



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 2024-2025 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 more than 40 cases during its 2024-2025 term. With it being an election year, the Court is expected to save space on its docket for several cases that will likely come forward surrounding voting and elections. Let's examine some of the cases we'll hear this term.

CASE	THE ISSUES	THE QUESTIONS
<u>Garland v. VanDerStok</u>	In 1972, the ATF was created to regulate firearms under the Gun Control Act of 1968. This requires background checks, recorded transfers, and serializing firearms based on their frame and receiver. As guns have evolved with modern designs, the terms frame and receiver have become outdated. In 2022, ATF issued a Final Rule and updated the definitions to better capture modern firearm designs and regulate privately made firearms or "ghost guns." The respondents argue that this Final Rule exceeds the congressionally mandated authority.	Did the ATF exceed its authority in implementing the Final Rule in order to regulate "ghost guns"?
<u>FDA v. Wages & White Lion Investments, L.L.C.</u>	After Congress passed the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act in 2009, manufacturers required approval from the FDA for all tobacco products and marketing. To aid the approval process, a guide was created by the FDA, which stated that only existing data and observational studies would be needed in submitted marketing plans. In January 2020, the FDA announced that it would prioritize enforcement against flavored, cartridge-based e-cigarette products due to their popularity among youth. And in August of 2021, the FDA announced a new requirement for longitudinal studies involving flavored products. White Lion Investments manufacturers were denied from creating flavored e-cigarette products due to the lack of evidence that the products benefit adult users more than the risks posed to youths, despite the fact that they submitted their application in September 2020, before the new requirement was instituted.	Was the Food and Drug Administration's orders denying respondents' applications for authorization to market new e-cigarette products arbitrary and capricious, in violation of the Administrative Procedure Act?
<u>City and County of San Francisco v. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)</u>	The city of San Francisco has been implementing a CSO (combined sewer overflow) system since the late 1960s. Their sewer system collects both sewage and rainwater, and in instances of heavy rain, the CSOs overflow and discharge pollutants into the Pacific Ocean. In 2019, the EPA and California Regional Water Quality Control Board issued a new permit for their Oceanside treatment facility. San Francisco is challenging two provisions in this permit: (1) narrative prohibitions against violating water quality standards and (2) a requirement that they update its long-term CSO control plan. San Francisco states that these provisions are inconsistent with the Clean Water Act and EPA regulations.	Do the limitations in the permit issued to San Francisco for its discharges of wastewater into the Pacific Ocean violate the Clean Water Act?
<u>Facebook v. Amalgamated Bank</u>	In 2018, it became public knowledge that Cambridge Analytica, a British political consulting firm, had obtained personal data from more than 30 million users without their knowledge. Users also discovered that Facebook had continued sharing user data with dozens of whitelisted third parties without express user consent, contradicting Facebook's statements about data control, security, and privacy. Shareholders filed a securities fraud action against Facebook and its executives, alleging violations of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.	Are risk disclosures false or misleading when they do not disclose that a risk has materialized in the past, even if that past event presents no known risk of ongoing or future business harm?

To Think and To Do: Examine the listed cases presented for the 2024-2025 Supreme Court term. Which one(s) are of most interest to you? Why?



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