



***Tent City* Celebration and Voting Rights Symposium: The Pursuit and Power of the Vote**

**Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy
March 31 – April 1, 2009
University Center Auditorium, 8:30 AM – 6:30 PM
Photo Exhibit – Room 226**

Tuesday, March 31

***Tent City: The Untold History of Voting Rights*
Visit the photography exhibit in Room 226**

- 8:30 AM **Welcome, Purpose and Overview of the Symposium**
Rita Geier, J.D., Associate to the Chancellor; Senior Fellow, Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy, University of Tennessee
- 8:45 **Barriers to Voting Rights in the Rural South**
- Legal barriers post-Reconstruction
 - Social and economic barriers
- Panelists:
Otis Stephens, Ph.D., J.D., School of Law, University of Tennessee
Cynthia Fleming, Ph.D., Department of History, University of Tennessee
- 9:30 **Tent City Documentary Film**
Produced by: J. Robert Legg, Ph.D., College of Communication and Information Sciences, University of Tennessee; Tre Berney, Jane Barr, Falseye Studio, Knoxville, TN
- 10:00 **Living History: First Person Experiences**
Panelists:
Mrs. Viola H. McFerren, Leader of the Fayette County Civic and Welfare League
Robert Hamburger, Ph.D., Department of English, New Jersey City University, author, Our Portion of Hell: Fayette County, Tennessee, An Oral History of the Struggle for Civil Rights
- 10:45 **Anthem of the Civil Rights Movement: “We Shall Overcome”**
Performed by:
Candy and Guy Carawan, Highlander Research & Education Center, New Market, TN

11:00 **The Legacy of Tent City: The Impact of Voting Rights on Local, State and National Minority Office-holding**
Speaker:
David Bositis, Ph.D., Senior Research Associate, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, Washington, D.C.

12:00 Lunch (On your own)
PM

Voting Rights: A Historical Context

1:00 PM **History of Voting Rights in America**
A historical overview of the evolution of the right to vote in America
Speaker:
John Doar, Esq., Doar, Rieck, Kaley & Mack, former Department of Justice Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights who sued on behalf of “Tent City”

2:00 **The Voting Rights Act: Protecting the Right to Vote, Current Issues and Challenges to the Voting Rights Act**
Panelists:
Charles Bullock, PhD., Department of Political Science ,University of Georgia
John Scheb, PhD., Department of Political Science, University of Tennessee
William Lyons, PhD., Office of the Mayor, Knoxville, Tennessee

3:30 Break

Equity at the Polls

3:45 **Legal Disenfranchisement: A Growing Civil Rights Concern**

- Overview of state laws
- Impact of voting laws on felons
- Restrictions on capacity

Panelists:
Laughlin McDonald, Esq., Director, ACLU Voting Rights Project, Washington, DC
George Barrett, Esq., Barrett, Johnston & Parsley, Nashville, TN

4:45 **“The Long March”**
A documentary film of the civil rights movement
Produced by: J. Robert Legg, PhD., College of Communication and Information, University of Tennessee
Tre Berney, Jane Barr, Falseye Studios

5:30 **Closing Remarks**

6:00 **Reception** at the Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy
1640 Cumberland Avenue

“Tent City” Celebration and Voting Rights Symposium:
The Pursuit and Power of the Vote
Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy
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Wednesday, April 1

8:30 AM **The Long Shadow of Tent City: Impact of voting rights in Fayette and Haywood Counties**
Panelists:
Linda Wynn, Ph.D., Department of History, Fisk University
Rita Geier, J.D., Baker Center, Department of Political Science, University of Tennessee

Increasing Voter Participation

9:30 **One Person, One Vote: Reapportionment and Redistricting**

- Breaking the hold of rural counties over state legislatures
- New Demographics and redistricting

Panelists:
John Seigenthaler, Director, First Amendment Center, Nashville, TN
George Barrett, Esq., Barrett, Johnston & Parsley, Nashville, TN
Judge Richard Dinkins, Tennessee Court of Appeals

10:30 **The 2010 Census: Process and Potential Impact**
Panelists:
Michael Fitzgerald, Ph.D., Department of Political Science, University of Tennessee
William Lyons, Ph.D., Office of the Mayor, City of Knoxville

11:30 **One Person, One Vote: Implications for the Electoral College**
Speaker:
The Honorable Howard H. Baker, Jr.

12:00 *Lunch (On your own)*
PM

1:00 **Voter Participation**

- Participation trends: Who’s voting and who’s not
- New approaches in voting administration

Panelists:
Charles Bullock, Ph.D., Department of Political Science, University of Georgia
Michael Fitzgerald, Ph.D., Department of Political Science, University of Tennessee

2:00 **Educating the Next Generation**
Bill Purcell, Director, Harvard Institute for Politics; Former Nashville Mayor
Robert Leming, Ph.D., Center for Civic Education, Washington, D.C.
John Sibley, The Literacy Imperative, Knoxville, TN

3:30

Democracy Abroad: A Global Perspective on the Electoral Process

- Belarus
- South Africa

Panelists:

Oleg Manaev, Ph.D., Department of Journalism and Electronic Media, University of Tennessee

Beldina Auma, Senior Communications Officer, Africa Region, World Bank, Chair of the World Bank Group-IMF African Society, Washington, D.C.

4:45

Break

5:00

Democracy Home and Abroad: The Social, Political, and Geopolitical Outlook

Speaker:

Juan Williams, journalist, author, National Public Radio and Fox News Correspondent

6:00

Closing Remarks

Rita Geier, J.D., Associate to the Chancellor; Senior Fellow, Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy, University of Tennessee



Speaker Bios