



## CONSERVATIVES CARING FOR COUNTRY AND COMMUNITY



**"Let there be no change [in Constitutional powers] by usurpation; for though this, in one instance, may be the instrument of good, it is the customary weapon by which free governments are destroyed."**

George Washington, 1783

Join Us

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# SUMMITUP

SEPT  
2023



# Celebrating Constitution Day

Built on the ideals set forth in the Declaration of Independence – that all men are created equal and that life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are unalienable rights bestowed on all by their Creator, not by governments – the United States Constitution provides the framework for a government in which We the People rule through our consent.

Eleven years after our Founders dissolved our colonial bonds with Great Britain, 55 men met at a Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia to correct the flaws in the Articles of Confederation, our country's first written constitution. Those flaws left our new nation vulnerable to foreign threats and domestic concerns. The result after many painstaking months of debate and compromise was the Constitution of the United States of America. This new document gave the government enough power to protect the people from foreign and domestic threats but provided the separation of powers and checks and balances necessary to control the government's power and authority.

This month, on September 17, we honor the signing of the United States Constitution in Philadelphia in 1787 by 39 delegates to that Constitutional Convention. Eleven days after the signing, the Constitution was submitted to the thirteen states for ratification. By the end of June 1788, the Constitution had been ratified by nine states as required, and it became the law of the land the following March. The Bill of Rights, promised to reluctant states and ensuring basic protections of our liberty, was adopted in December, 1791.

Constitution Day is a good opportunity to learn about the U.S. Constitution and share it with our family and friends. We have been blessed to live in a country in which freedom and individual rights are protected by the longest surviving written constitution in human history.

It is said that, after the signing of the Constitution, a woman outside of Independence Hall asked Benjamin Franklin, "What kind of government have you given us?" He replied, "A republic, madam, if you can keep it!" It is up to us to honor our Constitution. We must defend and protect it. It is our obligation to keep our constitutional republic strong and to preserve our God-given rights for ourselves and our posterity.



George Washington is about to receive the draft of the Constitution from James Madison in this mural by Barry Faulkner in the National Archives Building

# How can we honor the U.S. Constitution this month?

1. Recite and memorize the Preamble to the Constitution of the United States. Share it with your children and explain its meaning and importance.
2. Learn about the Bill of Rights. Which of the first ten amendments to the Constitution is most important to you? Why?
3. Sign up for free Hillsdale College classes, including Introduction to the Constitution (<https://online.hillsdale.edu/landing/intro-to-the-constitution>) and Constitution 101 (<https://online.hillsdale.edu/landing/constitution-101>).
4. Research what is happening in our country today regarding fidelity to the United States Constitution. Are our elected officials honoring their oaths of office as stated in the Constitution? What about the Justice Department? The FBI and CIA? Social media platforms?
5. Provide reading materials to your children and grandchildren that give them an understanding of the U.S. Constitution. Visit the Summit County Republican Women's website for a list of recommended books for children (<https://summitgopwomen.org/books-for-kids>).
6. Purchase copies of the Constitution of the United States from Cato Institute (<https://store.cato.org/products/pocket-constitution-10-pack>) or get a free pocket Constitution from Hillsdale College (<https://lp.hillsdale.edu/free-pocket-constitution/>).

## Are our elected officials honoring their oaths of office as written in the Constitution?

### **The President of the United States:**

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

### **Senate and House of Representatives:**

*I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.*

## Test Your Knowledge with This Quiz:

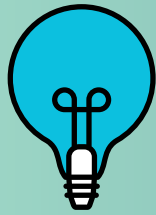
1. What powers do Articles I, II, and III describe in the U.S. Constitution?
2. How many Amendments does the U. S. Constitution currently have?
3. What is the Bill of Rights?
4. What rights are protected by the First Amendment?
5. What rights are protected by the Second Amendment?
6. Which Amendment protects us against unreasonable searches and seizures?
7. Which Amendment outlawed slavery?
8. Which Amendment gave women the right to vote?
9. Who wrote *The Federalist Papers* under the pseudonym “Publius”?
10. Why were *The Federalist Papers* important?

1. The first three articles of the U.S. Constitution create the separation of powers and checks and balances vital to preventing tyranny. Article I details the legislative powers, Article II details the executive powers, and Article III details the judicial powers.
2. 27
3. The first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution
4. Freedom of religion, speech, the press, peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.
5. To keep and bear Arms
6. Fourth Amendment
7. Thirteenth Amendment
8. Nineteenth Amendment
9. Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay
10. The series of 85 essays, published between 1787 and 1788, urged the ratification of the United States Constitution. According to the Khan Academy, “The essays were aimed at convincing opponents of the U.S. Constitution to ratify it so that it would take effect as the nation’s fundamental governing document. . . . The Federalist Papers is considered one of the most significant American contributions to the field of political philosophy and theory and is still widely considered to be the most authoritative source for determining the original intent of the framers of the US Constitution.”

## Answers to Quiz



# DID YOU KNOW?



*(These are just a few recent assaults on the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.)*

- 1** Colorado web designer Lorie Smith won her First Amendment case (*303 Creative LLC v Elenis*) before the U.S. Supreme Court in June. Justice Neil Gorsuch wrote the majority opinion, stating, “In this case, Colorado seeks to force an individual to speak in ways that align with its views but defy her conscience about a matter of major significance. . . . But, as this Court has long held, the opportunity to think for ourselves and to express those thoughts freely is among our most cherished liberties and part of what keeps our Republic strong. Of course, abiding the Constitution’s commitment to the freedom of speech means all of us will encounter ideas we consider ‘unattractive,’ ‘misguided,’ or even hurtful. But tolerance, not coercion, is our Nation’s answer. The First Amendment envisions the United States as a rich and complex place where all persons are free to think and speak as they wish, not as the government demands.”
- 2** Colorado’s Masterpiece Cakeshop owner, Jack Phillips, also won his First Amendment case several years ago at the high court. Phillips refused to decorate a cake with a message that violated his religious faith, although he was willing to decorate cakes without the controversial message for the customer. Both businesses were targeted by the Colorado Civil Rights Commission and defended by Alliance Defending Freedom.



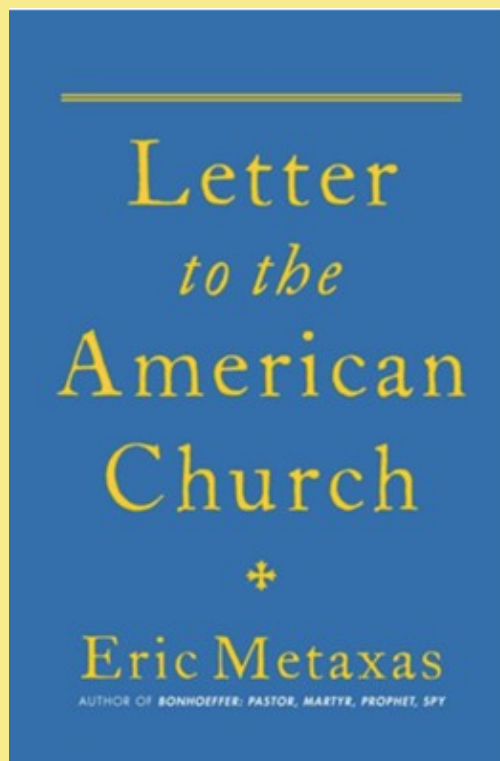
# DID YOU KNOW?



- 3** The “Twitter Files” recently reported by Matt Taibbi, Bari Weiss, Michael Shellenberger, and other investigative reporters “show the FBI acting as doorman to a vast program of social media surveillance and censorship, encompassing agencies across the federal government – from the State Department to the Pentagon to the CIA.”
  
- 4** The State of New York made it a crime to possess a firearm without a license, whether inside or outside the home. An individual who wanted to carry a firearm outside his home could obtain an unrestricted license to “have and carry” a concealed “pistol or revolver” if he could prove that “proper cause” existed for doing so. Last year, in *New York State Rifle and Pistol Association v Bruen*, the U.S. Supreme Court invalidated that law. Justice Clarence Thomas wrote for the majority, stating, “The constitutional right to bear arms in public for self-defense is not ‘a second-class right, subject to an entirely different body of rules than the other Bill of Rights guarantees. . . . We know of no other constitutional right that an individual may exercise only after demonstrating to government officers some special need. That is not how the First Amendment works when it comes to unpopular speech or the free exercise of religion. It is not how the Sixth Amendment works when it comes to a defendant’s right to confront the witnesses against him. And it is not how the Second Amendment works when it comes to public carry for self-defense.”



# BOOK CLUB



Book Club will not meet in September and November as we concentrate our efforts on the Summit County School District upcoming election.

A suggested reading is the book *Letter to the American Church* by Eric Metaxas. Below is a review by Cindy Meinders. The book can be downloaded in pdf form from [https://shipdf.com/book/letter-to-the-american-church-by-eric-metaxas/?template=pdf\\_download](https://shipdf.com/book/letter-to-the-american-church-by-eric-metaxas/?template=pdf_download).

This book is a powerful call to churches, questioning their concern and involvement with government. From the beginning of our nation, pastors were teaching about current issues in the culture, including how we would be governed. Government is a part of life; to exclude the churches from speaking on important topics is a big problem. Metaxas also addresses 1930s Germany and what the churches were doing at that time, suggesting we might be living in a similar era. Tyranny reduces everyone to the weak and poor categories, and the Bible repeatedly instructed believers to protect and care for them. This book has been a catalyst for my becoming more actively involved in current issues.

# CALENDAR

## SEPT 4 | SUMMIT COUNTY REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE MONTHLY MEETING

Colorado Mountain College, 107 Denison Placer Road, Breckenridge, CO

## SEPT 5, 12, 15, 19, 26 | 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM - SCHOOL BOARD PRAYER TEAM

A school board prayer team has been established, and all are welcome to attend. The group meets every Tuesday in the Summit County Prayer Room, 252 Warren Avenue, Silverthorne. Please contact Cindy Meinders at [cmeinders1@gmail.com](mailto:cmeinders1@gmail.com) or 706-218-0083 for information or prayer requests.

## SEPT 11 | 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM - SUMMIT COUNTY GOP WOMEN MEETING

Location: Ruthie Hardee's home

RSVP to [ruthie@deepfeet.com](mailto:ruthie@deepfeet.com) or 720-837-4570.

Please bring an appetizer/dessert & beverage. Invite a friend/neighbor.

## SEPT 17 | 5:30 - 8 PM - WHO'S CHILDREN ARE THEY? FREE MOVIE NIGHT

Location: Breckenridge CMC, 107 Denison Placer Road, Breckenridge

CT3 is sponsoring a showing of the movie "WHOSE CHILDREN ARE THEY?

Exposing the Hidden Agenda in America's Schools" The cost is FREE, but if you are able, click here to [donate](#) to help cover CT3's costs. This film is a groundbreaking and powerfully persuasive documentary featuring brave teachers, empowered parents, and front-line experts who pull back the curtain on what is truly happening in our public schools today. We hope to have all the new school board members there, too.

## SEPT 18 | 5:30 - 7:00 PM - CONSERVATIVE COCKTAILS

PLACE: TBA - Send request to [news@thesummitgop.org](mailto:news@thesummitgop.org).

## SEPT | SCHOOL BOARD LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

Watch for email notices about upcoming events.

The School Board Leadership Team, led by Tess Scalise and CJ Milmoie, has made great progress in identifying candidates. It will soon be announced as to the candidates we will support. Many volunteers are needed for successful campaigns. Please volunteer! We need people to submit letters to the editor (our team can assist), help with events, fundraising, and church outreach. The candidates will have websites up and running by early September. All will include "donate" buttons. Please help in any way you can. Contact Nancy Gunow at [GunowN@aol.com](mailto:GunowN@aol.com) or 248-568-6415 to volunteer, or for information.

# CALENDAR

# SEPT 2023