

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER ANNOUNCES NEW *AMERICA'S TOWN HALL*  
PROGRAMS FOR OCTOBER THROUGH DECEMBER 2020**

*Speakers include David French of The Dispatch, religious freedom advocate Kristina Arriaga, and leading Shakespeare expert Barry Edelstein*

*Topics include contentious presidential elections, church-state separation, Shakespeare and America's founding, and the Equal Rights Amendment*

Philadelphia, PA (October 16, 2020) – Today, the National Constitution Center released a lineup of new programs as part of its *America's Town Hall* series of constitutional conversations and debates. Programs are free to the public and will be held online.

On Monday, October 19, election scholars **James Ceaser** of the University of Virginia, **Edward Foley** of The Ohio State University, **Robert Lieberman** of Johns Hopkins University, and **Franita Tolson** of the University of Southern California Gould School of Law, join the National Constitution Center to discuss key controversial and contested elections throughout American history—including 1800, 1860, 1876, and 2000—and what we can learn from them as we approach Election Day.

Other election-themed programs include a conversation on social media platforms and the fight against election disinformation on October 29. Additional programs will be added. See below for a full list of programming. Up-to-date program information is available at [constitutioncenter.org/debate](https://constitutioncenter.org/debate).

**Upcoming *America's Town Hall* programming:**

***America's Contentious Presidential Elections: A History***

Monday, October 19, 7 p.m. ET

*Free Online*

Don't miss a timely conversation exploring key controversial and contested elections throughout American history—including 1800, 1860, 1876, and 2000—and what we can learn from them as we approach Election Day. Election scholars **James Ceaser** of the University of Virginia, **Edward Foley** of The Ohio State University and author of *Ballot Battles: The History of Disputed Elections in the United States*, **Robert Lieberman** of Johns Hopkins University and author of *Four Threats: The Recurring Crises of American Democracy*, and **Franita Tolson** of the University of Southern California Gould School of Law, join moderator **Jeffrey Rosen**, president and CEO of the National Constitution Center, to discuss. *This program is presented in partnership with the [SNF Agora Institute at Johns Hopkins University](https://snfagora.jhu.edu).*

***Social Media Platforms and the Fight Against Election Disinformation***

Thursday, October 29, 7 p.m. ET

*Free Online*

**Nathaniel Persily**, co-director of the Stanford Program on Democracy and the Internet, and others explore what social media platforms are doing to tackle disinformation, foreign interference, and fake

news during this election season. **Jeffrey Rosen**, president and CEO of the National Constitution Center, moderates. *This program is presented in partnership with the [Freedom Forum](#).*

### **Church-State Separation: What Does the Constitution Really Say?**

Thursday, November 19, 7 p.m. ET

*Free Online*

Religious freedom advocate **Kristina Arriaga** and scholar **Stephanie Barclay** of Notre Dame Law School join constitutional scholars **Erwin Chemerinsky** and **Howard Gillman**, authors of *The Religion Clauses: The Case for Separating Church and State*, to debate what the Constitution says about the relationship between church and state and provide their take on the most recent religious liberty Supreme Court cases. **Jeffrey Rosen**, president and CEO of the National Constitution Center, moderates.

### **Shakespeare and the Making of America**

Monday, November 23, 12 p.m. ET

*Free Online*

Echoes of Shakespeare can be heard in some of the most fundamental documents in American history, including the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. Join one of America's leading authorities on Shakespeare **Barry Edelstein** of The Old Globe; **Kevin Hayes**, author of *Shakespeare and the Making of America*; and **Lucas Morel** of Washington and Lee University; for a look at how the founders understood Shakespeare and how his work relates to American constitutional values today. **Jeffrey Rosen**, president and CEO of the National Constitution Center, moderates.

### **What the Founders Learned from the Greeks and Romans**

Thursday, December 3, 12 p.m. ET

*Free Online*

**Carl Richard**, author of *The Founders and the Classics*, **Thomas Ricks**, author of *First Principles: What America's Founders Learned from the Greeks and Romans and How That Shaped Our Country*, and **Caroline Winterer** of Stanford University explore the influence of the Greeks and Romans on America's founders and ultimately a new nation. **Jeffrey Rosen**, president and CEO of the National Constitution Center, moderates.

The National Constitution Center's *America's Town Hall* series features distinguished leaders, scholars, authors, and journalists who speak on the most significant constitutional topics of our time. The Center's online *America's Town Hall* programs are free. Viewers can register for the Zoom sessions at [constitutioncenter.org/debate](https://constitutioncenter.org/debate) or watch from [youtube.com/ConstitutionCenter](https://youtube.com/ConstitutionCenter). Archived *America's Town Hall* programs can be found on the *Interactive Constitution* at [constitutioncenter.com/interactive-constitution/media-library](https://constitutioncenter.com/interactive-constitution/media-library).

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### **About the National Constitution Center**

The [National Constitution Center](#) in Philadelphia brings together people of all ages and perspectives, across America and around the world, 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 nonpartisan 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 **Headquarters for Civic Education**, the Center delivers the best educational programs and online resources that inspire citizens and engage all Americans in learning about the U.S. Constitution. For more information, call 215-409-6700 or visit [constitutioncenter.org](http://constitutioncenter.org).