

For Immediate Release

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## **FREEDOM MUSEUM OFFERS FREE ADMISSION AND EXTENDED HOURS THROUGH END OF YEAR**

***During Holiday Trips to Michigan Avenue, Take Time Out To Experience Interactive Exhibits About First Amendment Freedoms and American Election Process***

**Chicago, December 3, 2007**— The Freedom Museum is offering free admission through the end of the year, giving visitors to Chicago's famed Michigan Avenue a chance to take break from holiday shopping and learn about American freedoms.

The Freedom Museum, located at 445 North Michigan Ave., will also have extended hours on Saturdays, closing at 8 p.m. The free admission offer coincides with the debut of the latest Freedom Museum exhibit entitled "*Vote4Me! Inside a Presidential Election*," a new interactive exhibit on presidential elections.

"Giving free admission is our holiday gift to a democratic America," said Nathan Richie, director of exhibits, McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum. "We hope that even more people come to the museum and join in the experience of weighing today's issues of freedom. Our interactive exhibits allow visitors to register their own opinions and see how they compare with others."

With only a few weeks before early caucuses and primaries, the *Vote4Me!* exhibit helps Americans understand the election process. Visitors get a behind-the-scenes perspective of the fast-paced campaign season by working their way from presidential hopeful to Commander in Chief.

Entering the exhibit, visitors meet their seasoned campaign staff that includes a campaign manager, political director, communications director and finance chair. The staff will advise on how to create a platform with popular appeal, win important swing states, sharpen political rhetoric and raise funds to fill campaign coffers.

Throughout the exhibit, visitors will have an opportunity to weigh in on key issues facing candidates today including taxes, the Iraq war, global warming and same-sex marriage. Conversely, they will also see how those opinions impact their standing with the public and are used as fuel for debate. The *Vote4Me!* exhibit runs until the 2008 presidential elections,

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Other exhibit components include:

- **270 votes...and Counting:** An interactive map that allows visitors to create scenarios for different electoral outcomes.
- **Briefing Room:** Learn to develop a campaign image; polish political rhetoric; and launch successful attack ads that mimic that of past predecessors.
- **Countdown:** This section allows visitors to get informed on the 2008 presidential candidates through computers linked to existing Web sites that explore candidates and issues. Once the research is complete, visitors have the opportunity to vote.
- **Resource Guide:** Provide links to election-related Web sites.

Learn more about the election process by visiting our online exhibit at [www.FreedomMuseum.US](http://www.FreedomMuseum.US).

### **About the McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum**

The McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum ([www.FreedomMuseum.US](http://www.FreedomMuseum.US)) inspires generations to better understand, value and protect freedom. Through interactive exploration, visitors gain a greater understanding of the struggle for freedom in the United States and the role the First Amendment plays in society. The McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum is part of the McCormick Tribune Foundation team, which also includes the Robert R. McCormick Museum, Cantigny Park and Golf, the Cantigny First Division Foundation and five grant making programs.

A focus on children, communities and country binds the Foundation and its many parts and keeps us true to our mission of advancing the ideals of a free and democratic society. To learn more, please visit [www.McCormickTribune.org](http://www.McCormickTribune.org).

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