

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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MANN AND ORNSTEIN ON OUR BROKEN CONGRESS AND ITS NEW DIRECTION SINCE THE MIDTERM ELECTIONS AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Philadelphia, PA (November 14, 2006) – Last week, American voters spoke in an historic election. The political pundits and television talking heads have all weighed in on the meaning of the midterm election results. Now, hear from two of the nation's most respected scholars of government and politics, **Thomas E. Mann** and **Norman J. Ornstein**, at the National Constitution Center on Tuesday, December 5, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. as they discuss their new book, *The Broken Branch: How Congress is Failing America and How to Get it Back on Track*. Tickets cost \$15 for non-members, \$12 for members, and \$6 for students and K-12 teachers. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

In *The Broken Branch*, Mann and Ornstein expose the historical roots of Congress' current maladies. They examine 40 years of uninterrupted Democratic control of the House and the stunning midterm election victory in 1994 that propelled Republicans into the majority of the House and Senate. The byproduct of that long, grueling, and ultimately successful Republican campaign, the authors reveal, was a weakened institution, bitterly divided along party lines. Gone is the decentralized, committee-based legislature. It has been replaced by an institution where party trumps committee, campaigning triumphs over legislating, fundraising time beats out constituent time, and lobbyists, breeding like rabbits, overwhelm members of Congress and their staffs.

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Thomas E. Mann is the W. Averell Harriman Chair and Senior Fellow in Governance Studies at The Brookings Institution, and the author of numerous books on American government. He is a frequent contributor to the *Washington Post* and *The New York Times*, among other publications. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Mann has served as co-director (with Ornstein) of the Transition to Governing Project and senior counselor (with Ornstein) to the Continuity of Government Commission.

Norman J. Ornstein is a Resident Scholar at the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research. An election analyst for CBS News, he writes a weekly column called "Congress Inside Out" for *Roll Call*. He has also contributed to *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *Foreign Affairs*. He appears regularly on television programs, including "NewsHour with Jim Lehrer," "Nightline," and the "Charlie Rose Show." He serves on the board of the Public Broadcasting Service and several other nonprofit institutions. Like Mann, he is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Raymond W. Smock will moderate the event. Smock is the Director of the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies at Shepherd University. He served as the first official Historian of the U. S. House of Representatives from 1983 to 1995. He is the past president of the Association for Documentary Editing and the Society for History in the Federal Government, and currently serves as president of the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress. Smock's most recent publications include *Masters of the House: House Leadership over Two Centuries* and *Landmark Documents on the U. S. Congress*.

A book sale and signing will follow the program, courtesy of the 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. Opened on July 4, 2003, the Constitution Center is a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional issues. The museum dramatically tells

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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, serving as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional discourse, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. The National Constitution Center's programs earned the organization a 2006 Best of Philly® award from *Philadelphia* magazine as the "Best Place To Smarten Up". For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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