

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ELECTION DAY CELEBRATION!

KIDS MAKE THEIR VOICES HEARD AS NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER SERVES AS KIDS' POLLING PLACE ON ELECTION DAY

Philadelphia, PA (October 17, 2008) – This Election Day, parents can take their kids with them to the polls and then bring them to the National Constitution Center to practice the exciting rite for themselves, as the Center serves as the official kids' polling place! Children of all ages will have the chance to cast a vote, role play as president, report on breaking news in the election, and more when the Center's Grand Hall Lobby is transformed into "Election Central." In addition, all visitors can learn more about the exhilarating election process as they explore the *Headed to the White House* exhibition. Admission to the Center will be FREE for visitors under the age of 18 all day, with the purchase of adult admission.

"Though many of our visitors are too young to cast a vote in the election this year, we want to give them a chance to make their voices heard," said National Constitution Center President and CEO Joseph M. Torsella. "It is our hope that these young citizens will feel the excitement of the election, become engaged in the process early on, and continue to demonstrate active citizenship throughout the rest of their lives, whether by voting, running for office themselves, or upholding democracy in other ways."

ELECTION PROGRAMMING

As the official kids' polling place, all visitors under the age of 18 will have the opportunity to cast a vote with the Center's running tally of gumballs. Each colored gumball signifies a vote for either John McCain (red), Barack Obama (blue), or a third party candidate

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ADD ONE/ELECTION DAY

(white). Visitors can see the most up-to-date results in the Grand Hall Lobby, and the winner will be announced at the end of the day.

Guests will meet President Washington and President Lincoln, as well as political mascots as they collect signatures to add to Election Day autograph books. During the *Run for the Oval Office* show, visitors will learn about the election process from the primaries to the inauguration and learn up-to-the minute updates on the campaigns. These activities will take place in the Grand Hall Lobby from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

For an action-packed election experience, visitors are invited to join in *Electoral College Capture the Flag* at 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 1:30 p.m. on the Grand Hall Overlook. Kids will learn about state histories and electoral votes in this exciting relay race.

They will also have the chance to serve as a newscaster and report on the exciting 2008 election on camera. This special “kidcaster” event, *Breaking News: 2008 Election*, will take place from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Grand Hall Lobby. CBS 3 will select several broadcasts to be featured on www.cbs3.com.

Children and their families can also practice the ins and outs of running for president during the *Destination: White House* show at 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. in the Grand Hall Lobby. Visitors will learn about past presidents, historic elections, and presidential powers throughout history. They will then elect one of their friends or family members to be the next president while learning about platforms and watching some of the most famous campaign ads of all time.

At 1:00 p.m., Kathy O’Connell, host of Kids Corner on WXPB-FM (<http://kidscorner.org>), will join the Center’s Vice President of Education and Exhibits, Dr. Steve Frank, for the *Who Wants to be President?* show in the Grand Hall Lobby. Kids will learn what it takes to run for president in 2040 as Kathy and Steve guide them on the road to the White House. Participants will learn career paths of the presidents, whether or not grades can make or break a presidency, and plenty of other tips to get them started on their campaign.

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Following the show, popular family musician, John Flynn, will perform his hit “Kid’s Bill of Rights,” as well as other fun, kid-friendly tunes.

In addition, visitors can view a display of voting booths from America’s past and learn about different voting methods, the expansion of voting rights, and the importance of voting for all citizens. They can also weigh in on current campaign issues by responding to questions posted on special election “talk back” panels in the Grand Hall Lobby.

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

There is no better place to celebrate Election Day than in the Center’s latest exhibition, *Headed to the White House*. Designed to connect students and families with the excitement, pageantry, and importance of presidential elections, the 3,000 square foot exhibition offers role-playing opportunities and uses multimedia and interactive experiences to convey the importance and excitement of America’s fundamental rite. Visitors can star in their own campaign ad, practice a presidential speech, sit in the Oval Office, and share opinions about which candidate they are supporting.

At 11:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., guests can participate in the *Debate Faceoff!* program inside the exhibition. Visitors will learn how to pull off a great debate by figuring out how to ask tough questions and how to defend the issues that matter most to them. In addition, they will explore how technology has influenced the outcome of debates and candidacies throughout the years.

Election Day is also the final day for visitors to see the *Hindsight is Always 20/20* exhibition on the Center’s front lawn. The exhibition is comprised of 41, six-foot tall freestanding displays, bearing the words from each president’s State of the Union addresses sorted by frequency in the format of an eye chart. *Hindsight is Always 20/20* offers a fascinating snapshot of each president’s term, containing a mix of historically topical keywords and rhetoric unique to each president and the time period in which he served. Tours will be given outside on the lawn between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

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ADD THREE/ELECTION DAY

The Center's main exhibition, *The Story of We the People*, also highlights the history of the presidency, and gives visitors the opportunity to vote for their favorite president of all time and take the presidential Oath of Office. Guests are encouraged to listen to the Center's election-themed iPod audio tour, *Mission: The Oval Office*, led by Kathy O'Connell from WXPB's Kid's Corner. *Mission: The Oval Office* takes visitors on a fun-filled trip through the main exhibition, as they serve as secret agents to reveal the mystery behind the executive branch and learn more about the office of president and those who have occupied it. *Mission: The Oval Office* costs \$2 for members and \$3 for non-members with regular museum admission.

Headed to the White House will be on display at the Center through December 14, 2008. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$14 for seniors ages 65 and up, and \$9 for children ages 4-12. Active military personnel and children ages 3 and under are free. Group rates are also available. Admission to the Center's main exhibition, *The Story of We the People*, including the award-winning theater production "Freedom Rising", is included. For ticket information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

Headed to the White House was made possible through the generous support of The Annenberg Foundation, The Pew Charitable Trusts, and The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, and is sponsored locally by Pennoni Associates and Beneficial Bank.

CBS 3 is the official media partner for the exhibition. CBS 3 (KYW-TV) and The CW Philly 57 (WPSG-TV) are part of CBS Television Stations, a division of CBS Corporation.

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the ideas and values it represents. The Center serves as a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional issues. The museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, "Freedom Rising". The Center also

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ADD FOUR/ELECTION DAY

houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education. Also, as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional discourse, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues.

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