

Democracy's Challenge

Reclaiming the public's role

Now that you've had the chance to participate in a forum on this issue, we'd like to know what you are thinking. Your opinions, along with the opinions of thousands of others who participated in these forums, will be reflected in a summary report that will be available to all citizens, including those who took part in the forums, as well as officeholders, members of the news media, and others in your community.

1. Do you agree or disagree with the statements below?	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
a. Since fewer people belong to organizations like the Rotary Club and the PTA where people come together to exchange ideas, democracy has become more difficult to practice.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Americans today are more concerned with their rights than with their responsibilities as citizens.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Elected officials, who should be focused on serving the public interest, are more responsive to special interests and lobbyists who control the money.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Most Americans no longer have the time or inclination to participate or be involved in community or civic activities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Americans have turned their backs on politics because politicians no longer listen to them.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Old-fashioned values like hard work, sacrifice, and taking responsibility are essential to a thriving democracy.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Do you favor or oppose each of these actions?	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Not sure
a. Expand public financing of political campaigns.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Require all young people to perform at least 40 hours of community service before they can graduate from high school.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Institute neighborhood councils of local citizens in every city so that residents are more involved in local decision making.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Make character education part of the public school curriculum to teach children core values, such as honesty, cooperation, and taking personal responsibility.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Offer businesses a tax deduction when employees take time off from work to participate in civic activities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Require one year of public service for all citizens, either in the military or in a national service program such as the Job Corps.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- | | Strongly favor | Somewhat favor | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose | Not sure |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3. Do you favor or oppose the statements listed below? | | | | | |
| a. The government should mandate a stricter code so that television programs reflect America's family values, EVEN IF this infringes on what many Americans feel is in their private domain. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. People should make a greater effort to engage in community activities, EVEN IF this means sacrificing time normally spent with their families. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Political campaigns should be financed mainly by tax dollars, EVEN IF this costs taxpayers more money. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

4. In your forum, did you talk about aspects of the issue you hadn't considered before?

- Yes No

Would you care to elaborate? _____

5. Do you have a clearer or deeper understanding of the issue than you did before the forum?

- Yes No Not sure

6. Did you hear new ideas or see new possibilities for dealing with the issue that you had not considered before?

- Yes No Not sure

Would you care to elaborate? _____

7. Do you now have greater respect for the points of view of people you disagree with?

- Yes No Not sure

8. Do you see more common ground for dealing with the issue or where your thinking overlaps with other people?

- Yes No Not sure

Would you care to elaborate? _____

9. How many National Issues Forums have you attended *before* this one?

- None 1-3 4-6 7 or more Not sure

10. Are you male or female? Male Female

11. How old are you?

- 17 or younger 18-30 31-45 46-64 65 or older

12. Are you:

- African American Asian American Hispanic Native American White/Caucasian
 Other (please specify) _____

13. What is your ZIP Code? _____

Please give this questionnaire to the forum leader, or mail it to National Issues Forums Research, 100 Commons Road, Dayton, Ohio, 45459-2777.