

# NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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## **AUTHOR DONNA BRAZILE DISCUSSES HER BOOK AND HER ROLE AS A WOMAN IN POLITICS AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER**

Philadelphia, PA (June 10, 2005) – Guests can hear from acclaimed author and political strategist, Donna Brazile, at the National Constitution Center in a *Citizens' Constitutional Conversation*, “Stirring the Pots in American Politics” on June 22, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. in the Kirby Auditorium. Brazile will discuss her new book and her experiences in politics, which range from organizing voter registration drives in the parishes of her native Louisiana to managing Al Gore’s 2000 Presidential campaign. Tickets cost \$6 for students, \$9 for members and \$12 for non-members. Reservations are required and can be made at 215-409-6700.

Brazile’s book, *Cooking with Grease: Stirring the Pots in American Politics*, is a powerful, behind-the-scenes memoir of the life and times of the tenacious political organizer and first African-American woman to head a major presidential campaign. The book chronicles Brazile’s life from childhood to her rise to great political and personal achievements. Brazile grew up one of nine children in a working-poor family in New Orleans, a place where talking politics comes as naturally as stirring a pot of seafood gumbo. She learned how to cook from watching her mother stir the pots in their family kitchen, and inherited her love of reading and politics from her grandmother.

Brazile fought her first political fight at age nine, successfully campaigning for a city council candidate who promised a playground in her neighborhood. The day after Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, she committed her future to political and social activism. By the 2000 presidential election, Brazile had become a major player in American political history, and she remains one of the most outspoken and forceful political activists of our day. Over the years, her experience in politics have ranged from lobbying for student financial aide and organizing

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demonstrations to make Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday a national holiday, to working on the Jesse Jackson, Dick Gephardt, Michael Dukakis, Bill Clinton, and Al Gore presidential campaigns.

Prior to joining the Gore campaign in 2000, Brazile was also Chief of Staff and Press Secretary to Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton of the District of Columbia where she helped guide the District's budget and local legislation on Capitol Hill. She is a weekly contributor and political commentator on CNN's Inside Politics and American Morning, as well. In addition, she is a columnist for Roll Call Newspaper and appears regularly on MSNBC's Hardball and Fox's Hannity and Colmes. A veteran political organizer and campaign manager, Brazile is an at-large member of the Democratic National Committee and designed the Voter/Campaign Assessment Program for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, a program that has been crucial in boosting black turnout in key congressional districts.

In recognition of her many achievements, Brazile has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including Washingtonian Magazine's 100 Most Powerful Women in Washington, D.C., Essence Magazine's 50 Most Powerful Women in America and the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Award for Political Achievement.

Located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, the National Constitution Center is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and its relevance to Americans' daily lives. Opened on July 4, 2003, the museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, "Freedom Rising". Beginning June 10, the museum will also feature its first new traveling exhibition, *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*. The Center is open seven days a week, and admission is \$9 for adults and \$7 for seniors ages 62 and up, children ages 4-12, and active military personnel. Children ages 3 and under are free. Group rates are also available.

The National Constitution Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education and debates, and as a home for visiting scholars. Also, serving as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional debate, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. For more information, call 215.409.6600 or visit [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).

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