



Community Voices, Informed Choices- Introduction to Civic

Helping communities address challenging issues

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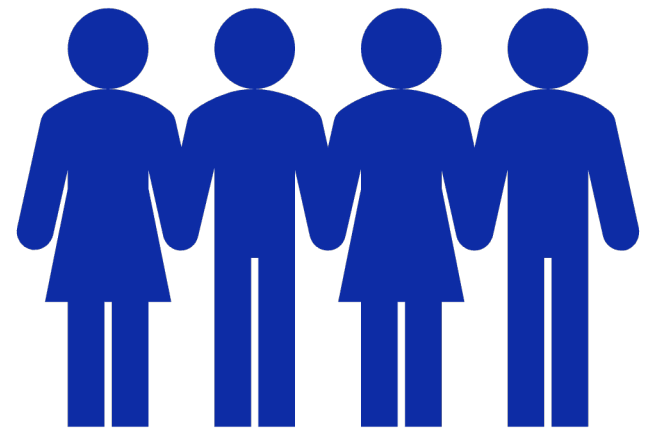


Introduction to CIVIC - Learning goals

- Understand how to define community issues
- Define deliberative discussion
- Understand the benefits of deliberative discussion
- Know how to engage with CIVIC

What is CIVIC?

- Community Voices Informed Choices
- Partnership between FAMU and UF
- Deliberative discussions to work on community issues
- Extension based program
- Platform for community members to learn and talk





Identifying community issues

What are some issues that you have in your community?

What type of issues are appropriate for CIVIC?

- Lack of agreement
- Disagreement on the cause of the problem
- The cause is not clear
- No definitive or single solution
- A decision needs to be made
- Every solution involves trade-offs
- The problem is intractable, ongoing, or systemic
- People may believe they hold different deep-seated values about the issue
- Any solution requires multiple actors

Expressing Opinions

How do we express
opinions?



What is a deliberative discussion?

- Debate vs discussion vs deliberation
- End goal
- Multifaceted
- Includes all opinions and stakeholders



The roles of a deliberative discussion



**FACILITATOR HELPS
GUIDE THE DISCUSSION**



**CONVENER THE PLACE
AND SPACE**



**PARTICIPANTS
STAKEHOLDERS**



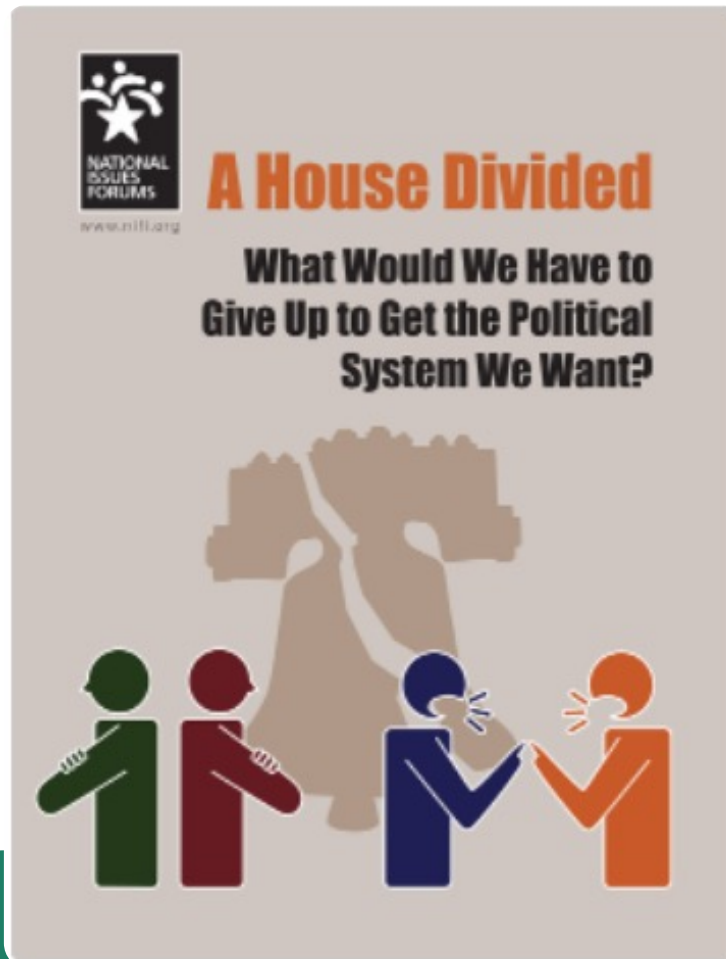
Facilitators Role

- Group support system (Bostrom, 1993)
- Enable not dominate
- Guide proceedings
- Establish ground rules
- Define the issue
- Document
- Deliver outcomes

Power of Talking together

- Supportive Environments for Effectiveness (SEE) framework
- Supportive Environments for Effectiveness
 1. obtain and understand needed information
 2. process and use that information effectively
 3. find opportunities to contribute and make a difference





Issue guides

- Specific topic-based guides for issues
- National perspective local application
- Discussion topics
- Solution/outcome suggestions

Summary

“CIVIC provides

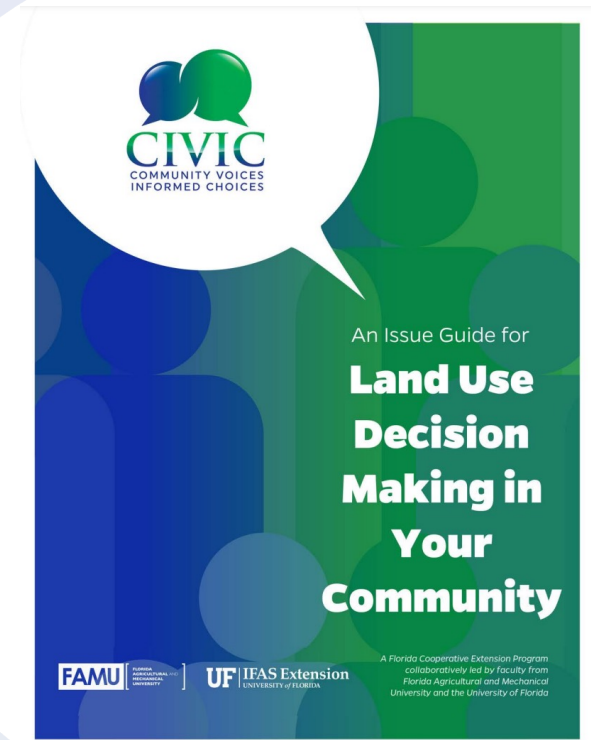
Structure

- allows people to tell their stories,
- provides choices,
- provides factual information, and
- supports a variety of actions.

Process

- meaningful and legitimate
- is enjoyable, convenient, and easy
- demonstrates good group process strategies”

(CIVIC, 2024)



Links

<https://www.kettering.org/catalog/product/public-deliberation-democracy>

Civic Guide-

https://programs.ifas.ufl.edu/media/programsifasufledu/civic/docs/CIVIC_Final_11-14-23_Web.pdf

Strengthening your facilitation skills-

<https://extension.umaine.edu/community/strengthening-your-facilitation-skills/>

National Issues Forum- <https://www.nifi.org/>

References

Rourke, B. (2014). Developing Materials for Deliberative Forums. Kettering Foundation publication. Dayton, OH. Retrieved November 6, 2023, from <https://www.kettering.org/catalog/product/developing-materials-deliberative-forums>

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