



2025 Constitution Day Lecture

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Wednesday, September 17

3:30 PM

Hill Auditorium, 165 Barrows Hall

Can One Person Save—or Break—a Republic?

The Rise of the Presidency-Centered Government

We live in a time when every national issue seems to come back to one office: the presidency. But was the U.S. Constitution ever meant to work this way? This talk explores how the American president became the center of our political system — and why that's a problem. Drawing on decades of political and constitutional change, we'll look beyond any one leader to ask a bigger question: what happens to democracy when we place too much power, hope, and blame in the hands of a single person?

Sponsored by the UMaine Cultural Affairs and Distinguished Lecture Series, the Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center, and the Program in Western Civilization and American Liberty