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THE DOCKET

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DOCKET PREVIEW

Civics is all around us. The United States Supreme Court is the highest court in the land. Through its power of judicial review, its decisions have a lasting impact on "We the People". So what is the Court hearing this session and how might the justices rule? Let's help each other expand our civic literacy.

The first Monday in October marks the beginning of the annual term of the [United States Supreme Court](#). During the 2023-2024 term, the Court will preside over approximately 80 cases. In recent years, 5,000-7,000 cases are filed per term, with the Court under no obligation to hear any set number. To date, the Court has already agreed to hear 36 cases during its 2023-2024 term. Let's examine some of these cases, all of which involve questions related to the First and Second Amendments or election redistricting.

CASE	THE ISSUES	THE QUESTIONS
Alexander v. South Carolina State Conference of the NAACP October 11, 2023	Following the 2020 census, the South Carolina State Legislature redrew its congressional map. In so doing, the legislature moved tens of thousands of Black voters from the 1st congressional district into another. The result was the creation of a Republican party "safe seat." South Carolina's NAACP sued. A three judge panel of the U.S. district court ruled in favor of the NAACP, finding that the redistricting map was racially gerrymandered, and not politically gerrymandered as suggested by the state legislature.	Is the South Carolina Legislature's redistricting map a racial gerrymander, which is illegal or is it a political gerrymander, which is legal?
Moody v. NetChoice, LLC To Be Calendared	Under Florida law, social media platforms are required to disclose how and when they censor speech. They are also required to host content speech they might not otherwise host. Florida's effort to prevent the silencing of speech on social media was found to violate the First Amendment by the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals because Florida did not satisfy the heightened scrutiny test, meaning Florida's governmental interest was not important enough to warrant the actions taken.	Does the First Amendment prohibit a state from requiring and regulating social media companies to host content it might not otherwise host and to provide explanations for not doing so?
Lindke v. Freed & O'Connor-Ratcliff v. Garnier October 31, 2023	These two cases are similar in that they both involve elected officials using their private social media accounts for public purposes, then blocking users or comments that were critical of their public actions.	When do the actions of elected officials become subject to the First Amendment when they use their personal social media pages to communicate official, public business?
United States v. Rahimi November 7, 2023	Zackey Rahimi was subject to a domestic-violence restraining order, which under 18 U.S.C. Section 922(g)(8) of the federal code, prohibits him from possessing a firearm.	Is Section 922(g)(8) of the federal code a violation of the Second Amendment?
Vidal v. Elster November 1, 2023	Steve Elster applied for a federal trademark for the phrase, "TRUMP TOO SMALL." Elster's trademark request was denied by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office because under existing law (Section 1052(c)), any trademark that includes the name of a living individual, needs to have that individual's permission for the trademark to move forward.	Does Section 1052(c) violate free speech when when the trademark that is refused criticizes a living government official or public figure?

To Think and To Do: Examine the listed cases presented for the 2023-2024 Supreme Court term. Which one(s) are of most interest to you? Why?



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