



TEACHFORAMERICA



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### VOTE 18, THE CENTER For CIVIC EDUCATION and TEACH For AMERICA DC CELEBRATE CONSTITUTION DAY

#### TO TEACH INTERACTIVE VOTER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM IN HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE DC-METRO AREA

Thursday, Sept. 17, 2009 (Washington, DC)

Vote 18, the premier youth voter engagement program, the District's We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution program administered by the Center for Civic Education, and Teach For America DC team up to celebrate **Constitution Day** in High School classrooms in the DC-Metro area. Volunteers from each organization will teach the Vote 18 program in high school classrooms in the DC-Metro area.

The VIP event for this coalition will take place at **Maya Angelou Public Charter School, Evans High School Campus, 5600 East Capitol Street, NE, 3rd Floor, Washington, DC 20019, on Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup> between 1:30 and 3:00 pm.**

The event will consist of Vote 18's 45-minute interactive civics class on the practical power and relevance of voting and community involvement as well as registering eligible students to cast their first vote. "Our staff and our volunteers are happy to help bring Vote 18's powerful youth engagement program to more DC-area students," added Justin Rydstrom of the Center for Civic Education. "Students vote when they see it has a direct, relevant impact on their lives and their communities, and that is what Vote 18's program so effectively conveys."

"We're proud to have this powerful coalition of education and civic-minded groups choose a campus of the Maya Angelou Public Charter School for this important event," said Dr. Lucretia Murphy, executive director of the See Forever Foundation. "In keeping with our social justice mission, it is critical that we provide an experience for our young people to express their voice and understand their power to create a democracy that works for all."

"Though young people broke all voting records last November, now is the time to continue those great strides. Our program is unique in that we connect with and empower high school students just as they are turning 18," said Marco Ceglie, Executive Director of Vote 18.

#### ABOUT VOTE 18, CCE & TEACH FOR AMERICA DC:

**Vote 18** (<http://vote18.org>) is a non-partisan, non-profit 501(c)3 youth civics program taught in high schools across the country. Using a fun, fast-paced interactive game, taught free of charge, Vote 18 teaches students the history of voting, and why it is relevant in their lives. Our goal is to motivate students to register to vote when they turn 18, become political engaged at the local and national level and stay active in the civic process throughout their lives. To date Vote 18 has taught over 22,000 students in 22 states.

**The Center for Civic Education** (<http://www.civiced.org/>) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan educational corporation dedicated to promoting an enlightened and responsible citizenry committed to democratic principles and actively engaged in the practice of democracy in the United States and other countries. The Center specializes in civic/citizenship education, law-related education, and international educational exchange programs for developing democracies. Programs focus on the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights; American political traditions and institutions at the federal, state, and local levels; constitutionalism; civic participation; and the rights and responsibilities of citizens.

**Teach For America** (<http://TeachForAmerica.org>) is the national corps of outstanding recent college graduates of all academic majors and career interests who commit two years to teach in urban and rural public schools and become leaders in the effort to expand educational opportunity.

For more information about Vote 18's organization, mission and powerful methods, please visit <http://Vote18.org>