

Pop + Politics and WNYC Present

# Pop & Politics

**with Farai Chideya:**

**A Look at Race, Rage and Reconciliation In the 2010 Midterm Elections**

A Three-Part Public Radio and Multimedia News Series Airing Nationally this Fall

**WNYC to Broadcast Series on Thursdays, October 21, October 28, and November 4 with encore plays throughout the weekend**

*Third Episode to be Taped During a Special Post-Election Summit, Open to the Public, at The Greene Space at WNYC with Special Guests Melissa Lacewell Harris, John Ridley, and Anna Deveare Smith, among others*

In the two years since America elected its first African American president, the emotion around the country has gone directly from “group-hug” to angry and disappointed. Why did the mood change so radically? Do people still believe they can achieve the American Dream, and what does it mean to them? The recession and aftermath have intensified the high anxiety over jobs, housing, immigration and race. So where do we go from here?

**POP + POLITICS WITH FARAI CHIDEYA** is a three-part series about the 2010 midterm elections that will explore these and other questions, looking beyond the horserace to get to the real issues, fears, and beliefs that motivate voters. Chideya and her team are road-tripping through America to talk with Americans about their economic realities, their regional concerns, and national identity crises around religion, immigration, and race. She will also press politicians for answers and turn to experts for their best proposals for solutions. **POP + POLITICS WITH FARAI CHIDEYA** will include a truly diverse spectrum of people in the conversations of our times.

This series also marks the re-launch of Chideya’s Pop and Politics website, which launched in 1995 as one of the earliest pop culture blogs in the United States. Dedicated to “Information, Conversation and Transformation,” the new site will feature video and audio from the road trip, blog entries, and citizen media.

"America's bruised but not broken," said **Chideya**. "Being on the road gives us a better sense of why people are angry and dissatisfied, and what it will take to make sense of this time in our history."

"Farai brings new energy and new relationships into the often stale coverage of elections," said **Dean Cappello**, Chief Content Office and Senior Vice President, WNYC. "You'll hear that as she travels to some underreported places to understand the mood and direction of the country. Thanks to Farai's ability to connect with a wide range of people on the streets, *Pop + Politics* will contribute something different and valuable to the American conversation."

• **OCTOBER 21: Race, Rage and Reconciliation**

Chideya and team go to Florida to talk about the ways the American Dream is colliding with reality, and what it means in the voting booth. Chideya speaks with Colonel Allen West, a black Tea Party candidate, residents of a historic black community where the land has been contaminated by industrial toxins who say business and politicians have abandoned them, Muslim-Americans in Gainesville, and victors and victims of the foreclosure crisis.

• **OCTOBER 28: New Voters, New Challenges**

Chideya and team go to Arizona to look at immigration and jobs, and check in with new voters to see whether they're getting involved. With the passage of the state's controversial immigration bill in April, Arizona is at center of the nation's immigration debate. From Phoenix to border regions of the Tohono O'odham Nation and Yuma, Chideya talks with people about their hopes, fears and anxiety.

• **NOVEMBER 4: The New Map: America, Redrawn and Reconceived**

*Special Live Taping at The Greene Space at WNYC to tape on Wednesday, November 3*

On Wednesday, November 3, the morning after the election, we will gather guests and audience for a town hall-style discussion in The Greene Space, WNYC's street-level, multiplatform broadcast studio and performance space, to talk about what happened and what it means looking ahead to 2012. The resulting radio special will air Thursday, November 4.

Guests will include:

- **Anna Deveare Smith**, actress, playwright, and professor
- **Melissa Harris Lacewell**, Princeton professor of Politics and African American studies
- **Reihan Salam**, conservative political commentator for *The Daily Beast*
- **John Ridley**, film director, screenwriter, actor and NPR commentator
- **Todd Zwillich**, Capitol Hill reporter for WNYC and PRI's *The Takeaway*

This event is open to the public. Tickets are \$10. For more information and to buy tickets:

<http://beta.wnyc.org/thegreenspace/events/2010/nov/#evt93095>.

**Pop and Politics with Farai Chideya** will locally air on WNYC 93.9 FM and stream at [www.wnyc.org](http://www.wnyc.org) on Thursdays, October 21, 28 and November 4 at 8pm, with encore plays throughout the weekend on WNYC FM and WNYC AM (see full WNYC broadcast list here [www.popandpolitics.com](http://www.popandpolitics.com)).

For broadcast times around the country, check local listings here [www.popandpolitics.com](http://www.popandpolitics.com).

**Pop and Politics with Farai Chideya** is created by *Pop and Politics*, co-produced by WNYC Productions, and distributed by American Public Media.



**Farai Chideya** has combined media, technology, and social justice during her 20-year career as an award-winning author and journalist. From 2006 to early 2009, she hosted NPR's *News and Notes*, a daily national program about African-American and African diaspora issues. She is a contributor *The Takeaway*, a national morning drive news program co-produced by WNYC and Public Radio International, in editorial collaboration with the BBC World Service, The New York Times, and WGBH Boston. Chideya's the author of non-fiction titles including *Trust: Reaching the 100 Million Missing Voters* and *Don't Believe the Hype: Fighting Cultural Misinformation about African Americans*. Her first novel *Kiss the Sky* was released in 2009.

**New York Public Radio** is New York's premier public radio franchise, comprising **WNYC-FM**, **WNYC-AM**, **WQXR**, and **The Jerome L. Greene Performance Space**, as well as [www.wnyc.org](http://www.wnyc.org), [www.wqxr.org](http://www.wqxr.org) and [www.thegreenspace.org](http://www.thegreenspace.org). As America's most listened-to AM/FM news and talk public radio stations, reaching 1.1 million listeners every week, **WNYC** extends New York City's cultural riches to the entire country on-air and online, and presents the best national offerings from networks National Public Radio, Public Radio International, American Public Media, and the British Broadcasting Company. **WNYC 93.9 FM** broadcasts a wide range of daily news, talk, cultural and music programming, while **WNYC AM 820** maintains a stronger focus on breaking news and international news reporting. **Classical 105.9 WQXR** is New York City's sole 24-hour classical music station, presenting new and landmark classical recordings as well as live concerts from the Metropolitan Opera, the New York Philharmonic, among other New York City venues, immersing listeners in the city's rich musical life. In addition to its audio content, WNYC produces content for live, radio and web audiences from **The Jerome L. Greene Performance Space**, the station's street-level multipurpose, multiplatform broadcast studio and performance space. For more information about New York Public Radio, visit [www.nypublicradio.org](http://www.nypublicradio.org).

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