

Resources for The Constitution: Fulfilling Democracy's Promise?

Status of Democracy, Attitudes Toward Democracy, and Civics Education

Democracy Maybe: Attitudes on Authoritarianism in America. Drutman et al. Democracy Fund. Voter Study Group. 6/2020. <https://www.voterstudygroup.org/publication/democracy-maybe>

Democracy Index 2020. Economist Intelligence Unit. [A yearly report on the state of democracy worldwide]. <https://www.eiu.com/n/campaigns/democracy-index-2020/>

1-minute video of key findings <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5okza--IMQ>

Democracy Index 2019. Highlights. Economist Intelligence Unit. 1/2020.

<https://www.democracywithoutborders.org/12764/eiu-report-2019-a-year-of-democratic-setbacks-and-popular-protest/>

Bright Line Watch American Democracy Survey Jan-Feb 2021

<http://brightlinewatch.org/american-democracy-at-the-start-of-the-biden-presidency/>

Faith in democracy eroding across Oregon, new poll finds. Zane Sparling. Portland Tribune. April 28 2021.

https://pamplinmedia.com/pt/9-news/506498-404957-faith-in-democracy-eroding-across-oregon-new-poll-finds?wallit_nosession=1

Amid Pandemic and Protests, Civics Survey Finds Americans Know More of Their Rights.

2020 Annenberg Constitution Day Civics Survey. Annenberg Center for Public Policy. 9/14/2020

<https://www.annenbergpublicpolicycenter.org/pandemic-protests-2020-civics-survey-americans-know-much-more-about-their-rights/>

National Survey Finds Just 1 in 3 Americans Would Pass Citizenship Test. W.W. Nat. Fellowship Found. 10/3/2018.

<https://woodrow.org/news/national-survey-finds-just-1-in-3-americans-would-pass-citizenship-test/>

How well do you know U.S. history? Take the quiz that citizenship applicants must pass. Muschick. 3/1/2019.

<https://www.mcall.com/opinion/mc-opi-citizenship-test-questions-history-knowledge-muschick-20190225-story.html>

Democracy – History

Democracy in Ancient Greece

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/democracy-ancient-greece/>

History of Democracy. Dahl.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/democracy>

The Constitution

The Flawed Genius of the Constitution. Allen. Atlantic. October, 2020.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2020/10/danielle-allen-constitution/615481/Bottom>

What the Constitution Means to Me is a one-woman play and now a movie by Heidi Schreck. “performing scenes as her modern self and others as her fifteen-year-old self participating in Constitutional debate contests”.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/What_the_Constitution_Means_to_Me and many other articles, etc.

A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation. Library of Congress. Collection of primary source materials from the first 100 years. <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lawhome.html>

This site may be easier to use: <http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/ourdocs/federalist.html>

National Archives – America's Founding Documents

<http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/charters.html>

Benjamin Franklin's Closing Speech at the Constitutional Convention

https://archive.csac.history.wisc.edu/assessments_64.pdf

Primary source materials on Colonial and Revolutionary Era America

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook12.asp>

Federalist Papers Written by John Jay, James Madison and Alexander Hamilton, these were a series of essays in support of ratifying the newly created Constitution. It would become law when 9 states ratified.

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/1404/1404-h/1404-h.htm>

Anti-Federalist Papers <http://resources.utulsa.edu/law/classes/rice/Constitutional/AntiFederalist/antifed.htm>

Annenberg Classroom Video “Key Constitutional Concepts”. First part is about creation of Constitution.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=4&v=CKy2ri4q1So&feature=emb_logo

Articles of Confederation. History Channel. 9/2019. Good background. Includes video.

<https://www.history.com/topics/early-us/articles-of-confederation>

American Indian Constitutions and Their Influence on the United States Constitution. Miller. Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society. [via SSRN] 3/2016.

https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2739936

Interactive Constitution Interesting approach; discusses different aspects of Amendments and then has two views of each from legal experts.

https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution?gclid=EA1a1QobChMllbq7hNy42gIVLrvtCh0qsgMnEAAyASAAEgKAHfD_BwE

Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance

<http://www.idea.int> Online publications include A Practical Guide to Constitution Building; Constitutional Reform Processes and Political Parties; Electoral Systems; New International IDEA Handbook et al.

Constitutions of the World

<https://www.constituteproject.org/>

Let’s End the Damaging Cult of the Constitution. Lofgren. 2/24/2021.

<https://billmoyers.com/story/lets-end-the-damaging-cult-of-the-constitution/?fbclid=IwAR191OkFDLlQ-zU5UoZFyl-E7wgp7Un1BTHNAKXpp8UriBC3IA23AGSRieM>

Issue of Representation in Congress

Why We Need To Increase The Size Of The House Of Representatives. David Crook. DCReport. 4/28/2021.

<https://www.dcreport.org/2021/04/28/house-of-representatives-we-need-to-increase-the-size/>

Constituency Size and Government Spending. Thornton and Ulrich. Public Finance Review 1999.

http://www.thirty-thousand.org/documents/Thornton_NOV1999.pdf

Proposal would radically change U.S. elections — including adding members of Congress and increasing size of Electoral College. Man. South Florida Sun Sentinel. 2/9/2021.

<https://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/politics/elections/fl-ne-alcee-hastings-house-size-electoral-college-20210209-ezlhpnqf5ag3er6kzz7iwjuzq-story.html>

To Fix Congress, Make It Bigger. Much Bigger. Drutman. 11/2018.

<https://washingtonmonthly.com/magazine/november-december-2018/to-fix-congress-make-it-bigger-much-bigger/>

U.S. population keeps growing, but House of Representatives is same size as in Taft era. Desilver. 5/31/2018.

<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/05/31/u-s-population-keeps-growing-but-house-of-representatives-is-same-size-as-in-taft-era/>

More Members, More Voices. Report from Fair Vote. 2018

https://www.fairvote.org/house_size_report

Why the House of Representatives Must Be Expanded and How Today’s Congress Can Make It Happen. Kane et al. 2020.

https://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/faculty_scholarship/1100/

How to Fix the House of Representatives in One Easy, Radical Step. Wilson. 10/15/2018.

<https://time.com/5423623/house-representatives-number-seats/>

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<https://www.facebook.com/Civics-for-Adults-1490728887922036/> You will find this list at www.civichinker.info 5/2021

Uncap The House

https://www.facebook.com/UncapTheHouse/?ref=page_internal

Thirty-Thousand.Org

<https://www.facebook.com/ThirtyThousand.org/>

Pack the Union: A Proposal to Admit New States for the Purpose of Amending the Constitution To Ensure Equal Representation. Harvard Law Review. 1/10/20.

<https://harvardlawreview.org/2020/01/pack-the-union-a-proposal-to-admit-new-states-for-the-purpose-of-amending-the-constitution-to-ensure-equal-representation/>

Four ways to remake the nation's map so power in the Senate is remade, too. Eberhard. 2/2/21

<https://thefulcrum.us/congress/redrawing-state-lines>

Fixing the Senate: Equitable and Full Representation for the 21st Century. Tucker. Roosevelt Institute. 3/2019.

<https://rooseveltinstitute.org/publications/fixing-the-senate-equitable-full-representation-21st-century/>

America's anti-democratic Senate, in one number. Millhiser. 1/6/2021.

<https://www.vox.com/2021/1/6/22215728/senate-anti-democratic-one-number-raphael-warnock-jon-ossoff-georgia-runoffs>

The 2021 Senate Will be Unrepresentative. Ettliger. 11/12/2020

<https://mettlinger.medium.com/the-2021-senate-will-be-unrepresentative-8a6ee7dbfb08>

The Vastly Varying Importance of American Voters (Updated and Revised September 2019). Ettliger. 9/2019

<https://mettlinger.medium.com/the-vastly-varying-importance-of-american-voters-updated-and-revised-september-2019-cbf15169b26b>

Fixing the Senate: Equitable and Full Representation for the 21st Century. Rand Corp. March, 2019.

<https://rooseveltinstitute.org/publications/fixing-the-senate-equitable-full-representation-21st-century/>

The Senate is a much bigger problem than the Electoral College. Ladd. 4/9/2019

<https://www.vox.com/mischiefs-of-faction/2019/4/9/18300749/senate-problem-electoral-college>

Perspective against changing representation in the Senate:

Why States Still Matter. J.J. McCullough. 9/11/2018

<https://www.nationalreview.com/2018/09/states-key-to-senate-legitimacy/>

Constitutional reform starts with the electoral college. E.J. Dionne. Washington Post. 4/6/2019

https://journalnow.com/opinion/columnists/e-j-dionne-constitutional-reform-starts-with-the-electoral-college/article_83adfe95-0c54-5b0a-b7b0-39bac2d56c3b.html

The Tyranny of the Minority, from Iowa Caucus to Electoral College. Corey Robin. 2/20/20

https://www.nybooks.com/daily/2020/02/21/the-tyranny-of-the-minority-from-iowa-caucus-to-electoral-college/?fbclid=IwAR1--DhmgfXC5r8UBg8_YYPdbiDkcia6zPdWOFnKt10ZLXwHIYH7NT0HFzI

The Ultimate Congressional Reforms. Bartlett. Forbes. 4/30/2010.

<https://www.forbes.com/2010/04/29/congress-constitution-voting-opinions-columnists-bruce-bartlett.html?sh=411045677c7a>

Statehood Research DC [related to DC becoming a state]

<https://www.statehoodresearchdc.org/>

Bill of Rights

Rights in the Modern Era: Applying the Bill of Rights to the States Wermiel. 1992

Discusses the "incorporation" of the Bill of Rights to apply to the states

<http://scholarship.law.wm.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1554&context=wmborj>

Bill of Rights “Incorporation” [applying the federal Bill of Rights to the states]. Lists the key Supreme Court cases which led to the incorporation of specific Amendments.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Incorporation_of_the_Bill_of_Rights

James Madison on having a Bill of Rights [and some other things]

<https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Madison/01-11-02-0218>

Government Printing Office

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/>

Search for federal government documents

“Perspectives on the Constitution: A Republic, If You Can Keep It” by Richard R. Beeman, PhD.

National Constitution Center <http://constitutioncenter.org/learn/educational-resources/historical-documents/perspectives-on-the-constitution-a-republic-if-you-can-keep-it> *“our Constitution is neither a self-actuating nor a self-correcting document. It requires the constant attention and devotion of all citizens”*

Congress – Current Demographics

Profile of Members of 117th Congress. Congressional Research Service. April, 2021.

<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R46705>

Supreme Court

Landmark Cases C-Span. Series of programs focused on the most important Supreme Court cases. Includes some discussed in the workshop.

<http://landmarkcases.c-span.org/default.aspx>

Gun Law History in the United States and Second Amendment Rights Spitzer. Duke U. Law School. 2017

<https://scholarship.law.duke.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=4825&context=lcp>

Full issue on the Second Amendment <https://scholarship.law.duke.edu/lcp/vol80/iss2/>

Books

The Quartet: Orchestrating the Second American Revolution by Joseph Ellis. 2015. Great book.

Fault Lines in the Constitution: The Framers, Their Fights and the Flaws That Affect Us Today. Levinson. 2019.

Fighting over the Founders: How we remember the American Revolution

Andrew M. Schocket. 2015.

The Crisis of the Middle-Class Constitution. Sitaraman. 2017.

Becoming a Democracy: How We Can Fix the Electoral College, Gerrymandering and Our Elections. Eberhard. 2020

How Democratic is the American Constitution? By Robert Dahl. 2001.

The Jefferson Rule: How the Founding Fathers Became Infallible and Our Politics Inflexible by David Sehat 2015

American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America by Colin Woodard. 2011.

[Also, many articles about this book.]

Misc.

Against Presentism. Hunt. 5/1/2002. Essay from the past President of the American Historical Assn.

<https://www.historians.org/publications-and-directories/perspectives-on-history/may-2002/against-presentism>

Virginia Statute on Religious Freedom. Thomas Jefferson. The precursor to the 1st Amendment.

“The Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom is a statement about both freedom of conscience and the principle of separation of church and state. Written by Thomas Jefferson and passed by the Virginia General Assembly on January 16, 1786, it is the forerunner of the first amendment protections for religious freedom...”

<https://www.virginiahistory.org/collections-and-resources/virginia-history-explorer/thomas-jefferson>

The Curious History of Slavery in Africa. Swift.

<https://research.cornell.edu/news-features/curious-history-slavery-west-africa?fbclid=IwAR33tojimJDjQKi4BVpSSvZ4lyOoDut1bm2tJn2SvPbKTIVpLqigxqSdo1g>

Of the Liberty of Thought and Discussion John Stuart Mill 1869. The classic essay on freedom of speech.

<http://www.bartleby.com/130/2.html>

If It's Broke, Fix It: Restoring Federal Government Ethics and Rule of Law. Ed. Norm Eisen. 2020.

<https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Brookings-Report-If-its-Broke-Fix-it.pdf>

Wealth and Labor

Divided We Fall: The Founders knew that economic inequality would destroy America's democracy. So why can't the Constitution save us? Ganesh Sitaraman. New Republic. 4/10/17. Very good.

https://newrepublic.com/article/141644/divided-fall-trump-symptom-constitutional-crisis-inequality?fbclid=IwAR3CyyJJ97YO61QrLwAFjwCKa3xzYtXwCY0iUxEyODp_PqLmQckXa4stTB4

Agrarian Justice. Thomas Paine. 1795.

<http://piketty.pse.ens.fr/files/Paine1795.pdf>

The Emergence of American Labor. Richard B. Morris. U.S. Dept. of Labor.

<https://www.dol.gov/general/aboutdol/history/chapter1>

You Can't Take It With You Oct 14th 2010 [free registration]. Concern about concentrated wealth.

<https://www.economist.com/lexingtons-notebook/2010/10/14/you-cant-take-it-with-you>

Major dates in the founding era:

Revolutionary War. 1775-1783.

1776 - Declaration of Independence.

1781-1789 - Articles of Confederation.

1787 - Constitutional Convention, ostensibly to revise the Articles of Confederation.

1789 - Constitution ratified.

1791 - Bill of Rights amended to Constitution during first Congress