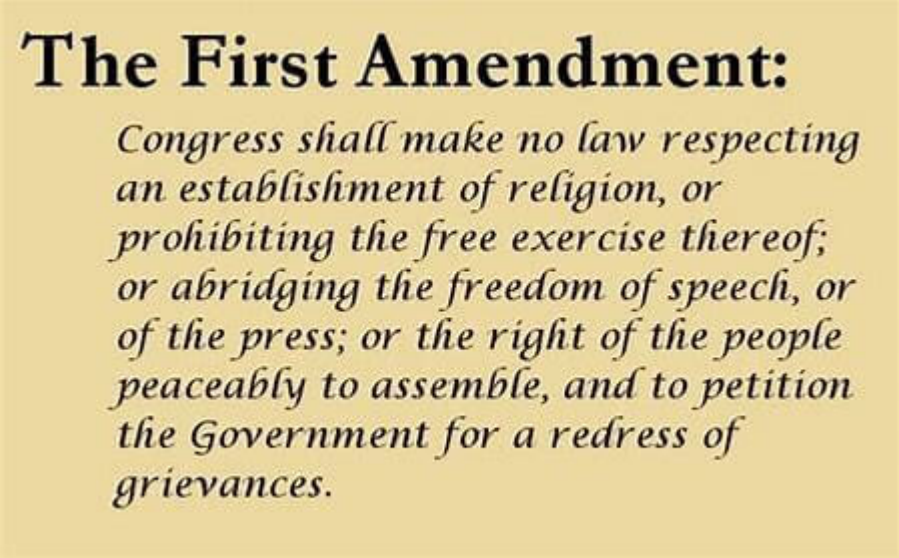
Religious Liberty Commission Offers Bold Stand for Our First Freedom

BY VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/RELIGIOUS-LIBERTY-COMMISSION-2025/
MAY 12, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, FIRST AMENDMENT



On May 1, 2025, President Donald J. Trump signed an Executive Order establishing the **Religious Liberty Commission**. This move comes at a crucial time in American history when many people of faith feel increasingly sidelined or silenced. For Christians especially, this commission signals more than a political gesture—it represents a deliberate stand to protect a God-given right.

America's First Freedom Is Under Pressure

Religious liberty is not merely a line in the **Constitution**. It is a foundational principle. Our Founders did not seek to suppress religious voices—they sought to protect them. They believed freedom of conscience was essential to a moral and free society. The new Executive Order states that America's founding vision included "religious voices and views as integral to a vibrant public square and human flourishing."

This Commission responds to a wave of modern challenges. Today, Christians face targeted attacks on churches, debanking of ministries, denial of funding to Christian schools, and efforts to censor public prayer or Christian speech. Some call religious liberty outdated or claim it conflicts with civil rights. Yet history shows the opposite. It was people of faith who led the charge to end slavery, promote civil rights, and build schools, hospitals, and shelters.

Why the Religious Liberty Commission Matters

The **Religious Liberty Commission** is not just symbolic—it's a concrete tool. Its purpose is to evaluate and recommend protections for religious freedom across America. The Commission will:

- **Identify current threats** to religious liberty, including legal, cultural, and bureaucratic challenges.
- **Advise the White House** and recommend executive and legislative action.
- **Include voices from churches, schools, legal experts, and parents**—ensuring a broad defense of faith in every sphere of life.
- **Publish a full report** by July 4, 2026—America's 250th Independence Day—highlighting ways to preserve this liberty for future generations.

This is an institutional framework to protect what the Constitution already guarantees: the free exercise of religion without fear, penalty, or censorship.

Should Christians Celebrate? Yes—with Discernment

For people of faith, this Commission is worth celebrating. It puts religious liberty back at the center of national policy. It also gives believers a stronger legal and cultural footing to live out their convictions without compromise.

But discernment remains critical. The Commission's term ends in 2026 unless renewed. Political shifts could erase its progress. That's why Christians must not simply rely on Washington—we must engage where we are planted.

Let's use this opportunity to teach, advocate, and witness boldly. Parents should assert their rights to educate their children with biblical values. Pastors must preach without apology. Christian business owners, teachers, and chaplains must continue to honor God even in challenging environments.

What Can You Do Today?

- **Pray** for the Commission's work to be effective and God-honoring.
- **Watch** for its recommendations and share them in your community.
- **Educate others** about religious freedom—what it is and why it matters.

- **Act locally**—write letters, attend school board meetings, and encourage your church to speak truth in the public square.

Final Thoughts: Trust in God, Not in Government

The establishment of the Religious Liberty Commission is a meaningful development. It offers real potential to reverse overreach and reaffirm the freedoms our Constitution protects. But our hope is not in commissions or presidents. Psalm 146:3 reminds us: "Put not your trust in princes."

Let us celebrate this step forward. Let us thank God for every provision made to preserve religious liberty. But most of all, let us remain faithful witnesses to Christ in every arena of life.

> "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom He has chosen as His heritage." — Psalm 33:12

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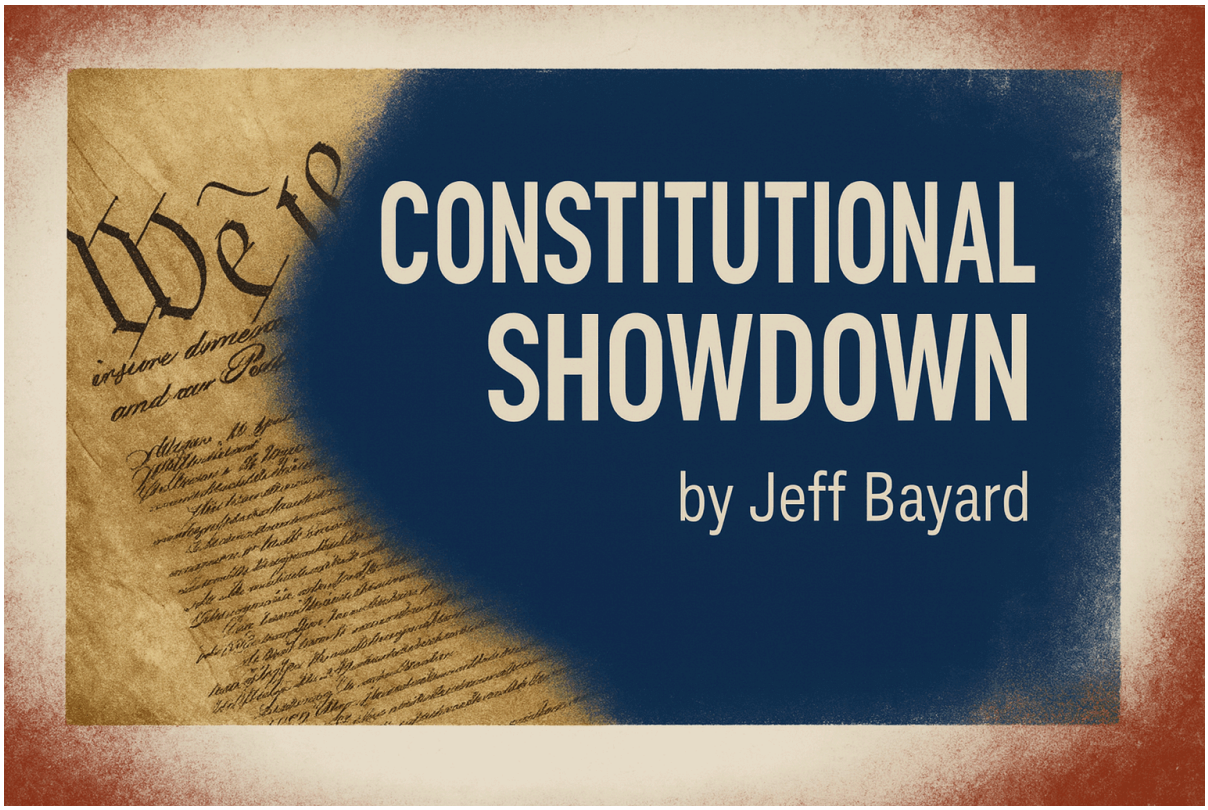
Constitutional Showdown: Judicial Insurrection Against Immigration Enforcement

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/CONSTITUTIONAL-SHOWDOWN-JUDICIAL-INSURRECTION-AGAINST-IMMIGRATION-ENFORCEMENT/
MAY 12, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSITUTION, CONSTITUTIONAL SHOWDOWN



God Is the Source of Justice and Order

At the Virginia Christian Alliance (**VCA**), we believe God is the ultimate source of justice and authority. He ordains the rule of law not for confusion or rebellion, but for the good of nations and the protection of the innocent. Romans 13 reminds us that civil rulers are meant to be servants of God for our good—not adversaries of order. But when the judiciary undermines lawful governance and obstructs justice, they no longer serve the people. They stand in defiance of God's purpose for civil authority. This week, our **Constitutional Showdown** series continues with the pattern of such defiance reached a tipping point.

Judicial Insurrection: A Pattern of Resistance

A constitutional crisis unfolds when one branch of government consistently refuses to respect the role of another. What we are witnessing now is a judicial insurrection—an orchestrated campaign by activist judges to neutralize the **Executive Branch's lawful authority to enforce immigration laws.** This is not an exaggeration; it is a matter of public record. Over just the past week, six federal judges issued sweeping rulings that either block or undermine the Trump administration's immigration policies—some with nationwide effect.

Coordinated Rulings Undermine Executive Authority

Consider these back-to-back rulings from the past seven days and there are more coming:

– May 1: Judge Fernando Rodriguez (TX) issued a permanent injunction against the use of the Alien Enemies Act to deport violent Venezuelan gang members.
– May 6: Judge Alvin Hellerstein (NY) and Judge Charlotte Sweeney (CO) both issued injunctions against the same law.
– May 6: Judge Amanda Brailsford (ID) blocked Idaho's new immigration law, citing federal supremacy.
– May 8: Judge Brian Murphy (MA) blocked deportations to Libya.
– May 9: Judge William Orrick (CA) ruled the Executive Branch could not reroute funding from sanctuary cities.
– May 9: A judge ordered the release of a Tufts student detained for publishing political speech critical of Israel.
– Judge Theodore Chuang (MD) also blocked ICE enforcement inside houses of worship on religious freedom grounds.

Alien Enemies Act: Three Judges, One Goal

The most striking example of coordinated judicial resistance is the effort to neutralize the 1798 Alien Enemies Act—an established national security statute. In three separate states—Texas, New York, and Colorado—judges declared the law unconstitutional in practice. Their coordinated timing and similar language suggest not judicial restraint but political choreography.

Case Study: ICE Facility Intrusion

Newark's mayor was recently arrested for breaking into a federal ICE detention facility—an act ICE veteran Tom Homan compared to storming a state prison. The mayor's defense? That he was standing up for the Constitution. But as Homan pointed out, the facility in question exists to uphold due process—not deny it. Federal facilities follow stricter detention standards than local

jails. The intrusion wasn't oversight. It was a stunt—and one that put officers, detainees, and the public at risk.

Tom Homan sends blistering warning to NJ Democrats
https://youtube.com/watch?v=bV-e2vbd6Hw

The Biblical Mandate for Righteous Governance

Scripture is not silent about rebellion cloaked in legal robes. Psalm 94:20 asks, 'Can wicked rulers be allied with you, those who frame injustice by statute?' When judges overturn law, redefine truth, and obstruct justice, they cease to be ministers of God. Romans 13:1–4 calls civil authorities God's servants—but only when they punish evil and commend good. Judicial insurrection defies this divine assignment.

Building on Our Constitutional Showdown Series

In previous Constitutional Showdown posts, we examined how the Executive Branch's authority to control the border and determine citizenship has been blocked, delayed, or dismantled by judicial rulings. Today's post expands the pattern. The judiciary is no longer checking executive power. It is attempting to replace it.

Stand for Lawful Order—Under God

We urge readers to recognize this moment for what it is—not just political theater, but spiritual warfare over truth, authority, and justice. The Constitution cannot defend itself. It depends on citizens and leaders committed to preserving its God-ordained framework. This judicial insurrection must be named, understood, and resisted—in prayer, in writing, and in righteous civil engagement.

Follow our ongoing **Constitutional Showdown** series as we confront these threats to liberty and call our nation back to justice under God.

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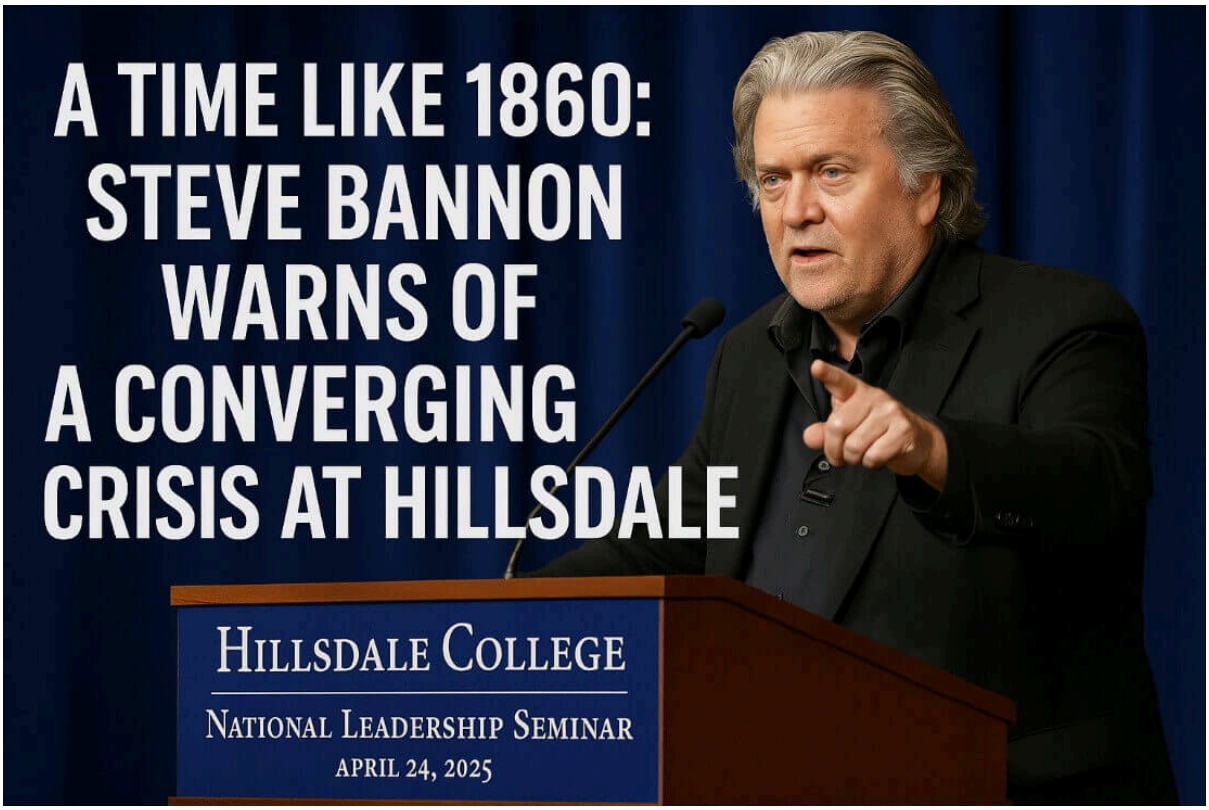
It is 1860: Stand or Surrender: Steve Bannon Warns of America's Converging Crisis

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/IT-IS-1860-STAND-OR-SURRENDER/
MAY 11, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION



MAGA and the Fight for America | Stephen K. Bannon

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1. A Time Like No Other

In a landmark speech at Hillsdale College's National Leadership Seminar on April 24, 2025, Steve Bannon declared, "This is 1860." Echoing President Lincoln's pre-war warnings, Bannon mapped today's national decline—a "converging crisis" of constitutional breakdown, economic insanity, global war, and a corrupted ruling class—as a direct call to action for American patriots.

2. Bannon's Bold Claim: Trump Won in 2020

Bannon asserted what many believe but fear to say: that Donald J. Trump **won the 2020 election** but was robbed. Rather than fade away, Trump made the rare and historic decision to return to the

battlefield, knowing he'd face persecution, bankruptcy, and even prison. "He knew they were going to destroy him—and he came back," Bannon said.

3. The Converging Crisis: Three Verticals of Collapse

Bannon identified **three verticals** threatening the republic:

- **Global Warfare** – "We're in the kinetic part of World War III," he warned, citing U.S. military entanglements and the threat of broader global escalation.
- **Mass Deportations & Border Chaos** – 10 million illegal aliens must be deported "or we don't have a republic," he declared.
- **Financial Implosion** – With a $2.5 trillion deficit and debt spiraling out of control, Bannon called for immediate cuts to defense, Medicaid, and social programs: "We only have tough decisions now."

He also added a **fourth vertical**: the **Administrative State**, where unelected bureaucrats and activist judges now obstruct the constitutional powers of the presidency.

MAGA and the Fight for America | Stephen K. Bannon
https://youtube.com/watch?v=bAMQAOF81R8

4. The Call to Patriots: Use Your Agency or Lose It All

Referencing Lexington and Concord, Bannon underscored the power of **human agency**—average citizens willing to stand and fight. The **precinct strategy**, he said, was modern-day patriotism: "That was you on the bridge."

He insisted that **if we falter, we lose**. "It can't be on Trump's shoulders. It has to be on ours."

5. What's Coming: A Constitutional Showdown

A direct **collision with the Supreme Court** is coming, Bannon predicted. Over 170 lawsuits are already in motion to block Trump from exercising Article II powers. "They're going to try to stop him from being commander-in-chief, from impounding funds, and from enforcing immigration law."

Quoting Andrew Jackson, Bannon said Trump's likely response will be:

"You made your ruling—now enforce it."

6. The Role of Divine Providence

Throughout his speech, Bannon affirmed the **hand of God** in both Trump's rise and America's founding, urging believers to consider:

> "Why are *you* here now? Why are *you* given this burden and this blessing at this hour?"

The analogy was clear: just as Cincinnatus returned from the plow to save the Roman Republic, Trump returned to defend the American one.

7. Engage the Fight: What Patriots Must Do Now

Bannon gave practical marching orders:

- **Join your local precinct** – Take over the GOP from the bottom up.
- **Support America First institutions** – Think tanks, legal teams, and executive planning are already mobilizing for a second Trump term.
- **Stay the course** – "Don't quit. The one who doesn't quit wins."

Key Takeaways:

- Today's crisis parallels 1860: war is not looming—it has begun.
- Trump's return is historic, sacrificial, and divinely guided.
- America faces a collision with the courts and the administrative state.
- Only grassroots patriots can reclaim the republic through action, not passivity.
- History will weigh and judge this generation's resolve.

Source:

Watch the full speech on YouTube:

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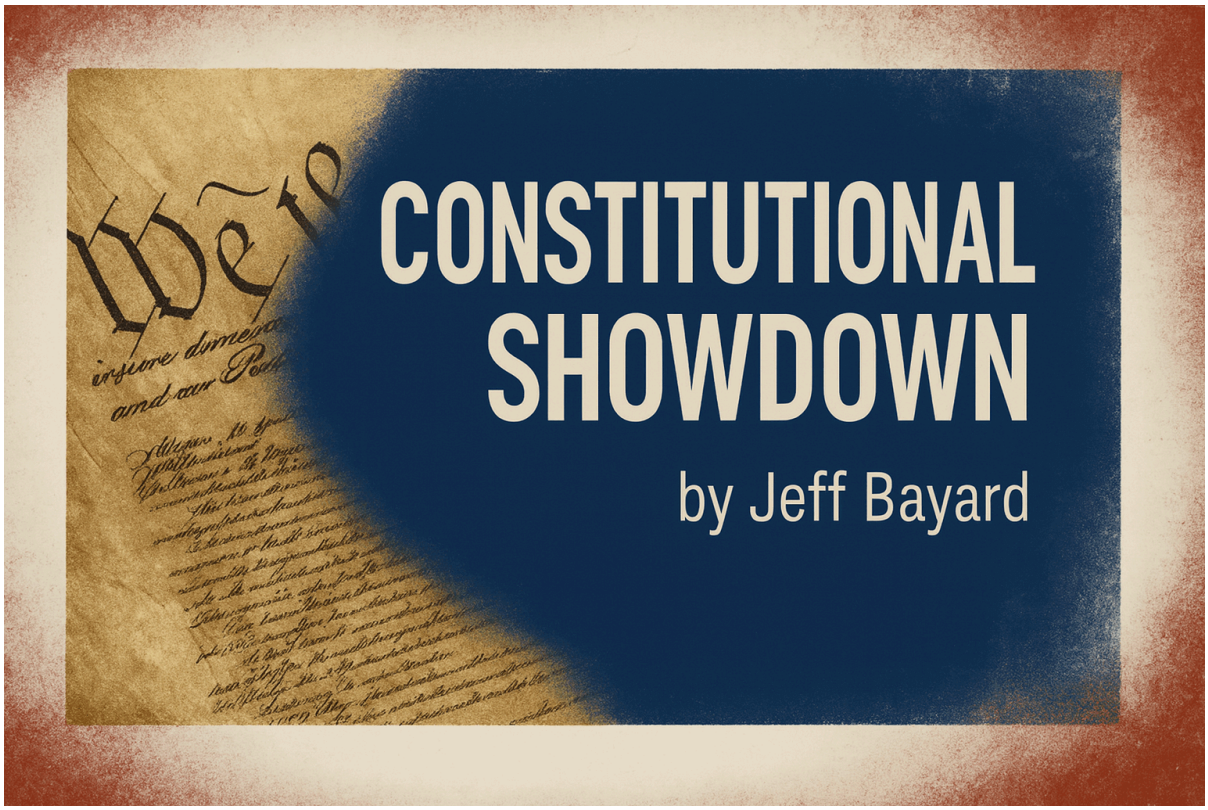
Constitutional Showdown: Executive Power, Judicial Resistance, and the Fight for Lawful Order

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/CONSTITUTIONAL-SHOWDOWN-EXECUTIVE-POWER-JUDICIAL-RESISTANCE-AND-THE-FIGHT-FOR-LAWFUL-ORDER/
MAY 5, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, CONSTITUTIONAL SHOWDOWN



At the Virginia Christian Alliance (VCA), we believe God is the ultimate source of justice and authority. As defenders of biblical truth and constitutional order, we are compelled to sound the alarm on a growing constitutional showdown between the Executive Branch and an increasingly activist judiciary. Nowhere is this conflict more dangerous than in today's battles over immigration enforcement, judicial obstruction, and the erosion of lawful governance.

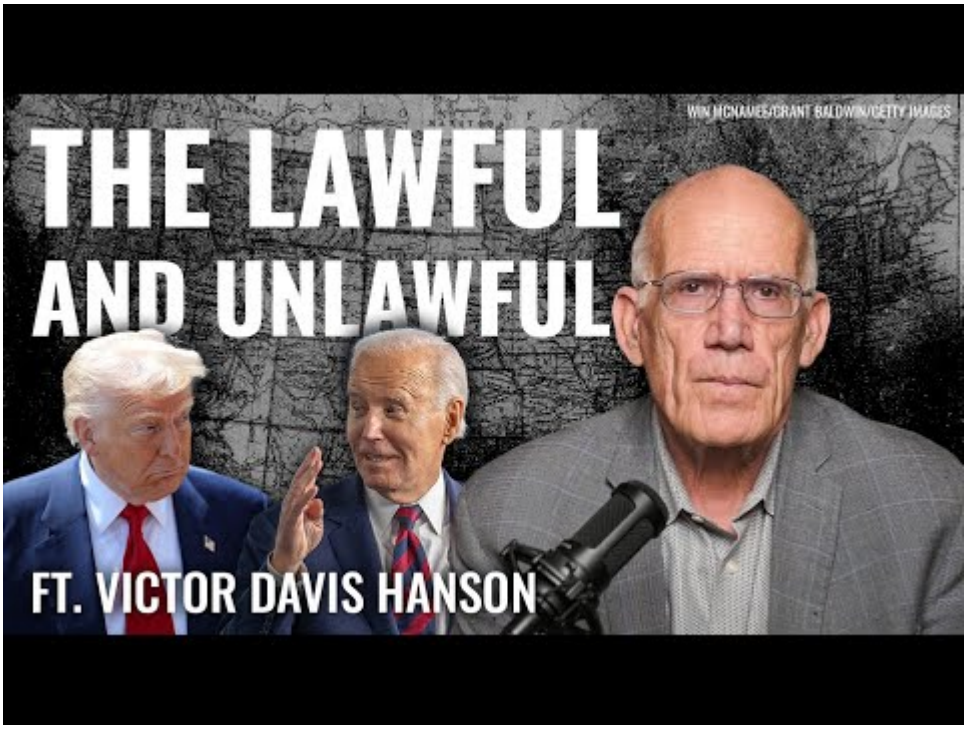
Judicial Resistance vs. Constitutional Authority

President Trump has issued a grave warning: Radical federal judges are blocking deportations of violent offenders, undermining federal law, and threatening America's sovereignty. In his words, '*our country is being ripped apart.*' The rule of law has been inverted. Courts now block the lawful deportation of criminal aliens while shielding those who violate our laws.

Victor Davis Hanson puts it succinctly:

> “It is lawful to be unlawful if you’re Joe Biden—according to the courts—but it is unlawful to be lawful if you’re Donald Trump.”

Victor Davis Hanson: We Needed a New President, not ‘Comprehensive Immigration Reform’
https://youtube.com/watch?v=ui6oU5Zb0ZA



The Legal Inversion and National Consequences

Under the Biden administration, over 120,000 people a month were pouring into the country illegally in 2024. That number has dropped to under 10,000 in April 2025, largely due to restored executive enforcement. Yet, the judiciary resists. Instead of upholding law and order, some courts now block ICE actions, halt deportations, and tie the hands of federal agents.

This inversion is not about legal nuance—it's about power. When courts elevate political ideology over constitutional structure, they erode both our laws and our liberty.

A Symbol of Strength: Rebuilding Alcatraz

In a bold move, **Trump has directed federal agencies to rebuild and reopen Alcatraz Island** as a symbol of federal justice. This act reasserts the Executive Branch's commitment to protecting the American people—despite resistance from activist judges and sanctuary policies.

This is more than symbolism. It's a direct rebuke of lawlessness, a reaffirmation of constitutional order, and a bold gesture in the face of elite resistance.

The judiciary's resistance is not isolated—it reflects a pattern of legal obstruction. Federal judges have repeatedly issued nationwide injunctions that halted key Trump-era immigration policies, both in his first term and now again in 2025.

From 2017–2020, judges blocked the travel ban (Judge Derrick Watson, HI), asylum restrictions (Judge Jon Tigar, CA), the 'Remain in Mexico' policy (Judge Dana Sabraw, CA), and health

insurance entry requirements (Judge Michael Simon, OR).

In Trump's current term, this obstruction has continued:

- **Judge Fernando Rodriguez (TX)**

  On **May 1, 2025**, Judge Rodriguez issued a permanent injunction against the Trump administration's use of the Alien Enemies Act to deport alleged members of the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua, ruling the application of the law in this context as "unlawful." **Reuters**

- **Judge Deborah Boardman (MD)**

  On **February 5, 2025**, Judge Boardman issued a nationwide preliminary injunction blocking President Trump's executive order aimed at ending birthright citizenship for children of non-citizens, citing constitutional concerns. **Reuters**

- **Judge John Coughenour (WA)**

  On **January 23, 2025**, Judge Coughenour granted a temporary restraining order enjoining President Trump's executive order on birthright citizenship. **Lawfare**

- **Judge Brian Murphy (MA)**

  On **April 18, 2025**, Judge Murphy issued a preliminary injunction halting the administration's plan to expedite deportations to third countries without allowing migrants to claim fear of persecution, emphasizing the necessity of due process. **Reuters**

- **Judge Theodore Chuang (MD)**

  On **February 24, 2025**, Judge Chuang issued a preliminary injunction against the administration's policy permitting immigration enforcement actions within certain houses of worship, highlighting potential violations of religious freedoms. **Courthouse News**

- **Judge William Orrick (CA)**

  On **April 24, 2025**, Judge Orrick issued a preliminary injunction blocking the Trump administration from withholding federal funds from cities and counties that limit cooperation with federal immigration enforcement, commonly referred to as "sanctuary" jurisdictions. **The Washington Post**

- **Judge Jennifer Thurston (CA)**

> On **April 29, 2025**, Judge Thurston barred Border Patrol agents from conducting warrantless arrests of individuals suspected of living in the U.S. illegally unless they have reasonable suspicion and probable cause. **CalMatters**

These judicial interventions—under the banners of 'rights' and 'balance of powers'—often obstruct the Executive's constitutional duty to enforce federal law. This legal warfare now defines the landscape of American immigration policy and constitutional authority.

Judges Blocking Immigration Law: A Pattern of Injunctions

The Road Ahead: God First, Constitution Always

Scripture reminds us: "When justice is done, it is a joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers." (Proverbs 21:15). We must not yield to the slow erosion of order. The courts must serve the Constitution, not oppose it. The Executive must be free to enforce the laws passed by Congress without sabotage from the bench.

Follow our ongoing Constitutional Showdown series as we expose the battle between order and rebellion, law and activism, and above all, between man's agenda and God's justice.

Building on Our Constitutional Showdown Series

This article builds on earlier Constitutional Showdown entries, including "**Birthright Citizenship EO Blocked**" and "**Who Controls the Border—The President or the Judges**?" In those pieces, we examined how judicial overreach and sanctuary jurisdictions are weakening the very foundations of our Republic. Now, the battle has escalated as activist courts are not just interpreting laws—they are undermining executive orders, deportation efforts, and even the basic function of border enforcement.

Our earlier piece on birthright citizenship highlighted how the judiciary blocked executive actions rooted in longstanding constitutional debate over the 14th Amendment. Our border authority article emphasized that Article II of the Constitution gives the President the duty to faithfully execute immigration laws, not negotiate with activist judges who rewrite them from the bench.

This post extends those warnings. As Trump reasserts constitutional enforcement through executive orders, symbolic actions like the Alcatraz rebuild, and public declarations, the judiciary is doubling down, using injunctions, detainer rejections, and local defiance to thwart lawful governance. It is no longer a legal debate. It is a systemic rebellion.

Constitutional Authority Must Be Defended

We urge readers and fellow believers to stay alert, rooted in truth, and willing to speak out. The Constitution was not designed for activist reinterpretation. Its clarity depends on moral resolve and civic courage. As Psalm 94:20 asks, '*Can wicked rulers be allied with you, those who frame injustice by statute*?'

The answer is no.

We must resist legal subversion cloaked in robes and rulings. We must restore the biblical and constitutional boundaries God ordained. The battle is spiritual—and very real. **Put on the full armor of God.**

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Judicial Disease: A Constitutional Breakdown in Trump's First 100 Days

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/JUDICIAL-DISEASE-A-CONSTITUTIONAL-BREAKDOWN-IN-TRUMPS-FIRST-100-DAYS/
MAY 1, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION

Commentary by Jeff Bayard

A Judiciary in Decline: Early Warning Signs

In any healthy constitutional republic, the balance of powers functions like the human immune system — recognizing threats, responding with integrity, and maintaining national stability. But when one branch overreaches or collapses into partisanship, the body politic suffers. America is now showing symptoms of what can only be described as a judicial disease: a pattern of federal court rulings that defy logic, compromise justice, and obstruct legitimate executive authority. The first 100 days of President Trump's second administration have laid bare the scale of this problem.

Two April Rulings That Reveal the Trend

Consider just two rulings from April 30, 2025. A federal judge in Missouri ordered the release from federal custody of a suspect charged in the firebombing of a Tesla facility, a decision reported by

Breitbart News. The judge disregarded the risk of flight and the danger to public safety despite evidence of the suspect's political motives and violent actions. On the same day, a Florida federal judge blocked local law enforcement from enforcing Florida's state-level immigration statute, as covered **here**. This undercut a duly enacted law signed by the governor, nullifying the will of Floridian voters through federal preemption.

Litigation Warfare: The Scope of Legal Resistance

These are not isolated anomalies. The website **Just Security**, hosted by NYU Law's Reiss Center on Law and Security, has compiled a legal tracker titled "**Litigation Tracker: Pending Criminal and Civil Cases Against Donald Trump**". While editorially left-leaning, it serves as a comprehensive index of legal efforts to restrain or nullify Trump administration policies, ranging from immigration to education, climate regulations, and law enforcement authority.

Legal scholars such as John Yoo and Robert Delahunty have warned that **nationwide injunctions** —a judicial tool increasingly used against Trump-era policy—lack constitutional grounding and "violate the separation of powers" (see: "The Atlantic, **A Single Judge Shouldn't Have This Kind of National Power**"). Judge James Ho of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals has raised similar alarms, stating in both judicial opinions and public remarks that nationwide injunctions subvert judicial hierarchy by giving a single district court more authority than an appellate court ruling on the same issue (**Fifth Circuit opinion – 2025**; **Volokh Conspiracy report**).

When the Bench Becomes the Legislature

During President Trump's first 100 days, similar rulings have obstructed:

- Executive orders on border enforcement (example: East Bay Sanctuary Covenant v. Biden, previously used to block asylum restrictions in 2019).
- Energy deregulation efforts, citing overbroad environmental statutes.
- State parental rights laws, challenged in courts sympathetic to federal overreach.
- Criminal prosecutions, delayed by judges who question DOJ priorities or evidence standards. This erosion of lawful authority reflects a deeper structural issue. When the judiciary imposes its will as a policy-making body—bypassing Article I legislators and overriding Article II executives—it is no longer interpreting the Constitution; it is rewriting it.

Moral Clarity in an Age of Judicial Confusion

The result is a form of judicial supremacy that undermines the original intent of the Framers. As Alexander Hamilton wrote in Federalist No. 78, the judiciary was to be the "least dangerous" branch, holding "neither purse nor sword." Today, it wields both — effectively nullifying acts of Congress, state legislatures, and the President through what some call "bench legislation."

The moral dimension is also clear. As Scripture warns in Isaiah 5:20: “Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness.” And again in Proverbs 28:5: “Evil men do not understand justice, but those who seek the Lord understand it completely.”

What Must Be Done Now

To counter this judicial disease, citizens must stay informed and engaged, governors must defend constitutional state sovereignty (see: **Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution** –), and Congress must consider legislation to limit abusive use of nationwide injunctions (see: “**Nationwide Injunctions: Unlawful and Unwise**” from Heritage Foundation –).

There is still time. But we cannot ignore the warning signs. A judiciary that no longer submits to law — divine or constitutional — is not delivering justice. It is replacing it.

Follow Us and Share Your Thoughts

This commentary follows the line of VCA’s ongoing constitutional writings and biblical worldview analysis. We welcome your thoughts and encourage readers to respond and engage with respectful feedback and comment below.

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Border Security Showdown: Trump's 99-Day Miracle vs. Biden's 4-Year Border Betrayal

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/BORDER-SECURITY-SHOWDOWN-TRUMP-VS-BIDEN/
APRIL 29, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW, CONSTITUTION

Introduction: America at the Crossroads

America's border is not just a line on a map. It serves as a vital lifeline for national security, sovereignty, and the protection of innocent lives. Over the past four years, Joe Biden and the Democrat Party deliberately unsecured our borders, inviting chaos, crime, and death into our communities. But in just 99 days, President Trump and his team have reversed that disaster with results so extraordinary that the legacy media won't even report them.

The Most Secure Border in the History of This Nation
https://youtube.com/watch?v=Nd3-lt7Lolg

Today, we set the record straight with the facts, the numbers, and the consequences — all from a Constitutional and Biblical worldview.

> **Border Security by the Numbers:** • 95% decrease in illegal crossings. • 999.99% decrease in illegal releases. • 800 criminal arrests in 4 days. • 85 miles of new permanent border wall underway. • 75 miles of additional temporary barriers.

Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt and Tom Homan Brief Members of the Media, Apr. 28, 2025
https://youtube.com/watch?v=UsU3o9fvSmM

Biden's Record of Lawlessness

- **Over 10 million** illegal aliens crossed the U.S. border during Biden's presidency.
- **2 million known "gotaways"** — illegal aliens who evaded Border Patrol entirely.
- **400 suspected terrorists** apprehended at the border — with many more unknown.
- **Fentanyl overdose deaths** surged to record highs, killing more young Americans than any other cause.
- **Sex trafficking up 600%**, exploiting women and children under Biden's open-border policies.

This wasn't a policy failure. As Tom Homan boldly stated: **"Joe Biden unsecured the border on purpose."**

The Democrat Party must be held accountable for this betrayal of the American people.

Trump's 99-Day Border Miracle

Despite needing time to install his full team through Senate approvals, President Trump hit the ground running. The results:

- **March 2024 (Biden):** 140,000 illegal crossings.
- **March 2025 (Trump):** Just over 7,000.
- **95% decrease** year-over-year.
- **Under Biden:** 184 illegal alien releases in his first quarter.
- **Under Trump:** Only 9, that's right, NINE releases — a **999.99% decrease**.

- **Operation Title Wave:** Nearly **800 arrests** in the first **4 days** alone.
- **Advanced Border Wall:** 85 miles of permanent construction plus 75 miles of additional temporary barriers deployed with military help.

Trump didn't just slow the invasion. He declared a National Emergency, reimplemented Remain in Mexico, and designated cartels as terrorist organizations.

Lives Saved on Both Sides of the Border

Under Biden:

- **Cartels sexually assaulted 31% of women during crossings.**
- Thousands of children were trafficked into slavery.
- 4,000 migrants died attempting to cross.

Under Trump:

- The humanitarian crisis has been dramatically reduced.
- Illegal migration has slowed, protecting the vulnerable.
- Law enforcement morale is restored, and Americans are safer.

Protecting the border isn't cruelty. It's compassion.

Moral Clarity: A Biblical and Constitutional Mandate

The Bible commands nations to protect their borders and care for their citizens (Acts 17:26, Romans 13:1-7). The Constitution charges the federal government to "provide for the common defense."

The Trump Administration's actions are not just lawful — they are righteous.

Meanwhile, Biden and the Democrats' open border policies violate both God's law and the Constitution. They have sacrificed innocent lives for political gain and must be taken to the political woodshed for their betrayal.

Conclusion: America Is Fighting for Its Soul

President Trump's first 99 days have demonstrated what honest leadership can accomplish: a safer nation, a secure border, and lives protected.

The Democrat Party, by contrast, has proven what lawlessness brings: chaos, crime, and death.

The choice is stark. The truth is undeniable. And the time to act is now.

America's security depends on leaders who will enforce our laws, protect our families, and honor God's design for national sovereignty.

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Constitutional Showdown: Who Controls the Border—The President or the Judges?

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/CONSTITUTIONAL-SHOWDOWN-BORDER-AUTHORITY/
APRIL 29, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
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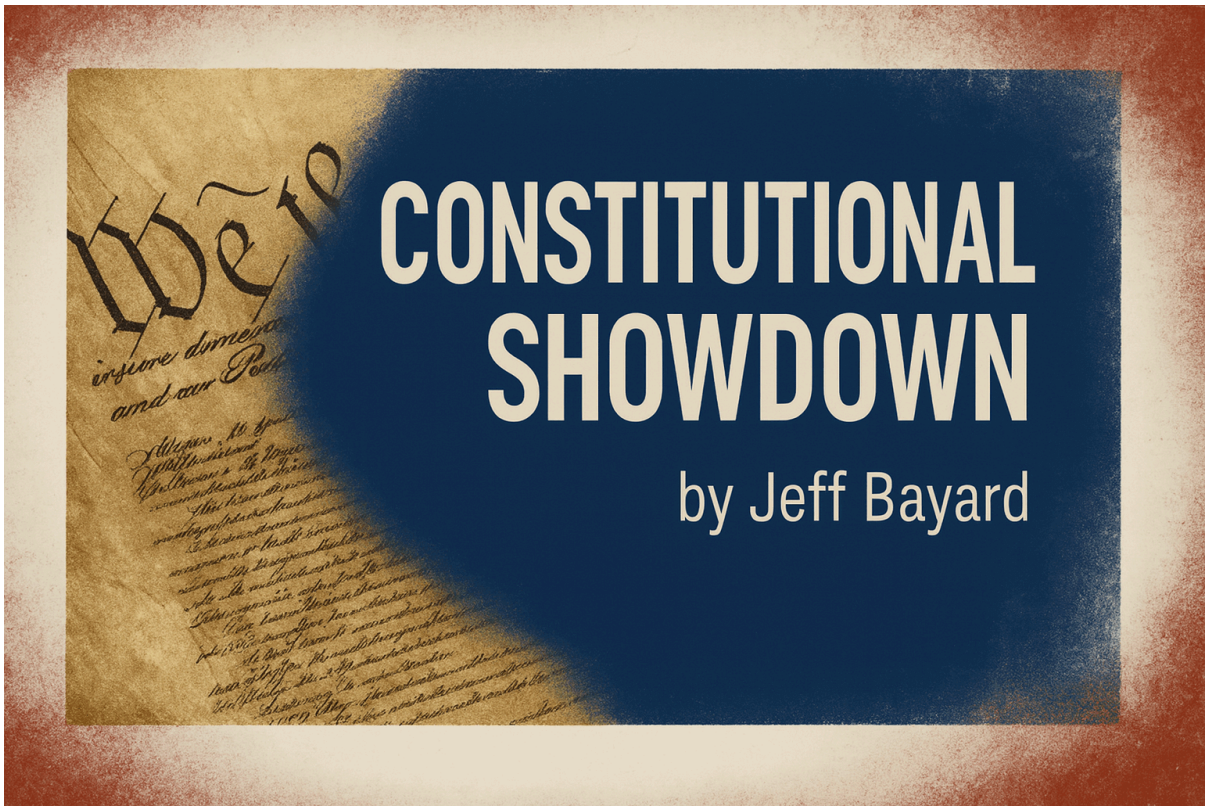

Constitutional Showdown: Executive Power vs. Judicial Activism in Border Security

The **Constitutional Showdown** over border security has reached a boiling point. Although the U.S. Constitution assigns immigration enforcement to the Executive Branch, courts—both federal and state—are increasingly seizing control. This week, we expose how judges are obstructing the President's lawful authority to secure the nation's borders, and how sanctuary states and cities are defying federal immigration enforcement altogether.

What the Constitution Says About Executive Border Authority

Article II of the U.S. Constitution charges the President with ensuring that the laws of the land are faithfully executed. Federal immigration laws grant the Executive Branch broad authority to

detain, deport, and bar illegal entry. From a biblical standpoint, borders and national distinctions reflect God's sovereign order—'He determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place' (Acts 17:26).

When judges override that authority, they not only usurp the constitutional balance of powers, but also undercut the government's God-given duty to protect its people and enforce justice (Romans 13:1–4).

Judges Blocking Federal Enforcement at the National Level

Recent court decisions have tied the hands of federal immigration officers and stripped the President of his ability to carry out laws passed by Congress. In Texas v. United States, federal courts blocked efforts to prioritize deportations for convicted criminals and repeat offenders. Similarly, judges have intervened to halt border wall construction, parole restrictions, and asylum reforms—all policies backed by electoral mandates and statutory authority.

This judicial activism reshapes policy without legislation, and shields it from voter accountability.

Sanctuary States and Local Courts Join the Resistance

State-level defiance compounds the crisis. Sanctuary cities like New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and even Richmond, Virginia, have implemented local policies that prohibit cooperation with federal immigration authorities. In some cases, state judges have ordered local jails to ignore ICE detainers, releasing violent offenders back into communities. **Check this map to see if your location is a sanctuary.**

These decisions, framed as compassionate, in fact undermine lawful government. Scripture warns against those 'who call evil good and good evil' (Isaiah 5:20) and reminds us that 'justice is turned back, and righteousness stands far away' (Isaiah 59:14).

Why This Constitutional Showdown Matters to You

If unelected judges can override the Executive's constitutional role, then elections cease to matter. If state courts and city councils can shield lawlessness from federal reach, then national sovereignty crumbles. This isn't merely a political debate—it's a fundamental battle over who governs, how laws are enforced, and whether God-ordained order will stand.

A Republic Worth Preserving

At VCA, we stand on both the Constitution and Scripture. We believe the Executive Branch must reclaim its rightful role—not just to enforce immigration laws, but to reestablish the rule of law

itself. The balance of power exists for the sake of liberty and accountability, but when the Judiciary usurps the Executive, tyranny follows.

Constitutional Cross-Check

- Clause in question: Article II – Executive power to enforce laws
- Foundational Issue: Judicial override of deportation and border policy
- Complicating Factor: Sanctuary states and local courts defying federal orders
- Focus Keyphrase: Constitutional Showdown

This article marks the launch of another installment in our U.S. Constitution series, where we examine today's legal and political battles through the dual lens of the Founding Fathers' intent and a biblical worldview. As modern America tests the pillars of liberty, we ask: What does God's design for justice, authority, and truth reveal about the direction of our nation?

We welcome your thoughts—leave a comment below and share your perspective. Stay tuned for next week's installment in our Constitutional Showdown series, as we continue to expose modern power struggles and reclaim biblical foundations in public life.

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Constitutional Showdown: Birthright Citizenship EO Blocked

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/CONSTITUTIONAL-SHOWDOWN-BIRTHRIGHT-CITIZENSHIP-EO-BLOCKED/
APRIL 21, 2025
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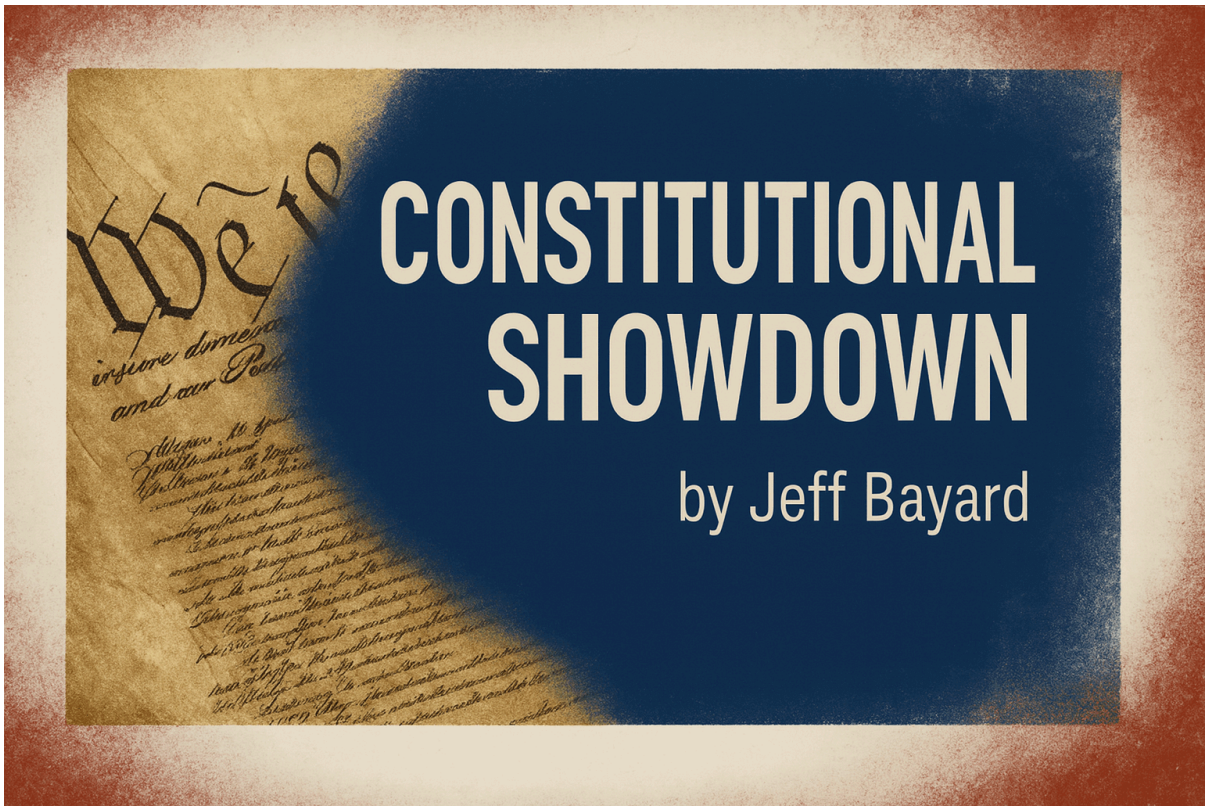

*This article marks the launch of another installment in our **U.S. Constitution** series, where we examine today's legal and political battles through the dual lens of the Founding Fathers' intent and a biblical worldview. As modern America tests the pillars of liberty, we ask: What does God's design for justice, authority, and truth reveal about the nation's direction? In this post, we confront a growing Constitutional Showdown between the Executive and Judicial branches over critical issues, such as birthright citizenship.*

Constitutional Showdown: Who Decides Who Becomes an American?

By Jeff Bayard | Constitutional Showdown Series

The Constitutional Showdown over birthright citizenship came to a head after President Trump issued an **executive order** (EO) intended to clarify the scope of the 14th Amendment. Within

days, federal courts intervened. This article unpacks the legal and constitutional stakes at play, rooted in our Founders' original vision.

Constitutional Showdown: What Just Happened

President Trump's executive order (EO) sought to end the practice of granting birthright citizenship to the children of non-citizens and illegal immigrants. The order emphasized that the **14th Amendment's Citizenship Clause** does not apply to individuals whose parents owe no allegiance to the United States.

Within hours of the announcement, U.S. District Judge Deborah L. Boardman **issued** a nationwide injunction, declaring the executive order likely unconstitutional. In the days that followed, **three additional federal judges** issued similar rulings. While activists hailed the decisions as a defense of equal protection, others saw them as further evidence of judicial overreach undermining the authority of the presidency.

Constitutional Showdown: What the Constitution Says

The **14th Amendment** reads:

> "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States…"

That phrase—"subject to the jurisdiction thereof"—is not filler. It's the constitutional hinge point. According to the authors of the 14th Amendment, this clause was designed to exclude foreign diplomats, hostile forces, and those owing allegiance to another country.

Legal scholars from the **Claremont Institute**, the **Heritage Foundation**, and the **Center for Immigration Studies** argue that modern interpretations have stretched this clause far beyond its original intent, transforming a narrow guarantee into a sweeping entitlement.

The Courts and the Constitutional Showdown

This case is about more than immigration. It reflects a deepening power shift—one where unelected judges increasingly dictate what elected Presidents can or cannot do.

Yes, courts hold the authority to interpret the law. But when judges issue nationwide injunctions to block Executive Orders—**before allowing full judicial review or public debate**—they distort the design the Founders intended.

The Judiciary is not to function as a veto chamber over the Executive Branch.

The Founders' Vision for the Constitutional Showdown

The Founders envisioned three coequal branches with separate powers. The Executive branch enforces the law, not asking permission from federal judges. And citizenship? That was meant to be a solemn act rooted in allegiance and loyalty, not merely in geography.

Senator Jacob Howard, who introduced the 14th Amendment, stated that "subject to the jurisdiction thereof" did not include foreigners or those with divided allegiance.

In short, today's interpretation of the Citizenship Clause would likely baffle the very men who wrote it.

Why the Constitutional Showdown Matters to You

If judges can block a President from defining who qualifies for citizenship… what else can they block?

- School choice
- Border security
- Protection for Christian business owners

Every time a judge bypasses due process and nullifies executive authority, your vote becomes less powerful, and your country a little less sovereign.

A Republic Worth Preserving

At VCA, we believe in both Scripture and the Constitution. Romans 13 reminds us that governing authority comes from God, but it must remain within its bounds. When one branch assumes powers that don't belong to it, liberty itself begins to erode.

This fight isn't just about immigration—it's about preserving the design of our Republic. And it begins by restoring the words of the Constitution to mean what they were intended to mean.

Constitutional Cross-Check

- Clause in question: 14th Amendment – Citizenship Clause
- Founder's Intent: "Jurisdiction" excludes those with no political allegiance
- Current Conflict: The Judiciary issuing nationwide injunctions against Executive Orders
- Focus Keyphrase: Constitutional Showdown

Our calling as believers is to discern the times and stand for truth. **We encourage you to leave a comment below** and share your perspective on this pivotal issue. What would justice and righteousness look like in our immigration laws today? And how can we restore constitutional integrity while honoring God's sovereignty?

Stay tuned for more in our **Constitutional Showdown** series as we continue to expose modern power struggles—and reclaim biblical foundations in public life.

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Free Press and Deportation: CNN's Collins vs. Trump

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/FREE-PRESS-AND-DEPORTATION-CNNS-COLLINS-VS-TRUMP/
APRIL 15, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSITUTION, FIRST AMENDMENT

Introduction: The Collapse of a Free Press

In a stunning Oval Office exchange, CNN anchor Kaitlan Collins questioned President Trump about the deportation of a known MS-13 gang member. What followed was a revealing moment for anyone concerned with the free press and deportation policies in America. This exchange showcased media bias and raised serious national security and journalistic integrity concerns.

CNN Reporter Burst into Tears as Trump TORCHES Her to Her FACE as Oval Office ROARS with Laughter 😂

https://youtube.com/watch?v=8sZc55OFtJM

Free Press and Deportation: A Question That Crossed the Line

Collins repeatedly pressed the President on why his administration wouldn't return the deported gang member. Importantly, two immigration courts had already ruled that the individual was a verified MS-13 member and in the country illegally. Her questioning seemed designed to score political points rather than uncover truth. Therefore, this moment symbolizes the distorted relationship between the free press and deportation law.

The Constitutional Authority at Stake

President Trump's reply was not just emotionally charged—it reflected the executive branch's constitutional authority. In fact, a unanimous 9–0 Supreme Court ruling upheld that no lower court can compel the President to reverse a deportation order. Consequently, the free press and deportation debate should include respect for legal boundaries, not just emotional appeals.

A Christian View on Justice and Truth

Scripture affirms the government's duty to restrain evil. Romans 13:4 explains that rulers are God's servants to punish wrongdoers. In this case, deporting a confirmed MS-13 member was both lawful and moral. Furthermore, Micah 6:8 reminds us to 'do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.' Christians should, therefore, support decisions that protect the innocent and uphold righteousness.

When Free Press Becomes Political Advocacy

Although freedom of the press is a fundamental right, it does not shield reporters from accountability. When journalists use their platform to push political narratives—particularly in matters of the free press and deportation—they step outside their constitutional role. Accordingly, Americans must learn to distinguish between real journalism and advocacy masquerading as news.

Conclusion: Truth Matters More Than Optics

By demanding the return of a criminal gang member, Kaitlan Collins blurred the line between fairness and activism. However, President Trump and his team stood firm, reinforcing their legal and moral case. Ultimately, the battle over the free press and deportation highlights deeper questions about truth, justice, and the future of our republic.

References:

– **U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act (INA)**
– **Supreme Court Ruling: 9–0 decision affirming executive authority (PDF)**
– Romans 13:4; Micah 6:8; John 8:32
– Public statements from President Trump, Pam Bondi, Stephen Miller, Marco Rubio, and President Nayib Bukele of El Salvador

Call to Action:

Please share this post with fellow believers and patriots who value truth. Should the free press defend lawlessness or uphold justice? We invite your comments below.

#FreePressAndDeportation #BiblicalJustice #ConstitutionalAuthority #MS13 #CNNBias #ChristianWorldview

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Constitutional Reset on Globalism: Trump's Trade War and the Working Class

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/CONSTITUTIONAL-RESET-ON-GLOBALISM-TRUMPS-TRADE-WAR-AND-THE-WORKING-CLASS/
APRIL 8, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION

Introduction: America's Constitutional Reset Has Begun

In this era of nonstop headlines and global turmoil, America is undergoing a **constitutional reset**—and nowhere is it more visible than in President Trump's trade war. As Charlie Kirk wisely said, it's time to look back from a 30,000-foot view. The frenzied talk about tariffs, trade wars, and international retaliation can easily obscure the deeper issues. Rather than merely reacting to fluctuating markets, we are witnessing a long-overdue correction in how America prioritizes its people.

To dive deeper into this timely issue, Charlie Kirk explores the financial side of this realignment in his video titled *"We Have Been Lied To About What's Going On With The Stock Market."* His perspective helps frame why everyday Americans feel disconnected from Wall Street narratives and how these economic distortions fuel a new political urgency. We encourage you to watch the video below and consider how it reinforces the idea of a constitutional reset. His YouTube channel can be **found here**.

We Have Been Lied To About What's Going On With The Stock Market
https://youtube.com/watch?v=PWduuI5h6MY

Trade Wars and Trump's Economic Vision

President Donald Trump has long challenged the failures of free trade. Long before he entered politics, he questioned the economic orthodoxy that hollowed out America's industrial core. Over the past 30 to 40 years, the American middle class has shouldered the burden of globalist trade deals crafted by elites with little concern for American workers.

At the heart of this issue lies a simple principle: **trade should be reciprocal**. Each nation produces what it does best, and both prosper through fair exchange. That ideal, however, was betrayed. America outsourced production, empowered adversarial nations, and allowed its industrial base to decay. This wasn't actual free trade—it was economic surrender.

A Constitutional Reset Against Globalism

Trump's tariffs go beyond policy adjustments; they represent a bold **constitutional reset**. For decades, international institutions and corporate interests have shaped our economic direction. One pivotal moment came in 2001 when China joined the World Trade Organization, **supported by President Bill Clinton**. Though promoted as a triumph for the U.S., the reality has starkly changed. Clinton promised economic reciprocity, but that promise was never kept.

This debate isn't solely about China. It's about restoring constitutional priorities—putting American families and workers first. The Preamble calls for promoting the general welfare, and Trump's economic agenda fulfills that forgotten promise.

Reclaiming Biblical Justice in Economic Policy

Scripture reminds us that "the laborer deserves his wages" (Luke 10:7). Yet under globalist economics, those who use their hands have seen their wages stagnate while the investor class has flourished. Kirk, who acknowledges benefiting from this imbalance, still challenges its fairness.

The Bible doesn't condemn wealth but insists on justice and equity. As Proverbs 13:23 states, "The fallow ground of the poor would yield much food, but it is swept away through injustice." Trump's tariffs seek to reverse that injustice. They aren't anti-trade—they're pro-fairness, pro-America, and pro-worker. This shift reflects a **constitutional reset** that aligns with biblical standards.

Two Americas: Capital Class vs. Working Class

Kirk illustrates a powerful contrast: a wealthy investor dismayed by market dips and a welder celebrating that someone is finally defending blue-collar America. Both men represent real constituencies. Yet only one has been heard over the past four decades.

While **Wall Street soared, Main Street suffered.** Inflation, debt, and housing costs crushed working Americans. Many own no assets—just credit card bills and auto loans. This disparity wasn't accidental. It stemmed from policy choices that favored capital over labor and foreign profits over national strength.

The Failure of Neoliberalism and Globalist Assumptions

During the 1990s, some theorists claimed history had reached its conclusion. They believed liberal democracy and global trade marked civilization's peak. Kirk critiques this hubris. He recalls how elites thought they could achieve utopia through commerce and technology. But believers know only Christ brings lasting peace (Isaiah 9:6).

Rather than peace, dependency on China increased, sovereignty weakened, and economic disruption followed. Neoliberalism didn't end conflict—it hastened it. Trump's **constitutional reset** seeks to halt this dangerous trajectory.

How Unions and Elites Dismantled Industry

Kirk offers a balanced view of unions. He values trade unions for their training and apprenticeship systems. At the same time, he notes how unions overreached in the 1970s and '80s, giving corporations justification to relocate jobs overseas. Lacking loyalty to the nation, corporate leaders chose cheap labor and quick gains.

This decision wasn't just a business move but a moral failure. The prophets consistently condemned those who oppressed workers. God cares about justice for laborers, and so should our leaders. Injustice toward the working class calls for correction.

A Risk Worth Taking: Why Tariffs Matter Now

Kirk concedes that tariffs carry risk. Markets may stumble, and foreign powers might retaliate. Yet doing nothing poses a greater threat. Had Trump campaigned on tariffs but failed to deliver, he would have betrayed the very Americans who trusted him.

Trump chose courage. As Kirk says, this is a high-stakes gamble, but it may be the only path to restoring economic justice. Millions of Americans have waited decades for someone to fight for them. This **constitutional reset** does exactly that.

Conclusion: A Promisekeeper's Constitutional Reset

Trump is delivering on his promises, not only at the border or in judicial appointments but also in economic justice. He is fighting for American families long ignored by policymakers.

This battle is not just about markets or GDP. It's about the moral direction of our nation. It's about honoring the worker and returning to our founding principles. Scripture and the Constitution both demand this course.

We are witnessing a **constitutional reset**. Let's not miss the meaning amid the media noise.

Want to Take Action?

- **Pray** for wisdom and courage for our leaders.
- **Share** this post to help others see the bigger picture.
- **Speak up** in your community. Support policies that prioritize American families and restore justice to our economy.

Subscribe to our updates to keep receiving biblically grounded, Constitutionally faithful analysis the Virginia Christian Alliance.

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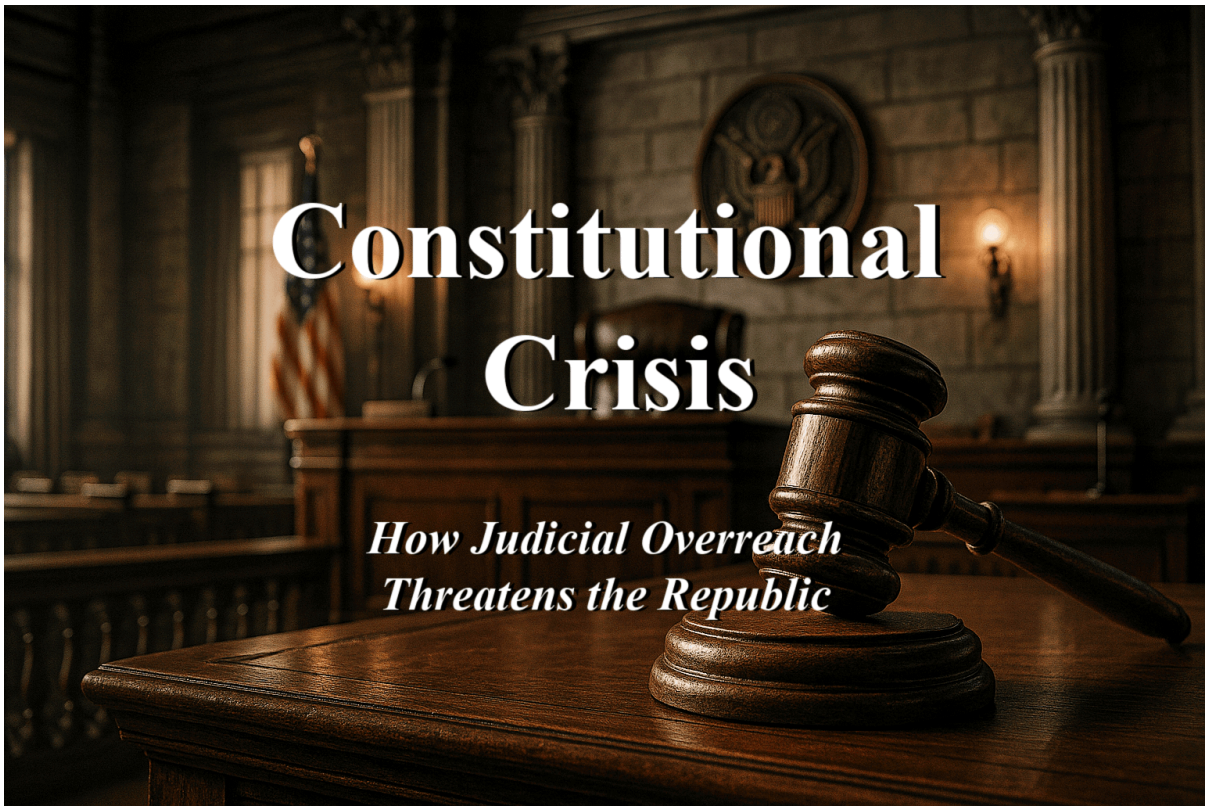
Constitutional Crisis: How Judicial Overreach Threatens the Republic

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/CONSTITUTIONAL-CRISIS-JUDICIAL-OVERREACH/
APRIL 2, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSITUTION



> **"This is a judicial coup d'état. It clearly violates the Constitution and more than 200 years of American history."**
> — Newt Gingrich, testimony to Congress

America is facing a defining moment—a tipping point where the balance of power between government branches is dangerously altered. The rise of **judicial overreach**, driven by unelected district judges, has created a **constitutional crisis** that threatens the foundation of our republic and, ultimately, the rule of law.

This isn't just a political issue. For Christians who believe in God-ordained authority and biblical justice (Romans 13:1–4), we are witnessing the unraveling of a system designed to protect liberty, order, and moral governance under God.

Weaponizing the Bench: A New Form of Lawfare

Legal scholars now use the term **lawfare** to describe how courts are used as weapons, not arbiters of justice. Instead of interpreting law, activist judges are increasingly shaping policy and obstructing the electorate's will.

Consider this: During President Trump's first term, courts issued **64 nationwide injunctions**—more than any president in history. Since January 2025, **15 more injunctions** have already been handed down against the current administration in just six weeks. These rulings often bypass legislative debate and halt lawful executive action, replacing democratic decision-making with judicial fiat.

For those who cherish constitutional checks and balances, this signals a deep crisis.

Newt Gingrich's Stark Warning

In recent congressional testimony, former Speaker Newt Gingrich declared:

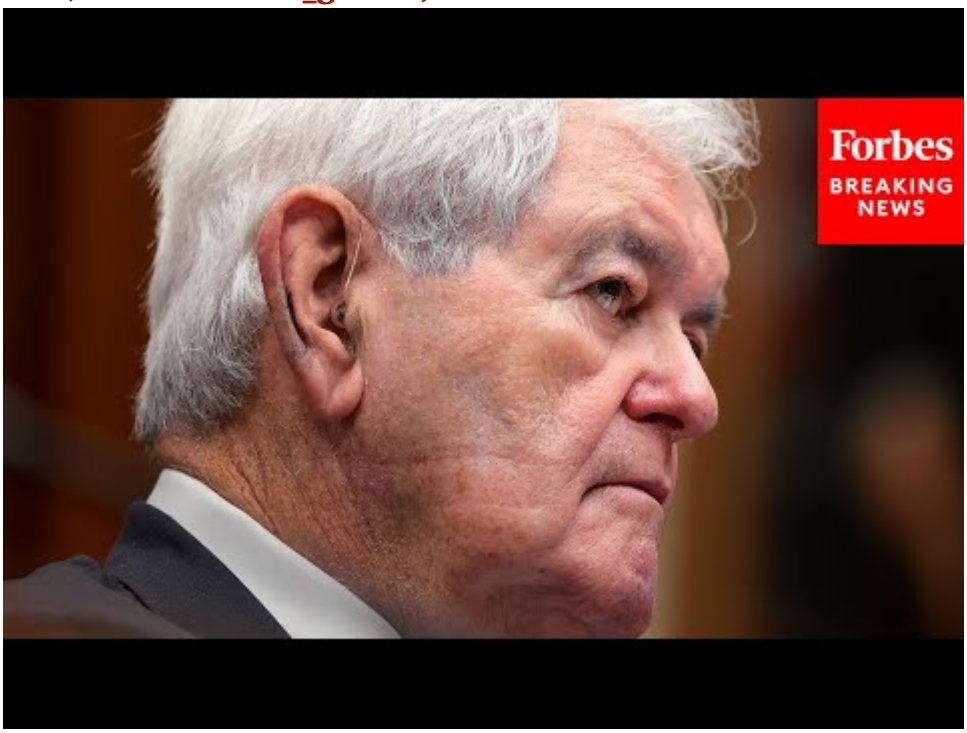
> "There is clearly a potential constitutional crisis involving the judicial branch's effort to fully override the legislative and executive branches."

He reminded Congress that America has faced similar challenges before. In 1802, Thomas Jefferson and Congress abolished entire courts packed with partisan judges by President John Adams, reasserting balance through legislative power.

Gingrich's call is clear: **Congress and the President are not powerless**. They have a constitutional responsibility to defend their authority against rogue courts, just as the Founders intended.

JUST IN: Newt Gingrich Warns Of 'Constitutional Crisis' Due To Judges Blocking Trump Actions

https://youtube.com/watch?v=DXd_gGHfZJc



Case in Point: Judge James Boasberg

One of the most troubling examples is U.S. District Judge James Boasberg, who recently ordered deportation flights to turn around mid-air—directly defying executive authority under the **Alien Enemies Act**.

Even more concerning:

- His wife operates an abortion clinic aggressively promoting mail-order access to abortion pills across several states.
- His daughter is affiliated with a nonprofit heavily funded by government grants.

Boasberg's attendance at a judicial retreat sponsored by anti-Trump donors only deepens the concern. As former Speaker Gingrich warned, this is not an isolated incident—this is part of a systemic rebellion by the judicial branch.

The Christian Worldview: God's Order vs. Judicial Chaos

Romans 13 tells us that governing authorities are established by God—not by unelected judges acting on ideology. When courts overstep their bounds, they rebel not just against the Constitution, but against the moral framework of divine order.

As Christians, we must defend the integrity of just governance. The balance of powers exists to protect against tyranny, whether from kings—or from black-robed oligarchs.

What Can Be Done?

Gingrich offered a biblical and constitutional solution:

- Congress must reassert authority by passing laws like the **No Rogue Rulings Act** to curtail activist injunctions.
- The **Supreme Court**, led by Chief Justice Roberts, should immediately review and suspend any district court rulings that attempt to override executive action on national security.
- The people—especially the Christian community—must stay informed and prayerfully engaged. We are called to be **watchmen** (Ezekiel 33:7), sounding the alarm when the nation's foundations are under threat.

Conclusion: A Call to Action Before It's Too Late

If Democrats regain the House in 2026, this judicial overreach may become permanent, locking in a system that mocks accountability and overrides the will of the people. We may never again have

the opportunity to reverse course.

Now is the time to speak truth with love, to act with courage, and to pray for the restoration of a just government that honors God and the Constitution.

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The Bongino–Patel Trap: Why FBI Corruption Can't Be Fixed from the Top

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/THE-BONGINO-PATEL-TRAP-WHY-FBI-CORRUPTION-CANT-BE-FIXED-FROM-THE-TOP/
APRIL 1, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSITUTION

April 1, 2025

Jeff Bayard | Virginia Christian Alliance

Despite their patriotism and bold reputations, **Deputy FBI Director Dan Bongino** and **FBI Director Kash Patel** are now at the helm of one of the most corrupt institutions in American history. Sundance, writing at ***The Conservative Treehouse***, explains why even men of integrity **cannot reform FBI corruption from the top down**. If America is to restore the rule of law and constitutional government, we must first face the hard truth: **the system is rigged** to resist reform.

Sundance's powerful breakdown exposes how institutional corruption buries even the most motivated reformers in bureaucracy, PR tasks, and internal sabotage. It also points the way forward through structural accountability—not slogans.

👉 **Read the full analysis by Sundance** and follow him for ongoing updates.

The Bongino–Patel Leadership Dilemma in FBI Corruption

Dan Bongino's March 31st public update speaks with clarity and conviction. He promises transparency, reform, and accountability. However, as Sundance outlines, these promises ring hollow without directly acknowledging the FBI's institutional corruption.

Like a captain steering a vessel with a broken engine, Bongino and Patel are isolated at the top. The real power lies beneath them, buried in layers of bureaucracy where corrupt actors still operate unchecked. This is a ***deep state silo*—and surface reform won't fix a hollow foundation.**

FBI Corruption Hides Beneath a Layer of Bureaucratic Denial

The article clarifies one thing: **you cannot reform what you refuse to name**. Bongino and Patel's insistence that "most agents are honorable" reflects a dangerous denial of systemic rot.

Compare this with Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent's bold action. Bessent publicly acknowledged corruption, installed IRS whistleblowers in key oversight roles, and bypassed internal roadblocks. He created **a firewall between leadership and the compromised system**, restoring integrity by design, not hope.

> *Key Insight:* Real reform requires **a layered system of compliance and audit**, not just positive public messaging.

Why Constitutional Reform Must Address Institutional Corruption

At the heart of this issue is the erosion of our **constitutional system of checks and balances**. The FBI—designed initially as an investigative body serving the people—now functions with internal autonomy and political weaponization.

- The **Fourth Amendment** (protection from unlawful search/seizure) and **Fifth Amendment** (due process) are endangered when institutions are left unchecked.
- **Article II Executive Orders** are rendered ineffective when departments refuse to act.

If the FBI can ignore directives from the President, then **the American people have already lost their constitutional oversight**.

Three Ways to Respond to Ongoing FBI Corruption

1. **Follow and Read Sundance at The Conservative Treehouse.**
   His insights go deeper than traditional conservative media and provide practical frameworks for understanding power dynamics.
   👉 **March 31 FBI Analysis by Sundance**
2. **Demand structural reform in federal agencies.**
   Bongino and Patel should be empowered as internal auditors, not isolated figureheads. Change cannot occur without independent compliance systems.
3. **Restore our nation's foundation.**
   We must return to constitutional design, where no agency can become its own law. This means **citizen awareness, transparency, and fearless accountability**.

God's Standards for Justice and Government Accountability

Scripture is clear: **God detests corruption and injustice**. Leaders and institutions are not above the law but are subject to God's higher moral order. "For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for Him" (Isaiah 30:18).

The FBI, as a steward of justice, must operate with truth and integrity—or face the consequences of unrepentant evil. **"Woe to those who call evil good and good evil"** (Isaiah 5:20). Cover-ups, selective prosecutions, and denial of internal rot all stand in direct opposition to God's commands for righteousness in leadership (Proverbs 29:4; Micah 6:8).

Christians are called to speak truth, expose darkness (Ephesians 5:11), and pray for righteous leaders who uphold the law impartially (1 Timothy 2:1–2). When institutions fail to do so, the Church must sound the alarm—not in fear but with boldness rooted in God's truth.

We must not only restore constitutional principles but also return to **Biblical definitions of justice, integrity, and truth**. Anything less will continue to fail.

Conclusion

As Sundance illustrates, the problem is not intent—it's structure. The FBI is not failing because of who leads it, but because of the entrenched system beneath. Until leaders like Bongino and Patel recognize the scale of the rot and restructure around it, reform will remain out of reach.

The Constitution does not need to be rewritten. It needs to be obeyed.

🔎 For more articles on restoring America's institutions through a Biblical and Constitutional lens, **visit our Constitution section**.

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Inside Elon Musk's DOGE Team: Fighting Government Waste with Tech-Driven Reform

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/ELON-MUSK-DOGE-GOVERNMENT-REFORM/
MARCH 28, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW, CONSTITUTION

Elon Musk and his DOGE team give a behind-the-scenes look at their mission to root out fraud, waste, and abuse in the federal government. What they've uncovered is astonishing—and it could mark the most sweeping government reform effort since the American Revolution.

> As one DOGE team member said, "The ship of America will sink unless this exercise is successful."

Elon Musk's DOGE Mission: Government Reformation or Smoke and Mirrors?

Overview:

The Fox News exclusive provides a candid and, at times, startling behind-the-scenes look into Elon Musk's **DOGE initiative** — an effort to eliminate **fraud, waste, and abuse** within the U.S. federal government. Backed by tech minds, financial experts, and Elon Musk himself, the DOGE team is taking a **private-sector lens to public-sector dysfunction**.

Elon Musk and DOGE team give behind the scenes look at their mission
https://youtube.com/watch?v=l7kQNwJ4H_w

Relevance to a Christian Worldview:

- **Accountability and Stewardship** – Scripture warns against waste and dishonest gain. Proverbs 11:1 reminds us: *"A false balance is an abomination to the Lord."* The DOGE team's mission to bring integrity to spending aligns with this principle.

- **Justice and Protection of the Vulnerable** – By addressing fraudulent activity that robs seniors, taxpayers, and legitimate benefit recipients, DOGE's work echoes Micah 6:8: *"Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God."*

- **The Propaganda Problem** – Musk rightly points out the spiritual battle of truth vs. deception. His observation about the far-left media feeding hatred reflects Ephesians 5:11: *"Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them."*

Constitutional Worldview Alignment:

- **Limited Government—**DOGE embodies Jeffersonian ideals of a government that serves the people efficiently and transparently. Article I, Section 9 restricts federal spending without legal appropriation**,** a principle DOGE seems determined to uphold.

- **Checks and Balances—**Musk's team has exposed gaps in oversight and execution. Their work promotes the Founders' vision of restrained power, transparency, and fiscal responsibility.

- **Executive Leadership—**President Trump's support for DOGE aligns with the **executive branch's constitutional role** to "take care that the laws be faithfully executed" (Article II, Section 3).

Final Thoughts:

Elon Musk's DOGE mission is disruptive, tech-driven, and controversial—but it may also be one of the most **patriotic private-public collaborations** in modern U.S. history. While not explicitly faith-based, the initiative's outcomes—justice, integrity, efficiency, and protection of the vulnerable—align with Biblical and Constitutional ethics.

Christians must stay vigilant:

Support efforts that reflect truth and justice, but test all things (1 Thess. 5:21). If the DOGE team is sincere and its mission is righteous, then it deserves our prayers, scrutiny, and support.

Expanded Section:

Waste, Fraud, and Abuse Uncovered by DOGE

The DOGE team's mission is not based on theory—they're uncovering shocking, real-world examples of how mismanagement and outdated systems are hemorrhaging taxpayer money. Here are just a few concrete examples of waste and fraud they have already exposed:

- **$830 Million for a Simple Survey.**

  A 10-question "Do you like the national park?" survey—something that could be done via SurveyMonkey for $10,000—was billed to the government for nearly **$1 billion**. The survey's data went unused.

- **The Retirement Mine.**

  A massive limestone cave in Pennsylvania houses **22,000 filing cabinets** for federal employee retirement processing—still entirely paper-based since the 1950s. Retirement calculations can take **six to nine months**, often with errors.

- **15 Million Social Security Numbers for Deceased People.**

  Government records show **millions of people marked alive who are over 120 years old**, leaving open the door for rampant **identity fraud** and illegal benefit claims.

- **Small Business Loans to Babies.**

  Over **$300 million in Small Business Administration loans** were issued to recipients **under age 11**—including a 9-month-old baby. The DOGE team traced these to fraudulent uses of newborns' stolen Social Security numbers.

- **Social Security Fraud via Call Centers.**

  A staggering **40% of daily Social Security phone calls** come from fraud centers trying to redirect benefits by changing bank deposit info fraudulently.

- **700 Non-Communicating IT Systems at NIH.**

  The National Institutes of Health has **700 incompatible software systems** across 27 departments—crippling data collaboration and wasting research dollars.

- **One Federal Bank Account, No Verification.**

  The Treasury had only **one account** from which all federal money was dispersed—**$800 billion** at one point—with **no verification** of where the funds were going. Until recently, agencies could order payments without providing justification, coding, or contact information.

- **IRS Staff Overhead.**

  The IRS employs **1,400 staff just to issue laptops and phones**—yet that function could serve the entire IRS once per month per person, making the current headcount excessive and wasteful.

- **4.6 Million Federal Credit Cards.**

  The government issued nearly **twice as many credit cards as it has employees**. Many were untracked, and usage was unclear. DOGE has already helped reduce that number by half.

These findings reinforce the scale of the issue—and the **moral, fiscal, and constitutional imperative** to address it. As one DOGE team member said, "The ship of America will sink unless this exercise is successful."

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U.S. Timber Production Restored by Trump's Executive Order

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/US-TIMBER-PRODUCTION-TRUMP-EXECUTIVE-ORDER/
MARCH 27, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION

What do you think about this bold Executive Action? Please comment below and share your thoughts with us and the VCA community.

> President Donald J. Trump has signed a landmark **Executive Order to restore U.S. timber production**, enhance forest management, reduce wildfire risks, and protect our national security…

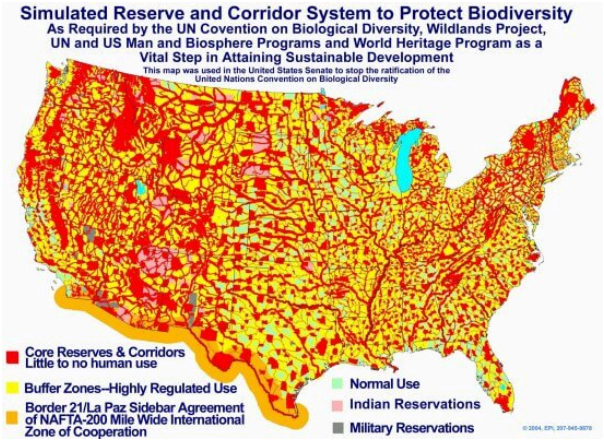
> **"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof…" — Psalm 24:1**

President Donald J. Trump has signed a landmark Executive Order to restore U.S. timber production, enhance forest management, reduce wildfire risks, and protect our national and

economic security. This action confronts the radical overreach of federal control and reasserts America's right to manage her abundant resources for the good of her people.

Restoring Constitutional Authority Over U.S. Timber Production

Few Americans realize that the federal government controls a staggering 30% of all timberland in the United States. Much of this land—once managed by local communities—has been locked away by bureaucratic red tape, environmental lawsuits, and regulations fueled by globalist agendas such as **UN Agenda 21**, '**15-minute cities**,' and other **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**. These initiatives not only undermine the sovereignty of the United States but also erode the God-given rights and constitutional freedoms of American citizens to use and steward their land.



Click to ENLARGE

President Trump's Executive Order puts the Constitution back in the driver's seat, directing federal agencies like the **U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management** to cut red tape, streamline permitting, and offer more timber for sale from federal lands. This bold reversal of the "preserve everything, produce nothing" ideology has paralyzed U.S. timber production.

Reviving Biblical Stewardship of God's Creation

God commanded mankind to "work and keep" the Garden (Genesis 2:15). That's stewardship—active care and cultivation, not abandonment. Yet federal forest mismanagement has made vast public lands ticking time bombs. Neglected forests become overgrown and dry, fueling massive wildfires that destroy wildlife habitats and nearby communities.

President Trump's actions reflect a biblical approach to stewardship: responsible use, active management, and blessing others through the fruit of creation. By expanding U.S. timber production, we not only create jobs but also protect forests from destruction and free ourselves from dependence on foreign regimes for critical materials.

U.S. Timber Production and America's Economic Strength

The **American Forest Resource Council** (AFRC) rightly applauded this order, noting that better federal forest management will "benefit everyone—especially our rural and tribal communities—by providing jobs, economic opportunity, and restoring environmental health." Their statement reveals a deeper truth: mismanagement has consequences.

The U.S. imports billions of dollars in lumber that we could produce ourselves. Meanwhile, over 750,000 American jobs in the timber sector remain threatened by federal obstacles, lawsuits, and regulatory delays. These executive actions reduce permitting delays, restore the supply chain for construction materials, and revitalize American communities that depend on timber.

Restoring U.S. timber production isn't just about economics—it's about sovereignty, self-reliance, and securing the infrastructure needed for national defense.

Sound Forest Management: A Biblical and National Imperative

Proverbs 13:16 says, "A wise man thinks ahead; a fool doesn't…" This Executive Order is a course correction, putting foresight and wisdom ahead of ideology and inaction. President Trump previously fixed wildfire suppression funding during his first term, and this action goes further, pushing for thinning, salvage, and efficient approvals under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

These reforms clear the way for projects that endless consultations and activist litigation would otherwise block. It's a return to common sense and covenantal responsibility—protecting what God has given us by managing it well.

Conclusion: U.S. Timber Production Is a Test of Freedom

At its core, this is a spiritual issue. Will we surrender God-given resources to unelected environmental elites and UN bureaucrats? Or will we stand, as stewards and citizens, to reclaim what is ours to manage under God?

President Trump's Executive Order is a necessary blow to radical environmentalism, the global green agenda, and centralized planning schemes. It reminds us that liberty and abundance go hand in hand and that true stewardship requires reverence for creation and courage to act.

Further Reading and Source Documents:

- Executive Order: **Immediate Expansion of American Timber Production**
- Fact Sheet: **President Trump Rapidly Expands Timber Production**
- Threat from Imports: **Addressing The Threat To National Security from Imports of Timber, Lumber**
- AFRC: **Response to the Executive Order on U.S. Timber Production:**

Scriptures for Further Study:

- Genesis 2:15 – Stewardship of creation
- Psalm 24:1 – Ownership of the earth belongs to God

- Proverbs 13:16 – Wise planning
- Proverbs 22:3 – Preparedness and prevention
- Ecclesiastes 3:1-3 – A time to plant and a time to uproot

Personal Application:

Christian citizens must support policies that uphold our nation's sovereignty, provide for our families, and protect God's creation. Let us pray for leaders who govern with wisdom and policies that honor God and bless our land.

Outward Witness:

Share this article with others who value responsible government and biblical stewardship. Encourage your community to support actions that strengthen our nation while honoring the Creator of all things.

We'd love to hear from you! What are your thoughts on this Executive Action and its impact on our country and our faith? Leave a comment below and join the conversation.

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Trump’s Constitutional Leadership: March 26 White House Briefing

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/TRUMPS-CONSTITUTIONAL-LEADERSHIP-MARCH-26-WHITE-HOUSE-BRIEFING/
MARCH 27, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW, CONSTITUTION

Constitutional leadership returns as President Trump restores election trust, economic power, and national security.

Trump’s Constitutional leadership was fully displayed during the March 26 White House Press Briefing. Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt outlined how President Donald Trump’s administration is strengthening America—economically, militarily, and morally. From restoring election integrity to defeating terrorist threats, the Trump team is proving that bold constitutional leadership can restore trust and stability in turbulent times.

Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt Briefs Members of the Media, Mar. 26, 2025
https://youtube.com/watch?v=RNgOLNy9low

Key Announcements from the Briefing

1. Economic Nationalism Backed by Constitutional Leadership
Massive private investments are flowing into America again:

- **Schneider Electric** pledged **$700 million** to upgrade U.S. energy and AI infrastructure.
- **Hyundai** committed **$20 billion**, including a $5.8 billion steel plant in Louisiana, which will create 1,500 high-paying jobs.

President Trump also announced that **April 2** will be known as **"Liberation Day."** It marks the start of new tariffs designed to protect American workers and manufacturing. This move aligns with his commitment to free and fair trade, a principle rooted in **constitutional leadership** that places the needs of American citizens above globalist interests.

2. A Historic Executive Order for Election Integrity
President Trump signed a sweeping executive order to secure U.S. elections:

- It bans foreign nationals from involvement in election administration.
- It strengthens **citizenship verification** and directs Homeland Security and the DOJ to ensure only American citizens vote.

Journalist Treniss Evans thanked the administration during the Q&A, stating that many reporters had previously been banned from even discussing election integrity. His question applauded the new executive order and asked whether future actions would include same-day voting and hand-counted ballots.

3. Military Strength and the Peace-Through-Strength Doctrine
On March 15, President Trump ordered targeted strikes against **Houthi terrorists**, killing key leaders and restoring maritime safety in the Red Sea. These operations followed the reversal of Biden-era policies that removed the Houthis from the terrorist list.

Press Secretary Leavitt emphasized that President Trump acted decisively and lawfully as **Commander-in-Chief** to protect U.S. interests. While legacy media like *The Atlantic* attempted to push a "Signal Hoax" narrative, Leavitt clarified that **no classified information** was shared. This has been affirmed by the **Secretary of Defense**, the **CIA**, the **FBI**, and others.

Countering Media Misinformation with Constitutional Leadership

Karoline Leavitt directly addressed the false reporting by *The Atlantic*'s Jeffrey Goldberg. She reminded the press of Goldberg's long history of pushing hoaxes, from false stories about Trump and Gold Star families to the now-debunked Russia collusion narrative. Leavitt held firm:

> "Do you trust a Secretary of Defense who served honorably in uniform or a Democrat activist posing as a journalist?"

Rather than indulge partisan media, the administration chooses **constitutional leadership** grounded in truth and accountability.

A Biblical Worldview on Leadership and Justice

Romans 13 teaches that rulers are divinely appointed to uphold justice and restrain evil. Christians are called to pray for leaders and discern how governmental actions align with biblical principles of righteousness, mercy, and protection of the innocent.

Biblical leadership is characterized by the following, and the Trump record since his inauguration is aligning with the following in BOLD text. We Christians are praying for Trump to publicly recognize that he is accountable to the Almighty and will kneel and pray before Him:

- **Seeking truth**
- **Protecting the vulnerable**
- **Governing with integrity**
- Recognizing ultimate accountability to God

President Trump's policies are guided by **constitutional leadership** and supported by biblical principles:

- **National sovereignty** (Acts 17:26)
- **Truthful leadership** (Proverbs 29:2)
- **Defense of the innocent** (Psalm 82:3-4)

When leaders fear God and honor the Constitution, the people rejoice.

Scriptures for Reflection

- Romans 13:1-4 – On God's design for government authority
- Proverbs 11:1 – Against dishonest scales
- Psalm 33:12 – "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord"

Final Word

This briefing proves **constitutional leadership** is more than a phrase—it's a blueprint. The American people are witnessing a revival of truth, courage, and governance under God. Be watchful, prayerful, and engaged as this administration restores what was lost.

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Trump: Preserving the Integrity of American Elections: Executive Action to Restore Our Republic

BY VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/TRUMP-PRESERVING-THE-INTEGRITY-OF-AMERICAN-ELECTIONS-EXECUTIVE-ACTION-TO-RESTORE-OUR-REPUBLIC/
MARCH 25, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION

"A Republic, if you can keep it." — Benjamin Franklin

That prophetic warning from Franklin echoes louder today than ever before. On March 25, 2025, President Donald J. Trump issued a sweeping **Executive Order** titled *Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections*, declaring it the policy of his administration to **enforce federal law, secure election systems, and ensure that only legal votes are counted**.

This action strikes at the core of what makes a constitutional republic function—**election integrity**. Without it, our self-governance collapses into lawlessness and manipulation.

The Problem: A Patchwork of Loopholes and Lawlessness

The Executive Order outlines a stark truth: modern America lags behind many developed (and even developing) nations in election security.

- **India and Brazil** require voter ID tied to biometric data.
- **Germany and Canada** use **only paper ballots**—counted in public by local officials.

- **Denmark and Sweden** reject late ballots and limit mail-in voting to those who truly need it.

In contrast, the United States has tolerated:

- Ballots counted after Election Day in violation of 2 U.S.C. § 7 and 3 U.S.C. § 1,
- Mail-in ballots without postmarks,
- Non-citizens registered to vote,
- Voter rolls that are outdated and inaccurate,
- And foreign money influencing ballot initiatives.

This lawlessness is not just dangerous—it's **unconstitutional**.

Key Directives in the Executive Order

The March 25 order lays out a comprehensive roadmap for restoring trust in elections through lawful and constitutional means:

1. Enforcing Citizenship Verification

All federal voter registrations must now include **documentary proof of U.S. citizenship**, including passports, REAL ID-compliant documents, or military ID.

2. Uniform Election Day Enforcement

States may no longer count ballots received after Election Day for federal elections. This aligns with existing federal law and recent court rulings (e.g., *RNC v. Wetzel*, 2024).

3. Cleaning and Securing Voter Rolls

Federal databases—including those from DHS and the Social Security Administration—must be used to remove ineligible voters, including the deceased, duplicates, and non-citizens.

4. No More Foreign Interference

The order strengthens enforcement of 52 U.S.C. § 30121 to block foreign funding in federal, state, or local elections—whether through direct donations or ballot measures.

5. Voting Systems Must Be Verifiable

New standards prohibit vote counting via barcodes and require **paper-trail voting systems** that are auditable and voter-verifiable.

6. Withholding Federal Funds from Non-Compliant States

States that refuse to comply with federal election laws may lose access to Election Assistance Commission funding and DOJ law enforcement grants.

Restoring Constitutional Election Integrity

This Executive Order **does not create new law—it enforces existing law**, which federal and state officials have too often ignored or actively undermined. By demanding compliance with laws already in the books, this administration fulfills its duty under Article II of the Constitution.

Let's be clear: This isn't suppression. It's restoration. It's the return of law, order, and **constitutional legitimacy** to America's elections.

What Comes Next

Citizens, state officials, and churches must stay vigilant:

✅ Demand full compliance with federal election law.

✅ Share this Executive Order with others—especially lawmakers and election officials.

✅ Encourage your state legislators to align with the EAC and DHS standards.

✅ Most importantly, pray for leaders who uphold truth and righteousness.

Conclusion: The Time to Act Is Now

As Franklin warned, we were given a Republic—but it must be kept. Securing our elections is the **bedrock of that Republic**. With this Executive Order, the federal government is drawing a line in the sand: **only legal votes count.**

This is the beginning of restoration—not just of our elections, but of **our national trust**.

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Judicial Power Grab? How Rule 65(c) Could Change the Legal Battlefield

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/JUDICIAL-POWER-GRAB-HOW-RULE-65C-COULD-CHANGE-THE-LEGAL-BATTLEFIELD/
MARCH 17, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, US CONSTITUTION

The legal system has long been a battleground for political influence. But could Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(c) be weaponized to silence opposition? President Trump's recent memorandum aims to ensure that activist groups can no longer manipulate the courts to obstruct governance.

Are Activists Hijacking the Courts?

Rule 65(c) requires that parties seeking a preliminary injunction must post security to cover potential damages if their injunction is later found to be wrongly issued. This rule is meant to protect against frivolous lawsuits, yet it has been inconsistently applied.

Under **President Trump's directive, agencies must now enforce this rule**, ensuring that those who attempt to block government policies must bear the financial risk.

How Has Rule 65(c) Been Exploited?

In recent years, activist organizations, often backed by millions of dollars from ideological donors, have used the courts as a tool for political resistance. By filing lawsuits in carefully selected

courts, they have successfully obtained **nationwide injunctions** against policies they oppose, often before they even take effect.

For example, immigration policies under the previous Trump administration faced unprecedented legal obstruction, with judges frequently issuing sweeping injunctions without requiring challengers to post any security. This led to delays, confusion, and significant taxpayer expenses. Similar tactics have been used to block energy projects, voter ID laws, and religious liberty protections.

Without proper enforcement of Rule 65(c), activist lawsuits carry no financial consequences for those bringing them. Even if their case is ultimately dismissed, they face no penalties, while taxpayers foot the bill for the government's defense.

Why This Matters to You

In recent years, leftist activist groups have flooded the courts with lawsuits aimed at obstructing policies they oppose. These lawsuits often:

- Exploit **forum shopping** to find sympathetic judges. (another reference on forum shopping is **here**)
- Obtain **nationwide injunctions** that delay or overturn policies, such as:
    - Judge orders longer-term **nationwide block** on Trump orders on transgender youth healthcare
    - Judge slams Trump while **extending block** on birthright citizenship order
- Use litigation as a **political fundraising tool**, with little financial risk to themselves. For example, the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) **launched over 400 lawsuits** against the Trump administration on issues like immigration, religious liberty, and voting laws. Raising millions of dollars.

This legal warfare is not just about partisan politics—it affects everyday Americans. When a judge blocks border security measures, it impacts national safety. When an energy project is stalled by activist litigation, it affects jobs and fuel prices. When voting laws are put on hold by judicial intervention, it undermines election integrity.

How This Policy Helps the American Citizen

By enforcing Rule 65(c), this new policy aims to:

1. **Protect Taxpayers** – No more funding endless legal battles against policies enacted by the people's elected representatives.

2. **Prevent Judicial Overreach** – Judges will think twice before granting sweeping injunctions without accountability.

3. **Stop Legal Warfare** – Activist groups must now face financial consequences for frivolous lawsuits.

4. **Ensure Fairness** – Lawsuits should be based on merit, not politics.

5. **Restore Order to Governance** – Executive agencies will be able to implement policies without years of legal obstruction.

A Double-Edged Sword: Could Rule 65(c) Be Used Against Conservatives?

While this memorandum is a victory against judicial activism today, the next administration could turn it into a weapon of its own. How? By either abolishing Rule 65(c) enforcement to reopen the floodgates for activist lawsuits or by selectively applying it against conservative legal challenges.

- A future progressive administration could ignore Rule 65(c) entirely, allowing leftist groups to once again file lawsuits without financial risk.

- Alternatively, if enforced selectively, Rule 65(c) could target conservative groups challenging unconstitutional mandates on issues like religious liberty, gun rights, and free speech.

This reality underscores the importance of continued civic engagement. Americans cannot assume that one legal victory guarantees lasting protection against activist interference in governance.

A Step Toward Restoring Constitutional Order

For too long, judicial activism has undermined executive authority. This memorandum is a bold step toward rebalancing the system, ensuring that governance is decided by elected officials—not activist judges and special interest groups.

The Constitution envisions a government where laws are enacted by Congress and executed by the President. It does not grant unelected judges the power to block policies indefinitely simply because a well-funded activist group objects to them. Rule 65(c) is a long-standing legal principle, but its enforcement has been neglected. President Trump's memorandum corrects this oversight and re-establishes fairness in legal proceedings.

What's Next?

Will the courts comply with this directive, or will activist judges resist? Should ordinary Americans worry about how this rule might be applied to future lawsuits? The battle for judicial fairness is far from over.

While this policy primarily targets progressive legal activism, it could also impact future conservative legal challenges. This raises an important question: Will future administrations enforce this rule fairly, or will it be used selectively?

For now, one thing is clear—President Trump's directive on Rule 65(c) is a game-changer in the legal fight over government policy. By requiring activist litigants to bear the financial risk of their lawsuits, the White House is signaling that the era of frivolous, consequence-free injunctions is over.

Why You Must Stay Engaged

The battle for judicial fairness does not end here. Americans must remain vigilant to ensure that Rule 65(c) is applied fairly and consistently—not weaponized by future administrations to silence political opposition.

Stay informed, stay engaged, and demand that justice works for the people—not against them.

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Overreaching Federal Judges Are Defiling the Constitution. The Supreme Court Must Intervene.

BY THE WASHINGTON STAND
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/OVERREACHING-FEDERAL-JUDGES-ARE-DEFILING-THE-CONSTITUTION-THE-SUPREME-COURT-MUST-INTERVENE/
MARCH 17, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, US CONSTITUTION

S.A. McCarthy | The Washington Stand

At the time of its founding, one of the most novel aspects of the American government was the separation of the executive branch of government and the judicial branch.

The existence of legislative chambers was not necessarily an innovation: the English parliament had been around in some form or another since the 13th century. Early on, the King of England relied on the advice and insight of a Great Council, which typically consisted of nobility, clerics, and representatives of the English shires and boroughs, eventually growing in power and influence to essentially become a parliament. By the end of the 14th century, this parliament had split into two distinct chambers: the upper house (now called the House of Lords) was comprised of nobles, barons, and high-ranking clerics, while the lower house (now called the House of Commons) consisted of representatives of the shires and boroughs.

The power of the English parliament waxed and waned over the centuries, fluctuating according to the power and, to some extent, the temperament of the reigning monarch. Today, the English monarch is, in practical terms, little more than a figurehead, although even the British Parliament nominally draws its authority from the king, who will invite the leader of the dominant political party in the House of Commons to serve as prime minister and form a government. But one thing remained fairly constant throughout history: the judiciary of England was a function of the executive, the king. Since the 12th century, the English judiciary received its authority to make judgements of law from the monarch, who was himself often the highest judge.

One of the keys to the separation of powers established by the U.S. Constitution was creating an *independent* judiciary, a body of courts and judges that was not a mere functionary of the executive but could, instead, check the power of both the legislature and the executive, ensuring that both the powers and protections enumerated by the U.S. Constitution are respected. The Founding Fathers sketched the parameters of the American federal judicial system in Article III of the U.S. Constitution:

> "The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. … The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority;—to all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls;—to all Cases of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction;—to Controversies to which the United States shall be a Party;—to Controversies between two or more States;—between a State and Citizens of another State,—between Citizens of different States,—between Citizens of the same State claiming Lands under Grants of different States, and between a State, or the Citizens thereof, and foreign States, Citizens or Subjects."

Article II of the U.S. Constitution, however, is a far more detailed schematic of the powers of the president, the American federal executive. One power explicitly granted to the president by the Constitution is the authority to "appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States…" It is this particular authority which has proven, in recent weeks, controversial in the very courts that were established to uphold the provisions of the Constitution.

Upon taking office in January, President Donald Trump began a widespread purge of the executive branch of the federal government, firing those employees either whose work was deemed unessential or wasteful or who evinced hostility towards the president's agenda. It has, over the past several decades, become somewhat customary for the president not to interfere much with the entrenched bureaucrats and career "civil servants" in his particular branch of government, typically only appointing his own Cabinet secretaries and some senior officials in the various

departments of the executive branch. The past four years, however, have demonstrated that a left-wing agenda has practically engulfed the executive bureaucracy, resulting in a more-or-less unified shadow government hellbent on promoting and enforcing progressivism at every level, both at home and abroad.

The alacrity with which the Biden administration was able to implement its program — from approving mutilative gender transition procedures for children to weaponizing almost every faction of the executive branch to promote abortion and prosecute pro-life Americans — was alarming, to say the least. It suggested even to more skeptical observers that there may, in fact, be a very real Deep State silently guiding the nation ever leftward, managing the levers, ropes, and pulleys of power behind the scenes while the populace blindly debated such nonsensical subjects as whether or not Trump is Hitler reincarnate or what pronouns to use when addressing a bearded man in a dress.

It was in no small part due to the federal government's seemingly unified push leftward under the Biden administration that Trump was elected a second time. Poll after poll, survey after survey showed that Americans did not want open borders, drag queen story hours, secret school gender transitions, and DEI infesting every corner of the country.

Thus, as the prophet Hulk Hogan **foretold**, Trumpamania ran wild. Trump not only swept the Electoral College but won every single swing state and the popular vote, with over 77 million Americans casting their ballots for him. Trump was given a mandate by the American people: all that he had promised on the campaign trail, including the gutting of the Deep State, was not only expected but demanded of him. Border security, mass deportations, mass firings, the exposure of fraud and corruption, and the de-weaponization of the executive branch were all promised — where "de-weaponization," of course, means "de-politicization," returning each of the departments and agencies under the executive branch to the control of the duly elected executive, instead of leaving them in the stranglehold of the woke, toxic agenda and ideology which garnered such widespread unpopularity in the first place.

The federal courts are not arbiters of policy, but far too many federal judges seem to be laboring under the impression that they are. Numerous federal courts at both the district and appellate levels have placed temporary restraining orders on many of the president's executive orders — executive orders which, by the way, the American people specifically voted for him to enact — in an effort not to uphold the provisions of the Constitution but in a blatant attempt to shape policy. (The Federalist has done a decent job of cataloguing those legal challenges **here** and **here**.) In fact, no matter what rigamarole partisan, activist judges may like to go through in their juridical opinions, the bevvy of temporary restraining orders imposed on the Trump administration is itself unconstitutional.

Article II explicates, in establishing the office of the president, "The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America." It is not vested in the federal courts. It is not even vested in the president's subordinates; they only exercise the president's authority on his behalf. The courts do, of course, have the authority to review the president's actions and, where they conflict with the provisions and stipulations of the Constitution, check them. What the courts have *no* authority to do, however, is shape the policy of the executive branch of the government and prevent the president from carrying out the agenda that the American people demanded he carry out.

Unlike the legislative branch, the power of the executive is vested in a single man: the president. He *does* have the authority to shape the policy of the executive branch and the power to terminate employees who impair, inhibit, resist, or undermine his policy. In point of fact, all authority that employees of the executive branch wield — from the most prestigious of the Cabinet secretaries to the rank-and-file of the most obscure of executive agencies — is not their own but the president's; he, in turn, wields his authority on behalf of the American people.

Just as the representatives elected by the American people to Congress can vote to impeach a president who does not act on the behalf of the American people, so also the president, who is elected by the people to wield the authority of the executive, can fire those within the executive branch who do not cooperate with his lawful authority. The Founding Father **James Wilson**, in crafting the president's role as laid out in the Constitution, observed that it is good for the legislative branch to deliberate and debate over the creation of law, in order to produce the best, most tempered result, which will (at least in theory) benefit the whole nation. But it is necessary that the executive authority be vested in one man, Wilson explained, for he can act with greater speed, unimpeded by colleagues with whom he must debate before resolving on a course of action. "In planning, forming and arranging laws, deliberation is always becoming, and always useful. But in the active scenes of government, there are emergencies, in which the man … who deliberates is lost," Wilson declared. The president must, therefore, be able to "clean house" when he finds much of his house arrayed against him.

The Trump administration has **requested** that the U.S. Supreme Court — which, incidentally, is the only federal court actually named in Article II of the Constitution — intervene in many of the cases wherein inferior courts have blocked, halted, slowed, or parried the president's lawful actions as chief executive. In some cases, the Supreme Court has **declined** to intervene over the objections of some of its more originalist members. One of those constitutionally devout members, Justice Samuel Alito, wrote in a blistering dissent, "As the Nation's highest court, we have a duty to ensure that the power entrusted to federal judges by the Constitution is not abused." Castigating the majority of his fellow jurists for failing to protect the Constitution and allowing an inferior court to, seemingly erroneously and even unlawfully, force the Trump administration to shell out $2 billion to a wasteful government program, he continued, "Today, the Court makes a most unfortunate misstep that rewards an act of judicial hubris and imposes a

$2 billion penalty on American taxpayers. … A federal court has many tools to address a party's supposed nonfeasance. Self-aggrandizement of its jurisdiction is not one of them."

The often egregious, usually erroneously-applied restrictions that inferior court after inferior court has placed on the sitting president is an affront to the American people and a grievous blow to the supposed impartiality and independence of the federal judiciary. The Supreme Court must step in and put a stop to the incessant temporary restraining orders and preliminary injunctions being issued by so many inferior courts against the Trump administration. If the high court does not fulfil its duty, it is damning the country to be ruled forever by the Deep State that could spark national outrage and division of a depth unseen since the 1860s.

SOURCE: **THE WASHINGTON STAND**

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FBI Reform Under New Leadership: Delivering Results That Matter

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/FBI-REFORM-UNDER-NEW-LEADERSHIP-DELIVERING-RESULTS-THAT-MATTER/
MARCH 14, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION

In an era of politicized justice and public distrust in federal law enforcement, decisive action is what Americans demand—and what they are now getting. Kash Patel, newly positioned in FBI leadership, has wasted no time in tackling violent crime, border security threats, and drug trafficking. Unlike past administrations that talked about reforms but delivered little, Patel and his team are proving that **RESULTS MATTER**.

In just one month, under his watch, the FBI has:

- Arrested over 300 violent criminals, including **MS-13** and 18th Street gang members.
- Seized hundreds of pounds of narcotics and hundreds of illegal firearms.
- Coordinated with state and local law enforcement to take down dangerous criminals across the country.
- Extradited dozens of high-level foreign drug traffickers to face American justice.
- Graduated 245 police officers from the FBI National Academy, reinforcing law enforcement at every level.

These results send a clear message: **Law and order is back.**

FBI Dir. Kash Patel Celebrates 'Complete And Total Annihilation Of The Weaponization Of Justice'

https://youtube.com/watch?v=elIRmEnMEeE

Background and Setting

For years, Americans have watched federal law enforcement drift away from its core mission—protecting citizens and upholding the rule of law. Instead, many agencies were mired in political investigations, internal corruption, and selective enforcement that targeted political opponents rather than criminals. This weaponization of justice eroded public trust and emboldened criminals, leading to spikes in violent crime, human trafficking, and fentanyl deaths.

Under this new leadership, the FBI is returning to its constitutional duty—protecting the nation without political bias.

Main Themes

1. Restoring Law and Order

Patel has made it clear: **America's enemies, foreign and domestic, will face swift and relentless justice.** His leadership is reinforcing the rule of law by dismantling criminal enterprises, securing the border, and removing violent offenders from our streets.

> **Key Takeaways:**
>
> - Establishment of a **multi-agency task force in Virginia**, leading to **hundreds of arrests** in weeks.
> - National strategy to **dismantle gang networks** across all 50 states.
> - Zero tolerance for fentanyl trafficking, leading to record-breaking drug busts.

2. The End of Politicized Justice

The **weaponization of federal law enforcement** is over. Under Patel's leadership, the FBI is prioritizing criminals over politics—a major shift from recent years. Justice should be blind, not weaponized.

> **Key Takeaways:**
>
> - FBI leadership committed to equal enforcement of the law.
> - Political agendas removed from federal investigations.
> - Focus redirected to violent crime, human trafficking, and border security.

3. Border Security and National Defense

The link between open borders and rising violent crime is undeniable. Patel understands that the crisis at the border is a crisis in American neighborhoods. His task forces have already made major strides in shutting down cartel operations.

Key Takeaways:

- **50+ major cartel members arrested** and brought to U.S. courts.
- Seizure of **thousands of kilograms of fentanyl**, preventing countless American deaths.
- New inter-agency cooperation improving **cross-border crime prevention**.

The Constitutional Perspective

The **U.S. Constitution**establishes justice as a fundamental principle. Article IV, Section 4 guarantees Americans protection against "invasion and domestic violence." The federal government's primary responsibility is to ensure safety and security—not political activism. The FBI's renewed focus aligns with constitutional mandates, ensuring:

- Equal justice under the law.
- Protection against crime and foreign threats.
- Federal enforcement that supports state and local efforts, not undermines them.

This shift back to constitutional principles is a major win for **America First policies** and law-abiding citizens.

Conclusion

For too long, Americans have endured a justice system that failed to uphold the law equitably. Under Kash Patel's leadership, the tide is turning. In just a few short weeks, major victories have been secured against gangs, drug traffickers, and violent criminals. The FBI is returning to its rightful role—not as a political tool, but as an institution that protects and serves the American people.

To those who doubted the need for strong leadership in law enforcement, the facts speak for themselves:

- Crime **is being crushed**.
- Criminals **are being removed**.

- Justice **is being restored**.

RESULTS MATTER. FACTS MATTER.

Americans must demand continued accountability from federal agencies, Congress, and state governments. Patel's early success is proof that law and order can be restored—when leaders have the courage to act.

Scriptures for Further Study

- **Romans 13:4** – *"For he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer."*
- **Proverbs 21:15** – *"When justice is done, it is a joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers."*
- **Isaiah 1:17** – *"Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause."*

Call to Action

Stay informed. Share this article. Hold your leaders accountable. America cannot afford to slide back into lawlessness and selective justice.

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Why the U.S. Must Permanently Exit the WHO – Sign the Petition Today!

BY VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/WHY-THE-U-S-MUST-PERMANENTLY-EXIT-THE-WHO-SIGN-THE-PETITION-TODAY/
MARCH 14, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION

URGENT CALL TO ACTION

On January 20, 2025, President Donald J. Trump took bold action to remove the United States from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Pandemic Treaties **via executive order**. While this was a crucial step in reclaiming national sovereignty, it is only a temporary fix.

We need a **permanent, legislative solution** to ensure the U.S. **can never be rejoined** by a future administration. **The time to act is NOW!**

Why Is This Important?

The World Health Organization, backed by the United Nations (UN), seeks to impose sweeping global health mandates that could override U.S. laws and strip American citizens of their rights. Under the WHO's pandemic treaties, unelected global bureaucrats could:

- **Declare a health crisis** (real or perceived) and enforce international control over Americans.
- **Mandate lockdowns, vaccines, and digital health passports**, bypassing U.S. sovereignty.

- **Control medical policies**, restricting doctors and patients from making personal health decisions.
- **Suppress free speech**, censoring any opposition to their health edicts.

While Trump's executive order temporarily removed us from the WHO, a future president could rejoin it with a single signature. That's why we must support House Resolution 54 (HR54), which permanently withdraws the U.S. from the WHO and defunds the organization once and for all.

Take Action: Sign the Petition to End U.S. Involvement in the WHO!

The **Sovereignty Coalition**, led by Frank Gaffney and Reggie Littlejohn, is spearheading the movement to keep the U.S. out of WHO's control.

House Resolution 54 (HR54), sponsored by **Rep. Andy Biggs (AZ-5th)**, seeks to:

- **Repeal** the 1948 law that allowed U.S. membership in the WHO.
- **Defund** the WHO permanently, cutting off taxpayer dollars.
- **Prevent** any future president from rejoining without congressional approval.

Make your voice heard today!

SIGN THE PETITION NOW

This petition will be sent to:

Your Representatives in the House and Senate

President Trump and Vice President Vance

Join Us at the Medical Freedom Summit – April 4 & 5!

Date: Friday, April 4 – Saturday, April 5

Location:

GET YOUR TICKETS HERE

Join us for an **exclusive two-day event** featuring expert speakers discussing:

- The WHO's globalist agenda and its impact on American sovereignty.
- How medical mandates and health control threaten your freedom.
- What YOU can do to protect your Constitutional Rights.

Featured speakers include:

🎙 **Former Congressman Bob Good** – *The WHO and One Health: A Real Danger Poisoning Our State*

🎙 **Dr. Erika LeBaron** (President, AAPS) – *Who Really Calls the Shots in Healthcare?*

🎙 **Vice Admiral Dean Lee (Ret.)** – *DEI: Did Not Earn It vs. Leadership*

🎙 **Christine Dolan** – *The Link Between Human Trafficking and the Medical Profession*

…and many more!

Seats are limited – reserve yours today!

GET TICKETS NOW

Spread the Word!

Share this post with your friends, family, and networks. Encourage them to **sign the petition and join us at the summit**.

The fight for medical freedom and American sovereignty depends on YOU! Let's stand together to permanently **END the WHO's control over our nation!**

Subscribe to Virginia Medical Freedom Alliance for more updates!

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PANIC IN DC: Government Waste, USAID Document Shredding, and the Future of the Department of Education

BY VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/PANIC-IN-DC-GOVERNMENT-WASTE-USAID-DOCUMENT-SHREDDING-AND-THE-FUTURE-OF-THE-DEPARTMENT-OF-EDUCATION/
MARCH 11, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION

A New Era of Biblical and Constitutional Accountability Under Trump

The Biden-era expansion of the federal government is facing a reckoning. Reports indicate **massive document destruction at USAID** and an **unprecedented closure of the Department of Education**. These developments follow the work of **Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE)** in exposing **widespread waste, fraud, and abuse** across federal agencies.

The government should operate in **accordance with biblical principles of stewardship and integrity**, rather than function as a bloated bureaucracy that mismanages taxpayer dollars. **Proverbs 13:11** reminds us, *"Wealth gained hastily will dwindle, but whoever gathers little by little*

will increase it." This aligns with constitutional values, where the federal government is **limited in scope** and the power is returned to the states and the people.

With President Trump at the helm, is this the beginning of **true federal downsizing and the restoration of constitutional governance?**

Watch the Video for Full Breakdown

Before diving into the details, check out this video for an in-depth look at the unfolding events:

PANIC in DC: Feds Caught Shredding Docs, Trump LOCKS Department Of Education Building for Demolition
https://youtube.com/watch?v=H-YBwrvqMPo

USAID: Shredding Documents Amid Corruption Allegations

According to reports, USAID staff were instructed to **shred and burn documents** at the agency's former headquarters in Washington, D.C.

This directive raises serious questions:

- **What were they trying to destroy?**
- **Why now?**
- **What financial records or foreign aid transactions were involved?**

ActBlue Connection

Benny's report suggests that **USAID** has been used as a slush fund for **ActBlue**, the Democratic fundraising platform.

Instead of funding humanitarian efforts, money allegedly went to left-wing nonprofits, which then funneled donations back into Democrat campaigns.

This follows years of investigative reporting that has linked small-dollar donations under elderly donors' names to millions of dollars being routed through ActBlue without their knowledge.

Elon Musk himself has called out ActBlue, stating that the platform has engaged in massive fraud. Additionally, reports indicate that seven ActBlue board members suddenly resigned, and their

legal team warned staff about non-disclosure agreements before one lawyer was reportedly locked out of their system.

Furthermore, ActBlue raised an unprecedented $2 billion for Kamala Harris in just 100 days, a claim that has raised serious concerns about potential money laundering and donation fraud.

The Department of Education Closure: A Sign of What's to Come?

In a shocking move, the **Department of Education instructed staff to vacate the building by 6 PM**, with an official **closure for security reasons** through Wednesday.

The **reason remains unspecified**, but it has fueled speculation that the Trump administration may be **on the verge of eliminating the Department of Education altogether**.

Why Would Trump Shut Down the DOE?

- **Education belongs at the state level.** The **Founding Fathers never created a federal Department of Education**—it was established in 1979 under Jimmy Carter.
- **Massive financial waste.** DOGE's audit uncovered:
  - **$4.6 million** wasted on **coordinating Zoom and in-person meetings**.
  - **$3 million** spent on a **report proving that prior reports were ignored**.
  - **$1.4 million** spent on **physically observing clerical work**.
- **Workforce reductions are already happening.** Employees were given the option of a **severance package** or face **termination**.

Linda McMahon, the new Secretary of Education, has stated outright that **her goal is to significantly reduce the DOE's size**.

From a biblical perspective, **education should be directed by parents and local communities** rather than a centralized government bureaucracy. **Deuteronomy 6:6-7** commands parents to be the primary educators of their children: *"These words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children."*

By returning education to the states, **we align with both the Constitution and biblical principles**.

Government Waste Under the Microscope

Trump's administration has long advocated for **cutting unnecessary government spending**, and these developments show that **action is being taken**:

- **DOGE has identified over $1 trillion in potential cuts**.
- **USAID's foreign aid corruption is under review**.
- **Federal bureaucracy is being streamlined** to ensure **more accountability and less fraud**.

Biblical and Constitutional Perspective: The Case for Limited Government

From a biblical standpoint, government waste is a violation of stewardship. Luke 16:10 states, *"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much."* A government that squanders resources while neglecting its duty to protect the people is acting outside of God's ordained role for leadership.

The Constitution also supports these efforts. Article I, Section 8 defines limited federal powers, and nowhere does it mandate a federal Department of Education. The 10th Amendment further clarifies that powers not delegated to the federal government belong to the states and the people.

As Thomas Jefferson wisely stated: *"The government closest to the people serves the people best."* The effort to eliminate bureaucratic waste and restore state authority aligns directly with both constitutional law and biblical wisdom.

What's Next?

These actions suggest a major shift toward shrinking federal control.

If USAID's document destruction proves to be evidence of criminal activity, we may see investigations and legal repercussions.

Meanwhile, the closure of the Department of Education could be a stepping stone toward its full elimination, ensuring that education policy is returned to local communities and parents.

Is this the beginning of a constitutional restoration of government?

Time will tell, but one thing is clear: Washington D.C. is in panic mode, and accountability is finally coming.

Sources for Further Reading

- **MarketWatch:** *Trump wants a $5 million 'gold card' path to citizenship to cut U.S. debt.* (**MarketWatch**)
- **The White House:** *Remarks by President Trump Before Cabinet Meeting.* (**WhiteHouse.gov**)
- **Reuters:** *Trump floats $5 million 'gold card' as a route to US citizenship.* (**Reuters**)
- **The Guardian:** *Zelenskyy insists on guarantees ahead of Trump meeting.* (**The Guardian**)
- **Associated Press:** *Trump says he will offer 'gold cards' for $5 million path to citizenship.* (**AP News**)
- This **unfolding story** demands close attention. **Is the deep state being dismantled before our eyes?** Stay tuned.

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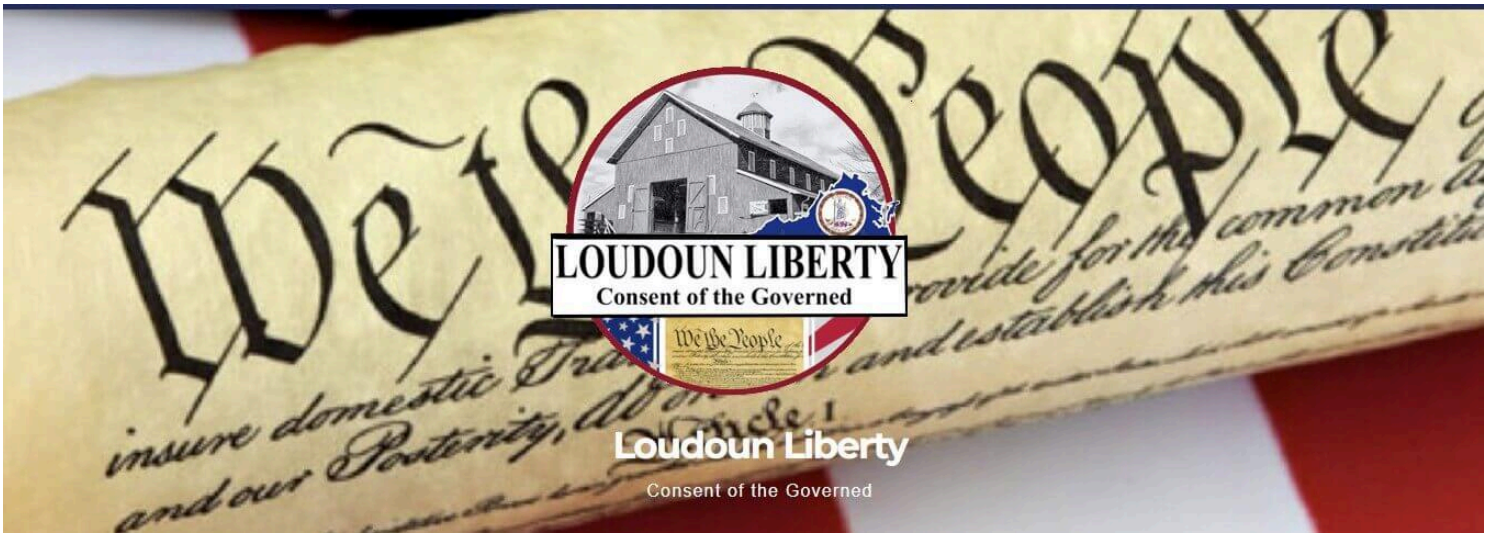
Restoring Liberty: The Constitutional Power of the Counties

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/RESTORING-LIBERTY-THE-CONSTITUTIONAL-POWER-OF-THE-COUNTIES/
MARCH 11, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION



The **United States Constitution** is the cornerstone of our republican form of government, which limits the general government's roles, responsibilities, powers, property, and jurisdiction to those enumerated in Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution. Of the 2,000+ Departments and Agencies within the federal government, it's estimated that less than 50 are Constitutional.

The Constitution was also designed to protect **individual liberties**, and place the primary government authority at the county level. The Constitution was structured to **empower the counties to hold the state legislators accountable** to their oath to support and defend the Constitution. The **counties are the foundation of all government** —where a sovereign people can directly influence their representatives. These constitutional safeguards have been systematically eroded over the past century. If we are to restore our Constitutional Republic, we must begin by reclaiming the role of local government in defending the people's rights.

Watch Loudoun Liberty's video, "Restoring Liberty: A Call to Action," to learn how we can restore our Republic through local engagement:

Restoring Liberty_ A Call to Action
https://youtube.com/watch?v=ZA0F3uJPWDM

The Constitutional Role of Counties-A Closer Look

What is paramount today, if we are going to restore our hybrid Constitutional Republic, is restoring the people's power over their direct government by restoring the architectural and operational structure of our self-government. In other words, we must restore the government where all political energy originates with the people and their direct government, our county government.

Our Declaration of Independence succinctly states that our government is instituted by "We the People".

> "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.— That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government."

County government is one of America's most overlooked yet powerful components. The Founders understood that a strong local government is the foundation of a free people. The Tenth Amendment reinforces this by affirming that powers not delegated to the federal government are reserved for the states or the people. Counties have the constitutional authority to hold state and federal governments accountable for utilizing only those limited and enumerated powers.

In recent years, we have witnessed a relentless expansion of federal overreach, resulting in higher taxes, overregulation, and a growing disconnect between the people's will and their government's actions. Bureaucratic agencies, many of which operate with minimal oversight, have imposed policies that impact every aspect of our lives, including:

- Increased taxation and bureaucratic red tape on homes, businesses, land, and schools
- Election integrity concerns, including unaudited voting machines and unmonitored drop boxes
- Violations of medical freedom through mandates on face coverings, vaccines, and business closures
- Unchecked illegal immigration through open-border policies
- Widespread surveillance, including the Patriot Act, red-light cameras, and airport facial recognition
- Climate change regulations based on false models that lead to excessive taxation and economic restrictions

- A national debt surpassing $36 trillion, built on unconstitutional expenditures

The Power of Petition: First Amendment Protections

Clause 5 of the First Amendment affirms the people's right to petition the government to redress grievances. This right is co-equal to our other bedrock immunities, including freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly and freedom of religion. Its roots extend back to the Magna Carta and were used extensively by the Colonies to demand equal representation from the Monarchy. Citizens groups all over the country are using this constitutional authority to restore the people's power over their government.

- 17 First Amendment petitions have been prepared to be issued to county commissioners and supervisors
- These petitions demand local government reject unconstitutional federal and state overreach.
- County officials are required to uphold their oaths to support and defend the constitution.

The **Framers of the Constitution** did not intend for unelected bureaucrats to dictate the lives of American citizens. Instead, they envisioned a government that would remain directly accountable to the people at the most local level. County officials are elected by their neighbors, live within the communities they govern, and should be the first line of defense against state and federal overreach.

Reclaiming the Republic

Just as the colonies asserted their authority over British rule, today's counties must reclaim their constitutional role in restraining the excesses of centralized power. This movement is growing in states across the country, including:

1. Wyoming
2. New York
3. Washington

History has shown us that when the people are silent, tyranny flourishes. But when the people engage, the government must respond. The Constitution provides the framework, and it is our duty to use it.

"Responsibility is a tremendous engine in a free government" Thomas Jefferson.

A Call to Action

We stand at a crossroads. Will we allow federal overreach to continue unchallenged, or will we rise to restore liberty at the level where the government is closest to the people? The Founders called us to pray, learn, and act for the sake of our Republic and future generations.

To get involved, learn more, and take action in your community, visit Loudoun Liberty:

- **Website**: **https://loudoun-liberty.org**
- **Follow on X**: **@LLibertyorg**
- **Join on Telegram**: **Loudoun Liberty**

Also, check out **Reclaiming the Republic** for more resources:

- **Website**: **http://www.reclaimingtherepublic.org/**

The price of freedom is eternal vigilance. Let us stand together to defend the Constitution and restore the Republic—one county at a time.

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Restoring Constitutional Governance: President Trump's Bold Move Against Bureaucratic Overreach

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/RESTORING-CONSTITUTIONAL-GOVERNANCE-PRESIDENT-TRUMPS-BOLD-MOVE-AGAINST-BUREAUCRATIC-OVERREACH/
FEBRUARY 21, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW, CONSTITUTION, US CONSTITUTION

President Donald J. Trump has taken decisive action to rein in the unchecked power of federal agencies through his executive order to ensure lawful governance and deregulation. This directive aims to dismantle unconstitutional regulations, eliminate bureaucratic inefficiency, and restore the constitutional separation of powers. For too long, unelected officials have imposed costly and burdensome regulations that exceed their legal authority. This executive order seeks to reverse that trend and reestablish a government accountable to the people.

Why This Executive Order Matters

For decades, federal agencies have expanded their influence beyond constitutional limits. Through excessive rulemaking, regulatory bodies have effectively legislated without congressional approval, creating policies that impact businesses, energy production, infrastructure, and individual liberties. This administrative overreach has led to increased costs, stifled innovation, and hindered economic growth.

The Constitution grants the legislative power to Congress and the executive power to the President. However, numerous regulations have been enacted through unlawful delegations of legislative authority, bypassing the constitutional framework. President Trump's '**IMPLEMENTING THE PRESIDENT'S "DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY" DEREGULATORY (D.O.G.E) INITIATIVE EXECUTIVE ORDER**' addresses this problem by directing agencies to review all existing regulations and eliminate those that lack a clear statutory basis.

Key Directives of the Executive Order

The order mandates that federal agencies:

- Identify and rescind unconstitutional regulations.
- Halt enforcement of rules that extend beyond statutory authority.
- Prioritize deregulation of policies that hinder economic growth, technological innovation, or small businesses.
- Greater accountability and oversight are required before issuing new regulations.
- Align all future regulations with clear legislative intent and economic justification.

A Biblical and Constitutional Perspective

The principles behind this order align with both constitutional originalism and biblical values. The Bible warns against oppressive rulers and excessive government control, as seen in 1 Samuel 8, where Israel's demand for a king led to increased taxation and loss of freedoms. The Founding Fathers, influenced by Judeo-Christian principles, designed a system that limited government power and protected individual rights.

From a constitutional standpoint, this executive order upholds the principle of separation of powers. The regulatory state has long functioned as an unelected fourth branch of government. Still, Trump's directive ensures that all executive power remains accountable to the President, as required by Article II of the Constitution.

The Impact on Businesses and the Economy

The order reduces costs for small businesses, encourages entrepreneurship, and fosters economic growth by cutting unnecessary regulations. Excessive federal mandates have disproportionately

burdened energy, agriculture, and technology industries. By eliminating regulatory red tape, businesses can operate more efficiently, create jobs, and drive economic prosperity.

Additionally, this move will reduce inflation by lowering compliance costs and reducing bureaucratic inefficiencies. A streamlined regulatory environment will benefit consumers and business owners, ensuring that government policies serve the national interest rather than special interest groups.

Conclusion

President Trump's 'IMPLEMENTING THE PRESIDENT'S "DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY" DEREGULATORY (D.O.G.E) INITIATIVE EXECUTIVE ORDER' is a significant step toward restoring constitutional governance. By curbing bureaucratic overreach, it ensures that regulations align with the law, uphold economic freedom, and remain accountable to elected leadership. As Americans seek a government that serves rather than controls, this action marks a crucial shift toward reaffirming the nation's founding principles.

Supporting leaders prioritizing constitutional governance is essential for maintaining individual freedoms and a prosperous economy. The push for deregulation is not just a political stance but a necessary correction to restore balance and fairness in government. As this order takes effect, its success will depend on continued vigilance and public support for policies that uphold America's founding ideals.

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Trump's Executive Orders on Energy: A Biblical and Constitutional Perspective

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/TRUMPS-EXECUTIVE-ORDERS-ON-ENERGY-A-BIBLICAL-AND-CONSTITUTIONAL-PERSPECTIVE/
FEBRUARY 19, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW, CONSTITUTION, US CONSTITUTION

The world runs on energy. It fuels economies, powers homes, and undergirds national security. From the moment God spoke the world into existence—***"Let there be light"*** (Genesis 1:3)—energy has been woven into the very fabric of **creation**. Yet, in modern governance, energy policy is often shaped not by **divine providence** but by political maneuvering, regulatory overreach, and global power struggles.

On February 14, 2025, President Donald J. Trump **signed an executive order establishing the National Energy Dominance Council** (NEDC). This move aims to restore energy independence, lower costs, and counteract what his administration calls a "war on American energy" initiated under the Biden administration.

FULL: President Trump signs more executive orders on education, energy | LiveNOW from FOX

https://youtube.com/watch?v=yoYpeufpEWE

But beyond the headlines, what does this policy mean from a **biblical worldview** and a constitutional perspective? Let's break it down.

1. Energy: A God-Given Provision

Long before governments debated fossil fuels and renewable energy, God created a world rich in resources. The Bible repeatedly affirms that the earth's resources were designed for human flourishing, with mankind entrusted as stewards.

- Genesis 1:28 – "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it."
- Psalm 24:1 – "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof."

This divine provision extends to the vast oil reserves, natural gas fields, and coal deposits beneath our feet. America's energy wealth is not an accident—it's part of God's sovereign blessing. Yet, for years, energy policies have artificially restricted access to these resources, leading to higher prices, reliance on foreign adversaries, and economic stagnation.

Trump's **Executive Action**: Unlocking America's Resources

- Reverses Biden-era restrictions on **625 million acres of federal land and offshore drilling**.
- Restores oil and gas leasing in Alaska (**ANWR**), Texas, and the Gulf of Mexico.
- Expedites the **approval of LNG export projects**, providing natural gas to U.S. allies.
- Rolls back overregulation on domestic energy production and industrial efficiency standards.

Biblical Implication: Energy as Stewardship, Not Exploitation

- Proverbs 12:11 – "Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread."
- Matthew 25:21 (**Parable of the Talents**) – Faithful stewardship leads to blessing.

God commands stewardship, not wastefulness. America has been given abundant resources, yet previous policies treated them as liabilities instead of blessings. The goal is responsible development—harnessing energy for prosperity while respecting environmental responsibility.

2. Constitutional Analysis: Federal Authority vs. State Rights (**link**)

The U.S. Constitution gives the federal government broad power over energy through federal land policies, commerce regulations, and national security interests. However, executive orders often invite legal battles over state jurisdiction and environmental policies.

Legal Justifications for Trump's Actions

- **The Property Clause (Article IV, Section 3)** – Grants federal control over public lands and offshore resources, making the order legally sound.
- **The Commerce Clause (Article I, Section 8)** – Justifies interstate energy infrastructure like LNG exports and pipelines.
- **Executive Authority in National Emergencies** (Article II) – Trump argues that energy shortages and dependence on foreign oil constitute a national emergency, giving him grounds to override regulatory restrictions.

Challenges and Potential Legal Pushback

- State vs. Federal Disputes – New York and other states previously blocked pipeline projects, arguing for local control over energy infrastructure. Expect lawsuits.
- Environmental Litigation – Green energy advocates will challenge the rollback of Biden-era restrictions, claiming it violates federal environmental statutes.

From an originalist constitutional perspective, excessive regulation by unelected bureaucrats (EPA, DOE) infringes on the separation of powers, since major policy decisions should come from Congress, not executive orders.

3. Energy and National Security: A Biblical Perspective on Self-Sufficiency

America's reliance on foreign adversaries for energy is more than just bad policy—it's a dangerous compromise.

- Proverbs 22:7 warns, "The borrower is the slave of the lender."
- Deuteronomy 28:12-13 speaks of a nation blessed by God lending to others, not borrowing from them.

Trump's Energy Security Agenda

- Restores energy independence, reducing reliance on hostile foreign producers.
- Supports U.S. allies (like Japan and India) through expanded natural gas exports.
- Boosts domestic job creation, especially in energy-rich states like Texas, Louisiana, and North Dakota.

By reclaiming control over energy production, the U.S. strengthens national security, lowers consumer prices, and prevents adversaries from leveraging energy as a geopolitical weapon.

4. Economic and Domestic Impact: The Golden Age of American Energy?

Immediate Economic Benefits

- Lower Gas Prices – Increased oil production drives down fuel costs.
- Reduced Inflation – Energy is a cost multiplier across industries (transportation, food, manufacturing).
- Job Growth – The energy sector creates millions of high-paying jobs, revitalizing U.S. industry.

Long-Term Strategy: The Future of Energy

- Expanding nuclear and coal – Clean coal and nuclear power ensure stable electricity grids.
- AI and Energy Demands – Artificial intelligence and advanced manufacturing require doubling electricity output—which fossil fuels can help sustain.
- Pipeline Expansion – Trump's approval of the New York-New England energy pipeline will slash electricity costs by 50-60% in the region.

America's return to energy dominance could mark a new golden era of economic prosperity—but only if these policies remain in place.

Final Reflections: A Biblical Call for Leadership

America stands at a crossroads. Energy policy is more than just politics—it's about stewardship, sovereignty, and economic strength.

- God has blessed this nation with abundant resources. Will we use them wisely?
- Will America return to self-sufficiency, or remain dependent on adversaries?
- Will government overreach continue to stifle prosperity, or will freedom prevail?

Proverbs 29:2 reminds us:
"When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when the wicked rule, the people groan."

The battle over energy is ultimately a battle over who will control the future—an overreaching bureaucracy, or a free and self-reliant America.

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Restoring Constitutional Rule: President Trump's Bold Move to Rein in the Bureaucratic State

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/RESTORING-CONSTITUTIONAL-RULE-PRESIDENT-TRUMPS-BOLD-MOVE-TO-REIN-IN-THE-BUREAUCRATIC-STATE/
FEBRUARY 19, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW, CONSTITUTION, US CONSTITUTION

For too long, unelected regulators have wielded unchecked power over the American people. That era may be coming to an end.

Executive Oversight Restored as the People's Voice Returns to Washington

The Battle for **Constitutional** Governance

The Founders envisioned a government accountable to the people, yet decades of bureaucratic expansion have created a shadow government of independent agencies operating beyond presidential authority. These agencies impose regulations, spend tax dollars, and set national priorities without the oversight of elected officials.

President Donald J. Trump, in a decisive move to restore constitutional order, signed an executive order mandating that all executive agencies, including so-called independent agencies, be subject to White House supervision. This action reaffirms **Article II of the U.S. Constitution**,

which vests executive power solely in the President, ensuring accountability to the American people.

See Executive Actions and Fact Sheets released Tuesday, February 18th:

- **Radical Transparency About Wasteful Spending**
- **Ensuring Accountability for All Agencies**
- **Fact Sheet: President Donald J. Trump Reins in Independent Agencies to Restore a Government that Answers to the American People**
- **Fact Sheet: President Donald J. Trump Requires Transparency for the American People About Wasteful Spending**

Restoring the People's Voice in Government

A **constitutional republic** is one where the elected representatives—led by the President—govern under the people's consent. Over the years, **agencies like the FTC, FCC, and SEC** have become powerful entities that make unilateral decisions affecting Americans' lives.

Under this new order:

- **All agencies must submit regulations for White House review.**
- **The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) will oversee agency spending.**
- **Independent regulators can no longer impose rules without Presidential oversight.**

These changes ensure that power remains **with elected officials, not career bureaucrats**, shifting control back to the people.

Wasteful Spending Exposed: A Biblical Call for Stewardship

Biblical stewardship calls for **wise management of resources**, yet billions in taxpayer dollars have been misallocated. A new presidential memorandum requires transparency regarding wasteful government spending, forcing agencies to disclose:

- **Terminated programs and grants** that failed to serve national interests.
- **Canceled contracts** tied to ideological and partisan agendas.
- **Biden-era financial mismanagement**, including a $50 million grant linked to climate activism in Palestine and nearly $4.6 million in foreign LGBT initiatives.

The **Bible warns against unjust scales** (Proverbs 11:1), and reclaiming financial integrity aligns with **God's design for just governance**.

The Constitutional and Biblical Mandate for Accountability

The **separation of powers** outlined in the Constitution prevents any branch from operating without oversight. Just as God established order in governance (Romans 13:1-4), America's founders built a system where power is checked by the will of the people.

Trump's recent actions uphold this biblical and constitutional principle, ensuring that:

- **No agency operates beyond the law.**
- **Federal spending serves national—not political—interests.**
- **The President, elected by the people, remains the chief executive authority.**

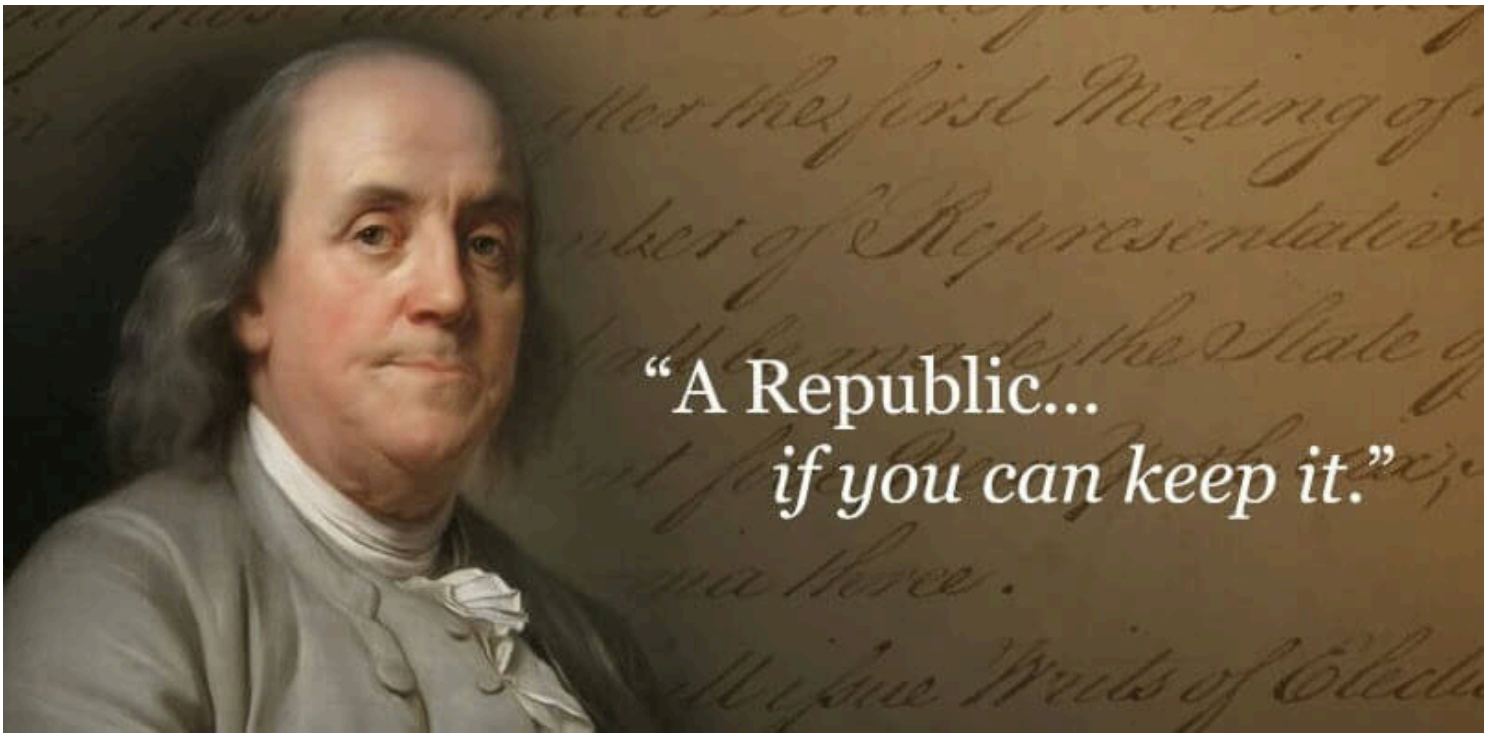
By reining in the administrative state, constitutional government is being restored—a victory not just for conservatives, but for all Americans who believe in limited government, transparency, and the rule of law.

Conclusion: A Republic, If We Can Keep It

Benjamin Franklin famously warned that America was founded as **"a Republic, if you can keep it."** The battle to maintain a government by the people and for the people is ongoing. President Trump's executive actions mark a significant step toward reclaiming the constitutional principles that built this nation.

The question remains: Will we, as a people, rise to the responsibility of holding our government accountable?

The fight for freedom, biblical stewardship, and constitutional integrity is far from over.



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The Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) Exposes and Cancels Questionable Foreign Spending

BY VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/THE-DEPARTMENT-OF-GOVERNMENT-EFFICIENCY-DOGE-EXPOSES-AND-CANCELS-QUESTIONABLE-FOREIGN-SPENDING/
FEBRUARY 16, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW, CONSTITUTION, US CONSTITUTION

February 16, 6:00 AM

A recent post from the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) on X (formerly Twitter) has sparked intense discussion. It reveals how U.S. taxpayer dollars were previously allocated to foreign initiatives—many of which raise **constitutional and biblical concerns**. The post, which has already garnered **8.9 million views** since its publication on February 15 at 2:43 PM, lists a range of expenditures that have now been canceled under DOGE's oversight.

Unconstitutional and Unbiblical Foreign Expenditures Now Cancelled

> US taxpayer dollars were going to be spent on the following items, all which have been cancelled:
> – $10M for “Mozambique voluntary medical male circumcision”
> – $9.7M for UC Berkeley to develop “a cohort of Cambodian youth with enterprise driven skills”
> – $2.3M for “strengthening…
>
> — Department of Government Efficiency (@DOGE) **February 15, 2025**

The following are examples of where U.S. tax dollars were set to be spent before DOGE intervened:

- **$10 million** for “Mozambique voluntary medical male circumcision.”
- **$9.7 million** for UC Berkeley to develop “a cohort of Cambodian youth with enterprise-driven skills.”
- **$2.3 million** for “strengthening independent voices in Cambodia.”
- **$32 million** to the Prague Civil Society Centre.
- **$40 million** for a “gender equality and women empowerment hub” (WOKE ideology).
- **$14 million** for “improving public procurement” in Serbia.
- **$486 million** to the “Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening,” including:
  - **$22 million** for “inclusive and participatory political processes” in Moldova.
  - **$21 million** for increasing voter turnout in India. (*Election interference?*)
- **$29 million** to “strengthening the political landscape in Bangladesh.”
- **$20 million** for “fiscal federalism” in Nepal.
- **$19 million** for “biodiversity conservation” in Nepal.
- **$1.5 million** for “voter confidence” in Liberia. (*Election interference?*)

- **$14 million** for "social cohesion" in Mali.
- **$2.5 million** for "inclusive democracies in Southern Africa." (*Globalist governance?*)
- **$47 million** for "improving learning outcomes in Asia." (*American taxpayers funding foreign education?*)
- **$2 million** to develop "sustainable recycling models" to "increase socio-economic cohesion among marginalized communities of Kosovo Roma, Ashkali, and Egypt."

Biblical & Constitutional Analysis

These expenditures reflect the unchecked power of the **administrative state**, which has **no constitutional authority** to allocate taxpayer funds for social and political engineering projects in foreign nations. The **U.S. Constitution** grants Congress the **power of the purse**, but unelected bureaucrats have **expanded government control** beyond what the Founders intended over time.

From a **constitutional standpoint**, James Madison warned against an overreaching federal government in **Federalist No. 45**, emphasizing that the federal government's powers should be **"few and defined."** Allocating funds to gender ideology hubs, voter participation in foreign elections, and social engineering, projects contradicts **limited government principles** and infringes upon the liberties of American taxpayers who never consented to such spending.

From a **biblical standpoint**, government is ordained by God to administer **justice and righteousness** (Romans 13:3-4), not to fund morally questionable or ideologically driven initiatives worldwide. Many of these now-canceled projects, particularly those advancing gender ideology and globalist governance, **conflict with biblical values** and reflect an attempt to undermine **God's design for nations, sovereignty, and individual responsibility** (Acts 17:26).

DOGE: A Step Toward Restoring Constitutional Government

DOGE, spearheaded by **Elon Musk** under an executive order from **President Donald Trump**, has aggressively pursued wasteful government spending, cutting inefficiencies and redirecting funds back to **U.S. priorities**. Since its inception, the agency has **eliminated thousands of government jobs**, **recovered billions in taxpayer dollars**, and exposed how unelected bureaucrats have funneled resources into **globalist, leftist, and unconstitutional programs**.

While some critics argue that foreign aid serves diplomatic and humanitarian interests, DOGE's actions reveal a disturbing pattern of **using taxpayer dollars to push ideological and political influence abroad**, including potential **election interference**.

Restoring Biblical and Constitutional Principles in Government

The revelation of these wasteful expenditures highlights the urgent need for **constitutional governance** and a return to **biblical principles in public policy**. **Government should serve its people, uphold justice, and ensure fiscal responsibility**, not engage in activism that conflicts with both **America's founding values and God's Word**.

As more Americans become aware of how their tax dollars were being misused, the demand for **greater oversight and accountability** will only grow. **DOGE's intervention is a step in the right direction**—but should government efficiency go even further in cutting unconstitutional programs?

We will continue to follow DOGE's actions and their impact on **restoring fiscal sanity and moral responsibility** in government spending.

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President Trump's Fight for Fair Trade: Biblical Justice and Constitutional Principles

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/PRESIDENT-TRUMPS-FIGHT-FOR-FAIR-TRADE-BIBLICAL-JUSTICE-AND-CONSTITUTIONAL-PRINCIPLES/
FEBRUARY 14, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW, CONSTITUTION, US CONSTITUTION

Fair and Reciprocal Trade: A Biblical and Constitutional Perspective

In a world of global commerce, trade policies shape nations' economic security. With President Donald J. Trump's recent **Fair and Reciprocal Plan**, the United States aims to correct trade imbalances and restore fairness in international trade. But beyond the economic implications, how does this plan align with **a Biblical worldview and a Constitutional perspective**? Let's examine both aspects.

A Biblical Worldview on Trade and Fairness

Justice and Fairness in Trade

The Bible strongly emphasizes just balances and honest transactions. **Proverbs 11:1** states, *"A false balance is an abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is His delight."* Trade should be fair and not one-sided. If the U.S. has been allowing other nations to benefit disproportionately from open

markets while restricting American exports, correcting this imbalance is an act of justice, not selfishness.

God's expectation of economic justice is evident throughout Scripture. **Leviticus 19:36** instructs, *"You shall have just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt."* Trade should be conducted with fairness and reciprocity, ensuring that one nation does not exploit another for gain.

National Stewardship and Responsibility

Scripture teaches that nations are responsible for governing wisely and protecting their interests. **Romans 13:1-7** affirms that government exists to uphold justice and protect its people. The U.S. running a trade deficit every year since 1975, accumulating over $1 trillion in 2024 alone, demonstrates a failure in economic stewardship. Deuteronomy 28 warns against the consequences of excessive dependence on foreign nations. A nation that always imports more than it exports eventually loses control over its economy.

Moreover, economic dependence can be a form of enslavement. **Proverbs 22:7** warns, *"The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender."* If America allows foreign nations to dictate trade policies unfairly, it risks losing its ability to govern its economic future.

Protecting American Workers and Families

God commands that we provide for our families. **1 Timothy 5:8** declares, *"If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."* This principle applies to economic policies that prioritize American workers and industries.

Unfair trade agreements have led to the decline of American manufacturing and industry, negatively impacting middle-class families. The Fair and Reciprocal Plan seeks to restore these industries, protecting workers from unfair competition and economic hardship. The U.S. must be vigilant in preventing economic policies that weaken domestic employment and create undue reliance on foreign markets.

Moral Responsibility in Global Trade

While correcting trade imbalances is necessary, America must still ensure ethical commerce. **Proverbs 16:11** reminds us that *"honest scales and balances belong to the Lord."* The U.S. should not merely retaliate but promote just and honorable trade while avoiding partnerships that encourage forced labor, exploitation, or oppression.

Modern trade policies must reflect moral responsibility regarding human rights abuses and unethical labor practices abroad. Many trading partners engage in forced labor, environmental destruction, and exploitative conditions. The U.S. has a moral duty to ensure that its trade policies do not support these injustices but promote freedom, fairness, and economic integrity.

———-

A Constitutional View of Trade Policy

Originalism and Economic Independence

The Founding Fathers envisioned an economically independent America, not one subjugated by unfair global trade. **Alexander Hamilton's 1791 Report on Manufactures** advocated for tariffs to prevent foreign nations from dominating American industry. The Constitution, in **Article I, Section 8, Clause 3**, grants Congress the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations. Trump's approach aligns with this original intent, ensuring that America is not economically subservient to other nations.

Historically, tariffs were a significant source of U.S. government revenue in the republic's early years. The founders believed in using tariffs to protect American industries while allowing fair trade with foreign partners. **The Fair and Reciprocal Plan** echoes this principle by ensuring foreign nations do not unfairly exploit U.S. markets.

Natural Law and Free Markets

Natural Law emphasizes economic freedom and fairness. Trade, when truly free and reciprocal, benefits all. However, foreign tariffs and protectionist policies distort this ideal. For example, India charged a 100% tariff on U.S. motorcycles which currently ranges from 40-50%, while the U.S. only charges 2.4% on Indian motorcycles. Such distortions undermine natural competition and voluntary exchange.

The Fair and Reciprocal Plan upholds the Founders' vision of balanced commerce by addressing these inequalities. A truly free-market economy cannot function if one side is burdened with unfair restrictions while the other enjoys unrestricted access.

Federalism and National Sovereignty

Trade is not just an economic issue but also a matter of national sovereignty. The U.S. must set its trade policies rather than being dictated by globalist organizations or foreign governments. President Trump's approach reaffirms American self-determination, preventing excessive reliance on foreign markets while ensuring that American companies are not taxed unfairly abroad.

The Constitution allows for state and federal collaboration in economic growth, but it entrusts the federal government with ensuring fair commerce among nations. The Fair and Reciprocal Plan reinforces this balance of power, allowing states to benefit from fair trade policies while upholding national economic security.

Judicial Restraint and Executive Authority

While trade policy falls under executive action, it must still be constitutionally sound and checked by Congress. The Constitution gives the legislative branch power over commerce, meaning the executive branch should not solely dictate long-term trade decisions.

President Trump's trade actions—including reciprocal tariffs and renegotiating unfair agreements—align with the principle of executive authority in international relations. Still, they must be balanced with congressional oversight to maintain proper constitutional order.

Conclusion: A Trade Policy Rooted in Justice and Constitutional Fidelity

President Trump's Fair and Reciprocal Plan is not just an economic policy but an issue of justice, stewardship, and national responsibility. From a biblical perspective, it aligns with God's principles of fairness, protecting workers, and ensuring responsible governance. From a constitutional standpoint, it reinforces the Founders' vision of economic independence, free markets, and national sovereignty.

Trade policy should always reflect biblical justice and constitutional principles, ensuring fair, ethical, and self-sustaining commerce. By restoring reciprocity, national independence, and economic justice, the U.S. moves toward a more prosperous and just trade system, both morally and constitutionally sound.

As Christians and as Americans committed to the **original intent of the Constitution**, supporting trade policies that correct injustice while maintaining ethical integrity is not just a political stance—it is a moral and constitutional duty.

References: White House

- **President Trump Demands Fair, Reciprocal Trade** February 13, 2025
- **Fact Sheet: President Donald J. Trump Announces "Fair and Reciprocal Plan" on Trade** February 13, 2025
- **Reciprocal Trade and Tariffs** February 13, 2025

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The Left's Addiction to Drama: A Biblical and Constitutional Perspective

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/THE-LEFTS-ADDICTION-TO-DRAMA-A-BIBLICAL-AND-CONSTITUTIONAL-PERSPECTIVE/
FEBRUARY 13, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW, CONSTITUTION, US CONSTITUTION

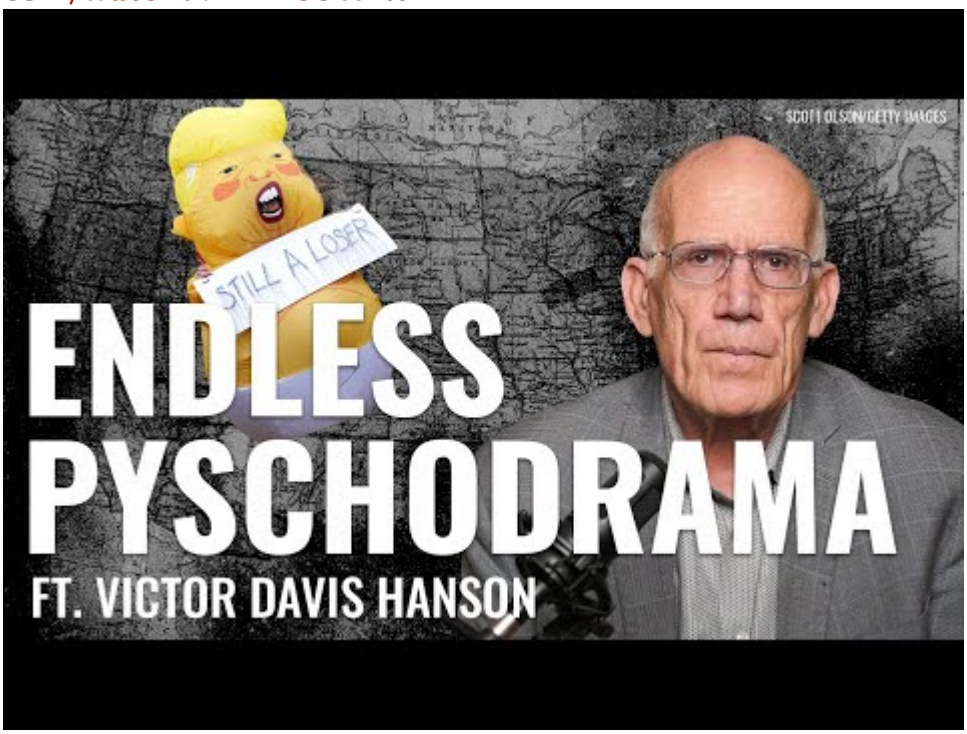
Victor Davis Hanson eloquently argues in his latest discussion on *The Daily Signal that the left is gripped by a relentless cycle of political drama and distraction (VIDEO BELOW)*.

In his analysis, he highlights the obsessive efforts to undermine former President Donald Trump through fabricated scandals, media manipulation, and outright deception—all while avoiding substantive debates on real policy issues affecting Americans.

This phenomenon is a political struggle and reflects a more profound moral and spiritual crisis. The Apostle Paul warned us about a time when people would "turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths" (2 Timothy 4:4). Hanson's analysis serves as a modern illustration of this biblical principle, showing how truth is often sacrificed on the altar of ideology.

Watch the full discussion below from *The Daily Signal*

Victor Davis Hanson: The Left's Addiction to Drama
https://youtube.com/watch?v=BE453WNtIAY



The Left's Strategy: Distraction and Deception

Hanson outlines how the left has spent nearly a decade fixated on Russian collusion, laptop disinformation, criminal indictments, and other false narratives. Rather than engaging in meaningful discussions on the **border crisis, economic policy, and national security**, they resort to melodrama.

The attacks on individuals such as Elon Musk and Pete Hegseth expose the left's prioritization of personal destruction over reasoned debate. Instead of evaluating defense policies or assessing America's nuclear deterrence capabilities, media outlets and political operatives fabricate distractions. Hanson rightly calls this a replacement for "substantive criticism or substantive discussion."

This tactic aligns with how truth is often suppressed by those who oppose God's order. Romans 1:18 states that "the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth." We see this suppression daily, as real issues—such as the fentanyl crisis, illegal immigration, and rising crime—are ignored in favor of media-driven outrage.

The U.S. Constitution and the Dangers of Political Theater

From a constitutional perspective, these distractions directly threaten the republic. The Founding Fathers emphasized **free speech, limited government, and individual liberty**—principles undermined when dissent is silenced and political opposition is criminalized.

James Madison warned of factions seeking to divide and manipulate the people for their own gain. **Federalist No. 10** describes the dangers of partisanship overriding the general welfare of the nation. Today's leftist elite operates within this warning, elevating hysteria over reasoned discourse and punishing dissenting voices.

This is why we must remain vigilant in protecting **constitutional freedoms**, particularly the First Amendment. Free speech and open debate are essential to a thriving democracy. When the left shuts down discussion through smears and cancel culture, it is not just a political maneuver—it is an attack on the fundamental rights of all Americans.

The Left's Moral Bankruptcy and the Need for Biblical Truth

Hanson describes the left as an **addict**, trapped in a cycle of deception they cannot break. Their pursuit of control and power blinds them to reality. Jesus warned about this type of blindness in Matthew 15:14, saying, "Leave them; they are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit."

This addiction to drama is more than just a political failure—it is evidence of a deeper spiritual condition. Without truth, the left remains trapped in their own contradictions, failing to see how their obsession with Trump and political theatrics alienates ordinary Americans.

A Call to Action: Engage with Truth and Reason

Victor Davis Hanson concludes his discussion with an important call to action: **seek out reliable sources of information and engage in substantive debate.** He encourages listeners to visit ***The Daily Signal*** and his personal website, **victorhanson.com**, where he provides free, in-depth analysis of current events.

We echo this call to action: as Christians and constitutional conservatives, we must remain informed, grounded in **biblical truth**, and steadfast in defending the **principles of liberty and justice**.

Let us not be swayed by distractions but instead focus on the **real battles** ahead—preserving truth, upholding justice, and defending our God-given rights.

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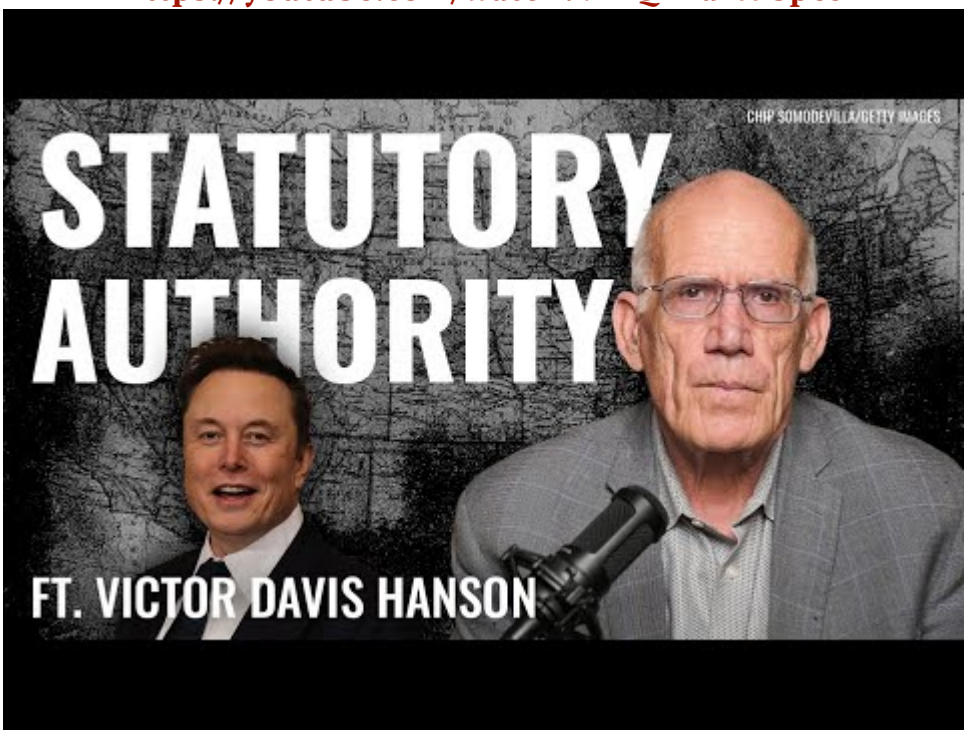
The Constitutional Case for Government Efficiency: Why DOGE Is 100% Legal and Necessary

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/THE-CONSTITUTIONAL-CASE-FOR-GOVERNMENT-EFFICIENCY-WHY-DOGE-IS-100-LEGAL-AND-NECESSARY/
FEBRUARY 11, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW, CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW, CONSTITUTION, US CONSTITUTION

The creation of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) under an executive order by President Donald Trump has ignited a firestorm of debate. Critics claim it's an abuse of power, while supporters hail it as a necessary step toward restoring accountability in an overgrown federal bureaucracy. But as **Victor Davis Hanson** rightly argues, not only is DOGE **constitutionally sound**, it also aligns with **historical precedent** and **principles of responsible governance** recognized by both **secular constitutionalists and biblical stewardship advocates**.

YouTube video player

https://youtube.com/watch?v=7Q2na-WGpcc



The Constitution and Government Efficiency: A Case for All Americans

Whether one approaches this issue from a **Christian worldview** or from a **constitutional, secular perspective**, the argument for government efficiency remains the same.

- **For the Christian Citizen:** The Bible teaches **stewardship and accountability** in governance. **Joseph in Egypt (Genesis 41)** is a prime example of an administrator appointed to eliminate waste and maximize efficiency, ensuring that resources were properly managed. **Proverbs 21:5** reminds us, *"The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty."*
- **For the Constitutional American:** The **U.S. Constitution (Article II, Section 1)** grants **executive power** to the President, and **Article II, Section 3** requires the President to **"take care that the laws be faithfully executed."** The creation of temporary executive agencies such as DOGE falls within this **legal and historical precedent**, just as past presidents have done.

DOGE's mission is simple: **identify fraud, eliminate inefficiency, and restore fiscal responsibility**—principles that align with both **constitutional governance and biblical values**.

Executive Authority: What History Tells Us

Hanson dismantles the argument that DOGE is an overreach of executive power. Consider these historical facts:

- **Executive agencies have been created before through executive orders**:
  - JFK created USAID in 1961 without congressional approval.
  - FDR and Woodrow Wilson had advisers controlling wartime production without Senate confirmation.
  - The **National Security Advisor** today is not confirmed by Congress, yet wields significant power.
- **Executive Orders Are a Longstanding Precedent**:
  - Roosevelt and Truman issued record numbers of executive orders.
  - Biden himself redirected billions in **approved** border wall funds without congressional oversight.
  - Yet, Trump's creation of DOGE is suddenly "illegal"? **The double standard is obvious.**

"Unequal weights and unequal measures are both alike an abomination to the Lord." — **Proverbs 20:10**

Government cannot operate by one set of rules for some and another set for others. **If executive authority is valid for progressive agendas, it must also be valid for conservative reforms.**

Exposing the Hypocrisy of the Administrative State

The Left's primary argument against DOGE is that **Trump is refusing to spend funds approved by Congress**. Yet, this same tactic has been used repeatedly by Democrats:

- **Joe Biden blocked funds meant for the border wall** (money allocated by Congress) under the pretext of "environmental reviews."
- **Barack Obama reallocated funds through executive action** for programs that Congress never approved.
- **State agencies frequently withhold or redirect funds** based on bureaucratic preferences, not constitutional directives.

"Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?" — **Matthew 7:3**

DOGE simply reverses these abuses, ensuring taxpayer dollars aren't wasted on inefficiency and corruption. **Why does the Left oppose eliminating waste? Because an inefficient government benefits those in power.**

Does the Constitution Allow DOGE?

Yes, the **Constitution allows DOGE** under the **executive power** granted to the President, and here's why:

1. **The President's Authority to Create Executive Agencies**

- The **Constitution (Article II, Section 1)** vests **executive power** in the President.
- Under **Article II, Section 3**, the President is required to **"take care that the laws be faithfully executed."**
- The President has the authority to **reorganize executive functions** under **executive orders**, which have long been upheld as legitimate unless they conflict with existing statutes.

DOGE, as an **advisory and efficiency-based agency**, falls within this scope. Unlike a **new department requiring congressional approval**, DOGE is **temporary** and **advisory**, meaning it does not create new laws or assume unconstitutional powers.

2. **Historical Precedent for Executive Orders Creating Agencies**

Many **executive agencies** were created by **executive order**, including:

- **USAID (JFK, 1961)**
- **EPA (Nixon, 1970)**
- **National Security Council (Truman, 1947)**

Since **Congress has the power to fund or defund** agencies, and no law prohibits DOGE's formation, it remains **constitutionally valid**.

3. **No Violation of the Separation of Powers**

- DOGE does not **legislate** or **override Congress**.
- Congress retains **the power of the purse**, meaning they can **approve or withhold funding**.
- Like the **National Security Advisor**, DOGE's leadership is not required to be Senate-confirmed because it is **not a Cabinet-level position**.

4. **The Argument Against DOGE & Why It Fails**

Critics claim that since **Congress funds agencies, the President cannot defund them unilaterally.**
However:

- **Presidents have historically withheld funds** (Biden did this with border wall funding).
- **If Congress funds an agency, it does not force the President to use all funds immediately.**
- **The Impoundment Control Act (1974)** requires congressional approval for withholding funds **permanently**, but DOGE is not violating this—it's simply **redirecting efficiency efforts.**

Closing Thoughts: Time for Constitutional and Biblical Reform

DOGE's mission aligns with both **the Constitution and principles of responsible governance**:

- **Eliminating waste and fraud** is good stewardship.
- **Executive orders creating agencies have historical precedent.**
- **Imposing accountability in government is a moral and constitutional duty.**
- **Exposing hypocrisy in the administrative state is crucial.**
- **Leaders who take the heat for doing the right thing should be supported.**

Victor Davis Hanson's **brilliant analysis** provides both constitutional and biblical backing to **defend DOGE** against false accusations. More importantly, it gives Americans—whether secular constitutionalists or Bible-believing citizens—a clear **moral and legal argument** for supporting efficiency in government.

It's time for **constitutional reform, fiscal accountability, and leadership that prioritizes efficiency over bureaucracy**. That's why DOGE isn't just legal—it's essential.

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Trump's Executive Order to Dismantle the Department of Education: A Turning Point for State Sovereignty?

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/TRUMPS-EXECUTIVE-ORDER-TO-DISMANTLE-THE-DEPARTMENT-OF-EDUCATION-A-TURNING-POINT-FOR-STATE-SOVEREIGNTY/
FEBRUARY 9, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, TENTH AMENDMENT, US CONSTITUTION

State Sovereignty vs. Federal Overreach: Who Holds the Power?

Introduction

President Donald Trump is reportedly preparing to sign an executive order to **dismantle the Department of Education**, a move that could fundamentally reshape the balance of power in American education. This bold action aims to return control to the states, reinforcing the **Tenth Amendment** and limiting federal overreach.

The balance between state sovereignty and federal authority has been a defining debate in American history. With increasing federal mandates, executive orders, and controversial Supreme Court rulings, the question remains: Who truly holds the power? The U.S. Constitution provides a clear framework for federalism, yet modern policies often challenge its original intent. This article

explores the Tenth Amendment, recent legal battles, and the ongoing struggle between states and Washington, D.C., particularly in the education system

The Constitutional Foundation of Federalism

The Tenth Amendment states:

> "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

This provision establishes the foundation for state sovereignty by ensuring that all powers not explicitly granted to the federal government remain within the states' jurisdiction. The Founding Fathers designed this system to prevent a centralized authority from becoming too powerful, mirroring their experiences under British rule.

Federal Overreach in Education: The Department of Education

One of the most striking examples of federal overreach is the Department of Education (**DOE**). Established in 1979, the DOE has increasingly centralized education policy, dictating curricula, funding, and regulations that override state autonomy. President **Donald Trump has proposed dismantling the DOE**, citing the need to return education control to states and parents.

- The Tenth Amendment supports state-led education policies, ensuring local accountability.
- The **Chevron deference ruling overturned** in 2024 weakens federal agency power, making challenging the DOE's authority easier.
- The **Heritage Foundation** argues that federal oversight fosters indoctrination, replacing critical thinking with ideologically driven mandates.

The Role of the Supreme Court

The Supreme Court plays a crucial role in determining the limits of federal power. Recent rulings have signaled a **shift toward state sovereignty**, including:

- *West Virginia v. EPA (2022)* – The Court **ruled** that the Environmental Protection Agency overstepped its authority, affirming that Congress—not unelected agencies—creates laws.

- *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization (2022)* – The Court **returned abortion regulation to the states**, rejecting federal overreach on the matter.

- *Overturning of Chevron Deference (2024)* – **This decision strips federal agencies**, including the Department of Education, of broad interpretive powers, limiting bureaucratic overreach.

Education as the Battleground: Government-Controlled Curriculum and Indoctrination

Government-controlled curriculum under the Department of Education is more than just oversight—it has become a tool for indoctrination. Federal policies dictate what is taught in schools nationwide, often prioritizing ideological narratives over critical thinking and historical accuracy. This results in students being trained to accept predefined perspectives rather than engage in open inquiry and reasoned debate. A major concern with federal education control is **indoctrination**, as detailed in a **Heritage Foundation report**:

- Liberal education fosters independent thought, whereas indoctrination implants dogmatic ideas.

- Public schools increasingly enforce ideological instruction on race, gender, and identity politics, suppressing open debate.

- John Adams and Thomas Jefferson **advocated for education that prepared citizens for self-government**, not subservience to federal mandates.

- Alexis de Tocqueville **warned** that majoritarian pressure in democracies could create social conformity, suppressing critical thought.

Why This Matters Today

Unchecked federal power undermines **individual liberties and state autonomy.** When states retain control over laws directly affecting their citizens, governance is more accountable and closer to the people. The Founders' vision emphasized local control because state governments better understand their populations' needs than Washington bureaucrats.

Conclusion

As federal overreach continues to expand, states must reassert their constitutional rights. The Tenth Amendment remains a safeguard against an all-powerful federal government. The ongoing

legal battles and political debates underscore the need for vigilance in protecting state sovereignty, particularly in education.

Call to Action

Americans must stay informed and support state leaders who uphold constitutional principles. Contact your local representatives, engage in policy discussions, and defend the original intent of the U.S. Constitution.

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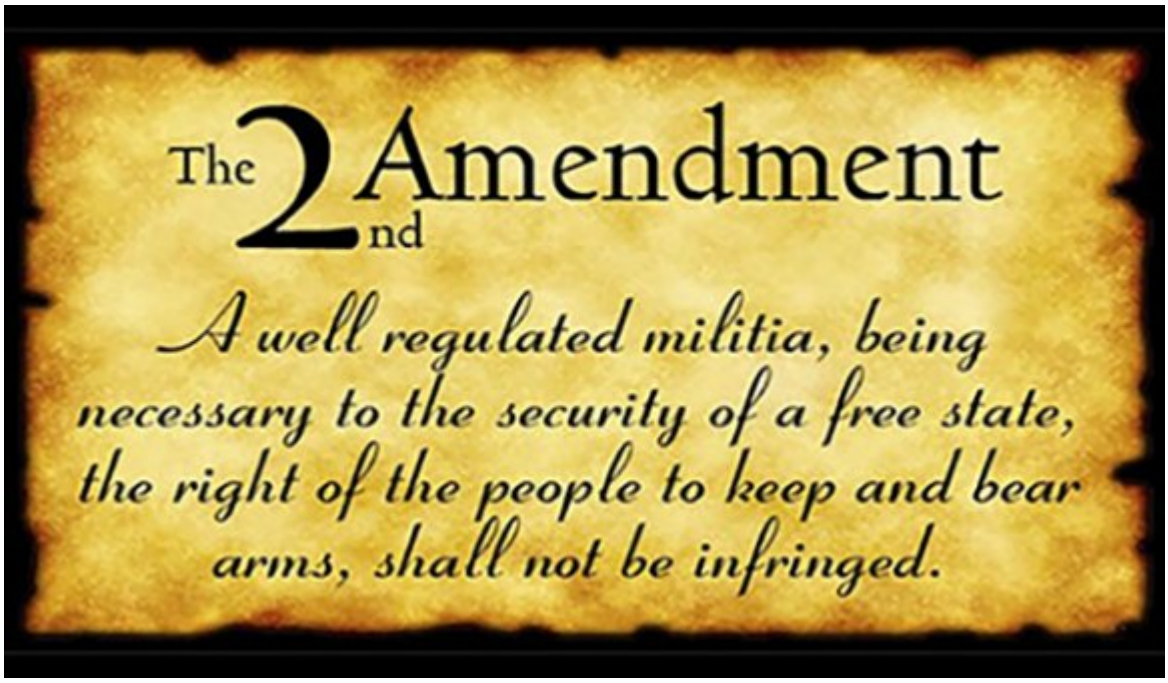
TRUMP STRIKES BACK: SECOND AMENDMENT RESTORED!

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/TRUMP-STRIKES-BACK-SECOND-AMENDMENT-RESTORED/
FEBRUARY 7, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, US CONSTITUTION



New Executive Order Targets Biden-Era Gun Restrictions, Pledges Full Protection of Gun Rights

See Full Content of EO HERE

On February 7, 2025, President Trump issued an executive order titled "Protecting Second Amendment Rights." This order underscores the Second Amendment as a fundamental safeguard of security and liberty, emphasizing its role in allowing Americans to protect themselves, their families, and their freedoms.

Key directives of the executive order include:

1. **Comprehensive Review by the Attorney General:** Within 30 days, the Attorney General is tasked with examining all executive actions, regulations, guidance, plans, international agreements, and other agency actions to identify any ongoing infringements on Second Amendment rights.

2. **Specific Areas of Focus:** The review will cover:

- Presidential and agency actions from January 2021 through January 2025 that, while promoting safety, may have impinged on the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens.
- Rules promulgated by the Department of Justice, including those by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, during the same period, pertaining to firearms and Federal firearms licensees.
- Agencies' plans and actions regarding the "enhanced regulatory enforcement policy" related to firearms and Federal firearms licensees.
- Reports and related documents issued by the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention.
- The positions taken by the United States in ongoing and potential litigation affecting Americans' ability to exercise their Second Amendment rights.
- Agencies' classifications of firearms and ammunition.
- The processing of applications to make, manufacture, transfer, or export firearms.

3. **Development and Implementation of a Plan of Action:** Following the review, the Attorney General will collaborate with the Domestic Policy Advisor to finalize and implement a plan to protect Second Amendment rights.

This executive order represents a significant shift in federal policy concerning gun rights, aiming to reassess and potentially reverse actions from the previous administration that may have been perceived as restrictive. It reflects the administration's commitment to upholding the Second Amendment and ensuring that federal actions do not infringe upon the rights of law-abiding citizens.

This move comes in the context of ongoing national debates about gun control and Second Amendment rights. Notably, the Supreme Court's decision in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen* two and a half years ago significantly changed gun laws in the United States, establishing a new standard wherein governmental regulations must align with historical gun laws.

vox.com
Additionally, in September 2024, President Biden signed an executive order targeting new gun technologies, aiming to restrict technologies that make guns easier to use and obtain, and addressing the trauma caused by active shooter drills in schools.

apnews.com
The current executive order seeks to reassess such actions to ensure they do not infringe upon Second Amendment rights.

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Chicken Thieves, the Constitution, and Trump's Gender Transition Ban for Minors

BY BOB MARSHALL
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/CHICKEN-THIEVES-THE-CONSTITUTION-AND-TRUMPS-GENDER-TRANSITION-BAN-FOR-MINORS/
FEBRUARY 7, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: BIBLICAL SEXUALITY, CONSTITUTION, US CONSTITUTION

The 1942 Supreme Court decision **Skinner v. Oklahoma ex rel. Williamson** invalidating a 1935 Oklahoma mandatory criminal sterilization statute successfully challenged by a chicken thief may give **President Donald Trump** unexpected constitutional support for his recent **executive order** to protect America's children from chemical and surgical mutilation resulting from so-called medical professionals, who "are maiming and sterilizing a growing number of impressionable children under the radical and false claim that adults can change a child's sex through a series of irreversible medical interventions."

The link between these two seemingly disparate eras and social fads lies in the acceptance in 1942 by state legislators of the pseudoscience of eugenic sterilization as an ostensible criminal prophylaxis, and current state lawmakers' groveling support of the equally bogus and suspect medical ideology of today's transgender reassignment fraudsters ruining children's fertility to "rectify" the alleged mistake made at birth when they were "assigned the wrong sex."

First, the 1935 Oklahoma law in question held that a person who had been convicted three or more times of a felony involving moral turpitude in Oklahoma or elsewhere was a "habitual criminal" and "that such person shall be rendered sexually sterile."

Jack T. Skinner had been convicted of chicken stealing and armed robbery twice. In 1936, Oklahoma's attorney general instituted sterilization proceedings against Skinner, who sued raising 14th Amendment objections.

Justice William O. Dougles **noted**: "This case touches a sensitive and important area of human rights. Oklahoma deprives certain individuals of a right which is basic to the perpetuation of a race the right to have offspring. … Because that decision raised grave and substantial constitutional questions, we granted the petition for certiorari."

Douglas pointed out that, "A person who enters a chicken coop and steals chickens commits a felony … and he may be sterilized if he is thrice convicted. If, however, he is a bailee of the property and fraudulently appropriates it … no matter how habitual his proclivities for embezzlement are, and no matter how often his conviction, he may not be sterilized." That disparate treatment violated the 14th Amendment.

Justice Douglas's **reasoning** applies both to sterilization as a criminal penalty, and to LGBT ideologues clamoring for tax-paid gender transition "treatment" of minor children even without parental consent:

> "… We are dealing here with legislation which involves one of the basic civil rights of man. Marriage and procreation are fundamental to the very existence and survival of the race. The power to sterilize … may have subtle, far-reaching and devastating effects … it can cause races or types which are inimical to the dominant group to wither and disappear. There is no redemption for the individual whom the law touches. Any experiment which the State conducts is to his irreparable injury. He is forever deprived of a basic liberty."

Justice Robert Jackson, who "read the law" to become a justice of the Supreme Court, **concurred**, observing, "There are limits to the extent to which a legislatively represented majority may conduct biological experiments at the expense of the dignity and personality and natural powers of a minority — even those who have been guilty of what the majority define as crimes."

President Trump's **executive order** details a comprehensive approach to rooting out the influence of gender transition "treatment" of minors:

"Countless children soon regret that they have been mutilated and begin to grasp the horrifying tragedy that they will never be able to conceive children of their own or nurture their children through breastfeeding. Moreover, these vulnerable youths' medical bills may rise throughout their lifetimes, as they are often trapped with lifelong medical complications, a losing war with their own bodies, and, tragically, sterilization.

"Accordingly … within 90 days of the date of this order, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) shall publish a review of the existing literature on best practices for promoting the health of children who assert gender dysphoria, rapid-onset gender dysphoria, or other identity-based confusion.

"The Secretary of HHS … shall use all available methods to increase the quality of data to guide practices for improving the health of minors with gender dysphoria, rapid-onset gender dysphoria, or other identity-based confusion, or who otherwise seek chemical or surgical mutilation."

"… The head of each executive department or agency … that provides research or education grants to medical institutions, including medical schools and hospitals, shall … in coordination with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, immediately take appropriate steps to ensure that institutions receiving Federal research or education grants end the chemical and surgical mutilation of children.

"… The Secretary of HHS shall … end the chemical and surgical mutilation of children, including regulatory and sub-regulatory actions …

"… the Secretary of Defense shall commence … action to exclude chemical and surgical mutilation of children from TRICARE coverage and amend the TRICARE provider handbook to exclude chemical and surgical mutilation of children.

"… The Director of the Office of Personnel Management … shall … include provisions in the Federal Employee Health Benefits … and Postal Service Health Benefits … including the Foreign Service Benefit Plan, will exclude coverage for pediatric transgender surgeries or hormone treatments …

"The Attorney General shall … prioritize enforcement of protections against female genital mutilation … convene States' Attorneys General and other law enforcement officers to coordinate the enforcement of laws against female genital mutilation across all American States and Territories; … prioritize investigations and take appropriate action to end deception of consumers, fraud, and violations of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act by any entity that may be misleading the public about long-term side effects of chemical and surgical mutilation; … in consultation with the Congress, work to draft, propose, and promote legislation to enact a private right of action for children and the parents of children whose healthy body parts have been damaged by medical

> professionals practicing chemical and surgical mutilation, which should include a lengthy statute of limitations; and prioritize investigations and take appropriate action to end child-abusive practices by so-called sanctuary States that facilitate stripping custody from parents who support the healthy development of their own children, including by considering the application of the Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act and recognized constitutional rights."

You may ask, where do such bizarre ideas and claims originate from?

Well, Ecclesiastes 1:9 tells us, "There is no new thing under the sun." So, without going into too much detail, the current transgender phenomenon and political claims are strikingly similar to the beliefs and practices of the first-century A.D. gnostics, whether pseudo-Christian or as purveyors of secular philosophy.

For gnostics, God is not an Almighty, all-knowing, all-wise, all-powerful Creator. No, the gnostic creator is finite and very much prone to mistakes in need of "correction." Enter the transgender doctors who give adolescents puberty blockers, drugs, or even surgery to treat natural, normal physiological processes associated with puberty as a disease in need of "therapy," such as the artificial reassigning of gender which presupposes that the Designer/Creator of the Universe made a number of mistakes and produced a flawed product, i.e., man and woman.

Since gnostics seek total control over created beings and the natural order and operations of persons and things in the universe, they are willing to mutilate perfectly healthy organs to bring about their own "alteration" of the person, not only as their rights but as their political, moral duty.

Gnostics were decidedly anti-woman. A commenter on the spurious **Gospel of Thomas**, Daniel McGray, in his site "**Gnosticism Explained**," quotes the gnostic holy text as follows:

> "Simon Peter said to the other disciples, 'Mary should leave us, for women do not deserve life.'
>
> "Jesus said to him, 'Watch — I will show her the way to become a man, so that she too may become a living spirit like you men. For any woman who becomes a man will enter the Kingdom of Heaven.'"

Christians can easily see why such writings were not included as part of the Canon of Holy Scripture. (For more information see Hans Jonas's "The Gnostic Religion" and Kurt Rudolph's "Gnosis: The Nature and History of Gnosticism.") And likewise, Christians should write their congressman and senators to support the legislation President Trump is seeking to rid the United States of the socially disruptive and bogus medical practice of transgender transitions.

Lastly, consider that Donald Trump is the only American president who could use a constitutional exoneration of an Oklahoma chicken thief and parlay it into protecting young Americans from having the inestimable gift of being able to have children stolen from them by individuals posing as medical authorities under impeccable, but ultimately false and deceptive pretenses.

SOURCE: **THE DAILY SIGNAL**

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A Biblical and Constitutional Case for National Sovereignty: Why the U.S. Should Withdraw from the UN

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/A-BIBLICAL-AND-CONSTITUTIONAL-CASE-FOR-NATIONAL-SOVEREIGNTY-WHY-THE-U-S-SHOULD-WITHDRAW-FROM-THE-UN/
FEBRUARY 6, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, GODLY RELATIONSHIPS, OBEDIENCE TO GOD, US CONSTITUTION

Introduction

On February 4, 2025, President Donald Trump issued an **executive order to withdraw the United States from certain United Nations organizations** and review U.S. participation in international treaties and agreements. The order calls explicitly for halting funding to the United Nations Human Rights Council (**UNHRC**), the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO**), and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (**UNRWA**). The justification for this decision is clear: these organizations have acted contrary to U.S. interests, harbored anti-Israel sentiment, and, in the case of UNRWA, been infiltrated by terrorist organizations.

While many will frame this decision as a matter of political debate, a **Biblical worldview** provides deeper insight into why national sovereignty is essential and why the U.S. must stand against globalist organizations that undermine God's order. Additionally, this decision aligns with the U.S. Constitution's principles regarding national sovereignty, executive authority, and the proper role of government in foreign affairs.

God's Design for Nations and Sovereignty

National sovereignty is not a human invention but a Biblical principle. God established nations, giving them distinct boundaries and governing authorities.

Acts 17:26 – "And He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place."

Similarly, the **U.S. Constitution** affirms national sovereignty through its foreign policy and treaty provisions. Article II, Section 2 grants the President the power to make treaties with the advice and consent of the Senate, ensuring that international agreements align with the nation's interests. The Tenth Amendment further emphasizes that powers not delegated to the federal government are reserved to the states or the people, reinforcing self-governance rather than globalist influence.

In many ways, the United Nations seeks to dissolve these distinctions and place global governance above national rule. While cooperation between nations is beneficial, an overreach of international bodies that dictate policies contradicts the Biblical model of sovereign governance and constitutional principles that limit the extent of foreign entanglements.

The Role of Government in Protecting Its People

The Bible is clear that governments exist to uphold righteousness, protect citizens, and maintain justice.

Romans 13:1-4 – "For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God… For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval."

This aligns with the Preamble of the U.S. Constitution, which states that the government exists to "provide for the common defense" and "secure the blessings of liberty." The executive order highlights that UNRWA has been linked to terrorist groups, making continued funding a direct violation of the government's constitutional duty to protect American interests and allies.

If an organization, such as UNRWA, is funding or supporting terrorism, then the U.S. government must separate from and cease support of that institution. To continue funding an entity that enables wickedness would violate both Biblical justice and the Constitution's mandate to provide for the nation's defense.

The Danger of Globalism Without God

A world government may sound appealing in theory, but when unity is pursued apart from God, it leads to corruption and rebellion. This is precisely what happened at the **Tower of Babel**.

Genesis 11:4-9 – "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and make a name for ourselves… But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower the people were building… So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth."

From a constitutional perspective, Article I, Section 8 grants Congress specific powers related to defense, trade, and treaties, ensuring that authority remains within national governance rather than surrendering sovereignty to international organizations. The UN increasingly promotes policies that are at odds with America's founding principles, pushing for centralized global authority that undermines the rights of individual nations.

Why Supporting Israel Matters

One of the strongest Biblical justifications for withdrawing from the UN is its anti-Israel stance. Scripture is clear that those who curse Israel will be cursed, and those who bless Israel will be blessed.

Genesis 12:3 – "I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse, and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

The U.S. has long stood as an ally of Israel, and the executive order affirms this commitment by ceasing participation in UN organizations that promote hostility toward God's chosen people. Article II, Section 3 of the Constitution empowers the President to conduct foreign relations and ensure that America's alliances reflect its values. Ensuring U.S. foreign policy aligns with Biblical principles reinforces our faith commitments and constitutional responsibilities.

Stewardship of Resources: Ending UN Funding

Scripture teaches that personal or national resources must be used wisely and righteously.

- **Proverbs 22:7** – "The borrower is slave to the lender."
- **Matthew 25:14-30** – Parable of the Talents (wise management of resources)

The U.S. Constitution also affirms fiscal responsibility. Article I, Section 9 gives Congress the power of the purse, ensuring that tax dollars are spent in ways that benefit the nation. The executive order rightly prioritizes American taxpayer dollars, ensuring they are not sent to corrupt or wasteful institutions. Instead of funding anti-Israel, anti-American programs, resources should

be directed toward domestic needs, national security, and missions that align with America's constitutional and Biblical values.

Conclusion: A Step in the Right Direction

The decision to withdraw from certain United Nations bodies aligns with both Biblical and Constitutional principles:

- It upholds national sovereignty as designed by God (**Acts 17:26**) and affirmed by the Constitution (Article II, Section 2).
- It fulfills the government's duty to protect citizens and promote righteousness (**Romans 13:1-4**, Preamble of the Constitution).
- It separates the U.S. from godless globalism (**Genesis 11:4-9**, Article I, Section 8).
- It aligns with God's command to bless Israel (**Genesis 12:3**, Article II, Section 3).
- It promotes financial stewardship and wise use of taxpayer funds (**Proverbs 22:7**, Article I, Section 9).

As Christians and constitutionalists, we should support policies that move our nation closer to justice, sovereignty, and God-honoring governance. May we continue to pray for wisdom for our leaders and seek to align our nation with God's perfect will.

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The USAID Scandal: A Flagrant Assault on the U.S. Constitution—Who's Really Managing the Narrative?

BY VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/THE-USAID-SCANDAL-A-FLAGRANT-ASSAULT-ON-THE-U-S-CONSTITUTION-WHOS-REALLY-MANAGING-THE-NARRATIVE/
FEBRUARY 6, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, US CONSTITUTION

New revelations, such as the ones in Sundance's article from **CTH** , posted below about USAID's deep entanglement with intelligence agencies expose a **covert and unconstitutional assault on American democracy**. This isn't just about misused tax dollars—it's about the **weaponization of government agencies** to shape public opinion, manipulate elections, and control the media.

For years, USAID has been known as an arm of U.S. foreign policy, often operating in coordination with intelligence agencies to influence political landscapes overseas. However, **recent disclosures confirm that USAID has also been involved in domestic political operations**, directing funds to groups that influence media narratives, public perception, and even activism inside the United States. This is a direct and flagrant **violation of the U.S. Constitution**, particularly the First Amendment, which protects against government interference in the free press.

A Violation of Free Speech and Press Freedoms

The **First Amendment** ensures that the government **cannot control speech or manipulate the press**, yet USAID's funding of political influence campaigns suggests **a hidden apparatus designed to steer public opinion**. When government-backed organizations receive funding to push specific narratives, it **undermines journalistic independence and turns the media into a propaganda machine**.

Weaponizing Government Agencies Against the People

The **U.S. government is prohibited from conducting covert intelligence operations against its own citizens**—yet USAID's role in financing influence campaigns shows that this boundary has been **systematically eroded**. Under the pretext of national security, intelligence agencies have exploited legal loopholes to justify operations that interfere with **elections, policy debates, and public trust in institutions**.

This is **not a conspiracy theory—it is documented reality**. The passage of the **Patriot Act in 2001** provided legal cover for domestic intelligence operations, allowing agencies like the **CIA and DHS to coordinate with entities such as USAID to shape public discourse**. As these revelations come to light, it is becoming increasingly clear that the intelligence community has been operating far beyond its intended mandate, influencing the very system it is meant to serve.

Are We Being Managed? A Coordinated Release of Information

Consider the pattern:

- The **Twitter Files** revealed how the **Department of Homeland Security** controlled online speech.
- The **2020 election cycle** exposed serious concerns about intelligence agencies' role in shaping narratives.
- **Now, USAID's domestic influence operations** have been unveiled.

The timing of these revelations raises an important question: **Are we genuinely uncovering the truth, or is this a managed disclosure designed to control the conversation?**

Think critically—when damaging information about government influence emerges, is it because brave journalists and whistleblowers are exposing the truth? Or is the intelligence community strategically **releasing information to get ahead of narratives that were already unraveling?**

A Constitutional Crisis in the Making

The **U.S. Constitution was designed to limit government power and protect the people from tyranny**. Yet what we are witnessing is the opposite: a growing intelligence apparatus operating **without oversight**, manipulating the political landscape, and **threatening the very foundation of a free republic**.

This is not just a scandal—it's a **constitutional crisis**.

- **Congress must act.**

- **The courts must intervene.**
- **The American people must demand accountability.**

The question we must ask is simple: **Are we still living under a constitutional government, or has it already been replaced by something else?**

Big Picture Context for USAID Revelations – Are We Being Managed?

February 5, 2025 | **Sundance**

The fact that the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) was a sub-silo for the CIA is not a new revelation. In fact, this website and several others have been deep in the research of the networking for years.

From the Arab Spring to Libya, to the color revolution in Ukraine, to the attempted overthrow of Viktor Orban in Hungary, to overturning the outcome of the Romanian election (remember it was a global intelligence determination), to the efforts to support Emmanuel Macron, to influence and IC control over Moldova, and onto the efforts of USAID and Samantha Power in Tbilisi, Georgia, the footprint of USAID in connection to the CIA was always transparent.

The fact that USAID was similarly involved in domestic influence operations, is now coming forth with receipts showing how USAID paid domestic political groups for activism, paid for media influence operations and generally did the same thing inside the United States that the CIA/USAID were doing outside the USA.

The DC apoplexy is related to these USAID/CIA revelations, the financial benefits many were receiving, and the publicity therein.

Factually, the passage of the Patriot Act in October of 2001 created the legal authority for CIA operations to engage in domestic politics under the auspices of national security. That's the entire role of the ODNI to act as the pivot point permitting the CIA to collaborate with the newly formed Dept of Homeland Security (DHS).

From this now legally justified origin the tentacles of CIA and DHS then enmeshed with the FBI culminating in the example of former FBI Special Agent Peter Strzok discussing the CIA as their "sister agency" and receiving a CIA coin as a token of appreciation for the collaborative efforts. In sum, the CIA and FBI work in partnership with the DNI and DHS.

It's all one big Intelligence Community network, and USAID was just a system of influence used both in foreign and domestic affairs. That's the generally big picture behind all of these USAID revelations. None of this is really arguable any longer, and with each new detail the information only affirms the nature of the IC system we have been discussing for several years.

Domestically, the involvement of the CIA in the impeachment effort of President Donald Trump was always visible. Intel Community Inspector General Michael Atkinson changed the CIA whistleblower rules permitting a legal path for the CIA (Eric Ciaramella) to leak information about President Trump's call with Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Former USDAG Mary McCord was the former boss of Atkinson and receiver of the information from NSC Vindman and CIA Ciaramella, within her new position as lead staff for Adam Schiff and Jerry Nadler on the impeachment committee.

None of this is in question. We have always discussed it openly as we researched the network and outlined the data providing the receipts. The newer aspects are how the **USAID silo was used to influence the media** **on the CIA's impeachment operation**. The bottom line doesn't change; the impeachment of President Trump was a CIA operation. However, we here -and other intellectually honest research groups- always knew this.

So, the USAID revelations are highlighting the relationship with the CIA; and the USAID revelations also reveal how the CIA was effectively working on domestic political influence operations. But the USAID revelations are not really *revelations* per se', what they really represent are undeniable receipts for what we already knew. It's good to have these affirmations, but the background of it all remains the same as it was before the receipts were generated.

Amid this frenzy of information coming forth about USAID, I recently said this in the public square (**Twitter**):

> *I would advise everyone to pause for a moment as the fevered pitch of a new awakening takes shape specifically around the USAID information.*
>
> *Ask ourselves:* ***are we being managed?***
>
> *Pause. Think about the Twitter files as a reference for how DHS was controlling online speech and communication.*
>
> *Did the Twitter files reveal the DHS control mechanisms, or was the DHS control system coming to light and the revelations needed to be managed?*
>
> *Was the Twitter File release a control mechanism, to get out in front of something the American people were discovering on their own?*

That's the reference here.

Were we managed by a controlled system releasing the Twitter file information?

If you understand that reference, then ask yourself….

…Is this USAID information; which at its core outlines how the intelligence community was in control of multiple DHS silos to influence American society; yet another operation to control information that was coming to light?

Don't be emotional about it. Think logically.

Are we discovering the USAID information because elements in the IC understood the USAID information was starting to surface in the national conversation organically?

If you can see the similar approach to both the DHS control of the social media coming to light (Twitter files) and the same DHS control of the USAID tentacles, then is it accidental that Elon Musk is involved in both information releases?

BIG PICTURE: Is the IC managing the revelations?

All roads lead to Langley.

Is the journey being managed?

Think about it.

The DHS control over social media was coming to light as an outcome of the COVID fiasco. Lawsuits in defense of speech were revealing how DHS was influencing and controlling information. Then came a controlled release within the Twitter Files.

The DHS control over elections was coming to light as an outcome of the 2020 vs 2024 vote scale that could no longer reasonably be concealed. Thanks to Trump.

Both system engagements, think of them as essentially datasets, were coming to light as the American people used every questioning mechanism that was available, including courts.

Essentially, *We The People* were in an unwitting (to most) fight with the IC , and the IC started losing control of the battlefield.

Opening the door to their USAID/CIA library of prior conduct and then standing back and letting the information flow out of the dark room, can be looked at as yet another controlled release

operation for information that was already being discussed and only gaining traction amid the greater awakening.

Is it just a coincidence that both controlled information releases originate from the same source, Elon Musk?

This doesn't mean that President Trump is some collaborative actor in the enterprise; in fact, I would argue the exact opposite.

Donald Trump is organic. Organic systems need to be managed and controlled. The assassination effort failed. Immediately thereafter, Musk appeared with support…

SOURCE: **CTH**

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President Trump's Executive Order Signed: Keeping Women's Sports for Women

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/PRESIDENT-TRUMPS-EXECUTIVE-ORDER-SIGNED-KEEPING-WOMENS-SPORTS-FOR-WOMEN/
FEBRUARY 6, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: BIBLICAL SEXUALITY, CONSTITUTION, GOD'S WORD, US CONSTITUTION

The Biblical and Constitutional Case for Keeping Men Out of Women's Sports

Introduction

On February 5, 2025, President Donald J. Trump **signed an executive order titled *"Keeping Men Out of Women's Sports."*** The order reaffirms that biological males should not compete in women's sports, citing Title IX protections, fairness in competition, and the safety and dignity of female athletes. The executive order directs federal agencies to enforce protections for women's sports and rescind funding from institutions that fail to comply.

This issue is not just a political or legal matter—it is a profound moral and spiritual issue. A Biblical worldview affirms God's created order, the distinct roles of men and women, and the pursuit of justice. The U.S. Constitution further reinforces the protection of individual rights,

equal opportunity, and government accountability. This article will explore how the executive order aligns with both Scriptural truth and constitutional principles.

President Trump Signs No Men in Women's Sports Executive Order Into Law
https://youtube.com/watch?v=_f3Nhvz_o5A

> "Under the Trump Administration, we will defend the proud tradition of female athletes and we will not allow men to beat up, injure, and cheat our women and our girls."
> *President Donald J. Trump, February 5th, 2025*

God's Created Order: Men and Women Are Distinct by Design

God's design of male and female as distinct and purposeful creations is the first and most foundational truth that supports this order. Scripture is unambiguous on this point:

- **Genesis 1:27** – *"So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."*
- **Matthew 19:4** – *"Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female?"*

The modern movement to erase biological distinctions is a rebellion against God's created order. Allowing men to compete in women's sports denies the fundamental truth that men and women are physiologically different. Science confirms that male bodies are generally stronger, faster, and more resilient due to bone density, muscle mass, and lung capacity, giving them an unfair competitive advantage.

The erasure of women's sports in the name of inclusivity is not true equality—it is injustice. **Isaiah 5:20** warns, *"Woe to those who call evil good and good evil."* Protecting women's sports is about preserving truth, fairness, and the integrity of God's creation.

Title IX: A Constitutional Protection for Women

The executive order rightly upholds Title IX, a landmark provision of the Education Amendments of 1972, which states:

> *"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."*

Title IX was explicitly designed to protect women by ensuring equal opportunities in sports and education. The push to allow biological males into women's sports violates the very foundation of Title IX. Courts have begun to recognize this:

- **Tennessee v. Cardona (2024)** – Ruled that requiring women to compete against men deprives them of equal access to sports.
- **Kansas v. U.S. Dept. of Education (2024)** – Affirmed that Congress intended to protect biological women.

By enforcing Title IX as initially intended, the executive order restores legal and constitutional fairness, ensuring that women have a level playing field, as Congress intended.

Justice and Protection: The Government's Biblical Mandate

The role of government is not to redefine reality but to promote justice and protect the vulnerable.

- **Romans 13:3-4** – *"For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good."*
- **Micah 6:8** – *"He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"*

Women and girls are being robbed of fairness and safety when forced to compete against men or share locker rooms and scholarships with biological males. The government has a duty to protect women from exploitation and injustice. This executive order upholds that duty.

The Danger of Cultural Relativism and the War on Truth

At its core, the fight over women's sports is about more than athletics—it is a fight over truth itself. The attempt to replace biological reality with subjective identity is part of the broader agenda of moral relativism, which seeks to eliminate objective truth.

- **John 8:32** – *"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*
- **2 Timothy 4:3-4** – *"For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths."*

Allowing men to compete in women's sports forces society to accept a lie—that men and women are interchangeable. It is not compassionate to allow this—it is destructive.

Biblical Stewardship and the Use of Federal Funding

- **Luke 16:10-11** – *"One who is faithful in very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in very little is also dishonest in much."*
- **Proverbs 22:7** – *"The borrower is slave to the lender."*

The executive order rescinds federal funding from institutions that promote transgender ideology in sports. This is a matter of stewardship—taxpayer money should not be used to fund policies that violate biological truth and harm women.

By withholding funding from schools that violate Title IX, the administration ensures that federal funds align with truth and justice, rather than promoting ideological agendas.

Conclusion: A Step Toward Truth and Justice

The executive order reaffirms Biblical truth and constitutional protections:

1. God created men and women with distinct differences (Genesis 1:27, Matthew 19:4).
2. Title IX protects women from discrimination, and allowing men into women's sports violates that protection.
3. The government's role is to promote justice and protect the vulnerable (Romans 13:3-4, Micah 6:8).

4. The attack on women's sports is part of a broader war on truth (John 8:32, 2 Timothy 4:3-4).

5. Taxpayer dollars should not fund policies that harm women and deny biological reality (Luke 16:10-11, Proverbs 22:7).

This executive order is not just about policy—it is about truth, fairness, and protecting the God-ordained distinctions between men and women.

As believers, we must stand for truth, defend Biblical principles, and support leaders who protect justice and fairness. May we continue to pray for courage, wisdom, and strength as we uphold what is right in the eyes of God and aligned with our nation's founding principles.

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The Free Press Returns: Key Takeaways from Trump's January 31 White House Briefing

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/THE-FREE-PRESS-RETURNS-KEY-TAKEAWAYS-FROM-TRUMPS-JANUARY-31-WHITE-HOUSE-BRIEFING/
FEBRUARY 1, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, FIRST AMENDMENT, FREE PRESS

On January 31, 2025, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt held her second official press briefing, reinforcing the administration's commitment to full transparency and free press access. At just 29 years old, Leavitt is the youngest press secretary in U.S. history, a role she steps into with a firm stance on restoring First Amendment protections and reversing restrictive media policies imposed under the previous administration.

This briefing covered a wide range of critical issues, from aviation safety reforms following a tragic air collision at Reagan National Airport to border security, economic policies, and education reforms. President Trump's actions, including new tariffs on Canada, Mexico, and China, the signing of the Laken Riley Act, and expanding detention facilities for criminal illegal aliens at Guantanamo Bay, dominated much of the discussion.

President Trump has pledged a **Free Press, 1st Amendment access, and transparency, see for yourself from a very sharp press secretary!**

Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt Briefs Members of the Media, Jan. 31, 2025

Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt Briefs Members of the Media, Jan. 31, 2025
https://youtube.com/watch?v=8xpyOSJaxkA

1. Air Collision at Reagan National Airport *(0:08 – 1:49)*

- President Trump addressed the nation after a tragic air collision at Reagan National Airport that killed 67 people.
- A full review of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) was ordered to reassess hiring standards and safety protocols over the last four years.
- A reversal of DEI-based hiring in aviation was announced, restoring merit-based selection.

2. Laken Riley Act Signed Into Law *(2:55 – 3:46)*

- President Trump's first signed legislation as the 47th President mandates the detention of illegal aliens accused of violent crimes.
- The law honors Laken Riley, a young woman murdered by an illegal immigrant.
- This measure ensures criminals are detained rather than released into U.S. communities.

3. Criminal Illegal Immigration Enforcement & Guantanamo Detentions *(3:53 – 5:07)*

- ICE arrested multiple criminal illegal aliens in major U.S. cities for crimes including child exploitation, attempted murder, and assault.
- The detention center at Guantanamo Bay is being expanded to house high-priority criminal illegal aliens.
- President Trump reaffirmed: "If you are a criminal illegal alien, you will be arrested and deported."

4. Education Reform & National Report Card Results *(5:15 – 6:19)*

- National Report Card revealed record-low reading comprehension scores among students.
- President Trump signed executive orders to:
  - Ban radical gender ideology & CRT from federally funded schools.
  - Expand school choice and parental rights in education.
  - Refocus American education on patriotism and workforce readiness.

5. Economic Measures – Tariffs on Canada, Mexico, and China *(14:14 – 15:22)*

- New tariffs effective February 1, 2025:
  - 25% on Canada & Mexico
  - 10% on China
- Purpose: To combat fentanyl trafficking and illegal immigration.
- Tax cuts on tips, Social Security benefits, and overtime pay remain a top legislative priority.

6. Border Security & Sanctuary City Crackdown *(29:56 – 32:11)*

- Sanctuary cities like Chicago, New York, and Maryland are blocking ICE detainer enforcement.
- The administration is pursuing legal action against officials obstructing immigration enforcement.
- Public backlash is growing in sanctuary cities as crime increases.

7. International Relations & Foreign Policy *(12:57 – 13:52 & 23:05 – 23:41)*

- Venezuela: Rick Grenell was sent to negotiate deportation flights and secure the release of U.S. detainees.
- Panama Canal: Concerns over Chinese Communist Party influence controlling key trade routes.
- Syria: Trump is reviewing U.S. troop deployments.

8. Press Freedom & Transparency *(15:28 – 16:47)*

- Restored credentials to 440 journalists previously revoked under Biden.
- Commitment to full press access—reversing restrictive policies of the last administration.
- Press events labeled “open press” will remain truly open.

9. COVID-19 Origins & Accountability *(21:47 – 22:40)*

- CIA confirms COVID-19 was a Wuhan lab leak.
- The Biden administration withheld evidence that could have informed the public earlier.
- President Trump considers further actions against China in response.

10. Guantanamo Bay & Illegal Immigrant Detention *(26:54 – 27:46)*

- Guantanamo Bay detention expansion is underway.
- Department of Defense directed to increase detention capacity.
- ICE continues to round up and deport criminal illegal aliens at record speed.

This second White House press briefing reinforced the administration's commitment to transparency, accountability, and restoring First Amendment access as outlined in the U.S. Constitution. Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt emphasized open communication while detailing key actions on border security, aviation safety, economic policy, and education reform. Major shifts are already underway, including the Laken Riley Act, expanded detention for criminal illegal immigrants, and tariffs on Canada, Mexico, and China.

With a renewed focus on merit-based hiring and parental rights in education, the administration is moving swiftly to fulfill its campaign promises while upholding constitutional principles. As press access expands and restrictive policies from the previous administration are reversed, these briefings mark a return to an open White House, ensuring direct and unfiltered communication with the American people.

This piece was prepared with the assistance of ChatGPT, an AI language model designed to support clear and thoughtful communication.

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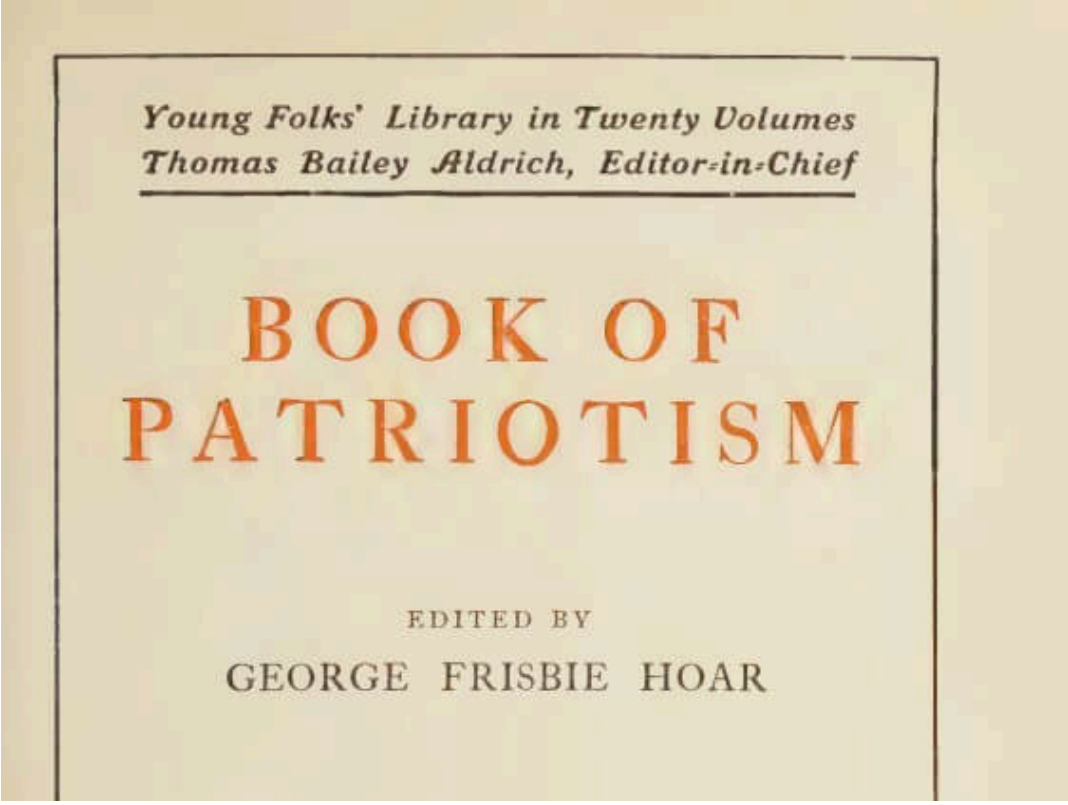
American Patriotism Time Travel

BY SANDY SZWARC
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/AMERICAN-PATRIOTISM-TIME-TRAVEL/
JANUARY 30, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION



By Sandy Szwarc
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America began as a new country with a unprecedented potential to become extraordinary. Generations have been taught to think of America as undeserving of their love and allegiance. America has become redefined as something vulgar, hateful, racist, sexist and bigoted. But, this last election showed that real Americans do care about America, our families, our communities and neighbors, and our children and their futures. Americans want to rebuild our nation and restore what it meant to be a patriotic American.

To figure out just how to do that, though, we have to begin by understanding what we once had and how we got to this point.

What if we could see into the future and how our actions and teachings impact the lives of young people and affect society years from now? Would we change what we're doing if we saw it was

leading down a destructive path? The movie, ***Time Changer,*** tells that very story in a very compelling and unique way.[1]

Time Changer was a Christian Sci-Fi movie produced by Rich Christiano in 2002. In it, a Bible seminary scholar from 1890 is transported *forward 110 years* into the future, to the year 2000.

It feels like another world to him. Nothing is recognizable as the country he knew. He hadn't been gradually desensitized to the moral decay and materialism of modern society, like generations of Americans today. Even the most ordinary things in today's society that wouldn't be given a second thought by most of us, are visibly shocking to him. His confusion steadily turns to upset and grief as he finds every aspect of the current culture has become dark and drifted far from God and Biblical teachings.

The movie follows along in his encounters while he tries to explain God's Word but finds himself mocked and ridiculed.

He regrets the teachings in his own textbook that set this demise into motion and his role in it. As he is transported back home, he vows to undo the wrongs.

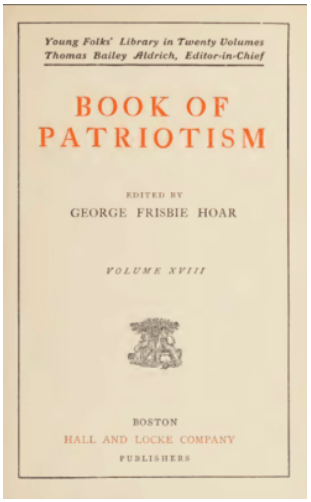
This movie is an amazing opportunity to see our Country today in fresh eyes. Even most Christians would be stunned to really realize how far America has strayed from its Christian foundations.

Looking back at the spirit of patriotism

Patriotism has suffered the same decay. To fully grasp that, we begin by stepping back and seeing what Americans used to be taught about patriotism and America's history.

The *Book of Patriotism,* first published in 1900, was part of a popular and well-known Young Folks' Library 20-volume book series.[2] It was edited by the great literary figure, **Thomas Bailey Aldrich**, whose work on American childhood laid the groundwork for Mark Twain's own work. It was written by a large respected editorial board made up of top university scholars in history, literature and theology of the time.

Imagine 396 pages for young people just on patriotism! It included extensive suggestions for more reading that would especially appeal to and inspire young people. This reader is filled with captivating stories of Americans and heroes, diaries of young boys and stories of little-known people during our country's founding, poems, battles and conspiracies, world and American history, revolutions throughout world history, great American speeches, America's historical



documents, hymns and songs, our flag, and monuments. It includes lessons on the meaning of freedom, liberty, the Republic, ambitions of men, statute laws, traitors, despotism, and the character of great American Presidents and heroes.

This glimpse into children's teachings a century ago is a shocking contrast to what is taught about patriotism and our country today. Here is a brief description of just three chapters.

Love of Country

The book begins with a chapter entitled **"Love of Country"** by **George F. Hoar**, an early American **statesman**. He wrote that patriotism – good citizenship – "is the virtue which includes all virtues." Man glorifies God by being as perfect an example of manhood as possible, and the most God-fearing man is an exemplary patriot and citizen. He wrote:

> "Wherever the national spirit is most vigorous, there the State and local forces will exist in fullest life. The sentiment of patriotism will be found strongest in happy homes where family love abounds. The man who loves his household, and his kindred, and his town, and his State best, will love his country best. And the man who is full of the highest love for household, and kindred, and town, and State, and country, will himself become the highest and best example of a true manhood.
>
> The love of country, then, is the highest form of the highest virtue."

Christianity is the love of God and love of man, he wrote, but if we don't love our brothers who we have seen, how can we love God who we haven't seen? He said the love of country was the highest and purest form of human affection and is awakened in the souls of young people. Parents were the strongest influence on children who determine their child's friends and the books they read, he wrote.

> "By a little loving care you can make your boy's heart, by the time he is ten or twelve years old, an armory of brave thoughts and desires, which will make him as invulnerable and unconquerable as Saint Michael with his shining sword.…Heroism and patriotism are for the little girl also. I sometimes think that the heroism of women, with their patience and their love, which look for no reward of fame or glory…is higher and better than anything man can ever give to the country."
>
> "Fill the boy's soul with the inspiring literature of patriotism. Teach him the noble story of his country. There are not many passages of shame, or disgrace, or failure…let him learn the catalogue of the brave deeds that have been done for the country, and the lives and deaths of our heroes."

A **monument** built in his honor is inscribed with his quote of God and love of country:

> "I believe in god, the living god, in the American people, a free and brave people, who do not bow the neck or bend the knee to any other, and who desire no other to bow the neck or bend the knee to them.
>
> I believe that liberty, good government, free institutions, cannot be given by any one people to any other, but must be wrought out for each by itself, slowly, painfully, in the process of years or centuries, as the oak adds ring to ring.
>
> I believe that, whatever clouds may darken the horizon, the world is growing better, that today is better than yesterday, and tomorrow will be better than today."

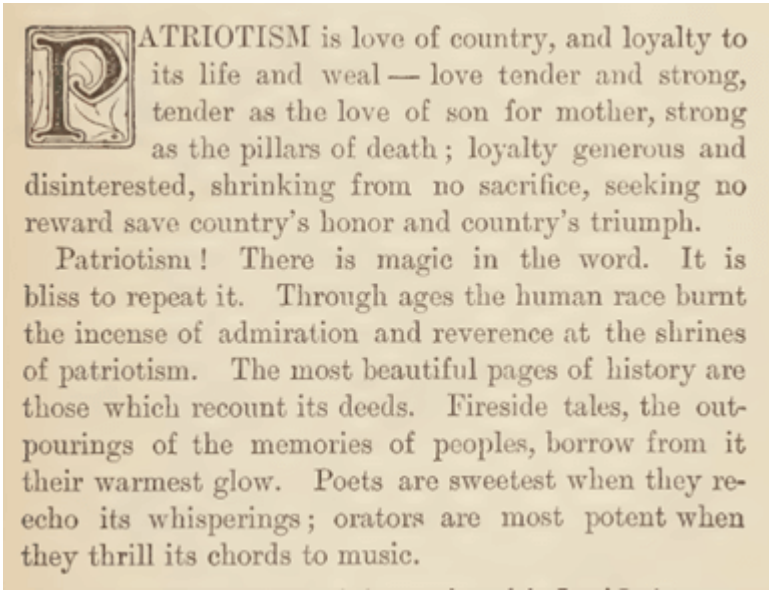
America and Patriotism

In the chapter, "**America and Patriotism,"** Archbishop Ireland eloquently wrote: "Next to God is country, and next to religion is patriotism."

Countries are of divine appointment, he reminded his audience. God's sovereignty over nations appears **throughout** scripture and civil governments are part of God's **Dominion Covenant** with man, first established in Genesis.

"The Lord is the God of nations because He is the God of men," wrote Ireland. "I believe in the providence of God over countries as I believe in His wisdom and His love, and my patriotism to my country rises within my soul invested with the halo of my religion to my God."

"The human race pays homage to patriotism because of its supreme value," he wrote, adding:



PATRIOTISM is love of country, and loyalty to its life and weal — love tender and strong, tender as the love of son for mother, strong as the pillars of death; loyalty generous and disinterested, shrinking from no sacrifice, seeking no reward save country's honor and country's triumph.

Patriotism! There is magic in the word. It is bliss to repeat it. Through ages the human race burnt the incense of admiration and reverence at the shrines of patriotism. The most beautiful pages of history are those which recount its deeds. Fireside tales, the outpourings of the memories of peoples, borrow from it their warmest glow. Poets are sweetest when they re-echo its whisperings; orators are most potent when they thrill its chords to music.

> "The value of patriotism to a people is above gold and precious stones, above commerce and industry, above citadels and warships. Patriotism is the vital spark of national honor, it is the fount of the nation's prosperity, the shield of the nation's safety."

Most passionately, he wrote: "America is the country of human dignity and human liberty." America has no masters, kings or rulers who govern at their own will. "Ours is the government of the people by the people for the people. The government is our own organized will. There is no State above or apart from the people. Rights begin with and go upward from the people."

> "One Republic is liberty's native home — America."

Privilege and Duties of Patriotism

The chapter "**The Privilege and Duties of Patriotism"** was taken from an Address by minister **Thomas Starr King** before the California **Summer Light Guard** on November 18, 1862. He described American patriotism as "love of country" that is foremost ***a privilege***:

> "The home, the flag, the cross, —these are the representatives or symbols of the noblest and most sacred affections or treasures of feeling in human nature."

The souls of original patriots throughout history shine as stars as men of greatness, he wrote. "The Bible is opened for us, to stimulate and increase our love of country. Patriotism is sanctioned

and commended and illustrated there by thrilling examples: by the great patriot-prophet Moses… by Joshua… by the great statesman Samuel… by David… by the long line of the fire-tongued prophets, whose hearts burned for their country's redemption."

During our country's Civil War, the passion of patriotism was high. He wrote "that we are capable of the emotion of patriotism, that we can feel a nation's life in our veins, rejoice in a nation's glory, suffer for a nation's momentary shame, throb with a nation's hope."

The radiance of America's country, enjoyed by one people held together by the Constitution and a shared vision, moved him to write:

> "No such soil, so varied by climate, by products, by mineral riches, by forest and lake, by wild heights and buttresses, and by opulent plains, — yet all bound into unity of configuration and bordered by both warm and icy seas,—no such domain was ever given to one people."
>
> "o resist oppression upon one member, the rally of every State around Washington and his holy sword, and again the nobler rally around him when he signed the Constitution, and after that the organization of the farthest west with north and south into one polity and communion; when this was finished, the tremendous energy of free life under the stimulus and with the aid of advancing science, in increasing wealth, subduing the wilds to the bonds of use, multiplying fertile fields, and busy schools, and noble workshops, and churches hallowed by free-will offerings of prayers, and happy homes, and domes dedicated to the laws of States that rise by magic…
>
> nd then if the promise of the future to the children of our millions under our common law and with continental peace could be caught in one vast spectral exhibition, the wealth in store, the power, the privilege, the freedom, the learning, the expansive and varied and mighty unity in fellowship …you would exclaim with exultation, 'I, too, am an American!'"

Believing strongly that patriotism was "the greatest privilege of your life" along with the Divine Love , he wrote, "you would devote yourselves out of inspiration and joy to the obligations of patriotism, that this land so spread, so adorned, so colonized, so blessed, should be kept forever against all the assaults of traitors, one in polity, in spirit, and in aim!"

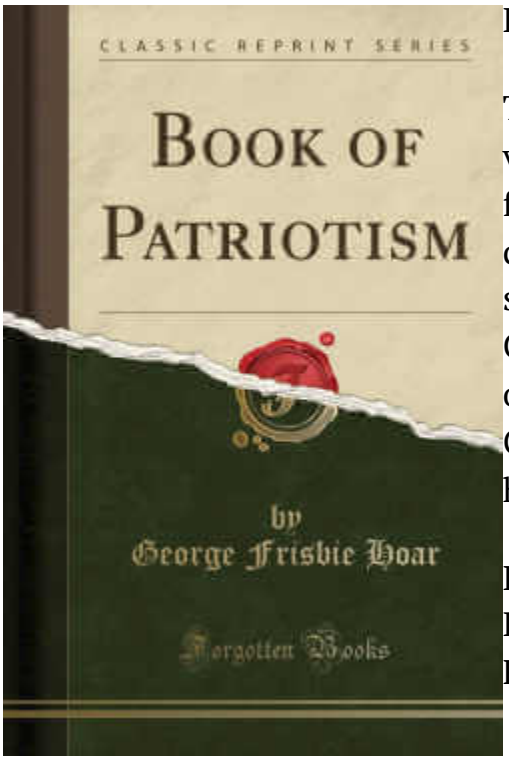
Patriotism came with responsibilities and duties for all Americans. The duty of every patriot is to strive with enthusiastic love to guard against every disease that would cripple the country that God has designed, he wrote, "that he may prevent the lineaments of vice and brutality from degrading the face which God would have radiant with truth, genius, and purity."

These examples clearly show that love of God and Country were undyingly bound, and passionately held by Americans for well over a century during the building of our country – a creation that made it possible for the American dream to become a reality. So, the first goal of anyone wanting to *cripple the country that God designed,* is to remove God and faith from the land.

They began by removing God from schools and re-teaching children about a different America. **Part Three** will look at the evolution of school classrooms in America.

References:

1. The movie, *Time Changer,* is available free on Tubi: **https://tubitv.com/movies/445085/time-changer**
2. *The Book of Patriotism* is available free at: **https://dn720004.ca.archive.org/0/items/bookofpatriotism0000thom/bookofpatriotism0000thom.pdf** or a printed copy is available from **Classic Reprints on Amazon**



Excerpt from Book of Patriotism

The love of country, then, is the highest form of the highest virtue. The youth, of whose soul this supreme emotion has taken full control, has attained what is highest in character. His will is controlled by a law higher than his own desire. His affection is set on an object other than himself. We are apt to sum up Christianity as the love of God and the love of man. But the love of God and the love of man are the same thing. We cannot love God as an abstraction. If a. Man love not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen.

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Want ‘Due Cause’ for the Firing of Inspectors General? How About This?

BY DAILY SIGNAL
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/WANT-DUE-CAUSE-FOR-THE-FIRING-OF-INSPECTORS-GENERAL-HOW-ABOUT-THIS/
JANUARY 30, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, US CONSTITUTION

Hans von Spakovsky | The Daily Signal

Democrats in Congress like Representatives Jamie Raskin, D-Md., and Maxine Waters, D-Calif., are **criticizing** President **Donald Trump’s** firing of 17 inspectors general, including in the departments of State, Transportation, Labor, Interior, Energy, and Commerce, claiming that doing so “without due cause is antithetical to good government.”

There is a very strong argument to be made that those inspectors general failed to do their jobs during the past four years. Their failures provide Trump with all of the “due cause” he needs.

Just two examples suffice: their failure to investigate the misbehavior of their departments in attempting to interfere in the 2022 and 2024 federal **elections** and in using government resources to violate the First Amendment rights of American citizens and censor their opinions and social media accounts.

Hard to think of anything more “antithetical to good **government**” than such outrageous conduct. Plus, one would think that the president realizes that if partisans like Raskin and Waters are criticizing him, he must be doing the right thing.

The job of a federal inspector general is straightforward. Under **applicable federal law**, they are tasked with conducting investigations to root out "fraud and abuse" in the "programs and operations" of their agencies. That obviously includes investigating malfeasance and misbehavior by agency personnel that violates federal law, wastes taxpayer funds, misuses congressional appropriations, and goes beyond the narrowly defined statutory authority of the agency.

In 2021, Joe Biden **issued** an executive order directing all federal agencies–including every one of the agencies whose inspectors general were fired–to get involved in state election administration. The agencies had to implement "strategic" plans to use agency personnel and resources to persuade and "assist" members of the public who interacted with those agencies to register and vote in federal elections. That included providing access to "vote-by-mail ballot applications," identification documents, and multilingual voting materials.

Biden even told the agencies to solicit third-party organizations to "provide **voter registration** services on agency premises," virtually guaranteeing that liberal, left-wing allies who wanted to keep Biden and his party in office would have access to every member of the public interacting with the federal government in official settings.

Think about that for a moment. What possible business is it of the Energy or Commerce or Transportation Departments to play a role–any role–in our **elections**? Zero. Zip. Zilch.

Numerous secretaries of state complained about this interference in their administration of elections. Moreover, Biden had no constitutional or statutory authority to interfere in the election process. All of the federal employees who were participating in this not-so-subtle Democrat get-out-the-vote campaign using government resources and taxpayer funding were violating the Anti-Deficiency Act, which prohibits federal agencies and employees from spending funds on activities that Congress has not authorized and for which Congress has not appropriated funding.

Congress never appropriated any funding for any federal agency in the executive branch to engage in voter registration and ballot activities, with only one exception: the Federal Voting Assistance Program **office** at the Pentagon that helps overseas military personnel and their families.

Yet not a single inspector general investigated any of these illegal activities and illegal spending of taxpayer funds at any of their agencies. Why not?

Worse still, these same agencies refused to **comply** with Freedom of Information Act requests from outside groups who tried to get information on what the agencies were doing to comply with Biden's executive order. Wouldn't you think that an inspector general would have a problem with an agency stonewalling the public and acting outside of its charter?

Trump **revoked** Biden's executive order in one of his first acts as president, but that does not excuse the failure of these inspectors general to do anything about this abusive behavior.

If that's not enough, there is this. When he **issued** an injunction against the Biden administration in 2023, federal Judge Terry Doughty described the actions of the administration as "the most massive attack against free speech in United States' history." The injunction was issued against numerous federal agencies, again including those whose inspectors general are now home tending their gardens, prohibiting them from communicating or meeting with "social-media companies for the purpose of urging, encouraging, pressuring, or inducing in any manner the removal, deletion, suppression, or reduction of contents containing protected free speech posted on social-media platforms."

Doughty's 155-page opinion had page after page after page detailing the extensive meetings, emails, and other communications between government officials badgering and threatening social-media executives to censor and close accounts of American citizens who were expressing opinions the government didn't like or with which it disagreed. Doughty concluded that the "substantial evidence" of the government's extensive, widespread, coercive behavior "depicts an almost dystopian scenario" in which the "United States Government seems to have assume a role similar to an Orwellian Ministry of Truth."

It is true that the Biden administration appealed this decision, and the Supreme Court ruled in its favor. But that decision in **Murthy v Missouri** was based on the court concluding that none of the plaintiffs had established standing to challenge the government's censorship of dissenting views on COVID-19, the 2020 election, and other issues.

That holding did not dispute the voluminous evidence produced in the lower courts of the actions taken by federal officials throughout the federal government, and in fact, the opinion went through and outlined the outrageous actions taken by different federal agencies. It is just that the plaintiffs had not shown a sufficient causal connection between what happened to them individually and this acknowledged government-wide suppression of speech to be able to sue the government.

Yet, once again, the inspectors general sat on their hands. Nothing to see … move along.

They did not investigate the abuse of agency authority detailed in the court decisions that led to federal employees engaging in wholesale violations of the First Amendment rights of the public. Apparently, they saw no problems in their agencies setting themselves up as "Ministries of Truth," despite, once again, having no statutory authority to do so and certainly no appropriations from Congress to act as the "Guardians of Truth."

The plain truth is that these inspectors general failed to carry out their core responsibilities. They failed to go after the abusive behavior of the officials who staff their agencies. They failed to protect the taxpayers' dime that funds these agencies and that by law can only be used for actions that are authorized by Congress. They failed to protect the constitutional rights of Americans.

Due cause? President Donald Trump had more than enough.

SOURCE: **THE DAILY SIGNAL**

Related posts:

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3. **How Trump's Justice Department Will Achieve More Honest Elections**

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Mark Levin: Why Trump is one of the MOST conservative and Constitutional presidents in US history

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/MARK-LEVIN-WHY-TRUMP-IS-ONE-OF-THE-MOST-CONSERVATIVE-AND-CONSTITUTIONAL-PRESIDENTS-IN-US-HISTORY/
JANUARY 27, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION

Mark Levin's opening monologue on *"Life, Liberty & Levin"* provides a detailed perspective on his belief in the transformative legacy and potential of Donald Trump as a conservative president. Below are the **main points** and **most important takeaways** from his message:

Why Trump is one of the MOST conservative presidents in US history
https://youtube.com/watch?v=rXcYpNrKpy0

Main Points:

1. **Mark Levin's Credentials**:

   - Levin emphasizes his extensive background in the conservative movement, having worked for President Reagan, been a leader in the Tea Party movement, and contributed to landmark legal and constitutional initiatives.
   - His experience includes time in Reagan's administration, writing influential books, and hosting one of the most prominent syndicated radio shows.

2. **Donald Trump as a Conservative Leader**:

   - Levin considers Trump among the greatest conservative presidents, alongside Calvin Coolidge and Ronald Reagan.
   - He highlights Trump's unique approach to governing, especially on tariffs, deregulation, and constitutional issues.

3. **Trump's Policies and Actions**:

   - **Economic and Trade Policies**: Levin draws parallels between Trump's trade policies and those of Reagan, citing tariffs and quotas aimed at protecting American industries.
   - **Immigration**: Levin underscores Trump's aggressive actions to secure the southern border, enforce immigration laws, and end policies like "catch and release."
   - **Federal Bureaucracy**: Trump is credited with challenging entrenched government structures, implementing hiring freezes, and rolling back regulatory overreach.

- **Pro-Life Agenda**: Trump is described as the most pro-life president in U.S. history, including cutting funding to Planned Parenthood and supporting pro-life activists.
- **Energy Independence**: Trump's policies promoted domestic energy production and rejected international climate agreements that threatened U.S. sovereignty.
- **Cultural Conservatism**: Levin praises Trump for opposing the left's progressive agenda, including issues related to transgender policies, diversity initiatives (DEI), and defending women's sports under Title IX.

4. **Legacy and Vision**:

   - Levin argues that Trump's legacy aligns with traditional conservative principles: pro-God, pro-family, pro-military, and pro-school choice.
   - Trump's ability to challenge the status quo and his commitment to constitutional principles are highlighted as reasons he could become the most consequential conservative president.

Key Takeaways:

1. **Trump's Bold Actions**: Levin believes Trump's policy decisions—such as cutting taxes, securing the border, and eliminating radical agendas—demonstrate his commitment to conservatism.
2. **Historical Context**: Levin compares Trump's policies to those of Reagan and Eisenhower, noting their shared emphasis on protecting American industries and sovereignty.
3. **A Conservative Vision for America**: Levin views Trump as a transformative figure who champions conservative values and common-sense governance.
4. **Trump's Unfinished Business**: Levin notes that Trump's ongoing initiatives, if successful in a future presidency, could cement his legacy as the most conservative president in American history.

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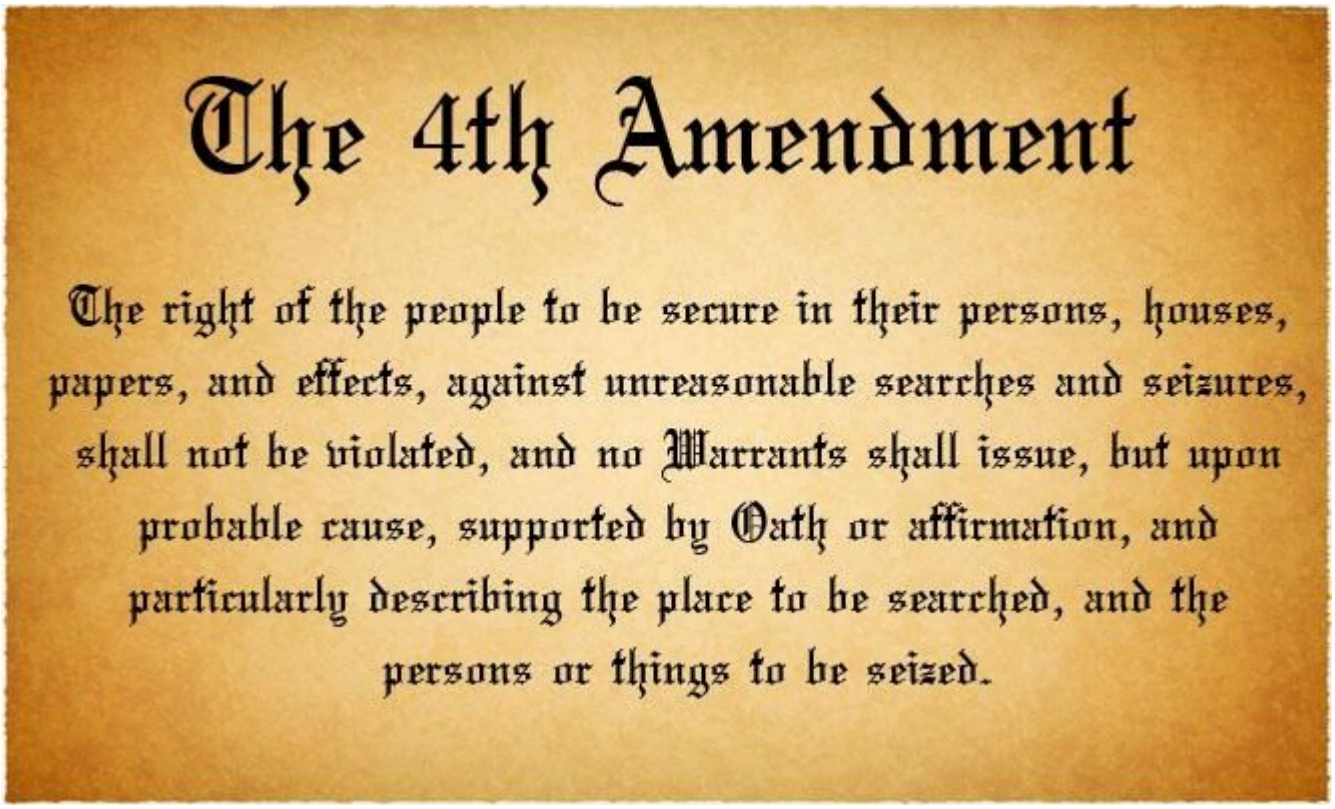
Your 4th Amendment Rights are Not Guaranteed, but Members of Congress are Guaranteed, they exempted themselves

BY VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/YOUR-4TH-AMENDMENT-RIGHTS-ARE-NOT-GUARANTEED-BUT-MEMBERS-OF-CONGRESS-ARE-GUARANTEED-THEY-EXEMPTED-THEMSELVES/
JANUARY 13, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, US CONSTITUTION



American's 4th Amendment rights are no longer guaranteed as the Senate Intel Committee is demanding that Trumps nominee for ODNI must support FISA-702. This secret court system bypasses our protections but Congress has guaranteed their 4th Amendment rights. Read this piece from Sundance over at the Conservative Treehouse.

Defending the 4th Amendment is not just about surveillance but preserving liberty and ensuring constitutional rights are not privileges for the elite.

THE Conversation January 13, 2025 | Sundance | 35 Comments

As the Senate begins the confirmation process..... **A POINT**:

"If I understand this correctly, the Senate Intel Committee will only approve Trump's nominee for ODNI if she agrees to support an un-Constitutional provision that permits the government that none of us trust to illegally surveille American citizens without a warrant…but a provision that also makes an exception for members of Congress or their staff, who presumably value their privacy and don't want to be illegally surveilled.

Meanwhile, President Biden is preparing to issue a blanket pardon of all the bad actors who illegally surveilled, wiretapped, sued, imprisoned and tried to assassinate his political enemies, so that no one can legally surveille, wiretap, sue or imprison them…and they get off scott-free.

*Do I have that right?" ~**LionTigerBear***

Yes, you have that encapsulation correct. Additionally, the discussion of Joe Biden pardons -both metered and predicted- outlines the ideological mindset behind those who believe they rule over us.

If you pull back from the granular debate and think about it, none of the FISA justifications align with reality.

The FISA system is a designated secret court system that is said to only pertain to "foreign nationals."

Ok, so if we accept the premise. Foreign nationals do not have U.S. constitutional protection. So why does the surveillance and intercept of them require secret U.S. courts?

In reality, the Secret Courts are needed because it's not foreign nationals that need to be navigated in the surveillance system; it's the American citizenry engagement within that surveillance that requires a different legal approach.

Why should an American citizen suddenly have their constitutional protections switched from U.S. Federal Court to U.S. Federal FISA courts (secret), simply because their contact -perhaps inadvertent- skims up against a foreign national?

The constitutional protection (4th amendment) should not be arbitrary, depending on your contact. A regular federal court judge can decide on the issue of a Title-1 warrant, that can be filed under seal if the exploration of the contact is a genuine concern.

There is no need for a secret court for either foreign nationals or U.S citizens. The former do not have constitutional protection, and the latter should not lose it under arbitrary determinations of U.S govt officials.

That's the entire predicate that underpins the 4th amendment.

All of that said…. I'll tell you why this issue is so important, and it has to do with the future, not the past.

The justification for the FISA-702 warrantless searching of American metadata, is a cornerstone for the enlargement of a surveillance state. The flawed precept behind 702 specifically, is the gateway needed to expand the system.

Real ID, Digital ID, AI used in facial recognition systems, and the larger issue of track and trace capability of U.S. citizen data (connecting your physical identity to a digital fingerprint), requires some legal justification to create a surveillance network DESPITE the 4th amendment.

FISA-702 is the proverbial camel's nose under the tent of privacy.

IF we were to abolish FISA-702, which we should, then what legal justification would exist to continue unsecuring the American people from "their private papers and effects."

The build out of the surveillance state becomes more legally tenuous, perhaps impossible, if privacy protections of the 4th amendment are firm.

Finding a way to surveil Americans, while working around the constitutional protection in place to stop it, is why the FISA-702 issue has become more important for those who are building the surveillance system under the guise of national security.

Challenge the legal justification for FISA-702, and you throw a massive wrench in the machinery of a growing surveillance state.

If you are secure in your papers and effects, you cannot be forced to "show your papers."

Right now, the monitoring system designed is being done so they can get the answers to your identity, without having to ask you to show your papers, which is unconstitutional.

You drive through the metaphorical checkpoint, because the system automatically recognizes your identity. This is said to be a legal workaround.

However, what happens at the checkpoint (bank, atm machine, employment verification, port of entry or even voting booth) when government identifies you (for whatever arbitrary reason they construct) as a "politically exposed person."

Don't think congress is stupid about this, they know exactly what is going on. They understand just how dangerous this is; that's why in the last FISA-702 reauthorization, congress literally wrote into the renewal that federal representatives cannot be subject to the FISA-702 rules.

All members of congress must be notified in advance, if their private metadata is going to be reviewed by the FBI, DOJ or any entity with access to the NSA full spectrum database library. They exempted themselves and secured their 4th amendment protections exclusively for themselves.

That's the "change" in the law they all agreed to during the debate of the renewal. However, *We The People* are not granted this same notification or protection from weaponized access.

Expanding the point. In essence Congress made themselves "grey walkers." Individuals that can go through the checkpoints with a database return result that permits them unimpeded travel. A special designation.

Now, do you see how a surveillance state creates a tiered hierarchy of disparate power and constitutional protection.

If AI converges with this total identity state, which it will, then the automation will have designations for people of special privilege.

It's brutally easy to see how this system would be weaponized. My goal is to awaken people to it.

This is my hill!

Peter Thiel is the man building the tool (AI surveillance weapon) for the IC to deploy against American Citizens. Thiel writes an op-ed saying the privacy protections of Americans are important because the govt to whom he is giving the weapon is demonstrably weaponized and corrupt.

Reconcile this!

"Darker questions still emerge in these dusky final weeks of our interregnum. Venture capitalist Marc Andreessen recently suggested on Joe Rogan's podcast that the Biden administration debanked crypto entrepreneurs. How closely does our financial system resemble a social credit system? Were an IRS contractor's illegal leaks of Trump's tax records anomalous, or should Americans assume their right to financial privacy hinges on their politics? And can one speak of a right to privacy at all when Congress conserves Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, under which the FBI conducts tens of thousands of warrantless searches of Americans' communications?"

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Trump Needs Legislative Help to Conquer the Deep State

BY DAILY SIGNAL
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/TRUMP-NEEDS-LEGISLATIVE-HELP-TO-CONQUER-THE-DEEP-STATE/
JANUARY 2, 2025
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, DEEP STATE

Tyler O'Neil | The Daily Signal

The administrative state will not take **President-elect Donald Trump's reforms** lying down, and although his actions as president can severely hamper the deep state, he will need legislative help to fully address the bureaucratic rot in the federal government.

Sen. James Lankford, R-Okla., recently confirmed reports that the Senate would consider two tracks for two so-called reconciliation bills, which, as of Jan. 3, the Republican-majority Senate can pass with fewer than 60 votes. One bill, likely to pass more quickly, will focus on immigration and energy; the other will focus on extending the tax cuts in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017.

I'd like to suggest that, in whichever reconciliation bill seems most appropriate to them, House and Senate Republicans consider including reforms to make the administrative state more accountable to the people's elected president.

These structural reforms to take on the deep state should make it easier to fire bureaucrats who oppose the president's agenda, saving money and helping to streamline the federal budget.

2 Tracks of Deep State Reform

The incoming second Trump administration is already effectively gearing up to fight waste and abuse in the federal government, using tools that don't require Congress to pass any new legislation.

Elon Musk and **Vivek Ramaswamy have done** excellent work in exposing the eye-popping waste and abuse in the federal government. Their Department of Government Efficiency, a presidential advisory commission known as DOGE, is long overdue.

Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, who leads efforts to help DOGE in the Senate, **published an important report** revealing how your tax dollars are wasted in maintaining federal office space while employees work from home.

The Department of Education shelled out $1 billion in diversity, equity, and inclusion grants since 2021, according to a report on so-called DEI spending from **Parents Defending Education**.

Trump should be able to reverse much of this damage through executive orders and by elevating effective managers to key positions such as heading the Office of Management and Budget and the Office of Personnel Management.

Even as **woke bureaucrats** dig in by finalizing rules to "Trump-proof" the bureaucracy, the new administration can issue new rules to reverse these steps. Trump's executive order creating a new category for federal workers, "Schedule F," will go a long way toward making the government more accountable.

Trump is preparing to make the important moves that he will have the authority to make after his inauguration Jan. 20. Unfortunately, subduing the deep state will require more than executive orders.

How Dems Plan to CLOG Trump's "Drain the Swamp" Agenda🧹
https://youtube.com/watch?v=hmpZYjV8oFI

Public Sector Unions

Bureaucrats in Washington, D.C., enjoy benefits that most employees do not. Why? Public sector unions such as the American Federation of Government Employees have organized federal workers and secured perks and job protections that **would shock private sector workers**.

It is long past time to bring an end to the perverse system of federal government unions. Even President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the man whose "New Deal" helped establish the modern federal bureaucracy, opposed public employee unions.

"The very nature and purposes of government make it impossible for administrative officials to represent fully or to bind the employer in mutual discussions with government employee organizations," **Roosevelt wrote**. "The employer is the whole people, who speak by means of laws enacted by their representatives in Congress."

FDR warned that any negotiation with a public employee union **would constitute a loss of the people's authority**. Yet a shocking Government Accountability Office report found that federal workers at just one agency—the Department of Veterans Affairs—**spent 1 million hours** working for unions in 2015.

Republicans and Democrats long agreed that public sector unions weren't compatible with constitutional government. The Civil Service Reform Act of 1978, which implemented many positive reforms, also codified President John F. Kennedy's executive order enabling government workers to join unions. Congress should consider whether it's time to amend this law.

When federal workers unionize, they set up an adversarial relationship with the people's elected representatives, who hired these employees to serve the people. These unions then advocate for workers against the people's elected representatives, shielding the employees from the ultimate accountability that comes at the ballot box.

Union protections help explain why so many bureaucrats felt comfortable openly opposing Trump's agenda from within the executive branch during his first term. To fully address this deep state phenomenon, the second Trump administration needs **systemic reforms to the civil service**.

Reining in the Administrative State

Passage of the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act should also be on the docket for the streamlined reconciliation process. Although **DOGE can** and should identify waste and abuse for the new Trump administration to cut, Congress needs to reassert its authority over the administrative state.

Every year, administrative agencies that Americans have barely even heard of issue **far more rules and regulations** than Congress passes. This system flies in the face of the vision of the Founders, who gave Congress more power than the other two branches of government because the legislative branch most represents the will of the people.

The REINS Act would require any major regulation that would affect the economy to receive a vote in both houses of Congress. This would be a powerful way to rein in the federal government—and it would do so not just for the four years of the second Trump administration, but for the foreseeable future. It represents an essential step for Congress to make the goals of DOGE far more permanent.

Entirely Unaccountable Agencies

Congress should seriously consider reining in agencies such as the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

In May, **the Supreme Court upheld** the constitutionality of the bizarre funding scheme that aims to keep the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau independent from Congress' power of the purse. Although many consider the opinion flawed, Congress has the authority to reverse this abuse of power by simply reforming the law.

Without reforms, the CFPB can persist in perpetuity and effectively without congressional oversight. This makes the agency unaccountable to the people. As Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito wrote, this "novel statutory scheme" means that "the powerful Consumer Financial Protection Bureau may bankroll its own agenda without any congressional control or oversight."

As I lay out in my forthcoming book "**The Woketopus**: The Dark Money Cabal Manipulating the Federal Government," the federal bureaucracy's power enables a network of far-left activists to infiltrate and advise the government, getting their preferred policies implemented without approval from Congress.

Restraining this behemoth will be critical to combating woke priorities in Washington, D.C.

The incoming Trump-Vance administration is already off to a good start in addressing the rot of the administrative state, but achieving lasting change will require the help of Congress. Returning power to the people's elected representatives is just as important as reversing the Biden-Harris administration's war on cheap energy and restoring the southern border.

'YOU'RE FIRED:' The 4 Woke Bureaucrats Trump Should Fire on Day One
https://youtube.com/watch?v=DTUxLtfoqCQ

SOURCE: **THE DAILY SIGNAL**

Tyler O'Neil is managing editor of The Daily Signal and the author of two books: "**Making Hate Pay: The Corruption of the Southern Poverty Law Center**," and "**The Woketopus: The Dark Money Cabal Manipulating the Federal Government**."

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Pork Laden Continuing Resolutions: The Cancer that Steels from their Citizens

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/PORK-LADEN-CONTINUING-RESOLUTIONS-THE-CANCER-THAT-EATS-THEIR-CITIZENS-ALIVE/
DECEMBER 18, 2024
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION

Breaking the Cycle of Corruption
Fire Speaker Johnson and a Government Shutdown Is the Remedy We May Need?

In the wake of recent developments in Washington, D.C., it has become increasingly evident that reckless government spending continues to undermine the trust and welfare of the American people. Omnibus bills and continuing resolutions (CRs) have become vehicles for funding wasteful and often self-serving agendas, detached from the needs of the citizens they are supposed to serve. As a content manager committed to biblical values and constitutional principles, I find it imperative to address these issues through the lens of truth and integrity.

The Accountability Crisis in Washington

Benny Johnson's exposé sheds light on the bipartisan practice of prioritizing lobbyist interests over the welfare of the American people. For decades, Washington has operated as a hub of self-serving deals, where both Republicans and Democrats return to their districts with promises they fail to keep. Instead, they align with 'The Blob'—a conglomerate of lobbyists, consultants, and bureaucrats—who siphon taxpayer dollars without accountability.

🚨**VICTORY: Elon Musk THREATENS to UNSEAT RINOS Voting for MASSIVE Spending Bill, Trump: 'It's DEAD'**

https://youtube.com/watch?v=n8lim5svdTQ

> **American's did NOT vote for**: – Gain-of-function research – Mask & Vaccine mandates – 12 new biolabs – Massive Congressional Pay Raises – $60B more to Ukraine – DC Sports Stadium Funding – Congress blocking subpoenas for their data – Corrupt Emergency powers – Legal Process Quashing – Expansion of the Government Censorship Center – Molasses Inspection Funding!? – Woke Term Changes ("Offender" to "Justice Involved Individual") – Transparency in concert ticket pricing – Elimination of the word "homeless" – Allowing lawmakers to opt out of Obamacare – A "Feral Swine Eradication" program Republican leadership need a lesson in who runs this country. We are not messing around. The backstabber days are over. **Pass clean bills or lose your seat. The old ways of DC is finished.**

Scripture reminds us of the importance of righteous leadership: "When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when the wicked rule, the people groan" (Proverbs 29:2). This ongoing pattern of deception and waste is not just a political failure; it is a moral one. It is time for leaders to govern with transparency and honor, reflecting the biblical principles of stewardship and justice.

Constitutional Concerns with Pork-Filled Spending

The recent CR, spanning over 1,500 pages, is riddled with spending items that have little to do with its stated purpose of keeping government operations running. From congressional pay raises to the establishment of additional biolabs, the bill showcases how far government has strayed from its constitutional mandate.

The U.S. Constitution entrusts Congress with the responsibility of careful fiscal stewardship (Article I, Section 9, Clause 7). Yet, bills like this one undermine that duty, prioritizing backroom deals over the welfare of the nation. As Christians, we are called to be faithful stewards of what God entrusts to us, whether in personal finances or public governance. 'Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much' (Luke 16:10).

The Moral Implications of Government Overreach

What does it say about our nation's moral compass when leaders enrich themselves while the American people shoulder the burden of bloated spending? Items such as congressional pay increases and new sports stadiums reveal a deep disregard for the struggles of everyday Americans.

Government exists to serve the people, not itself. As Romans 13:4 reminds us, rulers are called to be 'God's servant for your good.' Yet, when leaders exploit their positions for personal gain, they violate their God-given purpose and erode the public's trust.

Technology and Accountability: A New Era of Transparency

In this instance, the use of AI and social media platforms played a critical role in exposing the bill's content. Figures like Elon Musk leveraged their platforms to inform the public and hold leaders accountable. This represents a turning point, where technology is empowering citizens to demand transparency and justice.

The Bible calls us to walk in truth: 'Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free' (John 8:32). As Christians, we should celebrate and support efforts that bring accountability to leadership while remaining vigilant against any misuse of power or technology.

A Call to Action

Now, more than ever, we must hold our leaders accountable. As citizens, we have a responsibility to advocate for constitutional integrity and fiscal responsibility. As Christians, we are called to pray for our leaders, seeking God's wisdom and guidance for them: 'I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority' (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

Let us also remember Micah 6:8: 'What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.' By being informed and active participants in our government, we can fulfill our calling to act justly and hold our nation's leaders to the same standard.

Finally

While the battle against wasteful spending is far from over, this recent victory demonstrates the power of unity, truth, and perseverance. Through awareness and advocacy, we have begun to challenge the corrupt traditions of Washington, D.C. As Christians, let us continue to glorify God in this fight for justice, knowing that His truth is the ultimate standard by which all leaders will be held accountable.

This piece was prepared with the assistance of ChatGPT, an AI language model designed to support clear and thoughtful communication.

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President-elect Trump's 10 Point Plan to Dismantle the Deep State and Reclaim Our Republic from Washington Corruption

BY VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/PRESIDENT-ELECT-TRUMPS-10-POINT-PLAN-TO-DISMANTLE-THE-DEEP-STATE-AND-RECLAIM-OUR-REPUBLIC-FROM-WASHINGTON-CORRUPTION/
NOVEMBER 9, 2024
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, DEEP STATE, TENTH AMENDMENT

Trump introduced this as his plan to "dismantle the Deep State and reclaim our democracy from Washington corruption." He outlined ten specific points:

1. He would reissue his 2020 executive order about presidential authority to remove federal employees he termed "rogue bureaucrats."
2. He discussed overhauling national security and intelligence departments to prevent what he described as targeting of specific groups.
3. He proposed reforming FISA courts, citing concerns about warrant application processes.
4. He called for a "Truth and Reconciliation Commission" focused on declassifying documents.
5. He proposed more vigorous enforcement against government leaks to media outlets.
6. He wanted Inspector General offices to be physically separated from their overseen departments.
7. He would ask Congress to create an independent auditing system for intelligence agencies.
8. He would continue moving federal agencies outside DC, mentioning potentially relocating 100,000 positions.
9. He proposed banning federal bureaucrats from taking jobs at companies they regulated.
10. He would push for a constitutional amendment for congressional term limits.

JUST IN: Trump Unveils Plan To 'Dismantle The Deep State' As Possible Indictment Looms
https://youtube.com/watch?v=NcMVdh915AE

In examining the ten-point plan proposed to reform federal government operations, it's essential to understand how each element intersects with the United States Constitution. This foundational document establishes and limits governmental power. This analysis examines each proposal through the lens of specific constitutional provisions, considering both the legal framework and potential impact on American citizens. By grounding each proposal in constitutional principles, we can better evaluate their alignment with America's governmental structure and the delicate balance between executive authority, legislative oversight, and individual rights.

1. Executive Article Removal Authority Constitutional Basis: Article II, Section 1, Clause 1 ("Executive Power") and Section 3 ("Take Care Clause") The proposal aligns with the president's constitutional duty to ensure laws are faithfully executed. However, it intersects with civil service protections developed through legislative action. This could increase executive responsiveness for citizens but raise concerns about Merit System principles that protect against political patronage.
2. Intelligence Agency Reform Constitutional Basis: Fourth Amendment and Article II, Section 3 The proposed overhaul addresses Fourth Amendment protections against unreasonable searches and seizures. For citizens, this reform would strengthen constitutional protections against potential surveillance overreach and politically motivated investigations, particularly emphasizing equal protection under the Fourteenth Amendment.
3. FISA Court Reform Constitutional Basis: Fourth Amendment and Article III, Section 1 (Judicial Power) This directly addresses the Fourth Amendment's warrant requirements and probable cause standards. The reform would enhance judicial oversight of surveillance requests, providing citizens with more robust protections against unwarranted government intrusion while maintaining national security needs within constitutional bounds.
4. Truth and Reconciliation Commission Constitutional Basis: First Amendment (right to petition) and Article II, Section 2 (Executive Power over Classification) This commission would support the First Amendment's implicit right to government transparency and the public's right to petition to redress grievances. Citizens would gain access to previously classified information about government operations, supporting informed civic participation.
5. Government Leaks Enforcement Constitutional Basis: Article II, Section 3 and First Amendment This proposal balances First Amendment press freedoms with national security interests derived from Article II powers. It aims to protect citizens from unauthorized disclosures while maintaining legitimate whistleblower protections under various federal statutes.
6. Inspector General Independence Constitutional Basis: Article I, Section 8 (Necessary and Proper Clause) This structural reform would enhance the separation of powers principle implicit in the Constitution's design. Citizens benefit from stronger independent oversight of executive agencies, supporting constitutional checks and balances.
7. Intelligence Oversight System Constitutional Basis: Fourth Amendment and Article I, Section 8 (Congressional Oversight) Creates additional safeguards for Fourth Amendment

protections against unreasonable searches. Citizens gain enhanced protection against domestic surveillance overreach through independent monitoring of intelligence activities.

8. Federal Agency Relocation Constitutional Basis: Article I, Section 8 and Tenth Amendment This proposal reflects federalism principles embedded in the Tenth Amendment by distributing federal power geographically. Citizens could benefit from closer proximity to federal agencies and potentially more responsive government services.
9. Anti-Revolving Door Measures Constitutional Basis: Article I, Section 9 (Emoluments Clause principles) While not directly addressed in the Constitution, this builds on anti-corruption principles found in the Emoluments Clauses. Citizens benefit from reduced conflicts of interest in regulatory decisions and stronger ethical boundaries between public service and private gain.
10. Congressional Term Limits Constitutional Basis: Article V (Amendment Process) and Article I, Section 2-3 This would require a constitutional amendment following Article V procedures. For citizens, term limits could promote more diverse representation and reduce entrenchment of power, though it would limit voter choice in retaining experienced legislators.

These ten proposals represent a comprehensive attempt to restructure aspects of federal governance while working within constitutional parameters. Each element draws authority from specific constitutional provisions while attempting to address modern challenges in government operations. However, implementation would require careful consideration to maintain the Constitution's fundamental principles of checks and balances, separation of powers, and protection of individual rights. The success of such reforms would depend not only on their constitutional validity but also on their practical execution in ways that enhance rather than diminish democratic governance and citizen protections. While some measures could be implemented through executive action or legislation, others – particularly the congressional term limits – would require the more challenging path of constitutional amendment. Ultimately, the effectiveness of these reforms would be measured by their ability to strengthen constitutional governance while serving the American people's interests.

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Reclaiming Power: DHS Weaponization and Individual Liberties

BY VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/RECLAIMING-POWER-DHS-WEAPONIZATION-AND-INDIVIDUAL-LIBERTIES/
SEPTEMBER 28, 2024
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, GOVERNMENT WEAPONIZATION

Introduction

Formed in the wake of the catastrophic events of September 11, 2001, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was tasked with a solemn duty: to protect the United States from terrorist threats. This broad mandate, however, has morphed over the years, leading to significant concerns that DHS has accrued too much power with inadequate representation or accountability to the American people. Many now view its expansive reach as a tool for executive overreach, impacting civil liberties and diminishing the protective power of the Constitution.

The Evolution of DHS: From Anti-Terrorism to Overreach

Initially celebrated as a necessary consolidation of security efforts, DHS has grown into one of the largest federal agencies, wielding substantial influence over aspects of American life far beyond its original anti-terrorism purpose. This section should delve into the historical expansion of DHS's role, highlighting how its growth in power often came with little to no increase in direct accountability to the public or their elected representatives.

Surveillance, Data Collection, and Privacy Concerns

Critics argue that under the guise of national security, DHS has extensively monitored the activities of ordinary Americans, often without probable cause. This includes mass data collection initiatives and the monitoring of social media platforms, where the line between surveillance for security and unwarranted privacy invasions is frequently blurred. Examples like the NSA's domestic spying programs revealed in past years, underscore the potential for abuse under DHS oversight.

Impact on Civil Liberties: Case Studies

- **2020 Protests**: Federal agents deployed by DHS to manage protests often used tactics seen as aggressive and disproportionate, raising serious questions about the appropriate use of federal power in civil disturbances.
- **TSA and Traveler Privacy**: The Transportation Security Administration, a DHS agency, has been criticized for invasive screening techniques that affect millions of travelers annually, contributing to debates over personal privacy versus public safety.

Constitutional Tensions: The Bill of Rights at Risk

This critical section would explore specific instances where DHS actions have potentially infringed on the constitutional rights of Americans, particularly focusing on the First, Fourth, and Fifth Amendments. Discuss the legal and ethical implications of DHS activities, such as the use of technology for surveillance without sufficient oversight, and how these might violate constitutional protections against unreasonable searches and seizures.

Public Perception and the Executive Branch's Control

Americans have a growing perception that the executive branch uses DHS and other "alphabet agencies" to assert control in ways that undermine the checks and balances designed by the Constitution. This part should analyze how expanding executive power through agencies like DHS diminishes the legislative and judicial branches' roles, potentially leading to a systemic imbalance that favors executive discretion over democratic, representative governance.

Conclusion: Reclaiming Constitutional Balance

The conclusion should reinforce the need to rigorously reevaluate DHS's role and powers. It should advocate for reforms to ensure that DHS's activities are transparent, accountable, and aligned with the foundational principles of liberty and justice. It should also suggest practical

steps for citizens to engage with lawmakers, participate in oversight efforts, and promote policies that safeguard both national security and individual freedoms.

Call to Action

Urge readers to remain vigilant and proactive in discussions on national security and civil liberties. Encourage participation in the political process to advocate for a balanced approach that respects both the nation's security needs and its citizens' constitutional rights.

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Reclaiming Power: EPA Weaponization and Property Rights

BY VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/RECLAIMING-POWER-EPA-WEAPONIZATION-AND-PROPERTY-RIGHTS/
SEPTEMBER 27, 2024
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, GOVERNMENT WEAPONIZATION, TENTH AMENDMENT

Introduction

In our ongoing series on government overreach, we turn our focus to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Established to protect natural resources, the EPA's expansive regulatory actions have raised significant constitutional concerns, especially regarding property rights and federal authority.

The Role of the EPA in the Constitutional Framework

The EPA operates under the authority granted by Congress to enforce environmental laws aimed at protecting air, water, and land. This authority, however, is bound by constitutional limits that are designed to safeguard state sovereignty and property rights as outlined by the Tenth and Fifth Amendments, respectively.

EPA Weaponization: Targeting Property Owners, Farmers, and Businesses

The weaponization of the EPA's powers has been particularly evident in its interactions with property owners, farmers, and businesses. High-profile cases like *Sackett v. EPA* illustrate how the agency's enforcement mechanisms can infringe on due process rights by imposing severe penalties without timely access to judicial review. Such actions not only challenge the constitutional rights of individuals but also place undue burdens on economic sectors that are vital to the nation's prosperity.

The Impact of EPA Weaponization on Property Owners

Property owners across the country have felt the direct impact of the EPA's regulatory over-reach. The EPA has effectively placed significant portions of private land under federal control through broad definitions of wetlands and aggressive enforcement actions. This overreach not only diminishes the value and utility of the land but also challenges the very essence of property ownership rights guaranteed by the Fifth Amendment. The result is a chilling effect on development and a palpable tension between environmental objectives and constitutional liberties.

The Case for Abolishing the EPA

In light of these ongoing constitutional breaches, a compelling argument exists for abolishing the EPA and reverting its powers back to the states as the founding fathers might have preferred. This approach advocates for a decentralized environmental governance model where states tailor their policies to fit local ecological and economic contexts, thereby enhancing accountability, reducing bureaucratic inefficiencies, and preventing federal overreach. Such a radical shift would realign federal and state roles in environmental protection, ensuring that regulations serve the people's needs without infringing on individual freedoms and property rights.

Strategies to Reclaim Constitutional Rights

The growing influence of unelected bureaucrats and the administrative state has necessitated a call to action for reclaiming the constitutional rights currently being infringed upon. Effective strategies include:

- **Legislative Action:** Encouraging Congress to define clearer limits of regulatory authority and to enact laws that require regular review of regulatory agencies' powers.
- **Judicial Oversight:** Supporting legal challenges against regulatory overreach and advocating for courts to uphold strict interpretations of the Constitution.
- **Public Awareness and Involvement:** Enhancing public education on the role and limits of federal agencies and mobilizing grassroots campaigns to demand transparency and accountability.
- **State-Level Initiatives:** Empowering states to assert their rights under the Tenth Amendment to resist federal encroachments that lack clear constitutional authorization.

Conclusion

As stewards of both our environment and our constitutional rights, it is essential to ensure that the EPA's regulations do not overstep legal boundaries. By critically assessing the agency's actions and their impact on property rights and state sovereignty, we can safeguard our constitutional framework while also promoting responsible environmental stewardship. The challenge ahead is to strike a balance that respects both our natural heritage and our fundamental legal principles.

Read the Reclaiming Power Series:

1. **Reclaiming Power: DOJ Weaponization and the Rule of Law**
2. **Reclaiming Power: FBI Weaponization and Due Process**

3. **Reclaiming Power: IRS Weaponization and Equal Protection**
4. **Reclaiming Power: EPA Weaponization and Property Rights**
5. **Reclaiming Power: DHS Weaponization and Individual Liberties**

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Unveiling Audit Virginia: A Call to Safeguard Our Electoral Integrity

BY VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/UNVEILING-AUDIT-VIRGINIA-A-CALL-TO-SAFEGUARD-OUR-ELECTORAL-INTEGRITY/
SEPTEMBER 19, 2024
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION

In the heart of every robust democracy lies the unyielding principle of fair and transparent elections. Today, as Virginians and guardians of our constitutional republic, we face pivotal challenges that question the integrity of our electoral processes. This is where **Audit Virginia** steps into the spotlight, advocating for the restoration of trust and legality in our state's elections. We invite you, the vigilant citizens of Virginia, to join this critical initiative.

Why Audit Virginia?

Audit Virginia has emerged as a pivotal player in the crusade to cleanse and secure our voting systems. With a keen focus on the discrepancies in voter rolls and the certification of electronic voting systems, their mission resonates with all who cherish democratic integrity. Here's what makes their work indispensable:

- Voter Roll Accuracy: Audit Virginia shines a light on the bloated voter rolls that plague our system, highlighting the inclusion of ineligible voters such as non-US citizens and deceased

individuals. Their advocacy for meticulous scrutiny ensures that every vote cast is legitimate and traceable.
- Certification of Voting Equipment: In an era where technology pervades every facet of life, ensuring the reliability and certification of electronic voting systems is paramount. Audit Virginia exposes the lack of certification in our current systems, pushing for reforms that align with federal standards to safeguard every vote's sanctity.
- Election Day Reforms: The organization champions the cause for traditional, secure voting practices such as hand counts, stringent voter ID laws, and the limitation of mail-in ballots, all aimed at minimizing fraud and maximizing transparency.

A Constitutional Foundation

Audit Virginia's ethos is deeply entrenched in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and the **Constitution of Virginia's Bill of Rights**. They remind us that the power of governance is derived from the people, to whom all officials are accountable. This legal and moral framework guides their peaceful remonstration for electoral reforms, advocating not just for rights but for the righteous.

Call to Action: Engage, Educate, Empower

As Virginians, our role extends beyond the ballot. Audit Virginia offers a platform for engagement through education and activism, urging us to uphold the integrity of our elections. Whether you are seasoned in civic duties or new to political advocacy, your voice matters:

- Educate Yourself and Others: Audit Virginia provides resources and workshops to understand the intricacies of our electoral systems and the laws that govern them.
- Volunteer: Join hands with Audit Virginia in their efforts to monitor elections, audit voter rolls, and ensure that every polling station upholds the highest standards of electoral conduct.
- Advocate: Spread the word within your community about the importance of election integrity and the need for systemic reforms. Your advocacy can influence public opinion and legislative changes.

Conclusion:

The call to safeguard our electoral integrity is urgent and undeniable. By supporting Audit Virginia, we take a stand not just for free and fair elections, but for the very foundations of our constitutional rights and responsibilities. Let us step forward as informed citizens, ready to defend and preserve the integrity of our democratic processes. Join me in this vital cause—our republic's future depends on it.

How to Join:

To become a part of **Audit Virginia**, visit (http://auditvirginia.org) to sign up as a volunteer, access educational materials, or donate to support their ongoing efforts. Together, we can ensure that every vote counts and every voice is heard.

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The Ruling Elite and Administrative State Overreach | Constitution Minute

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/THE-RULING-ELITE-AND-ADMINISTRATIVE-OVERREACH-CONSTITUTION-MINUTE/
SEPTEMBER 15, 2024
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, CONSTITUTION MINUTE

"We the People" find our voices increasingly stifled by a "ruling elite" entrenched within NGOs and federal agencies. This **administrative state**, with its far-reaching policies, threatens the **constitutional principle of a government** that serves its citizens. Instead of fostering a government by and for the people, the administrative state has transformed into an oligarchy—a rule of the few over the many. Supported by an intricate network of clientele groups, this elite operates in a manner that disregards the average citizen's needs and erodes the freedoms guaranteed by our Constitution.

The Administrative State: A Return to Pre-Constitutional Government

Why the Ruling Elite Is Anti-American | Constitution 101 Highlight
https://youtube.com/watch?v=rzED-btL4k8

The rise of the administrative state represents a profound departure from the limited government envisioned by the Founding Fathers. Today's ruling elite, comprising federal agencies and NGOs, exercises control over virtually every aspect of daily life. As Hillsdale College points out in the video above, "**Why the Ruling Elite Is Anti-American**," the administrative state is anti-constitutional and represents "the rule of the few for their own sakes—a distinct and insular class of people rather than a trained elite." This oligarchy is supported by clientele groups who benefit from privileges conferred by the system. Meanwhile, the average citizen finds themselves systematically disenfranchised, with little ability to influence policy or hold the administrative machinery accountable.

Hostility to Constitutional Principles

The administrative state's hostility to constitutional principles is evident in its extensive regulatory reach. Hillsdale College highlights how the federal government dictates everyday aspects of life, from the amount of water allowed in washing machines to the composition of light bulbs in our homes. This overreach signifies a return to pre-constitutional government where power is concentrated in the hands of a few, diverging from the Constitution's intent to limit government power and protect individual liberties.

Get Your FREE Pocket-sized copy of The Constitution and Declaration of Independence!

Click Here to get yours Today (Hillsdale Constitution Minute)

EPA Overreach and the Erosion of Property Rights

A poignant example of administrative overreach is the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s "**Waters of the United States**" rule. This rule allows the EPA to assert control over small bodies of water on private land, often without due process or fair compensation. In ***Sackett v. EPA*** (2012), a family faced crippling fines for attempting to build a home on what the EPA deemed protected wetlands. This demonstrates how an unaccountable federal agency can exercise authority over individual property rights, reflecting a departure from the Constitution's protection of private property and individual freedoms.

Weaponization of Federal Agencies: The IRS Targeting Scandal

The **IRS's 2013 targeting of conservative groups seeking tax-exempt status** is a glaring example of administrative state overreach. The IRS used its authority to delay and scrutinize applications from organizations that opposed the administration's policies, effectively stifling political dissent. Hillsdale College describes this as the administrative state "becoming intensely focused on things that legitimate government ought not to do." The IRS's actions demonstrate the

danger of an unchecked federal agency weaponizing its power against American citizens, violating their First Amendment rights.

Federal Intrusion in Education Policy

Through initiatives like the **Common Core State Standards**, the Department of Education has exerted influence over local school curricula—an area traditionally reserved for state and local governments. This top-down approach has centralized control over education, limiting the ability of local communities to shape their children's learning. Hillsdale College argues that such overreach is an inversion of the government's priorities, as it focuses on areas beyond its constitutional mandate, thereby diminishing the role of local governance and parental influence in education.

CDC Mandates and Constitutional Concerns

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) implemented sweeping mandates, including mask mandates, business closures, and eviction moratoriums. These measures sparked debate over the extent of the CDC's authority, particularly since many of these actions bypassed legislative approval. While public health is crucial, the CDC's approach raised concerns about constitutional justification and the limits of administrative power. Hillsdale College emphasizes that the administrative state "becomes intensely focused on things that legitimate government ought not to do," intruding into personal and business realms without direct accountability.

Surveillance State: DHS and the Erosion of Civil Liberties

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has been criticized for its surveillance programs that infringe on Americans' privacy rights. The widespread collection of personal data without proper oversight exemplifies how the administrative state has overstepped its bounds. Hillsdale College argues that this behavior reflects an administrative state unconcerned with the government's legitimate tasks. Instead of protecting civil liberties, it erodes them, demonstrating the dangers of an unchecked administrative apparatus.

Neglect of Core Governmental Responsibilities

While the administrative state focuses on regulating every aspect of citizens' lives, it often neglects its fundamental responsibilities. As Hillsdale College notes, "major cities have chronic amounts of unsolved murders," and in cases like Detroit, thousands of unprocessed rape kits took more than a decade to address. Cities like Portland, Oregon, appear willing to allow groups like Antifa to take over the streets, enforcing laws as they see fit. At the national level, the federal government seems unconcerned with maintaining territorial integrity, failing to address illegal

immigration effectively. These examples underscore how the administrative state neglects its core duties, instead pursuing regulatory control that infringes upon individual freedoms.

The Inverted Priorities of the Administrative State

The administrative state has fundamentally inverted its priorities, fixating on areas outside the purview of just government while neglecting the essential functions it was established to perform. Hillsdale College describes this inversion as the state becoming "hostile to the Constitution" and unable to fulfill the expectations of its Progressive Founders. The administrative state's actions betray the constitutional framework of limited government, allowing an unaccountable ruling elite to impose their will on the citizenry, turning "We the People" into mere subjects of bureaucratic rule.

Conclusion

The administrative state's overreach represents a profound departure from the constitutional principles that define our republic. The concentration of power in the hands of an unaccountable ruling elite has eroded the influence of the people, contradicting the foundational idea of a government by and for the people. From property rights infringements by the EPA to the IRS targeting political dissent, federal intrusion into education policy, and the unchecked power of surveillance programs, the administrative state's actions vividly demonstrate its divergence from constitutional governance. To reclaim our constitutional republic, we must challenge this overreach, restore the proper role of government, and ensure that "We the People" once again have a say in the policies that shape our lives.

For further insight into this critical issue, we recommend exploring Hillsdale College's Constitution 101 course, particularly the lecture "Why the Ruling Elite Is Anti-American," which delves into the administrative state's departure from constitutional principles.

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Reclaiming Power: IRS Weaponization and Equal Protection

BY VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/RECLAIMING-POWER-IRS-WEAPONIZATION-AND-EQUAL-PROTECTION/
SEPTEMBER 9, 2024
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, GOVERNMENT WEAPONIZATION

Introduction: IRS Power and Public Trust

In the previous post of our "**Reclaiming Power**" series, we examined the **FBI's role in undermining due process and eroding public trust**. As we continue our exploration of government agencies, we now turn our attention to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). While the IRS is responsible for collecting taxes and enforcing tax laws, it has also been at the center of allegations regarding political bias and the weaponization of its power. In this article, we'll discuss how accusations of IRS weaponization raise Constitutional concerns about equal protection under the law.

The Role of the IRS in the Constitutional Framework

The IRS serves a critical function in the U.S. government, ensuring that individuals and organizations comply with tax laws and contribute their fair share. However, the Constitution's protections, particularly under the Fourteenth Amendment's Equal Protection Clause, prevent government agencies like the IRS from unfairly targeting specific individuals or groups based on political affiliations or beliefs.

The Founding Fathers built protections into the Constitution to prevent government overreach, and tax collection was no exception. While the IRS plays an essential role in keeping the government funded, its actions must be held to the same Constitutional standards that apply to other branches of government. Unfortunately, when the IRS is accused of targeting specific groups, it threatens the principles of fairness and impartiality at the core of the American legal system.

IRS Weaponization: Targeting Political Groups

One of the most high-profile examples of IRS weaponization occurred during the **2013 IRS targeting scandal. In this scandal,** conservative organizations, particularly those with "Tea Party" in their names, were subjected to additional scrutiny when applying for tax-exempt status. A 2017 Treasury Department investigation confirmed that this scrutiny was not applied equally to

other political groups, which fueled accusations that the IRS had been used to hinder conservative activism.

The impact of this scandal was profound, casting doubt on the IRS's ability to operate impartially. When a government agency selectively enforces laws or disproportionately targets certain groups, it violates the core principle of equal protection under the law. Many conservative organizations faced significant delays, additional questioning, and an overall increase in administrative burdens, which prevented them from operating freely during a critical time for political activism.

Even though the IRS later apologized and attempted to rectify the situation, the damage to public trust was done. It highlighted how easily a government agency could be used as a tool for political ends, undermining the system's fundamental fairness.

Constitutional Focus: Equal Protection Under the Law

The Fourteenth Amendment guarantees that no individual or group should be denied equal protection under the law. This principle ensures that the government cannot discriminate against anyone based on their beliefs, affiliations, or other characteristics. When the IRS is accused of targeting specific political groups, it raises serious concerns about violating this Constitutional right.

The IRS's mission is to apply tax laws uniformly and without bias. However, when its actions show favoritism or selective enforcement, they threaten the rule of law. Equal protection under the law is not just a concept reserved for criminal cases—it applies to every aspect of government, including tax enforcement.

In the **IRS targeting scandal**, conservative groups were subjected to a disproportionate level of scrutiny, raising questions about whether the IRS had violated the Equal Protection Clause by treating certain political groups differently. This undermined the fairness and integrity of the tax system, which should be applied equally to all citizens, regardless of their political affiliations.

The Impact of IRS Weaponization on Public Trust

When an agency as powerful as the IRS is perceived as biased or weaponized, the consequences extend far beyond those directly impacted. Public trust in the agency erodes, and the perception of unfair treatment diminishes confidence in the entire tax system. Tax laws, which are already complex and often contentious, become even more difficult to enforce when citizens believe they are being used as political tools.

Moreover, IRS weaponization sets a dangerous precedent for future abuses of power. If the IRS can target specific groups without consequence, other government agencies could follow suit, using

their authority to suppress political opposition or favor certain ideologies. This erodes the foundations of democracy, where every citizen and group should be treated fairly under the law.

Reclaiming Power: Restoring Integrity in Tax Enforcement

To reclaim power and restore public trust in the IRS, several reforms are needed:

1. **Increased Oversight and Accountability**: Ensuring that the IRS is subject to independent oversight can help prevent future instances of political bias or weaponization. Transparency is critical in maintaining public trust.

2. **Strict Adherence to Constitutional Principles**: The IRS must uphold the Fourteenth Amendment's equal protection guarantees by applying tax laws consistently, without regard to political beliefs or affiliations.

3. **Clearer Guidelines for Tax-Exempt Applications**: Establishing non-partisan, transparent criteria for determining tax-exempt status can help prevent perceptions of bias in the approval process. All groups should be treated equally, regardless of their political leanings.

4. **Restoration of Public Confidence**: The IRS must actively work to restore the public's confidence by being transparent about its processes, addressing past wrongs, and ensuring fair treatment for all taxpayers moving forward.

Conclusion: Safeguarding Fairness in Government

The IRS plays a critical role in maintaining the financial stability of the government, but it must do so in a manner that is fair, impartial, and free from political influence. Allegations of IRS weaponization against specific political groups, such as the 2013 targeting scandal, demonstrate how easily government power can be abused if left unchecked.

As we continue to explore the role of government agencies in our "Reclaiming Power" series, it is clear that safeguarding the Constitutional principle of equal protection under the law is critical to preserving a fair and just society. In our next article, we will investigate the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and how its actions have raised concerns about property rights and regulatory overreach. Join us as we continue to discuss the need to reclaim power and protect individual liberties from government overreach.

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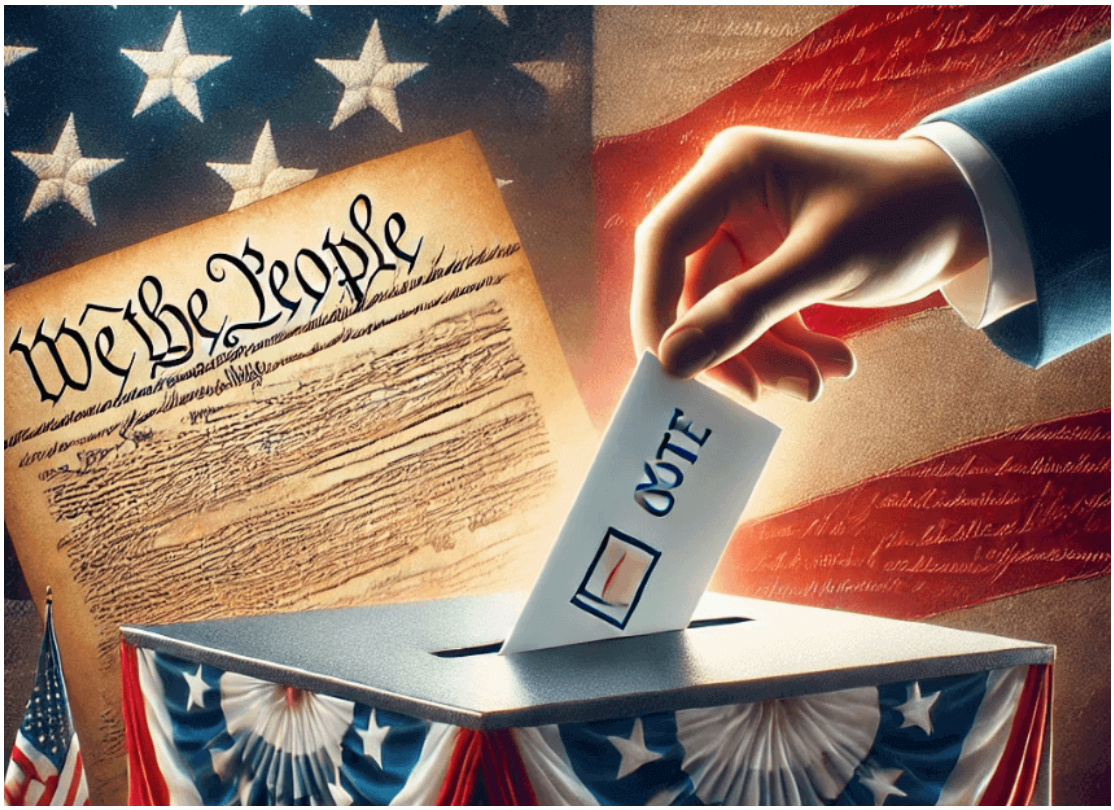
RNC Scores Election Law Victories in These Swing States. Here's What That Could Mean in November

BY DAILY SIGNAL
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/RNC-SCORES-ELECTION-LAW-VICTORIES-IN-THESE-SWING-STATES-HERES-WHAT-THAT-COULD-MEAN-IN-NOVEMBER/
SEPTEMBER 5, 2024
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, DEEP STATE, TENTH AMENDMENT



Introduction:
As we approach the next pivotal election, ensuring the integrity of our electoral process has never been more crucial. In his recent article for *The Daily Signal* **RNC Scores Election Law Victories in These Swing States. Here's What That Could Mean in November,** Fred Lucas outlines key legal victories secured by the Republican National Committee in several swing states. These wins highlight the ongoing constitutional debate over state control of election laws and federal oversight. Read on to understand how these rulings may impact the upcoming election and what they mean for the future of American democracy.

Constitutional Relevance:
These legal victories are deeply rooted in constitutional principles, particularly the balance of power between state governments and the federal government as outlined in the U.S. Constitution. The Supreme Court's decisions, such as those in Arizona, reaffirm the states' rights to determine their own election procedures under the Tenth Amendment. Additionally, the

enforcement of voter ID laws and ballot verification measures touches upon the Fourteenth Amendment's Equal Protection Clause, ensuring that all citizens have fair access to the voting process while maintaining the integrity of elections. This ongoing dialogue underscores the Constitution's vital role in shaping and guiding election laws to preserve democratic values and protect the rights of voters across the nation.

The Republican National Committee this week filed election-related lawsuits in Michigan and North Carolina, coming off a Supreme Court victory last week over election procedures in **Arizona**.

An RNC initiative called Protect the Vote has filed more than **100 lawsuits** across 25 states and recruited more than 150,000 lawyers and volunteer poll watchers across the country.

"We are defending the law and fighting for commonsense security measures that benefit all Americans—like stopping illegal immigrants from voting, mail ballot safeguards, voter ID measures, stopping leftist dark money, and cleaning the voter rolls," Gineen Bresso, director of **election integrity** for the Republican National Committee, told The Daily Signal in a written statement. "We are winning in court and have recruited over 150,000 volunteers for the election. We are protecting the vote for all Americans."

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The Democratic National Committee didn't respond to inquiries for this story.

Previously, however, the **DNC issued** statements criticizing Republicans' litigation and asserting that RNC leadership was chosen by former President Donald Trump to "push lies" about the 2020 election. That leadership would be "anti-democracy" and promote conspiracy theories, the DNC said.

In August, the Democratic National Committee filed lawsuits opposing Republican-backed election procedures in **Arizona** and **Georgia**.

The Republican National Committee has pending litigation in Georgia, Nevada, and other states where the Nov. 5 presidential election looks close. Here, however, are five states where the GOP has gained major victories.

1. Arizona and Noncitizen Voting

The Republican National Committee won a partial victory Aug. 22 when the U.S. Supreme Court **ruled 5-4** to allow Arizona to enforce its law requiring proof of U.S. citizenship during voter registration.

Under the ruling, election officials may reject voter registration forms without proof of citizenship. The high court stayed a federal district court ruling while it awaits a hearing before the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The lower court struck down provisions of Arizona's law that require an election official to reject a voter registration that doesn't include proof of U.S. citizenship. Arizona Secretary of State **Adrian Fontes** and Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes, both Democrats, opted not to defend the state law.

So the RNC filed an emergency application to the Supreme Court to allow the state to fully enforce the law, which its ruling did.

"This is a major victory for election integrity that upholds a simple principle: American elections must be decided by American citizens," RNC Chairman Michael Whatley said in a **public statement** on the high court's decision.

Fontes, Arizona's secretary of state, opposed the court ruling.

"My concern is that changes to the process should not occur this close to an election, it creates confusion for voters," Fontes said in a **public statement**. "We respect the court's decision and will implement these changes while continuing to protect voter access and make voting a simple process."

Earlier this year, Arizona's election system garnered increased scrutiny when billionaire entrepreneur **Elon Musk** posted on his social media platform X, formerly Twitter: "Arizona clearly states that no proof of citizenship is required for federal elections."

That's technically correct, but no other state requires proof of U.S. citizenship to vote in federal elections, either. Arizona, however, requires such proof before someone may vote in state and local elections.

That's because in 2013, the Supreme Court ruled 7-2 in **Arizona v. Inter Tribal Council of Ariz. Inc.** that the 1993 National Voter Registration Act, known as the motor voter law, determined that every state must accept the same standardized voter registration forms for federal elections.

However, the ruling, written by then-Justice Antonin Scalia, said Arizona's law requiring proof of U.S. citizenship to vote could apply to state and local elections but not federal ones.

As a result, Arizona uses two different ballots for state and federal elections. A state resident with documented proof of citizenship may vote using both ballots. A voter without proof of citizenship may still vote for president and Congress.

2. Stopping Presumptions in Michigan

The Republican National Committee joined the Michigan Republican Party and Wayne County Republican Committee this week to **sue the city of Detroit** for not hiring a sufficient number of Republican election inspectors.

Michigan law requires hiring an equal number of Democrats and Republicans for election roles. But the GOP plaintiffs allege that Detroit has hired seven times as many Democrats as election inspectors.

The RNC gained a victory in **Michigan** after suing Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, a Democrat, regarding her instructions to local election clerks to presume—rather than verify—the validity of an absentee voter's signature.

"In Michigan, we stopped the secretary of state's illegal instructions to ignore mail ballot safeguards," the RNC's Bresso said.

The RNC teamed with the state Republican Party to argue that the instruction violated the Michigan Constitution, which requires verification of signatures. They won a partial victory in June when state Judge Christopher Yates **ruled** that Benson's decision is a presumption that is "a foul under Michigan law."

After the ruling, a spokesperson for Benson's office noted that the judge agreed the secretary of state has authority to implement other ballot rules for the state's more than 1,500 independent election clerks.

"Michigan's clerks have and will continue to carefully review every ballot signature to ensure they agree sufficiently with the signature on file before accepting any ballot," Benson spokesperson Angela Benander said, according to **The Detroit News**.

Going back to 2020, the RNC and the state party teamed to intervene in a lawsuit brought by a Democratic super PAC, Priorities USA, to strike down Michigan's state ban on the process known as ballot harvesting.

In September 2022, a **federal court upheld** the ban, which allowed for the tracking of absentee ballots.

Ballot harvesting is when political operatives distribute or collect large quantities of absentee ballots, prompting concerns of voter intimidation or improper influence.

3. Poll Watchers in North Carolina

The Republican National Committee also filed two lawsuits against the North Carolina State Board of Elections in a span of four days in late August.

One lawsuit alleges the state election board failed to **require identification** to prove U.S. citizenship, a violation of the 2002 Help America Vote Act. The state and national GOP contend this lapse opens up the opportunity for as many as 225,000 noncitizens to vote.

The previous week, the RNC **sued the Tar Heel State** alleging that it failed to check jury questionnaire responses to identify and remove noncitizens from voter registration lists.

These cases go on after an earlier Republican National Committee victory in **North Carolina**.

In a 2022 case, the RNC argued that the State Board of Elections was trying to weaken the rights of poll watchers. It scored a victory that August when the state's Rules Review Commission **rejected restrictions** on the election board's new poll watchers.

The State Election Board's rules would have prevented poll watchers from standing too close to voting machines or poll books, and also give election officials the authority to remove poll watchers.

The following October, Wake County Superior Court Judge Vince Rozier **sided with the RNC** and blocked the rule preventing "at-large," party-appointed poll watchers from going to different polling locations throughout Election Day.

The county court, however, also sided with the state board and moved back the date by which ballots must be accepted to Nov. 14, six days after the Nov. 8 election in 2022. The normal deadline of Nov. 11 fell on Veterans Day that year.

Patrick Gannon, the spokesperson for the State Election Board, told the **Carolina Journal**: "We are grateful that the judge denied the plaintiffs' request to shorten the absentee ballot deadline. … The county boards of elections will, of course, abide by the judge's ruling tweaking the replacement procedure for party observers. That is a polling place management issue that our bipartisan poll workers can be trusted to handle."

4. Parity in Wisconsin

In **Wisconsin**, the Republican National Committee won a case to enforce the state's law requiring an equal number of Republican and Democrat poll workers.

“We successfully fought for poll worker parity and poll watcher protections,” the RNC’s Bresso told The Daily Signal.

The RNC also notes that it sued after **finding the city of Appleton, Wisconsin**, didn’t have GOP poll workers to assist in nursing homes. The city agreed to hire Republicans as well as Democrats.

The RNC also sued to achieve an equal number of election workers from each major party in the Wisconsin cities of Green Bay and Milwaukee.

State law requires the two major parties to have relatively equal numbers of election workers.

In September 2022, a **state court ruled** in favor of the RNC’s challenge of guidance by the Wisconsin Elections Commission. The **guidance had instructed** local election officials to fill in missing information on absentee ballot forms and to witness affidavits.

Judge Michael Aprahamian ruled that the elections commission “cannot continue to promulgate advice it knows—or should know—violates state law and the intent of the Legislature.”

Others objected, such as Claire Woodall-Vogg, executive director of the Milwaukee Election Commission, who **told** The Associated Press: “Historically, voters have not been penalized for minor errors in voting where intent is clear.”

5. Verifying Mail-In Ballots in Pennsylvania

In May, the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals **ruled on** a mail-in ballot verification case in **Pennsylvania** that had worked its way through state and federal courts.

In the 2022 midterm elections, several county election boards in Pennsylvania announced plans not to enforce a law requiring voters to put a date on their mail-in ballots in order for the ballots to be counted.

The Republican National Committee teamed with the Pennsylvania Republican Party to sue and force those county boards to enforce the law. The **Pennsylvania Supreme Court** sided with Republicans, prohibiting the counting of undated or misdated ballots.

In response, several liberal groups sued in federal court to challenge the state law requiring mail-in ballots to be dated before being counted.

Among them were Pennsylvania branches of national left-leaning organizations such as the NAACP, the League of Women Voters, and Common Cause. They were joined by state-based or local groups such as Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower and Rebuild; the Black Political Empowerment Project; and Make the Road Pennsylvania.

Last November, a federal district court struck down Pennsylvania's requirement of dated mail-in ballots.

But in May, the 2-1 ruling by a 3rd Circuit panel upheld the law.

Ari Savitzky, the senior staff attorney with the ACLU's Voting Rights Project who argued the case, **told reporters** after the ruling that "voters may be disenfranchised for a minor paperwork error like forgetting to write an irrelevant date on the return envelope of their mail ballot."

"We are considering all of our options at this time," Savitzky said. "And we will not stop fighting for voters."

Whatley, the RNC's chairman, said: "Pennsylvanians deserve to feel confident in the security of their mail ballots, and this 3rd Circuit ruling roundly rejects unlawful left-wing attempts to count undated or incorrectly dated mail ballots."

SOURCE: THE DAILY SIGNAL

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Protecting the Integrity of Our Elections: A Constitutional Imperative

BY VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/PROTECTING-THE-INTEGRITY-OF-OUR-ELECTIONS-A-CONSTITUTIONAL-IMPERATIVE/
AUGUST 30, 2024
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, CONSTITUTION MINUTE

Election integrity is the cornerstone of a functioning democracy, ensuring that every eligible vote is counted and every ineligible vote is excluded. In Texas, Governor Greg Abbott has taken significant steps to safeguard this principle, most notably by removing over one million ineligible voters from the state's voter rolls. This effort, initiated after the signing of Senate Bill 1 in 2021, reflects a broader commitment to upholding the constitutional right to free and fair elections.

The Facts Behind the Removal of Ineligible Voters

Since 2021, more than 1.1 million ineligible voters have been purged from Texas' voter rolls, including over 457,000 deceased individuals, more than 6,000 with felony convictions, and over 6,500 potential noncitizens. Of the noncitizens removed, approximately 1,930 have a voter history, raising concerns about illegal voting. The Texas Secretary of State's office is currently forwarding these cases to the Attorney General's Office for investigation and potential legal action.

This move is part of a broader strategy to crack down on illegal voting. Last year, Governor Abbott signed House Bill 1243, which escalated the penalty for illegal voting—including voting by noncitizens—to a second-degree felony. This legislative measure underscores the seriousness with which Texas treats the sanctity of its electoral process.

Over 6,500	noncitizens
Over 6,000	voters who have a felony conviction
Over 457,000	deceased people
Over 463,000	voters on the suspense list
Over 134,000	voters who responded to an address confirmation notice that they had moved
Over 65,000	voters who failed to respond to a notice of examination
Over 19,000	voters who requested to cancel their registration
Total: Over 1.1 million	

Legislative Measures to Strengthen Election Integrity

The removal of ineligible voters is not an isolated effort. It follows a series of legislative actions taken by Governor Abbott to reinforce election laws in Texas:

- **Senate Bill 1 (2021):** Elevated lying while registering to vote to a state jail felony, criminalized ballot harvesting, required the Secretary of State to conduct randomized audits of elections every two years, banned the distribution of unsolicited mail-in ballot applications and ballots, and required ID for mail-in ballots.
- **Senate Bill 1113 (2021):** Empowered the Secretary of State to withhold funds from counties that fail to remove noncitizens from their voter rolls.
- **House Bill 574 (2021):** Made it a second-degree felony to knowingly count invalid votes or refuse to count valid votes.
- **Senate Bill 5 (2017):** Increased the penalty for election workers who knowingly permit noncitizens and other ineligible persons to vote.

These measures reflect a rigorous approach to election oversight, ensuring that the integrity of the voting process is maintained in accordance with constitutional principles. They also highlight the ongoing commitment to protecting the right to vote—a fundamental right enshrined in the U.S. Constitution.

Why Election Integrity Matters

Election integrity is crucial because it underpins the legitimacy of our democratic system. When citizens cast their votes, they trust that the process is fair, transparent, and secure. This trust is foundational to the public's confidence in the outcomes of elections and, by extension, the elected government. If the integrity of elections is compromised, the consequences can be severe:

1. **Erosion of Public Trust:** If people believe that elections are rigged or manipulated, trust in the entire democratic process can erode. This loss of confidence can lead to decreased voter turnout, civil unrest, and challenges to the legitimacy of elected officials.

2. **Disenfranchisement of Voters:** Without strict election integrity measures, illegal votes can cancel out the votes of legitimate voters, effectively disenfranchising them. This undermines the principle of one person and vote essential to fair representation.

3. **Political Polarization:** Allegations of voter fraud or election misconduct can deepen divisions within society, leading to increased polarization and conflict. When disputed, election outcomes can create a cycle of bitterness and division that weakens the social fabric.

4. **Threat to National Security:** Weak election systems can be vulnerable to external interference, including cyber-attacks and misinformation campaigns by foreign entities. Protecting election integrity is, therefore, also a matter of national security.

5. **Undermining of Democratic Institutions:** When election integrity is not upheld, it can weaken democratic institutions and the rule of law. This can pave the way for authoritarianism and the erosion of individual freedoms and rights.

A Call to Action for Other Governors

The efforts in Texas serve as a vital example of how states can protect the sanctity of their electoral processes. However, this responsibility does not rest solely on Texas. Other governors across the country must take similar steps to ensure election integrity within their own states. By implementing measures that remove ineligible voters, prevent illegal voting, and uphold the rule of law, other states can fortify the democratic process and reassure citizens that every legitimate vote counts.

In these critical times, when trust in electoral systems is often questioned, such actions are not just necessary—they are imperative. As we move forward, it is the duty of every state leader to prioritize election integrity, ensuring that our democracy remains robust and that the people's voices are genuinely and accurately represented.

This post is part of our ongoing series on the intersection of constitutional principles and current events. Stay tuned to our **Constitution Minute series** for more discussions on election integrity and other constitutional issues.

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Reclaiming Power: FBI Weaponization and Due Process

BY VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/RECLAIMING-POWER-FBI-WEAPONIZATION-AND-DUE-PROCESS/
AUGUST 29, 2024
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, GOVERNMENT WEAPONIZATION

Introduction: The FBI Weaponization and Growing Controversy

In the previous article of our "**Reclaiming Power**" series, we examined how the **Department of Justice** (DOJ) has been perceived as a tool for political agendas, undermining the rule of law. This concern extends to another powerful arm of the executive branch—the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The FBI, charged with upholding federal laws through investigations, has increasingly been viewed as a politically biased agency, further contributing to the notion of a "shadow government" that operates with little public oversight. The term "FBI Weaponization" no longer seems off-limits in today's narrative.

This article will explore how the FBI's actions may infringe on the Constitutional principles of due process and protection against unreasonable searches and seizures.

The Role of the FBI in the Constitutional Framework

The FBI's mandate is to conduct investigations that enforce federal laws, gather intelligence, and ensure national security. It plays a crucial role in the justice system by collecting evidence and assisting in the prosecution of crimes. However, the Constitution limits how these investigations should be conducted to protect citizens' rights. Specifically, the Fourth and Fifth Amendments guarantee protection against unreasonable searches and seizures and the right to due process. These safeguards are designed to prevent government overreach and ensure that individuals are treated fairly under the law.

FBI Weaponization: A Threat to Due Process

In recent years, the FBI has faced accusations of being "weaponized" to serve political ends rather than impartially enforce the law. This perception has been fueled by several high-profile investigations in which the FBI's actions appeared to be politically motivated, raising serious concerns about the erosion of due process rights.

One of the most notable examples is the investigation into **Carter Page**, a former Trump campaign advisor. Page was subjected to surveillance under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), which allows the government to spy on individuals suspected of being foreign agents. However, the process by which the FBI obtained the FISA warrant was later found to be flawed, with the Department of Justice's Inspector General identifying multiple errors and omissions in the FBI's applications. This case highlighted the potential for the FBI to abuse its investigative powers, bypassing the due process protections that are supposed to shield individuals from government overreach.

Another case that raised concerns about the FBI's impartiality was the investigation into **Hillary Clinton's private email server**. The FBI's decision to publicly announce the reopening of the investigation just days before the 2016 Presidential election led to widespread criticism that the Bureau was influencing the electoral process. While the investigation was within the FBI's mandate, the timing and manner in which it was handled questioned whether the Bureau was acting as a neutral enforcer of the law or a politically motivated entity.

The Impact of Perceived Bias

When the FBI is perceived as biased or politically motivated, it undermines public trust in the justice system. The concept of due process is central to the American legal system; it guarantees that all individuals, regardless of their status or affiliations, are treated fairly and justly. However, when the FBI's actions suggest that investigations are being conducted based on political considerations rather than objective evidence, it erodes confidence in the fairness of the process.

The **Russia investigation** is another example of the FBI's impartiality being called into question. The investigation into alleged collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia was one of the most politically charged inquiries in recent history. The release of the Mueller Report and subsequent revelations about the origins and conduct of the investigation led to accusations that the FBI had been operating with a political agenda, further entrenching the belief that the Bureau was acting as a partisan tool rather than an impartial law enforcement agency.

Constitutional Focus: Protection Against Unreasonable Searches and Seizures

The Constitution's Fourth Amendment protects citizens from unreasonable government searches and seizures. It requires law enforcement agencies to obtain a warrant based on probable cause before conducting searches or surveillance. However, cases like Carter Page's FISA warrant reveal how these protections can be circumvented, leading to potential abuses of power.

The importance of safeguarding these Constitutional rights cannot be overstated. When the FBI oversteps its bounds, it violates individual rights and sets a dangerous precedent for government

overreach. The principles of due process and protection against unreasonable searches are essential to maintaining the balance between national security and individual freedoms.

Reclaiming Power: Restoring Trust in the FBI

To reclaim power from the perceived weaponization of the FBI, it is critical to restore public trust in the Bureau's ability to operate impartially. This can be achieved through several key reforms:

1. **Increased Oversight and Accountability**: Strengthening the oversight mechanisms that govern the FBI's investigative processes can help ensure that the Bureau adheres strictly to Constitutional principles. This includes more rigorous checks on warrant applications and greater investigation transparency.

2. **Clearer Guidelines for Investigations**: Establishing clear, non-partisan guidelines for initiating and conducting investigations can reduce the risk of perceived bias. The FBI must be held to the highest standards of impartiality to maintain public confidence in its work.

3. **Restoration of Due Process Protections**: Reinforcing the rights guaranteed by the Fourth and Fifth Amendments is essential. This involves ensuring that individuals are fully protected from unreasonable searches and seizures and that due process is upheld in all FBI investigations.

Conclusion: Reclaiming Justice and the People's Trust

The FBI's role in maintaining law and order is crucial. Still, when the Bureau is perceived as being weaponized for political purposes, it undermines the very foundations of the justice system. Ensuring that the FBI operates within its Constitutional limits is vital to protecting the rights of all citizens and preserving the principles of due process and impartial justice.

In the next installment of this series, we will explore the **Internal Revenue Service (IRS)** and how its actions have raised concerns about equal protection under the law. Join us as we continue to examine how reclaiming power from government overreach is essential to safeguarding our Constitutional freedoms.

Read the Reclaiming Power Series:

1. **Reclaiming Power: DOJ Weaponization and the Rule of Law**
2. **Reclaiming Power: FBI Weaponization and Due Process**
3. **Reclaiming Power: IRS Weaponization and Equal Protection**
4. **Reclaiming Power: EPA Weaponization and Property Rights**

5. **Reclaiming Power: DHS Weaponization and Individual Liberties**

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The Federalist Papers: Role in Shaping the Constitution | Constitution Minute

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/THE-FEDERALIST-PAPERS-ROLE-IN-SHAPING-THE-CONSTITUTION-CONSTITUTION-MINUTE/
AUGUST 27, 2024
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, CONSTITUTION MINUTE

As the United States gears up for the upcoming 2024 presidential election, with intense debates and legal battles surrounding candidates like Joe Biden and Donald Trump, the foundational principles of our democracy are more relevant than ever. Enter the Federalist Papers.

The Federalist Papers is a collection of 85 articles and essays written by **Alexander Hamilton**, **James Madison**, and **John Jay** under the collective **pseudonym** "Publius" to promote the **ratification** of the **Constitution of the United States**. These essays were instrumental in shaping the Constitution and persuading the states to ratify it.

In this Constitution Minute, we will explore how the Federalist Papers influenced the ratification of the U.S. Constitution and continue to inform our understanding of its principles.

Historical Context and Purpose of the Federalist Papers

The Federalist Papers were written between 1787 and 1788 to support the ratification of the U.S. Constitution. The authors aimed to explain and defend the proposed Constitution to the public. They addressed concerns and opposition from the Anti-Federalists. These essays were published in various New York newspapers under the pseudonym "Publius."

The United States was governed by the Articles of Confederation at the time. These articles had proven ineffective in providing a strong central government. The Constitutional Convention of 1787 proposed a new framework to replace the Articles. However, the proposal faced significant opposition. The Federalist Papers played a crucial role in garnering support for the new Constitution by addressing the concerns of skeptics and illustrating the benefits of a stronger union.

Key Themes and Arguments

The Federalist Papers addressed several key themes. These included the necessity of a strong central government, the importance of checks and balances, and the need for a separation of powers. For example, in Federalist No. 10, James Madison discussed the dangers of factionalism. He explained how a large republic could mitigate these risks better than smaller governments. He argued that a well-constructed union would break and control the violence of faction, a common issue in direct democracies and small republics.

In Federalist No. 51, Madison elaborated on the importance of checks and balances. He asserted that each branch of government must be independent and have sufficient power to check the others. This principle was vital to prevent any one branch from dominating and potentially abusing its power.

The Federalist Papers Influence on the Constitution

The arguments in the Federalist Papers were crucial in shaping the debate over the Constitution's ratification. They provided a comprehensive defense of the new government framework and helped clarify the intentions behind various provisions. The essays emphasized the importance of a strong union, the dangers of weak confederacies, and the need for a balanced government structure.

For instance, Federalist No. 78, written by Alexander Hamilton, laid the foundation for the role of the judiciary. Hamilton argued for an independent judiciary with the power of judicial review, which ensured that the courts could act as a check on the other branches of government. This essay has been frequently cited in Supreme Court decisions. It remains a foundational text for understanding the judicial branch's role in the American government.

Continuing Relevance

The Federalist Papers remain relevant today as they offer valuable insights into the framers' intentions and the principles underlying the Constitution. They are frequently cited in legal arguments, judicial opinions, and scholarly works. This helps to interpret the Constitution's meaning and application in modern contexts. Legal scholars and judges, including those on the Supreme Court, often refer to these essays to better understand the original intent behind the Constitution's provisions.

For example, Chief Justice John Roberts has cited The Federalist Papers in his opinions. He emphasizes their importance in understanding the Constitution's structure and purpose. Similarly, legal scholars use these essays to argue for and against various interpretations of constitutional law, making them a living part of America's legal and political discourse.

The Virginia Christian Alliance, dedicated to promoting moral, social, and scientific issues from a Biblical perspective, also recognizes the importance of understanding foundational documents like the Federalist Papers. This helps to uphold the principles that underpin American society.

Conclusion

The Federalist Papers played a vital role in ratifying the U.S. Constitution. They continue to be an essential resource for understanding its principles. By exploring these essays, we gain a deeper appreciation of the Constitution's foundation and the enduring wisdom of its framers. Their insights into the necessity of a strong union, the dangers of factionalism, and the importance of checks and balances remain relevant in guiding our democratic processes today.

Call to Action

Stay tuned for more insights in our **Constitution Minute** series, where we'll continue our focus into the key principles and amendments that shape our nation. Share your thoughts and questions in the comments below!

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1. Alexander Hamilton, Federalist No. 78. Available at **Founders Online on the powers of judicial review**.
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FULL SPEECH: Reclaiming Constitutional Integrity: RFK Jr.’s Stand Against Censorship and Corruption

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/RECLAIMING-CONSTITUTIONAL-INTEGRITY-RFK-JR-S-STAND-AGAINST-CENSORSHIP-AND-CORRUPTION/
AUGUST 23, 2024
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, TENTH AMENDMENT

Introduction

Robert F. Kennedy Jr.’s speech today calls for Americans to reclaim the foundational principles of the U.S. Constitution. As political institutions face unprecedented challenges, Kennedy identifies the erosion of civil liberties, the **weaponization** of government agencies, and the departure from democratic ideals. This post explores the constitutional issues he highlights, explicitly referencing the U.S. Constitution and its implications for American democracy.

The First Amendment and Free Speech

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects free speech: “Congress shall make no law… abridging the freedom of speech.” Kennedy warns of the government’s collusion with media companies to suppress dissenting voices. This censorship violates the First Amendment and

threatens the democratic process, making the fight for free speech crucial to reclaiming all other constitutional rights.

The Fourth Amendment and Government Overreach

Kennedy criticizes the misuse of federal agencies like the CIA and FBI to censor and intimidate opponents. The Fourth Amendment protects against unreasonable searches and seizures, ensuring citizens' privacy. When the government uses its power to suppress dissent, it violates this protection, representing a broader assault on civil liberties that Americans must reclaim.

Judicial Independence and the Separation of Powers

Article III of the Constitution establishes the judiciary as an independent branch essential to the separation of powers. Kennedy highlights how the DNC manipulated the judicial process to block his campaign. This undermines judicial independence, a core principle that prevents any branch of government from becoming too powerful. Reclaiming judicial independence is critical to maintaining the Constitution's balance of power.

The War Powers Clause and Military Engagement

The Constitution grants Congress the power to declare war (Article I, Section 8, Clause 11). Kennedy argues that the executive branch has bypassed Congress, engaging in perpetual military conflicts like the war in Ukraine. This circumvention of the War Powers Clause concentrates too much power in the executive branch, contradicting the Constitution's intent. Americans must reclaim control over decisions of war to ensure they reflect the will of the people.

The Tenth Amendment and Federal Overreach

Kennedy also addresses federal overreach in public health and food safety. The Tenth Amendment reserves powers to the states or the people, yet federal agencies have imposed regulations influenced by corporate interests. This centralization of power disregards the rights of states and individuals, challenging the principle of limited government. Reclaiming these rights is essential to restoring the balance intended by the Constitution.

Conclusion

Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s speech is a profound commentary on the state of American democracy and the need for citizens to reclaim constitutional principles. Issues of censorship, judicial independence, the separation of powers, and federal overreach are fundamental challenges to the Constitution. As Americans, we must reclaim the integrity of our democratic institutions and ensure that the government serves the people, as envisioned by the Constitution's framers.

LIVE: RFK Jr. suspends his presidential bid (FULL SPEECH)
https://youtube.com/watch?v=n15oCfLdmXI

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Reclaiming Power: DOJ Weaponization and the Rule of Law

BY VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/RECLAIMING-POWER-DOJ-WEAPONIZATION-AND-THE-RULE-OF-LAW/
AUGUST 21, 2024
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, GOVERNMENT WEAPONIZATION

*In Part 1 of our "**Reclaiming Power**" series, we discussed the broader concept of government weaponization and how it conflicts with the Constitutional principles of separation of powers and checks and balances. Building on that foundation, we now focus on the Department of Justice (DOJ) and its role in upholding—or undermining—the rule of law. However, recent actions have raised concerns that the DOJ is drifting from its Constitutional mandate, particularly regarding infringing on the Bill of Rights and the bedrock principle of "innocent until proven guilty."*

Introduction

The United States Constitution stands as a beacon of justice and fairness, designed to protect the rights of all citizens and ensure that government power is wielded responsibly. Among the key pillars of this framework are the principles of equal protection under the law and the impartial administration of justice. These principles are enshrined in the Constitution to prevent the misuse of government authority. However, in recent years, concerns have been raised about the Department of Justice (DOJ) and its alleged "weaponization" to serve political ends. This blog post will explore how the DOJ's perceived shift away from impartiality threatens the rule of law, the foundational principles of the Constitution, and why reclaiming power back to the people is essential.

The Role of the DOJ in the Constitutional Framework

The DOJ's primary mandate is to enforce the law impartially, ensuring that justice is administered relatively across the nation. The Constitution grants the executive branch, within which the DOJ operates, the power to execute laws passed by Congress. However, this power comes with significant responsibilities, including the obligation to uphold the rule of law and protect the rights of all citizens without bias or favoritism.

The Constitution's framers were deeply concerned about the potential for government overreach. They designed a system of checks and balances to prevent any one branch of government from becoming too powerful. The judiciary, insulated from political influence, was established to ensure that laws are interpreted and applied fairly. As the federal government's law enforcement

arm, the DOJ plays a critical role in this system by upholding the law without regard to political considerations.

DOJ Weaponization: A Threat to Equal Protection

The principle of equal protection under the law is a cornerstone of the Constitution, enshrined in the Fourteenth Amendment. This principle demands that all individuals be treated equally under the law, without discrimination or bias. However, when the DOJ is perceived as being "weaponized" to target specific individuals or groups based on political affiliation or ideology, this principle is severely undermined.

One of the most prominent examples of this perceived weaponization is the case of **Michael Flynn**, a former National Security Advisor. Flynn was charged with lying to the FBI during an investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election. However, the circumstances surrounding his case, including allegations of entrapment by the FBI, led many to believe that his prosecution was politically motivated. The case symbolized the DOJ's potential to be used as a tool for political retribution rather than a neutral law enforcer.

Similarly, the **Roger Stone**sentencing controversy highlighted concerns about the unequal application of the law. Stone, a longtime ally of former President Trump, was convicted of witness tampering and lying to Congress. The DOJ's initial recommendation of a lengthy prison sentence was viewed by many as disproportionately harsh, leading to accusations that the department was targeting Stone for political reasons. The subsequent revision of the sentencing recommendation only fueled these concerns, suggesting that the DOJ's actions were influenced by political considerations rather than the pursuit of justice.

The Erosion of the Presumption of Innocence

The presumption of innocence until proven guilty is a fundamental principle of the American legal system. It is a safeguard enshrined in the Fifth and Sixth Amendments of the Constitution, designed to protect individuals from unjust prosecution and ensure that everyone receives a fair trial. However, recent actions by the DOJ have raised concerns that this principle is being eroded.

For instance, the DOJ's handling of the **Hunter Biden**investigation into tax issues and foreign business dealings has been criticized for its apparent lack of urgency and transparency. Critics argue that the DOJ's perceived leniency towards Biden, the son of the sitting President, suggests that political connections may influence the administration of justice. This perception undermines public trust in the DOJ and raises questions about whether all individuals are treated equally under the law.

The **FBI raid on Project Veritas**, a conservative investigative journalism organization, is another example of the DOJ's actions sparked controversy. The raid, conducted in connection with the alleged theft of a diary belonging to President Biden's daughter, was widely criticized as an overreach that threatened First Amendment protections. The raid fueled concerns that the DOJ was being used to silence critics and suppress information that could damage the administration.

The ongoing imprisonment of many **J6 individuals** involved in the January 6th Capitol events without trial has further exacerbated concerns about the DOJ's adherence to Constitutional principles. Despite the passage of over two years since the incident, a significant number of these individuals remain incarcerated without having been afforded their right to a fair and speedy trial, as guaranteed by the Sixth Amendment. The prolonged detention of these defendants, some of whom have been held in solitary confinement, raises serious questions about the erosion of due process and the presumption of innocence. This situation highlights the dangers of allowing political considerations to influence the administration of justice. It underscores the urgent need for the DOJ to return to its foundational role as an impartial law enforcer.

Reclaiming Power: Restoring Constitutional Order

The Constitution was designed to prevent the concentration of power in any one government branch and protect individual liberties from government overreach. However, when the DOJ is perceived as acting outside of its Constitutional mandate, it threatens these protections and undermines the rule of law. To reclaim power and restore trust in the DOJ, it is essential to ensure that the department operates strictly within its Constitutional boundaries.

First and foremost, transparency and accountability must be prioritized within the DOJ. The public has a right to know how and why decisions are made, especially when those decisions have significant political implications. The DOJ can rebuild public trust and demonstrate its commitment to impartial justice by increasing transparency.

Second, the DOJ must be held accountable to the principle of equal protection under the law. This means the justice system must treat all individuals fairly and equally, regardless of their political affiliations or connections. Any perception of bias or favoritism must be addressed swiftly and decisively to prevent the erosion of public confidence in the DOJ.

Finally, it is crucial to reinforce the separation of powers and the system of checks and balances that are foundational to the Constitution. Congress and the judiciary must exercise their oversight responsibilities to ensure that the DOJ remains a neutral enforcer of the law, not a tool for political agendas.

Conclusion

The Department of Justice plays a critical role in upholding the rule of law and protecting the rights of all Americans. However, when the DOJ is perceived as being "weaponized" for political purposes, it undermines the principles of equal protection and the presumption of innocence that are essential to the Constitution. To reclaim power and restore the integrity of our legal system, the DOJ must operate transparently, impartially, and within the limits set by the Constitution.

In the next part of this series, we will examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and how its actions have raised concerns about due process and the potential for government overreach. Stay tuned as we explore how reclaiming power is vital to preserving our Constitutional freedoms.

Read the Reclaiming Power Series:

1. **Reclaiming Power: DOJ Weaponization and the Rule of Law**
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From Liberty to Tyranny: How Attacks on Checks and Balances Threaten Our Republic

BY DAILY SIGNAL
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/FROM-LIBERTY-TO-TYRANNY-HOW-ATTACKS-ON-CHECKS-AND-BALANCES-THREATEN-OUR-REPUBLIC/
AUGUST 15, 2024
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION

Steve McKee | The Daily Signal

One of the ways our **Constitution** provides for a "more perfect" union is by establishing a variety of checks and balances on federal government power.

But a nation that can be "more perfect" can also become "less perfect," and advocates for the elimination of those checks and balances are heating up the water in the proverbial pot.

Frogs, pay attention.

Among the least noted of these safeguards are the distinct methods by which the Founders determined legislative, executive, and judicial branch officials would come to power: House members elected by popular vote; senators elected by their respective state legislatures;

presidents sworn in after a vote of the Electoral College; and members of the judiciary appointed by the president with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Thus, not only were checks and balances set up between the different branches of government, safeguards were built into even the way officials in those branches come to power.

Call it checks and balances on checks and balances. Yet, if the imprudent class has its way, all four seats of power in the federal government will become subject to the immediate and passionate will—and potentially, tyranny—of the majority.

In the early years of the 20th century, the 17th Amendment to the Constitution enabled popular election of senators, eliminating one of those vital safeguards. There has been an ongoing debate about the wisdom of that decision, but by centralizing more power in the federal government and weakening the states, it's now apparent that the cure has become worse than the disease.

The Senate, with fewer members than the House, longer terms, and designed intent to thoughtfully and deliberately represent the interests of the states, is now subject to the same whims and passions of "the People's House."

Today, we're seeing methods of accession to power in the other three seats of government under assault. The Senate is threatened by demands for proportional representation; the Supreme Court by proposed term limits and loss of independence; and the Electoral College with elimination entirely—and all because agitators don't like the passing of a certain bill, the outcome of a specific ruling, or the results of a recent election.

Historical ignorance and a lack of appreciation for (or, in some cases, antipathy toward) the delicate balance the Founders built into the Constitution is stoking the fire under the pot.

If the Senate becomes based on proportional representation of the people, rather than equal representation of the states, our "federal" government will be no more than central government.

Not only will small states lose their voice, the upper chamber will, in practice, be no different from the lower.

There's little point to having two houses of Congress whose only difference is the length of their terms.

If, in a fit of pique, we expand the Supreme Court and put it under the thumb of the legislative branch, the courts will become subject to the fickle will of an injudicious majority—as will our last line of defense, the Bill of Rights, which is already under attack by the Left, who think it's outdated and counterproductive.

And if we eliminate the Electoral College, small states can forget ever again having influence in presidential politics. All liberal and left-wing candidates will have to do is pander to their base in populous states such as California and New York, and ignore the middle of the country.

Rural voters would become vassals of the urban class, and 50 states will be subservient to a dozen cities.

So, are we in danger of descending into tyranny?

Not yet.

But eliminating these checks and balances would further clear a pathway to it.

The executive branch has been swamped by an unelected and unaccountable "administrative state." Congress is too timid to assert its authority in providing effective oversight of executive branch abuses. And the independence of the judiciary is being increasingly challenged via threats and intimidation.

All of this has global implications. More than two centuries ago, the Marquis de Lafayette said, "The welfare of America is bound closely to the welfare of all humanity. She is to become the honored and safe asylum of liberty."

History has proven him prescient. Where would Europe be today had the United States not been around to join the fight against Nazi Germany? Where would the West be today if we hadn't stood up the Soviet Union? Where will the world be tomorrow if we forsake our asylum of liberty by capitulating to ignorance and irresponsibility?

Those of us who believe in this "last best hope of man on earth" must step up and defend the safeguards that protect us. We must reawaken to the importance of our constitutional checks and balances and advocate against those who—lacking historical perspective—are blind to unintended consequences.

Though they may one day realize the damage they've done, regrets from the gulag are especially bitter.

Conservative philosopher Richard M. Weaver said, "The past shows unvaryingly that when a people's freedom disappears, it goes not with a bang, but in silence amid the comfort of being cared for."

The time is past for burying our heads in smartphones and selfish pursuits while our constitutional protections are being dismantled step by step. Once they're gone, there will be no one to save us.

SOURCE: **THE DAILY SIGNAL**

Related posts:

1. **Who Is Running Congress?**
2. **Reclaiming Power: A Constitutional Analysis of Government Weaponization**

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Part 1: Introduction to Government Weaponization and the Constitution

BY VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/PART-1-INTRODUCTION-TO-GOVERNMENT-WEAPONIZATION-AND-THE-CONSTITUTION/
AUGUST 13, 2024
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, GOVERNMENT WEAPONIZATION

This is Part 1 in our series: Reclaiming Power Back to the People
A Constitutional Analysis of Government Weaponization

The concept of "**government weaponization**" is not just a modern political buzzword; it's a significant concern that strikes at the heart of our democratic system. Over the years, various government agencies, initially created to serve and protect the public, have expanded their reach. This expansion has, at times, transformed them into tools that can be misused for political purposes, thus contributing to what some describe as a "shadow government."

Understanding Government Weaponization

Government weaponization refers to using government agencies to target political opponents, enforce ideological conformity, or expand bureaucratic power beyond its original intent. This process can involve anything from selective law enforcement to politically motivated investigations, all of which threaten the impartiality that these agencies are supposed to maintain.

The idea of government weaponization isn't just theoretical. History offers several examples of government power being used to silence opposition or push a specific agenda. Such actions undermine the public's trust in these institutions and, more broadly, the government's ability to act fairly and justly.

The Rise of a "Shadow Government"

Over time, some government agencies have begun to operate with a level of independence that borders on secrecy. This phenomenon contributes to what is often called a "shadow government." These agencies, while not elected by the people, wield significant power, often making decisions that impact the daily lives of Americans without the direct oversight of the elected branches of government.

For instance, regulatory agencies can create and enforce rules that carry the weight of law, even though these rules may not have passed through the traditional legislative process. This ability to "legislate" without accountability erodes the foundational principle that government should be by the people and for the people.

Constitutional Focus: Separation of Powers and Checks and Balances

The Founding Fathers of the United States designed the Constitution with several key principles in mind, one of the most important being the separation of powers. They believed dividing governmental power among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches would prevent any single entity from gaining too much control.

> **Separation of Powers:** This principle ensures that each branch of government has its own distinct responsibilities. The legislative branch makes the laws, the executive enforces them, and the judiciary interprets them. By keeping these functions separate, the Founders aimed to create a system of checks and balances preventing any branch from becoming too powerful.
>
> **Checks and Balances:** The system of checks and balances is designed to allow each branch of government to limit the powers of the other branches. For example, the President can veto legislation passed by Congress, but Congress can override a veto with a two-thirds vote. Similarly, the judiciary can strike down laws it finds unconstitutional, but judges are appointed by the executive branch and confirmed by the legislative branch.

These safeguards were implemented to prevent government overreach and ensure that power remains with the people however, when agencies operate independently of these checks and balances, as in the case of a "shadow government," the balance of power is threatened.

The Impact of Government Weaponization on Individual Rights

The weaponization of government agencies threatens the balance of power and has a direct impact on individual rights. The Constitution was designed to protect individuals' rights against government overreach. When agencies act as tools for political agendas, they can violate these protections.

> **Freedom of Speech and Assembly:** If government agencies are used to target individuals or groups based on their political beliefs, it can have a chilling effect on free speech and assembly. People may become afraid to express their opinions or gather in support of causes if they fear government retribution.
>
> **Due Process and Equal Protection:** The Constitution guarantees that all people are entitled to due process and equal protection under the law. However, when agencies

selectively enforce laws or target specific groups, they undermine these fundamental rights.

Right to Privacy: The expansion of surveillance by government agencies in the name of national security has raised significant concerns about the right to privacy. While the government has a legitimate interest in protecting the nation, this must be balanced against the individual's right to be free from unwarranted intrusion.

Why Reclaiming Power Back to the People Is Vital

The concept of "government by the people, for the people" is central to American democracy. However, this principle is undermined when government agencies operate as part of a "shadow government," making decisions without accountability. Reclaiming power back to the people involves ensuring that government agencies operate within the framework set by the Constitution.

Restoring Accountability: To reclaim power, greater accountability in government agency operations must be achieved. This can be achieved through increased oversight by the elected branches of government and transparency in decision-making processes.

Ensuring Fair Enforcement of Laws: Government agencies must enforce laws fairly and without political bias. This ensures that all individuals, regardless of their beliefs or affiliations, are treated equally under the law.

Protecting Constitutional Rights: Finally, reclaiming power involves protecting the constitutional rights of all Americans. This means holding government agencies accountable when they overstep their bounds and ensuring that the checks and balances remain intact.

Conclusion

Government weaponization and the rise of a "shadow government" are significant threats to the principles upon which the United States was founded. The Constitution's separation of powers, checks and balances, and protection of individual rights were designed to prevent such overreach. Reclaiming power back to the people is not just about restoring balance—it's about ensuring that the government serves its true purpose: to protect and uphold the freedoms and rights of its citizens.

Read the Reclaiming Power Series:

1. **Reclaiming Power: DOJ Weaponization and the Rule of Law**
2. **Reclaiming Power: FBI Weaponization and Due Process**
3. **Reclaiming Power: IRS Weaponization and Equal Protection**

4. **Reclaiming Power: EPA Weaponization and Property Rights**
5. **Reclaiming Power: DHS Weaponization and Individual Liberties**

References:

- "**Federalist No. 51: The Structure of the Government Must Furnish the Proper Checks and Balances Between the Different Departments**," James Madison, 1788.
- "**The Founders' Constitution**," Philip B. Kurland and Ralph Lerner, University of Chicago Press, 1987.
- "**The Weaponization of Government**," The Heritage Foundation, 2022.

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Reclaiming Power: A Constitutional Analysis of Government Weaponization

BY VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/RECLAIMING-POWER-A-CONSTITUTIONAL-ANALYSIS-OF-GOVERNMENT-WEAPONIZATION/
AUGUST 13, 2024
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, GOVERNMENT WEAPONIZATION

In recent decades, the executive branch has grown by creating more government departments and agencies. This expansion shifted power away from Congress—the body we elect to represent us—and handed it to unelected bureaucrats. Initially set up to manage specific policies, these agencies have often exceeded their intended roles. Now, they create regulations that carry the weight of law, often without Congress's direct approval.

Consequently, a "**shadow government**" has emerged. Unlike the officials we vote for, these agencies operate independently and, sometimes, in secrecy. This was not the vision the framers of the Constitution had in mind. The American people are left in the dark about what goes on inside these departments, with no say in the decisions being made. **The Constitution** intended for Congress to hold the power to make laws, ensuring that the people's voice is heard.

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The Erosion of Constitutional Checks and Balances

When power shifts to these agencies, it weakens the principle of limited government, which is central to the American Republic. **The Constitution** created checks and balances to prevent any branch from becoming too powerful. Yet, these checks and balances erode when agencies operate without Congressional oversight. This erosion of checks and balances leads to government overreach and a concentration of power in the executive branch.

Many argue that this shift affects more than just power—it impacts our freedoms. As these agencies grow, they often do so at the cost of democratic accountability. When unelected officials have the power to create and enforce laws without transparency, it feels like a "shadow government" is threatening our liberties. The Constitution gave Congress the power to make laws to reflect the will of the people—not just a select few.

This perspective is rooted in a strong respect for the principles laid out by our Founding Fathers. Moving away from their vision is seen as a direct threat to our freedoms and rights. A primary purpose of the Constitution is to protect us from government overreach. Therefore, reclaiming power from these agencies and dismantling this "shadow government" is crucial for maintaining a free and just society.

The Series: Reclaiming Power

This blog series, titled "Reclaiming Power: A Constitutional Analysis of Government Weaponization," will explore how the creation and growth of various government departments have led to their "weaponization." This term refers to using government agencies to target political opponents, enforce certain ideologies, or expand their power beyond what is appropriate. We'll examine how this "weaponization" and the rise of a "shadow government" contradict the principles of limited government, separation of powers, and the protection of individual rights.

Each part of this series will focus on a specific agency. We'll explore how these agencies have drifted from their original purpose and what steps we can take to bring them back in line with the Constitution.

Part 1: Introduction to Government Weaponization and the Constitution

We'll start by exploring the concept of "weaponization" within government agencies. Over time, these agencies have become part of a "shadow government," operating independently and threatening the balance of power envisioned by the Founding Fathers.

Constitutional Focus: The Founders designed the separation of powers, checks and balances, and the protection of individual rights to prevent government overreach. We'll show how the "weaponization" of government agencies undermines these protections and why reclaiming power back to the people is vital.

Part 2: The Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Rule of Law

The Department of Justice (DOJ) is supposed to enforce the law fairly. However, it has faced accusations of being "weaponized" to serve political agendas instead of upholding justice.

Constitutional Focus: We'll discuss the importance of equal protection under the law and the need for an impartial judiciary. These principles are crucial to maintaining public trust and ensuring the DOJ operates within its Constitutional limits.

Part 3: The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Due Process

The FBI is responsible for conducting investigations, but its actions are often seen as politically biased. This adds to the idea of a "shadow government" that operates without public oversight.

Constitutional Focus: We'll emphasize the importance of due process rights and the protection against unreasonable searches and seizures. These Constitutional principles are essential to preventing the FBI from becoming a tool of "weaponization."

Part 4: The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and Equal Protection

The IRS enforces tax laws but has been accused of targeting political groups. This misuse of power contributes to the "shadow government" narrative.

Constitutional Focus: We'll explore how equal protection under the law and the prohibition against using government power to target specific groups are vital to reclaiming power back to the people. These principles ensure that the IRS operates within its Constitutional bounds.

Part 5: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Property Rights

The EPA enforces environmental regulations, but there are accusations that it has been "weaponized" against specific industries, threatening property rights.

Constitutional Focus: We'll examine how property rights are impacted and the limits of regulatory power under the Commerce Clause. Reclaiming these rights is critical to dismantling the "shadow government" and restoring Constitutional order.

Part 6: The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Individual Liberties

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was created to protect national security, but it has been accused of politically motivated enforcement actions that infringe on individual liberties.

Constitutional Focus: We'll highlight the tension between national security and civil liberties, focusing on the Bill of Rights. Making sure DHS actions align with Constitutional principles is crucial to preventing the "weaponization" of security efforts.

Part 7: The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), National Security Agency (NSA), and the Limits of Executive Power

The CIA and NSA gather intelligence, but their activities have raised concerns about surveillance and political influence, fueling the "shadow government" narrative.

Constitutional Focus: In this final part, we'll explore the limits of executive power and the importance of checks and balances in preventing abuse. Upholding these Constitutional principles is essential to reclaiming power back to the people and ensuring that government agencies operate transparently and within their rightful scope.

Recommended Reading:

Hillsdale College Free Course: **Constitution 101**

The Constitution Minute Series (**VCA**)

Who's Behind the Shadow Government (**VCA**)

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Consent of the Governed | Constitution Minute

BY VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/CONSENT-OF-THE-GOVERNED-CONSTITUTION-MINUTE/
AUGUST 7, 2024
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, CONSTITUTION MINUTE

Introduction

The “consent of the governed” principle is a cornerstone of American democracy. This idea is rooted in the Declaration of Independence and is vital to understanding our unique government form. Let’s explore what this means and how it shapes our nation.

The concept of consent was groundbreaking during the American Revolution. The Declaration of Independence stated that all men are created equal and endowed with certain unalienable rights. This directly challenged the monarchical system, where kings ruled by divine right without the people’s consent.

The Social Contract

The social contract is fundamental to the principle of governance. Essentially, it signifies the agreement between the governed and those who govern. We, the people, agree to be governed and

to abide by specific laws in return for protection and the opportunity to pursue happiness. This mutual agreement ensures that the government serves its citizens.

Historical Context

The idea of consent was revolutionary during the American Revolution. The Declaration of Independence proclaimed that all men are created equal and endowed with certain unalienable rights. This directly challenged the monarchical system, where kings ruled by divine right without the people's consent.

Example from the Declaration of Independence

The Declaration of Independence directly addresses the concept of consent: "Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." This statement emphasizes that legitimate government power must come from the people's will. King George III claimed his right to rule was inherent and unquestionable, sharply contrasting this view.

The Revolutionary Impact

When King George III declared his divine right to rule and that the colonists were born to be his subjects, it sparked a profound reaction among the American colonists. They rejected this paternalistic view. The Continental Army fought for their right to self-governance. Thomas Jefferson's writings, including the Declaration of Independence and "A Summary View of the Rights of British America," further articulated the belief that rulers govern by the people's consent.

Modern Implications

Today, the principle of consent of the governed remains vital. It underpins the democratic process, ensuring leaders are elected through free and fair elections and held accountable to the people. This principle also supports the idea that citizens have the right to alter or abolish a government that fails to protect their rights and interests.

Conclusion

The principle of consent of the governed is more than a foundational idea. It is a living, breathing aspect of American democracy that continues to shape our government and society. Understanding this concept helps us appreciate the profound shift during the American Revolution and the ongoing importance of active civic engagement in preserving our freedoms.

Watch the Hillsdale College Lecture

For a deeper understanding of this principle, watch the Hillsdale College lecture embedded below:

Lesson Four | Consent of the Governed
https://youtube.com/watch?v=squSO3A24dg

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Further reading:

The Bill of Rights Institute on **Consent**

The Virginia Christian Alliance Series on the **Constitution**

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Biden Proposes Supreme Court Term Limits and More | Constitution Minute

BY VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/CONSTITUTION-MINUTE-BIDEN-PROPOSES-SUPREME-COURT-TERM-LIMITS-AND-MORE/
JULY 29, 2024
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, CONSTITUTION MINUTE

President Biden has announced a bold plan to reform the Supreme Court and ensure that no President is above the law. This plan includes three major reforms: ending immunity for crimes committed by former Presidents, imposing Supreme Court term limits for Supreme Court Justices, and establishing a binding code of conduct for the Court.

*(see our previous post and the arguments regarding **Supreme Court limits**)*

Founding Fathers' Concerns

The Founding Fathers designed the Supreme Court to ensure judicial independence and maintain a balanced government. They would have several concerns about these proposed changes.

1. **Judicial Independence**: **Lifetime appointments** for Supreme Court Justices protect them from political pressures. This allows them to make decisions based solely on the

Constitution and the law. Imposing term limits could politicize the judiciary, with Justices influenced by potential future appointments.

2. **Separation of Powers**: The Founding Fathers emphasized the separation of powers between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches. Any move by Congress to impose term limits or ethics codes could blur these lines, undermining judicial independence.

Impact of the Immunity Statement

President Biden's proposal to end immunity for crimes committed by former Presidents aligns with the principle that no one is above the law. However, this change could significantly undermine the executive branch's ability to govern effectively.

Firstly, **Hindrance to Executive Powers**: Presidents need the freedom to make swift, decisive actions without fear of future legal repercussions. Consequently, removing immunity could hog-tie their executive powers, making them overly cautious and less effective in their roles. This could lead to hesitation in critical situations, potentially endangering national security and public welfare.

Secondly, **Potential for Political Retaliation**: Removing immunity could lead to former Presidents being targeted for prosecution by political opponents. As a result, this could turn legal proceedings into tools for political vendettas, polarizing the political landscape and undermining public trust in the judicial system.

Lastly, **Judicial Overload**: The judiciary might face an increased burden with the potential influx of high-profile cases involving former Presidents. This increased load could divert resources from other critical legal matters and strain the court system.

These points highlight the complexities and potential risks of removing immunity for former Presidents, necessitating a careful consideration of the broader implications on governance and judicial integrity.

President Biden's Reforms

1. **No Immunity for Crimes**: This constitutional amendment clarifies that former Presidents can be prosecuted for crimes committed while in office. It aims to reinforce the principle that the President's power is limited and accountable to the people, but at the potential cost of executive effectiveness.

2. **Term Limits for Justices**: President Biden supports appointing a Justice every two years for an 18-year term. This proposal seeks to regularize Court membership changes, making

nominations more predictable and reducing long-term influence by any single Presidency.

3. **Binding Code of Conduct**: This reform calls for enforceable ethics rules for Supreme Court Justices. It requires them to disclose gifts, avoid public political activity, and recuse themselves from cases with conflicts of interest. This aims to restore public trust in the Court's fairness and independence.

Conclusion

As the debate over Supreme Court reforms continues, it's crucial to balance the need for accountability with the principles of judicial independence and separation of powers. The Founding Fathers' vision for a robust and impartial judiciary must be carefully considered to preserve the integrity of America's democratic institutions. Additionally, safeguarding the executive's ability to govern without undue fear of future legal repercussions is vital for maintaining effective leadership.

Stay informed with Constitution Minute for more updates and in-depth analyses on this critical issue.

Constitution Minute:

Further Reading:

Constitution Minute: The Debate Over Supreme Court Term Limits (**article link**)

President Bidens Statement (**White House link**)

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The Debate Over Supreme Court Term Limits | Constitution Minute

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/CONSTITUTION-MINUTE-THE-DEBATE-OVER-SUPREME-COURT-TERM-LIMITS/
JULY 27, 2024
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, CONSTITUTION MINUTE

Background:

SCOTUS was established by **Article Three of the United States Constitution.** The composition and procedures of the Supreme Court and the lifetime tenure of the justices were originally established by the **1st Congress** through the **Judiciary Act of 1789**. Removing this lifetime tenure and imposing SCOTUS term limits would have consequences.

Recent discussions have brought Supreme Court term limits to the forefront. Reports suggest that President Biden might support term limits for justices and a new ethics code. This shift could

significantly impact the judiciary's independence.

The Supreme Court Term Limits Arguments

Fox News highlights concerns regarding Supreme Court term limits from former Deputy Assistant Attorney General John Yoo and other legal scholars. They argue that imposing term limits without a constitutional amendment could undermine democracy. John Shu, a constitutional attorney, warned that such actions might delegitimize the Court. Carrie Severino from the Judicial Crisis Network expressed fears of potential politicization.

The Daily Signal echoes these concerns. Thomas Jipping of The Heritage Foundation critiques the Left's push for judicial term limits as a response to dissatisfaction with recent decisions. He points out that arguments for term limits rest on outdated claims about the Court's political polarization. These changes, he argues, would not address the core issues.

Key Points from Both Sources:

1. **Independence and Continuity**: Lifetime appointments protect justices from political pressures. This ensures judicial independence and stability.
2. **Political Influence**: Regular turnover could increase political battles over appointments, leading to a more partisan judiciary.
3. **Practical Impact**: Historical data shows that the Supreme Court does not frequently decide cases along strict partisan lines. Recent terms have seen many unanimous or non-partisan decisions.
4. **Constitutional Amendments**: Both sources agree that imposing term limits would require a constitutional amendment. This highlights the founders' intent to insulate the judiciary from political influence.

Conclusion

As the debate on Supreme Court Term limits continue, it's crucial to consider the long-term implications of changes to the Supreme Court's structure. The judiciary's role in upholding the Constitution and ensuring a balanced government requires careful deliberation. Efforts to impose term limits must weigh the potential risks to judicial independence and the Court's integrity.

Stay tuned for more updates and in-depth analyses on this evolving issue.

Sources:

- **Fox News**: John Yoo discusses potential Supreme Court changes and their implications.
- **The Daily Signal**: Thomas Jipping analyzes the push for judicial term limits and its underlying motives.

IN DEPTH:

The Judiciary Act of 1789 was primarily written by Senator Oliver Ellsworth of Connecticut. Ellsworth, who later became the third Chief Justice of the United States, played a key role in drafting and advocating for the act, which established the federal judiciary system, including the structure and jurisdiction of the Supreme Court and lower federal courts.

If Senator Oliver Ellsworth or other framers of the Judiciary Act of 1789 had been concerned about Supreme Court term limits for Justices, several potential issues might have influenced their thinking:

1. **Compromised Judicial Independence**: Term limits could make Justices more susceptible to political pressures, as they might seek favorable positions or appointments after their terms end. This could undermine the impartiality and independence of the judiciary.
2. **Frequent Turnover**: Regular changes in the composition of the Supreme Court might lead to a lack of continuity and stability in the Court's decisions. It could also result in more frequent and intense political battles over judicial appointments.
3. **Experience and Expertise**: Lifetime appointments allow Justices to accumulate extensive experience and deep legal expertise over time. Term limits could prevent Justices from reaching their full potential in understanding and shaping complex legal doctrines.
4. **Political Manipulation**: Term limits might encourage strategic retirements and appointments, allowing presidents and political parties to influence the Court's composition more directly and frequently, potentially leading to a more politicized judiciary.

These concerns likely influenced the decision to grant Supreme Court Justices lifetime appointments, ensuring they remain insulated from political dynamics and can focus on upholding the Constitution and the law with impartiality and consistency.

Related:

Constitution Minute: Illustrating the Relevance and Importance of the Constitution Through Recent Supreme Court Rulings

Constitution Minute: Is the Constitution Still Relevant

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Trump v. United States | Constitution Minute

BY VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/CONSTITUTION-MINUTE-TRUMP-V-UNITED-STATES/
JULY 6, 2024
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, CONSTITUTION MINUTE

Constitution Minute: Trump v. United States – Presidential Immunity Explained

What Happened? On July 1, 2024, the Supreme Court issued a landmark ruling in *Trump v. United States*. The Court decided that a former president is entitled to absolute immunity from criminal prosecution for actions taken within the scope of their official duties while in office. This means that former presidents cannot be prosecuted for actions that fall within their constitutional authority during their tenure. However, this immunity does not extend to actions outside their official capacity.

Why Should This Matter to You? This ruling has significant implications for how we understand the balance of power and accountability in the U.S. government. Here's why it matters to every citizen:

1. Executive Power and Immunity The ruling reinforces the idea that the President, while in office, needs certain protections to perform their duties without constant fear of legal retribution. This immunity ensures that the executive branch can function effectively and independently, which is crucial for stable governance.

2. Checks and Balances The decision underscores the importance of the checks and balances system established by the Constitution. While it protects the President's ability to govern, it also clarifies that this immunity is strictly for official acts. This means that presidents are still accountable for personal misconduct or actions outside their official duties.

3. Accountability For the average citizen, understanding that former presidents can be held accountable for their unofficial actions is essential. This ensures that no one is above the law, maintaining public trust in the legal and political systems.

4. Judicial Oversight The ruling highlights the role of the judiciary in interpreting the scope of presidential powers. By delineating the limits of immunity, the Supreme Court ensures that presidential powers are not unchecked, preserving the constitutional framework designed to prevent abuse of power.

The Constitution at Work

- **Article II** of the Constitution outlines the powers and responsibilities of the President. This ruling interprets these powers, emphasizing that actions within the constitutional duties are protected, but personal or unofficial actions are not.
- **Separation of Powers**: The decision maintains the separation of powers by ensuring that the judiciary can still review actions of the executive branch to ensure they are within constitutional limits.

Why It Matters to You:

- **Preserving Democratic Functioning**: The decision aims to protect the presidency from constant litigation, allowing the President to focus on governance. This stability is crucial for effective leadership and national well-being.
- **Accountability and Oversight**: While protecting certain presidential actions, the ruling does not exempt presidents from being accountable for personal conduct. This ensures that no one, not even a former president, is above the law for actions outside their official capacity.

- **Public Trust**: This decision helps maintain trust in the executive branch by ensuring that the office is respected and its powers are clear and defined. Understanding these boundaries helps citizens trust that their leaders are both empowered and accountable.

Conclusion The Supreme Court's decision in *Trump v. United States* is a pivotal moment in constitutional law. It clarifies the extent of presidential immunity, balancing the need for effective governance with the necessity of accountability. For the average citizen, it underscores the ongoing relevance of the Constitution in defining and protecting the structure and function of our government. Understanding these principles helps us appreciate the Constitution's role in maintaining a balanced, fair, and accountable system of governance.

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Illustrating the Relevance and Importance of the Constitution Through Recent Supreme Court Rulings

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/CONSTITUTION-MINUTE-ILLUSTRATING-THE-RELEVANCE-AND-IMPORTANCE-OF-THE-CONSTITUTION-THROUGH-RECENT-SUPREME-COURT-RULINGS/
JUNE 29, 2024
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, CONSTITUTION MINUTE, CONSTITUTIONAL RELEVANCE

The Constitution is the bedrock of American governance, providing a framework that balances power among the branches of government. Recent Supreme Court decisions, such as the *Loper Bright v. Raimondo* case, have underscored the enduring importance of these constitutional principles.

The Supreme Court's Decision: A Landmark Ruling

In *Loper Bright v. Raimondo*, the Supreme Court made a significant decision by overruling Chevron deference, a legal doctrine that has shaped administrative law for decades. Chevron deference allowed federal agencies to interpret ambiguous statutes, provided their interpretation was reasonable. This principle often resulted in courts deferring to agencies' expertise in interpreting laws, effectively giving these agencies significant power.

However, the Supreme Court's recent ruling shifts this balance. The Court emphasized that federal judges must exercise independent judgment in interpreting statutes, rather than relying on agencies' interpretations. This change restores the judiciary's role as a key interpreter of the law, aligning with the Constitution's intent to maintain a clear separation of powers.

The Constitutional Framework: Separation of Powers

The Constitution's design includes a system of checks and balances intended to prevent any one branch of government from becoming too powerful. By overruling Chevron deference, the Supreme Court reinforced this principle, ensuring that the judiciary, rather than executive agencies, has the final say in interpreting laws. This decision underscores the judiciary's crucial role in safeguarding individual rights and maintaining governmental accountability.

The Impact on Federal Agencies

This ruling is a significant blow to the administrative state, as it curtails the expansive power that federal agencies have enjoyed under Chevron deference. Agencies must now provide more precise statutory language to justify their actions, ensuring that their regulations and policies are firmly rooted in clear legislative authority. This shift promotes greater transparency and accountability in federal rulemaking.

The Broader Implications

The Supreme Court's decision highlights the ongoing relevance of the Constitution in contemporary governance. It serves as a reminder that the foundational principles laid out over two centuries ago continue to shape and influence modern legal and political landscapes. By reinforcing the separation of powers, the Court's ruling protects against potential overreach by any single branch of government, ensuring a balanced and fair system.

Conclusion

The recent Supreme Court ruling in *Loper Bright v. Raimondo* illustrates the enduring importance of the Constitution. By reaffirming the judiciary's role in interpreting laws and limiting the power

of federal agencies, the Court has strengthened the principles of separation of powers and checks and balances. This decision not only aligns with the original intent of the Constitution but also promotes a more transparent and accountable government, ensuring that the rights and freedoms of individuals are protected.

For more detailed coverage, you can read the full articles on **Breitbart** and **Daily Signal**.

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Representative Government | Constitution Minute

BY JEFF BAYARD
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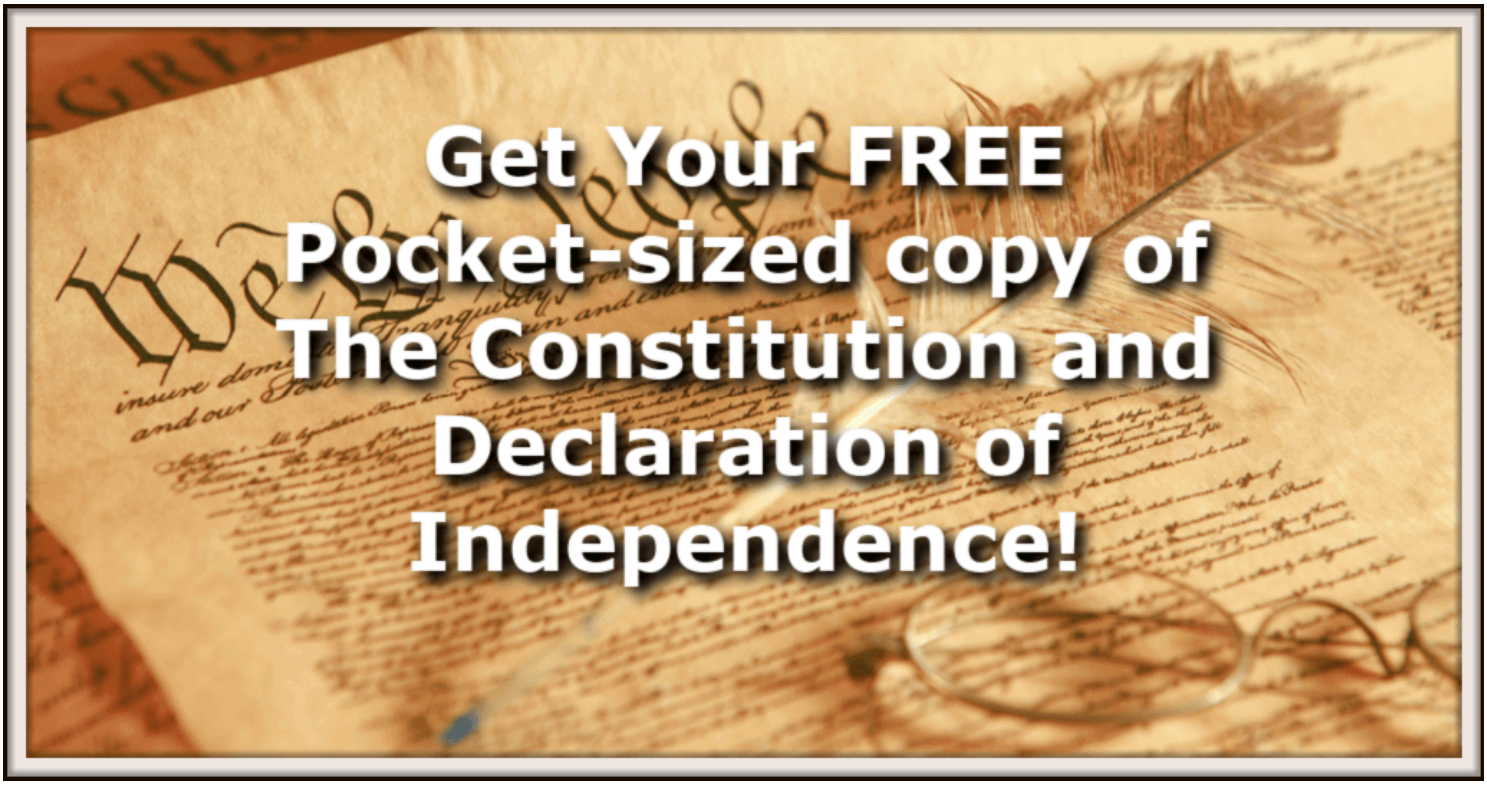
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, CONSTITUTION MINUTE



This content elaborates on the importance of representative government, the necessity of a constitution, and how these principles, rooted in the consent of the governed, continue to be crucial for the relevance of the U.S. Constitution in contemporary society. **See previous articles on the Constitution.**

The American Founders believed that the principles of the Declaration and the Constitution were not simply preferences for their own day, but were truths that the sovereign and moral people of America could always rely on as guides in their pursuit of happiness. This course considers the principles of the American Founding—which are described most famously and concisely in the Declaration of Independence—as well as key features of American government based on those

principles. Led by Hillsdale College President Larry P. Arnn, the course also examines the major challenges posed by Progressivism to American constitutionalism.

Representative Government | Highlights Ep.21
https://youtube.com/watch?v=aS0jqt29Ckw

Watch the full course:

https://online.hillsdale.edu/landing/...

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The Relevance of the U.S. Constitution in Today's Society

Representative Government and Consent

The essence of a representative government lies in its foundation on the consent of the governed. This fundamental principle was clearly articulated in the Declaration of Independence when the Founders condemned the King for suspending the legislature and refusing to allow elections for new representatives. Consent from the people legitimizes representation, ensuring that the government's authority derives from the governed. This concept is pivotal in limiting government power, as it implies that the government can only act within the bounds set by the people's consent.

Government as a Monopoly

Government, by its nature, holds a monopoly on force. This monopoly necessitates a system where the governed have a say in how they are ruled, contrasting sharply with monarchic principles where a king claims inherent right to rule. In the American context, the government's power is contingent upon the ongoing consent of the people, fundamentally altering the nature of governance from a divinely ordained monarchy to a republic founded on the will of its citizens.

Establishing the American Government

The establishment of the American government began with the Declaration of Independence, signaling a break from British rule. However, declaring independence was just the first step. To maintain a functioning and fair government, the Founders recognized the necessity of a Constitution. This Constitution serves as a framework for continually expressing and renewing the people's consent. Unlike totalitarian regimes, such as Hitler's, which operated under the dictator's will, a constitutional government requires a formal process to determine and execute the collective will of its people.

The Need for a Constitution

The Constitution is distinct from ordinary laws; it prescribes the process by which laws are made, ensuring that governance remains rooted in the consent of the governed. This separation of powers and checks and balances ensures that no single entity or individual can wield unchecked power. By spreading decision-making both over space (through representation) and time (through enduring principles), the Constitution ensures a stable yet adaptable government.

Representation and Consent

Representative government, underpinned by a constitution, requires a society that is separate from the government yet large enough to oversee and control its power. This dynamic balances the inherent power of the government with the fundamental rights and freedoms of the people. Representation allows for a more extensive and inclusive participation in governance, ensuring that diverse voices contribute to the decision-making process.

Conclusion

The U.S. Constitution remains relevant today because it embodies principles that safeguard democracy and individual freedoms. By ensuring that the government derives its power from the consent of the governed and by establishing a framework for fair and representative governance, the Constitution continues to serve as a cornerstone of American society. Its enduring relevance lies in its ability to balance governmental power with the rights of the people, ensuring a government that is by the people and for the people.

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This content elaborates on the importance of representative government, the necessity of a constitution, and how these principles, rooted in the consent of the governed, continue to be crucial for the relevance of the U.S. Constitution in contemporary society.

See previous articles on the Constitution

The author generated this text in part with GPT-4.0, OpenAI's large-scale language-generation model. Upon generating draft language, the author reviewed, edited, and revised the language to their own liking and takes ultimate responsibility for the content of this publication.

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The Connection Between the United States Constitution and the Declaration of Independence

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/THE-CONNECTION-BETWEEN-THE-UNITED-STATES-CONSTITUTION-AND-THE-DECLARATION-OF-INDEPENDENCE/
JUNE 12, 2024
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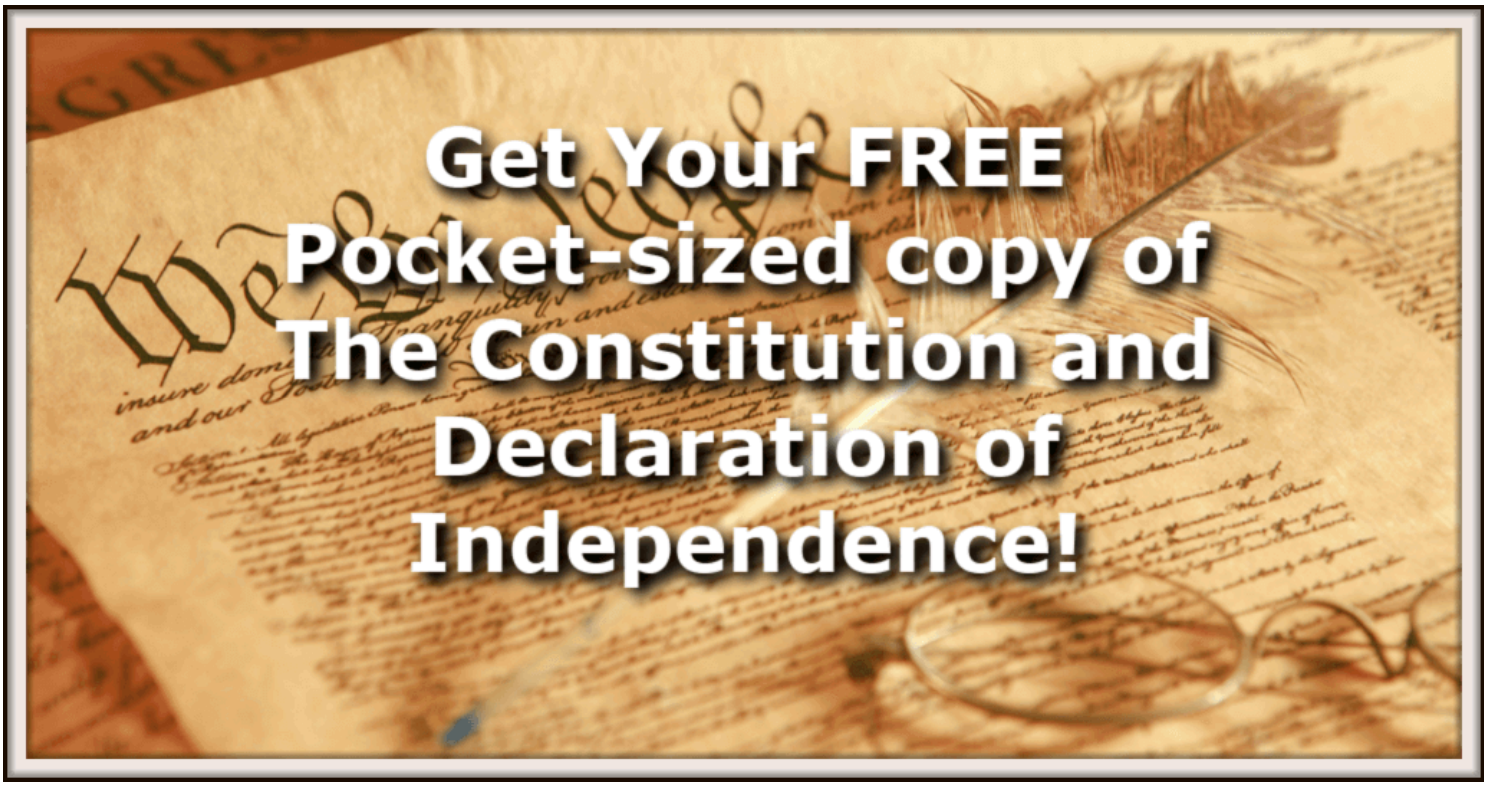

> Knowing the difference between formal and final cause in the Constitution and Declaration of Independence helps citizens understand their distinct purposes: the Constitution's structure and laws, and the Declaration's principles and intent.

To have a free government, you must have a structured form of governance because a free government necessitates widespread participation. This means there must be an established

system that allows people to take part, and it needs to remain stable over time to prevent constant changes that could lead to control by a few individuals. Our Constitution is the most successful example of such a system in history, lasting longer than any similar structure known since ancient times.

The Constitution is authoritative, and this brings us to why the Declaration of Independence matters. You cannot fully understand the United States without a deep understanding of both documents and their relationship.

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A country has borders, and within those borders is a group of citizens bound by a contract to be governed by the same system. This modern political thought aligns with the Declaration of Independence, which states that whenever a government becomes destructive, it is the people's right to alter or abolish it and institute a new government on such principles. This implies not only a right but also a duty to establish a new set of rules and laws. Thus, the Declaration does not envision life without government. One of the primary objections against the king was his refusal to assent to laws that were wholesome and necessary, echoing classical thought where humans are seen as social and political beings needing to live under law.

The Declaration of Independence is one of the most influential documents in history, providing a framework that begins with universal principles and narrows down to specific actions. It starts broadly, applicable to all human events, and then addresses the specific grievances and actions necessary at the time. The signers of the Declaration were in Philadelphia, a risky place as Britain, the greatest sea power, sought their arrest. They pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor to each other and to divine providence, highlighting the seriousness and personal commitment of their cause.

The Declaration begins with general principles that apply universally and concludes with a specific, solemn pledge. This structure mirrors the process we all undergo when making significant decisions, moving from a broad sense of right down to the particular circumstances requiring action. In the middle of the Declaration, the list of grievances against the king outlines the fundamental elements of what would become the Constitution, illustrating the continuity and foresight of the Founders in connecting these documents and their ideals.

Lesson One | The Connection Between the Constitution and the Declaration
https://youtube.com/watch?v=vGGx7sTDnMY

The United States Constitution serves as the formal cause of the United States, while the Declaration of Independence represents the final cause.

—

The Constitution as the Formal Cause:

- **Framework for Government:** The Constitution establishes the formal structure and organization of the United States government.
- **Rule of Law:** It provides the legal foundation and codifies the principles by which the nation is governed.
- **Separation of Powers:** Outlines the division of government into three branches—legislative, executive, and judicial—to ensure a system of checks and balances.
- **Bill of Rights:** Ensures the protection of individual liberties and rights.
- **Amendment Process:** Provides a method for making formal changes to the document to adapt to evolving needs and circumstances.

The Declaration of Independence as the Final Cause:

- **Statement of Ideals:** The Declaration expresses the fundamental principles and values upon which the nation was founded, such as liberty, equality, and the pursuit of happiness.
- **Justification for Independence:** Articulates the reasons for the American colonies' decision to break away from British rule.
- **Moral Foundation:** Establishes the philosophical basis for the nation's existence and the inherent rights of individuals.
- **Vision for the Future:** Sets forth the ultimate goals and aspirations for the nation, guiding its development and growth.
- **Inspiration for Governance:** Provides the ethical and moral vision that influences the creation and interpretation of laws and policies.

These points highlight the distinct yet complementary roles of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence in shaping the United States.

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The Laws of Nature and of Natures God | Introduction to the Constitution

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/THE-LAWS-OF-NATURE-AND-OF-NATURES-GOD-INTRODUCTION-TO-THE-CONSTITUTION/
JUNE 5, 2024
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
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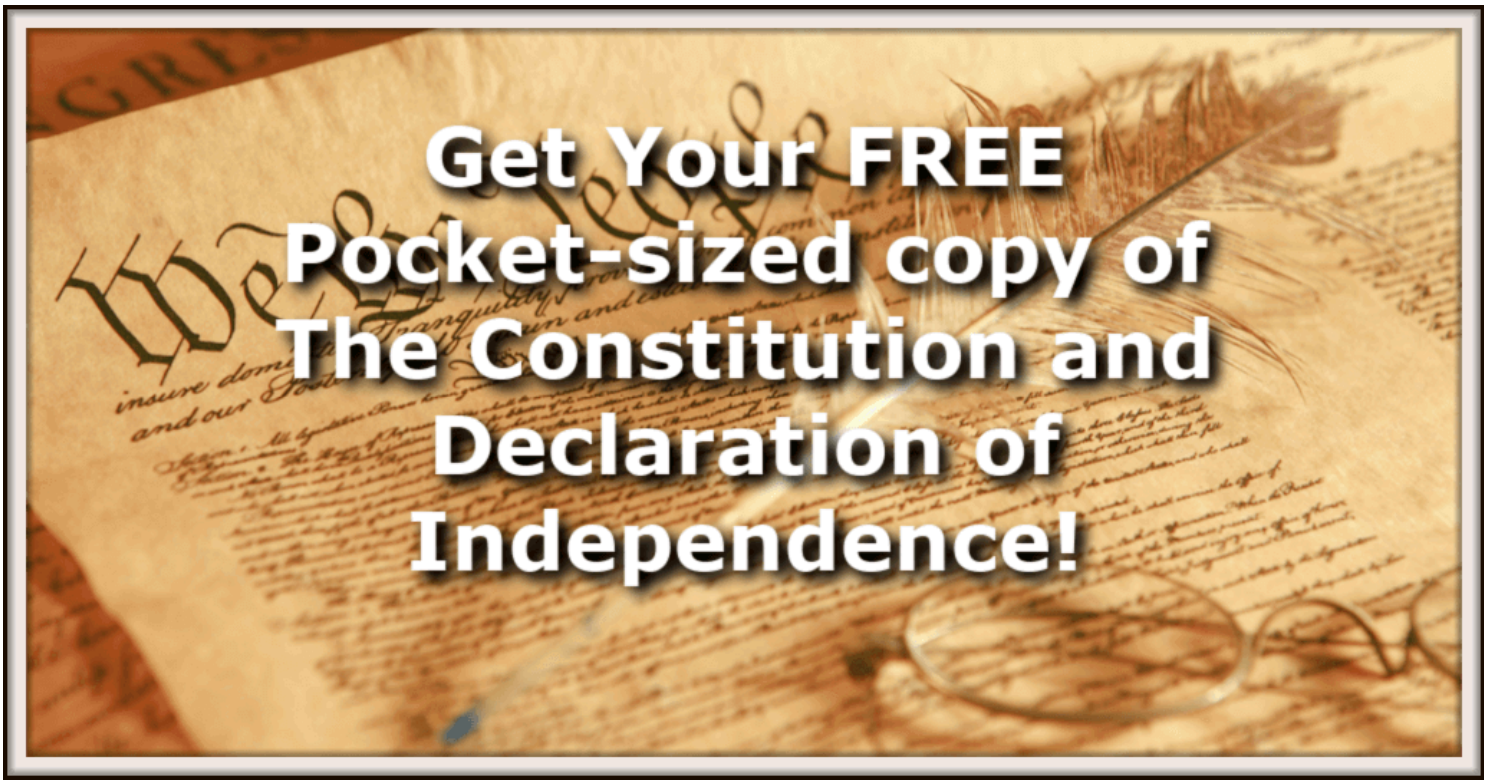

The U.S. Constitution is the key to securing liberty for all Americans — yet few know exactly what it says, and what freedoms it protects. These videos are meant to give a simple and quick understanding of key aspects of the U.S. Constitution. This video message is proudly presented by Hillsdale College, dedicated to promoting civil discourse and the principles of liberty and limited government.

> Understanding the laws of nature and nature's God as envisioned by the Founding Fathers is crucial because these principles underpin the foundational values of justice, liberty, and inherent human rights that the Constitution aims to protect and uphold.

The Laws of Nature and of Natures | Introduction to the Constitution
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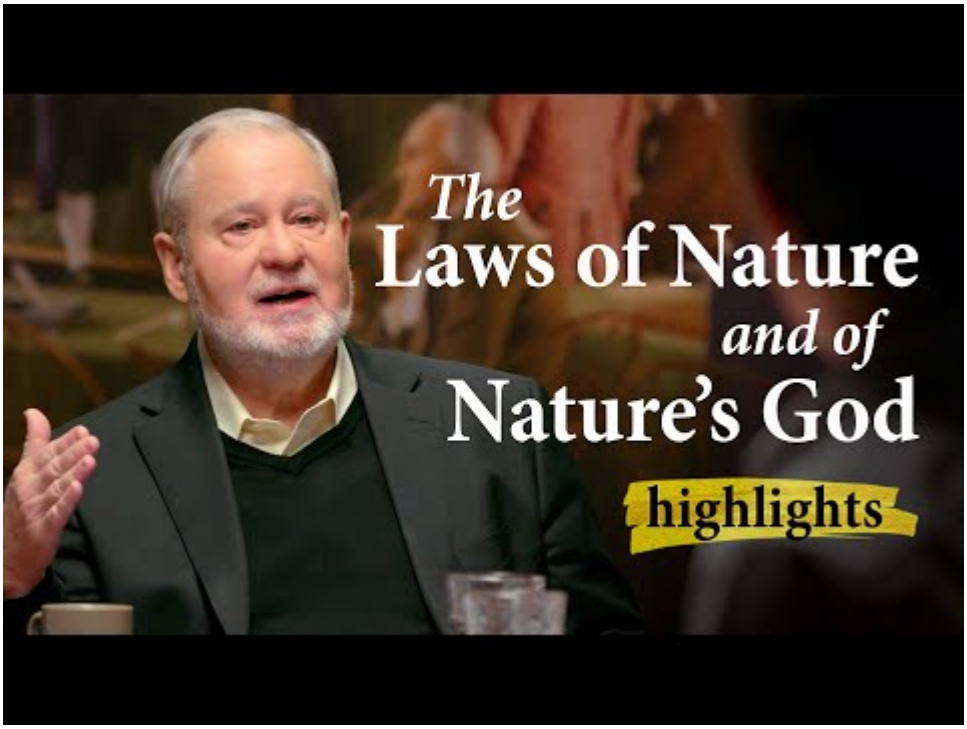

- In the Declaration of Independence, God is named as the embodiment of all three branches of government.
- The first paragraph establishes the principle of equality, citing all men as created equal under the laws of nature and Nature's God.
- God is referenced in two other instances: when stating that men are endowed with inalienable rights by their Creator, and when pledging to each other by the name of Divine Providence.
- These references associate God with various branches of government: as the lawmaker, the Supreme judge, and the Founder.
- Despite attempts by the king to consolidate power, the only entity deemed trustworthy to embody all branches of government is God, as explicitly stated in the document.
- The laws of nature and of Nature's God refer to the rules governing the natural order, attributed to the God responsible for maintaining order and protecting the revolution.
- While not all revolutionaries shared the same beliefs about God's role, many saw Him as integral to their cause.
- The United States aimed to be a haven for those with diverse religious beliefs, recognizing the importance of both faith and freedom in shaping the nation's identity.
- Thank you for watching; we hope you're enjoying our highlights series and encourage you to explore Hillsdale College's free online courses for lifelong learners.

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The Constitution of the United States does not explicitly list "laws of nature" within its text. However, the concept of "laws of nature" is referenced in earlier foundational documents and philosophical writings that influenced the framers of the Constitution, such as the Declaration of Independence and the writings of philosophers like John Locke.

Here are the key points where concepts related to "laws of nature" and natural rights are implied or foundational to the Constitution:

- **Preamble**: Establishes the goals of the Constitution, reflecting principles that align with natural law concepts such as justice, liberty, and the general welfare.

- **Article I, Section 9, Clause 2 (Habeas Corpus)**: Protects against unlawful and indefinite imprisonment, a principle rooted in natural rights.

- **Article III, Section 2 (Judicial Powers)**: Ensures the judicial power extends to all cases arising under the Constitution, laws of the United States, and treaties, providing a mechanism for protecting natural rights.

- **Bill of Rights**: The first ten amendments explicitly protect individual liberties and rights, many of which can be seen as derived from natural law principles:

    - **First Amendment**: Protects freedoms of speech, religion, press, assembly, and petition.
    - **Second Amendment**: Protects the right to keep and bear arms.
    - **Third Amendment**: Protects against quartering of soldiers in private homes without consent.
    - **Fourth Amendment**: Protects against unreasonable searches and seizures.
    - **Fifth Amendment**: Protects rights related to due process, double jeopardy, self-incrimination, and eminent domain.
    - **Sixth Amendment**: Protects the right to a fair trial.
    - **Seventh Amendment**: Protects the right to trial by jury in civil cases.
    - **Eighth Amendment**: Protects against excessive bail, fines, and cruel and unusual punishment.
    - **Ninth Amendment**: States that the listing of specific rights in the Constitution does not mean that people do not have other rights not specifically mentioned.
    - **Tenth Amendment**: Affirms that powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States or the people.

These points reflect the underlying principles of natural law and natural rights, which emphasize inherent human rights and liberties that government should protect.

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What is the difference between entitlements and constitutional rights? | Constitution Minute

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/WHAT-IS-THE-DIFFERENCE-BETWEEN-ENTITLEMENTS-AND-CONSTITUTIONAL-RIGHTS-CONSTITUTION-MINUTE/
MAY 29, 2024
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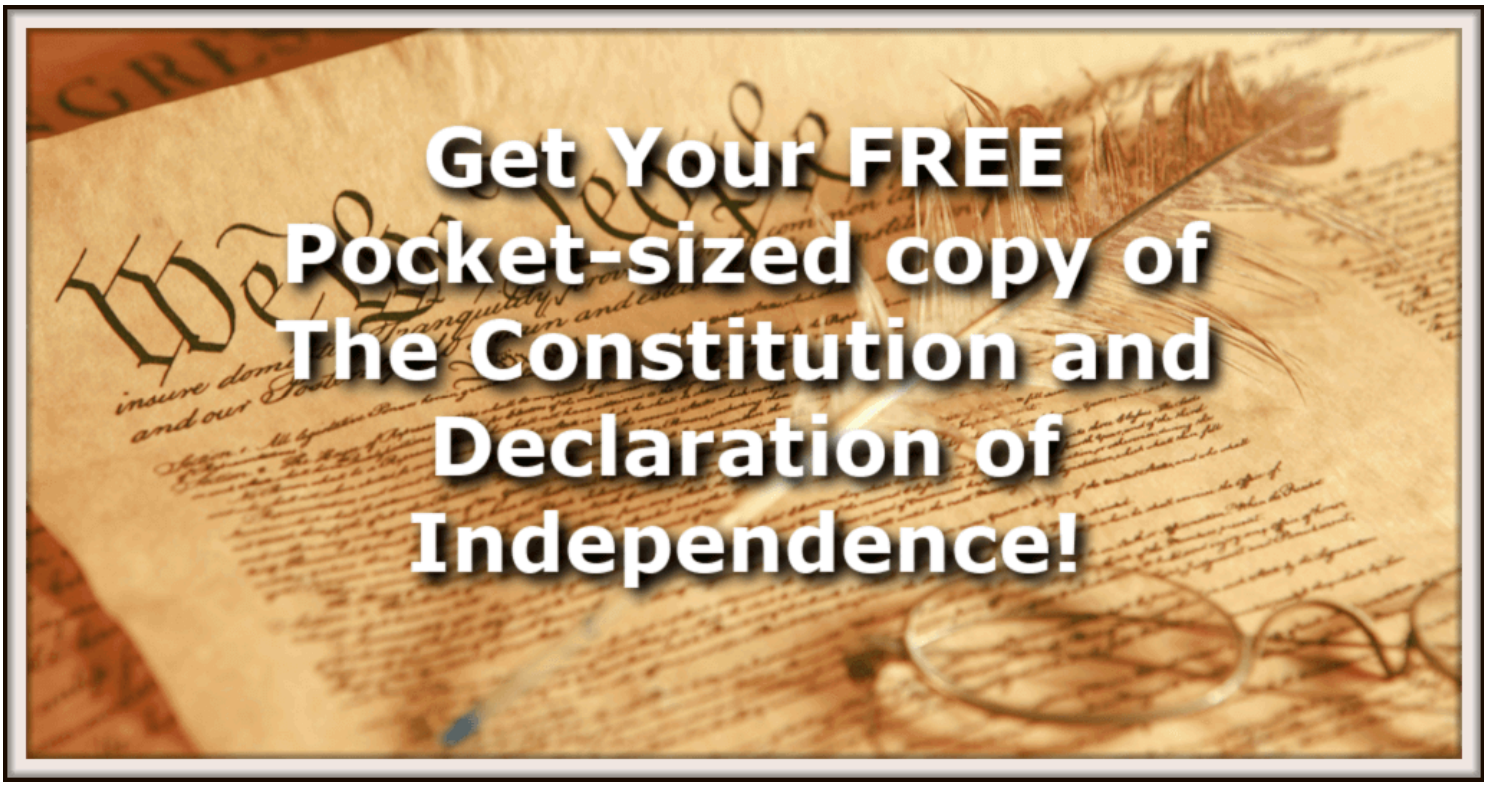

The U.S. Constitution is the key to securing liberty for all Americans — yet few know exactly what it says, and what freedoms it protects. These videos are meant to give a simple and quick understanding of key aspects of the U.S. Constitution. This video message is proudly presented by Hillsdale College, dedicated to promoting civil discourse and the principles of liberty and limited government.

Understanding the distinctions between constitutional rights and entitlements helps clarify how different guarantees provided to individuals in the U.S. function and the basis upon which they are granted and protected.

What Are Entitlements? | Constitution Minute
https://youtube.com/watch?v=PyMecvtiZUQ

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America's founding principles were deeply rooted in the belief that individuals are endowed with natural rights, fundamental to their existence, which include the rights to life, liberty, and property. This philosophy, championed by luminaries like John Locke and enshrined in documents like the Declaration of Independence, asserts that these rights are inherent to every human being, irrespective of external circumstances.

A staunch adherent to this view of rights holds a simple yet powerful stance: they ask only for respect of these rights from others, without demanding anything beyond the preservation of these liberties. This perspective fosters a society where individuals are free to pursue their aspirations and interests, unencumbered by undue interference from others.

However, a subtle but significant shift has occurred in recent times. Many Americans now speak not only of natural rights but also of entitlements—asserting rights to a college education, medical care, and even birth control pills. These entitlements represent a departure from the traditional understanding of rights as innate and inviolable, to a notion where individuals lay claim to resources and services provided by others.

This shift in perspective has profound implications. Rather than fostering a community built on mutual respect and individual autonomy, it sets citizens against each other, as competing

interests vie for limited resources. Moreover, it undermines the very essence of natural rights, as the concept of entitlements dilutes the purity of these fundamental liberties.

In this paradigm, the notion of rights becomes distorted, losing its moral clarity and becoming a source of contention rather than unity. Instead of fostering a society where individuals are empowered to thrive and flourish, it fosters a culture of entitlement and dependency.

To preserve the integrity of natural rights and uphold the principles upon which America was founded, it is imperative to distinguish between rights and entitlements. Embracing the former fosters a society grounded in liberty and individual dignity, while succumbing to the allure of entitlements only serves to sow discord and undermine the very fabric of our nation's ideals.

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What are the Differences Between Constitutional Rights and Entititlements?

In the context of the U.S. Constitution, "entitlements" and "constitutional rights" represent two distinct concepts relating to what individuals are guaranteed by the government.

Constitutional Rights

Constitutional rights are the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution to all individuals within the United States. These rights are enshrined in the text of the Constitution and its amendments, particularly the Bill of Rights and subsequent amendments. Examples include:

- **Freedom of Speech and Religion:** Protected by the First Amendment.
- **Right to Bear Arms:** Guaranteed by the Second Amendment.
- **Protection from Unreasonable Searches and Seizures:** Secured by the Fourth Amendment.
- **Right to Due Process and Equal Protection:** Ensured by the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments.

These rights are inherent and inalienable, meaning they are not granted by the government but are recognized as intrinsic to human beings. The government is obligated to protect these rights and cannot infringe upon them without compelling justification and due process.

Entitlements

Entitlements, on the other hand, are government-provided benefits that individuals are legally entitled to receive under specific laws. These are not inherent rights but are granted through legislation and can include various types of public assistance and welfare programs. Examples include

- **Social Security:** A federal program that provides retirement, disability, and survivor benefits.
- **Medicare:** A federal health insurance program primarily for individuals aged 65 and older.
- **Unemployment Benefits:** Payments made to individuals who are unemployed through no fault of their own and meet certain eligibility requirements.
- **Medicaid:** A program that provides health coverage to eligible low-income individuals and families.

Entitlements are based on meeting specific eligibility criteria set by legislation, and they are funded through taxpayer dollars. These programs are subject to change through the legislative process, and their availability or the benefits provided can be altered by new laws.

Key Differences:

1. **Source of Authority:**

- **Constitutional Rights:** Derived directly from the U.S. Constitution and its amendments.
- **Entitlements:** Created and regulated by federal and state laws, not directly from the Constitution.

2. **Nature of Guarantee:**
   - **Constitutional Rights:** Fundamental and inalienable, intended to protect individual freedoms from government interference.
   - **Entitlements:** Benefits provided by the government based on eligibility criteria and subject to legislative changes.

3. **Protection and Enforcement:**
   - **Constitutional Rights:** Protected by the judiciary, with courts able to strike down laws or government actions that violate these rights.
   - **Entitlements:** Administered by government agencies, with changes implemented through the legislative process.

4. **Flexibility:**
   - **Constitutional Rights:** Generally stable and enduring, requiring constitutional amendments or significant judicial decisions to change.
   - **Entitlements:** More flexible and subject to budgetary constraints, policy changes, and political decisions.

Understanding these distinctions helps clarify how different guarantees provided to individuals in the U.S. function and the basis upon which they are granted and protected.

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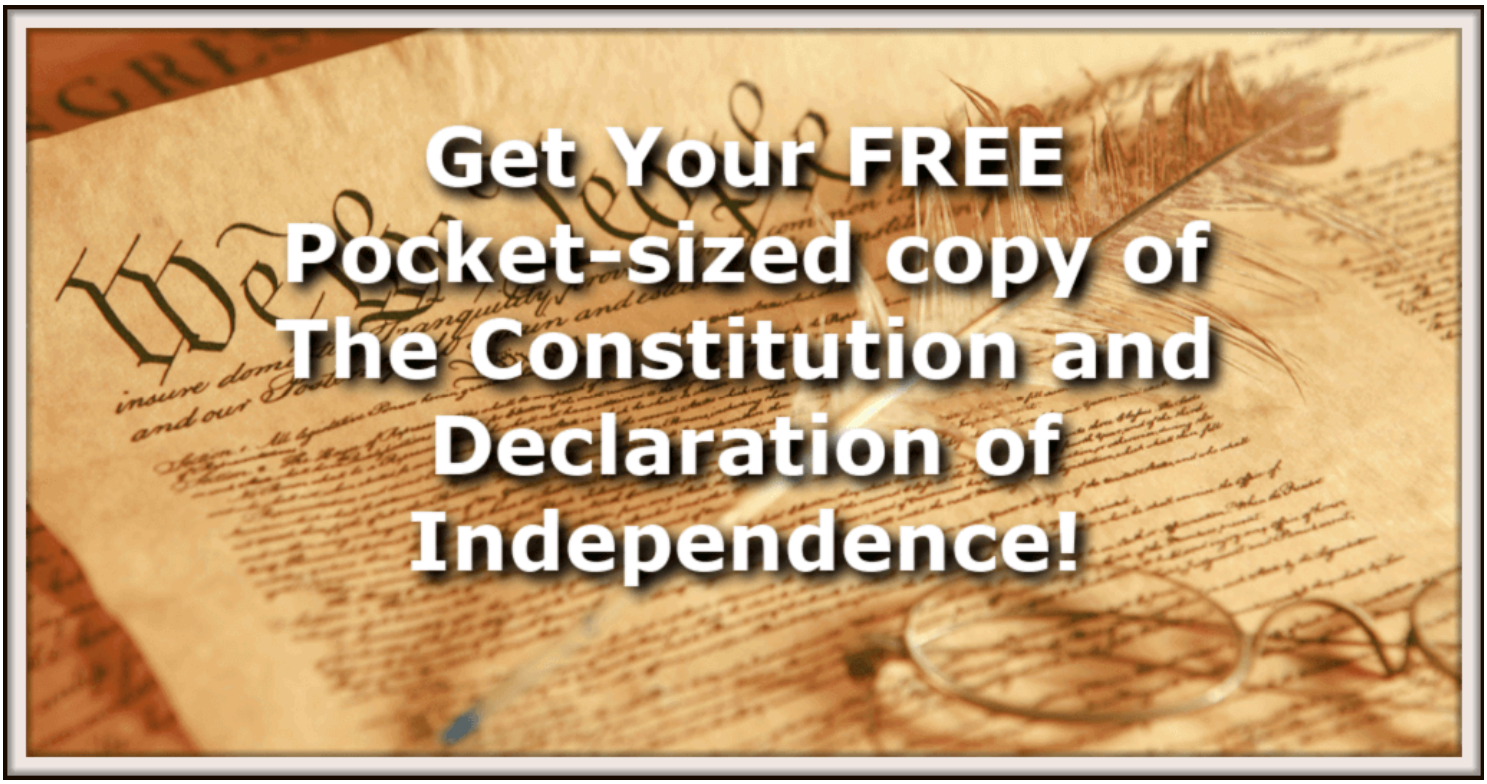
Why Do We Need Limited Government? | Constitution Minute

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/WHY-DO-WE-NEED-LIMITED-GOVERNMENT-CONSTITUTION-MINUTE/
MAY 22, 2024
CATEGORIES: US CONSTITUTION
TAGS: CONSTITUTION, CONSTITUTION MINUTE



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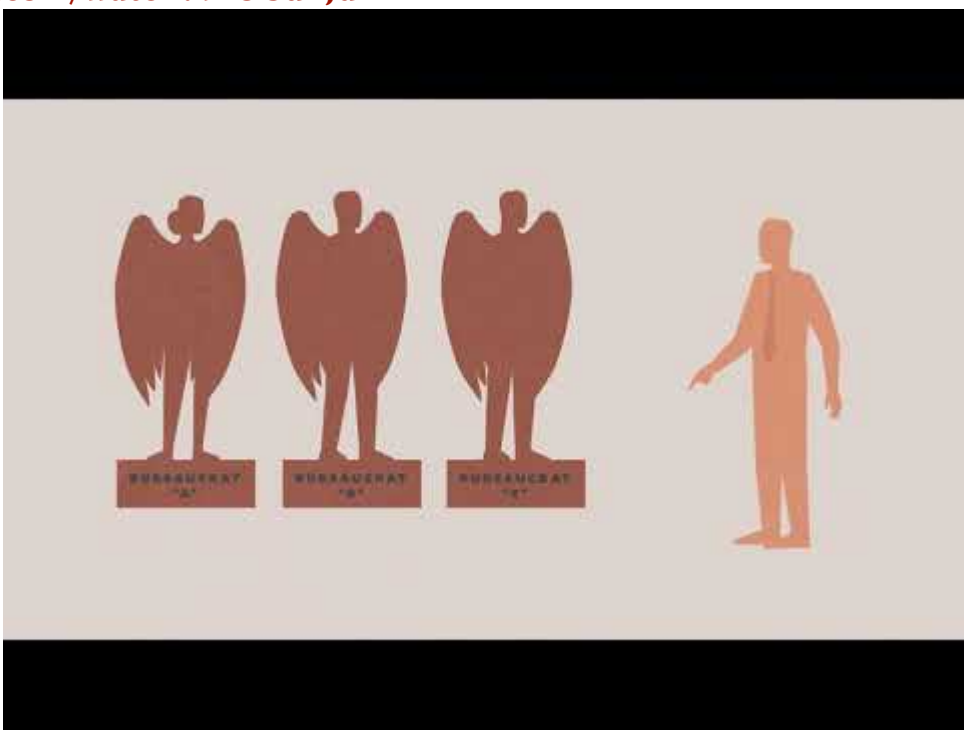

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In Federalist 51, James Madison articulates the fundamental premise that humans are inherently flawed, not angelic beings. He underscores how our passions and self-interest frequently override reason and justice, necessitating the establishment of government to safeguard our rights from those who seek to infringe upon them. However, Madison cautions against unchecked governmental power, recognizing that individuals within the government are susceptible to the same human failings. Regrettably, many contemporary Americans overlook this reality.

Some advocate for the removal of constitutional constraints on government authority, naively believing that those entrusted with power will act with divine benevolence. Madison's wisdom, however, warns against such illusions. He aptly predicts that individuals occupying positions of authority, such as unelected bureaucrats overseeing sectors like healthcare, will inevitably exhibit human fallibility rather than angelic virtue.

Should Madison's insights prove accurate, it will become evident that these individuals, despite their roles, are not immune to the inherent flaws of humanity. Thus, Madison's assertion serves as a poignant reminder of the need for prudent governance, grounded in an understanding of human nature, and tempered by the imperative of constitutional limitations. Only by acknowledging and addressing the inherent imperfections of human nature can we aspire to create a government that genuinely serves the interests of the people it represents.

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The Constitution Minute

The Constitution Minute: Principle of Equality

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In Federalist 51, James Madison presents several key points:

1. **Separation of Powers**: Madison emphasizes the necessity of separating governmental powers into distinct branches – legislative, executive, and judicial – to prevent any one branch from becoming too powerful. This system of checks and balances ensures that each branch can limit the others, preserving liberty and preventing tyranny.

2. **Checks and Balances**: Madison explains how each branch of government should have the means to check the power of the other branches. For example, the legislative branch (Congress) can check the executive branch (the President) through its power to pass laws, while the judicial branch can check both by interpreting laws and determining their constitutionality.

3. **Human Nature and Government**: Madison acknowledges the flawed nature of humans, stating that if all men were angels, no government would be necessary. However, since humans are not angels and are prone to selfishness and ambition, government is essential to maintaining order and protecting individual rights.

4. **Limitations on Government**: While government is necessary, Madison argues that it must be limited in its powers to prevent abuse and tyranny. He asserts that the Constitution provides these necessary limitations, ensuring that government officials are accountable to the people and bound by the rule of law.

5. **Importance of a Republican Government**: Madison defends the republican form of government (representative democracy) as the best means of ensuring the protection of individual rights and preventing the concentration of power in the hands of a few.

Overall, Federalist 51 underscores the importance of a balanced government with checks and balances to safeguard liberty and prevent tyranny, grounded in an understanding of human nature and the necessity of limited government power.

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What is Necessary to Preserve Freedom? Exemptions | Constitution Minute

BY JEFF BAYARD
HTTPS://VACHRISTIAN.ORG/WHAT-IS-NECESSARY-TO-PRESERVE-FREEDOM-EXEMPTIONS-CONSTITUTION-MINUTE/
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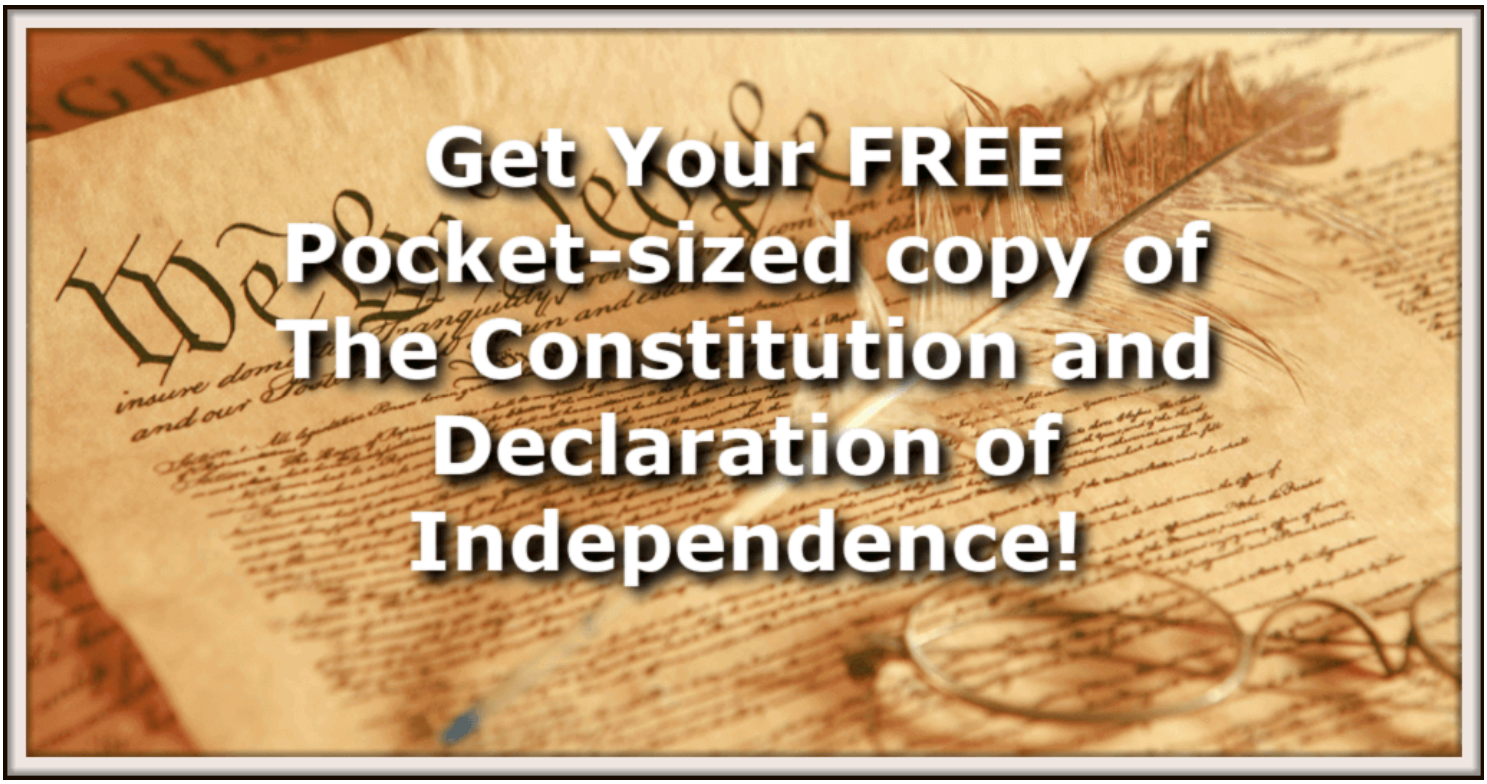

See Part 1 here> **Is the Constitution Still Relevant? | Constitution Minute**

The U.S. Constitution is essential for securing liberty, yet many are unfamiliar with its contents and the freedoms it protects. These videos aim to provide a quick understanding of critical aspects of the Constitution. They are presented by **Hillsdale College**, which is dedicated to promoting civil discourse and the principles of liberty and limited government.

Exemptions | Constitution Minute
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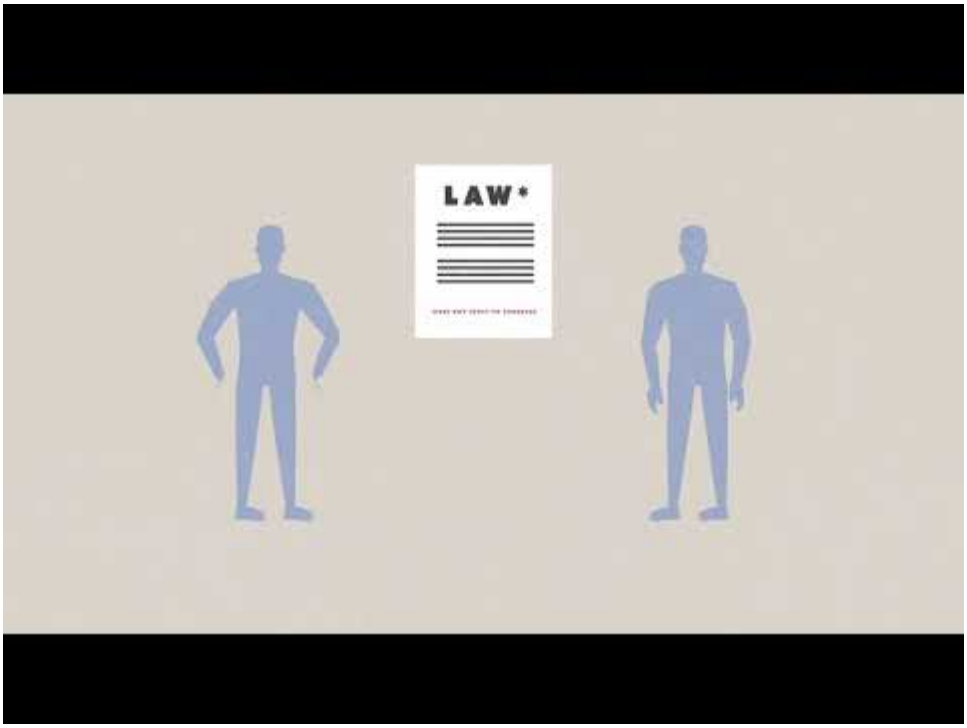

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Absolutely. James Madison's observation is profound, and it's worth reflecting on how it applies to our present-day context.

In 1788, as the Constitution was undergoing intense debate, James Madison, one of the Founding Fathers of the United States, articulated a critical point regarding the relationship between the government and its citizens. He highlighted the importance of a vigilant and robust spirit among the American people as the primary restraint on Congress from passing laws that would apply to the populace but not to the legislators themselves.

Madison emphasized that this spirit, characterized by its vigilance and commitment to freedom, was essential for maintaining the fabric of liberty in the young nation. He understood that the very foundation of freedom would be at risk if this spirit were ever to wane if the people were to become complacent and tolerant of laws that did not hold their representatives to the same standards as themselves.

Fast-forward to today, and we find ourselves living in a society where laws and regulations do not apply equally to elected officials and those who work for them. This dissonance between the governed and the governing challenges the principles upon which the nation was founded.

Suppose we aspire to uphold the ideals of liberty and ensure that they endure for future generations. In that case, we must heed Madison's warning and rekindle the flame of freedom that animated the hearts of our founding fathers. We must cultivate a renewed spirit of vigilance among the American people, which demands accountability from those in power and insists on equality before the law for all citizens.

Preserving liberty requires active participation and a steadfast commitment to the values that define us as a nation. It requires us to hold our elected officials accountable and to strive for a society where the rule of law applies equally to everyone, regardless of their position or privilege. In doing so, we honor the legacy of those who fought to secure our freedoms and ensure that the torch of liberty continues to burn brightly for generations to come.

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Preserving liberty requires active participation and a steadfast commitment to the values that define us as a nation.

American citizens can actively participate and demonstrate a steadfast commitment to preserving the freedoms enshrined in the U.S. Constitution in several ways:

1. **Educate Themselves**: Citizens can educate themselves about the principles and values embedded in the Constitution, including the Bill of Rights and subsequent amendments. Understanding these constitutional provisions' history, significance, and relevance empowers individuals to advocate for their preservation.

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2. **Engage in Civic Discourse**: Active participation in civic discourse is essential for preserving constitutional freedoms. Citizens can engage in informed discussions, debates, and dialogue about constitutional issues, policies, and current events online and in their communities.

3. **Exercise Voting Rights**: Voting is a fundamental right and responsibility in a democratic society. By exercising their right to vote in elections at all levels of government, citizens can hold elected officials accountable and influence decision-making processes that impact their freedoms and liberties.

4. **Support Civil Liberties Organizations**: Citizens can support civil liberties organizations and advocacy groups that defend constitutional rights and liberties. These organizations are vital in monitoring government actions, challenging unconstitutional policies or practices, and promoting public awareness and engagement on civil liberties.

5. **Participate in Activism and Advocacy**: Citizens can participate in activism and advocacy efforts to advance causes aligned with constitutional principles, such as freedom of speech, press, religion, assembly, and the right to due process. These efforts may involve organizing rallies, protests, petitions, and lobbying elected officials.

6. **Serve on Juries**: Jury service is a fundamental aspect of the justice system and a way for citizens to directly participate in upholding constitutional rights, such as the right to a fair trial and the presumption of innocence. By serving on juries, citizens contribute to the administration of justice and safeguard individual liberties.

7. **Promote Civic Education**: Supporting civic education initiatives in schools and communities helps ensure that future generations understand the importance of constitutional freedoms and their role in preserving them. Encouraging the study of civics, government, and constitutional law fosters an informed and engaged citizenry.

8. **Respect and Protect the Rights of Others**: Respecting and protecting the rights and liberties of others, even when their views or beliefs differ from one's own, is essential for maintaining a free and democratic society. Upholding principles of tolerance, inclusion, and diversity strengthens the fabric of constitutional freedoms for all citizens.

By actively participating in these ways and demonstrating a steadfast commitment to the values that define the United States as a nation, American citizens can contribute to preserving and promoting the freedoms enshrined in the U.S. Constitution.

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Is the Constitution Today Still Relevant? | Constitution Minute

BY JEFF BAYARD
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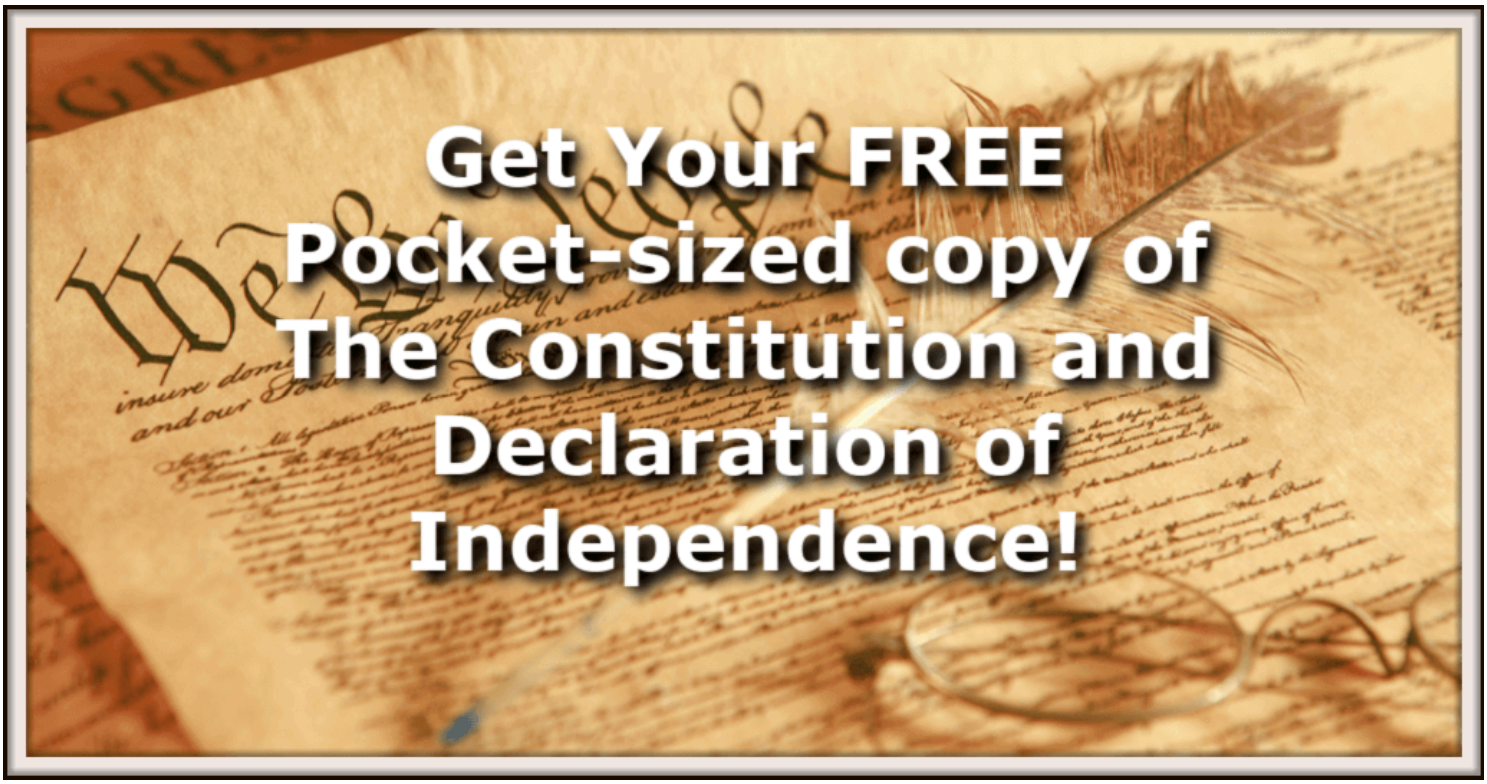

The Constitution of the United States is still important today and is crucial for protecting the freedom of all Americans. However, many people are not familiar with its contents and the rights it safeguards. These videos aim to provide a simple and concise explanation of the essential elements of the U.S. Constitution. This video is proudly brought to you by **Hillsdale College**, an institution committed to fostering civil discourse and the principles of liberty and limited government.

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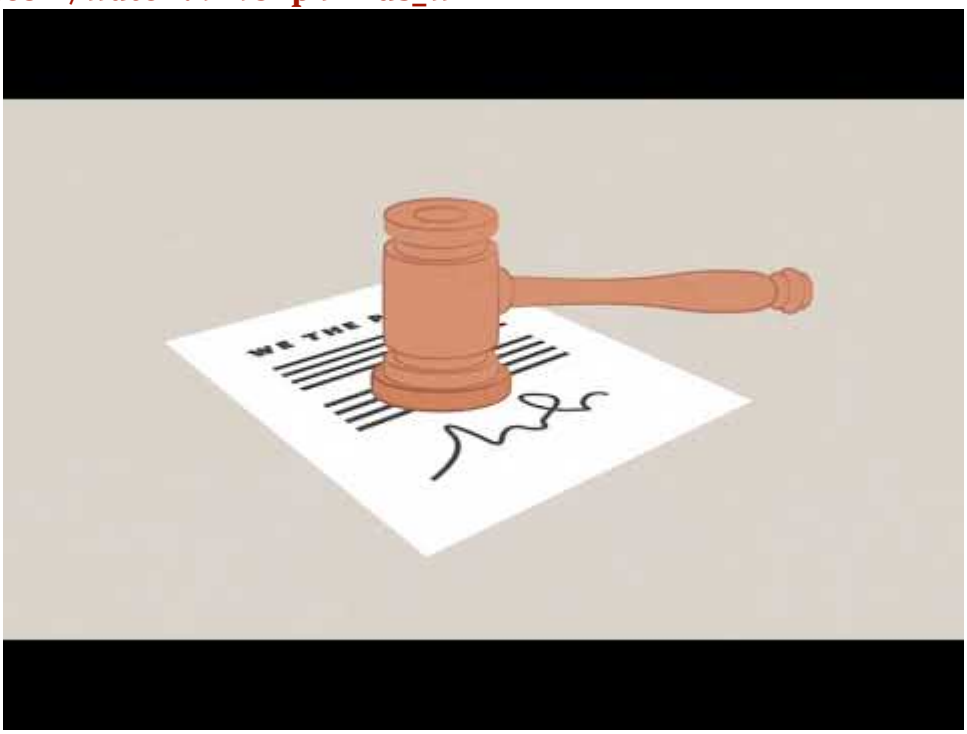

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In the ongoing debate about the relevance of the United States Constitution in the modern era, critics often argue that its 18th-century origins make it outdated. While specific parts may seem old-fashioned, such as the ban on titles of nobility in **Article 1, Section 9,** a closer look reveals that these seemingly old provisions are based on timeless principles that still matter today.

The prohibition against titles of nobility may seem out of place in our society, but its underlying purpose remains important: to prevent the concentration of power and the weakening of the rule of law. By stopping the government from granting special privileges to specific individuals or groups based on their social status, the Constitution aims to uphold the idea of equal treatment under the law.

In today's world, where crony capitalism and favoritism often undermine fair competition and economic justice, the wisdom of this constitutional provision becomes clear. Crony capitalism, which involves government intervention to benefit select businesses or individuals at the expense of others, goes against the spirit of the Constitution. It creates a system where success is not based on merit and innovation but on political connections and influence.

By adhering to the constitutional ban on titles of nobility and similar practices, the United States aims to maintain the integrity of its democratic institutions and promote a fair playing field for all citizens. In doing so, it reaffirms its commitment to fairness, equality, and the rule of law on which the nation was built.

Far from being outdated, the Constitution is a living document that continues to guide and inspire us in our pursuit of a more perfect union. Its timeless principles protect against tyranny and injustice, reminding us of the enduring value of the freedoms and liberties we cherish.

In conclusion, while some may see specific provisions of the Constitution as relics of the past, a closer look reveals their enduring relevance and importance in today's world. As we face the challenges of the 21st century, let's remember the wisdom of those who created this remarkable document and work to uphold its principles for generations to come.

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The prohibition against titles of nobility holds significant importance for several reasons:

1. **Preservation of Republican Values:** The framers aimed to establish a government based on republican principles, where power comes from the consent of the governed rather than from hereditary privilege. By prohibiting titles of nobility, they sought to ensure that all citizens were equal before the law, and that no individual or class would hold special privileges or advantages based on birth or social status.

2. **Prevention of Corruption and Influence:** The Constitution safeguards against corruption and undue influence by forbidding government officials from accepting titles, presents, or emoluments from foreign powers without congressional consent. This helps maintain the independence and integrity of government institutions and ensures that officials prioritize the interests of the American people rather than those of foreign entities.

3. **Protection of Meritocracy:** The prohibition against titles of nobility reinforces the idea of a meritocratic society where individuals are rewarded based on their abilities, achievements, and contributions rather than their social status or connections. This promotes fairness, encourages innovation, and fosters social mobility by allowing individuals to rise based on their talent and hard work rather than their lineage or privileged upbringing.

In summary, **Article 1, Section 9** of the Constitution, specifically the prohibition against titles of nobility, reflects the framers' commitment to republican values, integrity in government, and the principles of meritocracy. It serves as a foundational principle in ensuring equality before the law and preventing the concentration of power and privilege in the hands of a select few.. *Upon developing the draft language, the author reviewed, edited, and revised the language to their liking and took ultimate responsibility for the content of this publication.*

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Reference:

- **Clause 8 Titles of Nobility and Foreign Emoluments**
- "The United States shall not grant any titles of nobility, and no person holding any office of profit or trust under the United States shall, without the consent of Congress, accept any present, emolument, office, or title of any kind from any king, prince, or foreign state."

    - **ArtI.S9.C8.1** Overview of Titles of Nobility and Foreign Emoluments Clauses
    - **ArtI.S9.C8.2** Historical Background on Foreign Emoluments Clause
    - **ArtI.S9.C8.3** Foreign Emoluments Clause Generally
    - **ArtI.S9.C8.4** Titles of Nobility and the Constitution

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