

## Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum To Host National Issues Forums Series This Fall

*National Issues Forums to be Discussed Starting on September 30, 7:00pm.*

August 5, Yorba Linda, CA—In collaboration with the National Issues Forums Institute (NIFI), the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum, a federal historical institution, will host a series of discussions on public policy issues between Labor Day and Election day this fall. All forums will be free and open to the public.

The forums will be held at the Library (18001 Yorba Linda Boulevard, Yorba Linda, California, 92886) on:

- September 30 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Issue: Too Many Children Left Behind: How Can We Close the Achievement Gap?
- October 16 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Issue: Coping with the Cost of Health Care: How Do We Pay for What We Need?
- October 28 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Issue: The Energy Problem: Choices for an Uncertain Future

All twelve presidential libraries operated by the federal National Archives and Records Administration, in communities all across the country, are participating in this initiative. The libraries will each host a forum on health care and other forums will be on a range of topics including immigration, federal debt, education, and energy. The forums will reflect the interests and enthusiasm of the community that supports the Libraries. As a result, the forums will be held in a variety of locations including the Presidential Libraries, local community centers, public libraries, and university campuses.

“Hosting National Issues Forums at the Presidential Libraries is consistent with our emphasis on civic education,” Allen Weinstein, Archivist of the United States, said. “Presidential Libraries are public places and it is appropriate for citizens to engage in discussions about major public policy issues in the midst of a presidential campaign.”

“Participants in a forum,” NIFI Chairman William Winter said, “deliberate with one another eye-to-eye and face-to-face, exploring options, weighing others’ views, considering the costs and consequences of public policy decisions. In a democracy, citizens have a responsibility to make choices about how to solve problems and forums help enrich participants’ thinking on public issues. By offering citizens a framework for deliberative forums, NIFI helps the public take an active role in acting on public issues.”

The Presidential Libraries of the National Archives and Records Administration are not libraries in the usual sense. They are archives and museums, bringing together in one place the documents and artifacts of a President and his administration and presenting them to the public for study and discussion without regard for political considerations or affiliations. Presidential Libraries and Museums, like their holdings, belong to the American people. They promote understanding of the presidency and the American experience, preserving and providing access to historical materials, support research, and create interactive programs and exhibits that educate and inspire.

The Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum is the country’s newest presidential library. Established in July 2007, the Library maintains facilities in Yorba Linda, California, and in College Park, Maryland. It is a nonpartisan federal center for the study of the life and career of Richard Nixon and American history.

NIFI is a 25-year-old nonpartisan, nationwide network of locally sponsored forums for the consideration of public policy issues. Forums are rooted in the simple notion that citizens need to come together to reason and talk—to deliberate about common problems.

For information about NIFI, contact local NIFI moderator Joyce Hanna at (949) 305 8279 or visit the NIFI Web site at [www.nifi.org](http://www.nifi.org)

**About the Nixon Library:** The Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum, a nonpartisan federal institution, is a part of the National Archives and Records Administration. For more information, contact (714) 983-9120 or visit <http://www.nixonlibrary.gov>.