



NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER AND iCIVICS LAUNCH INITIATIVE TO UNITE AMERICANS AROUND THEIR LOVE FOR THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

Videos Submitted by Supreme Court Justices, Elected Officials, Constitutional Scholars, and Media Personalities Highlight Different Articles and Amendments to the Constitution

Initiative Now Open to General Public

Philadelphia, PA (January 18, 2017) – The National Constitution Center and iCivics today launched WeLoveTheConstitution.com, a new digital site where Americans can share their thoughts about the United States Constitution and what they most value about the document.

The National Constitution Center is a private, nonprofit organization that serves as America's leading platform for constitutional education and debate by fulfilling its Congressional charter "to disseminate information about the U.S. Constitution on a nonpartisan basis." iCivics, the country's most-used classroom-based digital civics educational resource platform, is a nonprofit founded by retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor that provides schools with free digital games and resources to teach young Americans to be knowledgeable, curious, and engaged in civic life.

Videos already submitted and available for viewing include those from Supreme Court Justice **Ruth Bader Ginsburg**; U.S. Senators **Lamar Alexander** (R-TN), **Tammy Baldwin** (D-WI), **Cory Booker** (D-NJ), **John Boozman** (R-AR), **Susan Collins** (R-ME), **Tammy Duckworth** (D-IL), **Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), and **Sheldon Whitehouse** (D-RI); U.S. Representatives **Diane Black** (R-TN), **Judy Chu** (D-CA), **Mike Coffman** (R-CO), **Diana DeGette** (D-CO), **Virginia Foxx** (R-NC), **Louie Gohmert** (R-TX), **Bob Goodlatte** (R-VA), **Vicky Hartzler** (R-MO), **Jody Hice** (R-GA), **Leonard Lance** (R-NJ), **Sheila Jackson Lee** (D-TX), **John Lewis** (D-GA), **Luke Messer** (R-IN), **Chellie Pingree** (D-ME), **Jim Renacci** (R-OH), **Dennis Ross** (R-FL), **Adrian Smith** (R-NE), **Lamar Smith** (R-TX), **Juan Vargas** (D-CA); and others, including **Tom Brokaw**, **Ken Burns**, the Cato Institute's **David Boaz**, Rhode Island Attorney General **Peter Kilmartin**, *The New York Times* Supreme Court journalist **Adam Liptak**, Illinois Attorney General **Lisa Madigan**, *The Economist* Supreme Court Correspondent **Steven Mazie**, National Constitution Center President and CEO **Jeffrey Rosen**, Penn Law Dean **Theodore Ruger**, and President of the University of Michigan **Mark Schlissel**.

"The National Constitution Center is thrilled to collaborate with iCivics to launch this exciting project, which will help Americans of all perspectives converge around our shared love of the greatest document of human freedom in history, the U.S. Constitution," said Jeffrey Rosen, President and CEO of the National Constitution Center. "We hope that people across America will be inspired to create their own videos about why they love the Constitution and to share them on WeLoveTheConstitution.com."

Beginning today, members of the public can upload their video by visiting the site and following the online instructions. Videos will be uploaded daily, hopefully sparking a national dialogue about our founding document and what it means to its citizens.

"I am thrilled that iCivics has partnered with the National Constitution Center to help spread the word about what Americans love about our Constitution," said Sandra Day O'Connor, Founder and Chairperson

of iCivics. "I founded iCivics because I believe teaching kids about the Constitution is critical to our nation's future and my most important work. At this time, we must remember what brings us together as a country."

Excerpts from participants include:

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States: "Who were 'We the People' when the United States was new? They were only white, property owning men. The genius of our Constitution, I believe, is that over the course of more than two centuries, those words – 'We the People' – have become ever more inclusive. Now, 'We the People' includes people once held in slavery, it includes women, it includes Native Americans. The genius of the Constitution is that we are still forming a more perfect union and we do so under the Constitution, our fundamental instrument of government."

John Lewis, United States Representative (D-GA): "The vote is precious. It is almost sacred. It is the most powerful, non-violent, instrument or tool that we have in our democratic society. When I think about the Constitution, I think about the right to vote."

John Boozman, United States Senator (R-AR): "One of the most important things the Constitution does is protect our right to free speech.... This is a fundamental right that allows our democracy to thrive by protecting citizens from having their speech censored or banned due to its content. The First Amendment gives us the ability to express our thoughts and feelings without fear of retribution or punishment from our government."

Cory Booker, United States Senator (D-NJ): "The Fourteenth Amendment ... that to me was something that my parents literally talked about. They knew that this idea of equal protection, that everyone had full rights of citizenship...it was their defense and their shield against those who tried to work against our ideals. It became the tip of the spear that helped to launch our nation forward, to be more inclusive, to be more fair, to be more loving."

Susan Collins, United States Senator (R-ME): "What I love most about our Constitution is its first three words: 'We the People.' Those simple words powerfully describe our responsibilities as citizens. They tell us that, in America, the government is not an all-powerful ruler over us—it is all of us. The fate of our nation lies in our hands."

Ken Burns, documentary filmmaker: "Like our history itself, debates over the Constitution aren't always pretty. In fact, they're very messy. That's the whole business of democracy.... Regardless of your specific point of view, if you agree with the preamble – a more perfect union, not the perfect union, and the general welfare and the blessings of liberty – we have something in common and something that unites us as a people, even when we disagree."

About the National Constitution Center

The National Constitution Center in Philadelphia inspires citizenship as the only place where people across America and around the world can come together to learn about, debate, and celebrate the greatest vision of human freedom in history, the U.S. Constitution. A private, nonprofit organization, the Center serves as America's leading platform for constitutional education and debate, fulfilling its Congressional charter "to disseminate information about the U.S. Constitution on a nonpartisan basis."

As the **Museum of We the People**, the Center brings the Constitution to life for visitors of all ages through interactive programs and exhibits. As **America's Town Hall**, the Center brings the leading conservative and liberal thought leaders together to debate the Constitution on all media platforms. As a center for **Civic Education**, the Center delivers the best educational programs and online resources that inspire, excite, and engage citizens about the U.S. Constitution. The National Constitution Center has also developed the Interactive Constitution, where scholars from across the legal and philosophical spectrum interact with each other to explore the meaning of each provision of the Constitution.

About iCivics

iCivics is a non-profit organization committed to transforming civic learning through effective and inventive resources. iCivics was founded by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor to develop free educational video games and lessons that teach young Americans to be knowledgeable, curious, and engaged in civic life. iCivics' game-centered curriculum provides 4-12 students with the tools they need for active participation and democratic action. Today iCivics' innovative resources are used by over 130,000 educators and more than 4 million students nationwide, making iCivics the largest classroom-based digital civics educational resources in the country. For more information, visit www.icivics.org.

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