

# Citizens Juries



Citizens Juries convene panels of everyday people, who are randomly selected and representative, to help elected officials tackle tough policy questions.

Following a highly structured process, each panel conducts research, interviews experts and staff, deliberates on policy alternatives, and recommends a course of action to decision-makers. Because the panel is a microcosm of the public – in terms of age, ethnicity, political party, gender, and other factors – its resulting report comes with an inherent legitimacy that sets it apart from conventional citizen committees.

Local governments in Canada, Australia, and across Europe often employ Citizens Juries as public decision-making tools. In the US, Healthy Democracy uses a specialized, research-tested Citizens Jury, called the Citizens' Initiative Review, to provide voters with trustworthy information about ballot measures. Oregon enshrined the CIR in law in 2011 and publishes CIR statements in the state's voters' pamphlet.

## The Citizens Jury Process



### 1. Hear Evidence

Panelists question a wide variety of experts, evaluate facts & identify the most salient info.



### 2. Deliberate

Panelists define decision-making criteria & compile all potential recommendations.



### 3. Prioritize

Panelists review evidence, apply criteria to potential recommendations & rank alternatives.



### 4. Write & Refine

Panelists narrow alternatives, clarify rationales, add dissenting opinions & make final edits.

## Milwaukie Pilot Project

Milwaukie, Oregon, was the first city selected to participate in a pilot Citizens Jury, in summer 2019. The citizen panel will consider the question: "Should Milwaukie city council members be paid more than their current volunteer stipend? If so, how much should council members be compensated?" The panel's conclusions will inform future council discussions and possible policy changes or referenda.

The Citizens Jury model designed for Milwaukie will be time- and cost-efficient, with an eye toward easy replicability by other cities with difficult policy questions. The process will take place over two weekends with 20 citizen panelists and will be open to observers.

