2021 GUIDE TO CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
"Real, sustainable community change requires the initiative and engagement of community members."

Helene D. Gayle, President & CEO of The Chicago Community Trust
TYPES OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

- CIVIC LEARNING
- COMMUNITY SERVICE & VOLUNTEERISM
- POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT
- ACTIVISM/ADVOCACY
- PHILANTHROPY & FUNDRAISING
Read news from conservative, liberal and centrist points of view for perspective.

Vet your news sources.

Visit a museum or library to learn about past civic actions and democracy.

Understand the Constitution.
Know Your Political Landscape

Civic Learning

- Make informed decisions by getting facts on politicians or candidates.
- Attend public forums on issues you care about.
- Attend a city council or community board meeting.
- Shadow a public servant to learn how our institutions work.
Volunteer to register voters.

Volunteer in your community.

Volunteer to work at a polling place. To find out how, contact your local Registrar of Voters.

Offer to drive elderly voters or those without transportation to the polls.

Educate and mobilize young voters.
BUILD COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY SERVICE & VOLUNTEERISM

- Serve your community by connecting with others to address problems and create solutions.
- Serve as a juror.
- Connect with an organization that shares your political views.
- Go out and talk to people, use your skills, and your time.
Vote: local, state, and national elections matter!

Make sure you’re registered to vote.

Make a voting pact with your friends or family and make a plan to vote!

Communicate with your elected officials. A letter/phone call/tweet, or a visit are good ways to connect.
Know what's on the ballot, know your polling place, and what you need to bring.

Pay attention to deadlines, follow all the steps in the instructions and mark the calendar with important dates.

RUN FOR OFFICE. Use your voice. Represent your community.
GET SOCIAL

ACTIVISM/ADVOCACY

- Host or attend a debate watch party in your community.

- Write an opinion piece or letter to the editor of your local newspaper.

- Advocate for civic education in schools.

- Invite friends and neighbors to watch a documentary on a topic affecting your community.

- Use your social media accounts to post uplifting information relevant to making your community a better place.
Use your consumer power to support companies whose values you believe in.

Contribute financially to a cause if you can, every bit helps.

Shop local and support small businesses to enhance your community.

Collect needed items and donate to a local charity.
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT BENEFITS THE INTERESTS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

- Improved relationships
- Increased social cohesion
- Improved community
- Improved education
- Greater understanding
- Growth and development
- Individual responsibility
- Improved quality of life
- Improved government
- Informing Policy
- Greater inclusiveness and diversity
Civic Engagement:

To be a truly involved citizen, we must reconnect with our founding documents. We must learn and practice the skills of civic participation beginning with voting and moving onto legislating, speaking out, and building coalitions to solve problems on the local, state, and federal levels.

The Brookings Institution
STAY CIVICALLY ENGAGED WITH US AS WE CONTINUE ON OUR MISSION TO:

ELIMINATE RACISM, EMPOWER WOMEN AND PROMOTE PEACE, JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND DIGNITY FOR ALL.

THANK YOU
eliminating racism
empowering women
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