

Civics for Adults Update, Nov 17, 2021

Citizen Activism 101—Making Change Happen

December 3. 6:30-8:00. Virtual. Free. Sponsor: Tigard Public Library.

Register: <https://wccls.bibliocommons.com/events/618f2617ab19ce36000ecac2>

Also:

January 27, 10:00-11:30. Sponsor: Wesley U. [affiliated with Wesley Homes (WA)]. Registration: TBA. [Note: legislative section will be geared to Washington state]

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

January 7. 6:30-8:00 Sponsor: Tigard Public Library. Registration link in December will be at:

<https://www.civictinker.info/schedule>

Misinformation, Fake News and Political Propaganda

January 20. 6:30-8:00. Sponsor: Tualatin Public Library. Registration TBA

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:

Should Oregon have one nonpartisan “**open primary**” election for state/federal offices? Some folks think so and they are having a webinar 11/17/2021 [5:30pm] to discuss - in preparation for an initiative petition effort. California and Washington have “top two” nonpartisan primaries. Alaska is now going to “top four”.

<https://oregonopenprimaries.org/>

If you are not aware of the **federal poverty guidelines**, you might be startled:

<https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines/prior-hhs-poverty-guidelines-federal-register-references/2021-poverty-guidelines>

2021 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Persons in family/household	Poverty guideline
1	\$12,880
2	\$17,420
3	\$21,960
4	\$26,500

BTW, the annual earnings for a full-time minimum-wage worker is \$15,080 at the current federal minimum wage of \$7.25. In Oregon, it would be \$26,520, currently - roughly 200% of the federal poverty level and about 30% of median family income for the metropolitan area.

In addition to regular legislative sessions each year, the **Oregon legislature** sometimes meets in “special session”, as it did earlier this fall to deal with issues of rent payments / evictions. Leg committees also hold hearings at other times [called “legislative days”] in order to gather information in preparation for an upcoming session. Some are being held this week. You’ll see that the House on Nov 15th and the Senate on Nov 17th will hold sessions devoted to housing issues. All hearings are archived for viewing later.

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/LIZ/Committees/Meeting/List?fbclid=IwAR1Ccumwp26oRNaLubpEGkrCmsTkX0INC2TCqVwB-IGGpUWtRXTqGflbZKo>

One of the three biggest threats to our democracy: “**Why many election workers quit and how it may affect voting**”. PBS Newshour. 11/2/2021.

<https://www.pbs.org/video/democracy-in-crisis-1635889282/>

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I recently watched a webinar from the Oregon Center for Public Policy **explaining Oregon's tax system**. They have uploaded the webinar video, if you would like to see it...

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HFcoY_K19EI

On the 18th, they are doing **a follow-up webinar** on racism in the tax system.

<https://www.facebook.com/BecauseFactsMatter/photos/a.10150141641845081/10159253423100081/?type=3>

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The **big infrastructure bill** that just passed in Congress...

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/3684>

The **Build Back Better Bill** [aka "reconciliation bill" because of how it might have to pass the Senate] fighting its way through Congress... It will surely be somewhat different when/if it makes it through...

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/5376/actions>

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Although I haven't read the full report yet, the recommendations to combat election disinformation outlined on this page sound helpful: **As a Matter of Fact: The Harms Caused by Election Disinformation Report**.

Common Cause. 10/28/2021

<https://www.commoncause.org/resource/as-a-matter-of-fact-the-harms-caused-by-election-disinformation-report/>

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

Donna was interviewed on **OPB's Think Out Loud** in October, 2020! <https://www.opb.org/article/2020/10/30/civics-educator-aims-to-enhance-knowledge-and-engagement-in-political-process/>