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DECATUR

PERFECT WEATHER FOR JOLLY PARADE

Families line the streets of downtown to usher in Christmas



JOSEPH RESSLER PHOTOS, HERALD & REVIEW

Jagger Alexander, 8, gets ready to high five the Grinch in the Decatur Christmas Parade on Saturday. Approximately 70 floats, performers, businesses, and others took part in the Decatur Christmas Parade, according to Jes Younghouse, Earthmover Credit Union's vice president of marketing. "This is a big job," she said. The weather cooperated for this year's annual parade. "This is perfect," Younghouse said. "If it's too warm, it doesn't quite feel like Christmas. And it's not bitter cold."



ABOVE: Decatur Christian School students march in the Decatur Christmas Parade on Saturday, Dec. 6.



RIGHT: Deyly Algrin and Ethan Lopez, 3, wave to Santa and Mrs. Claus at the end of the Decatur Christmas Parade on Saturday.



Young spectators collect candy from the Decatur Christmas Parade on Saturday.

SUPREME COURT

Justices to weigh broad presidential power grab

MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Chief Justice John Roberts led the Supreme Court's conservative majority on a steady march of increasing the power of the presidency, starting well before Donald Trump's time in the White House.

The justices could take the next step in a case being argued Monday that calls for a unanimous 90-year-old decision limiting executive authority to be overturned.

The court's conservatives, liberal Justice Elena Kagan noted in September, seem to be "raring to take that action."

They already allowed Trump, in the opening months of the Republican's second term, to fire almost everyone he wanted despite the court's 1935 decision in *Humphrey's Executor* that prohibits the president from removing the heads of independent agencies without cause.



Trump

The officials include Rebecca Slaughter, whose firing from the Federal Trade Commission is at issue in the current case, as well as officials from the National Labor Relations Board, the Merit Systems Protection Board and the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

The only officials who so far survived efforts to remove them are Lisa Cook, a member of the Federal Reserve board of governors, and Shira Perlmutter, a copyright official with the Library of Congress. Trump said he wants Cook out because of allegations of mortgage fraud; Cook says she did nothing wrong.

The court suggested it will view the Fed differently from other independent agencies, and the justices seemed wary about the economic uncertainty that might result if Trump can fire the leaders of the central bank.

Humphrey's *Executor* has long been a target of the conservative legal movement that embraced an expansive view of presidential power known as the unitary executive.

The case before the high court involves the same agency, the FTC, that was at issue in 1935. The justices established that presidents — Democrat Franklin D. Roosevelt at the time — could not fire the appointed leaders of federal agencies without cause.

The decision ushered in an era of powerful independent federal agencies charged with regulating labor relations, employment discrimination, the air waves and much else.

Proponents of the unitary executive theory say the modern administrative state gets the Constitution all wrong: Federal agencies that are part of the executive branch answer to the president, and that includes the ability to fire their leaders at will.

As Justice Antonin Scalia wrote in a 1988 dissent that took on mythical status among conservatives, "this does not mean some of the executive power, but all of the executive power."

Since 2010 and under Roberts' leadership, the Supreme Court steadily whittled away at laws restricting the president's ability to fire people.

In 2020, Roberts wrote for the court that "the President's removal power is the rule, not the exception" in a decision upholding Trump's firing of the head of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau despite job protections similar to those upheld in *Humphrey's* case.

In the 2024 immunity decision that spared Trump from being prosecuted for his efforts to overturn the 2020 election results, Roberts included the power to fire among the president's "conclusive and preclusive" powers that Congress lacks the authority to restrict.

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