

# NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

525 Arch Street | Independence Mall  
Philadelphia | PA 19106 | T 215 409 6600 | F 215 409 6650  
[www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org)

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CONTACT: Ashley Berke  
Senior Public Relations Manager  
215.409.6693  
[aberke@constitutioncenter.org](mailto:aberke@constitutioncenter.org)

## HAROLD HOLZER DISCUSSES THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISION OF LINCOLN'S PRESIDENCY AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Philadelphia, PA (November 10, 2008) – Lincoln scholar **Harold Holzer** will join the National Constitution Center to discuss the Great Secession Winter - the four months between Abraham Lincoln's election and inauguration, when the president-elect made the most important decision of his coming presidency. During this time, Lincoln decided there would be no compromise on slavery or secession of the slaveholding states, even at the cost of an inevitable Civil War. This program will take place on Monday, December 1, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free, but reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

In *Lincoln: President-Elect*, the first book to concentrate on Lincoln's public stance and private agony during these months, Holzer presents the momentous consequences when Lincoln first demonstrated his determination and leadership. He rejected compromises urged on him that might have preserved the Union for a little while longer, but would have enshrined slavery for generations. Though Lincoln has been criticized for failing to appreciate the severity of the secession crisis that greeted his victory, Holzer shows that he waged a shrewd and complex campaign to prevent the expansion of slavery, while vainly trying to limit secession to a few Deep South states.

Harold Holzer is the co-chairman of the U.S. Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, and has authored or coauthored thirty books on Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War. He is the winner of a Lincoln Prize for *Lincoln at Cooper Union*, four Barondess Awards, and three awards from the Lincoln Group of New York. He serves as senior vice president for external affairs at The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

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ADD ONE/LINCOLN: PRESIDENT-ELECT

A book sale and signing will follow the program, courtesy of Joseph Fox Bookshop.

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the ideas and values it represents. The Center serves as a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional issues. 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". The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education. Also, as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional discourse, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).

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