

I'M A
★ CONSTITUTION ★
VOTER

TO THE EDITOR:

Over the last eight years, we've seen our Constitution and our personal freedoms slowly chipped away at by an administration more concerned with politics and partisanship. It's time to end this power grab.

Today is Constitution Day, marking the day the Constitution of the United States was signed and the history of this world was changed forever. The 39 signers well understood the corruption that comes with too much power, and the need to protect American citizens from an overreaching government. They deliberately wrote the Constitution with an eye to balancing national security needs with a free and open society.

But in the years since, we have lost that balance. Now, thanks to a fear mongering executive, too many people believe that we have no choice but to sacrifice the freedoms that make this country great in order to stay safe. That's no way to live, and we shouldn't have to. We can be both safe and free. This November, no matter who the candidates are, I've decided I'm voting for the Constitution.

Sincerely,

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TO THE EDITOR:

September 17 is Constitution Day—on this day back in 1787, 39 brave men signed the U.S. Constitution, throwing off the oppressive bonds of the monarchy. And the Bush administration has spent the past eight years trying to put them back on.

Today we must reflect on our identity as Americans under the Constitution. With an election looming and the current administration in its waning days, we have to decide: will we continue to allow fear mongering to chip away at our hard-won freedoms, or will we strive to be the open society envisioned by this nation's founders? I know my answer. This Election Day, I'm voting for the Constitution.

Sincerely,

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TO THE EDITOR:

Constitution Day provides us the perfect opportunity to reflect on our shared values as a nation, and to have a conversation about where we are and where we're headed. I'm deeply dispirited by what I see as a departure from the American ideal of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Under the Bush administration, we've seen this ideal turned on its head and replaced with "torture, detention and the pursuit of anyone who gets in our way."

But we can put things back on the right track. We can force Congress and the next president to address some of the Bush administration's worst abuses of power: torture, warrantless wiretapping and utter disrespect for the rule of law.

I know we can't change things overnight, but we can start down the right path. And we can start on Election Day, 2008, by voting for the Constitution.

Sincerely,

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TO THE EDITOR:

This Constitution Day, with the conventions behind us and the election ahead, many voters may still be undecided. I'm not. I've got my candidate picked out but it's not who you would expect. I'm voting for the Constitution this year. I've put my nonpartisan glasses on and I'm pulling the lever for the candidates who best represent our most sacred document.

In an era of warrantless wiretapping, government-sponsored kidnapping and increased censorship, I want a president who will stand up for the ideals this country was built on. I hope others will join me as I vote my conscious and I vote for the Constitution.

Sincerely,

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TO THE EDITOR:

This week we commemorate Constitution Day. Although it's not an occasion marked by a day off work or self-induced food coma, it is a day that defines who we are as Americans. Constitution Day celebrates the rights and freedoms we enjoy every day we go to work, play with our kids or complain about the government. But Constitution Day is also an opportunity for us to reclaim the freedoms President Bush has stolen from us over the last seven-plus years.

During the course of his time in office, government has grown more powerful, secretive and threatening—spying on American citizens without warrants and torturing those held in its custody. America is better than this. With an election on the horizon and a new presidential administration beginning just four short months from now, we have an opportunity to undo the sustained damage inflicted by this one. But it's up to us, the voters, to make sure those we put in office share our Americans values and will work to protect and restore the Constitution.

Sincerely,

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TO THE EDITOR:

This year, I am particularly concerned that our elected officials too often have been ignoring our coveted Constitution. President Bush and his administration have spied on American citizens without the approval of Congress or the courts; they have allowed the CIA to torture and abuse hundreds of people, including Americans, in secret prisons throughout the world; the administration has insisted that the president, and he alone, has the power to declare someone an enemy combatant and hold that person indefinitely without charge; and, the administration has added millions of Americans to the "No Fly" list without any explanation or meaningful opportunity to appeal.

To quote one former presidential candidate who was recently nominated to be vice president, "I believe with every fiber in my being that the Constitution creates a zone of personal autonomy that government should not be able to intrude upon."

On Constitution Day, and all days, I and other American voters will surely want to know that those we elect or re-elect this season will take heed of these well-spoken words and keep the government out of our private lives.

Sincerely,

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TO THE EDITOR:

Constitution Day is not just for the historians. Our nation’s founders certainly foresaw many of the challenges we face today. As technology and security advances, we need to ensure no new limits are imposed on our liberty—as they have been under the current administration.

With a new presidential administration beginning just four short months from now, we have an opportunity to undo the sustained damage inflicted upon our Constitution by this one. And this week, 221 years after George Washington, James Madison, John Adams and Benjamin Franklin did, we have an obligation to look to the future and envision what the United States of America can and should be.

Sincerely,

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TO THE EDITOR:

Today is Constitution Day, a day to remember how over the last two centuries activism, dissent and dedication have gradually but inexorably expanded the scope and depth of our liberty.

We are without a doubt categorically more free than our forebears, but for the last seven-plus years the principles this day celebrates and the freedoms our Constitution enshrines and protects have been under siege. Though it’s crucial to keep terrorism at bay, the government needs to better utilize its constitutionally sound tools. It has grown too invasive, secretive and threatening.

We must remind the candidates what they can and cannot do to their fellow citizens. We must not elect anyone who would continue down this unconstitutional and uncouth path of leadership. And we must put leaders in office who cherish their freedom and will defend the Constitution.

Sincerely,

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