

## **Civics for Adults Update, Sept 20, 2021**

Contents: Current Workshops; Posts on current civic/political issues from the Civics for Adults Facebook page; Workshop descriptions

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 or local organization's spot for virtual workshops – or, in person, if our health crisis improves.

## **Misinformation, Fake News and Political Propaganda**

October 1. 5-6:30. Virtual. Free. Register:

<https://wccls.bibliocommons.com/events/6142561cec27eb4d0012d907?fbclid=IwAR19YhIVXIRPukHJpGRJ9ucZPvNSq9upcVYVnYo8new0cWiq7TzXAluW7PY>

Tigard Public Library will be sponsoring all four workshops from Oct-Jan.

**Civics for Adults Pre-Conference at the Public Library Association Conference, spring 2022.** “Fostering a Stronger and More Inclusive Democracy Through Library Programming”.

### **Selected Civics for Adults Facebook posts:**

Interesting stats. **Income, Poverty and Health Insurance Coverage in the U.S. 2020.**

Poverty without the COVID help from the government went up. WITH the COVID economic measures it went down. <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/graham-found-trump-election-fraud-arguments-suitable-for-third-grade-woodward-book/ar-AAODrh7?ocid=msedgntp>

More on **who was helped by COVID relief payments.**

[https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/09/who-was-lifted-out-of-poverty-by-stimulus-payments.html?utm\\_campaign=20210915msacos1ccstors&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/09/who-was-lifted-out-of-poverty-by-stimulus-payments.html?utm_campaign=20210915msacos1ccstors&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

## **Redistricting.**

All things pertaining to the **Oregon redistricting process.** <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/redistricting>

Criteria for redistricting in Oregon:



ORS 188.010 (1)

### ➤ EACH DISTRICT, AS NEARLY AS PRACTICABLE, SHALL:

- Be contiguous
- Be of equal population
- Utilize existing geographic or political boundaries
- Not divide communities of common interest
- Be connected by transportation links

## **Q&A on Biden's COVID-19 Vaccine-or-Test Rule**

[https://www.factcheck.org/2021/09/qa-on-bidens-covid-19-vaccine-or-test-rule/?fbclid=IwAR13kmlwtwXlw6gke8cF6UKE6OH2-ny3y6-BDuKNrFZlqvmVSif\\_40vexKk](https://www.factcheck.org/2021/09/qa-on-bidens-covid-19-vaccine-or-test-rule/?fbclid=IwAR13kmlwtwXlw6gke8cF6UKE6OH2-ny3y6-BDuKNrFZlqvmVSif_40vexKk)

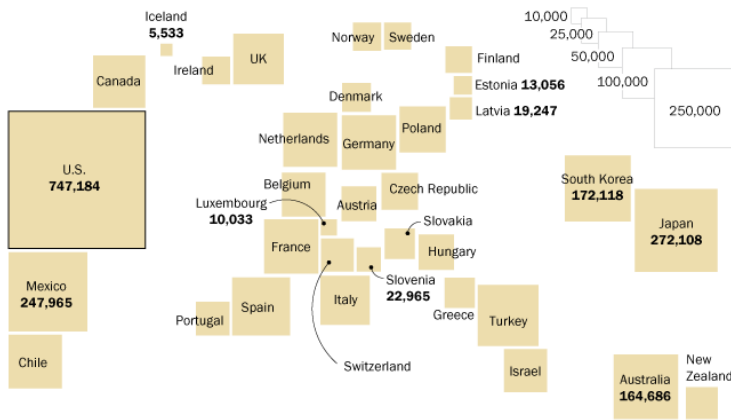
I discuss this in my Constitution workshop.

## **The U.S. has the largest representation ratio among OECD nations**

[https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/05/31/u-s-population-keeps-growing-but-house-of-representatives-is-same-size-as-in-taft-era/ft\\_18-05-18\\_representationratios\\_oecd/](https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/05/31/u-s-population-keeps-growing-but-house-of-representatives-is-same-size-as-in-taft-era/ft_18-05-18_representationratios_oecd/)

## The U.S. has the largest representation ratio among OECD nations

Number of people represented per lawmaker in lower chamber of national legislature



City of Portland is deep into the Charter Review process – including public testimony on Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>.

<https://www.portland.gov/omf/charter-review-commission>

Here's a very nice **article from Sightline** explaining the background of the Charter review"

[https://www.sightline.org/2021/09/01/everything-you-wanted-to-know-about-portland-charter-review-but-were-afraid-to-ask/?fbclid=IwAR3HJSksX-dLYNZZdc6ChX3-GmTxFtAO8R2Flwht0uUp\\_EbitWHkQwf3aGE](https://www.sightline.org/2021/09/01/everything-you-wanted-to-know-about-portland-charter-review-but-were-afraid-to-ask/?fbclid=IwAR3HJSksX-dLYNZZdc6ChX3-GmTxFtAO8R2Flwht0uUp_EbitWHkQwf3aGE)

Last month on the radio, OPB gave me a good example of **when not to use "average" in relation to money**. The reporter only mentioned the average kicker when he should have given us the "median" - that amount which is in the middle: half of taxpayers will get more, half will get less. Median much more represents what the typical person will get. And, yes, I have informed the reporter! :-)

Note: in the article, he gave both stats, but on the radio, only "average".

Income Group	Adjusted Gross Income*	Rough Estimate of Kicker Size**
Bottom 20%	< \$12,100	\$30
Second 20%	\$12,100 - \$29,300	\$200
Middle 20%	\$29,300 - \$52,100	\$440
Fourth 20%	\$52,100 - \$95,000	\$790
Next 15%	\$95,000 - \$195,600	\$1,600
Next 4%	\$195,600 - \$442,700	\$3,780
<b>Top 1%</b>	<b>&gt; \$442,700</b>	<b>\$16,880</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>\$67,500</b>	<b>\$850</b>
<b>Median</b>	<b>\$35,000-\$40,000</b>	<b>\$420</b>

Chart from Oregon Center for Public Policy:

<https://www.facebook.com/BecauseFactsMatter/photos/a.10150141641845081/10159116721810081/>

First half of this podcast is a fascinating analysis of the **current state of deepfakes** and, it's a bit scary.

**When Seeing No Longer Means Believing, What's a Government to Do?**

<https://www.nextgov.com/podcasts/2021/08/critical-update-when-seeing-no-longer-means-believing-whats-government-do/184749/>

## Voting Rights

In 1965 Congress passed the Voting Rights Act. It made a huge difference in access to voting by African-Americans and others. In 2013, the Supreme Court struck down the key provision of that Act - pre-clearance. This allowed the federal government to make sure that states that had previously had laws which suppressed the vote via various means, would not be able to continue to have those laws.

The House has passed HR4, the John Lewis Voting Rights Act. It would correct the deficiency of the current Voting Rights Act. Question is whether the Senate will pass it.

Interesting to note: when the original Voting Rights Act passed it was highly bi-partisan. Now, the fight for voting rights has become very partisan. A very unfortunate change.

1965 Voting Rights Act:

Passed the Senate on May 26, 1965 (77-19)

Passed the House with amendment on July 9, 1965 (333-85)

<https://www.npr.org/2021/08/24/1030746011/house-passes-john-lewis-voting-rights-act?fbclid=IwAR1CT87NbwwDHpkWQ6ToogFZblInaSa4-fpl3nDPHmKkCQoUirXEOQceGQE>

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

## **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

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](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/>