

*Of the People, By the People, For the People*

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*The text of Lincoln's speeches are in the public domain. Copies of these texts can also be found in the Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum in Harrogate, Tennessee. For a full collection of Lincoln's writings and speeches, please see the Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln, edited by Roy P. Basler and others.*

*The findings and conclusions of this publication do not necessarily represent the views of Humanities Tennessee or of the National Endowment for the Humanities.*

**Of the People**  
**By the People**  
**For the People**

 HUMANITIES  
TENNESSEE

  
Abraham Lincoln  
LIBRARY & MUSEUM  
Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, TN

*About*

# OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE

What can the 16th President teach us about citizenship?


The Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum is proud to present "Of the People, By the People, and For the People," a discussion series on modern citizenship explored through the words of Abraham Lincoln. This project is funded in part by a grant from Humanities Tennessee, an independent affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Through six separate, guided public conversations, the program seeks to forge common connections and a positive dialogue about citizenship and its responsibilities. To many, Abraham Lincoln illustrates the value and responsibilities of citizenship. Individuals on both sides of the political spectrum claim Lincoln as their own. This fact presents an opportunity for the community to use the life and ideals of the former president as a starting point for constructive discussion about modern thoughts on citizenship. Each session will conclude with audience members sharing their thoughts with one another, asking questions, and voicing observations.

The first public discussion, "An Introduction to Lincoln and Citizenship," introduces the audience to Lincoln's words and then considers how citizenship is viewed in the present. In "The Right to Vote," the audience will explore primary sources related to Lincoln's changing view of voting rights and explore the subject of modern voting. In "Citizenship at the Local Level," the audience will consider primary source documents related to Lincoln's interest in local improvements to Sangamon County, Illinois in 1832, and then consider the topic of public services at the local level. Another session, "Citizenship at the State Level," will examine primary source documents related to Lincoln's time as a state representative in Illinois and then, with the guide's help, consider the divisiveness that surrounds today's state issues. The fifth session, "Citizenship at the National Level," will provide a primary source exploration of Lincoln's First Inaugural Address, and then the audience will consider thorny issues that confront the nation today. The final session, "The Citizen as Public Servant," charts Lincoln's time and thoughts as a public servant through primary sources, and the audience will discuss their thoughts on expectations of public service in the present.

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