We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution

36th Annual
New Jersey State
Simulated Legislative Hearings
for High School Students

January 25, 2023
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Busch Campus Center
Piscataway, NJ

Sponsored by
The New Jersey Center for Civic Education

A project of the Center for Civic Education, established in 1987 under the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution, funded by the U.S. Department of Education
Schedule of Events

8:30-9:00 a.m.: **Registration**
*Fireside Lounge*
(*outside Multipurpose Room*)

9:00-9:15 a.m.: **Opening Ceremony**
*Multipurpose Room, Busch Campus Center*

**Welcome**
Arlene Gardner, President, Board of Directors
New Jersey Center for Civic Education

**Guest Speaker**
Dr. Benjamin Dworkin, Director
Institute for Public Policy and Citizenship
Rowan University

9:30 a.m.-11:50 p.m.: **Simulated Legislative Hearings**
*Busch Campus Center Meeting Rooms*

Bayonne High School.........................Center Hall
East Brunswick High School...............116
Marlboro High School.......................120
Montclair High School......................122
West Windsor-Plainsboro High School....117

Judges Conference Rooms....................115 and 118

12:00–1:30 p.m.: **Lunch and Awards**
*Multipurpose Room, Busch Campus Center*

**Keynote Address**
Dr. Elizabeth Matto
Director, Center for Youth Political Participation
Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University
Panels of Judges

UNIT ONE: *What were the philosophical and historical foundations of the American political system?*

Noel Baxter  
Social Studies Supervisor, Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

Dr. Benjamin Dworkin  
Director, Institute for Public Policy and Citizenship, Rowan University

Christine Hladky  
Teacher, Madison High School, Madison

UNIT TWO: *How did the framers create the Constitution?*

Hank Bitten  
Executive Director, New Jersey Council for the Social Studies

Dr. James Masschaele  
Executive Dean, School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers University

Viola Lordi, Esq.

UNIT THREE: *How has the Constitution been changed to further the ideals contained in the Declaration of Independence?*

Peter Mazzagatti  
New Jersey Department of Education

Shea Richardson  
Social Studies Supervisor, East Orange Public Schools

William Robertson, Esq.  
DiFrancesco Bateman law firm
UNIT FOUR: How have the values and principles embodied in the Constitution shaped American institutions and practices?

Nicole Ferrante
Social Studies Supervisor, Mount Laurel Public Schools

Dr. Elizabeth Matto
Director, Center for Youth Political Participation, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University

Patricia Supplee
Monmouth County League of Women Voters, Energizing Young Voters

UNIT FIVE: What rights does the Bill of Rights protect?

Jesse Burns
Executive Director, New Jersey League of Women Voters

Louis Miron, Esq.

John Terry
Social Studies Supervisor, Bernards Township Public Schools

UNIT SIX: What challenges might face American constitutional democracy in the 21st century?

Gordon Golum, Esq.
Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer law firm

Jonathan Miller
Teacher, J.P Stevens High School, Edison

Ashley Woolsey-Greene
New Jersey Department of Education
Participants

Bayonne High School, Bayonne
Patricia Wyskowski, Instructor

Azzer, Joyce  
Baig, Iman  
Bebawi, Jomana  
Bekiet, David  
Bernardo, Mia  
Bessady, Mehrail  
Chen, Jason  
Crispino, Brandon  
Davis, Giselle  
Dosouki Mohamed, Mariam  
D’Rozario, Elizabeth  
Gadalla, Farida  
Gerges, Mariam  
Ghaly, Jerom  
Gridniev, Bogdan  
Gu, David  
Guirguis, John  
Hadiouche, Selmaan  
Jones, Anastasia  
Kadir, Abigail  
Kaur, Mahekdeep  
Keronche, Melissa  
Martin-Moore, Tyla  
McCullough, Erin  
Mechti, Meriem  
Mejia Matos, Ethan  
Naeim, Jessica  
Safner, Justin  
Salib, Viroun  
Sarran, Disha  
Shousha, Fatimah  
Sobhy, Mariam  
Wang, Muyang  
Williams, Camisha  
Young Freire, Jordan

East Brunswick High School, East Brunswick
Marc Mondry, Instructor

Barai, Twinkal  
Bhardwaj, Shreya  
Blivaiss, Helena  
Burghli, Ziad  
Chen, Avery  
Cuomo, Bailey  
Danish, Burhanuddin  
Emmanuel, Simon  
Fang, Xuheng (Leo)  
Flax, Tiffany  
Katoch, Chahel  
Kelly, Caroline  
Mehta, Jasmine  
Miller, Ethan  
Nishanth, Dhihita  
Ockun, Justin  
Parikh, Tanmay  
Seaver, Riley  
Sun, Amanda  
Woodard, Olivia
Marlboro High School, Marlboro
Eric Yang, Instructor
Bodner, Benjamin
Bono, Jake
Carter, Josiah
Casale, Nicholas
Dutta, Ishan
Glozman, Elizabeth
Gundersen, Michael
Hegarty, Christian
Hussain, Ariyana
Hussein, Ali
Patel, Chandni
Richardson, Miles
Robinson, Aaran
Salygin, Roman
Syed Ali, Haaniah
Velazquez, Gaby
Vinod, Nanditha
Vitale, Leana
Vrlaku, Sika
Zisel, Juliana

Montclair High School, Montclair
William Wingren, Instructor
Adeyeye, Lola
Aishton, Georgia
Barker, Gael
Barrack, Zoe
Benson, Charlie
Blaine, Liz
Broduer, Alex
Brubaker, Anna
Callum, Cavallaro
Dreifach, Daniela
Foroughi, Roxana
Harris, Thaddeus
Hojejian, Will
Kapila, Kaira
Keys, Jaimee
Kloiber, Justin
Kuzyk, Alec
Linetsky, Benjamin
MacDonald, Matthew
Moreno, Bella
Peniel, Belay-Ejigu
Pittman, Eric
Shelley, Juniper
Spoor, Jasper
Stanton, Thomas
Traore, Salif
Troeller, Zachary
Wassermann, Levi

West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North, Plainsboro
Albert Paulsson, Instructor
Anupuru, Sruthi
Baloyi, Masingita
Chatterjee, Tanya
Denuto, Mackenzie
Goudar, Dhriti
Gupta, Jahnavi
Kantamaneni, Vrinda
Lu, Andrea
Sheth, Naomi
Suryarao, Taksheel
Thiberge, Julien
Varnavas, Alex
**Facilitator**
Robert O’Dell  
Executive Director, New Jersey Center for Civic Education

**Scorer**
Scot Guempel, CPA

**Timekeepers**
Scot Guempel  
Jessica Han  
Robert Magliozzi  
Aabir Rashid  
Craig Uplinger

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**We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution** is the largest civic education program in the country. Established in 1987 under the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution, it is administered by the Center for Civic Education in Calabasas, CA.

Students throughout the state prepare for the state hearing by completing a semester instructional program using the We the People text. Each student then becomes fully conversant with one of the six units in the text and testifies at simulated legislative hearings on each unit. Each class competes within the school, school district, and/or congressional district. During the state hearings, students are assessed on the following criteria: understanding, constitutional application, reasoning, supporting evidence, responsiveness, and participation.

**The New Jersey Center for Civic Education** is located at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, in Piscataway, NJ. Dedicated to enhancing the teaching of civics, law, justice, history, government, and humanities in New Jersey’s K-12 schools, the Center offers professional development programs for teachers and civic education programs for students.