



Agenda | Wednesday, December 7

11:30 am Welcome & Introduction

David Oxtoby, *American Academy of Arts & Sciences*

Danielle Allen, *Harvard University*

Darshan Goux, *American Academy of Arts & Sciences*

12:00 pm Session 1: Ranked Choice Voting in Local Elections

Ranked choice voting has now been adopted in more than fifty jurisdictions across the U.S. But what are the benefits of this system of voting, and what should policy makers consider as they work toward adopting and implementing it? This panel will discuss what local leaders need to know about this popular election reform.

Chris Hughes, *Ranked Choice Voting Resource Center*

Rosemonde Pierre-Louis, *New York University*

Kelleen Potter, *former Mayor, Herbert City, UT*

Cynthia Terrell, *RepresentWomen*

Moderator: Kevin Kosar, *American Enterprise Institute*

1:30 pm Break

1:40 pm Session 2: Bridging Across Differences Interactive Training

As polarization has grown in recent years, working together across political and cultural differences to solve local problems has become increasingly difficult – and increasingly important. In this interactive session, the founders of Civity will share their story-based relationship-building approach, strengthening participants' ability to build a healthy local civic culture.

Malka Kopell and Palma Strand, *Civity*

3:15 pm Peer Workshop 1

In these peer workshops, participants will break into small groups to discuss what they've learned, form relationships with leaders in other communities, and build on each other's experiences.

4:00 pm Meet the Experts

Participants are encouraged to visit our partner booths to connect with organizations with expertise in democracy reform – from ranked choice voting to campaign finance to bridge-building. Participants can also join a table to meet and network with other conference participants.

5:00 pm Adjourn

Agenda | Thursday, December 8

11:30 am Welcome to Day Two

David Oxtoby, *American Academy of Arts & Sciences*

11:35 am Choice of Panel:

Session 3A: Adult Civic Learning and Engagement

Civic learning need not be confined to the K-12 classroom; it can also help adults navigate the political system and build the skills that enable them to become better informed and more civically engaged. This panel will discuss innovative approaches to unlocking the transformational power of civic education for grown-ups.

Shamichael Hallman, *Memphis Public Libraries*

John Sweat, *Concord, NC City Council*

Moderator: Pete Peterson, *Pepperdine University*

OR

Session 3B: K-12 Civic Education

High-quality civic education helps students to learn important skills and makes them more likely to complete college, vote, and become civically engaged. With limited time and resources, however, prioritizing civics is a challenge for many school systems. This panel will discuss the importance of civics education and how local leaders can support it in their communities.

Jason Artman, *Mendota, IL Public Schools*

Louise Dubé, *iCivics*

Mark Gomez, *California State University Monterey Bay*

Joseph Kahne, *Civic Engagement Research Group*

Moderator: Danielle Allen, *Harvard University*

1:05 pm **Break**

1:15 pm **Speaker TBA**

1:45 pm **Peer Workshop 2**

In these peer workshops, participants will break into small groups to discuss what they've learned, form relationships with leaders in other communities, and build on each other's experiences.

2:30 pm **Session 4: Mechanisms to Expand Citizen Participation**

Communities across the country are exploring innovative programs like participatory budgeting and lottery-selected panels (also known as citizen assemblies) to bring new voices into their decision-making processes. This panel will discuss how these citizen participation mechanisms can both revitalize democracy at the local level and lead to better policy outcomes.

Peggy Flynn, *Petaluma, CA City Manager*

Hollie Russon Gilman, *New America*

Bertha Johnson, *Deputy City Manager, Durham, NC*

Alex Renirie, *Healthy Democracy*

Moderator: Archon Fung, *Harvard University*

4:00 pm **Meet the Experts**

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5:00 pm **Adjourn**

Agenda | Friday, December 9

11:30 am **Welcome to Day Three**

David Oxtoby, *American Academy of Arts & Sciences*

11:35 am **Session 5: Democracy Vouchers & Other Clean Elections Mechanisms**

Americans are frustrated by the influence of money in politics, and 80% say they are dissatisfied with the nation's campaign finance system. Against this backdrop, local governments across the country have stepped in with reforms to level the playing field. This panel will discuss how communities can make an impact with their own clean election and other measures.

Kristerfer Burnett, *Baltimore City Council*

Tom Latkowski, *Democracy Policy Network*

Kathleen Patterson, *Washington D.C. Auditor*

Moderator: Sayu Bhojwani, *Women's Democracy Lab*

1:05 pm Peer Workshop 3

In these peer workshops, participants will break into small groups to discuss what they've learned, form relationships with leaders in other communities, and build on each other's experiences.

1:35 pm Break

1:45 pm Session 6: Beyond City Hall: Community Groups & Civic Infrastructure

Building a healthy local democracy is not just about the structure of government; the whole community matters. This panel will discuss the role of community groups and "civic infrastructure" -- the local places, programs, and people that encourage all residents to interact, find common ground, and solve problems together.

Maria Perez, *Democracy Rising*

Lynn Ross, *Spirit for Change Consulting*

Richard Young, *CivicLex*

Moderator: Martha McCoy, *Executive Director (retired), Everyday Democracy*

3:15pm Keynote Speaker: Judy Woodruff, PBS News

3:45pm Closing & Special Announcement

David Oxtoby, *American Academy of Arts & Sciences*

4:00 pm Meet the Experts

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5:00 pm Conference Adjourns