

# Greater Chicago Caucus

## Greater Together

Mid-October 2007

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## Greetings from the Greater Chicago Caucus!

The weather is turning colder, but the political campaigns are definitely heating up. Illinois is being watched on a national level with three Congressmen retiring and leaving vacant seats (CD 11 – Weller, CD 14- Hastert and CD 18 - LaHood) and many more districts facing strong primaries against the incumbent candidates.

Now is the time to get involved in the political process. Start early and find out where the candidates stand on important issues and hold each candidate accountable to those positions. You can start by reading the candidate questionnaires already posted on our website. As we continue to receive the questionnaires, we will continue to upload them.

Education doesn't win campaigns alone, so we must go farther and get out and help collect signatures, talk to our neighbors and help raise money for true grassroots campaigns. When we work together, we can help bring transparency back to our democracy and create the change we need on crucial issues. We are...Greater Together!

## Staff Report

The Greater Chicago Caucus has recently adopted the Common Sense Agenda for the 110th Congress. See the complete document at [www.greaterchicago.org](http://www.greaterchicago.org), under the resources section.

We will be asking current elected officials and political candidates to support the agenda sponsored by: Alliance for Justice, American Civil Liberties Union, Amnesty International, Center for American Progress Action Fund, Center for Constitutional Rights, Center for Financial Privacy and Human Rights, Concerned Foreign Service Officers, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Holy Name Province Franciscan, Office for Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation, Human Rights First, Human Rights Watch, Japanese American Citizens League, Liberty Coalition, Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, National Religious Campaign Against Torture, Open Society Policy Center, Physicians for Human Rights, Presbyterian Church, (USA), Washington Office, Rutherford Institute, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries, United Methodist Church and the General Board of Church and Society.

### Ten Steps to Restore the United States' Moral Authority A Common Sense Agenda for the 110th Congress

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. <b>Restore Habeas Corpus</b>      | 6. <b>Prohibit Abusive Interrogations</b>                                 |
| 2. <b>Stop Renditions to Torture</b> | 7. <b>Close Guantánamo Bay</b>  |
| 3. <b>Abolish Secret Prisons</b>     | 8. <b>Respect the Laws of War</b>   |
| 4. <b>Hold Abusers Accountable</b>   | 9. <b>Protect Victims of Persecution from Being Defined As Terrorists</b> |
| 5. <b>Hold Fair Trials</b>           | 10. <b>End Indefinite Detention without Charge</b>                        |

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*“When the last child cries for a  
crust of bread  
When the last man dies for just  
words that he said  
When there's shelter over the  
poorest head  
We shall be free*

*When the last thing we notice is  
the color of skin  
And the first thing we look for  
is the beauty within  
When the skies and the oceans  
are clean again  
Then we shall be free*

**-- Garth Brooks  
"We Shall Be Free"**

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## Training Opportunity!

*Join the GCC as we begin a series of political discussions and trainings to learn more about the political process and how individuals can make a difference!*

### **What:** Political Activism: How to Start

A discussion and training about the early process of a political campaign and how individuals can make a huge difference with even a little bit of time. Also learn about various levels of elected office and the responsibilities of each representative.

### **Where:** GCC Office

(25 E. Washington St., Suite 800, Chicago, IL.)

**When:** Saturday, October 20  
9 to 11 a.m.

**Costs:** Free. RSVP requested.

RSVP to Julie at  
[julie@greaterchicago.org](mailto:julie@greaterchicago.org) or  
312-401-4321.

\*We've expanded the room, so  
RSVPs are still available.

## Membership News

- **Mobilize for Peace!!! OCTOBER 27!!!**

Take a Stand and lend a hand! Chicago is hosting a Mass Mobilization Rally on Oct. 27. (See details at <http://www.oct27chicago.org>). – There is still a great need for volunteers. Please sign up today to help with set-up, tear-down and or being a peace marshal!

- **Candidate Interviews**

The GCC board is continuing to schedule interviews and collect questionnaires from candidates running for state and federal positions. Completed questionnaires will be available to members on the GCC website under the resources section. We encourage you to get out and meet the new candidates and find out where they stand on critical issues.

- **You're invited to the GCC Open House!**

Description: Welcome to the new GCC Office!!!

When: Saturday, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>

Time: 1 to 3 p.m.

Where: 25 East Washington St., Suite 800  
Chicago, IL 60602

Join us to enjoy the new GCC office with refreshments and guest speakers!

## Issue Update – SCHIP Funding

### Protect Our Children

Early this year, focus was placed on Congress in effort to renew the State's Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). Many Illinois residents lobbied their member of Congress to great success, as SCHIP was renewed and also expanded.

Within the last two weeks, President Bush vetoed the bill cutting of health care for nearly 4 million children.

**But...the fight is not over!** On Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>, Congress will vote on overriding the President's veto of SCHIP. It takes two-thirds of the House to overturn a presidential veto. If Congress fails to override the president, this program will expire in November and along with it, access to health care for millions of children.

-- SCHIP Update, continued on page 3

## Issue Update – SCHIP, cont.

**ACT NOW**, to take a stand for children. We need the Illinois Congressional Delegation to support overriding the veto of the Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (H.R. 976).

SCHIP provides coverage to 6 million low-income children whose parents work but can't afford the cost of private health insurance. Kids get doctor visits, medicine, and the healthcare they need. Every member of Congress needs to hear that we support expanded health coverage for kids and that we want President Bush's veto overturned. Our voice will make a difference!

**Call your Representative today: US Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121**

## Upcoming Events

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>
Political Activism: How to Start - GCC Training	October 20
*Mass Mobilization Rally – Chicago	October 27
Candidate Interview with Jay Footlik	TBA
Election Day	Nov. 6
GCC Open House	Nov. 10

Additional details for each event can be found at [www.greaterchicago.org](http://www.greaterchicago.org), under the Get Involved section.

\*Volunteers needed!! Information is available at <http://www.oct27chicago.org>

### OCTOBER 2007

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### NOVEMBER 2007

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### Greater Chicago Caucus...Greater Together!

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