



A message from **THE PRESIDENT**

2024 CONSTITUTION DAY AND CITIZENSHIP DAY

On September 17, 1787, delegates to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia ratified the Constitution of the United States of America. On September 17, 2024, we once again celebrate Constitution Day and Citizenship Day.

The Constitution is a remarkable document which outlines the bedrock principles and practices of a new nation. It distributed power between the three branches of the federal government and the individual states; established a system of checks and balances to make sure that one branch would not have more power than the others; and delineated the rights and privileges of America's citizens. The Honorable Sandra Day O'Connor – the first woman to serve as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court – once described the importance of the Constitution:

It is, quite simply, the most powerful vision of freedom ever expressed...In 1787, no country in the world had ever allowed its citizens to select their own form of government, much less to select a democratic government. What was revolutionary when it was written, and what continues to inspire the world today, is that the Constitution put governance in the hands of the people.

A remarkable document indeed.

The rights and freedoms we possess are perpetually under attack by bigots, zealots, and would-be tyrants. The phrase "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty" is generally attributed to Thomas Jefferson, but its origin is less important than its meaning: We must never cease protecting that precious state of liberty.

One of the best ways to do this is by voting. Our votes have power – why else would the enemies of democracy work so hard to keep us away from the ballot boxes? This year's elections are perhaps the most consequential this country will ever know. I urge you to take part in the electoral process and let your voice be heard.

An upcoming event will serve as a guide. It's one of the College's Hispanic/LatinX Heritage Month activities, and I hope you'll attend.

**Register to Vote + Constitution Day
with the New York League of Women Voters**

Date | Time: Tuesday, September 17 | 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Location: A-Atrium

If we wish to see ourselves, our loved ones, and our communities represented locally and nationally, we need to support candidates who share our values, ideals, and aspirations.
We need to vote.

As Justice O'Connor said: It's in our hands.

I wish you all a happy Constitution Day and Citizenship Day.

Sincerely,

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.
President

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