

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Georgetown University
Center for Public & Nonprofit Leadership



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**NONPROFIT VOTER ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES:
EXPANDING THE ELECTORATE, INSPIRING PARTICIPATION**
Monday, May 1st 2006
4:30 PM – 6:00 PM
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, INTERCULTURAL CENTER AUDITORIUM

Washington, D.C. – A record 126 million people voted in the 2004 Presidential election, but considering that voter turn-out is higher in Presidential election years, what will voter turnout look like in the upcoming Congressional election? And whose responsibility is it to get voters to the polls?

On Monday, May 1st, 2006, some of the leading civic engagement leaders in the nation will offer strategies and insight into how nonprofits can inspire public participation in the election process. At The Center for Public & Nonprofit Leadership's public forum, "Nonprofit Voter Engagement Initiatives: Expanding the Electorate, Inspiring Participation", speakers will share the extraordinary impact of new models for this work, the emergence of a national Nonprofit Voter Engagement Network, and the essential role of philanthropy in advancing civic enrichment initiatives.

Nan Aron, President of Alliance for Justice, will moderate. Panelists include: **Marcia Avner**, Public Policy Director, Minnesota Council of Nonprofits; **Deepak Bhargava**, Executive Director, Center for Community Change; and **Geri Mannion**, Chair, Strengthening U.S. Democracy Program, Carnegie Corporation.

Though the November 2006 election is six months away, non-profit organizations across the nation are already preparing action plans and mobilizing to get people to cast their ballots. Through nonpartisan voter mobilization efforts -- voter registration, voter education, Get-Out-the-Vote, and Voting Rights efforts, nonprofit organizations have the ability to reach voters. CPNL Director Kathy Kretman finds that nonprofits are especially instrumental in reaching individuals and communities who have not participated in the democratic process and with whom they have ongoing and trusting relationships.

"Because nonprofit organizations specialize in serving diverse populations with unique needs, they are in a position to engage citizens in a very personal and powerful way," Kretman says. "Informed public participation in the electoral process is essential to our country's democratic process. By drawing more citizens into this process, nonprofit organizations can simultaneously advance their organization's mission and empower individuals to exercise their rights and responsibilities."

Informative and inspiring, The Center for Public & Nonprofit Leadership's upcoming forum promises to be a call to action to nonprofit practitioners and to anybody interested in improving civic engagement in their community.

For more information and to RSVP visit: <http://cpnl.georgetown.edu>
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