

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER ANNOUNCES SPEAKERS AND TOPICS FOR WINTER 2016
*AMERICA'S TOWN HALL***

Topics include Immigration, Policing and Privacy, and the Presidential Election

Guests include former U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates, political journalist Jacob Weisberg and former New York City Schools Chancellor Joel Klein

Philadelphia (January 11, 2016) – The National Constitution Center today announced the winter 2016 lineup for its popular *America's Town Hall* series of constitutional conversations and debates. This year's lineup will explore the timely topics of Immigration, Policing, and the Presidential Election, among others. Guest speakers include former U.S. Secretary of Defense **Robert M. Gates**, political journalist **Jacob Weisberg** and former New York City Schools Chancellor **Joel Klein**.

The Center's *America's Town Hall* series will also travel to San Francisco with the American Constitution Society and the Federalist Society on March 16 to debate *Vergara vs. California*, a landmark dispute over the constitutionality of teacher tenure. This debate is sponsored by the Templeton Foundation.

The National Constitution Center's *America's Town Hall* program series features distinguished leaders, scholars, authors, and journalists who speak on the most significant constitutional topics of our time. Many of the National Constitution Center's *America's Town Hall* events are free and reservations are recommended as programs fill quickly. To make a reservation call 215-409-6700 or visit constitutioncenter.org/debate.

Please see below for a complete list of *America's Town Hall* winter programming.

Robert M. Gates: Lessons on Leadership from 50 Years of Public Service

6:30 p.m., Thursday, January 21, 2016

\$7 Members, teachers & students • \$10 public • Free for 1787 Society Members

Former U.S. Secretary of Defense **Robert M. Gates** returns to the Center to unveil his latest book, *A Passion for Leadership* — an urgent assessment of why big institutions are failing us and how smart leadership can affect real improvement regardless of scale. Includes book signing.

Judge Guido Calabresi: The Future of Law and Economics

12 p.m., Monday, February 1, 2016

Free

Acclaimed legal scholar and Judge **Guido Calabresi** will discuss his new book, *The Future of Law and Economics: Essays in Reform and Recollection*. Includes book signing.

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Liberty’s Nemesis: The Unchecked Expansion of the State

12 p.m., Monday, February 8, 2016

Free

Dean Reuter of the Federalist Society and **John Yoo**, legal scholar and former Justice Department official, are joined by former White House Counsel **C. Boyden Gray** and Center for Equal Opportunity President **Linda Chavez** to discuss why the concentration of power in administrative agencies may be the greatest threat to our liberties today. Includes book signing.

Headed to the White House Exhibit Launch Party

6 p.m., Thursday, February 11, 2016

Free for Members • \$12 teachers & students • \$15 public

A conversation with top presidential historians including **Annette Gordon-Reed**, **Geoffrey Ward**, and **Sean Wilentz**, followed by an exclusive preview of the Center’s *Headed to the White House* exhibit

This program is presented in partnership with the new feature exhibit Headed to the White House.

Has the President Gone Too Far on Immigration?

6:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 16, 2016

Free for Members • \$7 teachers & students • \$10 public

After the House declined to pass a Senate immigration bill, President Obama used his executive authority to defer the deportation of millions of immigrants living in the U.S. illegally. Is the President’s policy unconstitutional? This debate will feature celebrated constitutional scholars **Josh Blackman**, **Adam Cox**, **Cristina Rodriguez**, and **Nicholas Quinn Rosenkranz**.

Voting in America: How Campaign Finance and Election Laws Threaten Democracy

12 p.m., Thursday, February 18, 2016

Free

Leading election law scholars **Edward B. Foley** and **Richard L. Hasen** offer their critical take on how the structure of the American political system came to be. Includes book signing.

This program is presented in partnership with the new feature exhibit Headed to the White House.

Persuading the People: Presidential Primaries and Political Spin

12 p.m., Thursday, February 25, 2016

Free

Communications scholar **Geoffrey Cowan** and presidential historian **David Greenberg** offer a behind-the-scenes look at the history and influence of the presidential campaign—from Theodore Roosevelt and the first presidential primary to today. Includes book signing.

This program is presented in partnership with the new feature exhibit Headed to the White House.

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Jacob Weisberg: The Legacy of Ronald Reagan

6:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 2, 2016

\$7 Members, teachers & students • \$10 public • Free for 1787 Society Members

Political journalist **Jacob Weisberg** provides a bracing portrait of America’s 40th president, offering a fresh psychological interpretation on the conservative icon who reshaped American politics and laid the groundwork for the end of the Cold War. Includes book signing.

This program is presented in partnership with the new feature exhibit Headed to the White House.

Joel Klein: The 13th Annual John M. Templeton, Jr. Lecture

6:30 p.m., Thursday, March 10, 2016

Free, Member-only event

Joel Klein, former of the New York City Schools Chancellor, explores the problems plaguing public education and offers a blueprint for how they can be solved. *This event requires a current National Constitution Center membership.*

Privacy and Policing

6 p.m., Thursday, March 31, 2016

\$7 Members, teachers & students • \$10 public • Free for 1787 Members

Digital technologies—drones, body cameras, and more—herald a new era of policing, even as they raise privacy concerns. What is the right balance between liberty and safety? National experts **Barry Friedman, Tracey Meares** and others discuss the stakes and debate the issues.

Presented in partnership with the American Law Institute’s Commission on Policing and Technology.

About the National Constitution Center

The [National Constitution Center](http://www.constitutioncenter.org) in Philadelphia inspires active citizenship as the only place where people across America and around the world can come together to learn about, debate, and celebrate the greatest vision of human freedom in history, the U.S. Constitution. A private, nonprofit organization, the Center serves as America’s leading platform for constitutional education and debate, fulfilling its Congressional charter “to disseminate information about the U.S. Constitution on a non-partisan basis.” As the **Museum of We the People**, the Center brings the Constitution to life for visitors of all ages through interactive programs and exhibits. As **America’s Town Hall**, the Center brings the leading conservative and liberal thought leaders together to debate the Constitution on all media platforms. As a center for **Civic Education**, the Center delivers the best educational programs and online resources that inspire, excite, and engage citizens about the U.S. Constitution. For more information, call 215-409-6700 or visit constitutioncenter.org.

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