

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

525 Arch Street | Independence Mall
Philadelphia | PA 19106 | T 215 409 6600 | F 215 409 6650
www.constitutioncenter.org

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CONTACTS: Ashley Berke
Public Relations Manager
215.409.6693
aberke@constitutioncenter.org

AUTHORS DEBATE THE NEED FOR REVISIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Philadelphia, PA (September 10, 2007) - Is the United States Constitution outdated? Has the nation outgrown its founding document or, to the contrary, are we losing sight of the Framers' intent? Do we need to regain our "constitutional conscience?" On Monday, October 1, 2007 at 6:30 p.m., the National Constitution Center welcomes **Larry Sabato, Michael Oreskes** and **Eric Lane** to help answer these questions and determine whether our Constitution needs updating or greater fidelity to its guiding principles. Admission is free, but reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

In his new book, *A More Perfect Constitution*, Larry Sabato argues that in order to restore equity for ordinary citizens, we must make crucial revisions to the Constitution. He presents twenty-three creative proposals to reinvigorate American governance. Combining idealism and pragmatism, Sabato's ideas range from the structure of Congress and length of the president's term, to the number and terms of the Supreme Court justices, the vagaries of the Electoral College, and a compelling call for national service.

Larry Sabato is the founder and director of the Center for Politics at the University of Virginia and author of *Divided States of America*. A Rhodes scholar, he received his doctorate in politics from Oxford and has taught at the University of Virginia since 1978.

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ADD ONE/IS THE CONSTITUTION OUTDATED?

Michael Oreskes and Eric Lane challenge Americans in their new book, *The Genius of America: How the Constitution Saved Our Country and Why It Can Again*, to let the U.S. Constitution work as it was designed and to reconnect with the document that is so central to our success. They ask that Americans lean on the framers and their experience, which was gained during some of our country's most turbulent and contentious times, in order to move forward.

Michael Oreskes is the executive editor of the *International Herald Tribune*. Before arriving at the *Tribune*, he served as deputy managing editor, Washington bureau chief, and metropolitan editor of the *New York Times*. Oreskes will join the program live via video conference from Paris.

Eric Lane is professor of law at Hofstra University School of Law and the author of several texts on government. He has served as director of the New York State Commission on Constitutional Revision.

A book sale and signing with Larry Sabato and Eric Lane 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. 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.