



Healthy Democracy is debuting a new program, [Community Oregon](#).

This three-part program seeks to build strong bonds between different kinds of people, starting in our home state of Oregon.

The recent U.S. election exposed our national deficit of deep social bonds with people who are different from one another. The goal of this program is to bridge those divides by increasing social capital among communities in our state, starting with the smallest unit of democracy: individual people.

In mid-July, twenty Oregonians of different races, genders, political persuasions, religions, and geographies will come together for Community Oregon Camp at the [Kah-Nee-Ta](#) resort on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation. Over a period of four days, they'll get to know one another by exploring the forces that have shaped their identities and viewpoints. We'll also have a lot of fun!

In the second part of the program, pairs of Community Oregon participants will visit one another's homes to get a true sense of how "the other side" lives through urban-rural homestay exchanges. Imagine a teacher from Portland bringing a farmer from Pendleton to her historic church, a rancher taking a pipefitter from Springfield out to his favorite breakfast spot in Burns, or a lawyer from Lake Oswego climbing over brush in Independence to pick cherries from the best tree.

We are recruiting participants now, so [apply if you're interested](#) or forward this email along to someone who might be!



The Citizens' Initiative Review is a Top 10 Program in the Harvard Ash Center Innovations in Government Awards!

We are thrilled to announce that we are a 2017 Top 10 Program in the Roy and Lila Ash Awards for Public Engagement in Government.

The Ash Awards are the most prestigious award in American Government, and are awarded by the Roy and Lila Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. This is the second time that the Oregon Citizens' Initiative Review has made it into the Ash Awards Top 10, after also receiving this distinction in 2015.



HD Bookshelf

What We're Reading



Jessie Conover is recently finished renowned Harvard Law professor Cass Sunstein's new book [#Republic: Divided Democracy in the Age of Social Media](#). The book inspired a three-part essay on a Healthy Media Diet. Read it [on our blog!](#)



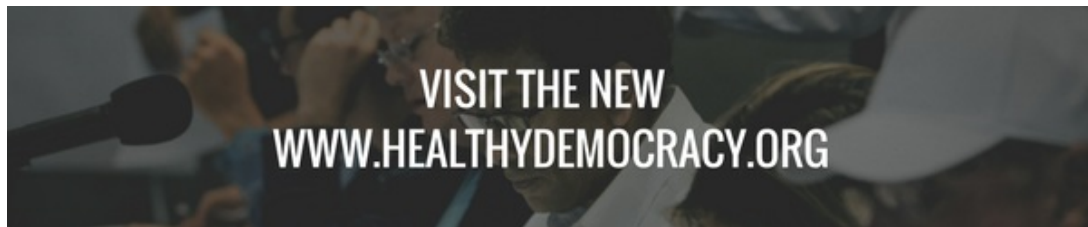
A Healthy News Diet

Part I: An imperfect theory

If you haven't read Part 2 of Linn Davis' [Democracy and the Art of Conversation](#), catch it [here](#).

More interesting reads:

- [Jessie Conover on nonpartisan hygiene in a politically active world.](#)
- [Wendy Willis reflects on the first Democracy Salon.](#)
- The Healthy Democracy staff will be at the [Frontiers of Democracy conference](#) in June! We're presenting on the role of deliberative democracy innovators in today's world.
- [Massachusetts considers making the Citizens' Initiative Review a part of state law](#) (WWLP)



Healthy Democracy is a national nonpartisan nonprofit working to elevate citizen voices and improve public discourse.

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