Democracy and the 2012 Election

On November 6, 2012, United States’ citizens will vote for 1 U.S. president, 33 U.S. Senators, the 113th U.S. Congress, 11 new state governors, and thousands of state legislators. What does this election mean for American democracy? What does this election mean for the international community? Who will participate and who will stay home? What issues will matter most to voters? How will these issues balance individual, local, national and international interests? What factors—media, money, candidates, campaigns—will shape election outcomes? How will those outcomes matter in the long run? “Democracy and The 2012 Election” is a free public event series that will provide the Muhlenberg and wider community an informative opportunity to examine and better understand the ethical issues, institutions and personalities that are integral to the 2012 Election.

About the 2012 Election Series

“Democracy and the 2012 Election” is the 5th nonpartisan Election Series coordinated by the Muhlenberg College Department of Political Science since 1992. Co-sponsorship and support for the 2012 series has been provided by The Forum Fund awarded by the Faculty Committee on Lectures & Forums; the Center for Ethics; the Department of Media & Communication; the Department of Psychology; the Department of Theatre & Dance; the Provost’s Office; Pi Sigma Alpha (the political science honor society); the Multicultural Center; the Dean of Students; Student Activities; the Muhlenberg International Relations Council; Women’s Studies; Africana Studies; the College Republicans; the College Democrats; and Trexler Library.

Events are free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Maureen Bayraktar at bayraktar@muhlenberg.edu or 484-664-3066.

Know Your Voting Rights

Starting with the November 6, 2012 election, you will be required to show photo ID to vote. For the latest information, visit www.votespa.org. or for where to vote in Lehigh County, www.lehighcounty.org or call 610-782-3194.

Key Dates in Pennsylvania

October 9, 2012:
General Election Registration Deadline

October 30, 2012:
Last day to apply for Absentee Ballot

November 2, 2012:
Last day to submit absentee ballots

November 6, 2012: General Election
Get out and VOTE!

Muhlenberg students can also contact the Office of Community Engagement for more information about voting.
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Schedule of Events

**Fear and Loathing after Citizens United**
Michael Franz
September 18
Miller Forum, Moyer Hall, 7:00 p.m.
Michael Franz is associate professor of government and legal studies at Bowdoin College. His research interests include campaign finance and political advertising. He is the author or coauthor of four books, including *Choices and Changes: Interest Groups in the Electoral Process* (2008) and *The Persuasive Power of Campaign Advertising* (2011). He is currently co-director of the Wesleyan Media Project, which analyzes political ads on television.

**Gulliver's Troubles: Reflections on American Power, Politics and Foreign Policy**
Aaron David Miller
September 20
Miller Forum, Moyer Hall, 6:30 p.m.
Aaron David Miller is a distinguished scholar in the Middle East Program of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. For two decades, he helped formulate U.S. policy of the Middle East and the Arab-Israeli peace process at the Department of State. After leaving the state department, Miller served as president of Seeds of Peace from January 2003 until January 2006. Miller is the author of several books on Middle East politics. His forthcoming book is “Can America have Another Great President?”

**44 Plays for 44 Presidents**
Directed by Troy Dwyer, Lily Dwoskin ‘13, Jerald V. Kaplan ‘13 and Judy Mandel ‘13
September 29—October 3
Studio Theatre, Trexler Pavilion
A raucous theatrical mosaic of the U.S. presidency, 44 Plays for 44 Presidents tours the audience through a fractured funhouse of 44 short, non-realist plays, each inspired by a different U.S. president. Conceived by the innovative Chicago-based Neo-Futurists and reimagined by a team of Muhlenberg College theatre artists, the play is funny, poignant, insightful … and wonderfully weird. For showtimes and tickets, please visit www.muhlenberg.edu/theatre&dance.

**Herblock Political Cartoon Exhibit and Panel Discussion**
Muhlenberg College Faculty
October 4
Trexler Library (Level A) 12:30-1:45 p.m.
An interdisciplinary faculty panel discussion about the works of renowned political cartoonist Herb Block (affectionately known as “Herblock”). Several of Block’s cartoons will be on exhibit through the Fall semester. The panel on Oct. 4 will critique these and other works by Block, allowing a reminiscence of U.S. politics through much of the 20th century, the span of Herblock’s brilliant career with the *Washington Post*.

**Looking Towards the 2012 Election**
Thomas Edsall
October 4
Miller Forum, Moyer Hall, 7:00 p.m.
Thomas B. Edsall holds the Joseph Pulitzer II and Edith Moore Chair at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. He spent 25 years covering national politics at the *Washington Post*, and from 2007 to 2009, was the political editor of the *Huffington Post*. He currently writes an online election-year column for the *New York Times*, and is a correspondent for *The New Republic*. Edsall is author of five books, including *The Age of Austerity* (2012), *Building Red America* (2006), and *Chain Reaction: The Impact of Race, Rights, and Taxes on American Politics* (1992).

**There They Go Again: Expert Over-Claiming in a Sound-Bite World**
Philip Tetlock
October 18
Miller Forum, Moyer Hall, 7:00 p.m.
Philip E. Tetlock is Leonore Annenberg University Professor of Psychology at the University of Pennsylvania. He has written several books on politics, including *Counterfactual Thought Experiments in World Politics* (with Aaron Belkin; 1996) and “Expert Political Judgment: How Good Is It? How Can We Know?” In 2005, the American Political Science Association awarded Tetlock the Woodrow Wilson Award for the best book published on government, politics, or international affairs, and the Robert E. Lane Award for the best book in political psychology.

**Reaching a Better Understanding of the 2012 Elections in the Nation and Pennsylvania**
Terry Madonna
October 25
Miller Forum, Moyer Hall, 7:00 p.m.
Terry Madonna is the director of the Center for Politics and Public Affairs, Professor of public affairs, and director of the Franklin and Marshall Keystone Poll. He founded the Keystone Poll in 1992, the oldest survey produced exclusively in Pennsylvania. In this capacity, he is the pollster for many Pennsylvania media outlets.

**Race, Gender and the Election of 2012**
Muhlenberg College Faculty & Students
November 1
Seegers 111, 12:30-1:45 p.m.
An interdisciplinary panel of faculty and students will address questions about the politics of race and gender: the gender gap in 2012; the politics of race in an election featuring the first African American president; the intersection of partisanship and social issues; and the consequences of the election cycle on the fabric of American culture and society.

**Election Night Party**
November 6
Sandellas, Seegers Union, 7:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m.
Join your colleagues and friends for an evening of pizza, live news coverage and election returns as the nation selects its leaders.

**Post-Election Luncheon: What Happened and Why? What’s Next?**
November 8
Seegers 111-112, 12:30-1:45 p.m.
A panel of faculty will facilitate a post-Election discussion focusing on explaining electoral outcomes and speculating about their implications. NOTE: Lunch will be provided but seating is limited. To secure a spot, please register at bayraktar@muhlenberg.edu.