

Civics for Adults Update, Aug 18, 2021

Happy almost end of Summer! At least we hope no more 110+ degree weather! 2022 mid-term elections, redistricting, and the continued battles against misinformation, among other things, will make the 21-22 Civics for Adults season quite exciting! Reserve your library's or local organization's spot for virtual workshops – or, in person, if our health crisis improves.

Tigard Public Library will be sponsoring all four workshops starting in October. Civics for Adults Pre-Conference at the Public Library Association Conference, spring 2022. “Fostering a Stronger and More Inclusive Democracy Through Library Programming”.

Workshops

Misinformation, Fake News and Political Propaganda

- Mainstream press and “fake news”
- Social Media posts
- Email clickbait
- Propaganda
- Language / terminology
- Deepfakes
- Survey / poll questions
- Economic data
- Graphs and charts
- Finding good information

Citizen Activism 101 — Making Change Happen

- Historical perspective
- Types of advocacy
- Examples of successful advocacy
- Choosing your battles
- Who makes the rules?
- Tools / strategies for change
- Engaging with government / lobbying for influence
- Tracking civic / political issues and legislation

The Constitution: Fulfilling Democracy's Promise? Democracy, the Constitution and Representation in Congress.

The Constitution's creation, major changes to its interpretation, and examination of structural limitations.

- Status of democracy
- Early America
- Forming a country
- Bill of Rights
- Structural issues / representation
- Interpreting the Constitution
- Changes to the Constitution

Elections and Campaign Finance

- Right to vote?
- Election security
- Voter suppression
- Voter turnout / getting more people to vote
- Redistricting / gerrymandering
- Electoral College
- Alternative voting systems
- Campaign financing issues and tracking

Selected Civics for Adults Facebook posts:

If you live in the greater Albany, Oregon, area and know some folks who need **assistance regarding evictions**, **Linn County Law Library** can help! What a great idea!

<https://kpic.com/newsletter-daily/with-the-eviction-moratorium-extended-a-law-library-in-linn-county-is-answering-questions-08-07-2021?fbclid=IwAR0mIQQQ1Uv5Ntn9pGFv5WVgkGf-8C7CZV8jEf1ldY3q1AJkqmv8T1e3Djs>

For **Portland**: Hot off the press:

“Portland Housing Bureau to Launch **Eviction Legal Defense Program**

On August 18, Portland City Council authorized PHB to contract with the Oregon Law Center for an Eviction Legal Defense program for low-income renters. Through this program, income-eligible renters with a termination notice, proposed termination of their housing subsidy, or eviction court papers will be able to access a lawyer. The Oregon Law Center was selected as the program provider after a public Request for Qualifications process.

Renters whose landlords have filed an eviction court case against them can call the Eviction Defense Project at 888-585-9638 to seek legal help or email evictiondefense@oregonlawcenter.org . Renters should leave a message on the intake line or send an email including their name, date of birth, and eviction case number.”

For **Multnomah County**:

In Multnomah County, renters are protected from an eviction for non-payment of rent if they have applied for **rental assistance**. This safe harbor provision will last 90 days from when they provide proof of application to their landlord.

More information about renters' COVID-19 eviction moratorium-related protections is available:

<https://www.portland.gov/phb/rental-services/helpdesk/covid-19-landlord-tenant-policy-changes>

To apply for rental assistance, contact 211. A full list of partner organizations with rent relief funds is available at <https://www.portland.gov/phb/rent-relief/multnomah-county-rent-assistance>

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Here are some fascinating **charts on economic inequality**. Some of the founders of our country worried about concentrated wealth. I wonder what they would think if they saw these charts.

https://inequality.org/great-divide/11-charts-tax-wealthy-corporations-inequality/?emci=77749054-9ee8-eb11-a7ad-501ac57b8fa7&emdi=c9530fda-bbe8-eb11-a7ad-501ac57b8fa7&ceid=3931590&fbclid=IwAR2xV8qm8atf_6QHuiuPJqD-UB2YNYmeuVpfYt2cPJUYNOwQqIVUcSxjib0

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Oregon Health Authority held virtual townhalls to discuss **COVID health guidelines for schools and Governor Brown's mandates**. One was in English and one in Spanish.

<https://www.facebook.com/OregonHealthAuthority/videos/310523874157137>

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The **United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change** recently issued a new, bombshell, **report**...

<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/?fbclid=IwAR2-efUEyeKV6ScLUBqZYDxO7ulmumIPontwZ39ftXrIL6LsdQoly2S43IM>

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Redistricting is going to be a huge issue starting - right now! Learn the basics at this forum co-sponsored by multiple organizations [including the nonpartisan League of Women Voters], to bring people up to speed! Free.

<https://www.lwvor.org/redistricting-in-oregon?fbclid=IwAR2jU3d6P1J5vFOcQ3ledVKL46nz27lzyYx6HdML4GbaCEymWErEK28hPDQ>

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If you missed the **first hearing of the House Select Committee to investigate the January 6 attack on the Capitol**, I encourage you to watch at least some of it. All four witness were law enforcement officers and their testimony is, at times, riveting.

https://www.c-span.org/video/?513434-1/capitol-dc-police-testify-january-6-attack&fbclid=IwAR1ProdVjC5uworXeRN-SbH_DVBAIMW0Mx26jLTqq_ZgKIY7ddEWsgMWXQ

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Busting Coronavirus Myths. AP Factcheck [Associated Press]. Latest update July 29, 2021.

This is a global approach.

<https://factcheck.afp.com/busting-coronavirus-myths>

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Here is a **report from the Brennan Center for Justice on the threats to election officials** that is causing many to leave the profession. This is not the sign of a healthy democracy.

https://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/2021-06/BCJ-129%20ElectionOfficials_v7.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2pDuU2KIJpZzVEWluJhU6XVgPs_UIkFxiRiQbcH1ghLuA2kbfkgNOvqBuU

Here is a related **Factsheet**: https://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/2021-06/BCJ-130_Election%20Officials_fact%20sheet.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0Hi906sZJZAcGgfC8gvVVCopHV6fO2qQWQzUZ1DKZY2ygLLjzXR8euRFk

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Journalist's Resource published an interesting article to explain the journalistic issues around reporting on what is happening concerning statements and actions vis-a-vis "CRT" ["**Critical Race Theory**"]. Among other things the article gives reporters some tips, e.g. journalists should seek answers to these questions:

Do the people speaking out for and against CRT actually understand what it is?

How did this issue become a news story?

Do any schools or school districts in the U.S. — including in local communities — teach CRT or have they in the past?

Which individuals' or groups' opinions and experiences are missing from news coverage of this issue?

What are teachers and school district administrators saying?

Asking the right questions is key to journalism - and acquiring any new knowledge, I might add!

https://journalistsresource.org/education/critical-race-theory-school-racism/?fbclid=IwAR0VnJsFZw0gvEOyEZdZzxN3GMCn6lTjhgTUgI9aVUWmKicLh_6GSVWwukk

More at <https://www.facebook.com/Civics-for-Adults-1490728887922036>

Ask your local library or community group to sponsor a workshop! Thanks.

Flyer describing workshops: https://static.s123-cdn.com/uploads/2516289/normal_5fe8c854352d5.pdf

Donna was interviewed on **OPB's Think Out Loud** in October!

<https://www.opb.org/article/2020/10/30/civics-educator-aims-to-enhance-knowledge-and-engagement-in-political-process/>