

April 21 at 3:45 - I will be presenting, virtually, at the **Oregon Library Association Conference!**  
**Empower your inner activist, empower your patrons – strategies for civic activism and engagement!**

This workshop will inform you about why and how our country has overcome difficult times, identify key knowledge and strategies utilized to make change now, and provide a toolkit from which you can build your own – and help build your patrons’ – route to more civic involvement.

There is an epidemic of not understanding about our civic/political processes and how to influence them. Let’s change that!

If you would like a say in those decisions that affect your life and/or would like to help your patrons have a say – this is the workshop for you!

*Upcoming in August – in person!*

**Citizen Activism 101—Making Change Happen**

Thursday, Aug. 24 6:30 PM Cornelius Public Library [OR].

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

**Selected Civics for Adults Facebook posts:**

**A lesson on gerrymandering and the power of social media:**

Tennessee recently took the unprecedented step of expelling two elected members of their lower chamber for participating in a 5-minute non-violent protest on the floor of the Chamber. The protest happened because, although only a few days earlier 6 people had been killed in a mass shooting in Nashville, yet the legislature refused to have any discussion on legislation pertaining to gun use, proposed by these folks. Tennessee is a heavily gerrymandered state in which about 40-45% of the electorate is Democratic but about 80% of the legislature is Republican.

The Tennessee Constitution specifically allows for protest in the legislature:

TN Constitution Article 2

Sec 27. Any member of either House of the general Assembly, shall have liberty to dissent from, and protest against, any act or resolve which he may think injurious to the public or to any individual, and to have the reasons for his dissent entered on the journals.

You can watch the all-day session during which they were expelled here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kep-WwkyjyE>

The Nashville Metro Council and the Shelby County Commission voted to reinstate both Rep Jones and Rep Pearson to fill their vacant positions.

The specific questioning, and responses of, Rep Justin Jones, Rep Justin Pearson and Rep Gloria Johnson [Rep Johnson retained her seat by one vote] – now known as the “Tennessee

Three” is eye-opening. Meanwhile, far more serious accusations and evidence have been uncovered about the Speaker of the House and others in the chamber, making the actions to expel the T3 that much more inequitable.

Social media, though, spread word of these events far and wide. The results:

The Tennessean, a major [perhaps THE major] newspaper ran a story about the hundreds upon hundreds of letters they have received – overwhelmingly in support of the T3.

A petition from FaithfulAmerica has garnered over 18,000 signatures calling for the resignation of the Speaker of the House.

“A Christian group has amassed more than 12,000 signatures to oust the Tennessee Republican leader who expelled two Black lawmakers”:

<https://www.businessinsider.com/christian-group-petition-oust-tennessee-speaker-expelled-two-black-lawmakers-2023-4>

The T3 are now so well-known, and it certainly appears that the majority of the public is in sympathy with them, that it seems the efforts of the Tennessee legislature to disregard and seek to punish members going against the grain of the majority, has backfired big-time.

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In November 2024 Oregonians may be faced with two measures to **change our system of primary elections**. If you are inspired, think about volunteering.

**Oregon Election Reform Act** <https://www.electionreform.info/>

**All Oregon Votes** <https://www.alloregonvotes.org/>

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**I hope everyone is following at least one bill in the Oregon legislature. It is ridiculously easy to** submit written testimony [aka your opinion] and/or to testify in person or virtually. The legislature has done an outstanding job of making our legislature database user-friendly. I've examined these resources in 17<sup>th</sup> states, and I truly think we are the best!

For example, here is a bill pertaining to the government housing subsidy known as the mortgage interest deduction – SB 976. Last spring the Secretary of State's office did an audit of this tax expenditure [they are called eXPENDitures because they are equivalent to government spending].

Audit Doc: **The audit: Without Legislative Action the Mortgage Interest Deduction Will Remain Regressive and Inequitable**. OR SOS. Mar 2022. <https://sos.oregon.gov/audits/Documents/2022-11.pdf>

This bill would roll back the MID on second homes and for families earning more than \$250,000/yr. The savings would go to a special fund for affordable housing, first-time homeowner programs, and programs for the houseless.

More info: <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Measures/Overview/SB976>

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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](https://static.s123-cdn.com/uploads/2516289/normal_5fe8c854352d5.pdf)