



# CONSTITUTING AMERICA

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

02

# CONTENTS

03 INTRO

---

04 ADVANCING  
CONSTITUTIONAL LITERACY

---

08 INSPIRING FUTURE  
CONSTITUTIONAL ADVOCATES

---

14 POPULARIZING THE  
CONSTITUTION

---

18 OUR IMPACT

22 WE ARE CONSTITUTING  
AMERICA

---

24 BOARD & STAFF

---

25 FINANCIAL REPORT

---

26 HOW TO GIVE

---

27 LOOKING FORWARD

# INTRO

In a year dominated by unprecedented political news, Constituting America completed its 15th year by strengthening its flagship programs, and reaching new milestones in advancing its mission to educate Americans about the Constitution and American Exceptionalism.

The 2024 Annual Report showcases Constituting America's measurable impact on students' understanding of the Constitution and its modern significance, as well as their enthusiasm for civic education and engagement.

You will read about key 2024 accomplishments and growth targets, including:

- 539 in-person presentations on the Constitution delivered to 21,113 students in 159 schools—**all new records**
- Measurable improvement in participating students' knowledge of the Constitution
- **79% year-over-year increase** in the number of schools participating in Constituting America's Constitution Day Program
- Significant social media and podcast growth, with over **22 million people reached on YouTube** alone

- Launched a new, successful talk show: *American Exceptionalism: How & Why It Matters* podcast series, **hosted by Constituting America's founder, actress Janine Turner, with over 1.3 million views to date**. This series aims to combat the deeply troubling decline in American patriotism and is averaging over 100,000 views per episode.
- Record number of views and listens of our *History Holds the Key to the Future Academic Study*, with 1.2 million views of the first 35 essays published in 2024! This study adds to our digital library of 1,461 essays by 222 scholars with **over 5.2 million total views**.

A major strategic focus for Constituting America in its 15th year of operations was cementing its position as a bulwark against the alarming uptick in anti-American school curriculums and Constitutional illiteracy, while working to reverse civic apathy.

To that end, the 2024 Annual Report reinforces Constituting America's critical role in ensuring future leaders appreciate the uniqueness of the American Experiment and possess the requisite knowledge and passion to advocate on its behalf.

# ADVANCING CONSTITUTIONAL LITERACY

Top and lower right: We The Future Contest Winners on Washington DC Mentor Trip

Lower left: student learning in a classroom during our "Relevance of the Constitution" presentation

Middle: students learning at our live Constitution Day program at Mount Vernon



# GEORGE WASHINGTON SPEAKING INITIATIVE



Coming off a **178% year-over-year growth** in the George Washington Speaking Initiative in 2023, Constituting America set another record by delivering 539 presentations to 21,113 students in 159 schools across 14 states—adding Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Arkansas, Indiana, Delaware, Michigan, and Idaho.

Aimed at educating and engaging students in public, private, charter, and home schools on the



Constitution and the importance of civic engagement at a young age, the George Washington Speaking Initiative is the only Constitutional Education program operating almost daily across the educational landscape. With roughly half of its presentations delivered at Title I schools serving low-income students and concerted outreach to ESL classrooms, Constituting America empowers students from all backgrounds to learn about the Constitution and why its bedrock principles make



the United States an exceptional country. Students learn such principles as how checks and balances protect their freedoms, as well as how to contact their elected representatives to have an impact on the direction of their country.

To date, Constituting America has delivered 1,632 Interactive Speeches to **86,930 Students** in over 300 schools and civic organizations across 30 States.

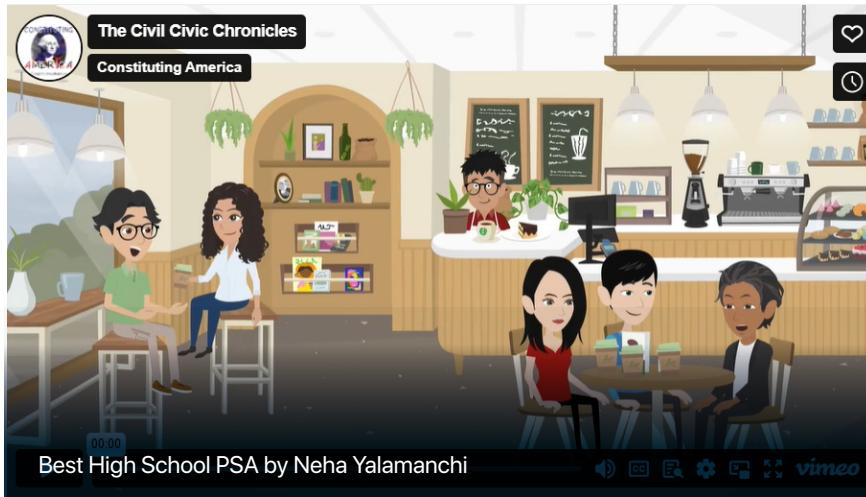
## THE CONSTITUTION

While most schools teach students the basics of how the U.S. government works, few devote adequate time to expounding on the uniqueness and virtue of the American Experiment—most critically, that the government is accountable to We the People. By amplifying this fundamental principle through interactive and entertaining presentations that include songs and videos of its scholarship winners, Constituting America in-

spires students to exercise their First Amendment rights.

Constituting America's educational initiatives routinely show improved constitutional literacy among students, with students who participate in our program progressing from answering six out of ten questions correctly on the pre-test to answering nine out of ten correctly on the post-test.





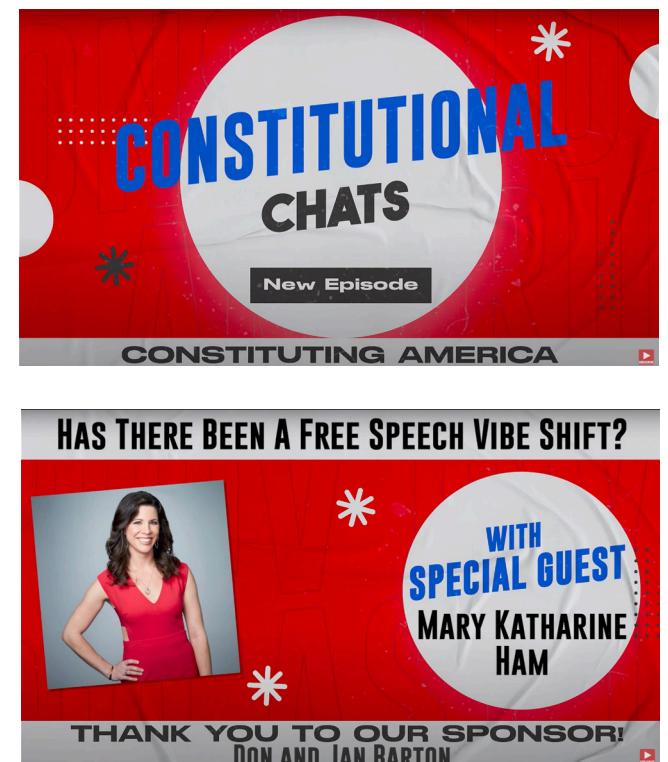
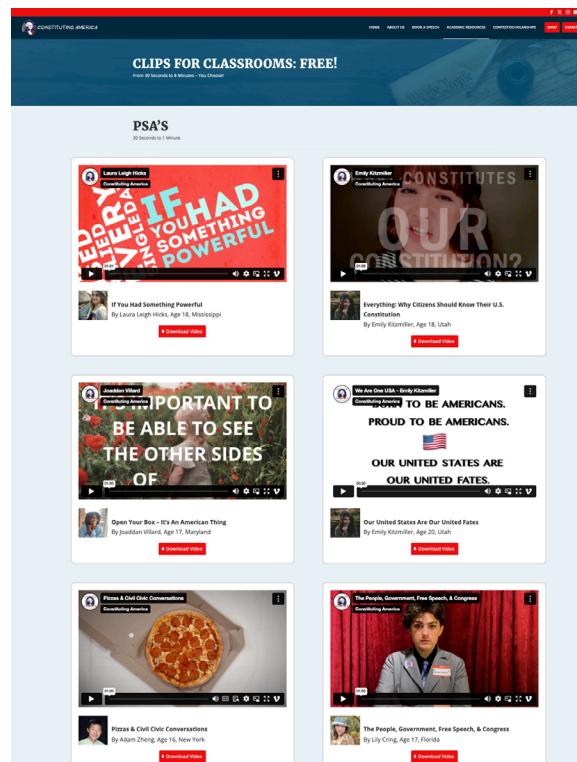
# CIVIL CIVIC CONVERSATIONS

In today's hyper partisan news and political environment, the urgency for American students to digest news stories and discuss complex and divisive issues constructively and civilly has never been greater. Through Constituting America's Civil Civic Conversations, students learn how to engage in

civic debate as they exercise their First Amendment rights. After these presentations, **87%** of students said they were more open to learning about different viewpoints, and **80%** agreed they were better prepared to debate controversial issues with their peers.

## CLIPS FOR CLASSROOMS

We also offer free downloadable resources for teachers, including our popular **Clips for Classrooms** page. This collection features over a dozen of our best video clips and episodes from our **Constitutional Chats** podcast—featuring students and scholars—all conveniently curated for teachers to access and download anytime for classroom use.



# LAUNCH OF HAMILTON JEFFERSON DEBATE SERIES

To make the educational experience more fun, engaging, and ultimately more memorable, Constituting America launched the *Hamilton vs. Jefferson* debate series. Featuring actors from Philadelphia's American Historical Theatre, the theatrical production teaches founding principles, while demonstrating how to debate civilly. Thanks to the primary sponsorship of our donors Nancy and Robert Zimmerman and Carolyn and Mike Asher, Denver's

Aspen Academy hosted the inaugural debate for **300 students** during a special school day program and an evening performance for 450 adults. With the support of its generous donors, Constituting America intends to expand this unique educational program, as it's aligned with the organizational goal to educate and inspire students to engage in civil civic discourse.



# INSPIRING FUTURE CONSTITUTIONAL ADVOCATES



Top: We The Future Contest Winners Maze Guza and Emily Schutte at the National Archives visiting the founding documents

Lower left: We The Future Contest Winner Niya Torres tours Mount Vernon on Winner Mentor Trip

Middle: We The Future Contest Winners conduct a panel at our live Constitution Day event at Mount Vernon

Lower right: We The Future Contest Winner Alexandra Gusinski meets Thomas Jefferson on our Washington DC Mentor Trip

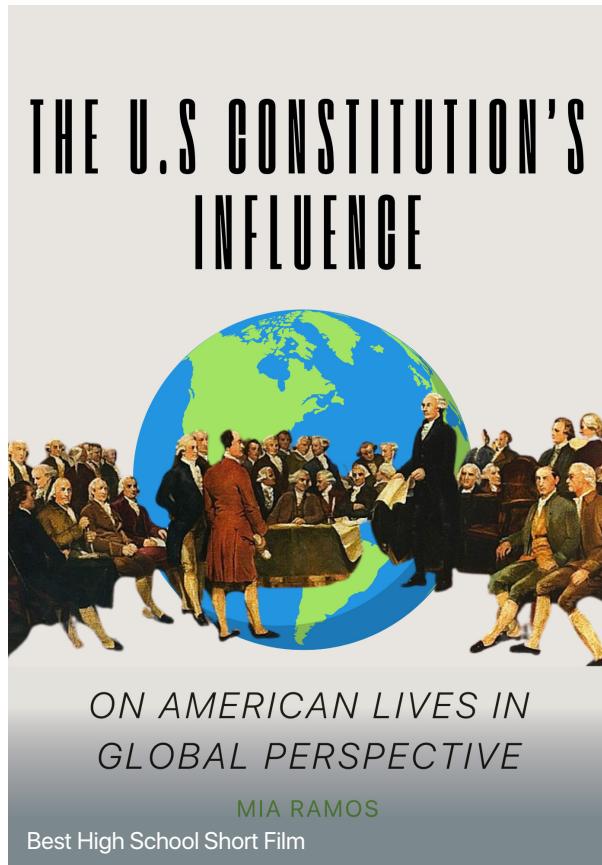


# WE THE FUTURE SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST & NATIONAL PROMOTION OF THEIR WORKS

To drive student excitement about the Constitution and to encourage participation in its programs, Constituting America has held an annual We the Future Contest for students of all ages—from elementary school through college—since its founding in 2010.

A cornerstone initiative to promote Constitutional

education and advocacy, the *We the Future Contest* mobilizes America's youth to create original works, including songs, STEM projects, essays, speeches, short films and PSA's spotlighting the relevance of the Constitution. Constituting America awards winning students scholarships and sends them on an all-expenses-paid educational trip to a major U.S. city where they're matched





with professional mentors. Through 2024, Constituting America has distributed **\$320,998 in student scholarships.**

A key indicator of the Contest's success in promoting the Constitution is the mainstream recognition of students' winning works, most notably the film festival accolades given to participants. In 2024, 43 winning students' films received Official Selection honors— a prestigious designation by a film festival recognizing a film's artistic value—with 7 ultimately winning an award. To date, *We the Future Contest* films include **155 Official Selections and 21 Award Winners.**

Winning students also star in Constituting Ameri-

ca's annual documentaries, with last year's winners appearing in a 90-minute educational program live-streamed at George Washington's Mount Vernon on Constitution Day 2024.

To maximize exposure and propel the careers of America's pro-Constitution youth, Constituting America hires media experts to promote winning works across digital and traditional media, including television, radio, movie theaters, newspapers, and magazines. Since Constituting America's founding, **these winning works have generated 174 million impressions via 81 radio stations, and reached 138 million households via 275 TV stations.**

In 2024, Constituting America promoted winner Colt Jaxon's patriotic, pro-First Amendment song, "Free Today," resulting in **over 14 million impressions on 34 radio stations.**

Because national promotion of students' artistic creations motivates active participation in the Contest and drives pro-Constitution messaging that reaches millions of people, Constituting America will continue to leverage and evolve this core organizational capability.

Finally, in an effort to encourage teachers to offer a better civic learning experience to students, Constituting America annually award a \$2000 prize for the "Best Constitution Lesson Plan" to a teacher.

# WASHINGTON DC MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Each year, Constituting America awards *We the Future Contest* winners with an all-expenses paid trip to a major U.S. city. In 2024, Washington D.C. was the destination for 23 talented rising stars, who visited iconic sites across our nation's capital, including the Victims of Communism Museum, U.S. Capitol, Supreme Court, and Mt. Vernon.

The fun and educational experience left a lasting impression on the group, with **100% of participants agreeing that "their appreciation for the Constitution has grown"** in the post-trip survey.



*"I am so blessed to have experienced this trip. Being with a group of peers just as passionate about patriotism, America, and the Constitution as I am was so fun and life-giving."*

*—Emily Kastens*

# CONSTITUTION DAY PROGRAM

Capitalizing on a law that requires schools to hold constitutional education programs around Constitution Day each year, Constituting America has emerged as a leader in facilitating this patriotic and unifying nationwide event.

On Constitution Day, September 17, 2024, before a live audience gathered at George Washington's Mount Vernon, Constituting America hosted the program, *The Constitution—How & Why It Matters!*

Starring We the Future Contest winners visiting Washington D.C., the event high-

lighted major constitutional themes and was live streamed to 203 schools and 5,800 students.

Contest winners presented their winning entries and held panel discussions. Viewers were also treated to a "Connecticut Compromise" skit starring actors from American Historical Theatre in Philadelphia.

To augment its Constitution Day programming, Constituting America shipped over **7,500 free pocket Constitutions** to schools across the country.



Miya Morton performing her winning song at the Constitution Day Program

# TURNER MAURICE GAUNTT AWARD

Since 2014, Constituting America has awarded one graduating high school senior the *Turner Maurice Gauntt, Jr. Exemplary Citizen Award*.

Named after the man who inspired Janine Turner to found Constituting America—Janine's father, Turner Maurice Gauntt, Jr.—the award is given to a student who exemplifies the four cornerstone virtues Turner Gauntt displayed during his high school years: Academic Excellence, Athletic Excellence, Student Body Leadership, and Community Service.

This year, a panel of judges selected Alexa McMillan, a high school senior from Woodbridge, Virginia. For her leadership and community service—including working on minority youth mental health issues—Alexa McMillan received a **\$4,540 scholarship** that she plans to apply towards her first-choice college, Randolph-Macon College.



*“Winning the Turner Maurice Gauntt, Jr. Exemplary Citizen Award was such an honor and a help as I began my college studies. Mr. Gauntt’s excellence in the four cornerstones: Academic Excellence, Student Body Leadership, Athletic Excellence and Community Service continue to inspire me in my studies and extra curricular activities and community activities.”*

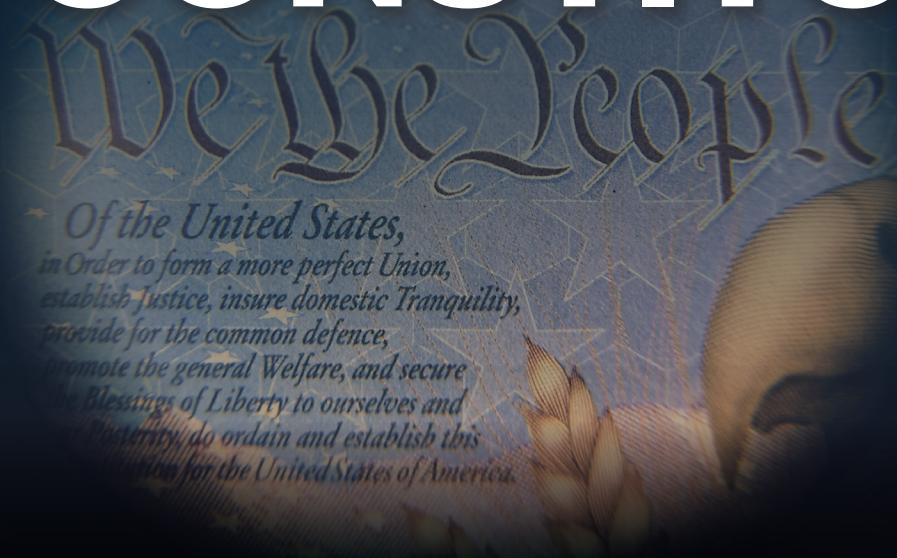
— 2024 Winner Alexa McMillan

## HILLSDALE SCHOLARSHIP

In 2024, Constituting America introduced a new scholarship awarded to *We the Future Contest* winners. The Hillsdale College/Constituting America Scholarship includes a one-time scholarship prize of up to \$5,000 to a *We the Future* winner in any category enrolled at Hillsdale College. The scholarship's 2024 recipient, Hillsdale Sophomore, Emily Schutte, won Best Essay for "Six Seconds," a powerful call for Americans to defend our country by exercising their constitutional rights. A Rhetoric and Public Address major, Emily hopes to enrich her community after college by getting involved in local politics and starting a family.



# POPULARIZING THE CONSTITUTION



Below: Constituting America's outreach initiatives make the Constitution accessible, relevant, and engaging for students



# HISTORY HOLDS THE KEY TO THE FUTURE ACADEMIC STUDIES

Since its founding, Constituting America has been building a vast digital library of essays by the nation's foremost constitutional scholars and historians. Fully accessible to the public, the *History Holds the Key to the Future* online collection runs the gamut of constitutional scholarship, with previous years' topics covering the Federalist Papers, the Amendments, the Classics that Inspired the Constitution, Executive Branch Overreach, Presidential Elections, the Supreme Court, and Congress.

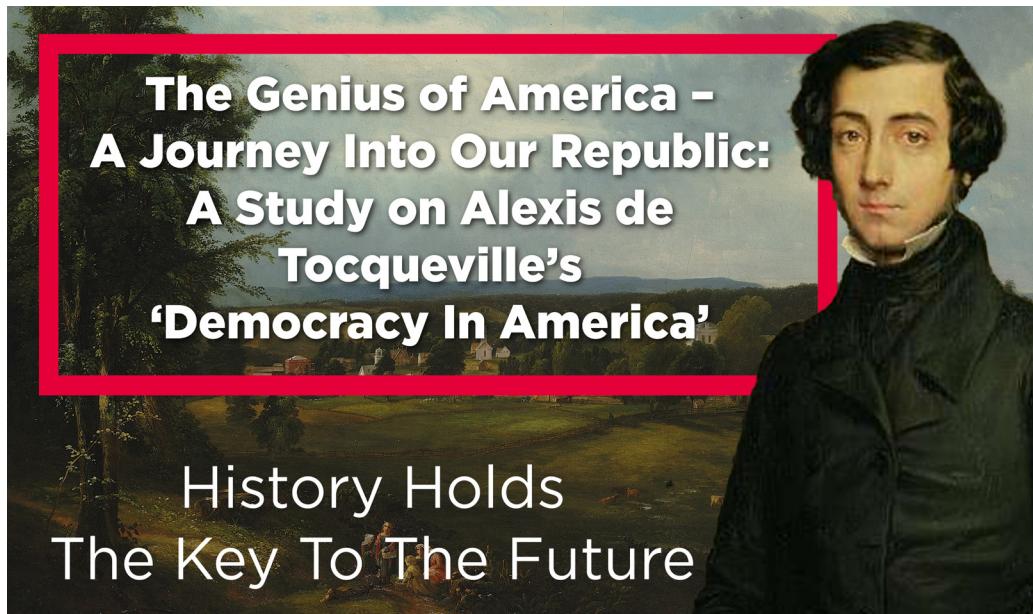
The 2024 edition, *The Genius of America – A Journey Into Our Republic: A Study on De Tocqueville's Democracy In America*, comprises 103

essays by renowned scholars released twice a week, navigating readers through De Tocqueville's masterful defense of the American Experiment. Participating guest essayists in this year's study include nationally renowned scholars: Pepperdines' Pete Peterson; Columnist Charles Hurt; Arizona State University's Paul Carrese; Bill of Rights Institute's Tony Williams; Former Ambassador Bob Pence; Ashbrook's Chris Burkett; Hillsdale's Will Morrisey and many more!

To maximize exposure, each essay is read out loud by founder, actress Janine Turner and uploaded to all Constituting America podcast platforms—an

initiative made possible by a generous gift from Americana Corner, an organization dedicated to preserving and sharing the story of America's founding. The 35 De Tocqueville essays **released in 2024 generated over 1.2 million views on YouTube**, with the remaining 68 essays releasing in 2025.

*History Holds the Key to the Future* digital library has grown to 1,461 essays by 222 scholars with over **5.2 million video views**, making it one of the most comprehensive and widely viewed online resources for Constitutional analysis.



*“I love the Constitution. And I love the explanation of it by de Tocqueville. Also, I love being able to exchange ideas in this discussion!”*

– Harry Stumpf



# CONSTITUTIONAL CHATS

When school closures in March 2020 threatened to significantly impede students' learning progress, Constituting America leaped into action, launching the weekly *Constitutional Chats* Podcast series. Deep diving into America's founding documents and their modern applications, as well as today's hot-button political and philosophical debates, Constitutional Chats aired **46 episodes** in 2024 across all major podcast platforms.

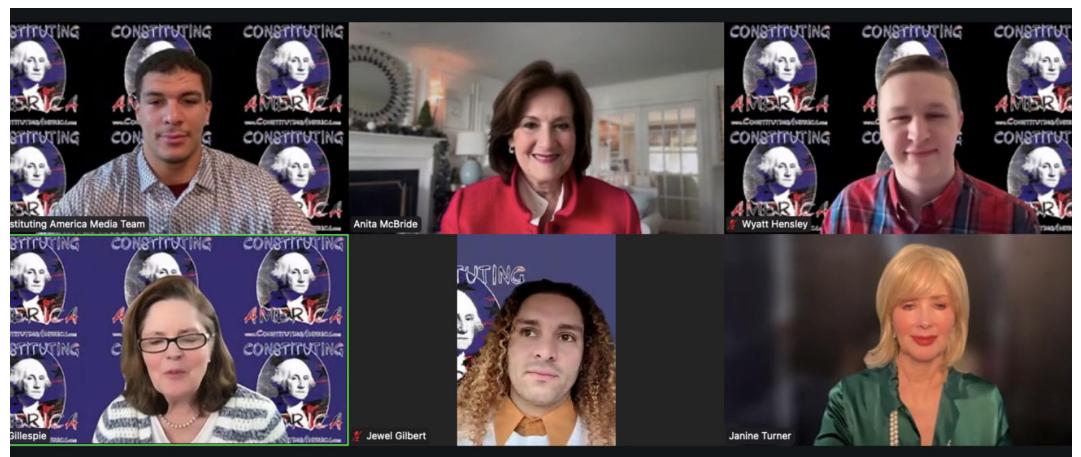
With hosts, Constituting America founder, actress Janine Turner; CEO Cathy Gillespie and student panelists (our former contest winners), anchoring discussions with Constitutional experts, each weekly episode illuminates a key aspect of the Constitution and its practical impact on



Special Guest Sean Spicer joins Constitutional Chats, relevant, and engaging for students

people's lives, while providing ample opportunities for students to ask questions.

Our chats series tackled such topics as: "Impactful Supreme Court cases of 2024"; "The Constitution and War"; and "Why You Celebrate America." Some of our fabulous guests include: Radio host and campus free speech activist Evita Duffy, Victims of Communism's Elizabeth Spalding, Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation's Amity Shlaes, former (and now current) SEC Chair Paul Atkins, Manhattan's Institute Ilya Shapiro, Wall Street Journal's Kimberley Strassel and many more!



# AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM: HOW AND WHY IT MATTERS

To combat the palpable decline in patriotism, Constituting America launched the talk show, *American Exceptionalism: How & Why It Matters*. **Constituting America founder, actress Janine Turner, is the host.**

Embracing a uniquely comprehensive approach to the study of the rise and fall of regimes throughout history, Janine Turner leads viewers on a journey exploring the profound idea of American Excep-

tionalism with scholars, amplifying its historical and modern significance.

**Viewed over 1.3 million times on YouTube and averaging over 150,000 views per episode**, American Exceptionalism's popularity is a testament to Americans' hunger for an in-depth, scholarly and unapologetic defense of America's founding principles. One particularly popular episode, "Escaping Socialism for the American

Dream", features Daniel Di Martino, whose family fled Hugo Chavez's regime. The episode has been viewed 225,000 times and counting.

Looking forward, Janine's compelling interviews with leading constitutional experts will continue to advance Constituting America's dual goal of delivering rigorous examination of America's fundamental principles, while helping to reverse the anti-American tide sweeping across many of our institutions.



**Preserving Liberty  
Through Education**



Founder Janine Turner with Sabrina Bhattacharjya,  
teenage founder of Lexington 250

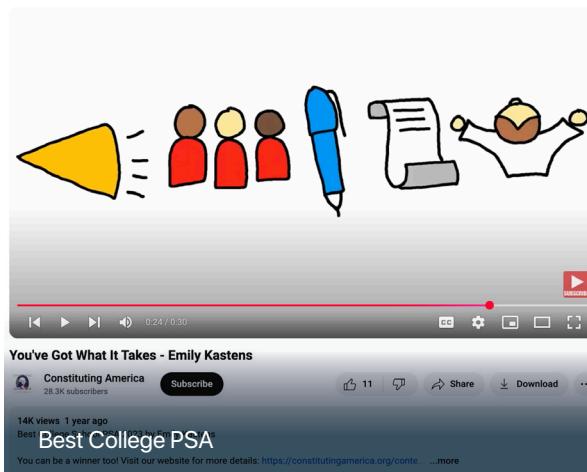
# OUR IMPACT



Equipping Students to Understand and Defend the Constitution



# IMPACTING THE CULTURE



Through the publication and multimedia promotion of constitutional scholarship and the principles underlying American Exceptionalism, Constituting America is impacting our culture in three crucial areas.

First, the *History Holds the Key to the Future* digital library is a comprehensive repository of constitutional scholarship and analysis that empowers Americans to systematically navigate key constitutional topics, thereby enhancing the public's constitutional literacy. Outside of often flawed and

biased university curriculums, no comparable hub exists.

Second, as the only organization that promotes students' Constitution-themed artistic works across the media landscape, Constituting America is reviving Americans' veneration for our founding principles and reversing the civic apathy trend—**reaching 174 million song impressions across 81 radio stations, with PSA's reaching 138 million households via 275 TV stations.**

Third, through initiatives like *American Exceptionalism: How & Why It Matters*, Constituting America is confronting waning patriotism head-on—not through sloganeering, but through academically rigorous content presented in an engaging format. To date, our in-person outreach has **impacted 86,930 students through 1,632 classroom presentations in over 300 schools and civic organizations across 30 states**, ensuring the next generation understands and cherishes the Constitution.

# IMPACTING EDUCATION IN 2024

**21,113**

Students reached

**539**

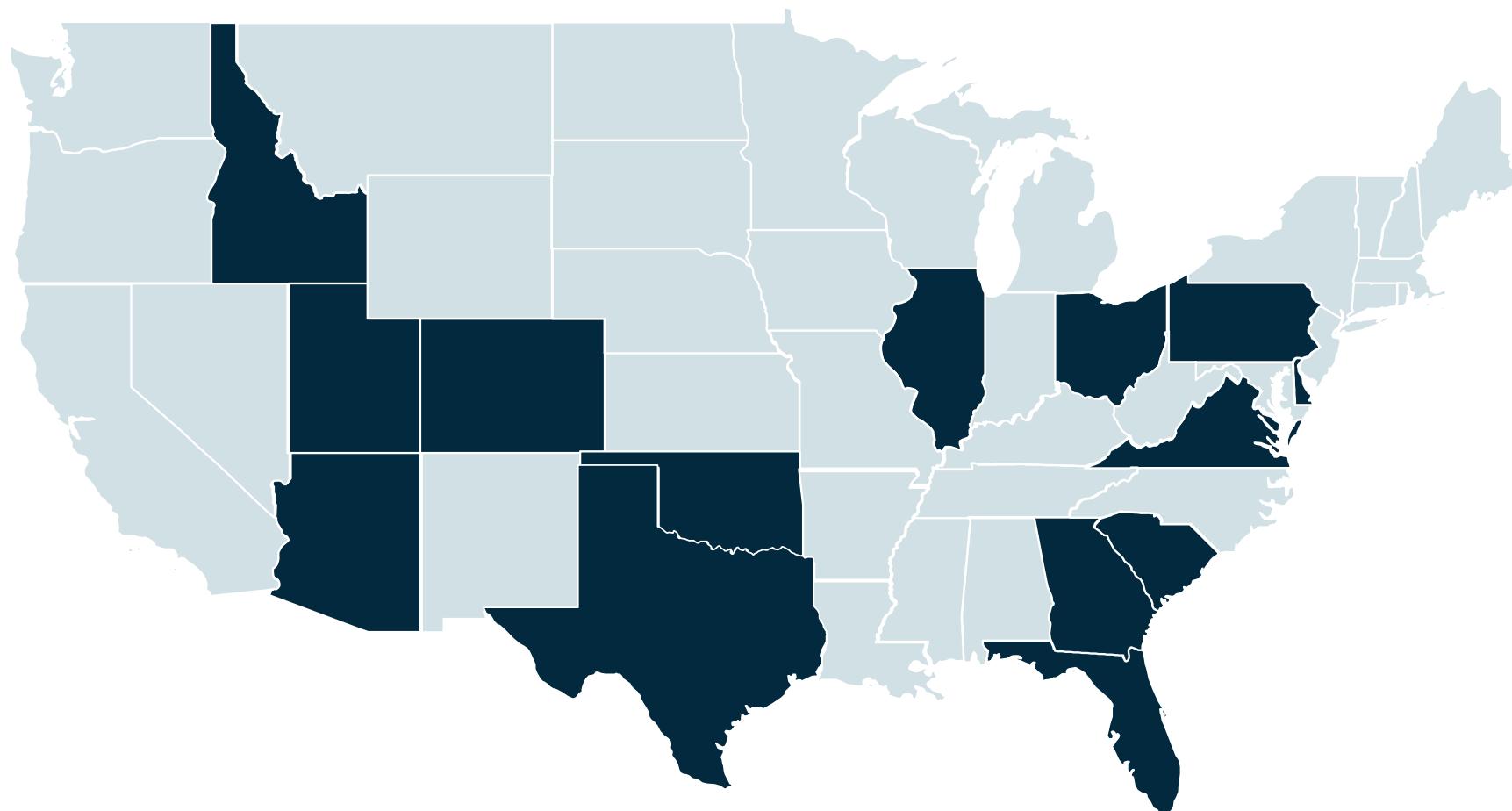
School presentations

**159**

Schools reached

**14**

States reached



Constituting America's educational initiatives routinely show improved constitutional literacy among students, with **the average test score rising from 60% prior to hearing a Constituting America presentation to 90% after the presentation.**

# CONSTITUTIONAL CHATS PODCAST

These weekly podcasts feature winners and alumni as guest panelists, providing them a platform to share their insights on constitutional topics while also fostering an engaged community of recurring audience members. The Constitutional Chats audience, which includes students, teachers, and lifelong learners, has evolved into an active and engaged community.

# YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

Led by National Youth Director Tova Love Kaplan, the Youth Advisory Board empowers young leaders to shape Constituting America's outreach and contribute innovative ideas.

# ALUMNI NETWORK

Constituting America's alumni network keeps past winners, interns, and youth board members connected, fostering ongoing engagement and collaboration within the Constituting America community.

# CLIPS FOR CLASSROOMS

Our free downloadable resources for teachers, including our popular Clips for Classrooms page includes over a dozen of our best video clips and episodes from our Constitutional Chats podcast—featuring students and scholars—all conveniently curated for teachers to access and download anytime for classroom use.

# INSPIRING TEACHERS

Encouraging and inspiring teachers is an important part of our work. We offer teachers a \$2000 prize for Best Constitution Lesson Plan. Our Monthly newsletter keeps educators engaged with classroom resources, event updates, and teaching tools, strengthening Constituting America's community of dedicated teachers. Additionally, we are frequent speakers at teacher training and in-service days, providing teachers with creative and innovative Constitution education resources.

# HISTORY HOLDS THE KEY TO THE FUTURE ACADEMIC STUDY

Attracting a dedicated group of participants who engage deeply with constitutional topics, *History Holds The Key To The Future* is a critical digital resource for deep dives into the Constitution and American history.

Through these efforts, Constituting America ensures that participants—whether students, educators, or engaged citizens—remain actively involved with the organization, promoting a lasting commitment to constitutional education and civic engagement.

# WE ARE CONSTITUTING AMERICA

The Faces Behind Constituting America's Mission





CEO Cathy Gillespie with former and current Constituting America winners we sponsored at the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation Symposium on the Declaration of Independence

## BUILDING A LASTING MOVEMENT

Constituting America is dedicated to fostering ongoing engagement among students, educators, and alumni through the following initiatives.

## HIRING

Constituting America offers former contest winners and interns opportunities to join the organization in various roles, allowing them to contribute to the mission and gain professional experience. **40% of our staff** are former winners of the We The Future Contest.

## INTERNSHIPS

Constituting America provides hands-on internships that allow students to gain experience in nonprofit work, education, and media, preparing them for future careers.

24

# BOARD & STAFF



## Actress Janine Turner

### *Founder*

Emmy & Golden Globe Nominated Actress, Author, Speaker, and Commissioner, The Texas Governor's Commission for Women Texas



## Cathy Gillespie

### *CEO*

Commissioner, U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission; Former Capitol Hill Chief of Staff Virginia

# BOARD

### Geyer Dybesland

*Director*  
Community Leader & Volunteer  
Texas

### Janice Gaunt

*Director*  
Top Selling Tarrant County Realtor  
Texas

### Cathy Gillespie

*Board Chair & Treasurer*  
Commissioner, U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission; Former Capitol Hill Chief of Staff Virginia

### Jay McConville

*Director*  
PhD Public Policy Candidate VCU  
Former CEO Virginia

### Linda Moak

*Director*  
Retired, Community Leader, Real Estate Manager Colorado

### Juliette Turner-Jones

*Secretary*  
Associate, Quinn Emanuel Texas

### Brandon Vandervord

*Director & Assistant Treasurer*  
Owner, Foundation Sound Studios (Adjunct Associate Professor of Economics, UT Arlington) Texas

# STAFF

### Janine Turner

*Founder*

### Cathy Gillespie

*CEO*

### Elizabeth Pinkerton

*Senior Advisor*

### Tony Williams

*Special Advisor*

### Jacob VanDerwerken

*Program Director*

### Margaret Alvine

*Social Media Specialist*

### Aubrey Jackman

*Winner Liaison Director/  
Western Regional Speech*

*Director*

### Jorne Gilbert

*Media Director/  
Online Study*

*Director*

### Brandon Vandervord

*School Speaker*

### Kim Rostick

*School Speaker*

### Makay Jackman

*School Speaker*

### Terry Cherry

*Educational Consultant*

### Jewel Gilbert

*School Speaker & Constitutional Chats Panelist*

### Tova Love Kaplan

*Youth Director/Constitutional Chats Panelist*

### Wyatt Hensley

*Constitutional Chats Panelist*

### Jill Cullis

*Education Specialist/  
Colorado Coordinator*

### Rochelle Porto

*School Speaker*

### Libby McNamee

*School Speaker*

### Troy Kickler

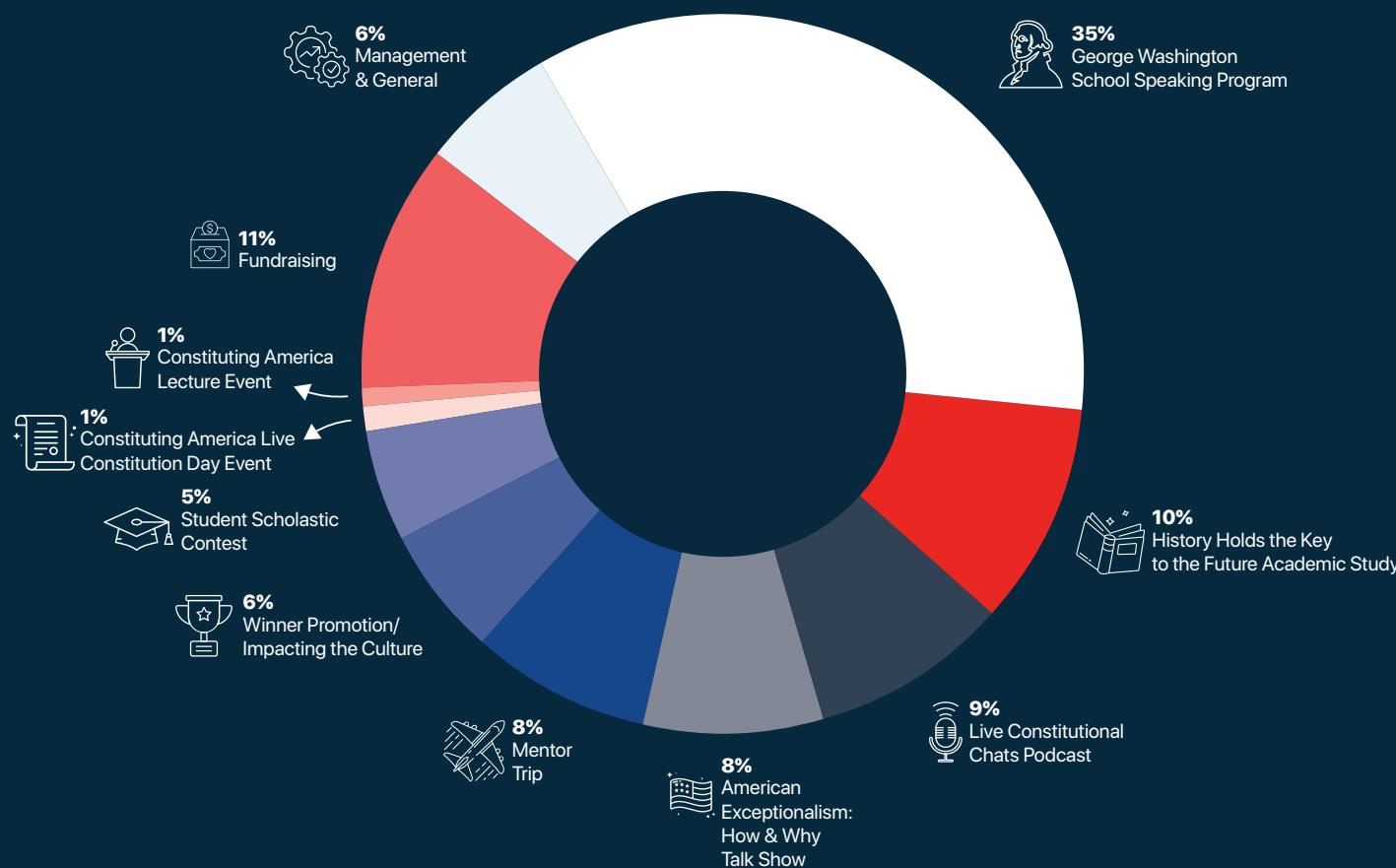
*School Speaker*

### Bobby Rodriguez

*Videographer*

# FINANCIAL REPORT

Constituting America is committed to being a responsible steward of its donors' generous gifts. To ensure spending does not exceed fundraising benchmarks, Constituting America analyzes expenditures on a monthly basis and makes necessary adjustments when necessary. In 2024, Constituting America generated \$1,671,524.05 in revenue, while expenses totaled \$1,421,934.08. (Unaudited figures; the audit will be available by August 2025.)

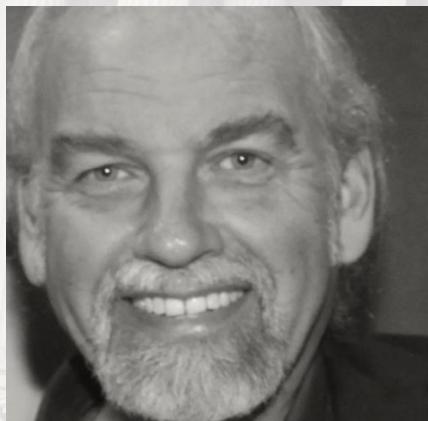




# HOW TO GIVE

Constituting America's work to promote Constitutional literacy, encourage civic engagement, and staunchly defend American Exceptionalism in the face of civic apathy and declining patriotism is only possible thanks to its generous donors.

By investing in Constituting America's programs and initiatives, donors play an integral role in ensuring future generations continue to cherish America's founding principles and exercise their Constitutional rights to drive social change.



## IN MEMORY OF JOE SCAIFE

A Grammy nominated producer and an original We the Future Contest song judge, Joe Scaife went above and beyond his judging duties to offer industry advice to contest participants and encourage their artistic aspirations.

The entire Constituting America family extends its deepest sympathies to Joe's family, including his beloved sister, Constituting America's song mentor and Leadership Board Member, LaRawn Scaife Rhea.

# LOOKING FORWARD

Having built a reputation as an unflinching advocate for the Constitution, Constituting America has ambitious plans to further expand its reach and influence. Some key goals and initiatives to look forward to include:

- Reaching **250,000 students by July 4, 2026**, America's 250th Birthday, through school speeches, contest entries, online study registrants, podcast attendees, social media, Constitution Day attendees, and lecture series attendees.
- Introducing the George Washington Speaking Initiative into **six new states**, including Alabama, North Carolina, Arizona, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming.
- Strengthening and growing the organization by filling in key staff positions, including an Operations Director, a School Speech Direc-

tor, a Midwest Regional Speaker, an Eastern Regional Speaker, and a Spanish speaking presenter.

- Increasing focus on underserved demographics, including students and adults for whom English is not their first language.
- Continuing to grow American Exceptionalism: How & Why It Matters by producing a documentary and hiring PR and distribution professionals to ensure maximum impact.
- Launch the **Constituting America Scholar Fellowship**, assembling top scholars to enhance our programs, support online studies, and represent us in key civic collaborations. Additionally, appoint a **History Holds the Key to the Future Online Study Resource Director** to expand and elevate our premier digital library, ensuring it remains the nation's leading hub for constitutional scholarship.



Constituting America is a Combined Federal Campaign Approved Charity, #37961  
ConstitutingAmerica.org | AmericanThing.org  
P.O. Box 1988, Colleyville, Texas 76034 | 1-888-937-0917

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Constituting America is eligible to receive tax deductible contributions under Section 170(b)(1)(A)(iv). Federal ID#: 27-2083548.