

# Invitation to the 2010 Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy and U.S. Conference on Initiative and Referendum

**"constitution making and direct democracy"**

Saturday, July 31 through Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2010

Dear Fellow Global Citizen,

We invite you to what we expect to be a groundbreaking conference in the heart of a city known for earthquakes – political, cultural and geological.

Welcome to the 2010 Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy, a five-day international event that includes the two-day U.S. Conference on Initiative and Referendum, a first-of-its kind national meeting.

Around the world, direct democracy provides an avenue for citizens to adopt new constitutions – or amend their old ones. At the same time, those constitutions govern direct democracy.

In 2010, Californians are expected to vote on ballot initiatives that would permit them to call a special convention to rewrite the constitution of the U.S.'s largest state. If approved by voters, it would be only the third such convention in California's history – and the first since 1879. Among the parts of the constitution likely to see change: the rules that govern direct democracy. In San Francisco, exactly a century after a local lawyer was elected governor and quickly convinced Californians to adopt the most robust direct democracy in the Americas, we meet to answer two questions. What are the best ways to use direct democracy for the making and remaking of constitutions? And what systems and structures of direct democracy belong in those constitutions?

In San Francisco, where the Golden Gate Bridge marks the intersection of the continent and the ocean, academics, journalists and political leaders will gather to discuss another intersection: that between constitutions and direct democracy.

The 2010 Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy — the third global forum after Aarau/Switzerland 2008 and Seoul/South Korea 2009 — seeks to reflect on the factors that have limited the growth of direct democracy in North America (and indeed, in so many places around the world) to states, provinces and local governments. What paths exist to build direct democracy into federal constitutions around the globe? For an introduction and overview on the Global Forum process please download our new book "Global Citizens in Charge" at [iri-europe.org](http://iri-europe.org).



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### *Practical Information*

#### **LOCATION**

San Francisco, California, United States of America.

#### **DATES**

Saturday, July 31 through Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2010.  
Expected hotel check-in Friday, July 30 or Saturday, July 31. Expected departure Aug. 4, 2010.

#### **PROGRAM**

- U.S. Conference on Initiative and Referendum: The first two days of the global forum will be dedicated to an examination of direct democratic trends in the 50 states, with a particular emphasis on California.
- Global Forum: three days of worldwide briefings, comparisons and work on how our democracies can become truly democratic.

#### **HOST FACILITY**

University of California Hastings College of the Law,  
200 McAllister St., San Francisco.  
[[www.uchastings.edu](http://www.uchastings.edu)]

#### **PRE-PROGRAMME**

For those who want to learn more about how direct democracy is practiced in California, we offer an exclusive briefing tour. Those who sign up will meet with key players in the state's initiative process in San Francisco and Sacramento on Thursday, July 29, and Friday, July 30, 2010

#### **KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (invited), Gov. Pat Quinn of Illinois (invited), Humane Society of the United States President Wayne Pacelle, Citizens in Charge Foundation President (and founder of the term limits movement) Paul Jacob. Prominent speakers from across the globe (to be announced later).

#### **HOTELS**

We have reserved blocs of rooms at two small hotels in San Francisco's Union Square neighborhood, a short walk from the law school where the event will take place. Both hotels are reachable via BART subway and other public transportation from San Francisco and Oakland airports.

#### **Early Bird Rates**

If you reserve before April 1, the rates are heavily discounted under the agreement we've reached with the hotels. \$99 per night at Hotel Bijou (that does not include 15 percent tax) and \$109 per night at the King George.

#### **MAKING HOTEL RESERVATIONS**

**1. Hotel Bijou Reservation Online:** Go to this link: <https://reservations.ihotelier.com/onescreengroup.cfm?hotelid=15159&languageID=1> Type in our Attendee Code, which is: 8563. Follow the instructions from there. You will have to be sure to select each night you're staying, and choose whether you want a Queen size bed or two twin-beds. You also will have to enter your own credit card.

**2 King George Hotel Online:** Go to [www.kinggeorge.com](http://www.kinggeorge.com) Click on online reservations. Enter preferred dates. Enter "BOXJ09" in the "Group Code" area Click "Book Now" and follow the prompts to reserve the room. Alternatively the guest can call central reservations at 1800-288-6005 or in house reservations at 415-249-7914.

#### **2010 GLOBAL FORUM HOST**

#### **COMMITTEE CONTACTS**

Joe Mathews ([joe@joemathews.com](mailto:joe@joemathews.com)), journalist and fellow at the New America Foundation, and co-author of *The California Crackup: How Reform Broke the Golden State and How We Can Fix It*.

Bruno Kaufmann ([kaufmann@iri-europe.org](mailto:kaufmann@iri-europe.org)), Co-author of *Global Citizens in Charge: How Modern Direct Democracy Can Make Our Representative Democracies Truly Representative*, journalist and president of the Initiative & Referendum Institute Europe.

ahead.

**Charge to be paid in cash at the conference**  or **by bank transfer**  (invoice will be sent to you)

#### **SPECIAL PRE-PROGRAMME BRIEFING TOUR**

*Optional:* A two-day (three nights), pre-programme on modern direct democracy is offered featuring meetings with key people and organizations in Sacramento and San Francisco on July 29 and July 30, 2010.

**Please indicate if you are interested in getting more information about this pre-programme:**  yes  no

#### **FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

The 2010 Global Forum host Committee has begun raising money to provide some limited support to those who otherwise could not afford to attend the forum. if you would like to attend but cannot afford it, please indicate below by answering the following questions:

- What is the nature of your interest in direct democracy?
- Would you like to speak at the forum? if so, what topic or topics would you be prepared to address?
- have you written on the topic of direct democracy? if so, please include web links.
- What sum would you need in financial support and what would this support cover?

if you have any questions about this form or the forum, please do not hesitate to visit our website at [www.2010globalforum.com](http://www.2010globalforum.com) or contact the 2010 Global Forum host committee co-presidents Joe mathews (joe@joemathews.com) or bruno Kaufmann (kaufmann@iri-europe.org).

# 2010 Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy

## agenda overview

when? July 29-august 4, 2010 [Briefing tour 7/29-30, us conference 7/31-8/1, World forum 8/1-4]

where? university of california hastings college of the Law, san francisco

How? on-line registration with "early bird" reduced fees opens in January 2010

info? contact host committee coordinators at [joe@joemathews.com](mailto:joe@joemathews.com) or [kaufmann@iri-europe.org](mailto:kaufmann@iri-europe.org)

	Briefing Tour		US Conference		Global Forum		
Time/Day	Thu, July 29	Fri, July 30	Sat, July 31	Sun, aug 1	mon, aug 2	Tue, aug 3	Wed, aug 4
Breakfast-time	Welcome and introduction, transfer to sacramento	Breakfast topics [one issue per table]	Breakfast topics [one issue per table]	Breakfast topics [one issue per table]	Breakfast topics [one issue per table]	Breakfast topics [one issue per table]	Breakfast topics [one issue per table]
morning	Visit to ca state capitol and meetings with officials	meetings in Bay area with key players in california reform movement, including Bay area council and others.	us-conference kick off, introduction and keynotes	special panels on tax issues, signature gathering and reform efforts	opening Panel with introductions and keynotes, World Briefings	animal protection keynote. comparative Panel on us and europe, california and switzerland	concluding Panel with reports, outlook inputs and keynotes
Lunch-time	Working-Lunch with guests	Late Working-Lunch with guests	Lunch with special address	Lunch	Lunch	Public event on DD and constitution-making	Departures and optional meetings and sightseeing programmes
afternoon	Visit to DD campaign headquarters and consultants	city Walk to DD in san francisco	reports on the state of DD across the us	new research findings on DD in the us	keynote on california and Political reform, Panels on europe, middle east.	Parallel sessions of global working groups on education & infrastructure, Local DD, transnational and activism	
Dinner-time	Back to san francisco and Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	global forum welcoming reception at the swiss consulate	Public event on digital DD Dinner	Dinner	