

Constitution Q & A with Chief Justice Bridget M. McCormack

TRANSCRIPT

What made the U.S. Constitution a remarkable document when it was written more than 200 years ago?

What made the Constitution remarkable when it was written was it was the first time any government had ever allowed “the people” to choose their form of government.

It is the oldest and the shortest constitution, and it is the only one where the people were permitted to choose the way their government would work.

How does the Constitution work in the lives of people today?

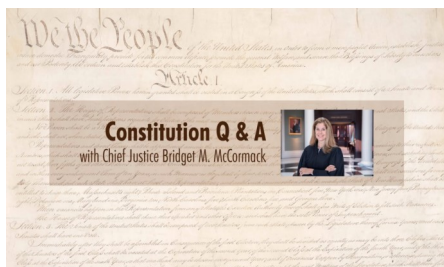
The Constitution works in the people’s lives today just as it did when it was first written. It really orders how our relationship with our government should function, how each branch of government can check the other branches, and how the power of government is divided between those branches, and ultimately with the people.

Justices of the state Supreme Court promise to uphold the U.S. Constitution and the Constitution of Michigan. What does that mean to you?

Judges promise to uphold the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Michigan, and what that means is those documents – those constitutions – are ultimately what we are faithful to. Obviously, courts are here to serve the people, but the way we serve the people is by making sure the United States Constitution and the Michigan Constitution are upheld in any dispute that comes into our courts. Those are our ultimate ... that is where we ultimately promise our fidelity.

What is the most important thing everyone should know about the Constitution?

I think the most important thing everyone should know about the Constitution is that it vests the power in the people. That’s what makes it incredibly special. What our Constitution guarantees is that the power of government rests with the people – We the People.



Constitution Q & A [video](#) (2:30 min)

Chief Justice Bridget M. McCormack [biography](#)

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