Welcome to the 2016 Citizens’ Initiative Review Season!

The staff and board of directors of Healthy Democracy are delighted to share with you the latest news on the upcoming CIRs in Oregon, Arizona and Massachusetts, as well as introduce you to the folks who are making it all happen.

How It Works

Not sure what the CIR is? Take a look at the How It Works graphic (on left). Still curious? Click here to watch a quick 5-minute about us and hear from former panelists about their experience.

Our Team

Jessie Conover, Program Manager; Amanda Olesen, Operations Manager; Linn Davis, Information Coordinator; Jake Foose, 2016 Nevins Fellow; Robin Teater, Executive Director

Not pictured: Tyrone Reitman, Senior Associate
The CIR Project Partners

Andrea Whittsett
Arizona State University, Morrison Institute
Sam Feigenbaum
Office of State Representative Jonathan Hecht
Peter Levine
Tufts University, Tisch School of Civic Life

The CIR Moderator Team

Mary Forst (OR)
Mike Schnee (OR)
Robin Harkless (AZ)
David Daugherty (AZ)
Molly Keating (MA)
Nancy Thomas (MA)

We look forward to working with these, and many others support staff, for the upcoming CIR schedule

Arizona: August 11-14, 2016, Phoenix, AZ
Oregon: August 18-21, 2016, Western Oregon University, Monmouth, OR
Massachusetts: August 24-28, 2016, The Atrium School, Watertown, MA

Oregon Commission Announcements

For our Oregon friends and supporters, you know that the CIR is overseen by a legislatively established commission. The chair of that commission has been Jerry Hudson, former president of Willamette University, who recently termed off the CIR Commission, and we wanted to take this opportunity to thank him for his thoughtful leadership of the CIR and dedicated service to the voters of Oregon. Commission member Ernie Estes, a retired attorney with the Bonneville Power Administration who served on a Citizen Panel in 2014, was elected as chair at the June meeting.

For a full listing of CIR Commission members, click here.

The commission met on July 14 and selected IP 28 (now Measure 97) as the initiative the Oregon CIR Panel will review in August.
In the News

Check out these articles about the CIR, Healthy Democracy and the impact we're making across the country and around the world! Click on the links below.

The Washington Post
SF Gate
The Guardian
Los Angeles Daily News
New Scientist

Bridge Alliance

Tell Your “AmericanLove Story”

The Bridge Alliance, a nationwide network of organizations dedicated to respectful dialogue, creative problem solving, and transpartisan leadership, invites you to participate in their "American Love Stories" initiative, as a way to bridge divides and highlight how the things that make us unique also can bring us together. Tell them what you love about America that connects you to people with different ideas. Submissions may be in writing, YouTube video, or Soundcloud audio clips.

Read more here: American Love Stores

Support Healthy Democracy

Do you agree with the nearly 50% of Oregon voters who say they read the Citizens Statement in the Voters’ Pamphlet and find it useful?

Then please support Healthy Democracy’s work in Oregon and help make it available to more states around the country.

Click here to DONATE now!

Thank You to our 2016 Foundation Supporters

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Silicon Valley Community Foundation
The Carpenter Foundation
The Carol and Velma Saling Foundation
The Samuel S. Johnson Foundation
Join an unprecedented gathering of top political experts, grassroots visionaries, change agents and advocates, including our very own Robin Teater, for the first-ever American Citizens Summit. Inspiring leaders will share practical solutions and effective pathways toward more positive politics — putting democratic principles before politics-as-usual to help reclaim the full power of our democracy. Click here for more information.

Participating in the Citizens' Initiative Review was a unique and enriching experience for me. This opportunity to work side-by-side with fellow voters has affirmed my belief in the value of public participation in the democratic process. - Melissa Norgren

[The CIR] builds community, bridges differences and establishes an example of how we can reach out to each other to create hope, stimulate thought, and to discover our commonalities in the process of creating a better Oregon and maybe a better nation. - Tim Miller