



For immediate release
May 6, 2009

Washington, D.C. – Kids Voting USA is pleased to announce the addition of Peter A. Harkness and Pamela Johnson to its national board of directors. “The deep and diverse experience and passion for civic education that Peter and Pam bring to our board will serve us very well as we look to the future,” said Geoff Gonella, KVUSA board chair. “Neither Pam nor Peter are new to the Kids Voting organization; Pam having supported its work during her Phoenix newspaper days and Peter more recently as an advisor to the board.”

Peter Harkness is Publisher Emeritus of *Governing* magazine, a monthly publication of Congressional Quarterly (CQ) and the Times Publishing Company that he co-founded in 1987. Harkness began his career in Washington, D.C. as a reporter for CQ covering Congress, the White House and national politics. He devotes time to other Washington-area boards as well, including the Center for Excellence in State and Local Government and Partners for Livable Communities. He serves as Chairman of the National Center for Biking and Walking and is on the advisory board of the New York-based Center for Alcohol and Substance Abuse. He is very active on the public speaking circuit and acts in a consulting role to the Pew Center on the States, a project of the Pew Charitable Trusts. He earned a political science degree at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, and lives in Washington, D.C. with his wife Pat.

Pamela Johnson is the Executive Director of the Reynolds Journalism Institute at the University of Missouri. The Institute, founded in 2004, focuses on improving the practice and understanding of journalism through programs of experimentation, discussion and research. Prior to this role, Johnson headed the Leadership Faculty at the Poynter Institute for Media Studies in St. Petersburg, Florida from 2001 till 2004. Her newspaper experience spans the country, having worked at *The Arizona Republic*, *The Phoenix Gazette*, *The Kansas City Star*, the *Globe* (Joplin, Mo.), *the Kansas City Times*, and the *Evening Press* (Binghamton, NY), in roles from copy editor to executive editor. Johnson earned a journalism degree from the University of Missouri, and lives in Columbia, Mo. with her husband James.

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Kids Voting USA is a national nonprofit, nonpartisan organization working to secure the future of democracy by preparing young people to be educated, engaged voters. Approximately four million K-12 students participate in Kids Voting USA through its 52 affiliates in 27 states plus the District of Columbia. For more information, visit www.kidsvotingusa.org.

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