



Beyond the Deliberation: **Resources for Continued Engagement on** ***Our Housing Future***

One of the key deliberative dispositions that the Deliberative Citizenship Initiative (DCI) has identified is an “action orientation.” While dialogue and deliberation are themselves important contributors to a healthy democracy, they become even more valuable when they lead to shared agreement on key issues and an intentional commitment to take either individual or collective action on them.

Such action can come in a range of forms and should be broadly understood. It might involve issuing a set of recommendations or deciding to support a particular policy. It might also manifest as developing a better understanding of a topic, connecting with relevant local or national organizations, participating in continued discussions, or generating new approaches to engaging with the issue.

To support such an orientation, the DCI shares a series of “action pathways” for participants to consider after each event or activity it sponsors. Please see the pathways below related to the topic of **“Our Housing Future.”** Engaging in these activities is voluntary -- participants are free to choose any of the pathways, or none. But we encourage you to at least consider them as options that can build on the conversation you just had with your fellow deliberative citizens.

Get Informed

Explore the current state of housing in your community and across America:

- Read the City of Charlotte’s [“Housing Charlotte”](#) framework and explore their [housing services website](#)
- Check out the Town of Davidson’s [“Housing Needs Report”](#)
- Explore the [North Meck Community Data Dashboard](#), developed as part of the Community Research Fellows summer research experience at Davidson College
- Examine the [Carolinas Urban-Rural Connection’s resources](#) to learn more about the region’s population growth that’s impacting housing
- Learn about how the pandemic impacted the housing market in the [Wall Street Journal](#)
- Read [Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City](#) by Matthew Desmond to learn more about the housing challenges facing communities as told through the stories of eight families in Milwaukee

Learn about different solutions:

- Explore the benefits and challenges of different solutions for ending chronic homelessness in [The Atlantic](#)
- Learn about the relationship between [energy efficiency and affordable housing](#)

- Evaluate options that local governments may have to develop affordable housing in [this article from Next City](#)
- Learn more about [implementing mixed-use development](#) in local communities
- Understand the concept of [Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing \(NOAH\)](#)
- Engage with ideas about less restrictive land use and fewer regulations by reading [this article from the John Locke Foundation](#)
- Learn about the ways transit solutions can impact neighborhoods and income segregation by reading [this research study from UNC Charlotte](#)
- Consider arguments for why conservatives should embrace more urban density in this [National Review](#) article
- Explore different perspectives on single family housing in these essays from the [American Compass](#), [Niskanen Center](#), [Governing](#), and [Medium](#)

Get Connected

- Join [Housing Disparities in Charlotte \(HDC\)](#) or the [Habitat for Humanity student chapter](#) at Davidson College
- Connect with the [Davidson Housing Coalition](#), a nonprofit that works to preserve and create affordable housing in Mecklenburg County
- Join the [Habitat for Humanity](#) Charlotte Region Young Professionals (ages 21-39) or apply for a summer internship
- Connect with the [North Mecklenburg Economic Mobility Collaborative \(NMEMC\)](#)
- Connect with the [Center for Civic Engagement](#) through their weekly newsletter or [WildcatSync](#) Portal that highlights opportunities and events on campus and in the community. The Center for Civic Engagement connects students, faculty and staff with public and nonprofit organizations for opportunities to impact positive community driven change.
- Contact the [Hope House Foundation](#) to learn more about Hope to Home Cottages, a collaborative of Ada Jenkins Center and the Hope House that addresses homelessness and housing insecurity in independent living Cottages by emailing info@hopehousefoundation.org

Get Involved

- Donate supplies or funds to [A Roof Above](#), or volunteer in-person when opportunities become available
- Support the [Smithville Community Coalition](#)
- Become a member of the [North Carolina Housing Coalition](#)
- Attend a Town of Davidson [Affordable Housing and Equity Board Committee](#) meeting on the third Thursday of each month
- Volunteer at a [Habitat for Humanity](#) ReStore or home building site
- Contact your Congressional representatives about [legislation related to housing affordability](#)

About This Guide

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The Deliberative Citizenship Initiative

The Deliberative Citizenship Initiative (DCI) is dedicated to the creation of opportunities for Davidson students, faculty, staff, alumni, and members of the wider community to productively engage with one another on difficult and contentious issues facing our community and society. The DCI regularly hosts facilitated deliberations on a wide range of topics and organizes training workshops for deliberation facilitators. To learn more about these opportunities, visit www.deliberativecitizenship.org.

DCI Deliberation Guides

The DCI has launched this series of Deliberation Guides as a foundation for such conversations. They provide both important background information on the topics in question and a specific framework for engaging with these topics. The Guides are designed to be informative without being overwhelming and structured without being inflexible. They cover a range of topics and come in a variety of formats but share several common elements, including opportunities to commit to a shared set of Conversation Agreements, learn about diverse perspectives, and reflect together on the conversation and its yield. The DCI encourages conversations based on these guides to be moderated by a trained facilitator. After each conversation, the DCI also suggests that its associated Pathways Guide be distributed to the conversation's participants.

DCI Pathways Guides

For every Deliberation Guide, the DCI has also developed an associated Pathways Guide, which outlines opportunities for action that participants can consider that are related to the covered topic. These Pathways Guides reinforce the DCI's commitment to an action orientation, a key deliberative disposition. While dialogue and deliberation are themselves important contributors to a healthy democracy, they become even more valuable when they lead to individual or collective action on the key issues facing society. Such action can come in a range of forms and should be broadly understood. It might involve developing a better understanding of a topic, connecting with relevant local or national organizations, generating new approaches to an issue, or deciding to support a particular policy.

If you make use of this guide in a deliberation, please provide attribution to the Deliberative Citizenship Initiative and email dci@deliberativecitizenship.org to tell us about your event. To access more of our growing library of Deliberation Guides, Pathways Guides and other resources, visit www.deliberativecitizenship.org/readings-and-resources.

