

Constitutional Citizenship

by Larry Greenley

**On Behalf of the Fox Valley Chapters of The John Birch Society (www.JBS.org)
& Fox Valley JBS.org Freedom Campaign (www.usconstitution.meetup.com/9/)**

Appleton Public Library

June 8, 2009

Constitutional Citizenship

- Understanding the depth of congressional fiscal and constitutional irresponsibility.
- Using the Constitution to evaluate congressional legislation.
- Using the Freedom Index (a congressional scorecard based on the Constitution) to evaluate congressmen.
- Using the JBS.org Legislative Action Center to effectively communicate with your congressmen on pending legislation, such as H.R. 1207 to audit the Fed.
- Networking to build a grassroots movement to make Congress vote in accordance with the Constitution.

Our Freedom Is Secured by the Constitution

- *“We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.”* — Declaration of Independence, 1776
- *“That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed.”* — Declaration of Independence, 1776
- The Constitution of the United States of America instituted the government that secures our God-given rights.
- To restore and preserve our freedom “We the People” must create a grassroots movement big enough to force Congress and the President to obey the Constitution.

Congressional Fiscal and Constitutional Irresponsibility

- First, we'll view the 30-minute version of IOUSA (available free on YouTube.com)
- The IOUSA video provides an excellent presentation of just how bankrupt our government already was before the trillion dollar bailouts of 2008 and stimulus packages of 2009.
- The facts presented in IOUSA also demonstrate the complete lack of fiscal responsibility by Congress.
- A short lesson on what the Constitution empowers Congress to do. See Article I, Section 1, Sentence 1. See also Article I, Sections 7-8. If “We the People” allow Congress to act unconstitutionally, there'll be no barrier to Congress serving special interest groups that will lead to total government. (For a video presentation on this, see “Overview of America” on YouTube.com.)

The Freedom Index:

A Congressional Scorecard Based on the Constitution

- The Freedom Index is published twice a year by the JBS and The New American magazine to evaluate all 435 representatives and all 100 senators on how well their votes on key issues adhere to the Constitution.
- To see the latest Freedom Index (TNA, Oct. 27, 2008), go to <http://www.thenewamerican.com/usnews/congress/424>
- I've got printouts of this latest Freedom Index for you to look at as I describe its contents and how it shows you the degree to which your one rep and your two senators adhere to the Constitution.
- The members of the House and Senate are rated on ten key votes each. The vote descriptions in the Freedom Index state what constitutional principle is involved in each bill.

JBS.org Legislative Action Center

- Go to <http://JBS.org> and click on “Legislative Action” under “Action” on the horizontal menu bar.
- A whole series of federal and state bills are listed for which you are provided: (1) some explanation of why the bills are important, including their constitutionality; and (2) pre-written, editable emails for sending to your federal and state legislators.
- Here’s a printout of the current list of federal and state issues for which emails can be sent. Available online at <http://www.votervoice.net/Core.aspx?AID=972&APP=GAC&>

Networking:

Building a Grassroots Movement to Make Congress Constitutional

- **Network with an organization and people you can depend on.** Go to <http://www.JBS.org> and register as a free online member. That will make you a member of the social networking part JBS.org. There are many groups and a forum that will give you multiple ways to connect with like-minded people to create pressure on Congress to adhere to the Constitution. Be sure to join the JBS.org Freedom Campaign - National group.
- **Network with like-minded Fox Valley residents** by joining for free the JBS.org Freedom Campaign Meetup group at <http://www.usconstitution.meetup.com/9/> . This will enable you to keep in touch with us about upcoming legislation and upcoming educational meetings.