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**NEWS RELEASE
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****View Live via Webcast at www.millercenter.org/debates ****

How Should Government Balance Infrastructure With Energy, Environment and Economic Priorities?

Launch of 2009 Discussion Series at NGA Winter Meeting

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA., Feb. 12, 2009 — On Saturday, Feb. 21 at 3:00 PM, the Miller Center of Public Affairs at the University of Virginia, in partnership with MacNeil/Lehrer Productions, will launch "**Priorities for a New President**," the second season of its National Discussion and Debate Series. The conversation, focused on balancing the nation's infrastructure policy with energy, environmental, and economic priorities, will take place at the National Governors Association Winter Meeting in Washington, DC.

Panelists include **Governor Edward G. Rendell**; **Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger**; **JayEtta Hecker**, Senior Fellow at the Bipartisan Policy Center and former GAO Director of Physical Infrastructure; and **Douglas Foy**, former Secretary of Commonwealth Development for Massachusetts, and former Executive Director of the Conservation Law Foundation. The last half hour of debate will be a question-and-answer session among all governors. Their topic: "*Government at all levels must work together to create a comprehensive infrastructure policy in concert with national energy, environmental, and economic priorities.*" The conversation will take place before an audience of the nation's governors, moderated by **Robert MacNeil**, founder and former co-anchor of the *MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour*. It will be webcast live and archived at www.millercenter.org/debates.

This is the first of four "Priorities for a New President" discussions. Throughout the spring of 2009, the series also will examine the Iranian nuclear threat, Affirmative Action, and energy. Produced for broadcast on PBS stations by MacNeil/Lehrer Productions, an award-winning leader in public affairs programming, all of the events are webcast live on the Miller Center's web site. The site is also home to video, audio, transcripts, research, and middle- and high-school lesson plans on each issue. The conversation continues online via interactive group pages on YouTube, MySpace, and Facebook.

The five debates of the first season, in 2007–08, focused on U.S. troops in Iraq; privacy in post-9/11 America; religion in public life; health care; and immigration. Debaters included Frederick W. Kagan, Jessica Tuchman Mathews, Douglas W. Kmiec, Marc Rotenberg, Rev. Barry Lynn, Chuck Colson, Dick Armey, Regina Herzlinger, Tamar Jacoby, and Mark Krikorian. All of the debates are available online at www.millercenter.org/debates.

The National Discussion and Debate Series, the Miller Center’s newest initiative, aims to examine some of the most important issues facing our country in depth, and to contribute to the national conversation with a genuine, thoughtful give-and-take that will both enlighten people and provoke dialogue.

<http://www.millercenter.org/debates>

<http://www.macneil-lehrer.com>

Founded in 1975, the Miller Center of Public Affairs is a leading nonpartisan public policy institution that aims to fulfill Jefferson’s public service mission by serving as a national meeting place for engaged citizens, scholars, students, media representatives and government officials to research, reflect, and report on issues of national importance to the governance of the United States, with special attention to the central role and history of the presidency.

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