



Jimmy Carter Library & Museum News Release

441 Freedom Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30307-1498

404-865-7100

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Contact: Tony Clark, 404-865-7109

Tony.Clark@NARA.gov

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JIMMY CARTER PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY TO HOST NATIONAL ISSUES FORUMS *PUBLIC INVITED TO DISCUSS HEALTH CARE, ENERGY & EDUCATION ISSUES*

((NOTE SCHEDULE CHANGE))

Atlanta, GA. -In collaboration with the National Issues Forums Institute (NIFI), Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum will host a series of discussions on public policy issues between Labor Day and Election Day this fall. All forums are open to the public.

The forums will take place at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library, 441 Freedom Parkway, Atlanta, Georgia on the following dates:

September 17, 2008 from 3-5 p.m. on the issue, *Coping with the Cost of Health Care: How Do We Pay for What We Need?*

October 2, 2008 from 3-5 p.m. on the issue, *The Energy Problem: Choices for an Uncertain Future.*

October 13, 2008 from 3-5 p.m. on the issue, *What is the 21st Century Mission for Our Public Schools?*

All 12 Presidential Libraries of the National Archives and Records Administration, in communities all across the country, are participating in this initiative. The libraries will each host a forum on health care and other forums will be on a range of topics including immigration, federal debt, education, and energy. 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,” Allen Weinstein, Archivist of the United States, 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 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.

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For press information, contact the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library staff at 404-865-7100 or visit the web site <http://www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov>

For information about the Presidential Libraries visit www.archives.gov/presidential-libraries/

For information about NIFI, contact Bob Daley at (937) 434-7300 or e-mail at daley@kettering.org. Or, you could visit the National Issues Forums Institute web site at www.nifi.org