

2016 ELECTIONS & THE SUPREME COURT




The new President will appoint at least one, and possibly four, Supreme Court justices, as well as appoint hundreds of federal lower court judges. This is significant because many major Supreme Court decisions have been decided by a narrow one-vote margin, including cases affecting religious freedom.


CONSERVATIVE WINS THAT COULD BE OVERTURNED

All of these cases were decided by one vote, in a 5-4 decision



Town of Greece v. Galloway (2014) 
Local governments and boards may continue the practice of opening official meetings with prayers, without government censorship.



Burwell v. Hobby Lobby (2014) 
Federal law protects a company's right to operate its business according to the religious beliefs of its owners, protecting them from being forced to provide abortion-inducing drugs and devices.




Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (2010) & *Federal Election Commission v. Wisconsin Right to Life (2007)*
People have the freedom to contribute as much money as they choose to causes they care about and groups of individuals (non-profits) may advertise and advocate for issues they care about.



District of Columbia v. Heller (2008) & *McDonald v. Chicago (2010)*
Individuals have a right to possess handguns in their own home and to use them for self-defense.



Salazar v. Buono (2010) 
The Court rejected a district court order that the government must tear down a war memorial because someone was offended that it was in the form of a cross.



Gonzales v. Carhart (2007)
Congress may ban partial birth abortion, which involves a baby's body being born up to its neck and then killed.



Van Orden v. Perry (2005)
The Court allowed the historical Ten Commandments to remain on Texas' state capitol grounds because "simply having religious content or promoting a message consistent with religious doctrine does not run afoul of the establishment clause."




Boy Scouts of America v. Dale (2000)
Private groups have a right to choose members who share the values and beliefs of the organization.

LIBERAL WINS THAT COULD BE OVERTURNED

All of these cases were decided by one vote, in a 5-4 decision




Obergefell v. Hodges, 135 S. Ct. 2584 (2015) 
State governments must redefine marriage to include same-sex unions and provide licenses.



National Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius (2012)
Congress may fine citizens for not obtaining government-approved health insurance because the ACA is a tax.



Christian Legal Society v. Martinez (2010) 
Public universities may ban student groups from campus when the university disagrees with the group's religious beliefs.



Roper v. Simmons (2005) & *Kennedy v. Louisiana (2008)*
States may not impose the death penalty on child rapists.



Kelo v. City of New London (2005)
Local governments may take peoples' homes and sell them to developers.



Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey (1992)
Upheld *Roe v. Wade* and the constitutional right to an abortion as well as determined that a woman does not have to inform her husband before she gets an abortion.

TAKE ACTION

Thank you for standing with us to protect religious liberty as one of the values that made our country great!



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