



Beyond the Deliberation: **Resources for Continued Engagement on** ***Abortion Policy***

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 **“Abortion Policy.”** 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

- Read [“As Supreme Court Weight Abortion Rights, More States Look at 15-Week Bans”](#) from *The Wall Street Journal*
- Read about Texas’s new abortion law in [this article](#) in *The Texas Tribune*
- Review state abortion laws from the [Guttmacher Institute](#)
- Learn about how U.S. abortion laws compare globally in [this New York Times article](#)
- Track spending on lobbying and political contributions for [abortion rights](#) and [abortion restrictions](#) in the Center for Responsive Politics’s OpenSecrets.org database
- Examine public opinion polls on abortion from the [Pew Research Center](#), [Gallup](#), and [AEI](#)
- Read analyses of the history, politics, and economics of abortion:
 - [“The Surprising History of Abortion in the United States”](#) on CNN
 - [“Roe Will Go”](#) on *First Things*
 - [“What Can Economic Research Tell Us about the Effect of Abortion Access on Women’s Lives?”](#) from the Brookings Institution
 - [“Abortion Debate Leaves No Room between Extremes”](#) on *National Review*

Get Connected

- Join organizations like the [Center for Reproductive Rights](#), [Planned Parenthood](#), or [Whole Woman's Health Alliance](#) if you are concerned about protecting abortion rights
- Join organizations like [Prolife Across America](#), [Students for Life of America](#), or [National Right to Life Committee](#) if you are concerned about preventing abortions
- Learn tips for how to talk about abortion from [Essential Partners](#), which “equips people to live and work better together in community by building trust and understanding across differences”
- Follow research on mental health and abortion from the [American Psychological Association](#)
- Track statistics on the rates of abortions and abortion-related deaths from the [Centers for Disease and Prevention](#) and [Statistica](#)

Get Involved

- Find and support candidates who hold views on abortion similar to your own using [OnTheIssues.org](#)
- Volunteer for and/or donate to organizations that are pro-choice (such as [Pro-Choice North Carolina](#))
- Volunteer for and/or donate to organizations that are pro-life (such as [North Carolina Right to Life](#))
- Host a [Living Room Conversation](#) or [DCI-Style Deliberation](#) on abortion issues for your friends, family members, or neighbors
- Sign a petition to overturn *Roe v. Wade* through the [American Center for Law and Justice](#)
- Share your abortion story on [Women on Web](#)

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.