



Jim Lehrer, Moderator, First Presidential Debate
MacNeil/Lehrer Productions
2700 South Quincy Street
Arlington, Virginia 22206

Dear Mr. Lehrer,

We are writing to ask to you raise a question about the future of privacy protection for American consumers and American citizens during the Presidential debate on September 26, 2008. This is an important issue for many Americans. According to the Federal Trade Commission, identity theft is the #1 concern of American consumers. Privacy is also a non-partisan issue. Leaders in both parties have championed this cause.

There is real urgency to begin a debate. The country is building new systems of surveillance and identification. Since 9/11, congress has given the President new powers. Many experts believe we are constructing a national surveillance state. What are the views of the candidates? Would they continue on the current course? Is there a better approach? The candidates could be asked:

- What will your Administration do to ensure meaningful oversight of truly necessary surveillance?
- What will your Administration do to reduce identity theft and security breaches in the United States?
- What will your Administration do to limit the use of personal identifiers, such as Social Security Numbers, that create so many privacy risks?

More questions and privacy challenges facing the next Administration can be found at the PRIVACY08 site – WWW.PRIVACY08.ORG -- and the Privacy08 Cause on Facebook.

It is time for the Presidential candidates to address the future of privacy in America. It is important for the voters to know where the candidates stand on this issue.

Thank you for considering this request.

THE PRIVACY08 CAMPAIGN

(PRIVACY08 is a project of the Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC.ORG),
a non-profit public interest research center in Washington, DC)