



September 17 will mark Constitution Day, the anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution in Philadelphia in 1787. This is a good opportunity to recognize that the efforts of everyone in the judicial branch - whether working as judicial officers, other court employees, or volunteers - serve importantly to uphold the rights of all Arizonans under our federal and state constitutions.

To that end, you might enjoy a short Emmy-award winning video on the role of [fair and impartial courts](#) in our system of government. Of course, in our state, voters have an important role in judicial selection through the election or retention of judges. To have a voice, people need to [register](#) to vote – information is available at the linked website for the Secretary of State, and the deadline for this year’s general election is October 10, 2016.

Two final thoughts. First, I hope you will take the time, and encourage others to do so as well, to finish your ballot by casting a vote on those judges up for retention. The judicial performance review and retention process helps ensure Arizona judges are accountable to those whom we serve. Information about the judges on the ballot is available at www.azjudges.info. Second, if you know of community organizations or other groups that would like to learn more about the courts in Arizona, we have a wonderful program called [Our Courts AZ](#) that brings current and retired judges into the community to lead engaging, highly interactive discussions on different topics. More information is available on the website.

Please share this message with others. Thank you for your support and dedication in upholding the rule of law.

Chief Justice Scott Bales