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Young, Progressive Elected Officials to Convene in Washington

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Over 200 Local, State and Federal Elected Officials under age 35 will meet with Members of Congress, White House

Over 200 young, progressive elected officials will gather this week in Washington at the fifth annual convening of People For the American Way Foundation's Young Elected Officials Network.

The participants, elected officials at the local, state and federal levels, are all under the age of 35. They will meet with Members of Congress and White House officials, and will discuss their experiences serving as young elected leaders, and their successes and challenges in implementing progressive policies in their communities. They will also participate in three days of issues workshops ranging from discussions about health care implementation in the states to discussions on re-thinking the public education system.

The Young Elected Officials (YEO) Network was founded in 2006 to unite and support young progressive leaders dedicated to building communities that reflect values of freedom, fairness and opportunity, with the goal of producing an enduring pipeline of well-prepared national and world class leaders. The network now includes over 550 progressive local, state and federal officials from all 50 states. Most are at the start of their political careers; 89 percent are interested in running for higher office in the future.

A 2004 study by the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University found that while only 4.8 percent of elected officials in the country are under the age of 35, those elected at a young age tend to rise to the top of the country's leadership—63% of 20th and 21st century presidents held their first elected office before the age of 35, as did 57% of U.S. Senators and 49% of U.S. Representatives serving at the time.

A full schedule of events open to the press is below. For press credentials, please RSVP to Miranda Blue or Drew Courtney at (202) 467-4999.

**Young Elected Officials Network
2010 National Convening
May 13-16, 2010**