



The Independent Voice for Kentucky's Children

KENTUCKY
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Press Release:

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Louisville Residents Invited to Join National Discussion on Debt
June 26th National Town Meeting Will Pull Together Diverse Group

Louisville, KY – Louisville is one of eighteen primary sites for an unprecedented national discussion on the national debt. A diverse group of Louisville-area residents from across the political spectrum will participate in the national discussion on Saturday, June 26. The nonpartisan process, called *AmericaSpeaks: Our Budget, Our Economy*, will bring together Americans here and across the country to meet in person and online to learn about the issues involved, weigh the options and develop recommendations for leaders in Washington.

“This is a rare opportunity for Louisville residents from all political persuasions, racial backgrounds and income levels to tackle an issue that affects all of us,” said Terry Brooks, executive director of Kentucky Youth Advocates. “We often complain about partisan politics in Washington – this is a chance for us to step outside of our comfort zones and truly engage our fellow citizens around shared solutions.”

Kentucky Youth Advocates is working with local leaders from across the political spectrum to ensure that Louisville residents are well represented in the national discussion.

Louisville residents, reflecting the demographic, geographic and political diversity of the area, will come together to weigh in on the difficult choices necessary to put our federal budget on a sustainable path. On June 26, the public will be presented with a set of options that are designed to represent a range of approaches before policymakers. Participants will use keypad polling and groupware technology to identify views that transcend geography, demographics or politics. *AmericaSpeaks* will present the priorities that emerge from the National Town Meeting to the President and Congress.

Louisville was selected as one of 18 communities across the country to host a National Town Meeting site, each of which will be linked together by satellite and the Internet for the national discussion. Participants at the town meeting sites will be joined by smaller conversation sites organized by volunteers in other communities across the country. More information can be found on the online hub for *Our Budget, Our Economy*, USABudgetDiscussion.org, including videos, reports on the budget and economy, blog posts, site registration and much more. The site also provides a platform to share ideas at the national and local levels through links to Facebook, Twitter, MySpace and LinkedIn.

“The United States is on an unsustainable path and the fiscal challenges facing our nation stand out as issues that will require compromise from the left and right in order to address the scale of the problems we face,” said Carolyn Lukensmeyer, founder and president of *AmericaSpeaks*. “Louisville’s participation represents an unprecedented opportunity for residents to get involved in the larger national discussion to start finding agreement about steps to redefine our fiscal future.”

This unique national discussion is a project of the nonprofit organization, *AmericaSpeaks*, and is supported by three leading foundations with a shared commitment to informing the American public and policymakers of the fiscal realities facing the country. It is being made possible by generous contributions from the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Louisville's event will take place at Gheens Academy from 11:30 AM to 6:00 PM. Registration is now open at this site. Visit USABudgetDiscussion.org to join the discussion and to learn more.

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About AmericaSpeaks

AmericaSpeaks is a nonprofit organization that provides citizens with a voice on the most important decisions that impact their lives. The nonpartisan organization has convened more than 150,000 people to shape policymaking. For more information, visit www.americaspeaks.org.

About the Peter G. Peterson Foundation

Founded by Peter G. Peterson with a commitment of \$1 billion, the Foundation is dedicated to increasing public awareness of the nature and urgency of key fiscal challenges threatening America's future and to accelerating action on them. To address these challenges successfully, we work to bring Americans together to find sensible, long-term solutions that transcend age, party lines and ideological divides in order to achieve real results. For more information, see www.PGPF.org.

About the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

The MacArthur Foundation supports creative people and effective institutions committed to building a more just, verdant, and peaceful world. In addition to selecting the MacArthur Fellows, the Foundation works to defend human rights, advance global conservation and security, make cities better places, and understand how technology is affecting children and society. Visit www.macfound.org for additional information.

About the W.K. Kellogg Foundation

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation, established in 1930, supports children, families and communities as they strengthen and create conditions that propel vulnerable children to achieve success as individuals and as contributors to the larger community and society. Grants are concentrated in the United States, southern Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. Visit www.wkkf.org for more information.

About Kentucky Youth Advocates

Kentucky Youth Advocates is a non-partisan, non-profit, children's advocacy organization. KYA represents a voice for Kentucky's most precious asset – its youth. We believe that Kentucky's youth deserve the opportunities and resources necessary to ensure their productive development and health.

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