

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER AND NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES TO HOST DISCUSSION ABOUT THE ECONOMIC CRISIS

Philadelphia, PA (June 29, 2009) – The National Constitution Center, in partnership with the National Conference of State Legislatures, will host a timely discussion about each state's response to the current economic crisis in America on Sunday, July 19, at 5:00 p.m. In particular, this program will address the varied approaches among states and their lawmakers to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Panelists include State Senator **Don Balfour** from Georgia, **Joe Hackney**, the Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives, and a panelist from the state legislature of Pennsylvania (TBD). **Tom Ferrick**, former columnist for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, will moderate. Admission is free, but reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

This program is part of a broader series at the Center on the American economy, tracking the social, political, and moral causes of the current recession and the prescribed cures to our economic situation. The series aims to present a balanced assessment of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds and how the dollars will be spent.

State Senator Don Balfour was first elected to the Georgia Senate by Gwinnett County in 1992, and has served the 9th District consecutively for more than 17 years, making him the longest serving Republican in the State Senate. Senator Balfour serves as Chairman of the Senate Rules Committee, and as a member of the Appropriations, Education and Youth, and Health and Human Services Committees. Senator Balfour was elected incoming President of the National Conference of State Legislatures, and will be the first legislator from Georgia to hold the position since NCSL's founding in 1975.

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ADD ONE/STATES OF THE ECONOMY

State Representative Joe Hackney was elected Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives in January 2007, at the start of his 14th term in office. Prior to becoming Speaker, Hackney served as House Democratic Leader for one term, House Majority Leader for one term, and Speaker Pro Tempore for two terms. He currently serves as President of the National Conference of State Legislatures. In 2007, he received the group's Excellence in State Legislative Leadership Award, the nation's top honor for state legislators.

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.

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