

Resources

NLC PUBLICATIONS

BEYOND CIVILITY: FROM PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT TO PROBLEM SOLVING (2011)

The action guide assists local elected officials in creating a framework for civility and democratic governance that encourages governing a community in a participatory, deliberative, inclusive and collaborative ways.

LOCAL PRACTICES IN PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT (2010)

This brief presents local practices that public officials and their staffs are incorporating in their communities to govern in more participatory, deliberative, inclusive and collaborative ways.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND RECENT IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES (2010)

This guide presents local officials with the first steps and directions for developing or re-establishing efforts toward integrating immigrants into the civic life of the city. It provides guidance for conducting meetings with small groups of local leaders that are representative of the many cultural and ethnic facets of the community. It includes suggested agendas, background materials, planning considerations, and successful formats for civic engagement.

MUNICIPAL INNOVATIONS IN IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION: 20 CITIES, 20 GOOD PRACTICES (2010)

This publication describes local efforts to promote immigrant integration in a variety of ways. Small, medium-sized, and large cities are included to represent a range of possibilities.

AUTHENTIC YOUTH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT: A GUIDE FOR MUNICIPAL LEADERS (2010)

This guide offers a framework to support cities as they work to promote youth civic engagement in their communities

LEGISLATING FOR RESULTS (2009)

NLC and the Urban Institute (UI), under the guidance of a local elected official advisory committee, launched a project aimed at providing a set of “Municipal Action Guides” as a guide to results-based legislating for local government. The eleven Action Guides represent key concepts related to gathering, analyzing, using, and communicating information in order to “legislate for results.”

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

THE PROMISE AND CHALLENGE OF NEIGHBORHOOD DEMOCRACY: LESSONS FROM THE INTERSECTION OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY (2008)

This report focuses of the Neighborhood structures of Portland, Minneapolis, Los Angeles and other cities that have experimented with creative ways to engage citizens in public decision making and problem solving.

RESOURCE GUIDE ON PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT (2010)

This guide showcases the National Coalition for Dialogue and Deliberation’s directory of valuable resources, points of contact, and case studies of collaborations from communities across the country.

Paul Leistner and Amalia Alarcon de Morris, “From Neighborhood Association System to Participatory Democracy: Broadening and Deepening Public Involvement in Portland, Oregon,” National Civic Review, 2009. : <http://www.portlandonline.com/oni/index.cfm?a=267614&c=29385>

This article provides background on Portland’s community engagement system, describes the system assessment and new programs, and presents lessons learned.

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

This pamphlet provides practical ideas for making public hearings more effective forums for participants and public officials. (www.ca-ilg.org/publichearings)

PEW CENTER RESEARCH REPORT: GOVERNMENT ONLINE

The report prepared by the Pew’s Research Center Internet & American Life Project evaluates the current state of online government.

WEBSITES

SOUL OF THE COMMUNITY PROJECT, WWW.SOULOFTHECOMMUNITY.ORG

Soul of the Community (SOTC) is a three-year study conducted by Gallup of the 26 John S. and James L. Knight Foundation communities across the United States to determine the factors that attach residents to their communities and the role of community attachment in an area’s economic growth and well-being.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

AMERICA SPEAKS: WWW.AMICASPEAKS.ORG

America speaks is a nonprofit organization that engages citizens in public decisions using innovative deliberative tools including large-scale town halls supported by keypad polling, groupware computers, and interactive television

ASCENTUM: WWW.ASCENTUM.CA

Ascentum fosters local democracy by helping entire communities come together to work through tough issues and answer questions that matter to them. Using a complementary mix of online and face-to-face tools, Ascentum allows foundations to foster dialogue across whole communities, including a broad range of interested and affected citizens, as well as local stakeholders. Ascentum's unique process is supported by its innovative, dialoguescircles.com platform – a suite of face-to-face and online tools to support deliberative democracy.

ASH CENTER FOR DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AND INNOVATION: WWW.ASH.HARVARD.EDU

The Roy and Lila Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation advances excellence and innovation in governance and public policy through research, education, and public discussion. The three major programs that support the mission of the center are: the Program on Democratic Governance which researches those practices that resolve urgent social problems in developed and developing societies; the Innovations in Government Program recognizes and promotes creative and effective problem solving by governments and citizens; and the Rajawali Foundation Institute for Asia promotes research and training on Asia to disseminate best practices and improve public

DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY CONSORTIUM: WWW.DELIBERATIVE-DEMOCRACY.NET

The Deliberative Democracy Consortium (DDC) is a network of practitioners and researchers representing more than 50 organizations and universities, collaborating to strengthen the field of deliberative democracy. The Consortium seeks to support research activities and to advance practice at all levels of government, in North America and around the world.

E-DEMOCRACY.ORG: WWW.E-DEMOCRACY.ORG

Launched as the world's first election information website in 1994, today E-democracy.org focuses on hosting local online Issues Forums. E-democracy provides a service-club-like infrastructure for local volunteers (and partners) using a shared, low-cost technology base and, more importantly, a universal set of civility rules and facilitation guides that help communities succeed with online engagement.

EVERYDAY DEMOCRACY: WWW.EVERYDAY-DEMOCRACY.ORG

Everyday Democracy is dedicated to finding way for people to engage in dialogue and problem solving on critical social and political issues. The organization helps communities by giving them the tools to organize productive dialogue, recruit diverse participants, find solutions, and work for action and change.

INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT: WWW.CA-ILG.ORG

The Institute for Local government is the nonprofit research and education affiliate of the League of California Cities. The Institute has established a Collaborative Governance Initiative to support informed and effective civic engagement in public decision-making and to assist local officials in California to navigate successfully among the growing number of community engagement options that bring the public's voice to the table on important issues.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: WWW.IAP2.ORG

The International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) is an association of members who seek to promote and improve the practice of public participation and other entities that affect the public interest in nationals throughout the world.

INTERNATIONAL CITY/ COUNTY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION: WWW.ICMA.ORG

ICMA is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to create excellence in local governance by advocating and developing the professional management of local government worldwide. ICMA provides publications, data, information, technical assistance, and training and professional development.

KETTERING FOUNDATION: WWW.KETTERING.ORG

The Kettering Foundation, established in 1927 by inventor Charles F. Kettering, is a nonprofit operating foundation that does not make grants but engages in joint research with others. Kettering's primary research question is, what does it take to make democracy work as it should? Kettering's research is distinctive because it is conducted from the perspective of citizens and focuses on what people can do collectively to address problems affecting their lives, their communities, and their nation. The foundation seeks to identify and address the challenges to making democracy work as it should through interrelated program areas that focus on citizens, communities, and institutions. The foundation collaborates with an extensive network of community groups, professional associations, researchers, scholars, and citizens around the world.

[KEYSTONE CENTER: WWW.KEYSTONE.ORG](http://WWW.KEYSTONE.ORG)

The Keystone Center brings together public, private, and civic sector leaders to confront critical environment, energy, and public health problems. In conjunction with working on issues in the policy domain, the Keystone Center also uses its educational programs to arm the next generation of leaders with the 21st Century intellectual and social skills they will require to solve the problems they will face.

[NATIONAL COALITION FOR DIALOGUE & DELIBERATION: WWW.NCDD.ORG](http://WWW.NCDD.ORG)

The National Coalition for Dialogue & Deliberation (NCDD) actively promotes learning and collaboration among practitioners, public leaders, scholars and organizations involved in dialogue, deliberation, and other innovative group processes that help people tackle our most challenging problems. The NCDD website offers many resources and best practices.

[NATIONAL CIVIC LEAGUE: WWW.NCL.ORG](http://WWW.NCL.ORG)

The National Civic League (NCL) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization dedicated to strengthening citizen democracy by transforming democratic institutions. NCL fosters innovative community building and political reform, assists local governments, and recognizes collaborative community achievement.

[ORTON FAMILY FOUNDATION: WWW.ORTON.ORG](http://WWW.ORTON.ORG)

Orton Family Foundation, an operating foundation, has worked since 1995 to develop new tools and processes to better engage citizens and help small cities and towns plan their development futures. This work includes the creation of CommunityViz®, an innovative GIS planning software, development of community video and place-based education programs, and most recently the launch of its “heart and soul community planning” initiative, which brings story gathering, value mapping, scenario planning, and other high tech and low tech tools to provide citizens a stronger, better informed voice and more effective involvement and leadership in steering the change of their communities.

[PUBLIC AGENDA: WWW.PUBLICAGENDA.ORG](http://WWW.PUBLICAGENDA.ORG)

Public Agenda is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization founded by Daniel Yankelovich to help America leaders better understand the public’s point of view and to help citizens know more about critical policy issues so they can make thoughtful, informed decisions. Public Agenda conducts policy research that frames issues, using polling and focus group methods.

[PUBLIC CONVERSATIONS PROJECT: WWW.PUBLICCONVERSATIONS.ORG](http://WWW.PUBLICCONVERSATIONS.ORG)

The Public Conversations Project is a nonprofit organization that fosters a more inclusive, empathic and collaborative society by promoting constructive conversations and relationships among those who have differing values, worldviews, and positions about divisive public issues.

