

Healthy Democracy News



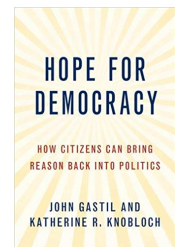
It's been a busy start to 2020, and we are excited about all the possibilities for Healthy Democracy in the coming year. Be sure to check our [Facebook page](#) for regular updates!

Citizens' Initiative Review



Oregon Senator Arnie Roblan (Coos Bay) is making another effort to secure funding for Oregon's CIR in the current legislative session. Read his [OpEd](#) and contact your legislator to voice your support for the CIR in Oregon!

We are pleased to announce the release of the book [Hope for Democracy: How Citizens Can Bring Reason Back Into Politics](#). The book chronicles the decade long story of the Citizens' Initiative Review by CIR researchers John Gastil of Penn State and Katie Knobloch of Colorado State. The [National Coalition for Dialogue and Deliberation](#) (NCDD) will hold a [Confab](#) on March 10 to discuss the book. Authors John Gastil and Katie Knobloch will lead a discussion about their research, and Healthy Democracy staff Linn Davis and Robin Teater will be available for Q&A about the CIR.



Deliberative Democracy Work Worldwide



More than 50 members of the [Democracy R&D](#) network representing over 30 countries from around the world met in Manchester UK for their [annual conference](#) last month. Healthy Democracy Program Manager, Linn Davis, participated in the many lively sessions, and will have a full update in next month's enewsletter.

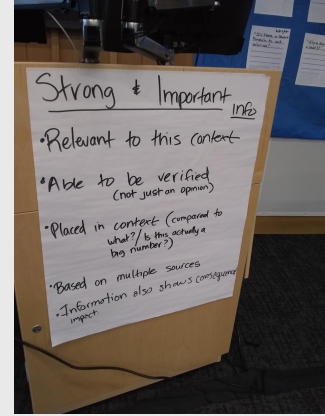
One member organization, Mission Publiques, shared an inspiring [video clip](#) from their recent Citizens Convention on Climate Change where French President Emmanuel Macron visited the citizen panelists and answered their questions.

Other Programs

CITIZENS JURY IN MILWAUKIE, OREGON

The City of Milwaukie's City Council discussed the Citizen's Jury recommendations on city council compensation that the panel developed in November. You can view the work session [here](#) (Citizen Jury discussion takes place around minute 65:00), where the mayor and city council members expressed their appreciation to the citizen panelists for their thoughtful work. A formal vote on

the adoption of the recommendations will take place at a meeting in the near future.



Criteria used by the 2019 Milwaukie Citizens Jury Panelists to identify strong and important information.

COMMUNITY OREGON

The Community Oregon program was recently [featured in Ruralite Magazine](#), which reaches more than 320,000 rural utility customers and households in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, California and Montana.

We've been gratified by the interest that the piece has generated. If you or someone you know, are interested in the next Community Oregon cohort, [please let us know!](#)



Participants in a group discussion in Sherman County wheat farmers Jeanney and Mike McArthur's living room.

Photo by Jurgen Hess

Continued Learning

Here's an essay about [Truth and Trust](#) that we found timely as American voters begin to size up their respective candidates and evaluate policy issues. An especially important passage that underscores the complexity of the challenge that faces us all:

"A Pew Research Center study found that two-thirds of Americans think that other Americans have little or no trust in the federal government; a majority believe that trust in individuals as well as institutions is shrinking, and that this will make it harder to solve the nation's problems. An insidious process is at work here: The very awareness of distrust and growing cynicism about government's ability to promote progress leads to disengagement. The more people turn away from a common public sphere to their own curated information streams, the greater the likelihood of political conflict, division, and misunderstanding."

Calendar of Events

- [Building better democracy with software: Citizens Foundation](#) - Tuesday, February 25, 2020 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. - Eugene, Oregon
- ["The critical role nonprofits play in embodying and strengthening civil society"](#) - Robin Teater will be on a panel at the Oregon Nonprofit Leaders Conference - April 21, 2020 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Ashland, Oregon

Please Support Our Work

As we enter a consequential election year, we invite you to reflect on the importance of organizations like Healthy Democracy that work to strengthen the voice of citizens in their own democracy. Please consider [making a donation](#) today.

Healthy Democracy conducts financial audits each year and also boasts a Gold Standard rating on Guidestar as evidence of our careful stewardship of your donations. Each and every gift is important and deeply appreciated.



"All the ills of democracy can be cured by more democracy."

Alfred Emanuel Smith (1873–1944)



Healthy Democracy's mission is to elevate the voice of citizens and improve public discourse for the benefit of all voters.

Donate Now

Connect with us!

