



# Does Your Candidate Support the Rule of Law? Get Answers to These 10 Questions

**Are you concerned about the Rule of Law in America?  
If so, read on – and take action.**

Our founders crafted the United States Constitution to provide the basis for the Rule of Law in this country. They wisely separated powers among three branches of government, and provided a Bill of Rights to protect individual rights and reserve many powers to the States. For many years, we have seen an erosion of our Constitutional values and of the Rule of Law in America. Although this is cause for alarm, we the people have the power to reverse this decline by electing candidates who demonstrate a genuine commitment to the Rule of Law. **This is not a partisan issue.**

**The Rule of Law protects us all.**

**Get answers to the following questions from all candidates:**

**1 Will you accept the final results of the elections as certified by each State, even if you and your party do not win?**

The answer to this question must be YES.

Democracy depends on all candidates accepting the results of our elections, no matter what those results are.

**2 Do you support our constitutional system in which states have primary responsibility for administering elections?**

The answer to this question must be YES.

The Constitution assigns primary responsibility for administering elections to the states while granting Congress authority to protect voter rights and maintain the integrity of our elections. Election disputes have always been resolved by state agencies and by state and federal courts, and multiple investigations have established that they have been well run and the results reflect the will of the people.

**3 Is it appropriate for you to call for the impeachment of federal judges based on the decisions they make?**

The answer to this question must be NO.

Article III of the Constitution makes clear that federal judges can be impeached only for criminal conduct or serious ethical violations, not for their rulings. Threatening impeachment over unfavorable decisions is an attack on judicial independence, a bedrock principle of our democracy.

**4 Will you publicly condemn threats or acts of violence against judges?**

The answer to this question must be YES.

Threats and acts of violence against judges must not be tolerated, and our elected officials have a responsibility to speak out against such threats.

**5 Must all officials of the U.S. government, including the President, comply with federal court orders?**

The answer to this question must be YES.

No person or institution is above the law, and all officials must obey judicial orders. If they disagree with a ruling, the only proper recourse is to appeal, and to be prepared to abide by the appellate court's decision.

**6 When it does not appear that a crime has been committed, does the President have the power to order the FBI to search for evidence of a crime, or order the Department of Justice to prosecute people without such evidence?**

The answer to this question must be NO.

The Fourth Amendment prohibits unreasonable searches and seizures, requiring law enforcement agencies to operate based on evidence grounded in probable cause.

**7 Are all persons accused of crimes in the U.S. entitled to due process protections?**

The answer to this question must be YES.

The Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Amendments guarantee due process protections to all persons. People and candidates may differ as to immigration policies, but the Constitution applies to everyone.

**8 Does the President have authority to declare war or otherwise authorize long-term military engagements in another country?**

The answer to this question must be NO.

Article I of the Constitution grants Congress, not the President, the power to declare war and authorize long-term military engagements.

**9 Must the executive branch spend government funds only as appropriated by Congress?**

The answer to this question must be YES.

Failure to spend funds as allocated by Congress violates Congress's "power of the purse," provided for in Article I of the Constitution.

**10 Will you speak out publicly to condemn violations of the Constitution and the Rule of Law?**

The answer to this question must be YES.

Too many of our elected officials have failed to stand up for the rule of law in recent years. It's time for candidates to demonstrate their commitment to the Rule of Law by speaking out against fellow politicians who demand judges be impeached for their rulings, or who've refused to accept results of elections that our courts concluded were free and fair. As a voter, you should demand proof of candidates' track records on these issues. If the United States is to remain a democracy, we must elect political leaders who believe in our Constitution and the Rule of Law.

The Federal Judiciary defines the Rule of Law as: "A principle under which all persons, institutions, and entities are accountable to laws that are: publicly promulgated, equally enforced, independently adjudicated, and consistent with international human rights principles."

The Alliance for American Rule of Law (AAROL) is a nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization built on decades of experience promoting the Rule of Law globally. AAROL encourages the wide distribution of this guide as a civic education tool (with attribution to AAROL, which reserves copyright). Visit [aarol.org](http://aarol.org) to connect, explore resources, and learn more.



# Additional Information

## Why did AAROL create this Rule of Law Voter's Guide?

As we approach the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding, the Rule of Law in America is under grave threat. We must treat the 2026 election as a "Rule of Law Election," and not as an ordinary election. The 2026 elections should be a referendum on whether our current leadership is adequately protecting the Rule of Law. Your vote is your greatest source of power; this Voter's Guide can help you and other Americans exercise that power wisely.

## Why are the 2026 mid-term elections so important?

**Because America's commitment to its Constitution and the Rule of Law is on the ballot.**

Our Founders wrote a Constitution that protected Americans against tyranny by separating powers among a Congress to write laws (Article I), a President to administer them (Article II), and a judiciary to interpret them (Article III). One of the first acts of the first U.S. Congress was to draft a Bill of Rights to secure individual rights, and to make clear that many powers were reserved to the States. When the Rule of Law and respect for the Constitution are strong, the benefits are real and tangible for every American. Today, we see (1) a Congress that is largely abdicating its law-making and oversight responsibilities, (2) an Executive Branch that is asserting powers beyond the limits set in our Constitution, and (3) persistent and dangerous assaults on the independence of our Judiciary.

Democracy is about more than casting a ballot—it's about staying informed, holding leaders accountable, and working together toward a government that is responsive to the people and faithful to our Constitution. AAROL believes we must elect representatives who are more committed to addressing America's Rule of Law challenges, and that the 10 questions in this Guide can help voters identify those candidates.

**Here are a few concrete steps you can take to make a difference:**

- 1 Share the Rule of Law Voter's Guide on social media, and encourage people of all political persuasions to also use and share the Guide with their personal and professional networks.
- 2 Bring this Guide to town halls, candidate debates, and other civic forums to facilitate voter discussions and to demand answers to these 10 questions directly from your candidates.
- 3 Use these questions to assess a candidate's track record, policy positions, and public statements. Without a proven record of protecting the Rule of Law, incumbents don't deserve to be reelected!
- 4 Share what you've learned about candidates through social media, your local press, discussions with friends and family, and at community and professional gatherings.

## Where can I learn more about the U.S. Constitution and Rule of Law?

We encourage users of this Guide to explore the many excellent educational materials concerning the U.S. Constitution, justice system, and what the Rule of Law means in practice available on the website of the Federal Judiciary: <https://www.uscourts.gov/>.

The website of the National Constitution Center, based in Philadelphia, is also a valuable educational resource on core constitutional principles and their application in American life, including their America at 250 Toolkit: <https://constitutioncenter.org/>.

For a comparative view of where the United States stands on key Rule of Law indicators, we refer you to the non-partisan World Justice Project, which assessed that the U.S. has fallen from 18th to 27th place in its global Rule of Law Index since 2016. This puts the U.S. below Latvia, Uruguay, and Slovenia. Learn more at: <https://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index/>.