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COMPETITION PREPARES YOUNG MID-TERM VOTERS
Identifying National Problems + Solutions To Clarify Their Priorities

September 1, 2010

www.ourvoiceourcountry.org's fourth national \$1,000 Problem +Solution Social Media Competition is underway, featuring an accessible, interactive process that will encourage more informed participation in our democracy. The competition is scheduled to end October 11th.

To compete, any 18-26 year old citizen can describe in a written summary the specific problem(s) they believe to be urgent for America now.

Next, the user will 'Recommend ProblemSolvers,' --- citizens with first-hand knowledge in the problem area, likely to have an achievable plan of action ready to propose in writing. ProblemSolvers are individuals outside of government, whom users will find through research or prior knowledge.

Both the problem (a Recommended Topic) and at least one Solution (a ProblemSolver Solution) will be posted at the website for public consideration, as expressed through entries at *Our Voice Our Country*'s discussion board. Public ratings of content entries will help determine viable finalists. Awarded funds are to be spent on college, trade or technical school classes, research materials, educational fees or related expenses.

This activity offers a new focus of public engagement at the site, which has conducted three national competitions and drawn 186,000 visitors from all States since going online last year. Visit www.ovoc.org to learn more.

This Competition is a national forum, where ProblemSolvers with great ideas can present them. It will also guide candidates seeking issues and solutions to support that resonate with their constituents.

Our Voice Our Country.org is a non-partisan national website. The site draws upon the history of 'American Popular Movements' as a springboard to engage the public in reflection and user-directed participation. www.ovoc.org provides an accessible and interactive system that enables users to continue the work of these movements and build new ones -- online.

The site's research page is being developed as a go-to resource for students, teachers, researchers and the general public. To that end, noted historians are

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writing new summaries and engaging in further activities related to American Popular Movements.

What People Are Saying

At the recent National Conference on Volunteering & Service's Inspiration Event at Radio City Music Hall, spokesperson **Ruby Dee (Academy Award nominee)** said "I'm glad to be associated with *Our Voice Our Country.org* which empowers everyone using Facebook, Twitter and other social media to take the very important next step: clarifying *all together* what America's most urgent national problems are, giving people with great, achievable solutions a platform to present them, and then guiding our representatives in Washington to follow the People's will. It's a wonderful way to harness the power of technology to strengthen our democracy. "

"The website is amazing...I love the concept, purpose and faith it shares with everybody." - User comment

"... a good way to hear many unspoken individuals and their ideas...an effective program that needs to continue." - User comment

"...a great way for ordinary people just like you and me to discuss important issues and hopefully find solutions that could benefit any and everyone."
- User comment

About *Our Voice Our Country*

Our Voice Our Country was developed with early endorsement and input from: Walter Cronkite, Yolanda King, Joanne Woodward, Jane Alexander, Ruby Dee, from leaders of national non-partisan organizations, judges, professors, lawyers, students, senior citizens, soldiers, officers, current and retired politicians, from and dozens of blue and white collar workers of all political parties from across the country. Their contributions have been integrated to form the *Our Voice Our Country* system, which has been created to strengthen The People's role in our Democracy, to better America now and in the future.

Our Voice Our Country is a Google Grant recipient, and has been funded to date by user and private donations, led by grants from The Yudelson Foundation.

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