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Freedom Threatened by Supreme Court

In the 10th Amendment, The U.S. Constitution guarantees that "powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people." Created to limit the growth of a centralized government, the amendment checks the power of the federal government by delegating policy decisions to the people and their state representatives. In 1791, three years after the original constitution was ratified, the 10th Amendment was added over fears that the new American government would come to resemble and surpass the British government's colonial authoritarianism.

Today, the battle lines are drawn between what the federal government has jurisdiction over and what the states as well as individuals should be able to decide. At the heart of the debate is the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court was created to ensure that constitutional freedoms were never endangered by the president or congress. However, as congress faces gridlock, a slurry of new cases dealing with partisan issues are being turned over to the Supreme Court. Supreme Court justices are not apolitical, they are selected for their party loyalty and will make decisions based on their personal ideology and not what is the constitutional precedent. The Supreme Court is being given power not originally guaranteed to it by the constitution and passing laws that should be decided by the people.

Presidential campaigns that attract voters through promises to nominate a certain candidate to the Supreme Court are a worrying sign of federal overreach. As the Democratic and Republican parties become further polarized, so will their Supreme Court candidates. Court rulings have become predictable, splitting over the justices' party lines. When overturning old rulings becomes the purpose of presidents nominating new justices, all interpretations of the constitution are de-legitimized. A lack of a term limit on justices means they will be making these decisions for decades.

The nine justices on the Supreme Court hold too much power. History shows us the damage that the Dred Scott v. Sanford ruling had on the civil rights movement. The Dred Scott decision is not alone, cases such as Plessy v. Ferguson, Korematsu v. United States and Bowers V. Hardwick were great setbacks to protecting the freedom of American citizens. Court decisions like these uphold injustice and provide precedent for lower courts to do so as well. Whether you believe the current justices are using their power for good is irrelevant, the potential for the court to cause lasting harm and injustice is too great a risk.

The rights of the people and their representatives is threatened by the overextended jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. This power is unconstitutional and the 10th Amendment was ratified to prevent the federal government from taking important decisions away from the people. Protecting the 10th amendment is important because freedom from tyranny was a

founding American principle. No governing body should have this much power over individual freedom, important decisions should be given to the people to vote on.