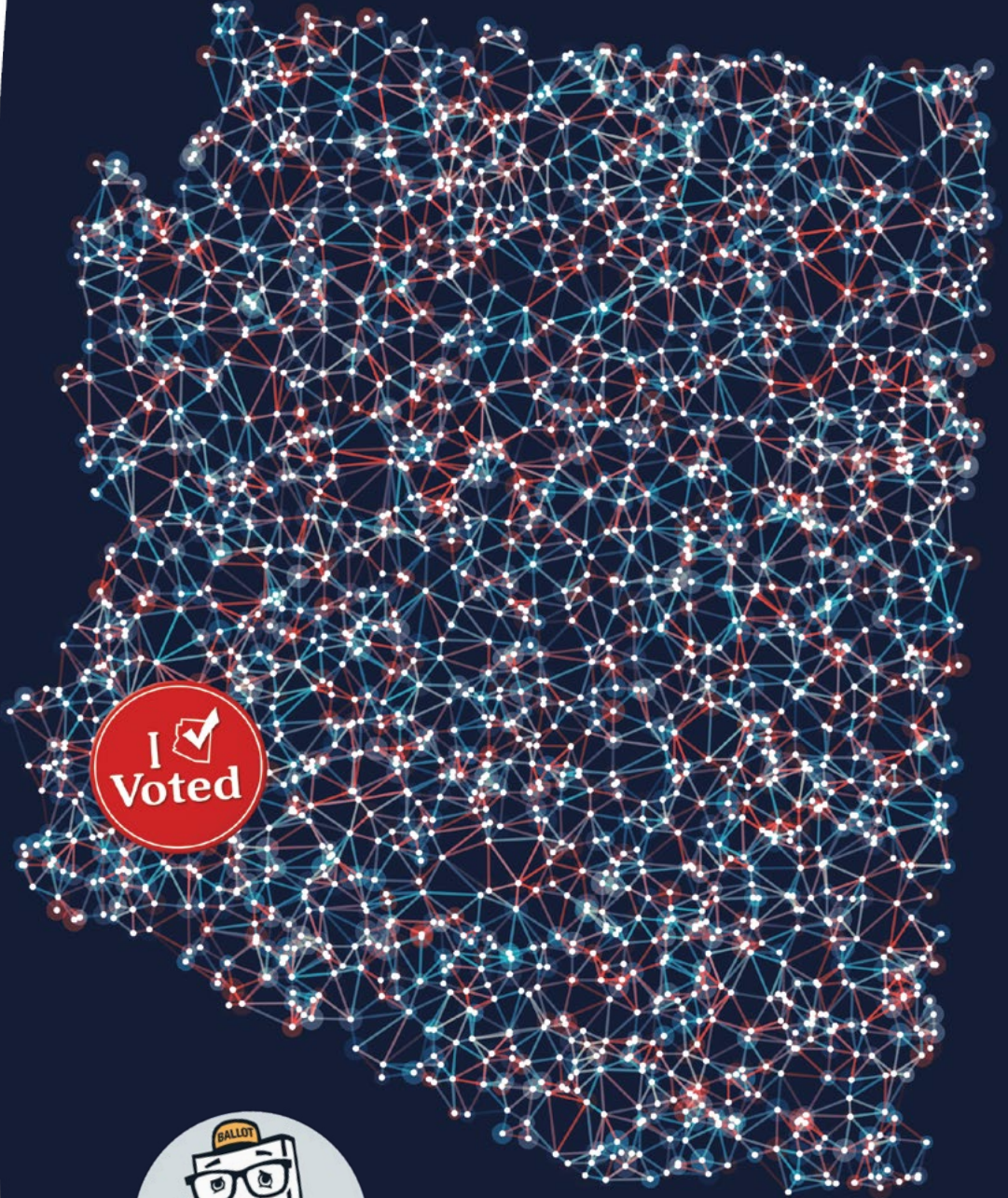




VOTING AND ELECTIONS IN ARIZONA



2024
COMMUNITY
TOWN HALL
REPORTS

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VOTING AND ELECTIONS IN ARIZONA

KEY FACTS FROM THE BACKGROUND REPORT

Introduction

Voting and elections in Arizona play a critical role in our state's outcomes, now and into the future. Effective democracy plays an important role in addressing large and complex issues that affect diverse regions and populations of our state. These issues include education, health care, water, housing, the economy, and our southern border.

Arizona's Shared Public Values

- Extensive research by the Center for the Future of Arizona shows that Arizonans want greater civic engagement and a democracy that works for all of us.
- Three-quarters of Arizonans (76%) want to work together across differences to solve problems.
- Vast majorities agree on convenient, accessible elections through measures like early voting (79%), mail-in voting (73%), and automatic voter registration (77%).
- Large majorities of Arizonans also agree that our elections are currently fair and secure.
- Almost two-thirds of Arizonans want leaders who work together: 64% prefer leaders who are willing to compromise and work across the aisle to find bipartisan solutions to complex problems.

Opportunities

- Only 43% of Arizonans believe leaders are talking about the issues that matter most to them, and most Arizonans do not believe their leaders work across party lines, represent diverse voices, or focus on the future.
- A significant number of eligible voters do not participate because they feel their vote won't matter.
- Because most of the state legislative districts have a strong majority of registered voters in just one party, 80% of Arizona's candidates for office are essentially elected in primary elections.
- Over the last two decades, only about one in three Arizona voters have cast a vote in primary elections, with turnout rates much lower among certain groups, including Independents, who now outnumber Republicans and Democrats.
- To win a primary election, candidates tend to focus on partisan issues that appeal to the small number of primary voters and to special interests that support their campaigns, rather than what most Arizonans have identified as their highest priorities.

Voter Registration Statistics

- There are approximately 4.1 million registered voters in Arizona. This equates to about 57% of the state's entire population or about 80% of the state's citizen voting-age population.

How confident would you say you are in the outcomes of Arizona's elections, very confident, somewhat confident, or not confident?

*No Response/Did Not Know

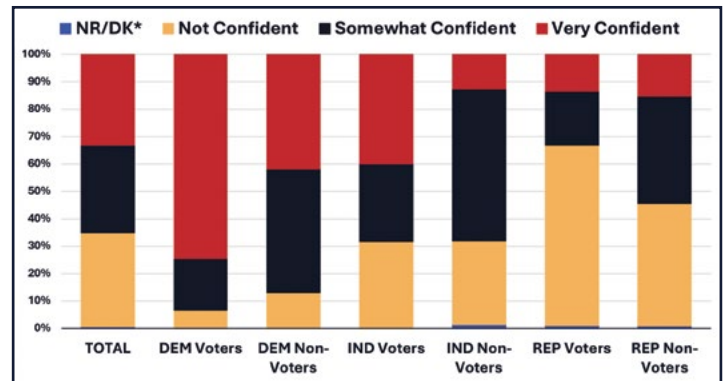


Figure Source: Dan Hunting, Thom Reilly, Jacqueline Salit, Cathy Stewart, and Christian Lorentzen, "Consensus and Concern in Arizona's Hot Political Climate: Voter Attitudes About Elections," ASU School of Public Affairs, July 2023, https://spa.asu.edu/sites/default/files/2023-07/Consensus_Concern_July_24_2023.pdf.

Year	General Election	Primary Election
2022	62.56%	34.92%
2020	79.90%	36.42%
2018	64.85%	33.26%
2016	74.17%	29.10%
2014	47.52%	27.02%
2012	74.36%	28.09%

Table Source: "Voter Registration Statistics," Arizona Secretary of State, accessed March 7, 2024, <https://azsos.gov/elections/results-data/voter-registration-statistics>.

- There are currently five recognized political parties. When a person registers to vote, they select one of these official parties to register with, or they can choose to register as a “party not designated” or with a party that does not have official recognition. These latter two options result in an independent or unaffiliated voter.
- Arizona currently has an open primary law, meaning unaffiliated/independent voters can vote in the primaries by selecting a partisan ballot from the parties having open primaries. These voters, however, may not vote in the presidential preference elections that are run by parties.

Voter Registration Statistics - January 2024*

*Voter registration statistics are calculated as prescribed by A.R.S. §16-168(G)

Party Name	Registered Voters	Percent
Republican	1,418,407	34.58%
Democratic	1,211,940	29.55%
Libertarian	32,438	0.79%
No Labels	25,924	0.63%
Green	2,514	0.06%
Other	1,410,085	34.38%
TOTAL	4,101,308	

Table Source: “Voter Registration Statistics,” Arizona Secretary of State, January 2, 2024, <https://azsos.gov/elections/results-data/voter-registration-statistics>.

Arizona Leads with Election Reform

Democracy and community health are strengthened by electoral participation. Arizona has long been a leader nationally when it comes to elections, as we were the first state to implement online voter registration. Ballot by mail has been available in Arizona for over two decades. There are robust infrastructure and security measures in place to ensure ballots are safe and secure.

Arizona voters created the Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Commission (Clean Elections) in 1998 and charged it with additional campaign finance enforcement. Clean Elections is an independent, non-partisan state agency with investigative authority, enforcement, and subpoena powers, as well as the authority to create rules and assess civil penalties to enforce the Clean Elections Act.

In 2000, voters approved Proposition 106, creating the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission that draws state and legislative districts every ten years using regulations to limit participation by elected officials and draw balanced districts.

More recently, voters passed Proposition 211, the Voter’s Right to Know Act. The Act calls for additional disclosures and reporting by entities and persons whose campaign media spending and/or in-kind contributions for campaign media spending exceeds \$50,000 in statewide campaigns or \$25,000 in other campaigns, including identifying original donors of contributions of more than \$5,000 in aggregate, creating penalties for violations of the law.

Voting Options

Arizona has a diverse population and geography. As such, election administration is not a one-size-fits-all method. Voters have several options when it comes to voting. They can choose to vote early by mail, vote early in person, drop off their completed ballot at any voting location or secure ballot drop box, or vote in person on election day. In the 2020 General Election, approximately 89% of ballots cast were early ballots. In the 2022 midterms, 80.1% of voters voted by mail.



*Eligibility requirements

- A citizen of the United States.
- A resident of Arizona and the county listed on your registration 29 days prior to the election.
- 18 years of age or older on or before the next general election.
- You are able to write your name or make your mark (unless prevented by disability).
- You have not been adjudicated an incapacitated person.
- You have not been convicted of treason or a felony unless you have had your civil rights restored. For a first-time felony conviction, civil rights are automatically restored upon completion of a person’s sentence and payment of any fines and restitution.

VOTING AND ELECTIONS IN ARIZONA

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Civic Learning in Arizona

Increased engagement in civic and political life requires a variety of concerted efforts, including effective civic learning interventions that foster meaningful, participatory opportunities for K-12 students to ensure the long-term health of our democracy. It is important to design these interventions in ways that reach educators across grade levels, content areas, and communities; engage traditionally underserved communities; be easily adopted and scaled; and deepen learning outcomes in areas of history, government, and civics.

Arizona has been a pioneer in K-12 civic education policies and programs. Notably, in 2013, Arizona was one of the first states to create a state-level Department of Education civic education program aimed at 1) providing resources and professional civic learning opportunities for K-12 educators, 2) recognizing schools and programs that utilized the ten proven practices of civic learning, and 3) advocating for best practices in civic and community engagement.

In 2015, the Arizona legislature passed the American Civics Act (HB2064) with bipartisan support. This landmark bill required students, beginning with the graduating class of 2017, to pass the Arizona Civics Exam, a standardized assessment based on the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services civics exam. In 2018, SB144 was passed to require all high school students to take a semester-long civics course for graduation. This requirement was intended to support students in passing the Arizona Civics Exam.

Many K-12 civics education policies and programs rely on rote memorization of static facts with the purpose of passing a civics class or an exam. There is a resurgence of interest in civic learning in schools alongside questions of what has worked and what is next for improving this field to create more informed citizens for life.

School Participatory Budgeting

One promising model in civic education is Arizona's pioneering work in School Participatory Budgeting (SPB). SPB empowers students to "learn democracy by doing" by deciding and voting on how a portion of school district funds are used to improve their school communities. This democratic process prepares young people to be active, informed, responsible and engaged participants in civic life for the long term by building student agency, confidence, communication, critical thinking and problem-solving skills. SPB has also been shown to improve school climate, increase opportunities for broader campus engagement, nurture a more deliberative civic culture, and strengthen school-community relationships.

Sandra Day O'Connor Institute

The Sandra Day O'Connor Institute offers a variety of programs and tools to improve civics education and engagement.

- Civics for Life: a multi-generational online resource center for civics education, civil discourse and civic engagement.
- Civics 101: free online micro-lessons to expand or test your civics IQ. From the fundamentals of our government and democracy to the elections process, lifelong adult learners can expand or refresh their civics knowledge.
- The Civics Challenge: an online civics competition for grades 6 through 12. Participants are challenged to choose one civics topic and express their knowledge through various art forms.
- Camp O'Connor USA: a free, merit-based civics summer program for middle school students with a mission to educate, encourage and inspire the next generation of leaders. Participants gain a deeper, experiential understanding of our nation's democracy, branches of government, and the duties and responsibilities of citizenship.

VOTING AND ELECTIONS IN ARIZONA

VOTING SYSTEM REFORM IDEAS

Top Candidate Primaries

Top-candidate primaries are an election process in which all candidates running for an office, regardless of party affiliation, are listed on the same primary ballot. While top-two primaries are the most common version of a top-candidate primary, top-four and final-five primaries also let voters choose candidates from any party. With the top-four and final five primary models, however, the top vote-getters move on to a general election. In all these primaries, the top candidates that receive the highest number of votes, regardless of party affiliation, advance to the general election, making it possible for two members of the same party to run against one another in a general election.

Top-candidate elections are used fairly widely and successfully across the United States.

Ranked-Choice Voting

Ranked-choice voting (RCV) is a system within which constituents vote for multiple candidates, in order of preference. In a ranked choice voting system, the candidate who receives more than half of the first-choice votes in races that only elect one winner will win. However, if there is no simple majority winner within the first-choice votes, then votes are subject to a new counting system, often described as an “instant runoff.” When this happens, the candidate receiving the fewest total votes is eliminated from the race, and votes are re-tallied for the remaining candidates. Voters whose first-choice votes went toward the eliminated candidate will have their second-choice votes counted, and tabulation will continue until there is a candidate who has won the majority of votes.

In jurisdictions with multi-winner positions (such as city council or school board) or who elect multiple winners for a legislative body, a variant of ranked-choice voting is more likely to be used: proportional ranked-choice voting. In proportional ranked-choice voting, winning candidates must reach only the voting threshold—the minimum percentage of votes to guarantee winning the seat—in order to win one of the seats up for grabs. For example, a single-seat election needs 50 percent + 1 vote, a two-seat election needs 33.3 percent + 1 vote, a three-seat election needs 25 percent + 1 vote, and so on.

Ranked-choice voting is currently seeing relatively limited use here in the United States. However, its popularity is increasing. Lawmakers in 29 states are considering measures that would adopt ranked choice voting in some form, in local, statewide, or presidential primary elections. Particularly noteworthy out of the jurisdictions that use ranked-choice voting are the states of Alaska and Maine, who use it in all statewide and presidential elections. Outside of the US, ranked-choice voting is used nationally by six countries: Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, Malta, Northern Ireland, and Scotland.

Proponents assert that the expected benefits of RCV include greater openness of the electoral arena to new parties and independents, greater ideological moderation, and greater voter satisfaction. Ranked choice voting was designed to encourage centrism and, in many cases, independent candidates. Opponents have argued that ranked-choice voting is unnecessarily complex and confuses voters. Assessing their potential is challenging because their implementation takes place in the context of complete partisan control of most state and local electoral systems and the parties typically seek to retain as much control of the election system as possible.

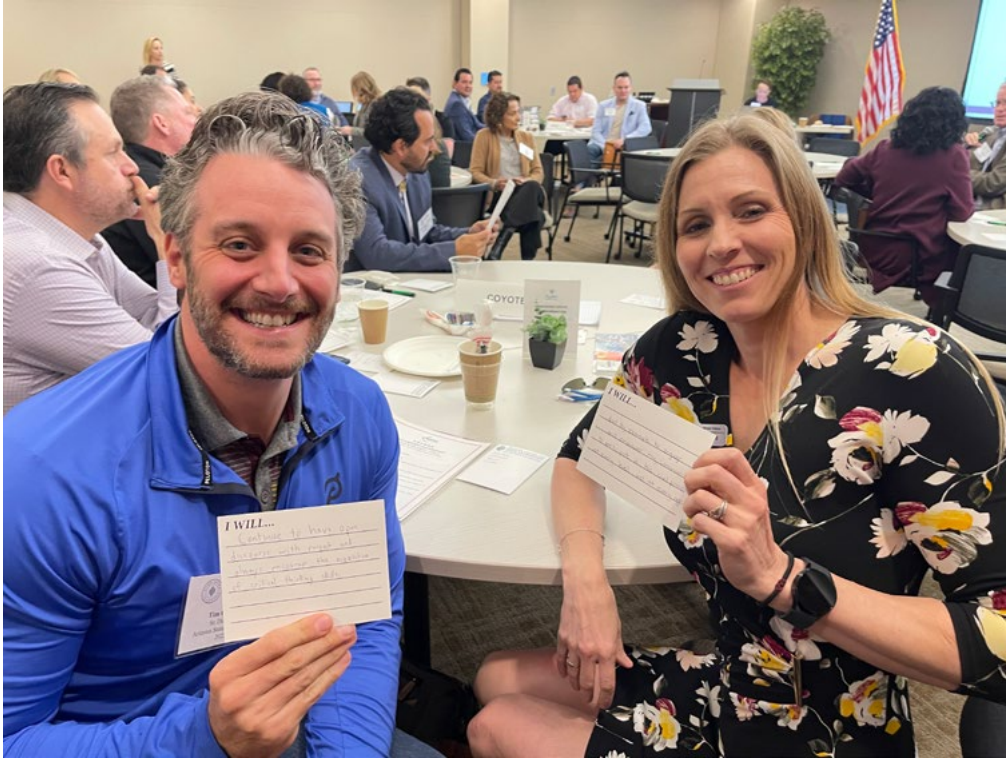


The information summarized for the handouts on pages 3-6 is sourced from the “Voting and Elections in Arizona” Background Report edited by Leigh Jensen Marino with the Morrison Institute for Public Policy. Access the complete background report by using the QR code, or visiting our website at www.aztownhall.org.

ASU Morrison Institute
for Public Policy
Arizona State University

CIVIC LEADERSHIP AND DEMOCRACY COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

February 14, 2024 | Phoenix, AZ



"A healthy, strong, effective democracy is one that is built on the fundamental foundation of civics education."

CIVIC LEADERSHIP AND DEMOCRACY COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

February 14, 2024 | Phoenix, AZ

ELEMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM

A healthy, strong, effective democracy is one that is built on the fundamental foundation of civics education. If someone lacks a basic civics education, it will be hard for them to know what a democracy is, let alone an effective one. Knowledge and understanding as to how a democracy works is vital. An effective democracy allows for easy access to participation in the voting process, free speech, free press, and open dialogue. It is far more than politics, and requires inclusiveness and transparency, with proper safeguards in place, such as an independent judiciary. An effective democracy should be based on trust, knowledge, confidence, inclusivity, and transparency.

Elected leaders in a democracy should listen to and represent their entire constituency, irrespective as to how engaged they are in the political process.

When there is disorganization and extreme partisanship, our democracy breaks down. It is important to ensure voters believe that their votes matter and that they have faith in the process. An effective democracy also includes citizens having confidence in the outcomes of an election, and candidates accepting the results of an election.

Our elected leaders need to work together to resolve issues that affect citizens. Too much focus is placed on party-affiliation and partisan politics and not on actual representation. Further, an effective democracy needs to allow for a more diverse candidate base; should encourage qualified individuals to run for political office; and provide for greater educational opportunities for its citizens.

CURRENT POLITICAL AND CIVIC SYSTEMS

Generally, our current political and civic systems support an effective democracy, but it is the use, and at times, manipulation of these systems, which causes distrust and disillusionment among citizens, resulting in distrust in our democracy. A favorable element of Arizona's current election system is that it allows citizens to physically observe the elections process, including observing polling places, the counting of ballots and the tabulation process. The current system also encourages its citizens to serve as election volunteers. However, with the current divisiveness and vitriol, many are too afraid to participate in these volunteer roles.

Primarily, our elections systems are strong and robust, but these systems are under attack, and many of the systems' weaknesses are to be attributed to the use of the system, and not its structures. Gerrymandering, voter restrictions, and voter disenfranchisement do exist, but there have been significant efforts to promote inclusive, effective voting opportunities, such as early voting, online voter registration and weekend voting. Nonetheless, more work can be done.

The treatment of election officials, which includes serious threats and intimidation, at the local, county and state levels, has caused many veteran election officials to leave their profession, which has in turn, sowed further distrust in the electoral process.

There is an active, ongoing movement to sow distrust in elections, and to discourage individuals from voting, and while such activity is not inherent in the "systems," it may constitute an attack on these systems.

CHANGES TO CONSIDER

We should consider making the following changes to our election processes, civil structures, and democratic institutions to support an effective democracy:

- Enhanced civics education in schools, both primary and secondary schools (K-12 education).
- Open primaries, which would allow for increased voter turnout and would encourage candidates to address the entire electorate. Some suggest that we even eliminate primary elections altogether.

- Ranked choice voting, but also ensuring that the electorate is educated as to how ranked choice voting works.
- Increased pay for elected officials and public employees who work in elections.
- Making voting on election day easier, i.e., more poll workers, more polling places, longer voting hours, etc.
- Greater transparency. For example, implement clean elections at the federal level.
- Review and possibly change candidate requirements.
- Reform of the current political party system.
- Election Day State Holiday, to allow individuals to have the day off to vote on election day and encourage private sector employers to provide increased time off (preferably paid time off) from work to vote.
- Utilize emergency technologies to encourage and educate citizens about the Request to Speak process at the Arizona Legislature. The current system favors metropolitan areas such as Phoenix and Tucson and does not consider more rural areas.
- Provide substantive, but easy to read and understand, information to voters about what is on the ballot, i.e., ballot proposition descriptions, descriptions of what the elected offices substantively do and their areas of responsibility, etc.
- Increase the number of independents voting.
- Greater access to voter files.
- Voter registration reform.
- Campaign finance reform.
- Revamp the process by which independents can qualify for the ballot.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

The following actions should be taken to make voting, electing and our democracy more effective:

- Arizonans should be self-empowered to become more educated and more informed about elections and voting.
- Our educational system needs to incorporate civics education into the standard curriculum in a meaningful manner.
- Provide opportunities to youth and adults to engage in civics education and civic programming.
- Pass open primaries constitutional initiative.
- Hold our elected officials accountable.
- Encourage more voter educational forums, with support from both the public and private sector.

INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions during the Civic Leadership and Democracy Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Commit to open and transparent civil discourse and engagement to educate and support an effective democracy with free and fair elections.
- Continue to support, create, and encourage funding of initiatives that promote equity in healthcare outcomes. Health equity = healthier and stronger democracy.
- Accept my responsibility as a leader to promote, encourage, and resource civic engagement in my sphere of influence.
- Encourage my Independent friends to participate and learn more about how they can participate.
- Identify, encourage, and support candidates for our local city council election, and provide support after they are elected.

- Educate and motivate fellow Fellows on the importance of engaging in political systems and elections reform.
- Educate and encourage my family, friends, and colleagues to participate in voting and election processes.
- Continue to host family voting parties.
- Participate in Arizona Town Hall training sessions.
- Share with and educate my network on voting, registering, primaries, and my own ballot.
- Host a “voting party” to encourage others to vote and mail their ballots.
- Continue to bring awareness to civic education and engagement in my role as a city council member.
- Treat all people with kindness and listen to understand.
- Complete my Ph.D. to bring attention to the ways constituents lobby the legislature.
- Talk to my team about AARP hosting a town hall on democracy. AARP is doing an election, voter engagement, and information campaign for 2024.
- Commit to pursuing alternative options for our election processes to encourage more informed voting by a larger percentage of the electorate.
- Leverage funding and organize funders to build and strengthen civic health in Arizona.
- Request more information and understanding when my GOP PC’s say, “We’re moving into Civil War”, join militia, or make threats to Democrats rather than my usual just changing the subject or trying to escape.
- Continue to be engaged in my community and push for the access and inclusivity of people who are not at the table.
- Continue to have open discourse with respect and always encourage the acquisition of critical thinking skills.
- Pass the Open Primaries constitutional initiative.
- Share that Flinn-Brown and Arizona Town Hall are the best-equipped groups in the state to pursue this topic.
- Vote!
- Encourage others to vote and volunteer in every election possible.
- Look for opportunities to host community forums to educate on candidates, issues, and ballot measures.
- Help Arizona Town Hall to facilitate as many community town halls on the 2024 topic of improving democracy for Arizonans.
- Commit to promote inter-dialogue and working together to promote effective democracy, encourage education, participation, critical thinking, and inclusion.
- Share the discussion today and town hall summaries.
- Advocate for short-term improvements such as same-day voter registration and state funding to access mail early voting option for non-party.
- Lead by example to engage and empower my community to participate in the civil process at every level and every age.

SPIRIT OF SERVICE SCHOLARS FUTURE LEADERS TOWN HALL

February 23, 2024 | Phoenix, AZ



"When our Democracy is working well, the right things get done."

SPIRIT OF SERVICE SCHOLARS FUTURE LEADERS TOWN HALL

February 23, 2024 | Phoenix, AZ

ELEMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM

In an effective democracy, ideas are bipartisan and represent everyone's needs, including independents. People feel that they can participate and that their participation and voice matters. An effective democracy is representative of all people with elected leaders who represent the entire community and civic action by people that is broader than just voting.

An effective democracy creates policies with well-informed decisions that are based on credible information—not misleading propaganda. People are well-informed and their needs are met with adaptive and innovative systems that incorporate the needs of all people, including different generations.

When our Democracy is working well, the right things get done.

CURRENT POLITICAL AND CIVIC SYSTEMS

There is a lot of distrust of our current democracy, especially among our youth. People also feel intimidated by a system that is difficult to navigate and that often makes them feel that their participation does not matter.

To address this, we should look at misleading information that is spread online as well as how to reduce the impact of money's influence on politics, specifically the impact of lobbying by corporate interests on those who run for or hold office. Arizona's Clean Elections system is one effort to address this issue and it has had some success but has also had many challenges—including by those who claim it impinges on free speech rights if you place limits on campaign contributions.

Notably, the ability to raise money is not always tied to the most effective candidate. While we need reforms to address the influence of money on politics, it is a challenging problem to address with many tensions to balance and unintended consequences. Nonetheless, our efforts and the efforts of other countries demonstrate that we can make positive changes and it is important to keep trying.

CHANGES TO CONSIDER AND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

To make our democracy more effective, there should be more opportunities for people to communicate with elected leaders outside of the current "request to speak" system which is fairly limited in scope and timing. This could include an online forum, community liaisons, community centers and other opportunities at community gathering spots that are more accessible to the average person who works full-time or may have other limitations on participation.

We also need to eliminate barriers that independents face in voting.

Finally, we should consider additional incentives for candidates to "run clean."

INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions during the Spirit of Service Scholars Future Leaders Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Communicate to others what I have learned and provide them resources and places to gain more knowledge or information to get actively involved.

- Spread the word that Independents can vote in the primary election and help them work through the process.
- Commit to voting in the primaries, despite being an independent voter.
- Use my platform as a student leader to highlight opportunities for civic engagement outside of traditional voting.
- Use my voice in the primary elections and learn how to tackle hurdles for independent voters.
- Engage others.
- Raise awareness with my peers on these topics and what their processes look like.
- Work with my community to help bring solvency to the ongoing detriments that our society faces. Do my best to do this with an open mind and a heart for hope to help those in need and those to come!
- Attempt to be more knowledgeable of voting policies and regulations and how it affects my community.
- Utilize the request to speak (RTS) system and spread the word to my peers about how to use it.
- Educate people about the power of voting.
- Request to speak and be civically engaged.
- Learn how to engage my community at the micro, mezzo, and macro level.

IN COLLABORATION WITH



PRESCOTT COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

June 18, 2024 | Prescott, AZ



"An effective democracy is one that values education, critical thinking, awareness, robust debates, and an ability for diverse cultures and diverse viewpoints to coexist."

PRESCOTT COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

June 18, 2024 | Prescott, AZ

ELEMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM

Democracy is the definition of our Nation. Without democracy we would have a disempowered nation. Democracy is how we uphold our freedom.

An effective democracy is one that values education, critical thinking, awareness, robust debates, and an ability for diverse cultures and diverse viewpoints to coexist.

Democracy includes equal rights, participation that makes a difference, and respect for all. It overcomes gridlock by listening to all—including those who share different opinions. An effective democracy provides participation by everyone, including youth. Voting and participation are encouraged, as are civic education and accurate representations of our history.

A democracy allows access to accurate information and provides opportunities to be heard and to share thoughts. It also requires compromise and acceptance.

An effective democracy includes equal and easy access to having your voice heard. Trust is important—both in the system and in elected officials. Elected officials should balance their individual viewpoints with the needs of the entire constituency.

An effective democracy requires commitment to the system, regardless of whether “your team” loses.

Democracy is critical to our communities. Democracy requires us to define rights and to work for community strength and the freedom for people to be heard within the system.

CURRENT POLITICAL AND CIVIC SYSTEMS AND CHANGES TO CONSIDER

Our current political and civic systems are not as effective as they could be in supporting an effective democracy. While there are options for how people register and vote, there are other issues, such as a focus on a two-party system (vs. multi-partisan) that create challenges for our democracy. There are also a lot of people who don't vote. We need better education, including within our education system, to support engagement. This includes organizations that facilitate civic conversation and other forms of civic engagement, as well as organizations who support youth. We also need more education about how to register to vote and how to change party affiliation to vote in primaries.

We should consider platforms and systems that allow more people to feel heard. This can include term limits, changes to our primary elections systems, proportional representation, easier access to voting (including more polling stations, and leaning into newer technologies that expand access) education and providing critical information to those areas who may need it most, including smaller and more rural areas. It may also include a National Popular Voter Compact which allows the popular vote to impact the presidential election. We also need efforts to combat misinformation. More positive media would be helpful. To support effective media coverage, we should look for more financial support for multipartisan, non-profit journalism.

We also need more discussion across the aisle.

If there are going to be changes, it will take some time for them to be effective and some may need to occur on a national level. We should consider more clean elections funding, additional federal representatives, and support for people to effectively run for and hold elected office.

The “winner take all” system should be reconsidered. We should look at campaign finance reform, reversing the Citizen's United decision, and other changes that would increase diversity and disincentivize the power of money in politics.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

We need to look at changes to media and how we receive information. We should support good journalism through more financial support for public journalism. Broadcast media should be required to platform dissenting opinions so that coverage is more “across the board.” The FCC should take responsibility for these actions, but it needs more authority to do so. We should bring back the regulatory powers to the FCC that they used to have.

We need to have respectful civil conversations that are productive and to be OK with exploring uncomfortable topics.

There should be more campaigns for voting and election reform, including the exploration of ranked choice voting and additional use of public monies for campaigns such as Clean Elections. We could explore voting simulators as part of an effort to improve education on the topic and to rebuild trust in the system. We also need to explore removing both the electoral process and partisan gerrymander.

It all begins with us. We each can encourage people, educate them, and connect them to resources.

INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions during the Prescott Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Not give up. Be more informed and be active in sharing information, opportunities and process.
- Do what I'm already doing but more and better.
- Empower youth to use their voice early, practice taking up space, practice listening with curiosity early... before voting age.
- Vote!
- Inform high school government classrooms about clean elections.
- Build our network across Arizona – Continue to combat mis/disinformation – highlight/encourage those standing up for our democracy – support town hall in its efforts this year.
- Take what we learned today to the members of the Arizona Democracy Resilience Network (ADRN) which Don Henninger can lead. ADRN members will be asked to send this information to people in their networks.
- Promote education of voting and its process and give value to others' opinions and selections in voting.
- Attempt to engage with others who convey disinformation to source and steer them to the truth in order to promote compassion, honesty and integrity.
- Always remain open-minded and obtain as much knowledge as I can in to order credibly advocate for the importance of voting.
- Attend more information meeting to spread the word more and vote in elections.
- Listen and speak up to engage in civil discussions around voting and elections.
- Always vote and encourage others to vote.
- Be active!
- Continue to engage with young voters in Arizona to drive up youth engagement with our democratic systems.
- Share information that I learned at the town hall with others.
- Educate myself further on the election/voting process and attempt to engage in more non(multi) partisan conversations with others.
- Continue to work with community and policy members to spread education and questions.
- Continue to work with groups that promote voting and citizen participation and education (board member in two such groups).
- Read more long-form articles from differing opinions/viewpoints.

- Support and encourage participation in political debates for elections. Expand knowledge of clean election participation.
- Continue to do more research – try to engage in unbiased political conversations with others.

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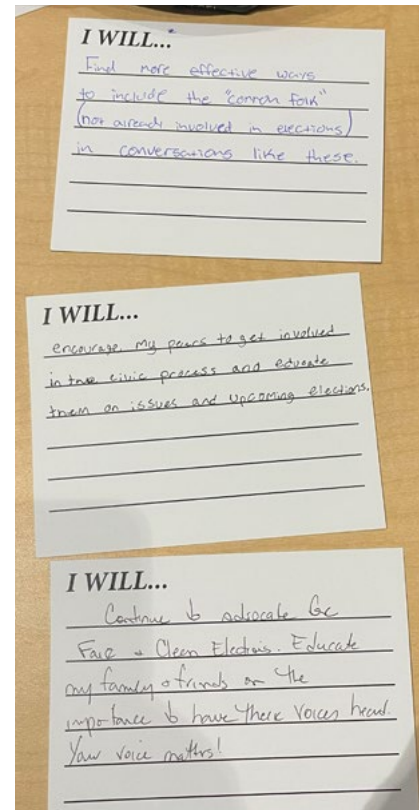
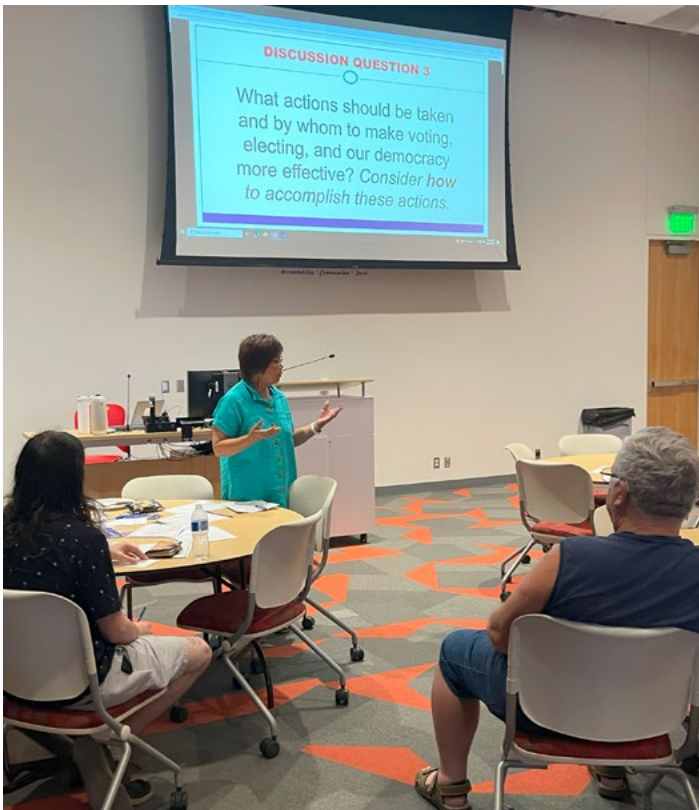
Aeronautical University

PRESCOTT, ARIZONA



PINAL COUNTY D3 COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

June 24, 2024 | Coolidge, AZ



"Most elections are decided in the party primaries, yet many people do not know about the primaries or understand the importance of the primaries in deciding who ultimately holds office."

PINAL COUNTY D3 COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

June 24, 2024 | Coolidge, AZ

ELEMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM

We are a constitutional republic. Democracy as a term is often utilized as part of the discussion around voting and elections which can make it confusing for many people. We should consider clarifying that we use democratic methods to select the positions.

What makes a representative democracy effective may vary for each individual and these differences can cause division.

An effective representative democracy is where individual opinions are equally considered, and people have the opportunity to be heard. While people may have opportunities to be heard, there are many people who are currently afraid to voice their opinion, and this is not a good situation for our communities.

CURRENT POLITICAL AND CIVIC SYSTEMS AND CHANGES TO CONSIDER

Arizona got it right with a bottom-up elections system. We are a dynamic diverse state and it's important to allow counties to run things in the way that works best for them.

Arizona does a good job with making elections accessible with early ballots, polling locations and its low barriers for registering to vote and voting.

Most elections are decided in the party primaries, yet many people do not know about the primaries or understand the importance of the primaries in deciding who ultimately holds office. And it's very confusing to most people. Concepts like open primaries are being considered in Arizona.

We could do better when it comes to Independents. We should make it easier for Independents to understand how to vote and find ways for them to get information that currently comes from partisan sources.

We need to also address the confusion that social media plays with spreading incorrect and confusing information. We need to give people more education on where to get information from trusted sources. We might also consider how best to make our government buildings and mailings more accessible to the average person.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Our election systems are generally effective because we don't have riots and generally respect the voting system. You don't always get what you want, but we have a system that generally allows us to be involved in the process and to move forward. The closer we get to local politics, the more effective our system seems to be. This may be because local politics are not as reliant on big organizations and big money that influence the ideology or actions of those running for office. At lower levels, it is not as partisan or divisive.

As voters, we should all consider listening more to the conversation in the middle and to not listen only to the fringes because the consensus is generally in the middle. It may be difficult to compromise and to bring diverse voices and perspectives together, but this is how we get the best decisions and the best policies.

Our system has its challenges, but we are better off than many other places in the world. As challenging as our system may be, it's important for all of us to be involved in voting and elections and it's important for us to encourage others to be engaged in the process as well. Education is key.

People tend to be involved if they feel like it impacts them. If they feel removed from government, they are not engaged. We now have a culture of instant gratification and one where our kids are getting their personal gratification from social media instead of what is happening in their communities and with local elections.

Education is important. If people feel it impacts them, they will be more involved. One action we could take is to not have consolidated ballots so people can easily see and vote on local elections. We should also look at having employers more involved in encouraging employees to vote.

INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions during the Pinal County D3 Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Find out who the civics teacher is and try to encourage them. Check with the Boys and Girls Club to see what they are doing in this regard.
- Educate everyone I encounter.
- Be responsible to educate myself on the election process, do research on candidates, propositions, etc. so I will make “informed” decisions to help my community move forward.
- Find more effective ways to include the “common folk” (not already involved in elections) in conversations like these.
- Encourage my peers to get involved in the civic process and educate them on issues and upcoming elections.
- Continue to advocate for fair and clean elections.
- Educate my family and friends on the importance and have their voices heard. Your voice matters!
- Help educate everyone and anyone.
- Continue to be civically engaged and educate voters on the electoral process.

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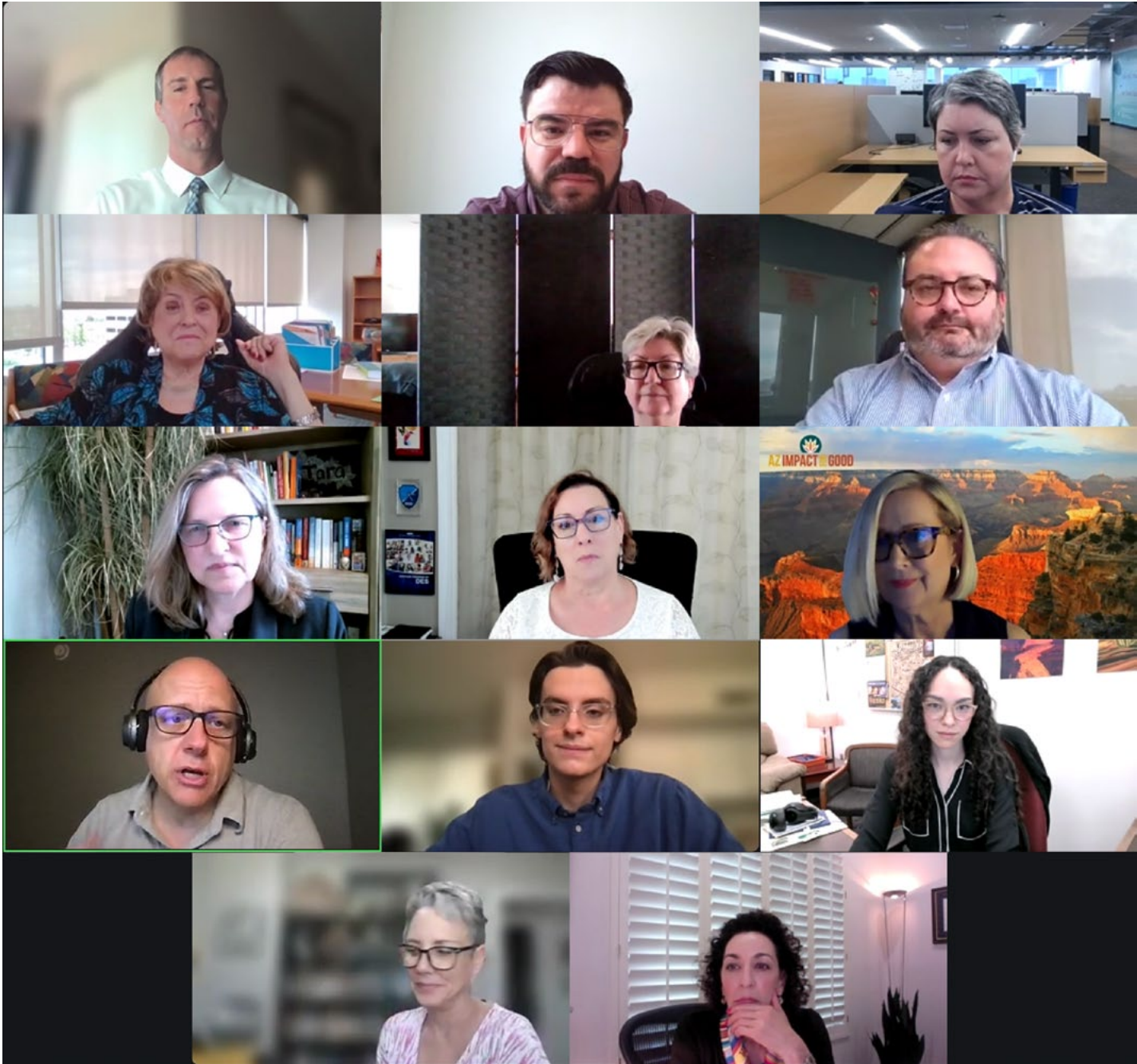
ARIZONA DEMOCRACY
RESILIENCE NETWORK



Pinal County Supervisor Stephen Miller, Dist. 3

VITALYST VIRTUAL COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

June 25, 2024 | Online via Zoom



“The current system encourages polarization and leads to a lack of choice.”

VITALYST VIRTUAL COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

June 25, 2024 | Online via Zoom

ELEMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM

Democracy requires definition and understanding that it is not instantaneous, and it is not just about feelings. Rather, it is about a broad spectrum of wants and needs. We vote for a select few who serve a diverse population with different tastes, values, and beliefs.

The key cornerstones of democracy should include:

1. Safety
2. Civility
3. Appropriate representation
 - a. Voters may align to a brand instead of their beliefs. Voters need to self-reflect to avoid electing polarizing officials.
 - b. Current representation reflects a lack of choice driven by an often-manipulated two-party system that deters competition.
4. Voter education
 - a. Socio-economic factors unfairly impact those who do not have the same ability to invest the time required to participate effectively in elections.
 - b. When voters sense that their vote matters, voters turn out in greater numbers.
 - c. Voters need to understand there are multiple entry points to participating in democracy and it is not just about elections. More awareness is needed about system participation and access and about the concept that voting is a complex and time-consuming system that does not have instantaneous results
5. Accessible voting: For people to show up and participate, systemic barriers need to be removed.

CURRENT POLITICAL AND CIVIC SYSTEMS AND CHANGES TO CONSIDER

There is a crisis of confidence in the election process and restoration of the process is essential to participation. To promote higher participation, we should consider reforms such as:

1. Fusion voting
2. Ranked choice voting
3. Automatic voter registration
4. Passage of the voter rights act
5. Open primaries

The current system encourages polarization and leads to a lack of choice. The “only viable candidate” is not a reflection of what will meet the needs and wants of voters. Better representation, requires potential changes to:

1. Running for and serving in office, which is expensive, poorly compensated for state legislators, and appeals to a narrow pool of people who may not always reflect the lived experiences of the constituency.
2. The two-candidate system, which is polarizing. Having more than two candidates would reflect more of the interests of the community.

3. Our current party system. A system that reflects some of the characteristics of a parliamentary system might lead to better collaboration and could include measures of performance.

While these potential changes relate primarily to federal or state elections, local politics is equally important. Voter education is needed to combat misinformation and stereotypes that inhibit good candidates from wanting to run for or hold elected office.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

To get voters to the polls, we should retain what works, such as early voting and mail-in ballots. These are essential and something we do well in Arizona. We need to also appeal to all segments of the electorate by having fewer restrictions on voting and the return of ballots, while being mindful of safety and ensuring appropriate precautions for voter fraud.

INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions during the Vitalyst Virtual Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Encourage as many as possible to host or attend a Community Town Hall this year and every year!
- Encourage others to vote in the primaries as well as the general election.
- Educate voters on the candidates running for office from the Local, County, State, and Federal office.
- Participate, educate, and listen to understand.
- Reflect on my own ways to get involved in this and other organizations.
- Promote these community town halls around the state.
- Model civility in all my public discourse.
- Commit to voting!
- Continue to personally engage in my community by volunteering and donating to my favorite local nonprofits.
- With Vitalyst, I will continue to support Arizona Town Hall and other efforts to strengthen our civic health in Arizona.
- Continue to support nonprofits' voter education and registration efforts. Thanks to Vitalyst for supporting our voter engagement work!
- Continue to participate in Arizona Town Hall events and invite others to do so as well!
- Create a self-funded voter registration campaign.

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NORTHEAST RURAL ARIZONA COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

July 8, 2024 | Show Low, AZ



"In an effective democracy, people understand the need to take into account the greater good; they have access to good information; and the ability to vote."

NORTHEAST RURAL ARIZONA COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

July 8, 2024 | Show Low, AZ

ELEMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM

An effective democracy is important to all of us. It is a process (vs a government) where the public is educated on the issues and the importance of the process itself. It includes good civic education.

In an effective democracy, people understand the need to take into account the greater good; they have access to good information; and the ability to vote. An effective democracy minimizes the impact of corporate lobbyists. It encourages people to be involved and it does not encourage misperceived polarization. In an effective democracy people trust the process and proper safeguards are in place to ensure voting is accurate.

In an effective democracy, people listen to and respect each other's opinions.

CURRENT POLITICAL AND CIVIC SYSTEMS AND CHANGES TO CONSIDER

Our current political and civic systems work well in many areas. For example, the electoral college system is effective for ensuring smaller more rural areas have representation. Nonetheless, many people feel their voice is no longer a part of the process. We need more open dialogue with elected leaders and more transparency. We also should look at term limits and financial limitations on campaign war chests.

We need to address polarization and focus more on the quality of leadership instead of party affiliation. As part of this effort, we should look at ways to draw district lines by geographic area as opposed to party affiliation.

We also should consider reevaluating the voting process. For example, we should look at safeguards for improving trust in the system (including the incorporation of hand counts to confirm the results from machines) as well as consistent voting laws across the country.

Finally, we need to be more proactive about reinvigorating civic education—both in our schools and within our community. Civic education might include, for example, having the public learn the kind of information that is on the naturalization exam.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

We need to provide an active civics education to everyone. Within the school system, this includes education about our flag, our republic, and other important aspects of our government that are in the Naturalization test. To accomplish this education, we should begin by bringing together a diverse group of educators and legislators.

While education in our schools is important, education does not just take place in our schools. It starts with each of us, whether it's talking to our children at home, writing letters to the editor, communicating with elected leaders, and otherwise embracing the courage to step forward to connect with those we can.

Candidates, for their part, have a responsibility to let us know their positions on issues. We should have mandatory candidate forms that involve schools, chambers and other neutral or nonpartisan organizations that allow us to better understand their positions on substantive issues.

Finally, we should consider term limits and, starting at a local level, policies that reduce or eliminate partisan affiliation. As part of reducing party affiliation in local elections, candidates will need to be transparent about their positions on issues and voters will need to be more educated about the person, instead of simply voting by party affiliation.

INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions during the Northeast Rural Arizona Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Share what I learn with people I know or meet with, using open-ended questions and supporting data.
- Help the local young people explore what their civic duty is by opening discussion at community symposiums.
- Continue to be engaged in the voting process by working the polls. I will continue to register voters and volunteer with my county party to help candidates get elected. Stay educated on political issues and share with everyone I can.
- Help others to identify who they're voting for, not just a party of "ideals." Individual commitment by one to another for our republic.
- Continue with my poll worker training and participation in elections process to ensure safe clean elections in Arizona.
- Continue to be politically active. Tell my friends what was discussed here. Visit the website and stay informed.
- Utilize my associations that I am affiliated with to support the education and communication causing an effective democracy. Share with others the value of this program.
- Provide more efforts to clarify a true picture of our voting tabulation and education process through letters to the editor, radio, local television and personal contact that creates relationships.
- Engage people in conversation about democracy. Ask open questions and listen.
- Contact BRUSD to discover FBLTA leaders to create an Arizona Town Hall for youth.
- Vote. Engage with my elected reps. Share the report. Volunteer with election causes. Strive for curiosity – be open minded. Research ideas for reform. Encourage participation and positivity.
- Have discussions about topics that affect our community and create change in various ways.
- Have more conversations. Knowledge is key. Listen while speaking with complete strangers, family and friends.
- Take away today's information and add it to information in my community. To impact change, I will work to facilitate a future leader's event, to educate and engage the youth in my community.
- Engage and inform others. Show up, educate, and support truth and fairness. Expose untruths.
- Help start a state initiative to have non-partisan elections at county level.
- Share the report with the county supervisors.
- Commit to educate fellow business members of our chamber of commerce, and fellow citizens about our political system and the benefits of Arizona Town Hall.

IN COLLABORATION WITH



LAKE HAVASU CITY COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

July 16, 2024 | Lake Havasu City, AZ



“An effective governmental system is one that has free and fair elections, everyone’s voices are heard, and every American citizen has the opportunity to vote.”

LAKE HAVASU CITY COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

July 16, 2024 | Lake Havasu City, AZ

ELEMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM

It's hugely important to have an effective governmental system (which in our case is a Constitutional Republic not a Democracy). An effective governmental system is one that has free and fair elections, everyone's voices are heard, and every American citizen has the opportunity to vote. It is one that supports freedom and liberty and where elected representatives make decisions in the best interest of the people as servant leaders.

In an effective governmental system, there is law and order and there is protection of minority interests. With a constitutional republic, people's individual rights are protected by the Constitution; there is accountability; and states have flexibility to create laws that work best for them.

CURRENT POLITICAL AND CIVIC SYSTEMS AND CHANGES TO CONSIDER

We should not use the term Democracy to refer to our governmental system.

The electoral college is effective. It should remain intact so that the most populated three states do not rule the whole county.

We should take efforts to ensure that every eligible ballot is counted. This may include going back to tabulating votes at local neighborhood precincts (including with hand counts, one day and same day voting, and paper ballots—with some exceptions for limited absentee balloting).

Jungle primaries and ranked choice voting should not be supported. We should maintain our current primary system.

We need to increase our representation per capita under the Constitution. We also should look at eliminating mail-in voting, cleaning up voter databases, taking action to have better educated and involved citizens, and taking other measures to maintain voter integrity. We also need to look at additional term limits or other changes that would support servant leadership.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

We need to increase education to voters, so they understand the importance and impact of the process. And we need to better educate our children.

We need to improve and increase civic education in our schools in a way that is fun and engaging. Perhaps something like an Electrons Corps (similar to the Peace Corps) that allows kids to become involved.

We need to promote the right and responsibility of voting. We need to bring back patriotism and the duty to vote. We could focus our efforts during constitution week as well as throughout the year.

We need to guarantee election integrity with simplified laws and the ideas referenced in the previous section of this report.

Finally, we all need to get involved. It's about service over self.

INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions during the Lake Havasu City Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Help educate school age children about the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.
- Work the polls on election day.
- Canvass the vote. This is where I'm calling on the phone or door to door using Turning Point USA app.
- Inform as many people as I can that America is a Constitutional Republic not a democracy.
- Vote.
- Continue to volunteer and work toward ensuring a great America First government.
- Tratar con igualdad - sin dif entrunos y otros ni pors sus cualidades o sus condiciones.
Translation: Treat with equality - without differences between others or their qualities or conditions.

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KINGMAN COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

July 17, 2024 | Kingman, AZ



"The rural voice needs to be heard more."

KINGMAN COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

July 17, 2024 | Kingman, AZ

ELEMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM

An effective governmental system supports life liberty, property, and the pursuit of happiness. A representative republic or constitutional republic is important to our nation and constitutes an effective form of government. To have an effective governmental system, we need to have fair, safe and secure elections, respect rights for all and ensure that minority rights are not taken away by the majority. It's important that all voices are heard. It's also important that our communities come together.

We need to consider people who don't vote and reach out to them. We need to have respectful conversations and more civics education. Civics education includes education on the constitution and excludes misinformation. Civics education should begin in our schools.

The rural voice needs to be heard more.

The federal government needs to be closer to the people and follow the 10th amendment. We should cut red tape and have easier access to our elected representatives. To ensure integrity with our elected representatives, we need to look at term limits. We also need to consider restrictions on lobbying after serving as well as other limits on financial benefits to elected representatives both during and after they serve.

CURRENT POLITICAL AND CIVIC SYSTEMS AND CHANGES TO CONSIDER

Our current political and civics systems do not always support an effective form of government. We need to constantly watch for the erosion of our governmental systems whether through the use of language, or requirements relating to federal government funding.

We should support and protect our electoral college system, and our constitutional form of government. We need to take a variety of measures to ensure that our voter rolls are accurate. We also need to better educate our children on our system of government.

We need to work to bring power back to the people and we need to have transparency.

We should have standard ballot sizes, consider more nonpartisan voting locations, and make election day a holiday. We should consider paper ballots as a check on machine ballots. We should also explore limitations on absentee ballots and take other precautions to ensure that elections are safe, secure, and accurate.

Redistricting should be more nonpartisan and nonbiased. With the exception of individuals, we should reduce the ability to lobby our federal government representatives.

We should consider a code of ethics or code of conduct to increase respectful engagement among and between our elected representatives. We also should consider performance-based pay for elected officials that is based on voter-approved metrics.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

We should:

- Have the state pay poll workers appropriately
- Teach nonpartisan voter education in our schools.
- Reject rank choice or top tier voting.
- Make sure elections are safe and clean up voter rolls and any systems that do not ensure this (including the use of some machines).
- Keep the county system as we have it.
- Not have mass mailing of ballots.
- Have absentee ballots by request only.
- Eliminate drop boxes.
- Votes should be counted at each precinct and there should not be machines for tabulation.
- Place limits on mail in and early ballots.
- Make election day a holiday
- Consider additional electronic measures (such as “eye in the sky”) to ensure security and lack of malfeasance.
- Ensure appropriate identification for voting.
- Registration should be by an affirmative action by the voter and we should limit the timeframe for voter registration.
- Legislators should pass legislation to let electoral college be chosen by each congressional district with “no winner take all.”

INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions during the Kingman Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Continue to contact our local, state, and fed politicians.
- Learn more about the candidates and learn more from the candidates.
- Continue to engage in my community to encourage my children to do the same.
- Work with the city council on a youth council and future leaders activities.
- Not only vote but also educate people on voting processes as well as the importance of voting.
- Volunteer and recruit others to volunteer to support voting polls.
- Continue to attend the Arizona Town Hall meetings to help expand my awareness of the topics being discussed.
- Continue to advocate for one person, one vote, one day, winner take all elections. No ranked choice voting.
- Continue to work on elections integrity.
- Vote!
- Engage with others and share info on what I’ve learned.
- Continue to serve Mohave County as the best county recorder! All elections should be free, fair and honest with all voters!
- Communicate to others what I learned at the meeting.
- Advocate the protection of the electoral college and work against top candidate or rank choice voting.
- Encourage everyone to vote and stay involved in uniting communities.
- Promote peace by advocating protection of life, liberty, and property.

- Continue to stand for the Constitution and make sure we have free and fair elections and no ranked voting or top candidate primaries.
- Oppose ranked choice voting in every and any way I can.
- Continue to inform my sphere of influence people to participate in our elections.
- Continue to support free and fair elections and to make sure we do not have to suffer with “rank choice” voting.
- Vote throughout the year each time it comes up to have my voice heard.
- Share what I learned. Vote. Stay involved in community involvement.
- Continue to work to educate people on our constitutional forum of a republic.
- Continue to advocate for conservative ideals for our country.

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SOUTHEAST ARIZONA COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

July 25, 2024 | Thatcher, AZ



"Democracy is most effective when we appreciate the value of multi-partisanship and the tensions that it creates while also focusing on where we are likeminded."

SOUTHEAST ARIZONA COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

July 25, 2024 | Thatcher, AZ

ELEMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM

To have an effective democracy, participation is important. It's also important that elections are safe, clean, and fair and perceived to be so. There needs to be public trust in the system, and we need to watch out for those who have an agenda that is principally about power and money.

Infighting and polarized attacks create problems for an effective democracy.

Democracy works when we listen, debate, and respect differing opinions. We don't have to be 100% in agreement with each other to work together and move forward. It's OK to have tensions and differences. Democracy is most effective when we appreciate the value of multi-partisanship and the tensions that it creates while also focusing on where we are likeminded. It's important that voters are educated on the real issues (including election security) vs. allowing personal attacks on individuals. We should respect our local elected officials and the information they provide versus overreliance on those from outside our community. To earn respect, once elected, elected officials should represent all their constituents, not just those in their party or those who voted for them.

Democracy is effective when we respect the process even if our candidate doesn't win.

An effective democracy has healthy good faith debate. It also has safety and stability. It allows for a good quality of life and creates a community that comes together to create community solutions.

CURRENT POLITICAL AND CIVIC SYSTEMS AND CHANGES TO CONSIDER

Early voting and mail-in voting are popular although there is also some confusion around these processes. Some also enjoy voting in person on election day. However, many people are confused about voting and how to register to vote—especially if they are not registered with a major party.

Arizona is one of the most restricted states when it comes to voter registration—especially with same day voter registration. Arizona currently requires registration 30 days in advance. There are pros and cons as to whether this restriction creates a more effective democracy or not and it can vary depending on the community. We should explore this restriction more to see if changes should be made and do our best to educate those who are confused or frustrated about not being able to register on the same day as voting. We also should explore making voting day a state holiday or otherwise making it more convenient, easy and fun to be a part of voting.

Our current system has been exploited by some and we have some holes to fix in the process to make it better—especially at the state and federal levels.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

To make voting day a state holiday, we should work with the state legislature and take into account the interests or concerns of employers. Chambers and local elected officials could lead this effort in a bipartisan way. On a statewide basis, we need to encourage public officials to be in the public more. In Graham County, elected officials do a good job at being out in the public and it helps to build trust.

We need to educate people more on why their vote matters and how to vote. We should consider multi-partisan fun and educational events that are sponsored by multiple organizations, businesses, and local chambers. We can convene a task force now to work together on increasing civic engagement and voting and do so in a way that tracks and measures impact.

Education should start with our youth in the schools, with support for programs and civics classes. We should get school superintendents and boards involved in this effort. We also need to educate adults. Educational opportunities may also allow us to find more good candidates.

INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions during the Southeast Arizona Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Work with the chamber board to do more “Get Out the Vote” non-partisan marketing, Measure results.
- Educate voters on the importance of voting and teach them the process of voting.
- Host a “How to vote party” for my friends—A process party not “who to vote for.”
- Increase student voter registration at Eastern Arizona College and host a non-partisan early voting event at Eastern Arizona College.
- Continue to help educate others about the importance of voting (all ages).
- Have more events to educate.
- Educate voters on the importance of voting and teaching the process.

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COCHISE COUNTY COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

July 26, 2024 | Sierra Vista, AZ



"We need to make it easier for people to vote."

COCHISE COUNTY COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

July 26, 2024 | Sierra Vista, AZ

ELEMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM

An effective democracy is important to our state and nation. It is important for all levels of government—including local government.

An effective democracy is one where everyone has a basic understanding of civics, including education that begins in grade school. People are informed about why their votes matter, and they have representation regardless of their resources. It allows people to feel that they are heard and that their votes count. It is transparent, has separation of powers and respect for diverse perspectives.

An effective democracy provides people with the ability to participate and speak out without retribution. An effective democracy has reliable and easy access to voting that is consistent across states. It allows citizens to speak out without fear and to be heard on issues that impact our daily lives. An effective democracy allows us to engage as a community in a respectful way and provides opportunity for all.

CURRENT POLITICAL AND CIVIC SYSTEMS AND CHANGES TO CONSIDER

In theory, the system is good, but it can be overwhelming to many and there are changes that should be considered. For example, much of the information comes from political parties and this is not always best for voter education. Initiatives should be written in clear non-partisan ways.

We need to make it easier for people to vote. This could include a holiday for election day and same day registration for voting. Recent efforts to improve access to voting for those with felonies are a good step and we need to expand expungement opportunities for others. We also should make greater efforts to notify those turning 18 about registering to vote.

Education is critical. We need to fully fund civics education in our schools. We also need to consider campaign finance reforms that highlight where dark money is coming from.

The current system promotes polarization and limited candidates. We should look at system changes that impact these challenges. Ranked choice voting and open primaries are options to consider to address these issues. We should also consider eliminating the electoral college.

Reestablishment of the separation of church and state in our governmental and legislative systems, including elections processes is important where here has been a blurring of lines in recent years.

With respect to elected officials, we should reconsider how we currently use term limits and look at staggering election terms so that newer members can learn from more experienced members. This will allow for more informed elected leaders who can better govern our communities. We also need to increase compensation for local and state elected officials. Finally, we need to protect the integrity of our systems and its workers. There should be more protection for election workers.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. Implement same day voter registration.
2. Maintain mail-in ballots and provide education about how voting works so that people will better understand the security of our elections and can be informed voters.
3. Arizona has an effective ballot initiative process. This should be a nationwide process modeled after Arizona which allows for more input and say by the citizens.
4. Increase the pay of the state legislature. We should research why initiatives for this haven't passed previously and address these issues through education.

5. Protect election officials as well as others who are at the polls by working with local police and sheriff's departments.
6. Have better notification to 18-year-olds about registering to vote.
7. There are laws in place for county recorders to provide educational efforts to the public. We need to enforce these laws or elect people who will uphold them.
8. Citizens are responsible for educating themselves about their government and providing their voice and participation as part of the government. We also all have the obligation to seek the truth and to stand for accurate and truthful information in our communications with each other. Clean elections is a good source for neutral and valid information.
9. Political parties should hold public events and have educational efforts. We should provide increased opportunities for those running for and holding office to interact with constituents, especially areas that have been underrepresented.
10. Create a referendum or ballot initiative that amends the constitution to protect mail-in voting.
11. Encourage more grass roots and youth involvement.

INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions during the Cochise County Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Do more posting in a local chat group regarding primary voting dates and the ability of independents to vote in the primary.
- Look up all resources from your handouts about educating our fellow citizens on civics, the importance of understanding how to vote and why it matters.
- Finish reading Project 2025 and refute misinformation about its contents.
- Canvass more using many of these ideas.
- Encourage others, especially younger (<50) citizens to attend more public events.
- Support local initiatives and encourage voting.
- Continue to do what I'm doing.
- Volunteer as a poll observer.

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RIO SALADO COLLEGE COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

August 14, 2024 | Tempe, AZ; and Online via Zoom



"An effective democracy is one that enacts the will of the people by taking into account individual participation by the constituents. It is one where critical thinking and reason are utilized along with credibility, trust, collaboration, and respectful interaction."

RIO SALADO COLLEGE COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

August 14, 2024 | Tempe, AZ; and Online via Zoom

ELEMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM

Democracy is messy and the worst form of government except for all the others. An effective democracy is one that enacts the will of the people by taking into account individual participation by the constituents. It is one where critical thinking and reason are utilized along with credibility, trust, collaboration, and respectful interaction. Participation needs to include psychological safety so that constituents feel safe expressing their opinions and the interests that are important to them.

Viewpoints may differ based on experience and diversity is important for an effective democracy. However, an effective democracy also needs to have agreed upon facts to support the conversations. An effective democracy allows voters to stay connected and informed as they exercise their civic duty and participate in the election process. It has citizens who participate and who are willing to invest the time needed to become informed. An effective democracy also allows citizens to have equal access to elected leaders and policy formation. In an effective democracy, decisions are made by and for the people with the interests of the people at the forefront.

CURRENT POLITICAL AND CIVIC SYSTEMS AND CHANGES TO CONSIDER

Many of our systems work reasonably well, including early and mail-in voting and the ability (in Arizona) to place issues on the ballot. In Arizona, the information for people to make decisions for ballot items is made available. We also have systems in place to remove people and have made efforts to reduce the impact of money on campaigns through Clean Elections. However, there are opportunities for constructive change.

Our democracy suffers from a lack of trust. We feel we can't trust information given to us and that our elected leaders are not representing our best interests. Sometimes it even feels as if they are working against us. It would help to have more transparency with elected officials.

Recently, there has been a lot of emotion and even concerns of violence or disruption. This includes threats to poll workers and others. We need to increase safety for election and poll workers.

We also should look at ways to separate the seismic issues from the practical day to day interests. Partisanship, lack of context and manipulations of the system are interfering with the functions of the system. We need to find better ways for voters and elected representatives to look at facts vs. personalities and "tribes." We may need to reinvent ourselves for democracy to work better.

We should consider rank choice, proportional voting or open primaries so that people can participate more effectively, and we can minimize the current duopoly (the power the two main parties have in running the system). We should make voting more accessible, especially in rural and outlying areas. We also should make it easier for people to run for office who do not have the funding or who are not part of the two main political parties.

More civic education would also improve democracy. The complexity of the system makes it difficult for many to participate and education would make it easier for them to do so. While it's great that there are so many sources of information, some of the information is biased or wrong. Having gatekeepers or civic structures in place that can help people have more informed engagement would help us have a more effective democracy.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

We have turned away from civic education in our schools and in our culture. We need to create a culture of civic engagement that supports democracy and trust in the system. We also need to explore as a community what we mean by an effective democracy. The definition of an effective democracy is not “when my team wins.” An effective democracy is when we support our leaders and the outcome of elections—even when our team doesn’t win.

We need to reinvigorate civic education in our schools and our communities. This includes education and engagement on the process of voting and how the system works as well as encouraging personal responsibility. We should also explore additional measures to make voting easier, such as making election day a holiday. Registering to vote should be more accessible and the process for voting should be simplified. It should feel safe to vote and to otherwise be civically engaged—whether that engagement is through discussions with other community members or in running for office. We need to find ways to have more people who have good leadership qualities and strong morals running for office.

We should support open primaries or a ranked choice voting system where all voters vote in the primary. This allows Independents to participate more, and candidates would have to appeal to all people instead of just their parties.

It can be overwhelming to look at democratic reform and one helpful approach is to focus on local issues which makes involvement more accessible to people and people can see results more readily. This empowers them to continue to be involved.

We should also provide people the opportunity to have discussions in respectful ways about the issues important to them so they can build their civic muscles for effective debate on issues.

INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions during the Rio Salado College Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Participate in more discussions like the town hall and learn more to engage in the community effectively.
- Vote in the primary.
- Do more research to find solid, real, and non-partisan sources of information.
- Attend more of the Town Halls—work with the Arizona Town Hall.
- Continue to educate myself on democracy and civic engagement.
- Engage in civil discourse and attend more Arizona Town Hall sessions.
- Speak to as many people as possible to vote in the primaries.
- Educate independents about how to vote in primaries.
- Expand my knowledge about different perspectives, civics, and voting in Arizona and globally.
- Create safe spaces—communicate and join others to share information and take action.
- Learn more about Arizona Town Hall and inquire about facilitating an event.
- Find ways to be more engaged beyond voting.
- Read the “Voting and Elections Arizona” report.
- Talk to my wife about these ideas and the report.
- Host a workplace voter registration event.
- Keep learning and start attending these town halls!
- Continue to learn and educate myself not only on the candidates but the processes and civic + political systems.
- Share my experience with Arizona Town Hall discussions on democracy.
- Continue to attend and commit to attending the upcoming Arizona Town Hall program.

- Share about the program today with my husband at dinner.
- Campaign for open primaries and ranked choice voting.
- Share what I learned with my husband and continue to educate myself.
- Informarme hablar con otra gente e informar lo q aprendi (Inform and talk to other people and report what I learn).

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THOMAS R. BROWN FOUNDATIONS



MARICOPA
COMMUNITY COLLEGES



RIO SALADO COLLEGE
A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WEST VALLEY MARICOPA COUNTY

August 21, 2024 | El Mirage, AZ



“A democracy is when diverse voices are heard and ideas can be expressed safely and securely.”

A democracy is when diverse voices are heard and ideas can be expressed safely and securely. People have the right to their own opinion, and it’s very important that no one takes that right away, so that we can have fair elections and are able to be treated equally.

An effective democracy includes transparency and accountability, convenience, access to participation and resources, like drop boxes, unbiased, accurate information, transportation and technology. We need automatic registration.

An effective democracy has leaders—not just people in roles. There should be places to convene and people should be free to collaborate, compromise, and use their own judgment. People should have the right to choose.

In an effective democracy, majority rules. The popular vote would prevail, (not an electoral college). People would have representation, freedom of speech, and the ability to assemble. There is equality and inclusion. And democracy should be flexible, having the ability to change. It requires education, especially for young people.

2024 ACELING IN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE JOINT SESSION: ARIZONA TOWN HALL AND CENTER FOR THE FUTURE OF ARIZONA

August 23, 2024 | Phoenix, AZ



“As individuals, we need to exercise our power if we want to protect the best interests of our communities. Critical to this, is education on civic matters beginning in our schools and with our youth.”

ELEMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM

Democracy is extremely important, but it needs to be a democracy that protects the minority from the tyranny of majority. There should be appropriate checks and balances to ensure the voice of minority groups are heard.

CURRENT POLITICAL AND CIVIC SYSTEMS AND CHANGES TO CONSIDER

Our civic system and the barriers that exist for many to vote do not support the most effective democracy. It should be easier for people to vote and to be engaged. This could include time off for people to vote during the workday. We need to make ballot access as easy as possible while also maintaining integrity in the system.

As individuals, we need to exercise our power if we want to protect the best interests of our communities. Critical to this is education on civic matters beginning in our schools and with our youth.

There is also increased concern over the U.S. Supreme Court as a system. We should explore the system for how we select and how we retain U.S. Supreme Court Justices.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

We should:

1. Have an open primary system where the top candidates move onto the general election.
2. Have multi-language ballots that reflect the population of voters.
3. Explore how to incentivize business to encourage civic engagement in a neutral and positive way.
4. Improve the quality, consistency, and transparency of information that comes from our government and change laws that give undue power to singular legislative leaders.
5. Have more grassroots education to minority communities about civic engagement that includes voting guides.
6. Increase education to all about the impact and importance of voting and provide skills relating to emotional intelligence. Spark communication and conversation in our communities so people feel safe becoming informed about how to vote and in taking action.

INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions during the 2024 ACEling in Leadership Conference—Joint Session: Arizona Town Hall and Center for the Future of Arizona Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Talk to my friend/community about voting accessibility.
- Commit to be educated about bills that are coming through legislation.
- Become even more vocally outgoing in sharing my opinions about issues or candidates.
- Help create more accessibility in U.S. election systems.
- Participate in town hall meetings and encourage voter registration/education in our own local Filipino-American community.
- Start educating children and share and take part in the poll
- Explain how important this is to the future voters.
- Vote! Encourage one more person to vote!
- Talk about how democracy is community.

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CENTER
FOR THE **FUTURE** OF
ARIZONA

“Democracy is extremely important, but it needs to be a democracy that protects the minority from the tyranny of majority.”

TUCSON COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

September 5, 2024 | Tucson, AZ



“Democracy is basic to our freedom. It is supported by a common culture and establishes trust in government. In an effective democracy, we work together collaboratively. People are willing to talk civilly and compromise with mutual respect.”

TUCSON COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

September 5, 2024 | Tucson, AZ

ELEMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM

An effective democracy has a clear document that outlines rules (such as a constitution), an effective electoral process, and election integrity. People feel safe and secure in their communities and as they move around our country. It meets the basic needs of the people.

An effective democracy helps create a common goal and has common core values that protect the values and rights of its people. While it is much broader than just elections, it has an informed electorate and allows everyone to feel that their voice is heard. It has a large voting participation rate and takes steps to remove barriers to voting (which includes confusing rules or ballots, the removal of people from the voting rolls, and monetary fines for felons). An effective democracy makes voting easier for everyone.

Voting can be made easier with better communication with DMV and with automatic, simple, and clear registration.

In an effective democracy, people feel safe and secure. There is a nonpartisan judiciary and rule of law that is applied equally to all. It has fair, equitable, and inclusive representation of all people—including marginalized groups such as those with previous felony convictions and marginalized or poor communities.

An effective democracy needs an educated and informed electorate. Education can occur in our schools and around the kitchen table.

There needs to be trust in the process, and transparency. An effective democracy has media outlets that are trusted to report unbiased facts and that help to reduce confirmation bias.

Democracy is basic to our freedom. It is supported by a common culture and establishes trust in government. In an effective democracy, we work together collaboratively. People are willing to talk civilly and compromise with mutual respect. We need to work together in a civil manner to move forward. We need to break down silos and have more in-person meetings to bring people together.

The government needs to represent the people regardless of their socio-economic status. Elected officials need to reflect the values of the people they represent and there should be appropriate guardrails on govt actions.

Democracy is not only a right, it is also a responsibility. We are privileged to have a democracy, and it is our responsibility to maintain it and to be engaged. We also need to take steps to engage youth and others. We are all individually responsible for strengthening and maintaining our democracy because if we're not at the table we're on the menu.

CURRENT POLITICAL AND CIVIC SYSTEMS AND CHANGES TO CONSIDER

Our elections are safe and secure. However, our political and civic systems are not as effective in supporting our democracy as they should be. There are many aspects of our system that are no longer working well because they are being challenged or there have been cultural and social changes that have rendered the systems less effective.

When the norm was to respect compromise the system worked fairly well. Now that this norm has been challenged our democracy faces more issues.

We should encourage more programs and presentations with candidates from all sides at the same time. We need to look at how to reduce media bias because media currently can promote confirmation bias and make it challenging for people to determine the truth.

Corruption in the system has risen, whether through court rulings that allow unlimited contributions to elected officials, or the recent ruling by Arizona's Supreme Court that did not sanction attorneys who filed frivolous lawsuits about our elections. There are also other systems that need to be addressed that allow destructive actions towards our democracy or do not properly protect elections officials and others,

There are many aspects of our system that do not operate to support all participants. This includes systems in the Tucson area and throughout the state. Specifically, the primary system is not representative of all registered voters and needs to better incorporate and encourage participation from all voters including independent voters.

Other challenges and changes that need to be addressed include noncompetitive districts, gerrymandering, misinformation, information overload and the lack of enforcement of the rule of law against those who threaten our elections system and democracy.

We need to strengthen civics education on both the issues and the processes. This education should begin early with our children in schools (including homeschooling) and continue through adulthood. There is a great need for increased civics education across the board and we need to fund this education—not only in our schools, but also in our faith-based organizations, community organizations and at our kitchen tables. We also need to support greater cross collaboration between the parties.

We need to have nonpartisan, open primaries and rank choice voting as a start to change these systemic challenges. We should also look at term limits or other changes that incentivize those running for office to address the issues as opposed to spending their time on getting reelected. This might include changing the term of the office or a shorter campaign cycle. We also need to reexamine the redistricting commissions and protect the initiative process.

We need to reduce barriers to voting. This can include an election day holiday or a 48-hour window of time as part of such a holiday, automatic voter registration, reducing the time limits on registering to vote, supporting mail-in voting, reducing economic barriers, require or incentivize voting and reducing the “scrubbing” of voters from voter rolls.

We also need to consider ethical requirements or other limits on actions of the United States Supreme Court, caps on political contributions, and greater transparency in the election system. We should look at banning contributions from sources that are not people who are eligible to vote.

Finally, we should fix or eliminate the electoral college which may have outlived its effective use. All votes should matter equally.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. Support Voting
 - a. Find eligible non-voters and get them registered.
 - b. Identify personalized issues that voters care about
 - c. Make voter registration easier and consider automatic voter registration
 - d. Establish a national election holiday
 - e. Eliminate barriers to voting, including making voter registration easier. Explore secure smart phone voting.
 - f. Eliminate any costs associated with voting.
2. Increase civics education both for kids and adults.
3. Policy Changes
 - a. Support open primaries or rank-choice voting and term limits. The Legislature and citizens are responsible for making this happen.
 - b. Get money out of politics.
 - c. Campaign finance reform
 - d. Work against any initiative or law that promotes voter suppressions.
 - e. Improve voter independent commissions.

- f. Increase the number of commissioners on the Independent Redistricting Commission to nine with three independent members.
 - g. Fix or eliminate the electoral college.
 - h. Establish enforceable codes of ethics on the media and the courts. Enforce judicial ethics and the rule of law.
 - i. Protect the initiative powers.
 - j. Eliminate vouchers.
 - k. Shorten the campaign cycle.
4. Individual Actions
- a. Vote.
 - b. Support today's recommendations (especially to include open primaries) and oppose those that are barriers to today's recommendations.
 - c. Make a personal commitment to be respectful and civil.

INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions during the Tucson Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Support open primaries.
- Get and stay involved!
- Connect with new voters to encourage them to vote and if needed to register to vote.
- Vote.
- Get out the vote.
- Mail cards to voters.
- Continue to educate my members on the importance as to why voting in favor of open primaries will result in a more effective democracy.
- Continue to participate in impactful conversations like this one today.
- Work hard to pass Prop. 140.
- Work toward voter education on issues.
- Be involved in local elections.
- Speak with young people.
- Encourage participation by friends and family who stand back for feeling their vote doesn't count.
- Vote.
- Call and email others to encourage them to vote.
- Promote automatic restoration of voting rights for people convicted of felonies who have served their time without paying money.
- Advocate for open primaries and ranked choice voting.
- Engage in voter outreach to encourage and register voters to vote.
- Vote and educate myself on candidates and initiatives (propositions).
- Take responsibility for providing information on voting and issues to the organizations/networks I'm involved with.
- Support ranked choice voting and open primaries by explaining it to people who don't know why it is the best way to vote.

- Continue to support Arizona Democracy Resilience Network (ADRN) efforts.
- Write an editorial in support of outcomes of this town hall.
- Engage, educate, and empower all eligible voters to have their voice heard.
- Work every day on getting out the vote until November.
- Vote.
- Talk to my neighbors.
- Reach out to the Muslim community to educate and engage.
- Try to engage in a conversation with friends and acquaintances about the important stuff we discussed today.

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GILBERT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: A CIVIC EVENT

September 11, 2024 | Gilbert, AZ



"We can each make a difference by talking to our neighbors in a positive supportive and encouraging way about the importance and the power of voting. We can each be the model of or an influencer for positive change."

IN COLLABORATION WITH



GILBERT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: A CIVIC EVENT

September 11, 2024 | Gilbert, AZ

VOTER TURNOUT IN ARIZONA (GROUP CONSENSUS REPORT)

Voter Turnout in Arizona is dismal—especially in the primaries which have such a big impact.

People don't vote because they are overwhelmed with the candidates and the issues. People take voting for granted and often think their vote doesn't matter. We should spread the word about how it does matter and encourage all people to vote by empowering them with the knowledge of and the value of voting. We also need to provide people with reliable sources so they can make informed decisions about who to vote for. We need to recognize that it can take research and time to make an informed vote—we need to encourage people to make these efforts and convince them of why it is so important and valuable to our communities and to our country.

We should spend more time in schools letting our kids know how important voting is and how to be an informed voter. We should have programs beginning in grade school and continuing in high schools, and in our colleges and universities. In high schools and colleges, we can have a voter drive similar to a blood drive to increase education and involvement. We can also increase knowledge and interest by talking about local elections and how these impact the everyday issues that everyone cares about.

We can engage people in the voting process by letting them know it's OK to vote on just one part of the ballot if it's overwhelming. We can also support their efforts with resources that will help them make an informed decision. We need to respectfully spread the news about the importance of voting—regardless of how someone chooses to vote.

The elections systems can also make a difference in encouraging people to vote and in allowing them to feel that their vote has an impact. Specifically, we should support changes to the primary system so that people's votes have more impact and so that they are involved earlier in the process, both earlier in age and earlier in the election cycle.

We need to educate people about the power of their vote and come from a place of positive influence and encouragement. We can each make a difference by talking to our neighbors in a positive supportive and encouraging way about the importance and the power of voting. We can each be the model of or an influencer for positive change.

THE IMPACT OF ARIZONA POLITICS NATIONWIDE (INDIVIDUAL PERSPECTIVES)

- "Arizona is a swing state and is pivotal."
- "[It] depends. If the ballot counting is manipulated, the results will not be accurate."
- "Being that we are a swing state, we have opposing perspectives on issues around immigration, abortion, the economy, and the war. I think divisive perspectives can be a challenge."
- "No comment. 😞"
- "Heavily."
- "Arizona controls 1/8 of the swing state vote."
- "Being a swing vote state, we wield a powerful say in national politics. And with that comes great responsibility to vote."
- "It may turn the current majority over."
- "Arizona politics is essential to the overall growth of our country. Vote. Vote. Vote."
- "Our demographic trends foreshadow national ones."
- "Picture a thunderstorm hitting an ocean with a sun behind the clouds."
- "Being a border state, Arizona presents a unique perspective."

FLAGSTAFF COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

September 17, 2024 | Flagstaff, AZ



"An effective democracy is valued and respected by the people. People feel they have access to elected leaders and that their voice and perspectives are heard and considered."

FLAGSTAFF COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

September 17, 2024 | Flagstaff, AZ

ELEMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM

An effective democracy has free and fair elections and communities who feel they have accurate information that allows them to participate in various ways, including voting. An effective democracy has checks and balances and transparency. It has effective and clear information and communication that allows for all perspectives to be heard and understood.

An effective democracy takes differences into mind while also being mindful of the big picture. An effective democracy is valued and respected by the people. People feel they have access to elected leaders and that their voice and perspectives are heard and considered. There are shared and cohesive values—values that everyone can support.

In an effective democracy, there is confidence in the democratic systems, including elections. There are elective representatives who represent all constituents. Civic engagement begins early, and people are inspired to be engaged civically, whether by voting or in ways beyond voting.

In an effective democracy economic and religious interests are not intertwined with politics. People have curiosity and the willingness to engage with new ideas and different people. People are engaged with concern and have a willingness to lead by running for office or otherwise being involved. An effective democracy builds consensus and has both equitable and equal participation.

An effective democracy is important for our quality of life and to protect our future generations.

CURRENT POLITICAL AND CIVIC SYSTEMS AND CHANGES TO CONSIDER

At a local level, our systems tend to support an effective democracy. Overall Arizona is a good place to cast a ballot—especially locally. We need to support current effective systems while being open to changes.

There are many changes to consider and areas that could be improved

Money has a lot of influence on politics, especially PACS on the federal level. The influence of the two-party system and monopolization at the legislature keeps some important issues from being considered. We need to explore how to encourage more people and parties to be involved. We also should explore ranked choice voting, redistricting, gerrymandering, proportional representation, more effective checks and balances, and changes to standards for elected office (e.g. term limits or age limits).

We need to have an increased focus on civic education and begin as early as possible to address apathy and to stress the importance of how we all have a voice and need to participate in voting.

We need to make it easier to vote, including providing shorter time frames between the time of registration and the ability to vote. We also need to make it easier for average Americans to hold elected office.

Finally, voting itself should not be political. Voting should be the great equalizer.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Enact living wages for elected officials. This will increase the ability of average Americans to run for and hold office.

We need to work to change the negative outcomes from the Supreme Court's decision in "Citizens United" and the impact of money on politics. Money should have no influence on decision makers.

Make voting easier—not harder—with additional opportunities for mail-in voting and early voting. Make election day a federal holiday and ensure that all populations have representation and access. Specifically, make voting more accessible to people who speak different languages and who live in remote areas.

Arizona Clean Elections is doing a great job with debates. There should be even more local debates, additional community involvement, and more access through streaming or other methods.

Consider ranked choice voting, strategies to reduce gerrymandering, and eliminating or revising the electoral college.

Increase civics education, beginning at an early age.

Reexamine representation and how it is evolving.

There should be traditional media and social media guidelines that better ensure accurate information and that target the elimination of misinformation.

Emphasize that every person has a personal responsibility to be engaged.

INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions during the Flagstaff Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Work to register more people to vote in my community.
- Try to learn more about local and national politics!
- Help administer the November General Election in a nonbiased and non-partisan manner.
- Communicate with others what I've learned today.
- Continue to give election information to my peers.
- Work more in public outreach/engagement.
- Provide voters with election materials and election education.
- Educate myself on the election process and the community I work for.
- Vote in every election, local and national.
- Encourage my community to vote!
- Register and educate Arizona voters!

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CONSTITUTION DAY AT PHOENIX COLLEGE

September 17, 2024 | Phoenix, AZ



"This experience was open and allowed for free expression and thought of all kinds."

CONSTITUTION DAY AT PHOENIX COLLEGE

September 17, 2024 | Phoenix, AZ

ELEMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM

An effective democracy involves teamwork and collaboration with the goal of impacting individual lives. An effective democracy is contingent on individuals voting in our elections and being educated about the issues.

To ensure an effective democracy we need to have credible sources of information so that participation is grounded in education. Candidates for office need to focus on the issues, and less on rhetoric.

There are segments of our communities, that are under-represented and sometimes ignored and that impacts participation as well as proportional representation.

CURRENT POLITICAL AND CIVIC SYSTEMS AND CHANGES TO CONSIDER

Our current political and civil systems would be greatly improved if there was a non-partisan agency that collects information about candidates and issues, that fact-checks so that individuals are not relying on misinformation and disinformation concerning candidates and issues of national importance.

We need to reassess the way our elections involve and rely on money; and minimize the importance of money and financial resources in our elections.

We need to re-evaluate our use of technology in our elections processes, ranging from utilizing the newest technological advancements to improving efficiency and confidence in our elections. At the same time, technology has dramatically changed the landscape by which we get our information and the ability to see our elected officials working in real-time via social media platforms.

Also, it may be time for the collective to reassess the nation's goals and ideals. It is important that our civic structures not only provide for dialogue and discussion but be results-driven. One proposed change would be to ensure that issues that impact individuals rather than businesses and corporations are given greater priority in civic discourse and political action.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

To make our democracy more effective, one consideration is to allow for ballot initiatives, i.e., citizen-led initiatives to be placed on the ballot on a federal level. An example of a federal ballot initiative is one specific to capping the amount of money that can be spent by candidates and special interest groups in elections.

We must require civics education in all school curriculums, from K-12 grades, and a standardized curriculum should be considered, so that students nation-wide are receiving comparable civics education regardless of where they live.

Another action is incentivized voting. Public-private partnerships should be considered to promote voting in our elections.

The right to vote is often taken for granted. For example, those who have been convicted of a felony are not able to vote absent having their voting rights restored, which can sometimes be a complex legal process. The right to vote is not absolute.

IN COLLABORATION WITH



PHOENIX COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CAREFREE-CAVE CREEK COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

September 18, 2024 | Carefree, AZ



“An effective democracy is one in which everyone has an equal say, equal vote, and participation is available for all.”

CAREFREE-CAVE CREEK COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

September 18, 2024 | Carefree, AZ

ELEMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM

An effective democracy is one in which everyone has an equal say, equal vote, and participation is available for all. The system needs to result in a fair outcome. Democracy must have freedom of speech, trust in the system, and a personal belief that your vote matters.

Education about democracy is important so that people understand things like the difference between democracy (one man one vote), Democrats and what a constitutional republic is.

It's important that individuals can play their part and make a difference. With respect to individual impact, the higher you go in the political system, the less impact you have; the more local you engage, the more impact you have and the easier it is to be heard. People need to have faith in the system. It's important to get educated as adults to understand how things impact us, but education needs to start in grade school.

CURRENT POLITICAL AND CIVIC SYSTEMS AND CHANGES TO CONSIDER

Things that work include that everyone can vote, we have the ability to vote by mail, we have systems that allow for an absentee vote, and our registration process is sound.

Our two-party system is ineffective because it is difficult for third party candidates to break into the system. The current system results in more likelihood of fringe candidates getting elected. There should be more accessibility for third parties. It isn't fair that the government pays for partisan primaries and everyone else gets squashed. Open primaries should be considered.

There are too many hurdles for independent candidates to get on the ballot.

It's difficult for independent voters to participate and they end up being disenfranchised. The path for independents to participate should be made easier.

We should encourage voting by giving the day off to vote. We need more civics education. We must define who is eligible to vote. There should be term limits, and we should reduce the length of campaigns, reduce the time period for early voting, and institute campaign funding limits.

You must be a citizen and be able to produce an ID.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- Process should be transparent and leave no room for doubt or suspicion, we need public education on the election process, meaning both civic classes for students and educating voters on the process. We need to clarify who has voting rights—U.S. citizens, one vote.
- Traceability of ballot.
- Hold those who raise false claims about fraud accountable with penalties or disbarment which will lead to less abuse of the legal system. This would be done through the legislative process.
- Regulate defined documents that can be used for identification—what documents can be used, with modern technologies.
- Campaign finance reform.
- Federal oversight and consistency across all states for third party candidates.
- Term limits.
- The Federal government should reevaluate and disrupt the two-party system.

- Clean up voter rolls to ensure no deceased are people “voting.”
- Consider citizen initiatives at the federal level.
- We should require clarification of the policies we’re voting for—ensuring that they mean what they say.

INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions during Carefree-Cave Creek Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

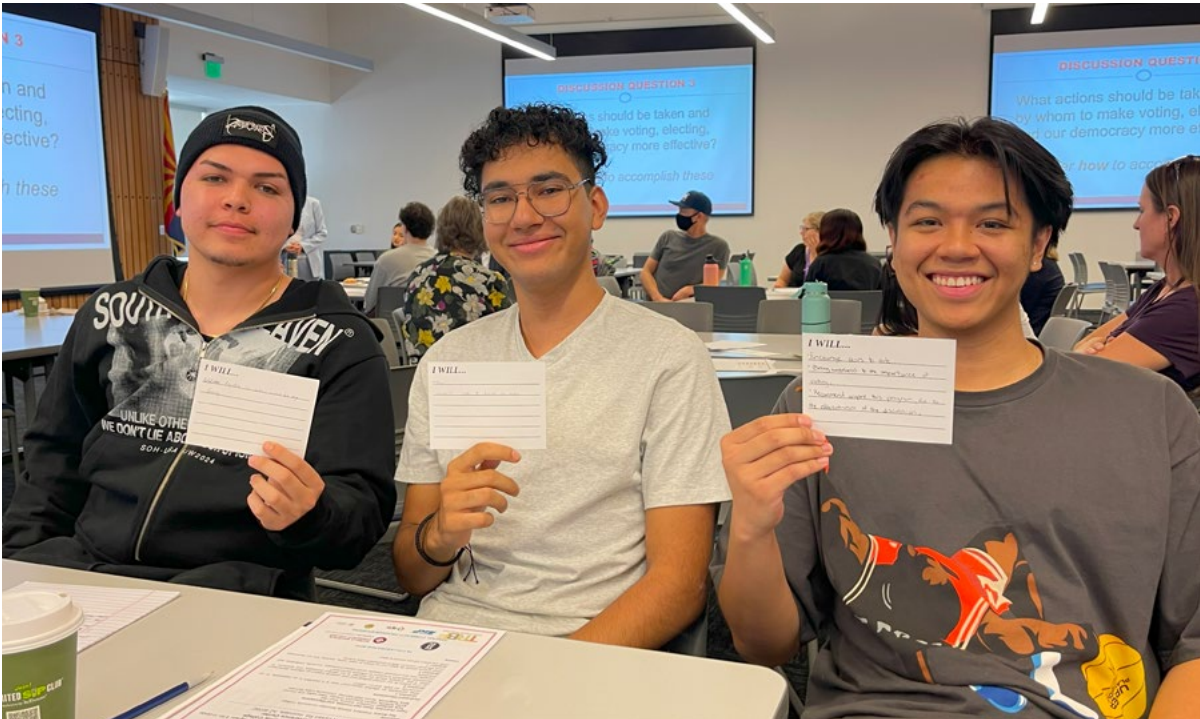
- Vote in this election.
- Stay involved and active in the Independent Party’s movement to abolish the two-party system.
- Encourage Independents to use their vote, even if it requires more work to decide on a party and then change back.
- Educate myself on how Independent voters can participate.

IN COLLABORATION WITH



WEST VALLEY COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

September 19, 2024 | Avondale, AZ



“Equal access to voting across communities ensures a representative democracy.”

WEST VALLEY COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

September 19, 2024 | Avondale, AZ

ELEMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM

The Constitution is the bedrock foundation of an effective democracy. An effective democracy agrees to engage until consensus is reached. Mutual agreement in the discourse allows everyone to be civil and differing opinions to be heard. Civility and respect for opposing opinions is very important. When people must worry about basic needs it is not beneficial for effective democracy. The ability to share opinions openly and collaboratively between peoples is a foundation for an effective democracy.

Checks and balances to promote an effective democracy would include system integrity that promotes good control, so people have faith in the system. It's also important to respect differing opinions and offer opportunities for people to engage in conversations at all different levels.

Voting is important to promote inclusion and for hearing voices in the community. Policies impact individuals and the people we care about.

CURRENT POLITICAL AND CIVIC SYSTEMS AND CHANGES TO CONSIDER

Our current political and civic systems support an effective democracy by allowing access to voting. We can encourage employers to give employees a day off for people to be able to vote. Mail-in and drive-in ballots are also important for encouraging people to vote. Other ideas for access to voting would be open primaries and automatic voter registration for citizens. Currently, we receive an overview of the candidates in the mail which lets people know about the issues.

Arizona does a good job with its election and voting systems and there are observers from different parties to validate what is happening. However, early results can skew perception of what is happening in the elections and create concerns about manipulations. There is also concern about how politics can lead to intimidation.

As citizens, we need to fact check to make sure we understand the issues.

Arizona has a direct democracy because voters can put initiatives on the ballot and influence the voting process that way. This makes it easier for people to vote on issues that are important to them. We need to raise awareness of voting at a young age without politicizing the process. Clean Elections supports people who want to run for office and can't afford it.

The electoral college is not the most representative voice for democratic elections. We should consider the popular vote for the president as we do for other elections. Another change to consider is more control over gerrymandering. We should explore changes to the process that encourage voting on policies as opposed to voting for parties.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

The actions we can take to make voting more effective include educating young people to prepare them for civic engagement, talking about values, uplifting a new generation of young people, and empowering people who have a stake in the future.

Younger people and the economically disenfranchised do not have the resources to become involved. We are missing out on opportunities and not hearing their voices. We want more Arizona Town Hall program opportunities so we can continue these discussions.

Having options for voting, such as mail-in ballots and receiving texts about the status of the ballot, allows voters to actively participate in the process. We also can add regulations to ensure polls close on time.

Communities need to agree on which issues need to be addressed. We need unbiased accounts of what is going on to make informed decisions. This includes addressing the impact of media which can improperly skew information. Learning how to filter information that is all around us and encouraging critical thinking with all the information that is out there would make our democracy more effective. The Center for the Future of Arizona, a non-partisan organization, provides information and how to disseminate that information in an effective way.

Equal access to voting across communities ensures a representative democracy. Accessible non-partisan education on how to vote and learning about the policies should be more available. This information should be introduced without demonizing the person who introduced it, and the communities affected.

INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions during the West Valley Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Vote for the first time in my life in this election.
- Volunteer as a poll worker in a future election.
- Consider voting and tell my mom to register to vote.
- Learn more about politics.
- Visit Arizona Town Hall's website to learn more about previous topics.
- Encourage students/staff/faculty to visit our library page with unbiased links to info.
- Analyze how the Electoral system works with the inner complexity of the whole system.
- Start following Arizona Town Hall and look for past reports online.
- Participate in future programs.
- Make the difference to vote and elect this year!
- Take the time to educate myself on the policies and intentions of each political candidate.
- Persuade those around me to vote, so their voice can be heard.
- Encourage my students to register to vote, become informed and follow-through for voting.
- Vote at Estrella Mountain Community College on Election Day.
- Rely on sources that are creditable and share FACTS and not opinions.
- Encourage my peers to vote.
- Gather information and choose the best party to vote for!
- Definitely take into consideration all details discussed in this conference. I still find politics intimidating, but this has encouraged me to vote no matter what.
- Pay close attention to the policies and politicians on ballots.
- Work towards making a researched and confident vote.
- Take everyone's opinions and think about how we can all come to a mutual agreement about things such as policies etc.
- Make sure to vote and inform myself more about democracy and republics.
- Inform my family about voting.
- Vote.
- Research who I believe in more.
- Register to vote as well as my family.
- Vote every election time, making sure I can choose someone that aligns with my ideas.

- Encourage peers to vote.
- Bring awareness to the importance of voting.
- Recommend anyone this program, due to the effectiveness of the discussion.
- Commit to doing my own research to educate myself on policy/person to ensure I am making an informed decision.
- Make sure I vote with all information available to ensure an informed decision.
- Vote the entire ballot.
- Review the packet given by the West Valley Community Town Hall about voting.
- Do extensive research with no bias to decide which policies align with my principles and beliefs.

IN COLLABORATION WITH



**ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE FUTURE LEADERS TOWN HALL

October 10, 2024 | Mesa, AZ



"Promoting education should be a priority so citizens can make informed decisions."

MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE FUTURE LEADERS TOWN HALL

October 10, 2024 | Mesa, AZ

ELEMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM

Group A

The highest priority should be given to everyone's right to speech. This will increase representation for our community. Another priority is to give everyone a voice. Only when everyone has a voice and the right to speak can the issues that concern us individually and our community be seriously considered at the legislative stage. Also, more credible information should be made available to the public.

Group B

An effective democracy consists of open-mindedness and consensus of opinions through safeguards placed in our society on federal, state, local levels.

CURRENT POLITICAL AND CIVIC SYSTEMS AND CHANGES TO CONSIDER

Group A

Local cities and the civic systems at the local level should be accessible to the general public via websites. Negative attack advertisements are not effective and imply a mindset of either winning or losing. We should promote the humanistic approach to voting procedures that can allow citizens to vote for both parties and not just be restricted to one party. Also, the independent party should receive funding opportunities and be able to contribute their voice.

Group B

We have observed a rise in conflict when it comes to the current political system, and hope that general etiquette is required when political discussions occur. The divide has gotten wider, and each side feels too extreme, leading to the conflict mentioned before. Certain civic structures and voting procedures could be improved on, to better promote fairness.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Group A

Promoting education should be a priority so citizens can make informed decisions. Another action would be to help make propositions more accessible to the public. Additionally, information of each candidate platform could be verified to inform citizens. The participants also encourage further support for independent local news sources.

Group B

There should be a foundation in our education to eliminate bias and shared knowledge of our civil rights. We want balance and equality for all in our government to foster an effective democracy.

IN COLLABORATION WITH



**MESA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WILDCAT TOWN HALL

October 17, 2024 | Tucson, AZ



"People need to feel as though their input truly matters."

WILDCAT TOWN HALL

October 17, 2024 | Tucson, AZ

ELEMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM

Many things constitute an effective democracy.

One element that stands out is equal participation and having an accessible way to have equal input. An additional component is an active citizenry that actually participates in that democracy and that is set up to make sure your input is actually considered and counted. Additionally, having an informed electorate helps in the concept of how an active democracy may be perceived. This has larger implications related to facts, inasmuch as how facts are presented, interpreted and/or misinterpreted, how that can be construed or translated into the larger structure and definition of democracy, and also how it tests the limits of legality in how those facts are transmitted/communicated to the electorate.

People need to feel as though their input truly matters, not only in the decision-making process, but how those decisions are actually implemented and operationalized after an election or other official democratic process. Effective democracy should also focus on the freedom of the individual to exercise their right to participate in democracy, whether that means actually participating, or not. The goal is not necessarily to force people to participate, but rather, to inspire and allow them the latitude to in whatever form or fashion they feel appropriate

This also calls into question issues in accessibility to democracy. As an example, if voting was available on your phone, would this change how informed the electorate is? Would it enable more people to contribute? Would it somehow numb the perceived importance of participation? Lastly, it is also important to ensure that open discourse is able to occur, and that people can disagree and come to consensus as part of effective democracy.

CURRENT POLITICAL AND CIVIC SYSTEMS AND CHANGES TO CONSIDER

It can be perceived that our current political and civic systems support an effective democracy in many different ways, which include:

Although the electoral college may be perceived to be out of date in the sense that it does not truly represent a one vote to one person system. However, it does, in some sense, give voice to minority voices and therefore serves an effective democracy in some form. One can also make the case for Clean Elections being a part of our democratic systems that supports effective democracy, as it is a successful mechanism that has helped reduce dark money involved in elections, and has increased transparency in the process, as well.

Changes that can be made to these processes, structures and institutions might include:

Update the Electoral College as a mechanism for effective democracy. Perhaps consider increasing the number of electors in some specific instances, effectively updating the electoral college process so that we can remedy the issue of misrepresentation by the Electoral College as it stands now. Perhaps a different weighting of electoral votes makes sense if we are to consider keeping the Electoral College, as it might be very difficult to abolish outright. As a note, it seems that having this one specific system for one specific office election (election of the presidency) seems to be a little peculiar, as it is not used for any other office election. Either the Electoral College needs to go through significant change, or it will continue to be flawed.

Also, consider removing personhood for corporations. It is odd that corporations have even or more rights than individuals do. This could have implications for campaign finances (i.e. consider Clean Elections in Arizona that regulates dollars to an extent for donations to candidates), corporate values, individual values, etc.

Review the Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) to ensure that it continues to be an agreeable mechanism for redistricting when it has to happen per statute. Perhaps see if this mechanism can be duplicated, adopted and utilized as a model for adoption for other processes in democracy. Along this same thought, consider more protections/legislation that can protect against gerrymandering to ensure it doesn't happen.

Implement automatic voter registration.

There should be more encouragement of open and civic discussions (such as these Arizona Town Hall events).

Ranked choice voting also could be a satisfactory alternative to the current process we have now, which would potentially eliminate “radical” candidates.

Lastly, identify mechanisms that would reduce vitriol, increase civic education in general, (especially thorough experiential opportunities) and expand attention spans and improve overall civility in politics.

Changes would impact people, processes and institutions in the following way: by implementing or achieving any of the above-mentioned suggested changes, it would most likely create an incentive to compromise. Instead of things becoming more and more winner-take-all and divisive, these new, changed or eliminated mechanisms would increase the ability and need for actual civil discourse and compromise, yielding less vitriol and mitigation of the “winner take all, you vs me” mentality.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Actions that can be taken to make these mechanisms more effective are many, and could include:

Engage those who don’t vote or who feel disenfranchised and chat with them and figure out why they feel that way and how you can engage them and make them feel like their voice matters and has an impact on things. Incentivize and inspire them to get involved and/or to vote.

Explore barriers to voting and the impact of term limits.

Better enforce the separation of church and state.

Make sure people understand the safeguards that are involved and included in our election system and democratic processes, and how those systems are therefore protected against fraud and abuse. Also, educate individuals as to how well those safeguards perform, and the levels of fraud that do or do not exist so that people understand the safeguards are effective.

The proposed changes above would include legislators, voters, commissions, governments, and others engaging in a concerted effort to make these changes through various mechanisms of education, legislation, funding, etc.

INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions during the Wildcat Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

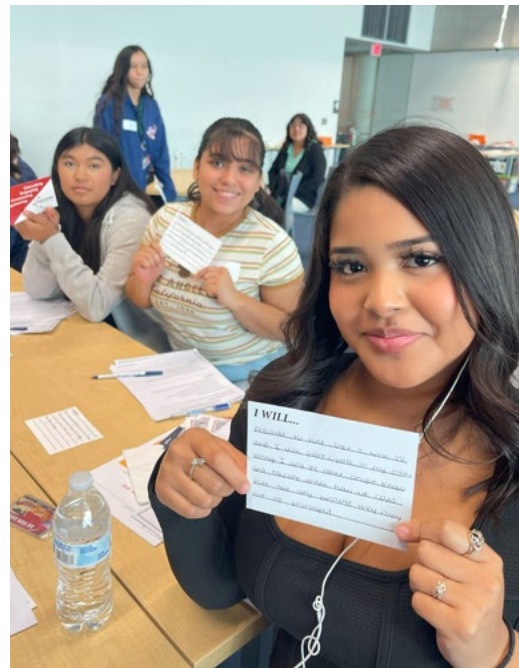
- Commit to educate people in my community on how the voting process works and assuring them that it’s not as tedious as people might think it is.
- Organize forums for civic dialogue, including for undecided and disenfranchised voters.
- Educate myself on policies before I go and vote.
- Work to educate others to encourage voter participation.
- Educate myself on ballot initiatives and encourage others to do the same.
- Continue to work with friends, family, and community to vote and register to vote if they haven’t.
- Communicate to others the value and importance of voting.

IN COLLABORATION WITH



CITY OF PHOENIX FUTURE LEADERS TOWN HALL

October 18, 2024 | Phoenix, AZ



“Our democracy should be more favorable to us as a younger generation. Laws should be updated to reflect what younger voters need and want in their democracy.”

CITY OF PHOENIX

FUTURE LEADERS TOWN HALL

October 18, 2024 | Phoenix, AZ

ELEMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM

Voting helps improve our communities' access to resources. It's a domino effect. When we learn about and know what we're voting for, we can ensure that a more diverse population is voting. To address equitable access to voting, we need to break down language barriers by providing information in multiple languages like Spanish, make sure transportation systems effectively get people to their voting location, and continue to support mail-in ballots. These efforts should be targeted to areas that are most marginalized.

We need to address biases in getting access to information. Information about voting should be free and easy to find, and how to vote should be taught in schools. We also need to learn about history including what has happened, what was effective and what was not, so we don't repeat mistakes from the past.

Candidates should also focus on earning our vote by telling us why we should vote for them rather than why we should not vote for the other person.

Voting helps improve the state, making it better for our communities. We need to stress to our families and communities why it's important to vote—this is for your future, your daughter's future, your nephew's future. Voting helps us build the right conditions to live our lives to the fullest, like housing rights. **Your vote helps change the future.**

CURRENT POLITICAL AND CIVIC SYSTEMS AND CHANGES TO CONSIDER

Our current political and civic systems support an effective democracy because they do try to **value every voice** and **give power to the people**. However, the system needs to be updated, and even small changes in the long run will have a positive impact.

In one to four years, we are going to be the ones voting, and the system doesn't currently support that. For example, ads aren't meaningful for the younger generation though they may be for the older generation.

The current political and civic systems do have some issues, and they are creating challenges to an effective democracy. For example, people need more time to understand the process and how their vote will impact their lives, such as how voting to support freeway expansion may impact traffic. Democracy in Arizona seems to be getting worse too, and we need to do something to improve it. For example, the system allows Trump, a convicted felon, to run for president even though in most states convicted felons cannot even vote.

For candidates running in elections, experience is important, but education should matter, sometimes more so than experience. The system also does not fully allow accessibility to voting for people with disabilities and those who may not be able to leave their home to vote.

Our democracy should be more favorable to us as a younger generation. Laws should be updated to reflect what younger voters need and want in their democracy.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

We may not understand how important democracy is until it affects us, but we need to know now so we're ready. We need to get information directly from candidates about why they are the best candidate. They need to explain exactly why we should vote for them. There should also be non-biased coverage to help us have all the information we need to make an informed decision.

Instead of just making the rules, the government should make sure that people have opportunities to give their feedback on policies. The government needs to listen to what we have to say, all of us—rich, poor, advantaged, disadvantaged.

How do we accomplish this?

1. First, ballots should be more accessible to everyone equitably across all areas of the state.
2. Second, teachers and educators help us find our voice and learn about our rights, and they play a big part in making information accessible.
3. Third, the media needs to be used to correctly inform younger people in ways that capture our attention and interests.
4. Fourth, we will share the information we learned from Arizona Town Hall with our families and communities. They are over eighteen and can vote in ways that support our future since we can't vote.
5. Fifth, there should be support for the older generation as well by educating them about the importance of their voices, too.

Finally, we need to use our own voice and put our words into powerful messages. **By speaking out individually, more people will join, and our voices will reach the decision makers.**

INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions during the City of Phoenix Future Leaders Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Become more educated in my knowledge of law and voting.
- Remember the power of my voice and make sure to use it in my local community in events like town hall meetings, field trips, and civic engagement programs.
- Register to vote once I am eighteen.
- Do more to learn about elections and voting to understand why it is important.
- Go out and share all this important information.
- Make sure my voice is heard so I can help Arizona improve its Democratic situation.
- Try to further educate myself about our democracy and voting motives.
- Learn about why it's important and how my rights are being jeopardized and limited.
- Inform my generation of what I learned today in the Arizona Town Hall program.
- Show people I know of to not be biased to others and respect where they are from.
- Understand that there are people that need help at times.
- Educate myself even more on this topic.
- Talk to more people and help them vote, because most people don't know exactly what they're doing.
- Educate others about voting.
- Register to vote.
- Continue to learn about voting and making a change!
- Become an attorney, help people in my community, and hopefully become a district attorney in the Arizona government to help my community even more.
- Vote for the next President when I turn eighteen.
- Use this conference/meeting and gain more knowledge about the political/voting process and by my 18th birthday I will register and start my voting journey.
- Register to vote once I turn eighteen and participate in my city's voting.
- Let other people know and educate them how we could vote and why, because they may not be privileged.
- Make sure to spread the word out about voting and how important it is to vote.

- Share what I learned in this program I just attended.
- Go home and stress the importance of learning what you are voting for to my family—more specifically my siblings.
- Use this knowledge for when I start doing these things in the future for my democracy.

IN COLLABORATION WITH



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