



Beyond the Deliberation: **Resources for Continued Engagement on** ***Voting and Elections***

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 “**voting and elections.**” Engaging in these activities is voluntary and the DCI does not endorse any of them – 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 conversations you just had with your fellow deliberative citizens.

Get Informed

- Check out the Movement Advancement Project’s [Democracy Map](#) rating the accessibility, security, integrity, and independence of all 50 state election systems
- Understand [America’s election infrastructure threats and related election security efforts](#), starting with this overview from the US Department of Homeland Security
- Examine cases from the [Election Fraud Database](#) compiled by the Heritage Foundation
- Explore this [Voting Laws Roundup](#) from the Brennan Center For Justice
- Read this study on the [Cost of Voting in American States: 2022](#) in the *Election Law Journal*
- Follow the work of the [Election Security Project](#) on election security reforms
- Learn about [Policies to Advance Good Faith Election Observation](#) from the Bipartisan Policy Center
- Study results from the [Election Integrity Project](#), an international research initiative on election failures and solutions involving scholars from around the world

Get Connected

- Support the [Brennan Center for Justice](#) and its work on making elections fair and enabling all Americans to fully participate in our democracy.
- Join [FreedomWorks](#) to support its Election Protection Initiative and efforts to promote free and fair elections and develop state-based election integrity toolkits.
- Follow the [R Street Institute](#) and its work on electoral reform that emphasizes limited, effective government and pragmatic solutions to difficult problems.
- Work with the [League of Women Voters](#) on their voting rights and voter education projects.
- Join the [National Election Defense Coalition](#) and its efforts to secure the nation's voting systems from manipulation and fraud and protect every voter's right to vote.
- Volunteer with [Common Cause](#) to help ensure every eligible voter has their vote counted.
- Connect with national organizations like [Fair Vote](#) and related [state-based organizations](#) like the [Better Ballot Initiative](#) in North Carolina to promote ranked choice voting and related election reforms.

Get Involved

- Contact your US senators and representatives and encourage them to support or oppose the [H.R. 1: For the People Act](#), [H.R. 4: John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act](#), [S. 2593 the Secure Elections Act](#), [H.R. 3863 The Fair Representation Act](#), and other bills that focus on electoral reform.
- Tell officials to [ensure secure vote counting and fully verified vote results](#), as suggested by the National Election Defense Coalition
- Encourage all political candidates to sign on to the nonpartisan [Candidate Principles for Trusted Elections](#) and commit to its five core doctrines of democratic elections: integrity, nonviolence, security, oversight, and the peaceful transfer of power.
- Engage with national, state, and local [Democratic](#), [Green](#), [Libertarian](#), [Republican](#), and other party organizations and their election-related efforts.
- Tell your state legislators to support or oppose a [national popular vote bill](#) that would dedicate all your state's electoral college votes to the winner of the national popular vote once enough other states have also passed such a bill (states with 195 electoral votes out of the necessary 270 have done so).
- Host a [DCI-Style Deliberation](#) on voting and elections issues for your friends, family members, or neighbors.
- [Register to vote](#) and vote in your next election for candidates who support your highest priority election reforms.

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.