

## **The College Council for Constitutional Reform October 24: The Statewide Students' Rally for Reform**

### **Background of the Council**

To further connect the students of Alabama's institutions of higher education into the Constitutional Reform Movement, the College Council for Constitutional Reform was established. Our goal is to have at least one student representative from each public and private university, college and community college throughout the state. The Council is being staffed by the Constitutional Reform Education Campaign at Greater Birmingham Ministries and is working collaboratively with the student leaders of Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform (ACCR).

### **October 24, 2006: Students**

Last year, students at the University of Alabama and Birmingham-Southern College gained attention and support for the constitutional reform movement by holding events in which students and faculty read the 1901 Constitution for 24 hours and 12 hours respectively. The readings were at highly visible parts of campus, which allowed students to distribute educational materials as well as collect student signatures to the petition for constitutional reform. The local news covered both events, and UA's even got picked up by the Associated Press.

This year we are hoping to magnify those results by having rallies – either a prolonged reading or another comparable, attention-grabbing event – at as many Alabama colleges as possible. These will all be held on the same day, October 24, just two weeks before the November elections. Greater Birmingham Ministries (GBM) is going to contact all major media throughout the state, and students at each school will invite all legislative candidates up for election in that school's district to attend. The statewide nature of the movement will be properly highlighted, emphasizing that constitutional reform is an issue that Alabama citizens care about and that our elected officials can no longer ignore.

GBM and the College Council for Constitutional Reform are working to find students at each college who are willing to do some organizing at their schools. The main job is to start gathering support this summer and throughout the fall. This can take many forms, whether it's through email and Facebook, or through scheduled meetings on campus before October 24. At BSC and Samford students are getting speakers to present on the issue to raise awareness before 10/24. GBM can put you in contact with a constitutional reform advocate if you think this would be a viable option.

The only essential steps that have to be taken by local students for the statewide October 24 rally are the following:

- securing a highly visible space on campus for the October 24 event
- organizing people to work the event (if a reading, mostly students and maybe some well known faculty or staff)
- contacting the legislators in their district who are up for election

Any other creative ways to further the movement are encouraged and at your discretion. GBM will contact all major media throughout the state, and we can also provide educational materials and petitions for the events. For more information on how to get involved or to be put in touch with other active students on your campus, please contact Eddie LaCour at [eddie@gbm.org](mailto:eddie@gbm.org). The statewide students' rally for constitutional reform is one of the best hopes for Alabama's future. We sincerely hope you will join with us. Thank you.