

JEMEZ SPRINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY

SYMPOSIUM SERIES

October 8, 2026 at 6:30 PM and October 15, 2026 at 6:30 PM

CONSTITUTIONAL MILESTONES:

THE CASE THAT BROKE TWO JUSTICES

BAKER v. CARR

(session one)

THE POLITICAL THICKET AND ‘ONE PERSON, ONE VOTE’

(session two)

Cost: FREE

Participants: Participation is limited to the first ten participants to register. To register, please email librarian@jsplibrary.org (subject line: “Symposium Registration”), stop by the library in person, or call 575-829-9155. If the roster is full, we will put you on the waiting list, in case a seat becomes available.

Format: This Symposium is designed to be led by a presenter/moderator with substantial group discussion. It will require some pre-session reading and preparation. All materials are available from free public sites on the internet. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO READ THE COMPLETE TEXT OF ALL THE DECISIONS AND OTHER MATERIALS IN THE “RESOURCES” SECTIONS BELOW.** A small reading packet with key excerpts from the relevant texts will be provided.

In *The Memoirs of Earl Warren* (1977) former Chief Justice Earl Warren argued that while many considered Brown v. Board of Education or Miranda v. Arizona to be the most important cases decided by the Warren Court, he believed Baker v. Carr to be the most vital of his tenure. This case was the progenitor of the “one man, one vote” rule and it also opened the door to exceptions to the long-standing political questions doctrine. In this Symposium, we will be exploring one of the most dramatic chapters in Supreme Court history and reviewing how this case subsequently became the basis for the Court’s selection of a President of the United States.

This Symposium format is relatively new for our library presentations.) It is designed more in the style of a classroom experience where the topic is presented by the leader, and the participants discuss the issues together. If this test is successful, we will schedule more presentations in this format - with limited attendance. Therefore, if you elect to be a test subject, we would like to have your honest feedback.

Syllabus

Session One. **Baker v. Carr**

1. Composition of the Court 1961- 1962
2. Constitutional and Historical Background.
3. Background for Tennessee Reapportionment.
4. Felix Frankfurter
5. William O. Douglas
6. Charles Evans Whittaker
7. The Initial Division of the Court
8. The Fundamental Flaw of Democracy
9. The Political Thicket.
10. What happened to Whittaker
11. The Decision
12. What Happened to Frankfurter
13. Kennedy's Appointments.
14. Group Discussion and Analysis.

Resources:

- ❖ [Baker v. Carr 369 US 186 \(1962\); Justia – Library of Congress](#)
 - Overruling in part [Colegrove v. Green 328 US 549](#)
 - [Oral Arguments \(audio\) Oyez April 19, 1961 Re-argued October 9, 1961.](#)
- ❖ [More Perfect: The Political Thicket. Radiolab. WNYC.](#)

Session Two. **Bush v. Gore (2000) and Reynolds v. Sims (1964)**

1. 14th Amendment
2. 10th Amendment.
3. Voting Rights Act Section 2 ([PDF](#), [Transcript](#))
4. [Alexander v South Carolina NAACP \(2024\)](#)
5. [Louisiana v Callais \(2026\)](#)
6. [Bush v. Gore \(2000\) 531 US 98](#)
7. Article III Section 2 Clause 1 US Constitution.
8. [Citizens United v. FEC, 558 U.S. 310 \(2010\)](#)

Resources:

- ❖ [Constitution Annotated: Analysis and Interpretation of the U.S. Constitution \(Congress.gov\)](#)