

## WEST KEY NUMBER SYSTEM ON WESTLAW NEXT

The most widely used classification system for American law on the world's most advanced legal research system



The West Key Number System® is the master classification system of U.S. law and widely regarded as the cornerstone of effective legal research. For over 100 years, West Topic and Key Numbers have offered legal researchers a convenient way to zero in on a particular legal issue and quickly find on-point cases. Now on WestlawNext®, WestSearch® incorporates our proprietary analysis of the law with cutting-edge search technology to deliver the best results even faster.

### Why use the West Key Number System?

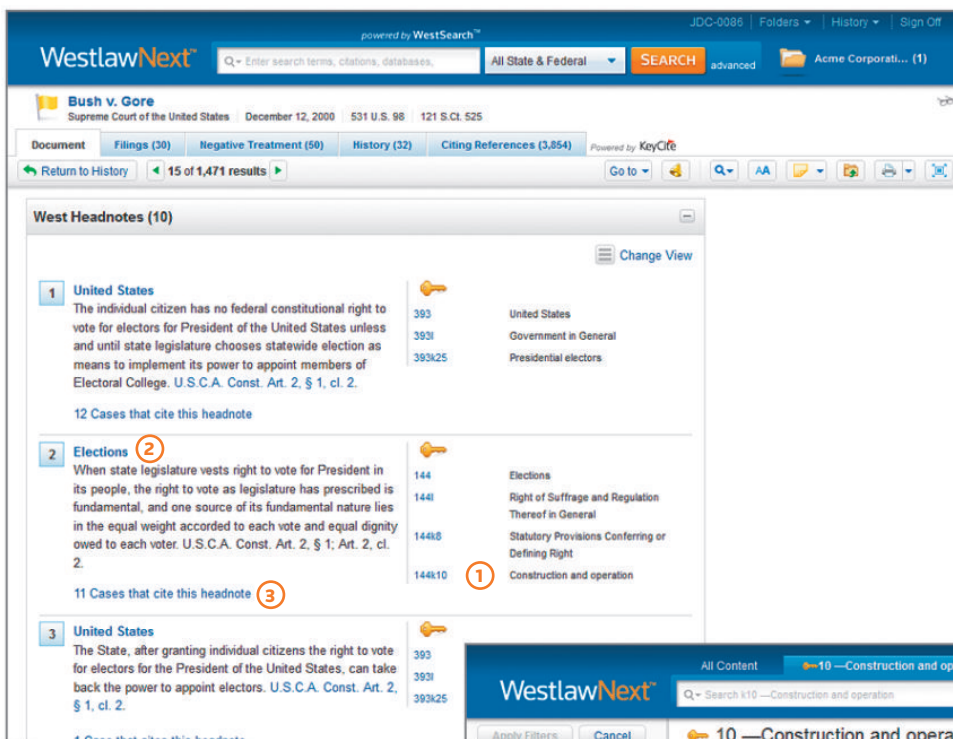
- **It is comprehensive and precise.** West attorney-editors index cases into more than 400 topics and 98,000 points of law, enabling you to quickly find other cases that address your exact legal issue – in any jurisdiction.
- **It helps you search for legal concepts.** Legal research is often a hunt for principles or concepts not easily retrieved with literal word searches. The Key Number System identifies and indexes legal concepts so you can find cases stating or applying a legal concept, even if those terms aren't in the opinion.
- **It helps you find what you need faster.** Easily identify on-point Key Numbers by browsing or searching the outline on WestlawNext. Or, click on Key Numbers inside documents to quickly locate cases with the same or similar legal concepts and principles.
- **It is current and accurate.** As the law evolves, so does the West Key Number System. Each year, we make hundreds or even thousands of changes – adding new Key Numbers for emerging topics and reclassifying expanding areas of the law. Plus, it's completely integrated with KeyCite®, so you'll know the cases you rely on are still good law.

**INSIDE:** See how to use the West Key Number System and how the WestSearch algorithm automatically leverages it for you.



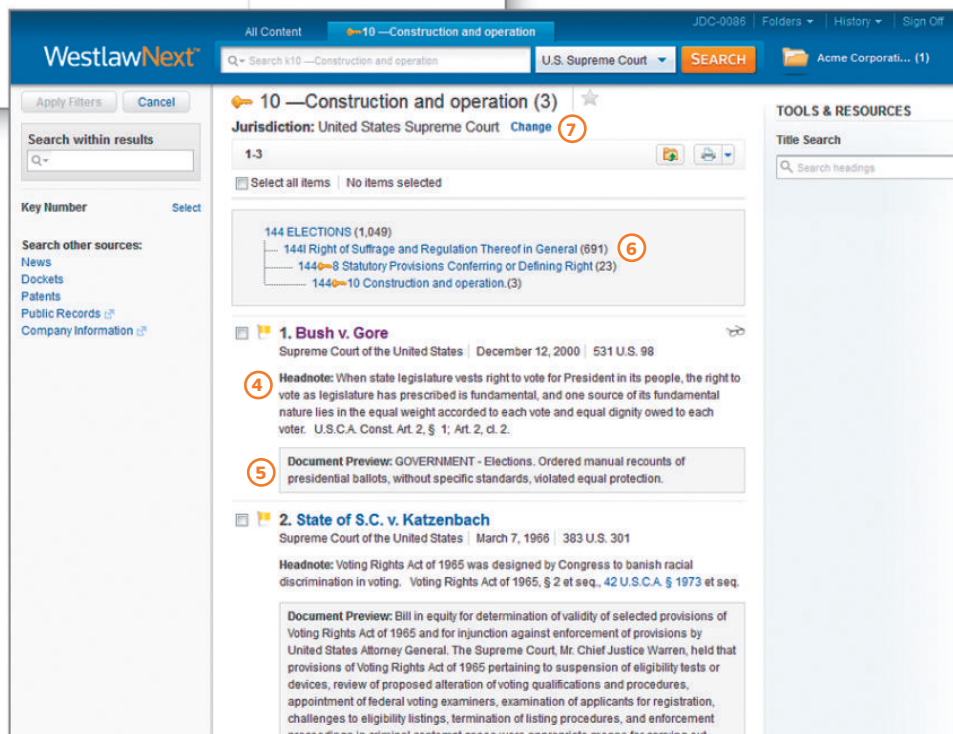
# FIND SIMILAR CASES ON A LEGAL ISSUE

Each legal issue in a case published by West is identified, summarized in a headnote, and assigned a Topic and Key Number in the West Key Number System. This arrangement of breaking a court opinion into distinct points of law and then classifying each point with a number has made the West Key Number System the de facto classification system for all American law. Finding one case on point leads you directly to others – in your jurisdiction or any other – so you'll be confident that you haven't missed anything.



1. Find similar cases on a legal issue or point of law by clicking a Topic or Key Number in the classification hierarchy next to the headnote.
2. Find similar cases on a broad topic by clicking the topic above the headnote.
3. Find cases that cite to your case for the legal issue or point of law in the headnote by clicking the link below the headnote.

4. View headnote results for your Key Number.
5. View summaries of the decisions.
6. Navigate up or down the topic hierarchy to retrieve additional results.
7. Change the jurisdiction of your headnote results at any time.



# FIND RELEVANT CASES USING THE WEST KEY NUMBER DIGEST

The West Key Number Digest contains the complete Topic and Key Number outline used by West attorney-editors to classify headnotes. Use the digest to locate Topic and Key Numbers related to your issue and to retrieve headnotes classified under those Topic and Key Numbers.

**1. Access the West Key Number System page from the Tools tab on the home page.**

**2. Add to Favorites** for direct access from your home page.

**3. Search Key Number titles** to find an on-point Key Number quickly.

**4. Browse a hierarchy of legal topics** to familiarize yourself with an issue or area of law, or to locate specific Key Numbers.

**5. Search for headnotes** classified under a particular Topic or Key Number. Search however you want – simple descriptive terms or Boolean Terms and Connectors – and specify a jurisdiction (up to three) for your results.

**6. View headnotes** by drilling down and clicking on a specific Key Number. Or select multiple Key Numbers and click View Headnotes.

# LET WESTSEARCH TECHNOLOGY AUTOMATE THE PROCESS FOR YOU

The WestSearch algorithm— the world’s most advanced legal search engine – automates the research process by emulating the best practices of experience legal researchers. Enter a query in simple descriptive words and WestSearch will automatically use our proprietary research tools – like the West Key Number System, KeyCite, and West’s statutory indexes – to deliver the best results faster.

## Here’s how the Key Number component works:

The West Key Number System is the foundation of WestSearch. Because West attorney editors have read, summarized, and classified the law for over 100 years, WestSearch can identify the topics of law best represented by your search terms and return highly relevant documents for those topics – even if the documents don’t have

the terms you put into the search box! WestSearch automatically searches every case in every jurisdiction to find headnotes that match your search terms. Then, WestSearch analyzes the Key Numbers those headnotes are classified under and utilizes them to help find on-point documents in your selected jurisdiction.



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