



PRESS RELEASE

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum
to Host National Issues Forum on Healthcare
October 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

HYDE PARK, NY -- In collaboration with the National Issues Forums Institute (NIFI), the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum will host a public discussion on healthcare on October 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home. Light refreshments will be served. This forum is free and open to the public but **pre-registration is required** as space is limited. Please call (845) 486-1968 to register.

In communities all across the country, Presidential Libraries of the National Archives and Records Administration are participating in this initiative. The libraries will each host at least two forums chosen from a range of topics including the economy, health care, immigration, education, and energy. **The Roosevelt Library will hold one public forum and two student forums.** The forums will reflect the interests and enthusiasm of the community that supports the Libraries. As a result, the forums will be held in a variety of locations including the Presidential Libraries, local community centers, public libraries and university campuses.

“Hosting National Issues Forums at the Presidential Libraries is consistent with our emphasis on civic education,” Sharon Fawcett, Assistant Archivist of the United States for Presidential Libraries, said. “Presidential Libraries are public places and it is appropriate for citizens to engage in intense discussions of major public policy issues in

the midst of a presidential campaign. However, the goal should be hosting discussions which are balanced, civil in tone and fair-minded.”

“Participants in a forum,” NIFI President William Muse, said, “deliberate with one another -- eye-to-eye, face to-face, exploring options, weighing others’ views, considering the costs and consequences of public policy decisions. In a democracy, citizens have a responsibility to make choices about how to solve problems and forums help enrich participants’ thinking on public issues. By offering citizens a framework for deliberative forums, NIFI helps the public take an active role in acting on public issues.”

The Presidential Libraries of the National Archives and Records Administration are not libraries in the usual sense. They are archives and museums, bringing together in one place the documents and artifacts of a President and his administration and presenting them to the public for study and discussion without regard for political considerations or affiliations. Presidential Libraries and Museums, like their holdings, belong to the American people. They promote understanding of the presidency and the American experience, preserving and providing access to historical materials, support research, and create interactive programs and exhibits that educate and inspire. For information about the Presidential Libraries visit www.archives.gov/presidential-libraries.

NIFI is a 25-year-old nonpartisan, nationwide network of locally sponsored forums for the consideration of public policy issues. Forums are rooted in the simple notion that citizens need to come together to reason and talk -- to deliberate about common problems. For more information about the National Issues Forums Institute visit www.nifi.org.

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The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum is dedicated to preserving historical material and providing innovative educational programs, community events, and public outreach. It is one of thirteen presidential libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration. For information about the FDR Presidential Library call (800) 337-8474 or visit www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu.

Historic Hyde Park is a group of government and private non-profit organizations based in Hyde Park, New York. Each has a unique mission, but all are united in their dedication to extending the legacy of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt to new generations. HHP includes the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site, the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill, the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, and Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site. For more information about HHP visit www.HistoricHydePark.org.

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