



## Chapter 4: Elections & the Supreme Court

The United States Supreme Court is the highest judicial body in the country. Made up of nine justices, each appointed by the president to a lifetime term, the Supreme Court hears cases and issues decisions that have profound impact on United States law and U.S. life—including elections. Learn more about the Supreme Court, how it operates, and its history with regard to elections.

### Listen

#### **Radiolab Presents: More Perfect from WNYC**

<http://www.wnyc.org/shows/radiolabmoreperfect>

With three seasons under their belt, the team behind WNYC's *More Perfect* podcast have explored the amendments to the United States Constitution, how the Supreme Court functions, and major cases in the court's history.

#### **Amicus from Slate**

<http://www.slate.com/articles/podcasts/amicus.html>

This regular podcast is hosted by writer Dahlia Lithwick, who covers courts and the law for *Slate*. A former lawyer, Lithwick delves into a major topic or case in front of the Supreme Court in each episode. Many episodes also include general updates on the Supreme Court and its implications on law and the country.

### Watch

#### **“How the U.S. Supreme Court Decided the Presidential Election of 2000” from HISTORY**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-nR\\_hmS6V0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-nR_hmS6V0)

This video explains the role of the Supreme Court in the 2000 U.S. presidential election. When a close race and questionable ballots in Florida left the results of the presidential election undecided, legal proceedings ultimately determined the result: George W. Bush would become president, not Al Gore.





### **“Supreme Court Shenanigans!” from CGP Grey**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dDYFiq1I5Dg>

This video from a popular YouTube explanation video creator gives an overview of some of the possible complications and loopholes in the Supreme Court justice appointment process.

## **Read**

### **“Supreme Court of the United States” Government Website**

<https://www.supremecourt.gov/>

Learn about the rules and procedures of the Supreme Court, see recent and historical decisions issued by the court, and explore its history and role in the United States using this official government page.

### **“The History of ‘Stolen’ Supreme Court Seats” by Erick Trickey for *Smithsonian Magazine***

<https://goo.gl/bGQAfl>

This article is from 2017, when Neil Gorsuch was nominated to the Supreme Court by President Donald Trump despite then-President Barack Obama having nominated Merrick Garland to the court in 2016 after the death of Associate Justice Antonin Scalia. In this article for *Smithsonian Magazine*, Trickey looked to Supreme Court history to better understand the context of arguments about “stolen” seats and elected officials’ efforts to influence who serves on the highest court in the land.

### **“The Supreme Court will hear a case that could destroy what remains of the Voting Rights Act” by Ian Millhiser for Vox**

<https://bit.ly/3d8Y9Ef>

This article from Vox’s “Whose vote counts?” series explores upcoming cases before the Supreme Court that could impact voter rights across the country, including analysis of how the current Supreme Court vacancy potentially impacts its opinions and decisions.

