



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ashley Berke  
Senior Public Relations Manager  
215.409.6693  
[aberke@constitutioncenter.org](mailto:aberke@constitutioncenter.org)

**“ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL – A PRESIDENTIAL SUMMER”  
KICKS OFF AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER**

***Perfect Trip for Those Staying Close to Home This Summer***

Philadelphia, PA (May 15, 2008) – Gas prices keeping you close to home this summer? Wonder if the elections this fall will make a difference? Want to be sure your voice is heard? Families staying close to home this summer won't have to travel far to gain insight into the issues at stake in the fall presidential election. The National Constitution Center in Historic Philadelphia will provide the ideal place for families and out-of-town guests to delve into the history of our democracy, as well as our future challenges. Visitors can take the Oath of Office, cast a vote for president, learn about historic elections of the past, and more during **“On the Campaign Trail – A Presidential Summer.”**

As soon as visitors step through the Center's front doors, they will find “election central” in the Grand Hall Lobby, complete with a countdown clock to Election Day. Every guest, even those under the age of 18, will have the chance to cast their vote for president, and they can see up-to-date results in a running tally. Guests ages 18 and over can register to vote on-site, as well. Registration forms are available in the Lobby for residents from every state, and Constitution Center staff members are on-hand to assist with the registration process.

Visitors can also view a special 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 weigh in on current campaign issues by responding to questions posted on special election “talk back” panels in the Lobby.

-MORE-

## ADD ONE/PRESIDENTIAL SUMMER

During the daily *Elections from Start to Finish* presentation, visitors have the chance to learn about in the election process from the primaries to the inauguration. Guests can participate in 5-10 minute demonstrations that include the latest campaign developments, debates, and speeches.

The Center's main exhibition, *The Story of We the People*, also provides countless ways for guests to become engaged in American history and politics. Visitors can vote for their favorite president and take the Oath of Office to be sworn in as the next president. They can also track the history of voting rights from the 1760s to today to see if they could vote in different time periods. Visitors can stand next to lifesize and lifelike statues of two previous presidents – George Washington and James Madison – in *Signers' Hall*, where they can walk among 42 statues of the signers and dissenters of the Constitution. In addition, three new election-related Town Hall Walls have been added as a way for guests to voice their opinions on various topics, including the Electoral College, the requirement of a picture ID to vote, and mandatory voting.

There is no better place to celebrate freedom than in the birthplace of our nation. In addition to ongoing election programming, the Center will host a variety of family friendly activities in celebration of Independence Day. The *Feel the Freedom Festival* will take place daily from Thursday, July 3 through Sunday, July 6 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Kids will have the chance to go on the "Freedom Activity Trail" throughout the exhibits, get patriotic temporary tattoos, learn about the history of July 4<sup>th</sup>, and even fire our very own confetti cannon during the *Fourth of July: The Anniversary of Independence and the Great American Holiday Show* at 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. daily. On Saturday, July 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., the 5<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Regiment/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion will set up camp on the Center's front lawn, complete with an infantry unit, rifle unit, surgical group, and more. The Regiment will show visitors what life was like for soldiers during the Revolutionary War and allow them to experience colonial life through living history demonstrations. On Saturday, July 5 and Sunday, July 6 at 1:30 p.m., visitors can also feel the beat and move their feet with the *Conestoga Angels Marching Corps*, an award-winning drill team from Philadelphia.

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## ADD TWO/PRESIDENTIAL SUMMER

The Center is also kicking off *Sizzling Summer Celebrations* every Friday from May 30 through August 29 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Each Friday will be filled with summer fun as kids make crafts from different time periods, play a variety of games, and hold historic competitions.

As the summer comes to a close, visitors can look ahead to the *Headed to the White House* exhibition, which will open on Constitution Day, September 17, 2008, and run through January 20, 2009, to coincide with the election and inauguration of a new American president. The exhibit, developed by the National Constitution Center, will engage students and families with the excitement, pageantry, and importance of presidential elections.

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 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. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).

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