



Jimmy Carter Library & Museum News Release

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Presidential Libraries to Host Issues Forums

Between Labor Day and Election Day This Fall

Atlanta, GA.- In collaboration with the National Issues Forums Institute (NIFI), the twelve Presidential Libraries of the National Archives and Records Administration will host a series of discussions on public policy issues between Labor Day and Election Day this fall. All forums will be open to the public.

Each Presidential Library will host a series of at least three forums focusing on health care and other topics including immigration, Federal debt, education, and energy. The forums will reflect the interests of the community that supports the Libraries. In some communities, other locations such as local community centers, public libraries, and university campuses will also host these forums.

"Hosting National Issues Forums at the Presidential Libraries," commented Archivist of the United States Allen Weinstein, "is consistent with the National Archives' emphasis on civic education. 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."

The Jimmy Carter Presidential Library will host three forums:

- 1) **Health Care in America: How Can We Make It More Affordable? September 17th from 3-5 pm**
- 2) **The Energy Problem: Choices for an Uncertain Future. October 1st from 3-5 pm**
- 3) **What is the 21st Century Mission for Our Public Schools? October 8th from 3-5 pm**

Details of the forums are at <http://www.libs.uga.edu/russell/exhibits/atlanta.shtml>

"Participants in a forum," NIFI chairman William Winter, 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."

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.