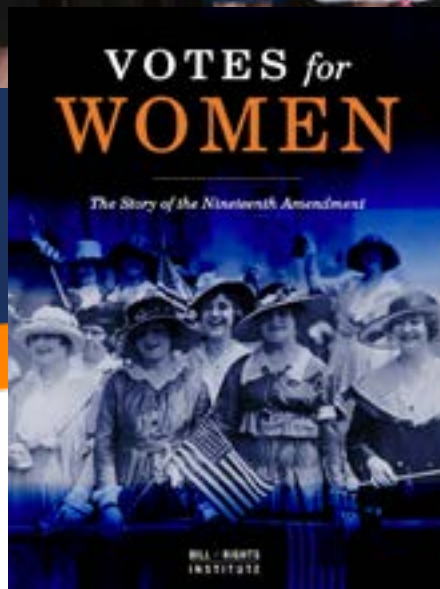


Annual Report 2019



BILL *of* RIGHTS
INSTITUTE

New for 2019

Bill of Rights Institute's **MISSION**

The Bill of Rights Institute engages, educates, and empowers individuals with a passion for the freedom and opportunity that exist in a free society.

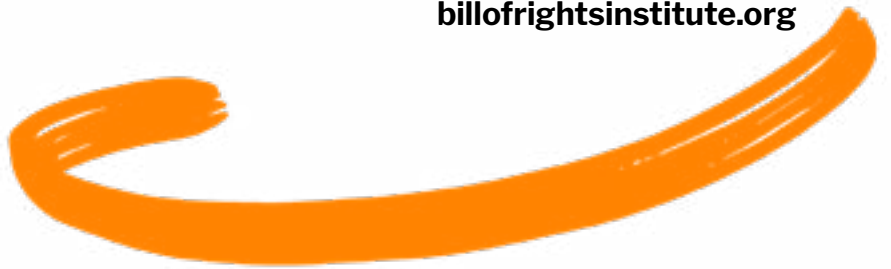
The Institute envisions a society in which all individuals enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is a society in which:

- Students engage with and champion these rights for themselves and others.
- Teachers educate students to seek knowledge and tackle challenges with these rights in mind.
- Parents empower their children to apply these rights in their own lives through interaction, example, and dialogue.



**BILL *of* RIGHTS
INSTITUTE**

billofrightsinstitute.org



President's LETTER

Today's teachers of history and civics struggle with two major problems: ideological, boring textbooks, and teacher training that does not help them address controversial issues. Increasingly, frustrated teachers seek online curriculum materials that meet their classes' specific needs. When they do, they turn to BRI. BRI's relationships with teachers are at the heart of what we do. Those relationships deepen over time, through personal engagement with our online content, and association with an engaged professional community. We enhance their content knowledge and delivery skills, helping them prepare students to be informed patriots and engaged citizens.

By 2026—the 250th anniversary our nation's Founding—when we have reached saturation in every region of the country, our national network will include 100,000 secondary school teachers of history, civics, and social studies, who together will reach ten million students per year.

All 2,900 of our classroom resources are animated by the ideas of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, and all of our professional development draws on our resources. But civic education also depends on pedagogy, or the way content is presented, and classroom culture, or the role of the individual in the classroom. The pedagogy BRI models and teaches in our professional development sessions includes the Socratic mode of inquiry, and story-telling in history and civics. Our choice of these pedagogies is based on our observations of hundreds of diverse schools, and it reflects our informed understanding that students retain best that knowledge they have reached on their own. The classroom culture we model and teach enables learners to exercise the civic virtues essential to self-governance, including justice, responsibility, courage, moderation, respect, initiative, honor, perseverance, and self-reliance.

The women and men who fought for female suffrage appealed to the principles that animate the Declaration of Independence. In April of 2019—more than a year

ahead of the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment—we launched a new curriculum called Votes for Women. This resource tells

the story of the fight for women's equality, their right to vote, and the struggle, sacrifice, and hardship involved. The Bill of Rights Institute hopes that young Americans will be similarly inspired by the promise of the Declaration to work towards social change that promotes freedom and equality for all.

Every student learns differently, but all students are entitled to learn. In spring 2020, BRI will release a comprehensive digital resource, *Life, Liberty, & the Pursuit of Happiness: A History of the American Experiment*. Edited and reviewed by more than 100 scholars (including faculty at Yale, Princeton, Oxford, and Cambridge), and created and piloted by teachers, it provides an adaptive, customizable learning experience. We are releasing this resource in partnership with OpenStax, a leading open education resource provider at Rice University.

As our nation advances toward its 250th birthday, the Bill of Rights Institute works to ensure that all Americans learn about the civil and economic liberties that are their birthright, and the opportunity these liberties entail. As we do so, we are immeasurably indebted to supporters like you who make this work possible.



David Bobb, President
Bill of Rights Institute



Educator SPOTLIGHT

“Time,” is how Karen Washington responds when asked what her biggest challenge is as an educator. “So much to teach, so very little time.” So how does Karen, who has been teaching for 19 years, and currently teaches U.S. History at Greater Lowell Technical High School in Tyngsborough, Massachusetts, overcome this challenge?

Some of the tools that help are BRI’s materials and programs. “I like BRI resources because I can tailor them to my students’ needs without losing the beauty of the lesson. The seminars help to reinforce the lessons and help me find new ways of presenting them. And I make new teacher friends.”

Karen has a master’s in History and a master’s in Education, and her favorite figure from history is Theodore Roosevelt



“I like BRI resources because I can tailor them to my students’ needs without losing the beauty of the lesson. The seminars help to reinforce the lessons and help me find new ways of presenting them. And I make new teacher friends.”

**Karen Washington, Teacher
Greater Lowell Technical High School
Tyngsborough, Massachusetts**

because he “seemed unstoppable and got the job done. Plus he created so many national parks.”

She loves using the ELL edition of BRI’s Being an American curriculum because of the collection of activities it contains for her students and its focus on slavery and the Declaration of Independence.

Karen notes two accomplishments when asked about her proudest achievement as an educator: “My poster presentation for a unit on the Constitution at the 2013 NCSS National Conference. It was completely exhausting, but an amazing experience. My next proudest moment was creating our USIII curriculum aligned with the new Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks.”

Educator

PROGRAM & RESOURCES

Constitutional Seminars

These one-day and weekend professional development seminars for teachers are held throughout the country and have engaged over 24,000 educators since the Institute's founding. At each program, teachers participate in in-depth lectures with a highly regarded constitutional scholar and receive BRI resources including primary source documents, lessons plans, eLessons and more.

Summer Institute (formerly Founder's Fellowship)

Our annual flagship professional development program brought 21 teachers together from nine states to the Washington, D.C. area. The topic of the 2019 Founders Fellowship was "Presidential Powers: Historical Turning Points." Led by scholars, BRI staff, and master educators, they explored educational resources, shared best practices, and discussed critical issues in U.S. history, politics, and government.

Bill of Rights Institute Resources Website (formerly Voices of History)

A free digital storehouse of our lesson plans and primary source content developed by the Institute for our network of over 52,000 educators. The site's regular user base expanded to a monthly average of 6,343 educators in 2019, and the site had nearly 155,000 unique page views this year (up from 87,461 in 2018).

Votes for Women-The Story of the 19th Amendment

Launched in April of 2019, this new resource guides students through the story of the women's suffrage movement in the United States. Through rich narratives, primary source activities, and classroom-ready lessons, the curriculum explores the people, places, and events of the suffragist movement.

"I have been teaching middle school students for 34 years now, and I have found the Bill of Rights Institute to be a great source of information. I truly enjoy and appreciate the opportunity to learn from these experts."

**Patti Winkler, Teacher, Shawnee Mission, Kansas,
2019 Summer Institute Participant**

Documents of Freedom

The Institute's free digital U.S. History, Government and Economics textbook continued to be our most popular resource in 2019. The site saw 447,082 unique page views during this period (up from 388,1390 in 2018) with over 16,000 educators signed up as regular users of the material.

Free Lesson Plans

Delivered twice a month directly to teachers' inboxes, our free eLesson newsletters include historical content, connections to modern life, classroom activities, downloadable PDF's, answer keys, discussion questions, and suggestions for further reading. By the end of 2019, nearly 28,000 educators were signed up to receive the eLesson emails.



Student **SPOTLIGHT** *A Cross Generational Story*

Miranda Martinez and Joshua Llamas both come from the border city of Laredo, Texas, but that's not the only thing they have in common. Both are also alumni of the Bill of Rights Institute's Constitutional Academy; Joshua attended in 2013 and Miranda in 2019. Did we also mention that Joshua was Miranda's World History teacher at Lyndon B. Johnson High School in Laredo?

"Mr. Llamas told me how much fun he had, and how he learned how to debate," said Miranda. "I thought we were just going to be stuck in a stuffy room, being forced to debate on random topics, but Mr. Llamas explained that Constitutional Academy also involved experiencing D.C. through tours of the monuments and museums."

Both agree that one of the best parts of the program is the level of interaction, engagement, and exchange of ideas among the Constitutional Academy students from across the country. Civil discourse is one of the skills Joshua tries to foster among his students, something he believes is only possible with practice and the kind of knowledge about politics and history that he and Miranda both gained during the Academy.



Joshua Llamas, Student & Educator
Laredo, Texas

"Constitutional Academy reinforced my knowledge and provided me with eye-opening perspectives that have enabled me to succeed professionally and have deepened my interest in the fields of politics and history," says Joshua.



Miranda Martinez, Student
Laredo, Texas

"Constitutional Academy definitely also contributed to my decision to become a teacher," Joshua adds. He has taught at Lyndon B. Johnson High School for the last two years and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in History from Texas A&M International University in Laredo. He continued his education at TAMU, receiving a Master of Science in curriculum this past May.

In addition to Constitutional Academy, Joshua was also inspired by four strong women in his life: his grandmother, mother, and two of his aunts. "They taught me the core values that have made me the man I am today," Joshua says. "They always pushed me to do more and be more. I am a first-generation college student because of them."

Like her teacher, Miranda has also been inspired to change her career plans after attending Constitutional Academy. "My goals for the future were to study medicine," she says. "However, after attending the Academy, I have taken an interest in government and the important role it plays in our lives."



Student PROGRAMS

Constitutional Academy 2019

The Bill of Rights Institute organized and ran its week-long Constitutional Academy for high school students from July 7-12th and saw 34 students attend from all over the nation. The goal of this year's program was to provide an in-depth look at the role of civil discourse and policy making in a democratic republic. Throughout the week, students wrote a policy memo to be submitted and pitched to the group at the end of the week. Students visited the Monuments, the National African American Museum of History and Culture, National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Museum of American History, Newseum, and the U.S. Capitol to learn about how civil discourse and policy making can change the functioning of various institutions throughout the U.S. Most of the students also had the opportunity to meet with their representatives in Congress or congressional staff members after their tour of the U.S. Capitol.



“My experience was absolutely phenomenal. My expectations were so high for this week and I was absolutely blown away. I enjoyed debating on both sides and talking with people of different opinions. A week-long epic experience I wouldn't trade for anything.”

Logan Hammond
2019 Constitutional Academy Participant
Bakersfield, California

We the Students Essay Contest

The 2019 essay contest had a record number of more than 5,000 essays submitted. The topic this year was: What are essential qualities of a citizen in your community in 21st century America? The Institute awarded \$20,000 in scholarships to fourteen students, including a \$5,000 grand prize to Chelsea Rackley of Calvary Baptist Church School in New Bern, North Carolina.

ThinktheVote.com

A website where students can go to learn all sides of a variety of current events issues and engage in online civil debate with other students from across the country. This page garnered 94,6834 unique pageviews in 2019 and averaged over 8,000 average monthly users.

Student **PROGRAMS** continued

AP Prep Webinars

Our free annual AP preparation webinars expanded in 2019 to include episodes for AP Government exams as well as AP U.S. History. Hosted by Tom Richey and Paul Sargent, the series of nine webinars for each subject took place in the two weeks leading up to the AP U.S. History exam and AP Government exam (end of April/beginning of May), and reached over 5,000 students either live or on demand via our YouTube channel. An average of 300 students registered to attend the AP Government series live in 2019.

“[Constitutional Academy] was an amazing experience. I enjoyed meeting so many new people and making amazing friends. I’m taking away a new look on policy and government as a whole. This was life changing.”

Samantha Weston, 2019 Constitutional Academy Participant, Lyman, Wyoming



Homework Help Videos

In 2019, the Institute released 10 new Homework Help videos covering important topics and periods in U.S. history and landmark Supreme Court cases like *Roe v. Wade* and *Tinker v. Des Moines*. Historical topics covered included the Origins of Partisanship in America, African Americans in the Gilded Age, a History of Entrepreneurs, and profiles of Aaron Burr, Boss Tweed, and Joseph McCarthy. These videos, the debate webinar recordings, and the AP prep webinar recordings brought the Institute’s YouTube subscriber number nearly doubled to 10,208 with over 656,186 views.



Financials

REVENUE	2018	2019
Contributions and Grants	\$4,744,994	\$5,742,978
Sales and Other	\$2,372	\$7,444
In-Kind Donations	\$207,895	\$359,984
Total Revenue	\$4,955,261	\$6,110,406

EXPENSES		
Programs	\$3,215,602	\$3,025,549
Fundraising	\$443,260	\$1,119,128
Management/General	\$1,489,589	\$1,501,364
Total Expenses	\$5,148,397	\$5,646,042
Revenue Less Expenses	(\$193,136)	\$464,364



“Thank you so much for your support in allowing me to come to this Bill of Rights Institute training on women’s suffrage. It has been a really amazing opportunity that I otherwise would not have & I greatly appreciate it! My students are going to love this new resource & I will take this new knowledge to my colleagues. So your gift not only helps me but my school.”

Erin McDonald, Colorado Teacher



Thank You **2019**

Listed below are just a few of the many foundations whose generosity make the work of the Bill of Rights Institute possible.

We would like to thank them and all of our donors for their ongoing support.

Allegheny Foundation
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Georgia Pacific
The Achelis & Bodman Foundation
F.M. Kirby Foundation
Abell-Hanger Foundation
Helen Greathouse Charitable Trust
Strake Foundation
Triad Foundation
Anschutz Foundation
Edward T. Bedford Foundation
Gordon Cain Foundation
Daniels Fund



“Thank you for appreciating me. Not just me as a person from Indiana, but as a Social Studies teacher. You make me feel special and important. Your Institute puts forth so much effort to train and help me to be the best educator possible. My students for years to come will benefit from this opportunity.”

**Tabitha Ray, Teacher
2019 Summer Institute Participant**