

Foreword

Our Constitution is a magnificent invention that provides special challenges for our public leaders. Its designers thoughtfully constructed a governmental framework that seeks to ensure that individuals are free to hold, express, and publish diverse opinions; and, at the same time, they presented us with a government that was deliberately inefficient so that these freedoms would be protected. Consequently, public service leaders today have an obligation to ensure our leadership is not regarded as an intention to run a government that would honor the fortunes and respectability of the well-born few while oppressing the rights of the greater community. For this reason, a foundation in the historical, social, and political issues of the period in which the government was first formed is critical to understanding the values inherent in the Constitution that we must uphold in the execution of our responsibilities today. If we use the tools available to us to understand our political heritage, we are better prepared to lead a government free from oppression. The Constitutional Literacy Reader is an essential tool that provides us, the government's career executives, with the knowledge and skills necessary to grasp the spirit of the Constitution and to successfully manage the affairs of the nation.

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