

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER ANNOUNCES SPEAKERS AND TOPICS FOR
FALL 2017 AMERICA'S TOWN HALL**

Topics include the constitutional legacy of the Civil War and Reconstruction, the state of religious liberty, the future of American conservatism, and the constitutionality of partisan gerrymandering

Guests include Governor Jeb Bush, journalist Bob Schieffer, Gold Star father Khizr Khan, and former White House advisor Cass Sunstein

Philadelphia, PA (September 8, 2017) – The National Constitution Center today announced the fall 2017 lineup for its popular *America's Town Hall* series of constitutional conversations and debates convening leading experts to explore a range of historical topics and some of the most important constitutional issues facing the Supreme Court and American democracy. Programs include the constitutional legacy of the Civil War and Reconstruction, the state of religious liberty, the future of American conservatism, and the constitutionality of partisan gerrymandering.

Featured guests include former National Constitution Center Chair, **Governor Jeb Bush**, who will deliver the 14th Annual John M. Templeton, Jr. Lecture. America's leading scholars, thinkers, and commentators, including **Bob Schieffer**, **Khizr Khan**, **Cass Sunstein**, **Hendrik Meijer**, and **Franklin Foer** will also visit the Center this season to discuss their newest books.

On Monday, September 18, the National Constitution Center will celebrate Constitution Day with an exciting lineup of speakers and programs. Town Hall highlights include a Student Town Hall with **Ken Burns** and **Lynn Novick** about their new documentary on the Vietnam War, a conversation with patriotic philanthropist **David Rubenstein** about the constitutional convention, and an evening talk by **Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein**. The fall Town Hall season will culminate with the annual Bill of Rights Day symposium on December 15.

New this fall, the National Constitution Center will offer Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education credit on-demand and at select in-person at Town Hall programs. Stay tuned for more information at constitutioncenter.org.

The Constitution Center will continue its mission of promoting civil discussion and debate in cities across the nation beginning with a debate in Washington, D.C., covering the Supreme Court's blockbuster case on digital privacy, followed by constitutional conversations in Chicago and Dallas addressing hate speech and the First Amendment.

The National Constitution Center's *America's Town Hall* series features distinguished leaders, scholars, authors, and journalists who speak on the most significant constitutional topics of our time. Many of the Constitution Center's *America's Town Hall* programs are free for Members and reservations are

recommended as programs fill quickly. Reservations can be made by calling 215-409-6700 or by visiting constitutioncenter.org/debate.

Fall 2017 America's Town Hall Programming:

J.M. Opal: Andrew Jackson, the Rule of Law, and the American Nation

12 p.m., Monday, September 11

Free for Members • \$5 Teachers & students • \$8 Non-Members

American historian **J.M. Opal** kicks off the fall season with a discussion on his new book, *Avenging the People* — a bold reinterpretation of the seventh president, whose populist vision continues to shape American democracy today. Includes book sale.

War Powers and the Constitution

6:30 p.m., Wednesday, September 13

Free for 1787 Society Members • \$10 Members, teachers & students • \$18 Non-Members

Oona Hathaway, professor of international law at Yale Law School, **Ben Wittes**, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, and **John Yoo**, professor of law at the University of California at Berkeley, discuss the Framers' original vision of war powers, how presidents have viewed war powers over time, and whether this change is consistent with the Constitution. Includes book sale.

Constitution Day (Observed)

All day, Monday, September 18

Museum admission and all activities are free courtesy of the John Templeton Foundation.

12 p.m. **Student Town Hall with Ken Burns and Lynn Novick**

Filmmakers **Ken Burns** and **Lynn Novick** discuss their new documentary, *The Vietnam War*, in a conversation with David Rubenstein.

2:30 p.m. **The Constitutional Convention with David Rubenstein**

Patriotic philanthropist **David Rubenstein** explores what every American should know about the history of the Constitutional Convention, the drafting and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, and how it affects Americans today.

6:30 p.m. **Constitution Day Address by Rod Rosenstein**

U.S. Deputy Attorney General **Rod Rosenstein** discusses the Constitution and justice in America.

The Future of Religious Freedom

6 p.m., Thursday, September 28

Free

Kristina Arriaga of the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, **Dan Barker** of the Freedom From Religion Foundation, **Khalid Latif** of the Islamic Center at New York University, and **David Saperstein**, former U.S. Ambassador for International Religious Freedom, discuss the state of religious freedom in America.

Presented in partnership with the Penn Program on Democracy, Citizenship, and Constitutionalism.

Jeb Bush: 14th Annual John M. Templeton, Jr. Lecture

6:30-8 p.m., Monday, October 2

Free with Membership

Governor **Jeb Bush**, former Chair of the National Constitution Center, discusses the state of education in America.

The Rise of Populism Abroad

12 p.m., Friday, October 6

Free for Members • \$5 Teachers & students • \$8 Non-Members

Mark Gitenstein, former U.S. Ambassador to Romania, **Edward Luce**, author of *The Retreat of Western Liberalism*, and **Jan-Werner Müller**, author of *What Is Populism?*, explore the growing influence of populism around the world and what it means for constitutionalism and the rule of law. Includes book sale.

Bob Schieffer: Finding Truth in Today's Deluge of News

6:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 17

Free for 1787 Society Members • \$10 Members, teachers & students • \$18 Non-Members

Discussing his new book, *Overload*, legendary journalist **Bob Schieffer** provides an inside look at the changing role of media and asks whether today's citizens are more informed or just overwhelmed. Includes book sale.

Khizr Khan: An American Family

6:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 25

Free for 1787 Society Members • \$20 Members, teachers & students • \$28 Non-Members

Muslim-American Gold Star father and 2016 DNC speaker **Khizr Khan** unveils his new memoir, *An American Family*, and discusses his family's pursuit of the American dream and the importance of the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution. Includes copy of new book.

Traveling America's Town Hall Program: The Future of Digital Privacy: Does the Fourth Amendment Prohibit the Warrantless Search of Our Digital Footprints?

Thursday, October 26 – National Press Club, Washington, DC

Sponsored by the Bernstein Family Foundation.

Edward Ayers: The Civil War and Emancipation in the Heart of America

12 p.m., Monday, October 30

Free for Members • \$5 Teachers & students • \$8 Non-Members

Leading Civil War historian **Edward Ayers** provides a fresh history of two astounding events at the crux of America's history — the destruction of the most powerful system of slavery in the modern world, followed by a political reconstruction establishing the fundamental rights of citizens for formerly enslaved people. Includes book sale.

Cass Sunstein: A Citizen's Guide to Impeachment

6:30 p.m., Monday, November 6

Free for 1787 Society Members • \$10 Members, teachers & students • \$18 Non-Members

Despite intense interest in the subject, the constitutional process of impeachment is widely misunderstood. **Cass Sunstein**, former White House advisor and author of *Impeachment: A Citizen's Guide*, identifies the most common misconceptions and illuminates the constitutional design behind the process. Includes book sale.

Hendrick Meijer: Arthur Vandenberg

12 p.m., Tuesday, November 7

Free for Members • \$5 Teachers & students • \$8 Non-Members

Hendrik Meijer discusses his biography, *Arthur Vandenberg*, on the mid-20th century Michigan senator who evolved from America's leading isolationist into its leading internationalist and spearheaded coalitions that continue to form the foundation of American foreign and domestic policy today. Includes book sale.

Traveling America's Town Hall Program: Does the First Amendment Protect Hate Speech?
Wednesday, November 8 – Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, IL
Sponsored by the Stanton Foundation.

Franklin Foer: The Existential Threat of Big Tech
6:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 15

Free for 1787 Society Members • \$10 Members, teachers & students • \$18 Non-Members

Franklin Foer, national correspondent for *The Atlantic*, explores how tech platforms like Facebook, Apple, Amazon, and Google have transformed the way we think and produced a new culture of misinformation that is trampling values such as privacy, autonomy, and individuality. Includes book sale.

Hamilton's Vision: Federalism, National Authority, and Judicial Review
9-11:45 a.m., Thursday, November 16

Free for Members • \$5 Teachers & students • \$8 Non-Members

America's leading federal judges and scholars discuss the constitutional vision of the rap star of the moment, Hamilton, exploring his views on the scope of presidential, congressional, and judicial power in America. *Presented in partnership with the Federal Judicial Center.*

Traveling America's Town Hall Program: Does the First Amendment Protect Hate Speech?
Tuesday, November 28 –The Debate Chamber at Old Parkland, Dallas, TX
Sponsored by Crow Holdings.

The Future of Conservatism

6:30 p.m., Thursday, November 30

Free for 1787 Society Members • \$10 Members, teachers & students • \$18 Non-Members

The election of President Donald Trump has scrambled political alliances and raised anew the question of what it means to be a conservative in America. Leading thinkers, including *National Interest* editor **Jacob Heilbrunn** and *New York Times* writer-at-large **Sam Tanenhaus**, discuss the future of American conservatism.

Emancipation

12 p.m., Tuesday, December 5

Free for Members • \$5 Teachers & students • \$8 Non-Members

America's leading Civil War and Reconstruction historians **David Blight**, **Eric Foner**, and **Thavolia Glymph**, explore the meaning of freedom, equality, and emancipation as part of the Constitution Center's celebration of the 150th anniversary of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution. Includes book sale.

Gerrymandering and the Future of American Democracy

6:30 p.m., Monday, December 11

Free for 1787 Society Members • \$10 Members, teachers & students • \$18 Non-Members

In the *Gill* case this year, the Supreme Court will determine the constitutional future of partisan gerrymandering. Join the scholars and advocates whose arguments are at the heart of the case, including **Erin Murphy** and **Nicholas Stephanopoulos**, to explore whether and how the Constitution might be interpreted to limit partisan gerrymandering and why it matters for American democracy.

Bill of Rights Day Symposium

10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Friday, December 15

\$5 (includes museum admission)

- 10 a.m. **Gerard Magliocca:** How the Bill of Rights Became the Bill of Rights. Includes book sale.
- 11 a.m. **Noah Feldman:** The Three Lives of James Madison. Includes book sale.
- 12 p.m. **Keynote Conversation:** Newseum President **Jeffrey Herbst** , Knight First Amendment Institute Director **Jameel Jaffer**, and Constitution Center President **Jeffrey Rosen** discuss the state of the First Amendment today.

The National Constitution Center’s onsite Town Hall programs are generously supported by the Paul S. Levy Programming Fund.

About the National Constitution Center

The [National Constitution Center](https://www.constitutioncenter.org) in Philadelphia inspires citizenship as the only place where people across America and around the world can come together to learn about, debate, and celebrate the greatest vision of human freedom in history, the U.S. Constitution. A private, nonprofit organization, the Center serves as America’s leading platform for constitutional education and debate, fulfilling its Congressional charter “to disseminate information about the U.S. Constitution on a nonpartisan basis.” As the **Museum of We the People**, the Center brings the Constitution to life for visitors of all ages through interactive programs and exhibits. As **America’s Town Hall**, the Center brings the leading conservative and liberal thought leaders together to debate the Constitution on all media platforms. As a center for **Civic Education**, the Center delivers the best educational programs and online resources that inspire, excite, and engage citizens about the U.S. Constitution. For more information, call 215-409-6700 or visit [constitutioncenter.org](https://www.constitutioncenter.org).

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