

Preserving Our Constitution

Our Constitution is under attack. There are at least six ways that we can fight to preserve our Constitution. There is the Soap Box, the Mail Box, the Ballot Box, the Jury Box, the Cash Box and the Ammo Box.

We can get up on a "soap box" and try to convince our fellow citizens of the importance of defending our Constitution. We can put letters in a "mail box" that will let our elected representatives know that we want them to honor their oath of office and the promise they made to uphold and defend our Constitution. We can place votes in the "ballot box" for people of integrity whom we believe will honor their oath to uphold and defend our Constitution. People who use the "cash box" are usually those trying to buy favor with our elected officials for special privileges. Cash rarely buys loyalty to the principles of our Constitution. The "ammo box" was needed by our founding fathers to win our freedom from the oppression of the English monarchy. We do not want to fail with our other options because the "ammo box" is a very expensive way to preserve our freedom and our liberty. Let's not pay the price in money, blood and friends because we were too lazy or too busy or too scared to use our other options.

I have left the "Jury Box" for last because we don't hear enough about the rights our founding fathers gave us with the jury system. We are told we are to judge the facts of a case as jurors. Judges and other authorities have been trying to take away our right to judge the law as well as the facts. In 1794 in *Georgia v. Brailsford* (1794), our first Supreme Court Justice John Jay upheld jury instructions stating **"you [jurors] have ... a right to take upon yourselves to ... determine the law as well as the fact in controversy."**

Thomas Jefferson wrote to Thomas Paine, 1789. ME 7:408, Papers 15:269 **"I consider [trial by jury] as the only anchor ever yet imagined by man, by which a government can be held to the principles of its constitution."** When most of us understand the Constitution and are willing to fight for it, the "jury box" becomes one of the most important tools in *Preserving our Constitution*. When enough juries reject an unconstitutional law, the government will abandon enforcement of that law. Educating ourselves and others about the tenets of our Constitution can be a very effective way of saving the U.S. Constitution. Our Freedom and our Liberty is in our hands!