

Thursday, September 17, is Constitution Day, a national day of recognition of the signing of the U.S. Constitution. Massachusetts community colleges and state universities have put together a full day of virtual events exploring both past and current struggles to create democracy and to open pathways for all the people of this country to participate in governing ourselves.

Here are four opportunities available to you, your students, and your colleagues:

- A group of community college civic engagement leaders have created “Rooting Ourselves in History to Engage in Democracy” -- a series of presentations and panel discussions bringing together a student, civic engagement staff and faculty, elected political officials from both major parties, and leaders from non-profit organizations including Black Voters Matter, the New Voters Project, and the MA American Civil Liberties Union. The events run from 10 AM - 12 PM and 2 - 4 PM. For more information, including the links to join the events, see: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1dhy74P7IUVeSp3lulwudLfrdDWWJM7ZY>.
- Salem State University is hosting Cheryl Clyburn Crawford, Executive Director of MassVOTE and the First Vice President of the NAACP-Boston Branch for a Constitution Day webinar from 12:15 - 1:30 PM focusing on voting rights. Attendance is free but registration is required; see https://salemstate.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TBHzKIVmQaaZQK7mc1p8dA.
- [Vote by Design](#) and Bridgewater State University’s Martin Richard Institute for Social Justice are teaming up to host an interactive, nonpartisan, digital workshop that will explore a new and innovative framework for thinking about who you vote for and why. For Constitution Day, Vote by Design will reframe the decision-making process of voting away from “Which candidate do you like?” to instead ask, “What are the leadership qualities best suited to the job as framed by the Constitution?” and “What does the future need from this position?” The event runs from 4 - 5:30 PM. Attendance is free, but space is limited. **Register here:** <https://bit.ly/3k0l2Mw>.
- The Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the U.S. Senate and the Higher Education Consortium of Central Massachusetts is sponsoring a debate on ranked-choice voting -- one of the measures on the ballot this fall -- at 4 PM. Here’s the link for that: <https://www.emkinstitute.org/explore-the-institute/public-events-programs/public/ranked-choice-voting>.