

## K-STATE'S INSTITUTE FOR CIVIC DISCOURSE AND DEMOCRACY SPONSORING FREEDOM OF INFORMATION FORUMS

MANHATTAN (Sept. 29) -- Kansas State University's Institute for Civic Discourse and Democracy is sponsoring four public forums in October and November on the Freedom of Information Act.

The forums will be at public libraries in Manhattan, Junction City, Kansas City, Kan., and Colby. Each forum will begin at 7:30 p.m. and include an excerpt from the March national teleconference from the National Press Club, "Are We Safer in the Dark?" The teleconference examined issues of open governance and public access to information. Kansas public libraries are extending that discussion to local communities and providing reading materials to inform citizens of how legislation such as the Freedom of Information Act influences citizen oversight of government agency activities.

The forums run around 90 minutes and are free and open to the public. They will be conducted as focus groups to encourage citizen participation. K-State's Institute for Civil Discourse and Democracy will provide certified public discourse facilitators to moderate the forums.

The forums will be:

- \* Thursday, Oct. 5, Manhattan Public Library, 629 Poyntz Ave., Manhattan.
- \* Thursday, Oct. 12, Dorothy Bramlage Public Library, 230 W. 7th St., Junction City.
- \* Thursday Oct. 26, West Wyandotte Branch of the Kansas City, Kan., Public Libraries, 1737 N. 82nd St., Kansas City, Kan.
- \* Thursday, Nov. 2, Pioneer Memorial Library, 375 W. 4th St., Colby.

This program is funded in part by the Kansas Humanities Council, a nonprofit cultural organization promoting understanding of the history, traditions and ideas that shape our lives and build community.

K-State's Institute for Civic Discourse and Democracy is a nonpartisan, university-based research and teaching group that encourages citizen engagement through facilitated public deliberation and study.