

Intro:

September 17th is designated as Constitution and Citizenship Day. The purpose of this day is to “commemorate the formation and signing on September 17, 1787, of the Constitution and recognize all who, by coming of age or by naturalization, have become citizens” (36 U.S.C. § 106). Pikes Peak Library District has invited a panel of local attorneys to discuss the nature and makeup of the Constitution and its relevance in our lives today.

Panel members:

Eric Hall, partner at Sparks Willson law firm where he heads its Litigation Group

Gordon Vaughan, principal attorney Vaughan and DeMuro in Colorado Springs

Anne H. Turner, Assistant City Attorney in the Litigation and Employment Division of the Colorado Springs City Attorney’s Office

Panel Questions:

- Tell us a little bit about yourself and your interest or area of expertise with regard to the Constitution?
- What is something that you wish more people understood about the Constitution?
- Some critics might say that the Constitution was written long ago and therefore does not apply to modern day life; how do you respond? How is the Constitution relevant to daily life?
- What has the Constitution meant for democracy around the world? In what ways is the Constitution a "living document"?
- How do Liberty and Equality interact in the Constitution? How do these two principles complement one another? How do they find themselves in tension?
- Over the past few years there has been an uptick in disinformation spreading under the guise of free speech. In what ways could the Constitution remedy the spread of disinformation?
- The Supreme Court examines many Constitutional issues each term. What were some particularly interesting decisions this year?
- What should the next Amendment to the U.S. Constitution be?

Read

Read the text of the law creating Constitution and Citizenship Day:

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/36/106>

The Constitution of the United States: A Transcription, from the National Archives:

<https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution-transcript>

Watch

Why Does the Constitution Matter? From the Bill of Rights Institute:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SXyq6dj7_4o

Listen

Podcasts from the National Constitution Center: <https://constitutioncenter.org/news-debate/podcasts>

Explore

Constitution Annotated from the Library of Congress: <https://constitution.congress.gov/>

America's Founding Documents from the National Archives and Records Administration:

<https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs>

Constitution and Citizenship Day from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services:

<https://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/resources-for-educational-programs/constitution-day-and-citizenship-day>

About the Senate and the Constitution, from the U.S. Senate:

<https://www.senate.gov/about/origins-foundations/senate-and-constitution.html>

Constitution Day Celebration Guide from the Government Documents Roundtable of the American Library Association: <https://godort.libguides.com/Constitutionday>