

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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LEFT AND RIGHT: FORMER GOVERNORS EDWARD RENDELL AND CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN GIVE INSIDER'S VIEW ON ELECTION 2012 AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Philadelphia, PA (March 20, 2012) – In the current political climate of polarization and “my way or the highway” ideologies, much is at stake during the upcoming presidential election. **Edward G. Rendell**, the Democratic former governor of Pennsylvania and Senior Political Analyst for NBC and **Christine Todd Whitman**, former Republican Governor of New Jersey and current board member of Americans Elect will sit down for a frank conversation about the contentious 2012 election. They will offer contrasting perspectives and the insider’s viewpoint on several fronts, including the election’s key players and party issues like health care, immigration, the economy and the environment. They also will discuss the roles their perspective states will play in determining the next President of the United States. National Constitution Center President & CEO **David Eisner** will moderate the discussion. The event will take place on **Monday, April 9 at 6:30 p.m.** Admission is \$7 for members, students, and teachers, \$10 for non-members, and free for 1787 Society members. Advanced registration is required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700 or online at www.constitutioncenter.org. *This event is part of Election 2012, the Center’s programming series on the key issues facing Americans during this important election year.*

This timely discussion with the two former governors will occur just two weeks before Pennsylvanians head to the polls and vote in the April 24th Primary. Rendell and Whitman will share their opinions on the caucus and primary system and whether it is working in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. In addition, the former governors will delve into the fundamental

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ideological differences between their parties, including President Obama's health care reform law and campaign finance and energy policy. Rendell and Whitman also will discuss the role that a third party candidate could play in this year's election.

"Our nation is at a crossroads and our leaders must find the courage to do the right thing," said Governor Rendell.

"The vitriol that has characterized Washington in recent years and pervaded this year's Republican primary is extremely damaging to our country's future," said Governor Todd Whitman. "Compromise is nearly impossible in this environment, and it is time for an alternative. I look forward to talking about how we can get back to governing wisely."

Governor Edward G. Rendell is a partner at the law firm of Ballard Spahr LLP, where he devotes his practice to public/private partnerships, energy, environmental issues, economic development, health care and higher education, with an emphasis on infrastructure. He served two terms as governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania from 2003 to 2011 and chaired the National Governors Association in 2008-09. Governor Rendell previously served as two-term mayor of Philadelphia from 1992 to 2000. A veteran of the U.S. Army, he joined the Philadelphia district attorney's office after graduating from Villanova Law School, rising to chief of homicide in 1972 and to district attorney in 1977. In January of this year, Governor Rendell was named a senior political analyst for NBC News.

Governor Christine Todd Whitman is the president of The Whitman Strategy Group (WSG), a consulting firm that specializes in energy and environmental issues. Governor Whitman served in the cabinet of President George W. Bush as administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from January 2001 until June 2003. She was the 50th governor of the State of New Jersey, serving as its first female governor from 1994 until 2001.

The National Constitution Center is the first and only nonprofit, nonpartisan institution devoted to the most powerful vision of freedom ever expressed: the U.S. Constitution. Located on Independence Mall in Historic Philadelphia, the birthplace of American freedom, the Center

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illuminates constitutional ideals and inspires active citizenship through a state-of-the-art museum experience, including hundreds of interactive exhibits, films and rare artifacts; must-see feature exhibitions; the internationally acclaimed, 360-degree theatrical production *Freedom Rising*; and the iconic *Signers' Hall*, where visitors can sign the Constitution alongside 42 life-size, bronze statues of the Founding Fathers. As America's forum for constitutional dialogue, the Center engages diverse, distinguished leaders of government, public policy, journalism and scholarship in timely public discussions and debates. The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, the national hub for constitutional education, which offers cutting-edge civic learning resources both onsite and online. Freedom is calling. Answer it at the National Constitution Center. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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