This report was produced in collaboration with the National Conference on Citizenship, the RGK Center for Philanthropy and Community Service, the Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life, Leadership Austin, the Austin Community Foundation, KLRU - TV, and KUT News.

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CITIZENSHIP**
The National Conference on Citizenship is a congressionally chartered organization dedicated to strengthening civic life in America. We pursue our mission through a nationwide network of partners involved in a cutting-edge civic health initiative and innovative national service project, and our cross-sector conferences. At the core of our joint efforts is the belief that every person has the ability to help his or her community and country thrive. [www.ncoc.org](http://www.ncoc.org)

**ANNETTE STRAUSS INSTITUTE FOR CIVIC LIFE**
The Annette Strauss Institute is an organized research unit in the Moody College of Communication at The University of Texas at Austin. The Institute exists to cultivate informed voters and active citizens. We do so through research, education, and outreach programs focused on three key pillars: civic discovery, young people, and civil dialogue. [annettestrauss.org](http://annettestrauss.org)

**RGK CENTER FOR PHILANTHROPY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**
The RGK Center for Philanthropy and Community Service prepares the next generation of nonprofit and philanthropic leaders through graduate education and research at the University of Texas at Austin. The RGK Center’s collective work, ranging from graduate certificate programs to international exchange programs, and cutting-edge research is all focused on helping the nonprofit leaders of today and tomorrow make informed and innovative contributions to the civil society. [rgkcenter.org](http://rgkcenter.org)

**LEADERSHIP AUSTIN**
Leadership Austin’s mission is to provide leadership training to those with a passion for Greater Austin. Leadership Austin offers emerging and community leaders a unique opportunity to be part of a group that has come together to: develop their personal and professional leadership skills; learn about the issues affecting Greater Austin through open and balanced civic discussion; and build relationships with others who seek to grow as leaders and find solutions to the issues facing our region. [leadershipaustin.org](http://leadershipaustin.org)

**AUSTIN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**
Austin Community Foundation is the catalyst for generosity in Austin. We bring together philanthropists, dollars and ideas to shape Austin’s future. The Foundation applies data to understand needs and opportunities; convenes conversations with funders, leaders and organizations; and makes philanthropic investments in areas that make a greater Austin. [austincf.org](http://austincf.org)

**KLRU-TV, AUSTIN PBS**
KLRU is a leader in public media, distinguished by its energetic engagement with the community and for the quality and creativity of content. KLRU illuminates the wider world of knowledge, the importance of discourse, and the many possibilities life presents us all. KLRU’s mission is to enrich the lives of our viewers through quality public television programming, community services and public events with shows like Austin City Limits, Central Texas Gardener, Arts in Context, and Overheard with Evan Smith. [klru.org](http://klru.org)

**KUT**
KUT 90.5, Austin’s NPR station, delivers in-depth stories by, for and about people in Austin with the highest journalistic standards from a variety of thoughtful perspectives. A founding member of NPR, KUT News has won more than 200 state, national and international awards for journalistic excellence. [kut.org](http://kut.org)

Photo Credit: KUT News
The RGK Center for Philanthropy and Community Service at the University of Texas at Austin conducts an Austin Area Community Survey as a core component of the Austin Area Sustainability Indicators (austinindicators.org). The survey includes topics related to civic health, such as engagement in electoral and political processes, civic involvement, social connectedness, philanthropy, and volunteering. The survey findings reported here, unless noted otherwise, reflect responses from data collected in August 2018 for the Austin Area Community Survey. Even though the results presented in this issue brief are drawn from a scientifically rigorous sample of residents in the six-county Austin area, it is important to note that each data point has a small margin of error. Small numeric differences across groups of residents may not be statistically meaningful.

The scorecard in Table 1 highlights civic health variables comparing 2018 data with a 10-year baseline consisting of an average of 2006, 2008, 2010, and 2015 data. All subgroup categories are summarized in the “Data by Subgroup” table on page 12 of the report.

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**HOW TO READ THIS REPORT**

The RGK Center for Philanthropy and Community Service and the Austin Area Sustainability Indicators Project thanks the staff of our national partner, the National Conference on Citizenship, for their guidance and support, particularly their Program Director, Lisa Matthews. We are also indebted to the many local collaborators who provided support for this report.

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Photo Credit: KUT News
GREATER AUSTIN CIVIC HEALTH INDEX

Strong civic health is vital for a thriving democracy and social well-being. Quality of life is influenced profoundly by people’s engagement in their communities, their civic associations, their networks, and the characteristics of their neighborhoods. Political participation, volunteering, donating, and helping neighbors directly makes an impact in the community. The following report seeks to catalyze this conversation on civic health in the Greater Austin area.

The Greater Austin area (including Bastrop, Burnet, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and Williamson counties) is the fastest growing metropolitan area in Texas. These rapid demographic changes are accompanied by a robust and diversified economy that includes low unemployment, rising median incomes, and significant residential and commercial development throughout the Greater Austin area.

This context raises important questions for civic life in the Greater Austin area: How to plan for the future while being mindful of history and culture? How can everyday citizens have their voices heard on decisions that impacts their lives? How can the Austin area spur a more robust philanthropic and voluntary sector? Can the community make a greater impact by collaborating on how to give their time and money? How can schools, businesses, government and community groups more quickly and meaningfully involve the region’s newest and most transient residents in civic life.

“Civic health” is the way that communities are organized to define and address public problems. Communities with strong indicators of civic health have higher employment rates, stronger schools, better physical health, and more responsive governments.

Key Findings

- **Greater Austin area residents turn out to vote more than the state as a whole.** Voter turnout in the Greater Austin area has remained relatively high with 62% of residents voting in the 2016 general election. Voter turnout in Texas remains lower with 55% voting in the last general election.

- **Voting in local elections is relatively high in the City of Austin.** 65% of City of Austin residents voted in the last local (mayoral) election in November 2016.

- **Greater Austin area residents stay informed about issues affecting the community with 69% of residents reporting awareness of key issues.** Older, more educated, and higher income residents report higher percentages of being informed.

- **Over two-thirds of Greater Austin area community members report that they give $100 or more to charitable organizations.** However, many residents report they would donate more if they knew what the community really needed.

- **Rates of volunteering have slightly decreased in the last 10 years.** One out of three Greater Austin area residents report volunteering for a charitable organization.

- **Greater Austin area residents feel they have things in common with their neighbors.** 65% of residents report strong similarities with their community.

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1. Based on percent change from July 1, 2015 to July 1, 2016. U.S. Census Bureau, 2017.
2. National Conference on Citizenship, Civic Health Index, [ncoc.org/chi/](http://ncoc.org/chi/)
### GREATER AUSTIN CIVIC HEALTH AT-A-GLANCE

#### Table 1. Greater Austin Civic Health At-a-Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>10-year baseline (N=9,053)</th>
<th>2018 Austin Area Data (N=1,135)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>POLITICAL PARTICIPATION</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voted in last general election*</td>
<td>60.9%</td>
<td>61.8%</td>
<td>About the same</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voted in last City of Austin election**</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
<td>64.5%</td>
<td>Improving***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informed and involved: aware about key issues affecting your community</td>
<td>75.3%</td>
<td>68.8%</td>
<td>Declining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CIVIC INVOLVEMENT &amp; SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual giving (minimum $100)</td>
<td>59.7%</td>
<td>68.2%</td>
<td>Improving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteering (5+ hours over the last month)</td>
<td>36.9%</td>
<td>32.6%</td>
<td>Declining slightly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborliness: in common</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
<td>64.8%</td>
<td>About the same</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local group involvement: spiritual or religious group, church, or temple</td>
<td>59.4%</td>
<td>56.7%</td>
<td>Declining slightly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Source: Texas Secretary of State, 2016 election data  
** Source: Travis County Clerk, 2016 City of Austin only  
***An amendment to the Austin City Charter approved by Austin voters in November 2012 changed the timing of municipal elections and the City Council structure. The amendment took effect in November 2014, and since that time, municipal elections in Austin are held in conjunction with state and federal elections in November of even numbered years. The Mayor is elected at large and the Council members are elected according to 10 single-member districts. Because of this change, Austin’s November 2014 election received significantly higher-turnout than previous municipal elections during the time period studied. The changes have continued to result in significantly higher-than-average voter turnout in Austin municipal elections.

Photo Credit: Austin Community Foundation
POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

An active and informed voting populace is a fundamental element of civic health. Voting holds public officials accountable and reflects the concerns, preferences, and interests of citizens.

Voter Registration

In order to vote, Texans are required to register in their county at least 30 days before an election. Texas as a whole has lower voter registration rates compared to other states in the nation with approximately 68% of eligible Texans registered to vote. By comparison, leading up to the 2018 election cycle approximately 91% of eligible residents are registered to vote in Travis County (as reported by Travis County).

Voter Turnout

- Approximately 62% of Austin area residents voted in the 2016 presidential election. This is relatively consistent with presidential elections going back to 2004 (10-year average is 60.9%).
- According to the Austin area community survey, 59% of residents in the six-county Austin area self reported voting in their most recent local election.
  - 65% of White and 56% of Black residents reported voting in the last local election, while only 37% of Hispanics reported voting.
  - Without exception, social and economic factors (or SES) variables were strongly correlated with voting in local elections. The higher their income and education level, the more likely respondents were to vote in local elections.
  - Older residents are more likely than younger residents to vote in local elections. For example, 79% of the 65 and older category reported voting in the last local election, compared to 23% of 18 to 24 year old respondents.

Other Forms of Political Participation

Active and informed voters are a fundamental element of civic health. In addition to voting in elections, citizens can engage in the political process by contacting elected officials, volunteering for political campaigns, and staying informed of key issues affecting the community.

- 43% of Austin area residents have contacted a public official in the past 12 months.
  - Approximately 35% of those under 35 years of age, 40% between 35 and 55, and 46% of those over age 55 report contacting elected officials in the last 12 months.
  - College graduates report contacting elected officials at a rate four times higher than those with no high school diploma.
  - Residents living in areas that are rural but transitioning to suburban areas report contacting a public official most frequently (52.9%). This is followed by suburban residents (47.4%).

![Chart 1. Contacted an Elected Official by Income in Greater Austin](image)

Residents who are older, have more education, and higher incomes are more likely to vote in local elections.
Thirty percent of Greater Austin area residents report involvement in a political campaign in the past 12 months.

- Black (36%) and White (34%) residents report similar rates of engagement in political campaigns, followed by Hispanic residents (20%).
- The highest income and oldest age brackets show the highest rates of political campaign involvement.

While voting and political participation are critical indicators of civic health, there are other ways that Austin area residents stay engaged in their communities. Approximately 69% of Austin area residents report feeling informed about key issues that affect their community, which is down from the approximately 74% who reported feeling informed in 2008 and 2010, but up from 2015 (66%).

Two out of three Austinites say they are aware of key issues affecting the community.

- Nearly twice as many 65 and older residents (84%) are aware of issues affecting the community compared to 18 to 24 year olds (48%).
- Rural residents (72%) report being most aware of key issues, followed by both suburban and rural changing to suburban (69%) and urban residents (64%).
CIVIC INVOLVEMENT & SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS

Several important indicators of civic health fall outside of political participation and include philanthropic activity, volunteering, and social connectedness. Civic engagement is bolstered by social connectedness: interacting with and trusting one’s neighbors, friends, and family. Social capital, the indicator of trust and strength of relationships that exist in a community, is developed through giving, volunteering, and being involved in the community.

Donating

Approximately 68% of Austin area residents report donating money to charitable organizations (minimum $100) over the past year. The percentage of people who report making donations increases across income and education levels.

Approximately 17% of Austin area residents report donating over $2,500 to charitable programs or organizations over the past year. This is up from 11% of people reporting the same level of contribution in 2015. 43% of Austin area residents report giving $500 or more.

- Rural changing to suburban areas report higher rates of donating (75%) compared to other areas that are urban (64%), suburban (71%), and rural (62%).
- 38% of respondents say they would give more if they knew what the community really needed.

Another measure of philanthropic activity is the presence of foundations. The density of foundations (number per capita) indicates the size of the philanthropic sector in the Austin area.\(^4\)

- Travis County has a higher density of foundations per 10,000 residents (3.5) than other Austin area counties and is above the state average (2.2).
- All Greater Austin area counties reached peak foundation density in 2010 and experienced dramatic declines in 2011 following an economic recession. Foundation density has remained relatively flat and continues to be lower than a decade ago.

![Photo Credit: Austin Community Foundation](image)

Residents say they would donate more if they knew what the community really needed.
Volunteering

Another way that people can engage in civic life is by volunteering their time. On average, Austin area residents volunteer 8.7 hours per month. This is higher than the 10 year average for volunteering in the Greater Austin area, which is 7.8 hours.

- One out of three Austin area residents report serving as a volunteer for a charitable program or organization on a regular or episodic basis (5+ hours in the past month).
- 41.6% report volunteering at least every other month.
- Volunteer rates are relatively consistent across age categories in the Austin area, as well as across gender.
- Residents with advanced degrees volunteer nearly 3 times the rate of those with no high school diploma.

Chart 5. Volunteer Rates by Ethnicity in Greater Austin (5+ hours per month)

Social Connectedness

Strong communities have neighbors who trust each other and feel like they have things in common. Feelings of social connectedness with your neighbors is associated with lower crime rates, stronger local economies, and higher levels of education.

- Over half of residents are comfortable asking their neighbors for a favor (58%).
- Since 2004, the proportion of Travis County residents that report asking for favors from their neighbors has been decreasing, but other counties in the region have experienced an increase of neighbor exchanges.
- 65% of Austin area residents feel they have things in common with their neighbors. These rates are relatively consistent across education levels and rural to urban neighborhoods.
In addition to being neighborly, there are other ways residents can be involved in their communities such as participating in faith-based and other community groups. For example, 28% of area residents report being involved in a Parent Teacher Association or other school related group, 38% in a professional group, and 32% in a human services group.

- 57% report being involved in a faith or spiritual group that meets regularly.
  - Nearly two-thirds (64%) of Black respondents reported this, followed by Hispanics (63%) and Whites (55%).
  - People with advanced degrees (53%) report being members of a professional group two more times than those with no high school diploma (26%).

- Approximately 1 in 3 Austin area residents (34%) report attending a government-sponsored meeting in the past 12 months.
  - Government-sponsored meetings are mostly attended by residents who are 55-64 years old (34%). 26% of 18-24 year olds report attending a government-sponsored meeting.
  - Among race/ethnicity categories, Black residents report the highest participation rate for governmental meetings at 41%. By comparison, 35% of White residents and 25% of Hispanic residents report participation in governmental meetings.

- Across the board, a higher percentage of people report attending non-government-sponsored meetings (45%), such as a meeting hosted by a nonprofit organization.
  - 50% of White residents, 37% of Black residents, and 25% of Hispanic residents report attending non-governmental meetings.

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1 in 4 Austin area residents attend government meetings.
RECOMMENDATIONS & CONCLUSION

This report serves as a baseline analysis and a conversation starter on civic health in the Greater Austin area. The region’s rapid growth, demographic diversity and geographic mix will lead to new challenges. Collectively increasing civic engagement will require the thoughtful engagement of Austin’s residents, public officials, local businesses, and community-based organizations. In the spirit of catalyzing dialogue, cross-sector solutions and action, a few high level recommendations are provided:

Mind the gaps. Acknowledge, address, and close the gaps that exist in civic participation among segments of the population. Along many indicators of civic health, community members who are younger, have lower incomes and less education are less likely to be civically engaged. One strategy would be to reimagine civics education taught in public schools to highlight the actions and behaviors measured in the Civic Health Index™, while celebrating each student’s individual neighborhood characteristics, family influences, and cultural heritage.

Encourage Innovation. By leveraging the entrepreneurial spirit in Austin and the resources embedded in the technology sector, innovative collaboration may remove obstacles to civic participation. Community engagement practices that utilize novel and diverse methods, online platforms, and harness new technology can promote greater civic health.

Invest in the Community. Support local organizations and businesses that invest in the local community and region. Whether it is a neighborhood association, disaster relief nonprofit, public school, or religious group, it is important to continue investing time and money in organizations, groups, and businesses that are focused on a sustainable Austin area.

Be a good neighbor. As communities continue to change, it becomes increasingly important for neighbors to remain connected and involved in each other’s lives, discuss differences, and celebrate special events together.

Working to improve civic health will require innovation, collaboration, and persistence among its citizens, schools, business leaders, and community organizations. The benefits of civic health are higher employment rates, stronger schools, better physical health, and more responsive governments. Strong organization, system leadership, and citizen involvement are the elements that will help meet the opportunities and overcome the challenges that lie ahead. This report can serve as a catalyst for community conversation and a tool for action.
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<th>GENDER</th>
<th>Report voting in last local election</th>
<th>Contacted elected public official</th>
<th>Involved in political campaign</th>
<th>Aware of key issues</th>
<th>Individual philanthropy (&gt;$100)</th>
<th>Volunteering (regular or episodic)</th>
<th>Ask neighbors for favors</th>
<th>In common with neighbors</th>
<th>Spiritual or religious group</th>
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<th>Non-government meeting</th>
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<td>Female</td>
<td>60.5%</td>
<td>42.9%</td>
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<td>67.9%</td>
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<th>College graduate</th>
<th>Advanced degree</th>
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<td>45-54</td>
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<th>GEOGRAPHY</th>
<th>Data from 2018 Austin area community survey</th>
<th>Greater Austin's civic health data by subgroup</th>
<th>Election report contacted official</th>
<th>Involved in government meeting</th>
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12 2018 GREATER AUSTIN CIVIC HEALTH INDEX™
TEXTUAL NOTE

Unless otherwise noted, findings presented in this report are based on the RGK Center’s analysis of the Austin Area Community Survey data. A total of 1,135 surveys were administered by Customer Research International (CRI), a firm contracted by the RGK Center to collect the survey data, utilizing a questionnaire designed and previously implemented by the Indicators project. Respondents were screened in order to interview an adult (18+) residing within the household. Additional screening was performed to ensure residence within one of the six Austin area counties – Travis, Williamson, Hays, Bastrop, Caldwell, and Burnet. Desired sample sizes for each county were provided by the RGK Center in order to provide a sufficient base within each county for analysis. Quotas were imposed to ensure an adequate representation among Hispanic, Black, and 18-24 year old respondents.

Nine unique sampling frames of area residents were employed. For the six-county Greater Austin region, a landline and wireless sample frame were utilized. To reach a minimum amount of surveys among 18-24 year old respondents, a sample dedicated to wireless respondents targeting this age range was purchased, along with a registered voter list targeted by age. To reach the Hispanic resident quota, a targeted landline sample, a targeted wireless sample, and a targeted voter list were acquired. A total of 230 surveys were conducted among landline telephone records and 905 surveys were completed with wireless telephone records. Both an English and Spanish language version of the questionnaire were made available. Spanish speaking households were called back by a bilingual interviewer in an attempt to complete the interview in Spanish. 51 total Spanish surveys were conducted. Surveys averaged 37.4 minutes.
CIVIC HEALTH INDEX

State and Local Partnerships

NCoC began America’s Civic Health Index in 2006 to measure the level of civic engagement and health of our democracy. In 2009, NCoC was incorporated into the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act and directed to expand this civic health assessment in partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service and the U.S. Census Bureau.

NCoC now works with partners in more than 30 communities nationwide to use civic data to lead and inspire a public dialogue about the future of citizenship in America and to drive sustainable civic strategies.

STATES

Alabama
University of Alabama
David Mathews Center for Civic Life
Auburn University

Arizona
Center for the Future of Arizona

California
California Forward
Center for Civic Education
Center for Individual and Institutional Renewal
Davenport Institute

Colorado
Metropolitan State University of Denver
The Civic Canopy
Denver Metro Chamber Leadership
Campus Compact of Mountain West
History Colorado
Institute on Common Good

Connecticut
Everyday Democracy
Secretary of the State of Connecticut
DataHaven
Connecticut Humanities
Connecticut Campus Compact
The Fund for Greater Hartford
William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund
Wesleyan University

District of Columbia
ServeDC

Florida
Florida Joint Center for Citizenship
Bob Graham Center for Public Service
Lou Frey Institute of Politics and Government

Georgia
GeorgiaForward
Carl Vinson Institute of Government, The University of Georgia
Georgia Family Connection Partnership

Illinois
McCormick Foundation

Indiana
Indiana University Center on Representative Government
Indiana Bar Foundation
Indiana Supreme Court
Indiana University Northwest
IU Center for Civic Literacy

Kansas
Kansas Health Foundation

Kentucky
Commonwealth of Kentucky, Secretary of State’s Office
Institute for Citizenship & Social Responsibility,
Western Kentucky University
Kentucky Advocates for Civic Education
McConnell Center, University of Louisville

Maryland
Mannakee Circle Group
Center for Civic Education
Common Cause-Maryland
Maryland Civic Literacy Commission

Massachusetts
Harvard Institute of Politics

Michigan
Michigan Nonprofit Association
Michigan Campus Compact
Michigan Community Service Commission
Volunteer Centers of Michigan
Council of Michigan Foundations
Center for Study of Citizenship at Wayne State University

Minnesota
Center for Democracy and Citizenship

Missouri
Missouri State University
Park University
Saint Louis University

University of Missouri Kansas City
University of Missouri Saint Louis
Washington University

Nebraska
Nebraskans for Civic Reform

New Hampshire
Carsey Institute
Campus Compact of New Hampshire
University System of New Hampshire
New Hampshire College & University Council

New York
Siena College Research Institute
New York State Commission on National and Community Service

North Carolina
Institute for Emerging Issues

Ohio
Miami University Hamilton Center for Civic Engagement

Oklahoma
University of Central Oklahoma
Oklahoma Campus Compact

Pennsylvania
Center for Democratic Deliberation
National Constitution Center

South Carolina
University of South Carolina Upstate

Texas
The University of Texas at Austin
The Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life
RGK Center for Philanthropy & Community Service

Virginia
Center for the Constitution at James Madison’s Montpelier
Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

ISSUE SPECIFIC

Latinos Civic Health Index
Carnegie Corporation

Veterans Civic Health Index
Got Your 6

Millenials Civic Health Index
Mobilize.org
Harvard Institute of Politics
CIRCLE

Economic Health
Knight Foundation
Corporation for National & Community Service (CNCS)
CIRCLE
### CITIES

<table>
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<tr>
<th>City</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta</td>
<td>Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta</td>
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| **Greater Austin** | The University of Texas at Austin  
RGK Center for Philanthropy and Community Service  
Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life Leadership Austin  
Austin Community Foundation  
KLRU-TV, Austin PBS  
KUT News |
| Kansas City & Saint Louis | Missouri State University  
Park University  
Washington University |
| Miami        | Florida Joint Center for Citizenship  
John S. and James L. Knight Foundation  
Miami Foundation |
| Pittsburgh   | University of Pittsburgh  
Carnegie Mellon University |
| Seattle      | Seattle City Club |
| Twin Cities  | Center for Democracy and Citizenship  
Citizens League  
John S. and James L. Knight Foundation |

### CIVIC HEALTH ADVISORY GROUP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
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</table>
| John Bridgeland       | CEO, Civic Enterprises  
Chairman, Board of Advisors, National Conference on Citizenship  
Former Assistant to the President of the United States & Director, Domestic Policy Council & US Freedom Corps |
| Kristen Cambell       | Executive Director, PACE |
| Jeff Coates           | Research and Evaluation Director, National Conference on Citizenship |
| Lattie Coor           | Chairman & CEO, Center for the Future of Arizona |
| Nathan Dietz          | Senior Research Associate, The Urban Institute |
| Doug Dobson           | Executive Director, Florida Joint Center for Citizenship |
| Jennifer Domagal-Goldman | National Manager, American Democracy Project |
| Diane Douglas         | Executive Director, Seattle CityClub |
| Paula Ellis           | Former Vice President, Strategic Initiatives, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation |
| William Gaiston       | Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution  
Former Deputy Assistant to the President of the United States for Domestic Policy |
| Hon. Bob Graham       | Former Senator of Florida  
Former Governor of Florida |
| Robert Grimm, Jr.     | Director of the Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership, University of Maryland |
| Shawn Healy           | Program Director, McCormick Foundation  
Chair, Illinois Civic Mission Coalition |
| Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg| Director, Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) at the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service at Tufts University |
| Peter Levine          | Director, Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) at the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service at Tufts University |
| Mark Hugo Lopez       | Director of Hispanic Research, Pew Research Center |
| Lisa Matthews         | Program Director, National Conference on Citizenship |
| Ted McConnell         | Executive Director, Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools |
| Martha McCoy          | Executive Director, Everyday Democracy |
| Kenneth Prewitt       | Former Director of the United States Census Bureau  
Carnegie Professor of Public Affairs and the Vice-President for Global Centers at Columbia University |
| Robert Putnam         | Peter and Isabel Malkin Professor of Public Policy, Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University  
Founder, Saguaro Seminar  
Author of Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community |
| Stella M. Rouse       | Director, Center for American Politics and Citizenship |
| Shirley Sagawa        | CEO, Service Year Alliance  
Co-founder, Sagawa/Jospin, LLP. |
| Thomas Sander         | Executive Director, the Saguaro Seminar, Harvard University |
| David B. Smith        | Former Managing Director of Presidio Institute  
Former Executive Director, National Conference on Citizenship |
| Sterling K. Speirn    | Chief Executive Officer, National Conference on Citizenship |
| Drew Steijles         | Assistant Vice President for Student Engagement and Leadership and Director Office of Community Engagement, College of William & Mary |
| Michael Stout         | Associate Professor of Sociology, Missouri State University |
| Kristi Tate           | Senior Advisor, Civic & Community Engagement Initiatives Center for Future of Arizona |
| Michael Weiser        | Chairman Emeritus, National Conference on Citizenship |