

Happy New Year!
Civics for Adults Update, Jan 1, 2022

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

Friday evening, **January 7**. 6:30-8:00 Tigard Public Library.

Register: <https://tigard.libcal.com/event/8488652>

Misinformation, Fake News and Political Propaganda

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

Tuesday evening, **February 1**. 7-8:30. Sponsor: Albany Public Library. Registration: TBA.

Wednesday, **February 16**. 6:30-8:00. Sponsor: Cedar Mill Public Library. Registration: TBA

Sunday, **February 27**, 2-3:30. Sponsor: Hillsboro Public Library. Registration: TBA

Citizen Activism 101—Making Change Happen

Thursday, **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]

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

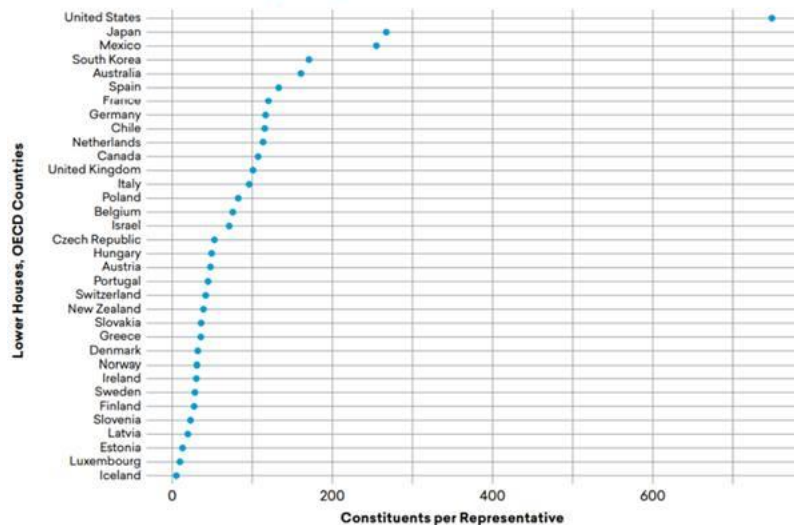
Selected Civics for Adults Facebook posts:

This is from a new report called “**The case for enlarging the House of Representatives**.”. Check out this chart showing the ratio of constituent to representative for each of the OECD countries [Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, essentially, the industrialized countries].

Look at how the U.S. is such an outlier. We discuss this in the Constitution workshop.

<https://www.newamerica.org/political-reform/policy-papers/the-case-for-enlarging-the-house-of-representatives/?fbclid=IwAR00lqLoarrMNILk-sUQLR5wPFtGFw463fY9j1N-KEWcqMuapur8g5z19yc>

Constituents per Representative in OECD Countries



Source: Data from the ACE Electoral Knowledge Network, <https://aceproject.org/>.

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PolitiFact has named its **Lie of the Year** - the lies and denials about what happened on January 6th. Check out the discussion and the video.

PolitiFact never just makes a simple judgment. It always outlines in a step-by-step fashion the reasoning behind their judgments and cites each source. This allows the reader to check out the claims and decide for themselves.

Remember: A claim without substantiation is just an opinion!

https://www.politifact.com/article/2021/dec/15/2021-lie-year-lies-about-jan-6-capitol-attack-and-/?fbclid=IwAR2gA1ZvE1Xly_ITQzWbAcZO5QPR2TMeypgvs0xODPHDMwjyucwiKB5pUU

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This is the **Jan 6 Committee's report** outlining why it recommended contempt of Congress charges against former Chief of Staff Mark Meadows. I always like to read primary source material, if possible, rather than just take someone's opinion on events. This report contains such material.

<https://docs.house.gov/meetings/IJ/IJ00/20211213/114313/HRPT-117-NA.pdf>

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Interesting perspective on **multi-member districts - which used to exist in Oregon!**

<https://theoregonway.substack.com/p/how-multi-member-districts-could>

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I think this next year is going to be a big one for people to register their feelings about election reforms in Oregon. **Initiatives** for redistricting, campaign finance, and new voting methods should be appearing.

Here is about **campaign finance**...

<https://katu.com/news/politics/coalition-files-ballot-initiatives-to-reform-oregons-campaign-finance-laws>

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In my Misinformation workshop [and I have several coming up in the new year!] I have begun to include **some economic data which can be very misleading**. For example, the "official" unemployment rate - technically, the U-3 - does not include those who are working part-time but want to work full-time and those who have dropped out of the workforce.

The latter is particular salient as over a million women [primarily] have dropped out to take care of kids because child care options have diminished so much with COVID. There is a rate that is a better reflection of unemployment and includes these considerations - the U-6; which is often 2-3x the U-3 rate.

"The U-6 rate is often considered the true rate of employment, however, as it accounts for those who are unemployed, underemployed, and discouraged workers."

<https://www.investopedia.com/articles/investing/080415/true-unemployment-rate-u6-vs-u3.asp>

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The Woman Who Took On The Tycoon. I updated my Resource List for the Activism workshop. I begin with some historical perspective, looking back at the Gilded Age [which we are, unfortunately, living through again, in many ways] and how things improved at the beginning of the 20th Century.

One of the instigators for improvements was the "muckraking" reporter, Ida Tarbell. She single-handedly exposed the corrupt and immoral practices of one of the biggest monopolies of the time, Standard Oil. It went a long way to getting our first antitrust legislation.

Read about her: [https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/the-woman-who-took-on-the-tycoon-651396/?fbclid=IwAR35HDGsWxe90B1xfqPUk_9p0e1KpKVjzweJfOLLKqRdtXGEKgj0SUnnsyM ...](https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/the-woman-who-took-on-the-tycoon-651396/?fbclid=IwAR35HDGsWxe90B1xfqPUk_9p0e1KpKVjzweJfOLLKqRdtXGEKgj0SUnnsyM...)

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Some history reflecting **the influence of Native American culture in upper New York state on early feminists**. No surprise that the first Women's Rights Convention was right there!

<https://www.pbs.org/video/without-a-whisper-wnpj8u/>

More posts 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/>

Donna