

Host a political gathering to assemble a dynamic discussion among key stakeholders about the value of an Action Civics education



- **Determine** a vision for the gathering, considering: the ultimate goal of the convening, the format that will best help you to accomplish the goal (e.g. a dinner, an assembly, a town hall, a panel discussion), potential speakers and key guests
- **Arrange** the gathering logistics including space, time, and inviting participants and guests
- **Create** a schedule and prepare appropriate content for the gathering
- **Host** the event!

Why you should host a gathering to discuss the value of an Action Civics education

Hosting a panel or event on civics education is a great way to underscore the importance of Action Civics. The advantages of this format are many: for instance, a variety of views can be shared without sacrificing depth of content; inviting multiple panelists can mean higher attendance at the event (due to each panelist often turning out individual supporters). Additionally, panels and events can be an exercise in coalition building, bringing together students, educators, parents, professional associations, and others with an interest in civics education.

If you're wondering where to begin or simply need a departure point, consider the following suggestions for participants, agenda, and discussion questions for a panel on Action Civics.

Please share pictures and videos from your event on social media using the hashtag #beyondtheballot and email them to us at: beyondtheballot@generationcitizen.org

Suggestions for participations, agenda, and discussion questions

Ideas for participants (*include 3-5 individuals on a panel*):

- Elected officials
- Social studies, government, or civics teachers
- Students
- School district administrators
- Representatives of the school board or state department of education
- Civics education experts (e.g. nonprofit employee, academic)

Sample Agenda (*75 minutes*):

- Welcome audience and introduction that provides context for the occasion and purpose of the event (*5 minutes*)
- Introduce panelists (*5 minutes*)
- Opening remarks by panelists (*15 minutes*)

- Questions for panelists and discussion (20 minutes)
- Q+A from the audience (25 minutes)
- Conclusion and call to action (5 minutes)

Sample Questions for the Panelists (*these should be tailored to the experiences and expertise of the selected panelists*)

1. How can education prepare young people for a lifetime of civic engagement?
2. What do you see as the need and value of having an effective civics education in your area?
3. What is the current state of civics education in our state?
4. Why do you think that civics education has not been prioritized over the past decades?
5. What challenges or realities do we need to face in order to bring Action Civics to every student in our city or state?
6. Who needs to be at the table to create a representative, effective coalition for Action Civics?