



# ARISE!

FAITH, FAMILY AND FREEDOM

September 21, 2022

## Constitution: Supreme Law of the Land

***“Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.” - Proverbs 22:28***

*“We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.” – Preamble of U.S. Constitution*



Alexander Hamilton helped convince Congress to organize a Grand Convention of state delegates to work on revising the Articles of Confederation.” -National Archives

All of the States except for Rhode Island sent delegates, and a quorum was reached on May 25.

The delegates (who also became known as the “framers” of the Constitution) were a well-educated group that included merchants, farmers, bankers and lawyers. Many had served in the Continental Army, colonial legislatures or the Continental Congress. In terms of religious affiliation, almost all were evangelical Christians.

The delegates made three critical decisions in the first days of the Convention:

- (1) The election of George Washington as President of the Convention;
- (2) The meeting would be held in secret, so that the delegates could speak freely and change their minds if they desired; and
- (3) Rather than revise the Articles of Confederation, they would write a new Constitution forming a new government.

But it seemed like they were hopelessly divided - big states vs. small states; free states vs. slave states; etc. To further complicate matters, it was a hot summer and the doors and windows were barred to keep the meeting private.

The turning point came when Benjamin Franklin, frustrated by the lack of progress, stood to his feet and reminded the delegates of an important truth:

“In this situation of this Assembly, groping as it were in the dark to find political truth, and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us, how has it happened, Sir, that we have not hitherto once thought

“These words offer a powerful opening to one of the most important documents in the history of the world. For over 200 years, the Constitution of the United States of America has been the envy of the world. It's the guiding force behind the most enduring democratic system of government ever; it helped create the environment that produced the greatest economic engine in history; it's been used as a model for better government around the world.” -Kevin Daun in *Inc.*

Saturday, September 17 was the **“Constitution Day”** in the United States, but you probably did not hear anything about it.

It was on September 17, 1787 that the delegates to the Constitutional Convention finished their work and presented the final draft of the United States Constitution to the states for ratification.

“Just a few years after the Revolutionary War, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and George Washington feared their young country was on the brink of collapse. America’s first constitution, the Articles of Confederation, gave the Confederation Congress the power to make rules and request funds from the states, but it had no enforcement powers, couldn’t regulate commerce, or print money. The states’ disputes over territory, war pensions, taxation, and trade threatened to tear the young country apart.

of humbly applying to the Father of lights to illuminate our understandings? In the beginning of the Contest with Great Britain, when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayer in this room for the divine protection. Our prayers, Sir, were heard, & they were graciously answered... And have we now forgotten that powerful friend? Or do we imagine that we no longer need his assistance?

I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proof I see of this truth that God Governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the sacred writings, that "except the Lord build the House they labour in vain that build it." I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without his concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better, than the Builders of Babel: We shall be divided by our little partial local interests; our projects will be confounded, and we ourselves shall become a reproach and bye word down to future ages "

Franklin then called that a minister come and pray for the delegates each morning before they began their deliberations. And God again answered those prayers. George Washington described the process: "It appears to me then little short of a miracle that the delegates from so many different states . . . should unite in forming a system of national government."

James Madison, who is considered the "Father of the Constitution" said, "It is impossible for the man of pious reflection not to perceive in it the finger of that Almighty Hand which has been so frequently and signally extended to our relief in the critical stages of the Revolution."

### ***Eagle's Eye on New York***

***"Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest." --2 Kings 4:7***

**STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS:** Governor Kathy Hochul signed a bill Thursday that will allow tens of thousands of public servants in New York to apply for significant debt forgiveness.

"\$16.3 billion in student debt will be canceled in this state alone," said Hochul during a September 15 press conference. "That's a clean slate that means New Yorkers can rebuild their lives. Over 2.2 million New Yorkers will see some type of relief, and that's life-changing."

But are the student loans actually "forgiven?" No, of course not. The debt is just shifted to the tax payers -- that is you and me folks.

**DEBATES: Governor Kathy Hochul** is avoiding debating **Congressman Lee Zeldin**, her Republican opponent. The New York Post notes, "Experts say Hochul is following a "Rose Garden" strategy, where she limits engagement with her opponent while leveraging official government events alongside her own campaign ads to reach voters while leaving Zeldin out of the conversation.

**NEW GUIDELINES FOR PRIVATE SCHOOLS:** On Tuesday, September 13, the Board of Regents approved new regulations which will enforce long standing requirements for private schools to provide an education that is *"substantially equivalent"* (English, Math, Science, and state requirements) to that offered in public schools.

Schools can demonstrate that they are in compliance in several ways (pathways) including the regular use of standardized achievement tests, such as the Iowa Assessment used by many Christian schools.

I do not expect it to create a problem for Christian schools, but some ultra-orthodox Jewish school (Hasidic Yeshivas) leaders are insisting that they will not comply.

### ***Eagle's Eye on the Nation***

***"One law shall be to him that is homeborn, and unto the stranger that sojourneth among you."***

***-- Exodus 12:49***

#### **MIGRANT CRISIS:**

The Chamber of Commerce of Martha's Vineyard said the island was facing a "humanitarian crisis" after Florida Governor Ron DeSantis sent planes carrying 50 illegal immigrants to the island Wednesday afternoon. The White House and residents of the vacation enclave called it a "political stunt."

Hours after the planes landed, two buses sent by Texas Governor Greg Abbott, dropped off migrants in a Washington neighborhood not far from Vice President Kamala Harris' official residence. He did so in response to Harris's statement on "Meet the Press" that "the borders are secure."

Meanwhile, New York City Mayor, Eric Adams says that the city is at a "breaking point" due to thousands of migrants who have been sent by bus from Texas in recent weeks.

### ***Tom Stiles' Speaking Schedule***

- Sept. 25** Truthville Baptist Church, N. Granville, NY (AM)  
Greater Glen Falls Baptist Church (PM)
- Oct. 2** Calvary Bible Baptist Church, Rochester (AM)  
Calvary Heights Baptist Church, Elma, NY (PM)
- Oct 9** Friendship Baptist Church, Rome, NY (AM)  
Emmanuel Bible Baptist Church, Martville (PM)
- Oct. 16** Folsomdale Baptist Church, Cowlsville, NY