

FOUNDATION FOR FREEDOM | CONSTITUTIONAL COUNTY TOOLKIT

CONSTITUTIONAL COUNTY STRATEGY OVERVIEW

From Education to Organization to Action

2026 RESOURCE LIBRARY

ASSESS • ORGANIZE • EDUCATE • ACT • SUSTAIN

A practical roadmap for building a county-based movement that strengthens constitutional literacy, accountable local government, citizen participation, and lawful protection of individual rights.

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1. Purpose of the Strategy

The Constitutional County strategy is designed to help citizens move from concern about government overreach to constructive, lawful civic action. It begins with education, builds a local team and public support, develops relationships with officials, and then pursues the strongest constitutional safeguards the county is legally and politically prepared to adopt.

The goal is not a symbolic designation. The goal is a durable local culture of constitutional understanding, due process, transparency, accountability, and citizen involvement.

2. The Strategy at a Glance

1. ASSESS	2. ORGANIZE	3. EDUCATE	4. ACT	5. SUSTAIN
Understand the county, its officials, existing measures,	Form a leadership team, recruit allies, and build a	Teach constitutional principles and	Meet officials, petition, advocate, mobilize citizens,	Implement, monitor, educate, review concerns,

public support, and obstacles.	communications network.	explain the proposed local solution.	and pursue lawful county action.	and develop future leadership.
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3. Step One: Assess Your County

Before launching a public campaign, determine whether the county is ready for a Fast Track effort or whether a stronger constitutional base must first be built.

Has the county previously adopted a Second Amendment sanctuary resolution, Bill of Rights resolution, or similar measure?

Are one or more County Commissioners receptive to constitutional protections?

Is the Sheriff willing to discuss constitutional limits, local responsibilities, and citizen concerns?

Are there churches, civic groups, constitutional organizations, business leaders, or community networks that can mobilize support?

Is there an informed core of citizens willing to attend meetings and speak publicly?

Are there legal, political, or practical objections that should be addressed before an ordinance is introduced?

Decision point: If the foundation is strong, use the Fast Track. If the votes, relationships, or public support are not yet there, use the Long Game.

4. Step Two: Build the County Team

A small, dependable team is more valuable than a large list of passive supporters. Begin with three or four people willing to take responsibility for specific work.

County Team Director — Coordinates meetings, assignments, communication, and the overall county strategy.

Government Outreach Lead — Develops relationships with Commissioners, the Sheriff, election officials, and other local leaders.

Public Outreach Lead — Builds the mailing list, organizes presentations, coordinates public attendance, and communicates with civic and faith groups.

Research & Resources Lead — Maintains ordinances, legal resources, meeting records, county research, and educational materials.

As the effort grows, add specialized volunteers rather than creating unnecessary bureaucracy.

5. Step Three: Build the Constitutional Base

The county team should build relationships across the community. These relationships create the public understanding and political support necessary for lasting reform.

Faith and church communities

Public relations, media, events, and outreach

Sheriff, law enforcement, and first responders

County Commissioners

Supervisor of Elections and election stakeholders

City Councils, mayors, and municipal officials

Education and parent organizations

Local judiciary and legal community

Business and community leadership

State and federal elected officials

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6. Step Four: Educate Before You Advocate

Officials and citizens are more likely to support a proposal they understand. Education should therefore precede political pressure whenever possible.

Core educational topics should include:

The Constitution and Bill of Rights

Federalism and separation of powers

State and county authority

The Tenth Amendment and anti-commandeering doctrine

Due process and judicial review

The distinct legal roles of Commissioners, the Sheriff, local courts, and election officials

Lessons from emergency government actions and other constitutional controversies

The difference between a resolution, an ordinance, and an enforceable legal remedy

7. The Fast Track Strategy

Use the Fast Track when the county already has favorable conditions: receptive officials, an organized citizen base, and a realistic path to passage.

1. Meet individually with the Sheriff and County Commissioners.
2. Present the constitutional concern and the proposed solution in clear, respectful terms.
3. Provide the model ordinance, supporting legal authorities, and examples from other counties.
4. Identify a Commissioner willing to sponsor or champion the proposal.
5. Meet with county legal staff when appropriate and address drafting concerns before the public hearing.

6. Build a coalition of citizens, churches, civic organizations, and community leaders.
7. Prepare speakers and written materials for Commission meetings.
8. Mobilize supporters for hearings and maintain respectful, disciplined public participation.
9. Work through amendments without losing the ordinance's essential protections.
10. After passage, move immediately to implementation, education, and oversight.

8. The Long Game Strategy

Use the Long Game when the county lacks sufficient votes, relationships, public awareness, or constitutional leadership. The objective is to build the foundation required for future success rather than force a premature vote.

Establish two-year and four-year objectives.

Expand constitutional education through meetings, presentations, conferences, and community events.

Develop sustained relationships with elected officials rather than contacting them only when a vote is pending.

Recruit and train volunteers in each major sphere of influence.

Track the public actions and voting records of relevant officials.

Identify and develop principled future leaders where existing leadership is consistently unreceptive.

Support neighboring county teams and learn from successful campaigns.

Reassess county readiness periodically and move to the Fast Track when conditions change.

9. The Four Pillars in the Strategy

County Commissioners — Create lawful county policy, consider ordinances and resolutions, oversee county resources, and provide public accountability.

County Sheriff — Exercises independent constitutional and statutory law-enforcement responsibilities and is an essential participant in discussions about enforcement, public safety, and individual rights.

Local Judiciary — Provides due process and an independent forum for resolving legal disputes and applying controlling constitutional and statutory law.

Supervisor of Elections — Administers elections under applicable law and supports public confidence through security, transparency, accuracy, and accountability.

10. Moving from Resolution to Ordinance

A resolution can be a useful first step because it records the governing body's position and can build public consensus. An ordinance, however, becomes part of county law and may establish duties, procedures, prohibitions, or enforcement mechanisms within the county's lawful authority.

The strongest approach is not necessarily the most aggressive wording. It is the measure that provides meaningful constitutional safeguards while surviving legal review and being capable of fair, consistent implementation.

11. Legal Guardrails

Constitutional County advocacy should defend the rule of law while remaining within it. County authority is not unlimited, and constitutional disputes often require careful legal analysis.

Use anti-commandeering principles only within their actual constitutional scope.

Do not assume a county can unilaterally invalidate controlling state or federal law.

Preserve due process before imposing penalties or adverse findings.

Respect the independent legal authority of constitutional officers and courts.

Use qualified legal counsel to review proposed ordinances and enforcement procedures.

Use petitions, public records, administrative remedies, and judicial review when those are the appropriate lawful mechanisms.

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12. After Passage: Make It Work

The ordinance should become part of an ongoing constitutional accountability system rather than a document that disappears into the county code.

Educate citizens and officials about the adopted measure.

Establish a clear process for receiving constitutional concerns.

Use fair review procedures and maintain appropriate records.

Create a Constitutional Compliance Committee or advisory process where lawful and useful.

Refer questions requiring authoritative legal resolution to counsel or the courts.

Review new technologies, mandates, emergency measures, and government programs for constitutional implications.

Report progress publicly and continue recruiting informed citizen participants.

13. A 90-Day Startup Roadmap

TIME	PRIMARY OBJECTIVES
Days 1–30	Form the core team; assess the county; identify officials and allied organizations; gather existing resolutions, ordinances, and county information.
Days 31–60	Begin educational outreach; meet key community leaders; request initial meetings with the Sheriff and Commissioners; grow the supporter list.

Days 61–90	Choose Fast Track or Long Game; establish measurable goals; begin Commissioner/Sheriff outreach or broader base-building; schedule the next public education event.
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14. Measures of Progress

A functioning county leadership team with assigned responsibilities

A growing citizen contact and supporter list

Regular educational or strategy meetings

Meetings completed with key local officials

Relationships established across multiple spheres of influence

A documented Fast Track or Long Game plan

An identified path toward a resolution, ordinance, or other lawful county action

Continued participation after passage or after a campaign setback

15. Your Next Action

Do not try to accomplish the entire plan at once. Begin with the next achievable action.

BUILD THE TEAM → ASSESS THE COUNTY → EDUCATE → BUILD RELATIONSHIPS → ACT

Then use the specialized guides in the Constitutional County Toolkit for Commissioner outreach, Sheriff outreach, team organization, petitions, compliance procedures, model resolutions, and the model ordinance.

Educational & Legal Notice

This guide is provided for educational and civic-organizing purposes and is not legal advice. County powers and procedures vary by jurisdiction and issue. Proposed ordinances, resolutions, committees, enforcement provisions, and other legal measures should be reviewed by qualified counsel for compliance with current federal, state, and local law.

Selected Constitutional References

U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights

U.S. Constitution, Tenth Amendment

New York v. United States, 505 U.S. 144 (1992)

Printz v. United States, 521 U.S. 898 (1997)

Murphy v. NCAA, 584 U.S. 453 (2018)

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