

CLEVELAND HISTORY CENTER

of the WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

For Immediate Release

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CLEVELAND HISTORY CENTER OPENS POWER & POLITICS: A SHOWCASE OF THE POLITICAL PAST

Opening Celebration "Cocktails & Campaigns" July 14th | 5:00pm to 8:00 pm

Exhibition open through January 2017

Cleveland, Ohio – Western Reserve Historical Society boasts one of the nation’s greatest collections of political ephemera, dating back to the founding of the United States. The political collection holds artifacts from many of the country’s greatest leaders, such as Abraham Lincoln. It also illuminates Ohio’s presidential past, Cleveland’s place in Presidential politics, and the contributions made to U.S. history by politicians on both sides of the aisle.

At the height of the 2016 election season, the Cleveland History Center highlights the significance of Cleveland and Northeast Ohio on presidential politics in a new exhibit “*Power & Politics*”, a captivating experience opening July 14, 2016 through January 2017.

“We are very proud of the vast collection of political materials acquired over the last nearly 150 years through the generosity of members, friends, and private collectors,” says Kelly Falcone-Hall, WRHS President & CEO. Using the vast WRHS collection of politically themed pieces dating from the 18th century to today, *Power & Politics* provides a new perspective on the modern political campaign. From political fashion statements to Ohio’s presidential conventions, the 1896 presidential campaign, and origins of the Party of Lincoln (free labor, free land, and free man) guests will discover the story behind the adage, “As Ohio goes, so goes the nation.”

To complement the exhibition, the Cleveland History Center highlights the rich history of Ohio politics and the birth of the modern political campaign with a series of videos that can be found online at www.WRHS.org.

A captivating experience opening July 14, 2016 through January 2017 to the public, the Cleveland History Center will host a *Power & Politics* Exhibition Opening Celebration on as a part of their History on Tap happy hour series. Guests will enjoy specialty cocktails, light hors d’oeuvres, trivia, rarely-seen artifacts, photo ops, and hands-on activities all within the new *Power & Politics* exhibition.

For more information on the exhibition, video series, and exhibition opening, please visit us online at www.wrhs.org.

Key Points:

- Look for a rare dress made from the James A. Garfield parade bunting fabric, a World War II propaganda dress printed with defense stamps, and a dress that abolitionist Elizabeth Blake of Medina, Ohio, wore to President Lincoln's inauguration in 1861. It's [all part of a 5,000 sq. ft. installation](#) showcasing treasures from a political and presidential collection organized thematically: Power & Politics in Cleveland; Road to Freedom; Power & Politics in Ohio; Political Fashion Statements. The special exhibit opens July 14th.
- Why is it said that the road to the White House runs through Ohio? It's all laid out in six [videos](#) at the Cleveland History Center explaining the birth of the GOP, how the Party figured so prominently in the abolitionist movement, women's vote, and the birth of the modern campaign. Learn how the Party of Lincoln led the nation out of the Civil War era to a time of prosperity.
- [Political buttons](#) are as old as political campaigns, with the first mass-produced and collectible buttons appearing around 1896 when William McKinley ran against William Jennings Bryan. Cleveland's Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS) holds one of the largest collections of political buttons and ephemera in the nation, starting with the first presidential election through today.
- The Education Team at the Cleveland History Center uses the exhibit to create curriculum based programs that follow Common Core standards, engaging students in a greater understanding of the evolution of the political party system and the electoral process.

Power & Politics is presented through generous support from Ohio Savings Bank, Morgan Litho, Henri Pell Junod, Jr. and the American Furniture Collectors, a former auxiliary of the Western Reserve Historical Society.

About the Western Reserve Historical Society

Founded in 1867, Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS), a Smithsonian Affiliate, is Northeast Ohio's premier storyteller of Northeast Ohio's history. The WRHS mission to inspire people to discover the American experience through the regional history of Northeast Ohio as presented through its vast collections. These collections are made accessible to the public through exhibits at the Cleveland History Center in University Circle, the living history museum at Hale Farm & Village in the Cuyahoga Valley, and the Research Library. The Cleveland History Center is home to the Crawford Auto Aviation Museum, a renowned costume and textile collection, 2 historic mansions, Kidzibits Family Interactive Gallery, the Euclid Beach Park Grand Carousel, and the archives of Northeast Ohio's diverse community history. Learn more at www.wrhs.org.



WRHS is supported in part by the residents of Cuyahoga County through a public grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture. Sponsorships, bequests, grants, admissions, and other funding are used by WRHS to preserve and enrich the region's artistic and cultural heritage.

Smithsonian Affiliations is a national outreach program that develops long-term collaborative partnerships with museums, educational, and cultural organizations to enrich communities with Smithsonian resources. More information is available at www.affiliations.si.edu.



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