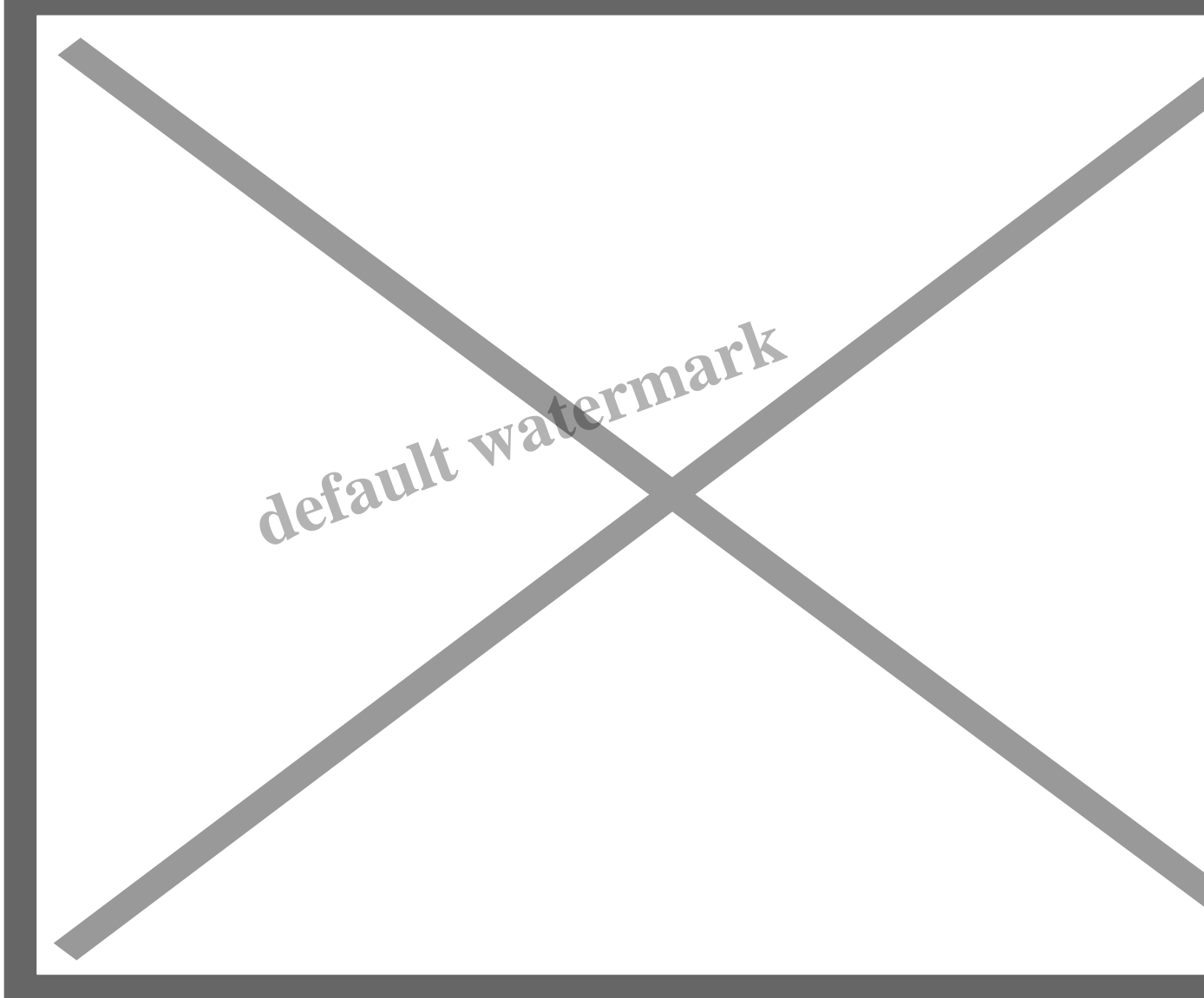


“United by the Constitution: Celebrating America’s Legacy of Freedom and Citizenship”

## Description

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*September 17, 2024*

Today, Americans across the nation come together to celebrate Constitution Day, a federal observance marking the adoption of the United States Constitution and honoring those who have earned the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship. This day, observed annually on September 17, commemorates the signing of the Constitution in 1787 by delegates at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, setting the foundation for American democracy.

## **A Legacy of Freedom and Citizenship**

Constitution Day holds deep historical significance. The U.S. Constitution, often hailed as a living document, outlines the principles of governance, civil liberties, and justice that continue to guide the country. On this day, citizens are encouraged to reflect on the enduring legacy of the Constitution, as well as their own roles and responsibilities in upholding its values.

In addition to celebrating the adoption of the Constitution, this day also recognizes individuals who have become U.S. citizens, whether through birthright or naturalization. The occasion underscores the importance of citizenship as a cornerstone of American identity, with new citizens contributing to the nation's cultural and societal fabric.

## **A Day for Education and Reflection**

Established in its current form in 2004 by an amendment spearheaded by Senator Robert Byrd, Constitution Day also mandates that publicly funded educational institutions and federal agencies provide programming that educates citizens about the Constitution. From elementary schools to universities, institutions today offer lessons and discussions about the document's origins, the rights it guarantees, and the responsibilities it places upon every American.

This day serves as a reminder for all Americans to familiarize themselves with the Constitution, especially in today's rapidly changing world. It's more critical than ever for citizens to understand their civic duties and the protections afforded by this founding document, ensuring that its principles of liberty and justice remain intact for future generations.

## **The Evolution of Constitution Day**

Constitution Day evolved from "I am an American Day," which was first celebrated in 1939 at the New York World's Fair. By 1952, the day was officially moved to September 17 and renamed "Citizenship Day," following efforts by various groups, including the Sons of the American Revolution and civic advocates. The observance gradually grew in importance, with the town of Louisville, Ohio, gaining recognition as "Constitution Town" for its pivotal role in promoting the holiday.

The act passed in 2004 combined Constitution Day and Citizenship Day into one observance, cementing the link between the two and creating a national platform for reflecting on both the nation's foundational document and the privileges of American citizenship.

## **A Message to Citizens**

On this Constitution Day, all Americans are reminded of their shared heritage, rooted in the ideals of

freedom, equality, and justice. The Constitution remains a beacon of democracy, representing the nation's unwavering commitment to these values. As citizens, it is both a privilege and a duty to stay informed, actively participate in civic life, and defend the freedoms that the Constitution guarantees.

For new citizens, today serves as a recognition of their journey and a celebration of the diverse voices that continue to enrich the United States. To all citizens, whether by birth or naturalization, the message is clear: the Constitution belongs to you, and its protection depends on your engagement, knowledge, and commitment.

As we mark this day in 2024, let it inspire every American to cherish their constitutional rights and uphold the responsibilities of citizenship, ensuring that the values enshrined in the document endure for generations to come.

### **Category**

1. Politics

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