



THE DEMOCRACY SYMPOSIUM

In Honor of Edwin & Joyce Koupal

February 16 - 18, 2002
Williamsburg, Virginia

Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

You Are Invited to join distinguished scholars in an extraordinary discussion to resolve issues associated with the *National Initiative for Democracy*, the first constitutional amendment and federal statute ever to be enacted directly by the People of the United States of America. The *National Initiative* will create a "Legislature of the People," bringing the People into the operation of government as lawmakers in a partnership with their elected representatives.

Featuring these eminent panelists...

Ronald J. Allen, Wigmore Professor of Law, Northwestern University; "The National Initiative Proposal: A Preliminary Analysis," 1979.

Akhil Reed Amar, Southmayd Professor, Yale Law School; "Philadelphia Revisited: Amending the Constitution Outside Article V," 1988; *The Bill of Rights: Creation and Reconstruction*, 1998.

Benjamin R. Barber, Kekst Professor of Civil Society, University of Maryland; *Strong Democracy: Participatory Politics for a New Age*, 1985.

Ted Becker, Auburn Alumni Association Professor of Political Science, Auburn University; *The Future of Teledemocracy* (co-author), 2000.

Brian Beedham, Associate Editor, *The Economist*, London, England; "Full Democracy: It Means Government by the People and We Are the People," 1996.

Gregory A. Fossedal, Chairman, Alexis de Tocqueville Institution, Arlington, VA; *Direct Democracy in Switzerland*, 2001.

Edward McGlynn Gaffney, Jr., Professor of Law, Valparaiso University School of Law; *Religious Freedom: History, Cases and Other Materials on the Interaction of Religion and Government* (co-author), 2001.

Craig B. Holman, Senior Policy Analyst, Brennan Center for Justice, New York University; *Democracy by Initiative: Shaping California's Fourth Branch of Government* (co-author), 1992.

Arthur Lupia, Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan; *The Democratic Dilemma: Can Citizens Learn What They Need to Know?* (co-author), 1998.

Richard D. Parker, Williams Professor of Law, Harvard Law School; *Here, the People Rule: A Constitutional Populist Manifesto*, 1994.

Christa Slaton, Professor, Department of Political Science, Auburn University; *The Future of Teledemocracy* (co-author), 2000.

Robert M. Stern, President, Center for Governmental Studies, Los Angeles, CA; *Democracy by Initiative: Shaping California's Fourth Branch of Government* (co-author), 1992.

Caroline J. Tolbert, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Kent State University; *Citizens as Legislators: Direct Democracy in the United States* (co-author), 1998.

Mark Tushnet, Carmack Waterhouse Professor of Constitutional Law, Georgetown University Law Center; *Remnants of Belief: Contemporary Constitutional Issues*, 1997.

GOVERNMENT IS UNABLE TO REFORM ITSELF

That's why this historic symposium has become necessary.



In our government, all political power has been transferred to a small group of politicians who have proven far more willing to satisfy the demands of powerful and wealthy interest groups than the needs of the People who elected them. Clearly, representative democracy alone does not provide for sufficient participation by We, the People, in our own government.

The **Democracy Symposium** concludes a decade-long effort to define the *National Initiative for Democracy*, a proposed legislative solution to this problem in governance.

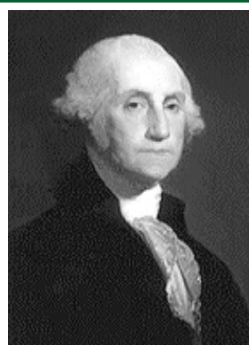
The *National Initiative* includes:

- *The Democracy Amendment*, which asserts and institutionalizes “First Principles,” i.e., the People’s authority to exercise their inherent legislative power to create and alter governments, constitutions and laws; and
- *The Democracy Act*, a federal statute that establishes citizen-initiative-based legislative procedures and an administrative agency, The Electoral Trust, to implement those procedures in every government jurisdiction of the United States.

The Symposium’s ultimate product will be the final draft of the *National Initiative*, which will be presented to the American voters, for concurrent enactment of a constitutional amendment and a federal statute, in a national election conducted by the nonprofit corporation Philadelphia II, beginning September 17, 2002.

You can learn more about the *National Initiative*, or download and forward this brochure as a PDF file, at www.democracysymposium.org.

The Democracy Symposium is being sponsored by The Democracy Foundation, a nonprofit corporation. The draft of the *National Initiative for Democracy* under consideration at the Symposium is the decade-long work of former Senator Mike Gravel (U.S. Senate, 1969-81), his colleagues Donald H. Kemner, Charles Turk and David Parrish, among others, and many interested citizens from across the country. Funding for the Symposium has been provided in part by The People’s Lobby in memory of its founders, Edwin and Joyce Koupal, whose lives epitomized “ordinary people doing the extraordinary.”

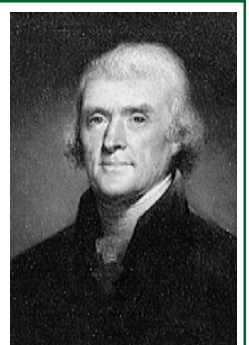


“...people...can...decide with as much propriety on the alterations and amendment [to the Constitution] which shall be found necessary, as ourselves, for I do not conceive that we are more inspired, have more wisdom or possess more virtue than those who will come after us.”

George Washington, 1787

“Unless the mass retains sufficient control over those entrusted with the powers of their government, these will be perverted to their own oppression, and to the perpetuation of wealth and power in the individuals and their families selected for the trust.”

Thomas Jefferson, 1812



AGENDA

All panels and discussions will be held in The Virginia Room. Following brief presentations, discussions will be open to all registrants, providing unique opportunities for participation among all present.

Friday, February 15, 2002

4:00-8:00 PM Reception/Registration: East Gallery

Saturday, February 16, 2002

8:00-9:00 AM Reception/Registration: East Gallery
Continental Breakfast: West Gallery

9:00-9:30 AM Welcome and Introductions

9:30-11:00 AM **Panel A: Bootstrapping
a Government by the People**
Resolve constitutional issues associated with a self-enactment process, in accordance with First Principles, to enact the National Initiative in a manner similar to that used to ratify the Constitution in 1787-89.

11:00-11:20 AM Break and Refreshments

11:20 -12:20 PM Open Discussion

12:30-1:30 PM Luncheon: West Gallery

2:00-3:30 PM **Panel B: A Legislature of the People**
Resolve constitutional issues associated with the People's use of citizen-initiatives as asserted in the Democracy Amendment and as implemented through the Democracy Act.

3:30-3:50 PM Break and Refreshments

3:50-4:50 PM Open Discussion

Evening Dinner On Your Own

Sunday, February 17, 2002

8:30-9:30 AM Continental Breakfast: West Gallery

9:30-11:00 AM **Panel C: The Devil is in the Details**
Resolve legal, political and practical issues arising from the specific legislative procedures incorporated in the Democracy Act.

11:00 -11:20 AM Break and Refreshments

11:20 -12:20 PM Open Discussion

12:30-1:30 PM Luncheon: West Gallery

2:00-3:30 PM **Panel D: The Tale of Two Legislatures**
Analyze the political science ramifications of the legislative partnership between the People and their elected legislators that will be created by the enactment of the National Initiative.

3:30-3:50 PM Break and Refreshments

3:50-4:50 PM Open Discussion

7:00-7:30 PM Reception: West Gallery

7:30 PM Dinner: The Virginia Room
Featuring "The Groaning Board," an 18th-century dining experience.

Monday, February 18, 2002

8:30-9:30 AM Continental Breakfast: West Gallery

9:30-11:30 AM Conclusion: Auditorium
Discussion and consideration of revisions to the National Initiative.



"The People were, in fact, the fountain of all power, and by resorting to them, all difficulties were got over. They could alter constitutions as they pleased."

James Madison, 1787



"All power is originally in the People and should be exercised by them in person, if that could be done with convenience, or even with little difficulty."

James Wilson, 1789

"The basis of our political systems is the right of the people to make and to alter their constitutions of government."

George Washington

"Each generation has a right to choose for itself the form of government it believes most promotive of its happiness."

Thomas Jefferson

Registration Fee

\$600 by December 15, 2001

\$750 after December 15, 2001

The registration fee is payable in advance.

The fee includes airport shuttle service on February 15 and 18, all panels and discussions, three continental breakfasts, lunch on Saturday and Sunday, and the reception and dinner on Sunday. Registrants may pay an additional fee of \$50 to bring a guest to the Sunday reception and dinner.

The Symposium especially encourages the attendance of national opinion-makers. Registration will be limited to 250.

Cancellations: The registration fee will be promptly refunded, less a \$50 administration fee, for cancellations received via letter, E-mail or fax on or before January 25, 2002.

Suggested Dress: Business Casual

Lodging

Hotel reservations should be made directly with the Williamsburg Lodge Reservation Office. The hotel must receive the deposit no later than January 25, 2002.

Group Rates: Reservation Code PHIB02A

- Standard, single or double occupancy: \$109 + 9.5% tax per night.
- Deluxe, single or double occupancy: \$149 + 9.5% tax per night.

Group Reservations: (800) 261-9530
Reservation Fax: (757) 220-7729
Hotel Main Phone: (757) 229-1000

**Williamsburg Lodge
P.O. Box 1776
310 South England Street
Williamsburg, VA 23187-1776**

Transportation

Air:

- Richmond International Airport (www.flyrichmond.com) is one hour from Williamsburg. Airport Shuttle: (800) 552-7911
- Norfolk International Airport (www.norfolkairport.com) is one hour from Williamsburg. Airport Shuttle: (757) 877-9477
- Newport News/Williamsburg Airport is 20 minutes from Williamsburg. Airport Shuttle: (757) 877-0279

Train: Amtrak service from Baltimore, Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.: (800) 872-7245

Taxi: Williamsburg Yellow Cab: (757) 723-3316

Auto: Williamsburg is 150 miles south of Washington, D.C. on Interstate 84.



Contact

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"The genius of the Constitution rests not in any static meaning it may have had in a world that is dead and gone, but in the adaptability of its great principles to cope with current problems and present needs."

Justice William J. Brennan, Jr., 1985

"In those words [the preamble of the Constitution] it is agreed, and with every passing moment it is reagreed, that the people of the United States shall be self-governed. To that fundamental enactment all other provisions of the Constitution, all statutes, all administrative decrees, are subsidiary and dependent. All other purposes, whether individual or social, can find their legitimate scope and meaning only as they conform to the one basic purpose that the citizens of this nation shall make and shall obey their own laws, shall be at once their own subjects and their own masters."

Alexander Meiklejohn, 1960

