

2012 ILLINOIS CIVIC HEALTH INDEX



ROBERT R.
McCORMICK
FOUNDATION



National Conference on Citizenship
Chartered by Congress



Left: City Year Chicago volunteers
Center: CeaseFire rally in Chicago
Right: Mikva Challenge students serving as election judges

ABOUT THE PARTNERS

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CITIZENSHIP

At the National Conference on Citizenship (NCoC), we believe everyone has the power to make a difference in how their community and country thrive.

We are a dynamic, non-partisan nonprofit working at the forefront of our nation's civic life. We continuously explore what shapes today's citizenry, define the evolving role of the individual in our democracy, and uncover ways to motivate greater participation. Through our events, research and reports, NCoC expands our nation's contemporary understanding of what it means to be a citizen. We seek new ideas and approaches for creating greater civic health and vitality throughout the United States.

COVER PHOTOS:

Left: A group of students from west Chicago Community High School go through the Freedom Express the McCormick Foundation's mobile museum on the First Amendment.

Center: Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago's annual Youth Summit.

Right: The Bill of Rights turned 220 on Dec. 15 and Freedom Express celebrated the occasion at C.F. Simmons Middle School in Aurora. Students had an opportunity to sign a giant card for the Bill of Rights and were asked to answer the question, "What does freedom mean to you?" A seventh grade class also took a photo with Freedom Express and a banner wishing the Bill of Rights a happy birthday. In a press release from the Foundation and the school, East Aurora superintendent of schools Dr. Jerome Roberts said "We are very excited to welcome the Freedom Express to Simmons Middle School. This year is the 220th anniversary of the Bill of Rights and the 165th anniversary of East Aurora School District 131. What a very noble way to celebrate both." The Civics staff was thrilled to celebrate Bill of Rights Day at a school and hope that this will become an annual tradition!

ROBERT R. MCCORMICK FOUNDATION

Robert R. McCormick Foundation is committed to fostering communities of educated, informed and engaged citizens. Through philanthropic programs, Cantigny Park and museums, the Foundation helps develop citizen leaders and works to make life better in our communities. The Foundation was established as a charitable trust in 1955, upon the death of Colonel Robert R. McCormick, the longtime editor and publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*. The McCormick Foundation is one of the nation's largest foundations, with more than \$1 billion in assets.



Use your smart phone to:
Download the 2012 Illinois
Civic Health Index



INTRODUCTION

This year, in partnership with the National Conference on Citizenship (NCoC), the Robert R. McCormick Foundation is pleased to present an infographic comparing the civic health of Illinois Millennials (residents 18-29), with their national peers. The collaboration centers on an age cohort, those who recently exited or remain enrolled in our state's educational system, that is closest to the Foundation's work to strengthen the civic education system in Illinois.

The McCormick Foundation has worked with NCoC to examine the civic health of Illinois and Chicago since 2009, building upon NCoC's national research that began in 2006. At that time, NCoC began convening a group of leading thinkers to respond to the lack of data available about the civic vitality of our communities. The term 'civic health' was developed to capture a set of 40 indicators across nine categories of civic life and the first-ever *America's Civic Health Index* was published. NCoC now produces an expanded national civic health assessment, "Civic Life in America," on an annual basis in partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service and the U.S. Census Bureau.

Soon after the development of the national research project, NCoC began working in collaboration with partners in states and cities across the country to create local reports that give life to these findings and present recommendations on what can be done to strengthen civic life. The McCormick Foundation partnered with NCoC to release an *Illinois Civic Health Index* in 2009 and 2010, as well as a *Chicago Civic Health Index* in 2010.

The findings presented here are based on analysis of the Current Population Survey (CPS) Volunteering, Voting and Civic Engagement supplements, performed by the Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) at Tufts University. Indicators of civic engagement include voting, volunteering, working with neighbors to fix a community problem, expressing political views, and donating to community organizations. Other indicators measure social capital and include group membership, connecting to others through family and friends, and trust in others and major institutions like media, schools, and corporations. All rankings reflect where Illinois Millennials rank among Millennials in the 50 states and Washington, DC.

Participation in Formal/Informal Volunteering, 2011



Illinois Millennials are ranked 23rd for volunteering



Work with Neighbors to Fix a Community Problem

The Findings

According to CIRCLE's analysis of 2011 CPS data, civic engagement among Illinois Millennials slightly outpaces national averages on most indicators and ranks near the middle of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. For example, Illinois Millennials are more likely to volunteer (21.3%) than their national peers (20.6%), and rank 23rd on this measure. The same holds true for donating, as roughly one-third of Illinois Millennials (33.7%) made donations of \$25 or more to community organizations, outpacing the national average (31.6%), ranking Illinois 22nd.

In terms of political participation, Illinois Millennials excel when it comes to discussing politics a few times a week or more. Nearly one-quarter (24.9%) engage in weekly political expression, significantly ahead of the national average (21.1%), ranking Illinois 13th. They are also slightly more likely than the national average to attend public meetings (4.5% to 3.8%), ranking 22nd. However, they are only half as likely (2.2% to 4.4%) to work with neighbors to address a community problem (ranking 48th in the country), and five percentage points less likely to vote regularly in local elections (29.8% to 34.9%), ranking 47th.

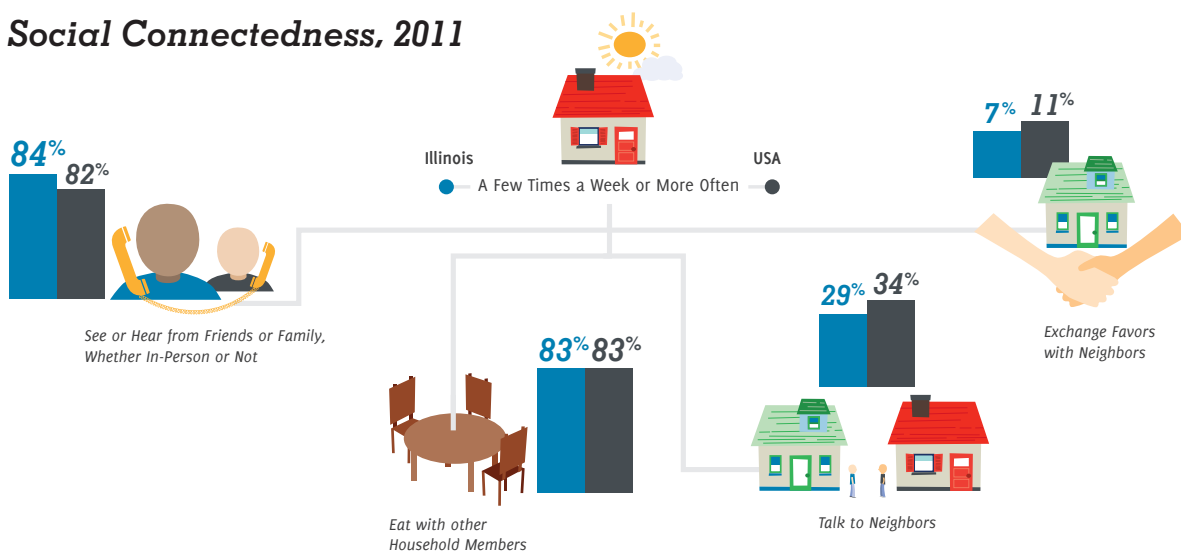
Electoral participation data from 2008 shows that Illinois Millennials were generally on par with their national peers, ranking 30th in voter registration and 29th in voter turnout. CIRCLE's analysis of early data from the 2012 election (based on exit polling, vote counts, and demographic data) estimates that 23 million Americans, ages 18-29, or 50% voted in the presidential election. Analysis by the United States Election Project (available at http://elections.gmu.edu/Turnout_2012G.html) estimates that 58.9% of Illinois' voting-eligible population voted in the 2012 election. (The 2012 CPS voting data will be available in the summer of 2013 with further detail on how Illinois Millennials participated relative to their national peers.)

The results are also mixed on measures of social capital among Illinois Millennials. They are more likely to see or hear from family members weekly (84.3% to 81.9%, ranking 24th), and slightly less likely to eat dinner with family members a few times a week or more (82.8% to 83.3%, ranking 29th). Illinois Millennials, however, seldom speak regularly with (29.0%, 45th) or receive favors from neighbors (7.2%, 42nd).

In terms of institutional confidence, the vast majority of Illinois Millennials have a great deal or some confidence in schools (87.2%, ranking 38th), although this percentage is slightly below the national average (88.4%). Nearly two-thirds have confidence in media and corporations, (67.2% and 63.5%, respectively). Although their confidence in media is higher than their national peers (13th nationally), their confidence in corporations is slightly lower (32nd nationally).

The mixed performance of Illinois Millennials on various measures of civic engagement and social capital presents cause for concern, particularly when looking at key forms of participation such as voting in local elections and neighborhood engagement. These measures shine a light on critical areas for growth and the need for strategies that help shape more active participation of our young people in civic life. Illinois' civic health is fragile, and its restoration lies in the hands of our youngest citizens.

Social Connectedness, 2011



Shaping Lifelong Citizens

The Foundation's Civics program supports high-quality civic learning opportunities for young people ages 12 to 22 through strengthening the civic education system in Illinois. By investing in programs that support young people's acquisition of civic knowledge, skills, attitudes, and engagement experiences, the Civics program seeks to facilitate lifelong, informed and effective civic engagement.

The McCormick Foundation's work focuses on three essential components of the civic education system: promoting a high-quality, comprehensive civics curriculum; providing teachers with the skills and knowledge to deliver that curriculum; and delivering opportunities for youth to hone their civic skills in their schools and communities.

The six proven civic learning practices laid out in the *Guardian of Democracy* report are the foundation of this work. These practices include formal instruction in United States government, history, law, and democracy; structured engagement with current and con-

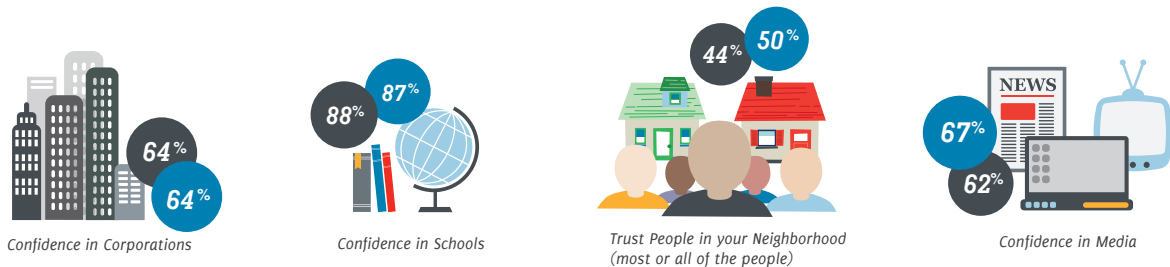
troversial issues; service-learning linked to formal curriculum; extracurricular activities that encourage greater involvement and connection to school and the community; authentic student voice in school governance; and finally, participation in simulations of democratic structures and processes.

The McCormick Foundation believes that exposing young people to civic knowledge, helping them develop key civic skills and behaviors, and providing them with meaningful opportunities to engage with civic institutions and influence change in their communities, they are more likely to continue to be active and informed citizens into adulthood.

Our hope is that by supporting this work we can continue to move the needle on the indicators depicted in this infographic and put Illinois on the map as a model for community engagement, political participation, and social connectedness.

Trust and Confidence, 2011

Illinois ● A Great Deal or Some Confidence ● USA



32nd
51

Illinois Millennials are ranked 32nd for having a great deal or some confidence in corporations

38th
51

Illinois Millennials are ranked 38th for having a great deal or some confidence in public schools

19th
51

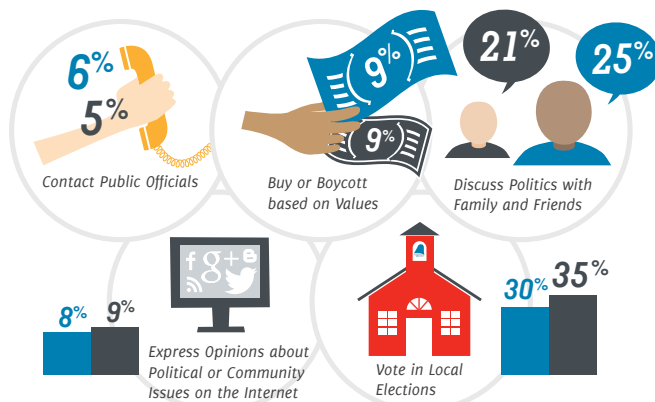
Illinois Millennials are ranked 19th for trusting all or most of their neighbors

13th
51

Illinois Millennials are ranked 13th for having a great deal or some confidence in the media

Political Action, 2011

Illinois ■ USA



13th
51

Illinois Millennials are ranked 13th for discussing politics a few times a week or more

47th
51

Illinois Millennials are ranked 47th for voting in local elections all or most of the time

CIVIC HEALTH INDEX

State and Local Partnerships

NCoC began *America's Civic Health Index* in 2006 to measure the level of civic engagement and health of our democracy. In 2009, NCoC was incorporated into the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, and directed to expand this civic health assessment in partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service and the U.S. Census Bureau.

NCoC now works with partners in over 30 communities nationwide to use civic data to lead and inspire a public dialogue about the future of citizenship in America and to drive sustainable civic strategies.

STATES

Alabama

University of Alabama
David Mathews Center
Auburn University

Arizona

Center for the Future of Arizona

California

California Forward
Center for Civic Education
Center for Individual and
Institutional Renewal
Davenport Institute

Connecticut

Everyday Democracy
Secretary of the State of Connecticut

Florida

Florida Joint Center for Citizenship
Bob Graham Center for Public Service
Lou Frey Institute of Politics
and Government
John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

Georgia

Georgia Forward
University of Georgia
Georgia Family Connection Partnership

Illinois

Citizen Advocacy Center
McCormick Foundation

Indiana

Center on Congress at Indiana University
Hoosier State Press Association
Foundation
Indiana Bar Foundation
Indiana Supreme Court
Indiana University Northwest

Kentucky

Commonwealth of Kentucky,
Secretary of State's Office
Institute for Citizenship & Social Responsibility,
Western Kentucky University
Kentucky Advocates for Civic Education
McConnell Center, University of Louisville

Maryland

Mannakee Circle Group
Center for Civic Education
Common Cause-Maryland
Maryland Civic Literacy Commission

Massachusetts

Harvard Institute of Politics

Michigan

Michigan Nonprofit Association
Michigan Campus Compact

Minnesota

Center for Democracy and Citizenship

Missouri

Missouri State University

New Hampshire

Carsey Institute

New York

Siena College Research Institute
New York State Commission on
National and Community Service

North Carolina

North Carolina Civic Education Consortium
Center for Civic Education
NC Center for Voter Education
Democracy NC
NC Campus Compact
Western Carolina University Department
of Public Policy

Ohio

Miami University Hamilton Center for
Civic Engagement

Oklahoma

University of Central Oklahoma
Oklahoma Campus Compact

Pennsylvania

Center for Democratic Deliberation
National Constitution Center

Texas

University of Texas at San Antonio

Virginia

Center for the Constitution at James
Madison's Montpelier
Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

CITIES

Chicago

McCormick Foundation

Miami

Florida Joint Center for Citizenship
John S. and James L. Knight Foundation
Miami Foundation

Seattle

Seattle City Club
Boeing Company
Seattle Foundation

Twin Cities

Center for Democracy and Citizenship
Citizens League
John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

Millennials Civic Health Index

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Harvard Institute of Politics
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