



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Cast Your Vote** **At Plimoth Plantation**

### **Chosen to Lead—A Brand New Political Exhibit**

**Plymouth, MA, Plimoth Plantation – August 15, 2008** – Plimoth Plantation announces the opening of ***Chosen to Lead***, an exciting NEW exhibit that turns a typical, modern-day voting booth into a virtual time machine! The polls opened today at 9 am, for all Plimoth Plantation visitors to participate and cast their votes, now through the end of the season!

“Plimoth Plantation is proud to present ***Chosen to Lead***, an instructive and interactive experience that not only educates visitors about leadership in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, but also demonstrates a connection between the governance practices of the 1600’s, and those of today,” said John McDonagh. “As visitors decide whether to support a candidate who promotes security through warfare, or another who values family and strong alliances, they are forced to mull over the importance of these issues in the past, and examine their significance to the future. This integration of history and modern retrospection speaks to Plimoth Plantation’s mission as a living history museum, bringing the past alive through its relevance today.”

Guests to the new exhibit are invited to explore the roles of tribal and colonial leadership in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, while being presented with the views of actual, yet anonymous, historic figures who actually lived in Plimoth Colony and the surrounding Native communities. As part of the exhibit experience, visitors of all ages are afforded the opportunity to actually cast their vote for leadership, based solely on the candidates’ specific views on a variety of issues. Surprisingly, guests will find many of the political issues of 17<sup>th</sup> century Plimoth are still relevant and applicable today, making the election results that much more compelling.

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A short journey past the voting booth exposes the similarities and differences between Wampanoag and English colonial



*Wampanoag Homesite*



*Mayflower II*



*1627 English Village*

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governance, including how the respective governments were structured and who was allowed to vote.

Interactive and fun, yet topical and interesting, ***Chosen to Lead*** offers a critical examination of governance from both the Wampanoag and Colonial English perspectives, including such themes as requirements for leadership and symbols of authority. Further along, visitors learn a brief history of 17<sup>th</sup> century Wampanoag/English interactions showing how these two societies navigated through the difficulties of conflict and cooperation. At the conclusion of the exhibit, the historical identity of each candidate is finally revealed and visitors learn the identity of the candidates they voted for. A weekly tally of the election results will be posted in the exhibit on a monitor, bringing the experience full circle.

“In any century, the issues of leadership and governance are of the utmost importance. The new exhibit ***Chosen to Lead*** deftly bridges the gap between modern and historical manifestations of authority for a unique and informative visitor experience,” said Liz Lodge, Director of Museum Programs. “This exhibit transforms the voting booth into a time machine and allows museum visitors to see how issues such as foreign politics, economics, and traditional values were relevant even four hundred years ago. In such an important election year, this exhibit is both pertinent and enlightening. Visitors from all points along the political spectrum will be intrigued by the discoveries they make.”

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#### **About Plimoth Plantation**

Plimoth Plantation is a bicultural, 17<sup>th</sup>-century living history museum located an hour south of Boston in Plymouth, (Exit 4, Route 3 south) and 20 minutes north of Cape Cod. The museum is open daily from 9 am, to 5 pm, 7 days a week, from March 22 through the end of November. Plimoth Plantation is a private, non-profit educational institution supported by admission fees, contributions, memberships, function sales and revenue from our varied dining programs/services/special events and museum shops. Plimoth Plantation is a Smithsonian Institution Affiliate and receives support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, The Federal Institute of Museums and Library Services, The National Endowment for the Humanities, The Massachusetts Endowment for the Humanities, private foundations, corporations, and local businesses. For more information visit: [www.plimoth.org](http://www.plimoth.org).