



Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library & Museum

200 SE 4th Street, Abilene, KS 67410-2900

Tel: 785-263-6700; Fax: 785-263-6715

www.eisenhower.archives.gov



NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Linda K. Smith
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Eisenhower Presidential Library to Host National Issues Forums Series This Fall

In collaboration with the National Issues Forums Institute (NIFI), Kansas State University, and the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum's Kansas Town Hall initiative, a series of discussions on public policy issues will occur this fall between Labor Day and Election Day. All forums are open to the public. Please call 785-263-6700 or 1-877-RING IKE to reserve a spot at any or all of the forums listed below.

Forums will be held:

- On September 11 at the Kansas State University Alumni Center, Manhattan on the issue of "America's Role in the World: Building A More Secure Future"
- On September 30 at Kansas State University Salina - College Center Conference Room on the issue of "The Energy Problem: Choices for an Uncertain Future"
- On October 21 at the Eisenhower Presidential Library Visitors Center Auditorium on the issue of "Coping with the Cost of Health Care: How Do We Pay for What We Need?"

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."

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.

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 Eisenhower Presidential Library staff at 785-263-6700 or visit the web site at www.eisenhower.archives.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 email at daley@kettering.org. Or, you could visit the National Issues Forums Institute web site at www.nifi.org.

The proudest thing I can claim is that I am from Abilene.
Dwight D. Eisenhower, Homecoming Speech, Abilene, Kansas, June 22, 1945

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please visit us at www.eisenhower.archives.gov