

CIVICS FOR ADULTS IS GOING VIRTUAL!

WORKSHOPS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION ONLINE! THE FORMAT IS A PPT PRESENTATION/LECTURE OF ONE+ HOUR, FOLLOWED BY A QUESTION/DISCUSSION TIME.

The first virtual workshop – for Klamath Falls – went wonderfully. The Library Director, who attended, wrote, *“I received a lot of positive feed-back, people were very happy with the presentation”*.

Please let your local library know if you'd like them to schedule a workshop(s).

A downloadable descriptive flyer is available on my website.

https://cdn-cms.f-static.net/uploads/2516289/normal_5ef7d00a31df4.pdf

You can now register for the first of the four workshops via Hillsboro:

Misinformation, Fake News and Political Propaganda, on Sunday, August 2.

Since there will be a limit, please, only register if you think you can participate and, if you register, please cancel if you find you can't make it.

<https://wccls.bibliocommons.com/events/5ee79bca65fbc3450068e0b5>

Workshops will be run on subsequent Sundays in August. Open registration for each workshop will be available about two weeks in advance, so you may be able to register for Aug 9, Elections and Campaign Finance, now!

Workshops

[Facebook posts below!]

Misinformation, Fake News and Political Propaganda

Are you overwhelmed with messages from politicians, news sources and other media? Distinguish truth from fiction using real-world examples. Become your own “factchecker”! Also, how to find accurate information.

“Well organized, excellent information!”

“This was fun and informative! Thank you so much!”

“Loved it...well-rounded, wide array of examples!”

Citizen Activism 101—Making Change Happen

Have a concern about local, state or federal issues? Learn about strategies for change, and more: Examples of successful advocacy; Brief historical perspective; Choosing your battles; What matters to you?; Who makes the rules?; Tools for change; “Lobbying”; “Tracking” legislation; providing “testimony”.

“ACTIONABLE!”

“Great presenter...should be a day conference!”

“Very practical information”

The Constitution – Fulfilling Democracy’s Promise?

Let’s look at the Constitution’s creation and its structural limitations, and trace major changes to its interpretation. We puncture some myths and develop a perspective that helps evaluate its meaning more thoughtfully.

“Every citizen should take this serious look at our Constitution.”

“Good level of history and contemporary political ideas”

Beyond Voting: Elections and Campaign Financing

This is a unique workshop covering topics related to our electoral systems and presenting specific ideas for bi-partisan civic/political engagement. Topics include: Voting as Constitutional right(?), Voting Security, Alternative Systems, Redistricting, Electoral College, Campaign Financing, Tracking Money/Campaign Finance Databases, Public Financing of Elections

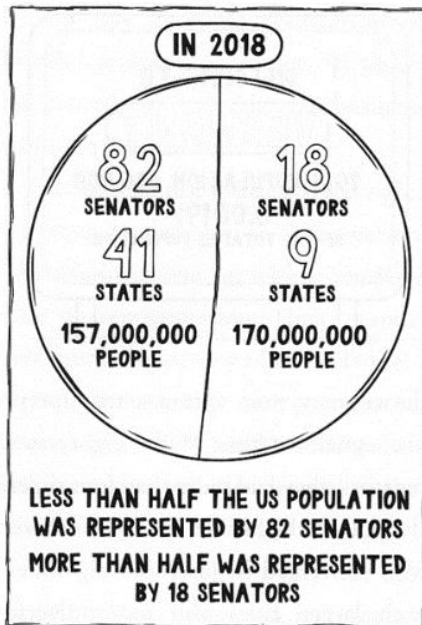
“...solid information – This is what all Americans need to know.”

“I consider myself a well-informed citizen but I learned a great deal of new information”

“You are a great teacher, Donna.”

Facebook posts

Working on my Constitution workshop. Taking a hard look at what "representation" means for our government. Hmm.... is there anything out-of-kilter here?



This image is from [Fault Lines in the Constitution: The Framers, Their Fights, and the Flaws that Affect Us Today](#), by Levinson.

A related report:

Fixing the Senate: Equitable and Full Representation for the 21st Century. Rand Corp.

report. https://rooseveltinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/RI_Fixing-The-Senate_report-201903-1.pdf

If you would like to see an **independent redistricting commission in Oregon** - a multi-partisan group which draws Congressional and state legislative districts after each decennial Census [rather than having the dominant party do so]- then you might want to consider signing the petition to put it on the ballot for November. The state has given signature gathering some extra time this year, due to COVID and having to reach out to people primarily electronically, rather than in person. The effort now has 'til **August 1st**. Here's where to go... <https://www.peoplenotpoliticiansoregon.com/sign-the-petition/>

There is currently an **updated Voting Rights Act** which has passed the House, and is stalled in the Senate. It would correct the decimation of the "**preclearance**" provision of the original 1965 Voting Rights Act. that the Supreme Court struck down in 2013. That provision required states/localities that had shown racial discrimination in election laws to have the federal government evaluate any changes contemplated by those jurisdictions for their racial impact.

As soon as the Supreme Court struck down preclearance, many states/localities immediately began to reinstitute discriminatory practices. Although cases have negated many/most of those laws, it is like playing "whack-a-mole" and takes time to see them through the courts - during which voting rights can be lost. We need a revision to the Voting Rights Act that will allow again for preclearance. Unfortunate, but necessary.

"We were beaten, we were tear-gassed. I thought I was going to die on this bridge. But somehow and some way, God almighty helped me here. We cannot give up now. We cannot give in. We must keep the faith, keep our eyes on the prize. We must go out and vote like we never, ever voted before."

Rest in power, John Lewis.



Election Experts Warn of November Disaster. Pew Center. Good article captures the issues.
<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2020/07/08/election-experts-warn-of-november-disaster>

Congress must help states avoid a perfect storm looming over November Election. Newsweek. Good article from bipartisan perspective.
<https://www.newsweek.com/congress-must-help-states-avoid-perfect-storm-looming-over-november-election-opinion-1510967>

Oregon's vote-by-mail system gets more TV attention, on '60 Minutes'. 6/29/2020
https://www.oregonlive.com/entertainment/2020/06/oregons-vote-by-mail-system-gets-more-tv-attention-on-60-minutes.html?fbclid=IwAR3emanyotlIDlaK5hj-R30eeyVpAty6a_tSDzvqWZSHKsPZats45bvBZ8

Sign up for virtual workshop: Misinformation, Fake News and Political Propaganda on Sunday, Aug 3!

<https://wccls.bibliocommons.com/events/5ee79bca65fbe3450068e0b5>