



GREATER SEATTLE CIVIC HEALTH INDEX

2010



Success and the Work Ahead



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INTRODUCTION

“The health of a community increases as connections between individuals, families and neighborhoods grow and deepen. Increasing civic engagement is not just the avenue to a healthier community, but also the pathway to opportunity for the citizens who live, work, play and learn there.”

– Norman B. Rice, President and Chief Executive Officer
The Seattle Foundation

WHY A CIVIC HEALTH INDEX FOR GREATER SEATTLE? WHY NOW?

How can we improve environmental health if we don't assess changes in our air and water quality? How can we improve student success if we don't know who and how many of our children advance grade levels and graduate?

Having reliable data is essential to making strategic decisions and policy that improve our community's well being. Government agencies and organizations provide key indicators to track environmental quality, educational attainment, basic needs, health and wellness, arts and culture, transportation and the economy.¹ But until now, there hasn't been a means to measure one essential metric of this region's health—our civic vitality.

This report fills that void. Using census data and analysis provided by the National Conference on Citizenship,² supplemented with local data,³ it assesses six civic health markers—volunteering, neighborliness, belonging to groups, philanthropy, political voice, and voting⁴—in greater Seattle, including King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties.⁵ The results provide a baseline for assessing our civic strength now, over time, and in relation to national standards. More important, they provide a call to action.

For as soon as we understand the state of our current civic health, we have the ability to set goals, plan additional investments, and measure our progress forward. We are recommending a first round of actions that government, business, nonprofits, foundations, community organizations, and individuals can take to advance our civic vitality. But our recommendations are offered as a starting point only.



We have unbridled pride and faith in greater Seattle's entrepreneurial spirit and civic commitment.

Our fundamental purpose and deepest hope is to inspire you to take this report and run with it. Our intent is to disseminate this Civic Health Index as broadly as possible to spur innovation well beyond our own insights and strategies.

THE NEXT FIFTY

Almost fifty years ago, planners of the 1962 Seattle World's Fair merged their goals for hosting the six-month international Century 21 Exposition with a commitment to build a physical civic center as the Fair's enduring and tangible legacy for the community. The Exposition's theme, *New Frontier*, anticipated Seattle's growth as a global leader in trade, technology, industry, and health. The Exposition's 74-acre campus, Seattle Center, became a thriving cultural hub, festival site, and gathering place for over 12 million residents and visitors annually.

Currently, plans are underway for a six-month celebration of Century 21's anniversary, which the Seattle Center Foundation has named *The Next Fifty*.⁶ As we report this Civic Health Index and look forward to 2012, we ask: How shall we frame a new vision for our region's identity in the world, and what new civic goals and commitments shall we design as a tangible and enduring legacy for our community?

No longer a single urban center, Seattle has become a metropolis, a region of multiple cities, suburban, and rural communities. In ten short years, our population in King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties has grown 13.6%, adding more than 400,000 people, to include 3,459,100 residents.⁷

From 2000 through 2008, nearly 130,000 of these new residents were foreign born. King County's foreign-born population increased 34% (91,096), while Snohomish County's foreign-born population increased 47 % (27,877). Pierce County had a less dramatic increase of 19.1 % in its foreign-born population (10,774). Overall, the tri-county region has 513,571 foreign-born residents.⁸

These demographic changes are important to consider if we truly want to attain a civically healthy region that incorporates all its residents. New immigrants who are less familiar with what it means to participate fully in the civic life of their new country will need more training and outreach in culturally competent ways. At the same time, traditional civic leadership engagement models and strategies will also need to shift to accommodate and reach these new immigrants.

Our new civic goals can't be imagined or planned by a small organizing committee sitting in an office tower in downtown Seattle. Our new civic commitments require the genius and will of many different authors with diverse perspectives, networks, and spheres of influence. We hope this data will ignite their imaginations and inspire their dreams.



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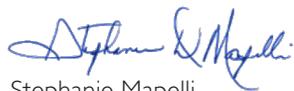
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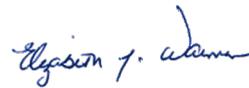
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

“In a year like this, we need a city upon a hill. Seattle, Fast Company’s City of the Year, not only sprawls across seven hills but also boasts the ingredients that we believe will bring our communities—and country—back to prosperity: smarts, foresight, social consciousness, creative ferment.”¹

--Fast Cities 2009, *Fast Company*

Greater Seattle’s 2010 Civic Health Index mirrors this assessment. It portrays a picture of civic health that is bright and inspiring. When it comes to numerous core indicators of civic participation and service, our community is a national leader. Greater Seattle rates at least ten percentage points higher than the national average in volunteerism, group association, social connectedness on the Internet, philanthropy, and non-electoral political acts. (Figure 1)

FIGURE 1: COMPARATIVE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT STATISTICS

	Greater Seattle	US/National
Volunteering	35.7%	26.8%
Group Membership	46.8%	35.1%
Talking with family and friends via Internet	70.5%	53.6%
Contributing \$25+	60.3%	50.0%
Engaged in one or more non-electoral political act	40.2%	21.6%

There are many interrelated reasons for this success: prosperity, the presence of so many industry leaders known for entrepreneurial innovation, a strong culture of philanthropy and service, a sophisticated and diverse arts community, and a strong, shared environmental ethic. But the single most important attribute predicting greater Seattle’s leadership in civic vitality is its highly educated populace.

The Executive Summary of the *2010 Civic Health Assessment* reports that Americans with more education dominate civic engagement.² Compared to those who didn’t finish high school, graduates are more than twice as likely to vote or belong to a group and three times as likely to volunteer or work with neighbors to solve problems. Those with bachelor’s degrees are nearly five times more likely to volunteer than high school dropouts.

Fifty-four percent of adults in the City of Seattle have a college degree, the highest in the nation and 21 percentage points above the national average of 33%.³

But educational attainment findings reveal dramatic gaps between those with and those without a college education in greater Seattle, as well as dramatic differences in the quality of education in Washington’s public schools—not only district to district, but also neighborhood to neighborhood. In King County, only 71% of students—and less than 50% of black and Latino students—graduate from high school with their peers.⁴ Exacerbating these disparities, in February 2010, King County District Court found that Washington State isn’t living up to its constitutional mandate to provide adequate funding for its public schools.⁵

Inadequate investment in public education and tolerance for disparities in educational access, quality, and success are a certain recipe for civic decay.

The civic vitality we are trumpeting in this report—in volunteering, philanthropy, group participation and leadership, solving problems with neighbors, and political expression—simply cannot be sustained if our community does not ensure equitable, high-quality education for all our children from early childhood through college.

The rewards of doing so create a multiplier effect. Not only does educational attainment yield engaged citizens, new studies reveal the reciprocal is true, too: “The importance of civic engagement transcends charitable acts of kindness—the skill development, increased content knowledge, and self empowerment resulting from civic engagement activities foster the necessary confidence and skills for success in higher education and the workforce.”⁶

When we invest in education, we create an engaged citizenry. When we teach civic skills and provide inclusive invitations to community service, we spur educational attainment. Supporting that reciprocity is how greater Seattle earned its current civic and economic vitality. Expanding it will ensure that our region continues to thrive.

REPORT CONCLUSIONS

1. Each act of community engagement generates another.
2. Greater Seattle’s national leadership in civic vitality stems from many assets. Chief among them is our residents’ high degree of educational attainment.
3. The way to sustain and expand our civic leadership is to support educational access and success for all our residents, from early childhood through college graduation. Special emphasis should be placed on teaching civic skills.
4. Existing disparities and underinvestment in educational quality undermine our civic fabric. To maintain greater Seattle’s civic vitality, these dangerous deficits must be remediated with particular attention to low-income and minority youth and new immigrants.



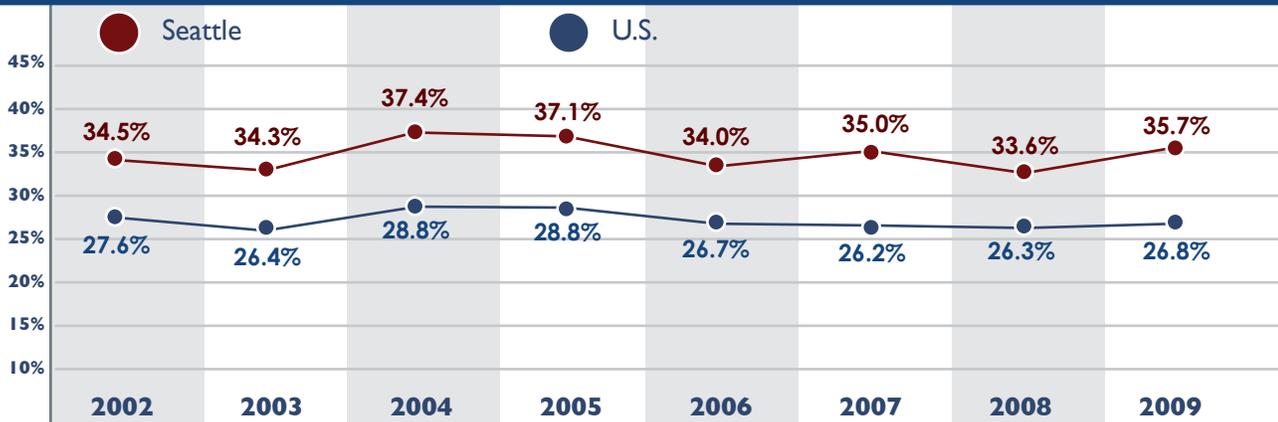
FINDINGS

VOLUNTEERING

Greater Seattle ranks 4th among America's 51 largest cities for volunteering; 35.7% of residents 16 years and older—nearly one million people—volunteered at least once in the past year. This rate increased by two percentage points since 2008 (Figure 2). Volunteer retention in greater Seattle is also high—73.9% compared to a national rate of 65%.¹



FIGURE 2: VOLUNTEERING 2002-2009 (16 AND OLDER)



Not only do we volunteer more in our region, we also volunteer differently. While in the rest of the country, religious organizations are first-choice volunteer sites, in greater Seattle, children's or educational organizations are first, with religious organizations a close second. In our region, volunteers are more likely to contribute time episodically or occasionally—volunteering for short durations of time on projects—while nationally, more people volunteer regularly, i.e. 12+ weeks annually.

What contributes to this success? We have strong cross-sector support for volunteerism. Our Hands On Network, a collaboration between government, business, and the nonprofit sector, promotes volunteerism and recruits and places volunteers statewide.²

Regional business leaders promote volunteerism both for its community benefit and as a strategic workforce advantage. Elizabeth Warman, The Boeing Company's Director of Global Corporate Citizenship for the Northwest Region, acknowledges that, "Three of four young people want to work for a company that cares about how it impacts and contributes to society. In order to hire the best and brightest, The Boeing Company offers robust opportunities for our employees to engage and give back to their communities."³

Another regional corporate leader, Microsoft, not only matches employee gifts to nonprofit organizations, it also matches employee volunteer labor with corporate dollars.

Nonprofit organizations are working systemically to improve the efficacy of volunteerism. The United Way of King County recently found that 50% of local nonprofit organizations need more volunteers but don't have the capacity to manage them. In response, it launched collaborations with 20 local hunger-relief organizations to audit their existing volunteer systems and tailor approaches to advance them. United Way of Snohomish County recently reformed the way it measures and recognizes community service. Philanthropy, volunteerism, and advocacy are now integrated to demonstrate how these key community-building activities leverage and complement one another.

Why do people volunteer? The #1 answer is because they are asked, but not everyone is invited to serve. In Seattle, 46.6% of volunteers with college degrees say they were invited to volunteer, yet only 18.3% of volunteers with less than a high school diploma are asked (and 71.8% approached the organization themselves). Not surprisingly, 36% of people with a four-year college degree donate 100 or more volunteer hours annually; only 13.4% of people with less than a high school diploma do so.

Nationally, men are asked to volunteer more than women (51.8% v 41.7%), though women volunteer more than men (29.6% v 23.1%).

Variations in income don't determine whether or not people are asked to volunteer, but they do determine who issues the call to service. Wealthier Americans are asked by staff from nonprofits and schools and more frequently encouraged by their employers, while Americans with incomes under \$75,000 annually are more frequently asked to volunteer by relatives, friends, and co-workers.

With regard to race and ethnicity, more than half the requests to volunteer come from nonprofit organizations and schools to white Americans, while Latinos, African Americans and Asian Americans are more frequently asked to volunteer by relatives and co-workers.

We need to be strategic about how we encourage volunteers in diverse communities, making sure we reach out broadly. We must also ensure that those who are selected as role models for volunteering represent our diversity so that young people of all ethnicities can see themselves in those who are honored publicly.

Our region's continuing leadership in volunteerism requires that we make our calls to service inclusive, equitable, personal, and ubiquitous. Simultaneous to strong volunteer recruitment and recognition, we must also build sufficient and sustainable organizational capacity to ensure that volunteering is effective and fulfilling for individuals, organizations, and the causes and community we serve.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Ask everyone to volunteer and renew their volunteer commitments.
2. Adequately support organizational infrastructure for volunteer management and training in nonprofits, government agencies, and businesses.
3. Continue to forge strong partnerships to address systemic needs in the advancement of volunteerism.
4. Support improvements to regional mobility as long average-commute times depress the ability of volunteers to serve.
5. Support and connect to our statewide Hands On Network and local community volunteer centers. www.handsonnetwork.org/actioncenters/map/WA
6. Nominate your everyday heroes to receive one of five annual Washington State Jefferson Awards for outstanding community service. Work to ensure diversity of those nominated and selected so that young people can have models that speak to them. www.seattlecityclub.org
7. Promote the strategic business advantages of robust employee community service programs.

NEIGHBORLINESS

The only civic indicator where greater Seattle ranks lower than the rest of the United States, although not significantly so, is neighborliness. The specific metrics used to assess neighborliness included: frequency of eating dinner with household members, talking with neighbors, exchanging favors with neighbors, and communicating with friends and family via the Internet. In each of these first three face-to-face interactions, our region scores lower than the national average (Figure 3). Interestingly, however, greater Seattle residents are significantly more likely (70.5% versus 53.6%) to connect with family and friends online.

One of the reasons for our lower rate of neighborliness may be the transience of our population. While nationally 59.1% of residents have lived at their current address five years or longer, in greater Seattle, that rate is 47.4%. (Figure 4) We also have a high rate of residents who have lived at their current address less than one year. People in urban areas are more transient than those in suburban and non-metropolitan areas. Even when that is taken into account, however, our three-county region still has a lower number of more than five-year residents compared with the national urban average of 51.6%.

FIGURE 3

	Greater Seattle	U.S. National
Eat dinner with family at least a few times a week	88.3%	89.1%
Talk with family and friends via Internet	70.5%	53.6%
Talk with neighbors at least a few times a week	40.4%	45.8%
Do favors for neighbors at least a few times a week	13.8%	16.2%

FIGURE 4: LENGTH OF TIME AT CURRENT ADDRESS

	Less than 1 year	1-2 years	3-4 years	5 years or longer
Washington State	16.1%	15.3%	16.0%	52.6%
Seattle Metro	N/A	18.5%	18.3%	47.4%
National	13.4%	13.8%	13.7%	59.1%

LENGTH OF TIME AT CURRENT ADDRESS BY METROPOLITAN STATUS (NATIONAL STATISTICS)

	Less than 1 year	1-2 years	3-4 years	5 years or longer
Urban	16.4%	17.0%	15.0%	51.6%
Suburban	11.9%	12.8%	14.3%	61.1%
Nonmetropolitan	11.9%	12.3%	12.1%	63.7%

Political scientist Robert Putnam writes that people in diverse communities tend “to withdraw even from close friends, to expect the worst from their community and its leaders, to volunteer less, give less to charity and work on community projects less often, to register to vote less, to agitate for social reform more, but have less faith that they can actually make a difference, and to huddle unhappily in front of the television.” Putnam suggests that the challenge for all modern cities is to create “a new, broader sense of we.”¹

Since 1990, Washington State has increased its foreign-born population over 100%, and the trend is for immigrants to settle outside cities in suburban areas that are not used to the challenges of immigration.² While from 2000-2008, Seattle gained 6,325 foreign-born residents, the proportion of immigrants in the city remained almost steady—rising from 16.9% to 17.7%. However, during the same period, the City of Kent gained 9,877 immigrants, increasing that city’s proportion of immigrants from 17% to 26.5%.³ With a more diverse population, more activities focusing on trust- and community-building are necessary.

But immigrants aren't the only newcomers. Seattle was described recently as a "'city of the first move'... Restless young people move here right out of college ... to hang out in a cool city with lots of starter jobs and other young people and night life. Psychologically, they are not really intending to stay so much as to get launched."⁴ Our statistics support that assessment. The City of Seattle's rate of non-family or unmarried households (55%) compares to a national average of 33%. As marriage and children are demographics that increase neighborliness, Seattle's low average household size (2.08 compared to 2.61 nationally) may be another factor yielding these results.⁵

As this is the only civic indicator that doesn't directly rise with college experience, greater Seattle's high rate of educated citizens is not an asset that boosts neighborliness. On the other hand, it may help explain the very high percentage of Internet users who connect with family and friends online.

Is greater Seattle cool to newcomers? How can we provide new residents a sense of connection to each other and belonging to our region? How can we help create bridging ties between diverse communities? How can we ensure that low-income immigrants and communities of color are incorporated into civic life? The City of Seattle's Department of Neighborhoods oversees multiple programs that foster these ties. Since 1988, its Neighborhood Matching Fund has awarded more than \$45 million to over 3,800 community-driven neighborhood improvement projects. This stimulus generated an additional \$68 million of community match and engaged more than 80,000 volunteers who donated more than 560,000 hours to complete projects throughout the city. Through its P-Patch Community Gardening Program, the city supports 73 community gardens. They are gathering places that strengthen networks of neighbors through land stewardship, and they also provide a valuable way to give back to the community. In 2009, gardeners contributed more than 28,500 volunteer hours and donated 12.4 tons of food to local food banks and feeding programs.

There are also innovative initiatives that promote and expand opportunities for people to get out of their cars and walk or bike through the region's neighborhoods. The Seattle Parks Foundation's comprehensive *Bands of Green* report is a good example, offering a model for how private and public funders can successfully collaborate to link existing green spaces together through linear parks and pedestrian-friendly boulevards. Programs like this encourage more human connection and should be continued and strengthened.⁶

Expanding funding and public support for English-language training is as crucial as supporting high-quality and consistent translation and interpretation services for non-English speakers. Helping legal

permanent residents acquire citizenship, if and when they are eligible, is one of the strategies that has been shown to help integrate immigrants and increase overall civic participation and community investment.

The expansion of our metropolitan transit system, including the building of a three-county light rail system, offers a unique generational opportunity to link neighborhoods and cities into a more cohesive regional community. Bus stops and transit stations are natural venues for community arts events and farmers' markets. Neighbors can be invited to participate in festivals across the region through communications delivered on buses and trains.

In order to curb sprawl and protect rural and resource lands, Washington State's Growth Management Act directs new development to designated urban growth areas. Since the mid 1990s when those areas were established for King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties, 85% of all new housing permitted for development was located in the Urban Growth Area. Given the challenge to increase neighborliness as our region becomes more urban, we recommend the following strategies:

RECOMMENDATIONS

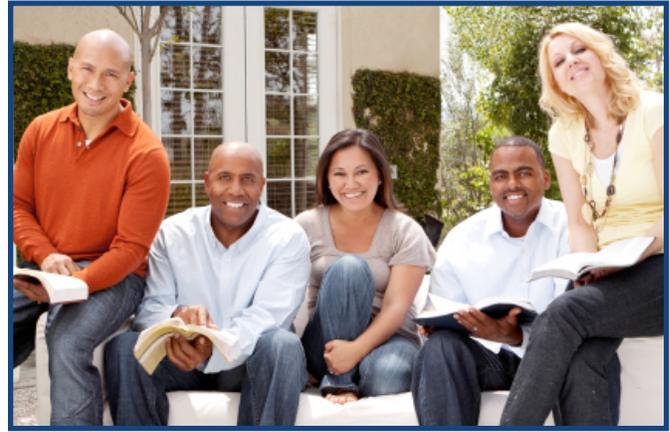
1. Support opportunities to enhance "bonding social capital"—connections among people who share common interests or backgrounds—as well as "bridging social capital"—community connections across difference.
2. Support public programs to enrich neighborhoods through community gardens and farmers' markets, neighborhood councils and block watches, matching grants, pedestrian and bike links, and support for libraries and parks.
3. Continue strong cross-sector support for artists and arts and cultural events, especially those that derive from and promote neighborhoods.
4. Support programming that welcomes and orients newcomers to Seattle, especially young people coming to Seattle as their "first move" city.
5. Support programs that promote immigrant integration and civic participation for our growing percentage of foreign-born residents including consistent translation and interpretation services, English language classes and naturalization/ citizenship programs for legal permanent residents who are eligible.
6. Use new light rail as a way to highlight the personality of neighborhoods and connect them together in a welcoming vibrant region.
7. Encourage media and/or public arts agencies to mount a "share our arts" initiative to highlight arts activities of all scope and kinds.

BELONGING TO GROUPS

In 2009, 347,000 or 12.8% of Seattle's residents worked with neighbors to solve a community problem, ranking our region second in this metric of civic health among the nation's 51 largest metropolitan areas. 46.8% of Seattle residents, 18 years and older, belong to religious, neighborhood, school, or sports groups—nearly 12 percentage points above the national average.

People in our region have a long history of gathering to improve their communities by collaborating, innovating, and investing together. This tradition of connection is evidenced today in community centers, coffee shops and, most recently, in active online networking. It is also present in the region's many diverse community organizations. The Rotary Club of Seattle, established in 1909, is the fourth oldest and currently the largest Rotary Club in the world. It now boasts 675 members with numerous smaller Rotary Clubs flourishing in neighboring cities and neighborhoods. Meanwhile, one hundred years later, Seattle was one of the first cities in America to launch a Social Media Club. This national member-owned organization is a lively community of professionals that shares best practices, establishes ethics and standards, and promotes literacy in emerging social media.

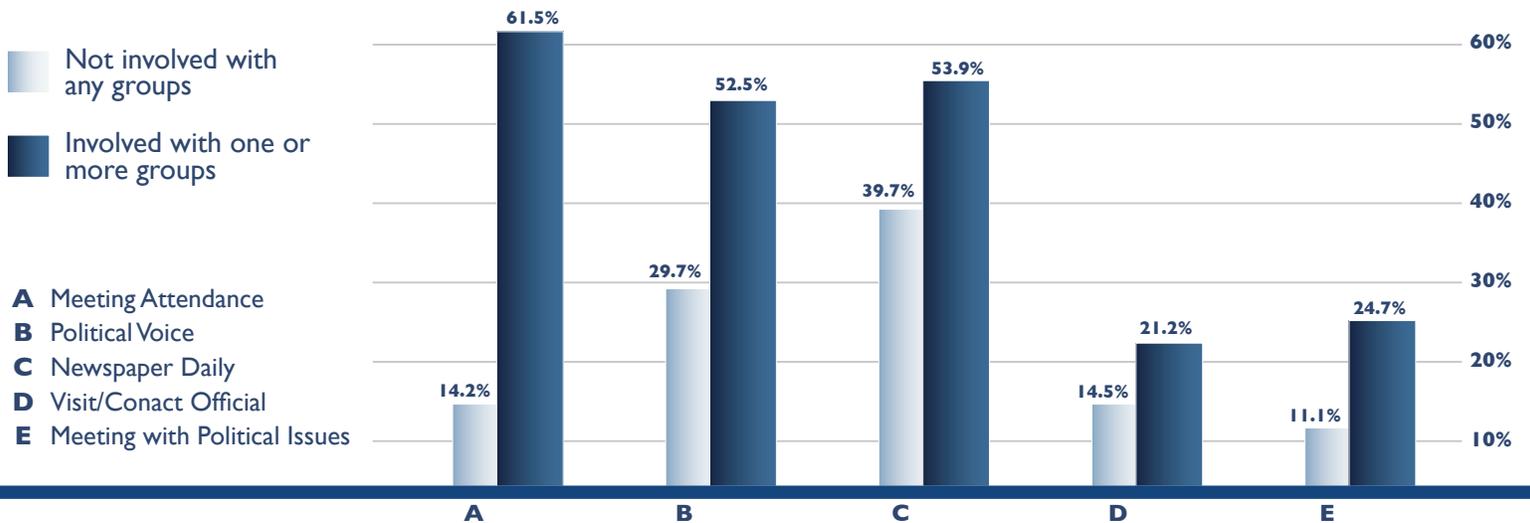
National data indicate that veterans are more likely than non-veterans to participate in community groups and work with their neighbors to solve community problems. In 2009, Washington State's Commission for National and Community Service partnered with the state's Department of Veterans Affairs to launch the first Vet Corps program to engage veterans in AmeriCorps national service positions. In 2010, the program was expanded to include



military spouses and widows. Participants' testimonials make clear that civic engagement not only helped veterans and their families make a positive difference in communities across Washington State, it also aided personal reintegration into their communities. King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties are home to nearly 300,000 veterans.¹

Within our region's groups and associations, 11.4% of participants are leaders, identified in this research as officers and committee members. This rate contrasts with a national leadership level of 8.5%. Leaders are highly engaged in all forms of civic life. (Figure 5) Nationally, two-thirds of civic leaders express political voice in one or more ways, contrasting with 13.7% among group non-participants. Seventy-five percent of leaders volunteer, compared with 15% of non-participants. Leaders are also about 50% more likely than non-participants to vote and be involved in non-electoral political acts.

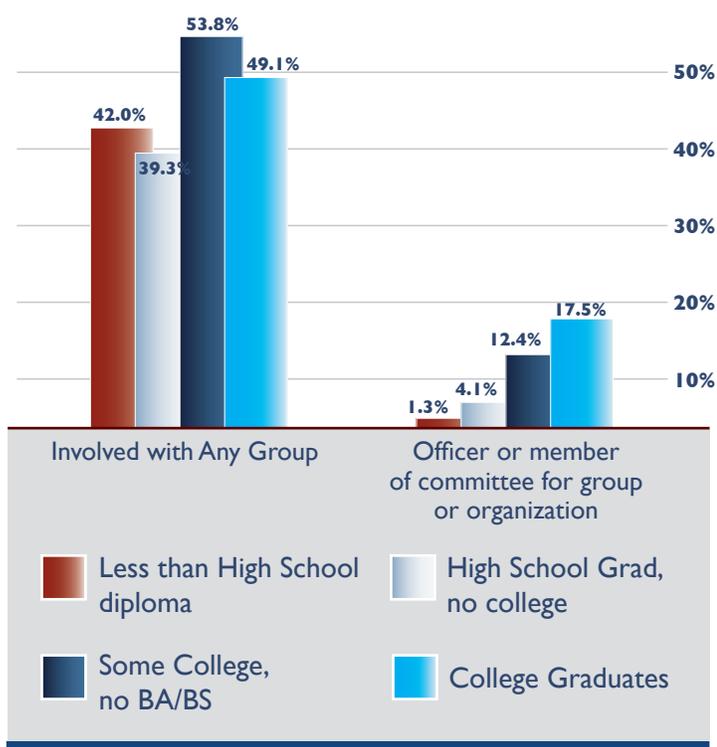
FIGURE 5: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT BY GROUP MEMBERSHIP



Developing leadership and encouraging the expression of political voice among the growing foreign-born population is essential and takes special efforts. Immigrants tend to listen to those they trust, so it is important for training and leadership development to be delivered by trusted organizations. Many immigrants and refugees have come from countries where they have been explicitly dissuaded from political participation, and they still fear retribution for their political views when they arrive in the U.S. They need to be taught and reassured that their political voice is valued in America. Successful leadership trainings need to speak to the life and cultural experiences of particular immigrant populations.

How do we develop more leaders? Research identifies three key assets: access to networks; interests or motivations; and time, money, and skills.² The Civic Health Index supports these conclusions. Educational attainment, particularly college experience, has a strong relationship to leadership (Figure 6). Though 57% of Americans have college experience, they make up 83% of our leaders. Employed Americans are about twice as likely to be leaders as unemployed Americans.

FIGURE 6: GROUP INVOLVEMENT BY EDUCATION



To assure youth leadership development, teaching civic skills should start early in children’s lives and continue throughout their education. Washington’s Board of Education passed a civic engagement policy in 2006 requiring K-12 students to pass civic/social studies classroom-based assessments that “demonstrate their civic skills, knowledge

and actions.”³ House Bill 2132, passed in 2009, states that one of the purposes of a high school diploma is citizenship. In the City of Seattle, all high school students must also complete 60 hours of service learning in order to graduate.

Unfortunately, however, there is great variability in the content and quality of civic skills being taught to our children. National research indicates that students of lower socio-economic background are less likely to attend schools where community service opportunities are offered, e.g. participation in student government, service clubs, newspaper/yearbook, or community volunteerism. The U.S. Census Bureau reports that non-Hispanic white youth are more likely to be offered at least one volunteer experience through their schools than Latino and African American youth and young adults born outside the U.S.⁴ It is essential to think about how to reach youth of color through supplementary mechanisms including supporting strong civics programs run by trusted organizations.

Unequal access to civic learning—formal and informal—hampers affected students’ abilities and confidence to be fully engaged citizens as adults, but this deficit is even more pernicious. The Center for Information & Research of Civic Learning & Engagement (CIRCLE) reports, “The consequence of unequal civic learning experiences also affects academic success. Youths who have civic learning opportunities are more likely to follow a positive academic trajectory, which can include staying in school and preparing for college.”⁵ To sustain and increase greater Seattle’s high rate of group leaders, we must guarantee equal access and delivery of robust civic learning experiences to all our children.

We must also sustain the strong network of adult leadership development programs our community hosts, including Leadership Tomorrow, Leadership Eastside, Project LEAD, Leadership Snohomish County, Leadership Pierce County, Advancing Leadership (Federal Way), American Leadership Forum (Pierce County), Asian Community Leadership Foundation (Seattle), and Out in Front (Seattle). These organizations exemplify the call to develop civic skills for emerging leaders within like communities and across our diverse region. In addition, we must look for new models of leadership development with diverse communities that may not be incorporated into these more formal leadership programs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Provide opportunities for lifelong civic learning, service, expression, and action to all community residents.
2. Teach civic skills in K-12 schools and in higher education.
3. Support programs of civic engagement and leadership development conducted by trusted organizations that reach into more difficult-to-serve communities such as foreign-born or other communities of color.

4. Expand service-learning opportunities within a culture that expects and rewards leadership development.
5. Provide civic mentorship for youth and young adults through robust connections to caring role models and community organizations.
6. Grow our region's leadership development programs, ensuring that they represent the diversity of our populace.
7. Maximize the civic asset available in our region's veteran population through programs that leverage their commitment and skills for community service.

PHILANTHROPY

We live in a generous community. Last year, 60.3% of greater Seattle's residents donated \$25 or more in money, assets, or property—10% higher than the national average. Individual donations to the annual King County United Way campaign are among the highest in any American county. Philanthropy Northwest's 2010 analysis of regional giving by foundations and corporations reveals that grant dollars to the Northwest increased 21% between 2006 and 2008, only slightly less than the 25% increase between 2004 and 2006.¹

Beyond the generosity of our citizens, our region also has transformed the practice of philanthropy. Founded in 1947, the Employees Community Fund of The Boeing Company is the world's largest employee-owned and -operated giving program. It is the oldest of greater Seattle's innovative "pooled" giving communities in which individuals make donations to a joint fund and work collaboratively to decide where the charitable donations will be made.

Washington Women's Foundation (WWF) began in 1995 when 116 local women pooled their financial and intellectual resources to support and strengthen the community as well as provide inspiration and empowerment for other women. Today, nearly 500 WWF members work together to make annual grants totaling \$1 million, half of which are large pooled grants agreed to by the entire membership.

In 1997, Social Venture Partners (SVP) was founded by Seattle technology entrepreneurs who recruited peers not only to contribute financially to their community, but also to offer their time and expertise to nonprofit organizations in long-term partnership. Replicated as a model globally, SVP's dual mission is to strengthen nonprofit organizations and nurture new generations of engaged and effective givers. Since its inception, SVP Seattle has provided more than 25,000 hours in volunteer consulting and granted more than \$10 million to advance promising nonprofits.

The Seattle Foundation has recently launched a new website, www.seattlefoundation.org, that actively engages philanthropists with the broad needs of the community and its network of nonprofit



organizations. This kind of connectivity and transparency provides a commons to investigate strategic community investments.

These donor communities along with others like them, including Potlatch Fund, Pride Foundation, and a long list of community foundations, have spurred charitable giving in this region for years, establishing a culture of philanthropy that is democratic and accessible to people of all incomes. These organizations also serve as models of philanthropic innovation nationally and globally.

Similarly, the ethic of corporate citizenship and philanthropy is strong. Corporate grants in the region grew 18% from 2004 to 2008. Microsoft, which matches employee gifts up to \$12,000, gave \$23.3 million in matching gifts in 2008, the largest total of any Northwest company. In addition to grants, Northwest businesses make significant contributions through employee matching gifts, in-kind donations and volunteer programs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Support greater Seattle's continuing role in transforming philanthropic practice through innovative strategies like pooled giving and venture philanthropy.
2. Support United Way campaigns and other community giving programs.
3. Recognize corporations in our region that are committing time, leadership, and money to support community activities.
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6. Use The Seattle Foundation's website as a portal to investigate community needs, organizations and giving.

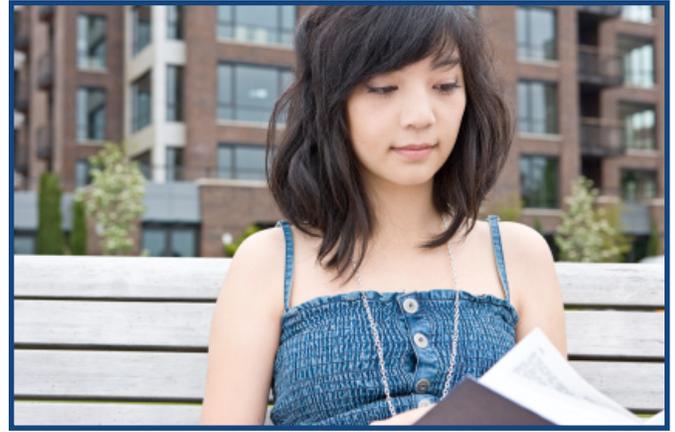
POLITICAL VOICE

A recent Pew research study reports: “Americans are spending more time with the news than over much of the past decade Digital platforms are supplementing the news diets of news consumers, but there is little indication they are expanding the proportion of Americans who get news on a given day . . . 17% of Americans say they got no news yesterday.”¹

Being altogether or frequently disconnected from information decreases civic engagement. Only 13.6% of Americans who neither access information nor discuss it express political voice compared with 44.4% of Americans who do both. As those who do not consume news are far less likely to participate in all forms of civic engagement, it is vital that information—especially community resources and public information—is available across platforms and in the many languages spoken in our region. Many residents in King (23.2%), Pierce (12.8%), and Snohomish (16.1%) speak a language besides English at home.² We must provide ample translation and interpretation services so all residents can participate in civic life.

Equitable and broad internet access is equally critical, not only to provide information but to connect community members to one another and to civic opportunities. *America’s 2010 Civic Health Assessment* reports: “People who have access to the internet in their homes and people who use the internet wherever they have opportunity are more likely to get involved in almost every type of (civic) activity. Adults who use the internet regularly were 20% more likely to vote in the 2008 election than adults who did not use the internet.”³

In 1999, the City of Tacoma was the first municipality in the nation to offer broadband access and high-speed internet as an alternative

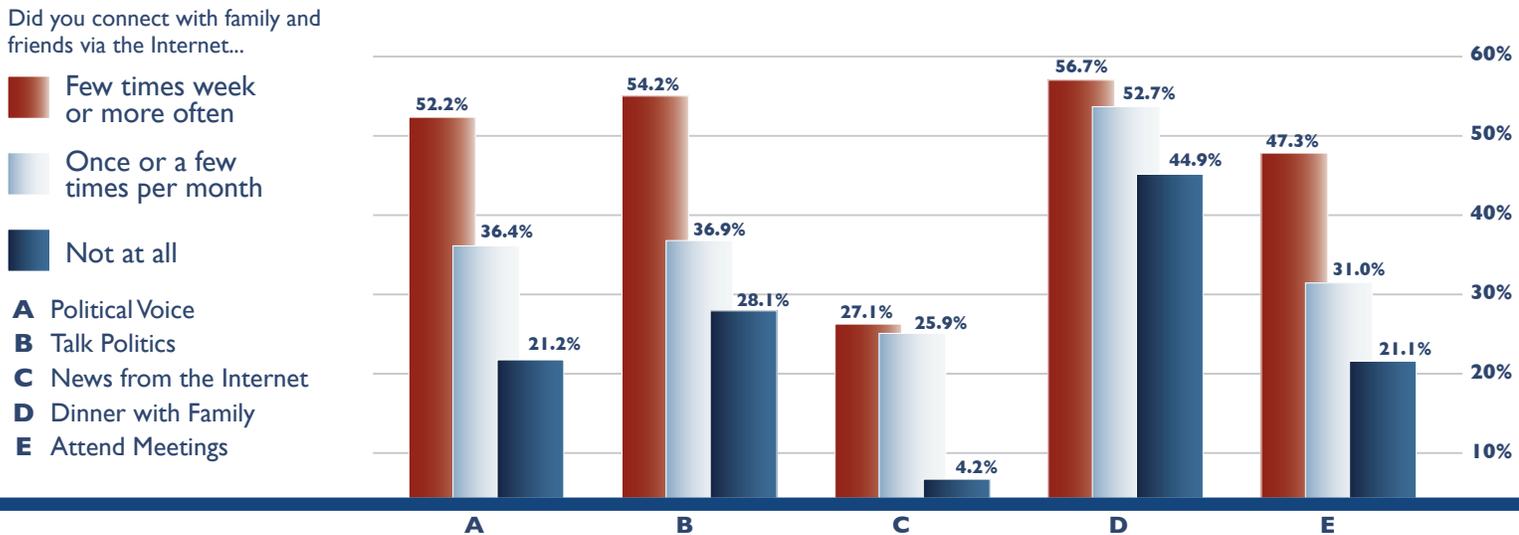


to expensive and spotty commercial services. The local Chamber of Commerce believes that new businesses located in the community as a result, and that access to multiple high-speed internet providers makes Tacoma more recession-proof than other urban hubs. The network has expanded into portions of unincorporated Pierce County. Prices are 25-50% lower than areas with no direct competition. The number of customers has increased 1300% over the decade.

America’s 2010 Civic Health Index recommends that ensuring access to broadband-quality internet connections should be a high priority for all communities.

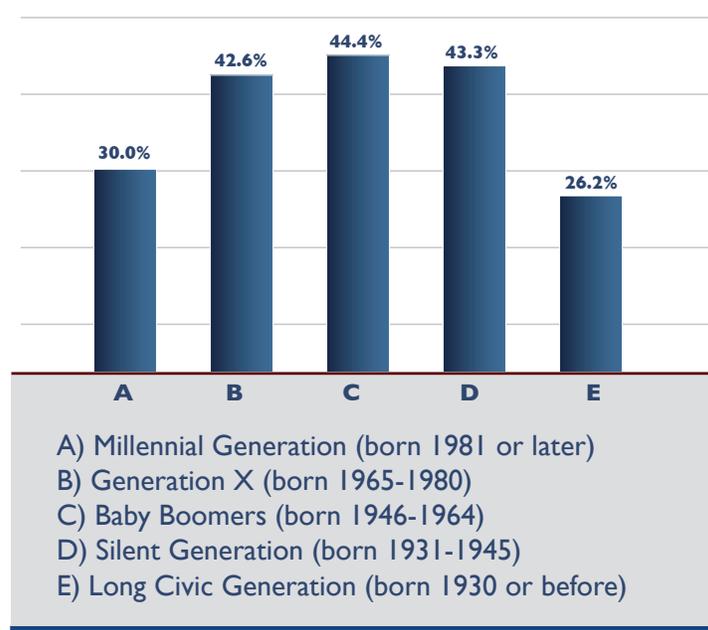
It is true that highly connected residents of our region are more engaged in civic life than less connected residents. (Figure 7) In addition, a promising, if early, finding shows the potential for technology to bridge traditional civic gaps. Online platforms and social media may provide engagement opportunities for many Americans who don’t belong to a formal organization, especially Millennials and those from diverse economic and educational backgrounds.⁴

FIGURE 7: CONNECTING VIA THE INTERNET AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



Residents of greater Seattle participate in non-electoral political acts at a much higher rate (33.5%) than the national average of 21.6%. For the purpose of this report, these activities include contacting officials, boycotting, attending political meetings, marching, rallying or protesting, and supporting a candidate or party. There are significant demographic differences in this participation. Urban dwellers engage more (49.8%) than suburbanites (34.6%). Women engage more (42.5%) than men (37.9%). Married people engage more (44.0%) than single people (37.6%). Hispanics engage at about half the rate as non-Hispanics (22.7% versus 41.3%). Non-electoral political activity is well distributed over different age groups, (Figure 8) but increases with household income.

FIGURE 8: POLITICAL VOICE BY GENERATION - SEATTLE



One of the most serious threats to civic participation is the erosion of public trust.

America's 2009 Civic Health Index reported: "Trust in our government and in other key institutions has reached new lows. Only 6% of Americans have a great deal of confidence in Congress, the Executive Branch, or banks and financial institutions, and major companies occupy the basement of public trust at only 5%."⁵ While comparable and current local data on public trust is not available, Communities Count tracked social cohesion in King County from 2001-2007 by measuring neighborhood public trust and the willingness to intervene on behalf of the common good. Surveys indicated that social cohesion was stable during that eight-

year horizon. They also revealed that more than one-fourth of participants said they had experienced some kind of discrimination. That statistic jumps to 41% for people of color and 48% for low-income residents. Between 2003 and 2007, more than half the hate crimes in King County were racially motivated.⁶

While trust in institutions is low for people of color and many foreign born, it is important to recognize that they often have a legacy of mobilization for civil rights and social change. Acknowledging and building on that legacy in communities that have public trust barriers will help increase civic engagement and ensure that leaders are built across all communities.

The greater community benefits by groups and organizations—like Seattle's CityClub, City Club of Tacoma, League of Women Voters, Municipal League of King County, and many others—that promote civic education, connection, deliberation, and action. These organizations build social capital among residents and community organizations and remediate the erosion of public trust.

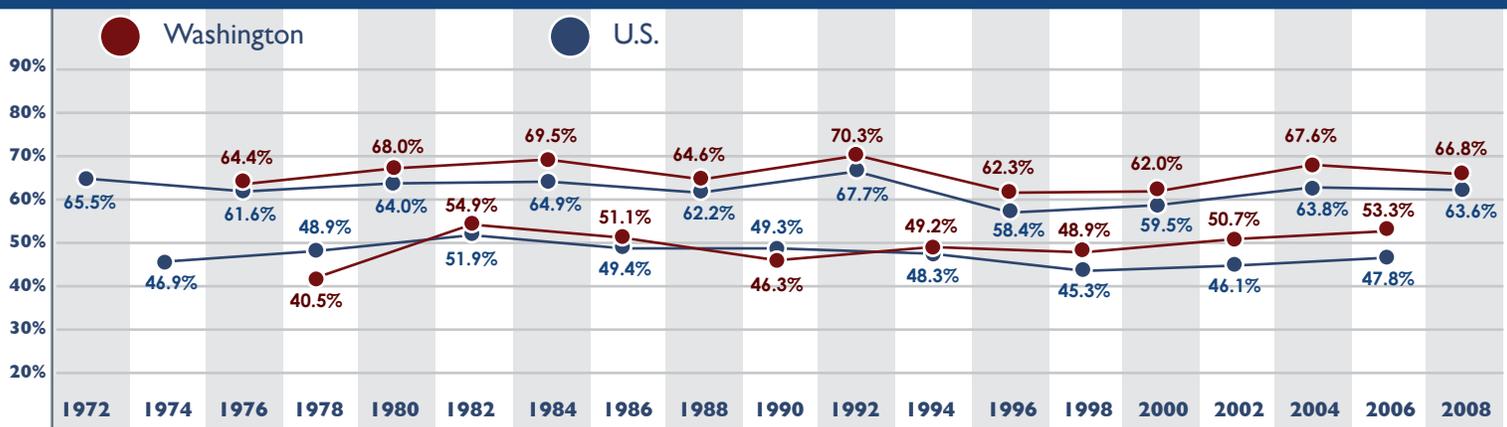
RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Maximize the availability of relevant and credible information to all community members and strengthen their capacity to engage with it across platforms.
2. Expand the availability of broadband and high-speed internet throughout the region.
3. Support Seattle's Race & Social Justice Initiative and other public measures to implement a citywide translation and interpretation policy and boost communication and outreach to immigrant and refugee communities.
4. Demand transparency in government processes and decision making.
5. Support organizations and initiatives that build citizen empowerment—especially for youth and communities of color, including foreign-born.
6. Support organizations and initiatives that build social capital and work against the erosion of public trust.

VOTING

While residents of greater Seattle demonstrate high participation in non-electoral politics, this activity doesn't translate into correspondingly higher voting. In 2008, greater Seattle's voting registration was at the national average, and actual turnout was only slightly higher than the U.S. as a whole. In addition, our region's voter turnout declined by 3% compared to turnout for the 2004 presidential election. (Figure 9)

FIGURE 9: VOTER TURNOUT 1972-2008



Analysis of statewide voter registration and voter turnout in the 2008 election shows wide racial disparities. Eligible white non-Hispanics registered (74.8%) and voted (70.6%) at the highest rate. A much lower percentage of Asians registered (63.6%) and voted (50.5%). Among Hispanics, 57.0% registered and 52.7% voted. Washington's African American population has the lowest registration rate (46.4%) but due to the historic nature of the 2008 election, nearly all those registered voted.¹

It is important to explore why registered voters didn't actually vote in recent elections. Nationally, 2.8% of registered voters said they forgot to vote or send in an absentee ballot, but in Washington, 10.5% said they forgot. That might be explained by our state's 2008 transition to an all-mail balloting system.² While that change holds long-term promise of increasing voter turnout—a 2008 study of Oregon's vote-by-mail system demonstrates a significant positive effect from voting by mail of around 10% of registered voters in both mid-term and presidential elections³—it may have exacerbated problems with voter turnout short-term. It will be important to track this statistic as people become more familiar with the process. New immigrant voters have reported not knowing what a ballot looks like and throwing it away when it arrives. As some immigrant voters have also revealed that they did not know to fill in the circles on the ballots, their votes may not have been counted.

Additionally, 12.5% of Washingtonians reported registration problems, almost double the national level of 6.4%. Drilling deeper into these results, we learn that, nationally, more recent registrants

experienced greater problems than those with longer voting records: 11.5% of those registered less than one year reported problems, more than twice the level of those registered one-to-two years and ten times the level of voters registered more than three years.

An August 2010 letter to the editor in *The Seattle Times* issued a complaint that we don't do enough targeted outreach to young voters, a significant subset of new registrants who, nationally, experienced twice as many registration problems as older generations. "It's a bit like throwing a party, not inviting someone ... and then wondering why they didn't show up," the letter charged.⁴ Similarly, most political parties, campaigns, and candidates simply do not know how to reach out to foreign-born voters. They don't invest resources to engage these citizens, preferring to focus exclusively on those voters they are certain will turn out. This is a great disservice to the growing immigrant population and to our region. It is essential that we begin to devote resources to finding, implementing, and evaluating the best and most effective ways to reach new immigrant voters and other less-frequent voters.

While addressing registration problems and other barriers experienced by our state's youngest and most recently registered voters is essential, we should also take positive steps to encourage their engagement. Just as this year's aggressive multimedia marketing campaign for the ten-year U.S. census resulted in significantly greater participation, our Secretary of State might launch a marketing campaign (with special emphasis on new registrants) to remind

Washington voters of balloting timelines and procedures and urge them to register and vote. Materials should use messages that resonate with hard-to-reach communities in appropriate languages and should be implemented by trusted organizations within the communities.

That requires sensitivity to patterns of how and where new voters register (Figure 10) and appropriate communication methods to reach specific demographics. For example, since we know that residents of greater Seattle generally, and younger adults specifically, favor social media for connection and political expression, why not launch a public Facebook or Twitter “get out the vote” campaign before and on election day? Traditional techniques like word of mouth are important for those without access to technology or who come from oral societies. Creating a welcoming environment that invites and motivates participation and addresses fears and concerns around corruption that immigrants may have from experiences in their home country are critical. We must work to engage each segment that is missing from the civic vitality of the region. Using a one-size-fits-all approach will not improve current disparities in voting and registration.



FIGURE 10: REGISTRATION METHOD

	Seattle	US/National
At department of motor vehicles	22.0%	26.3%
At a public assistance agency	1.01%	1.2%
Registered by mail	31.0%	16.7%
At school, hospital, or on campus	12.2%	8.0%
Went to a town hall or county/gov't registration office	11.6%	26.8%
Filled out form at a registration drive	11.0%	7.6%
Registered at polling place (on election or primary day)	3.1%	7.8%

We might also replace the act of going to a neighborhood polling place—both a reminder to vote and a beloved civic ritual—with new opportunities to build community and celebrate our shared democracy. Neighborhood gatherings and ethnic community parties to watch election results or meet and congratulate newly elected officials are examples of new rituals we should encourage.

As is the case with almost every civic health metric, voting is more likely among citizens who participate in other civic ways. People who are informed and discuss politics are twice as likely to vote as those who don't. The same goes for people who participate in groups compared to those who don't. People with a high personal connection to neighbors vote nearly twice as much as those without close neighborhood ties. We can take advantage of these synergies to promote voter registration and turnout at places and times where neighbors, groups and organizations gather for service and celebration.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Create new civic rituals that celebrate the communal act of choosing leaders and approving policy.
2. Address barriers to voter registration, including language and transportation.
3. Invest in voter registration and get-out-the vote strategies that specifically target populations with low participation rates using methods appropriate to those communities, for example, language-specific phone banks, mailings, and ethnic media ads.
4. Use diverse communication means and marketing techniques, appropriate to our diverse community, to remind voters about the opportunity and procedure to vote.
5. Conduct voter registration at cultural festivals, libraries and community centers, social service and volunteer sites, schools and other community gathering places and events.
6. Invest in civics education for all youth and adults.
7. Welcome the activities of neighborhood-based political organizations that can stimulate voter registration and turnout at the grassroots level.



CONCLUSIONS

CONCLUSION 1: Each act of community engagement generates another.

“In the true spirit of America, people from all walks of life contribute to our society’s rich tapestry. In 2008, African Americans led the way in voting, Caucasians in group membership and volunteering, Latinos were strong in neighborly activities, multiracial citizens were the most politically active, women volunteered more than men, and those who served our country in uniform rose above the rest in many categories of civic engagement.”

--2010 America’s Civic Health Assessment:
Executive Summary¹

There are many kinds of civic participation and service, formal and informal. From voting and volunteering to exchanging tools with neighbors and attending arts and cultural events—all of these activities build and strengthen our community. We must recognize, count, and celebrate the diverse ways Seattleites engage and contribute. It all helps; it all adds up; it is all mutually reinforcing.

The more community service is recognized, the more it builds. There is a positive relationship between citizens’ sense of empowerment and their willingness to contribute. Citizens who volunteer or belong to a group are more likely to engage in political action and stay in contact with friends. When we nurture any single means of civic participation, we boost them all.

CONCLUSION 2: Greater Seattle’s national leadership in civic engagement stems from many assets. Chief among them is our residents’ high degree of educational attainment.

This report documents greater Seattle’s national leadership in civic participation and community service. The prosperity of our region, its entrepreneurial spirit, strong arts community, philanthropic prowess, and shared environmental ethic are all contributing factors. But the single most important predictor of this success is the educational attainment of our residents: 53.8% of adults in the City of Seattle have a college degree, the highest in the nation and 20 percentage points above the national average of 33%.²

As the graphs demonstrate, Americans with more education dominate civic engagement. Every metric of community participation and service—with the notable exception of exchanging favors with neighbors—correlates positively with educational attainment. (Figure 11A and 11B)

FIGURE 11A: BY EDUCATION

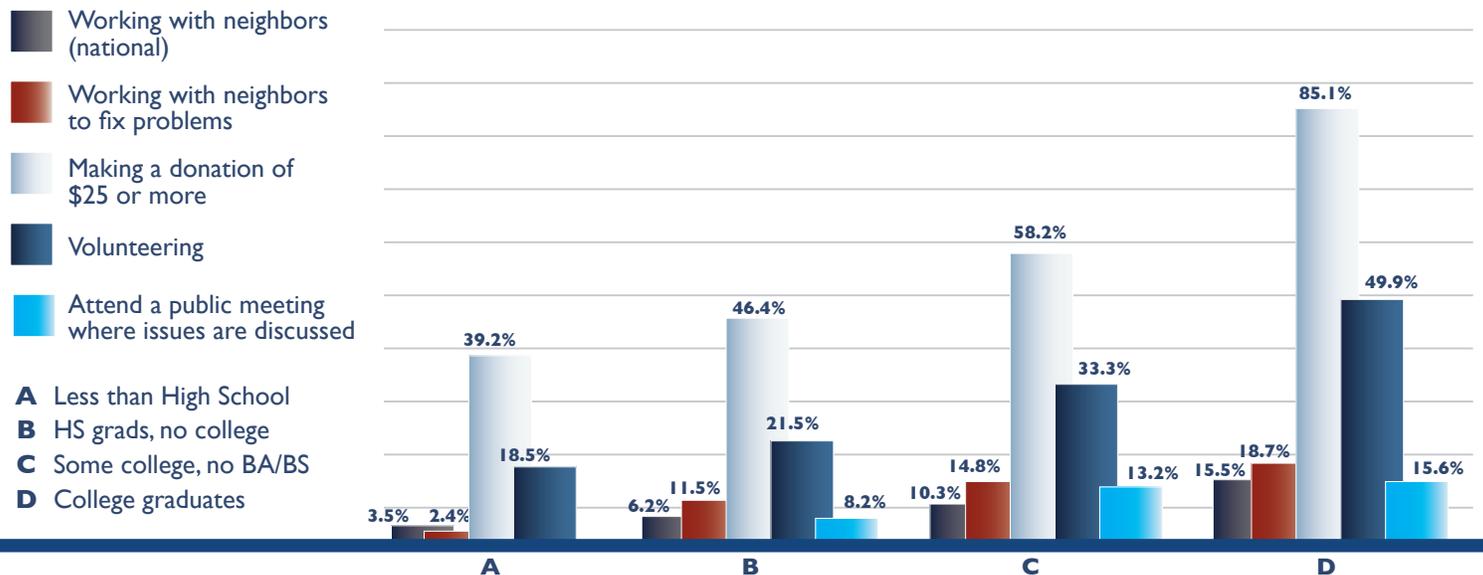
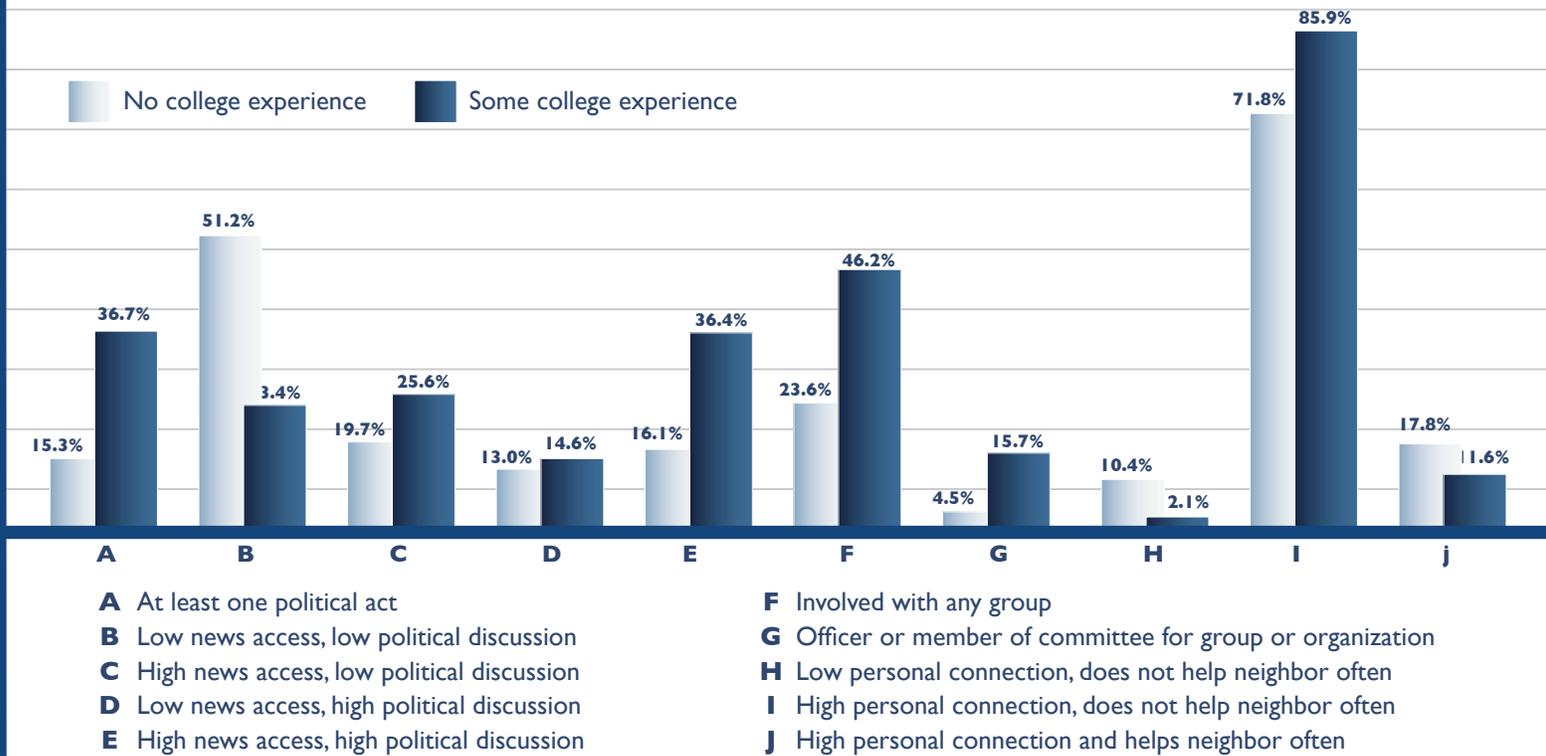


FIGURE 11B: BY EDUCATION



CONCLUSION 3: The way to sustain and expand our civic leadership is to support educational access and success for all our residents from early childhood through college graduation. Special emphasis should be placed on the teaching of civic skills.

America's 2010 Civic Health Index concludes that because educational attainment is the greatest predictor of future engagement, all efforts should be undertaken to foster a culture of college completion, not just access. It further recommends a stronger focus be placed on the teaching of American history and civic learning.³

Not only does educational attainment predict civic engagement, the reverse is true, too. The more civic connection and experience youths have, the more confidence and commitment they gain and the more academic success they achieve. Philanthropy for Active Civic Engagement (PACE), a collaborative of national foundations, reports that "Involvement in service brings extraordinary learning to participants; and can improve school performance, sharpen skills, and increase employment opportunities Service must be reframed as an opportunity to develop content area knowledge, as well as professional, social, and personal skills."⁴

CONCLUSION 4: Existing disparities and underinvestment in educational quality undermine our civic fabric. To maintain greater Seattle's civic vitality, these dangerous deficits must be remediated with particular attention to low-income and minority youth and new immigrants.

"The future of our city demands that our high-school graduation and competency rates significantly improve. Our economy, our democracy, the peace and safety of our neighborhoods all require it."

--Seattle City Council President Richard Conlin and Seattle City Council Member Tim Burgess, "Seattle Must Get Serious About Education Reform," *The Seattle Times*, August 5, 2010

Among adults who have gone to college, 17.4% take on leadership roles in Seattle's groups and community organizations; only 2% of those who never attended college do so. Educational attainment yields more engaged citizens and vice versa. This recipe for civic vitality is as compelling as it is simple. Yet even as this report documents greater Seattle's national leadership in citizen engagement, we risk losing that stature because of chronic underfunding and great disparities in the quality of our schools.

In King County, only 71% of students—and less than 50% of African American and Latino students—graduate from high school with their peers. Only about 40% attend college, and the rates of college enrollment for Latino, Native American and African American students are much lower.⁵ Washington ranks 37th among the states in awarding bachelor degrees and 39th in graduate degrees as a percentage of our young-adult population. Exacerbating these inequities, in February 2010, King County District Court found that Washington State isn't living up to its constitutional mandate to provide adequate funding for its public schools.⁶

Residents of greater Seattle already devote their primary contributions in volunteering and philanthropy to support education and children. We must harness this public commitment and the other considerable assets recorded in this Civic Health Index report to reverse this trend. Our strengths in political action, group leadership, internet connectedness, and non-electoral participation must be focused on restoring educational equity and excellence for all our children.

Our economic prosperity and the future of our civic vitality depend on it.



RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Ensure that civic vitality is measured as a key indicator of our community's health in the Puget Sound Regional Council's regional DNA report, in The Seattle Foundation's Healthy Community Report, and in all other similar analyses of our community's comprehensive vitality.
2. Create messaging that integrates and recognizes all the ways we can serve our communities including volunteerism, philanthropy, and advocacy.
3. Celebrate our national leadership in citizen engagement. Success breeds success.
4. Learn more about educational disparities and strategic recommendations for their remediation, review The Seattle Foundation's *Healthy Community Report*. issuu.com/seattlefoundation/docs/tsf_healthcom_web?mode=a_p. Support the Foundation's current initiative to bring *Teach for America* to Seattle in 2011. www.seattlefoundation.org/givingcenter/initiatives/Pages/TeachforAmerica.aspx
5. In whatever ways you engage in community, devote resources to supporting equity and excellence in public education.
6. Support experiential learning of civic skills and community service for youth.
7. Encourage philanthropy to increase its investment in civic education, civic capacity building, and leadership development.
8. Advocate for education reform and the urgency of adequate funding for public education and early learning programming.
9. Support community initiatives to remediate inequities and support community service, including the City of Seattle's Race and Social Justice initiative and Mayoral Service Plan.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

VOLUNTEERING

1. Ask everyone to volunteer and renew their volunteer commitments.
2. Adequately support organizational infrastructure for volunteer management and training in nonprofits, government agencies, and businesses.
3. Continue to forge strong partnerships to address systemic needs in the advancement of volunteerism.
4. Support improvements to regional mobility as long average commute times depress the ability of volunteers to serve.
5. Support and connect to our statewide Hands On Network and local community volunteer centers. www.handsonnetwork.org/actioncenters/map/WA
6. Nominate your everyday heroes to receive one of five annual Washington State Jefferson Awards for outstanding community service. Work to ensure diversity of those nominated and selected so that young people can have models that speak to them. www.seattlecityclub.org
7. Promote the strategic business advantages of robust employee community service programs.

NEIGHBORLINESS

1. Support opportunities to enhance “bonding social capital”—connections among people who share common interests or backgrounds—as well as “bridging social capital”—community connections across difference.
2. Support public programs to enrich neighborhoods through community gardens and farmers’ markets, neighborhood councils and block watches, matching grants, pedestrian and bike links, and support for libraries and parks.
3. Continue strong cross-sector support for artists and arts and cultural events, especially those that derive from and promote neighborhoods.
4. Support programming that welcomes and orients newcomers to Seattle, especially young people coming to Seattle as their “first move” city.
5. Support programs that promote immigrant integration and civic participation for our growing percentage of foreign-born residents including consistent translation and interpretation services, English language classes and naturalization/ citizenship programs for legal permanent residents who are eligible.

6. Use new light rail as a way to highlight the personality of neighborhoods and connect them together in a welcoming vibrant region.

7. Encourage media and/or public arts agencies to mount a “share our arts” initiative to highlight arts activities of all scope and kind.

BELONGING TO GROUPS

1. Provide opportunities for lifelong civic learning, service, expression, and action to all community residents.
2. Teach civic skills in K-12 schools and in higher education.
3. Support programs of civic engagement and leadership development conducted by trusted organizations that reach into more difficult-to-serve communities such as foreign-born or other communities of color.
4. Expand service-learning opportunities within a culture that expects and rewards leadership development.
5. Provide civic mentorship for youth and young adults through robust connections to caring role models and community organizations.
6. Grow our region’s leadership development programs, ensuring that they represent the diversity of our populace.
7. Maximize the civic asset available in our region’s veteran population through programs that leverage their commitment and skills for community service.

PHILANTHROPY

1. Support greater Seattle’s continuing role in transforming philanthropic practice through innovative strategies like pooled giving and venture philanthropy.
2. Support United Way campaigns and other community giving programs.
3. Recognize corporations in our region that are committing time, leadership, and money to support community activities.
4. Encourage all businesses in the region to establish social responsibility programs and to engage in corporate giving and employee matching programs.
5. Support volunteerism and advocacy as philanthropic strategies to move communities forward. This is especially critical within communities of color to ensure broad reach and representation.
6. Use The Seattle Foundation’s website as a portal to investigate community needs, organizations, and giving.

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ENDNOTES

INTRODUCTION

¹ With its *Healthy Community* matrix, The Seattle Foundation (www.seattlefoundation.org) monitors seven key elements of community vitality—basic needs, environment, arts and culture, neighborhoods and community, health and wellness, economy, education—and recommends appropriate strategies to improve them. The Puget Sound Regional Council (www.psrc.org) tracks population, housing, economy, and transportation in order to enable cities and towns, ports, tribes, transit agencies, and the state to work together to develop policies and make decisions about regional issues.

² Findings presented in this report are based on analysis of the Census Current Population Survey (CPS) data, conducted by the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE). Any and all errors are our own. Volunteering estimates are from CPS September Volunteering Supplement, 2002 - 2009, and the Volunteering in America website at www.volunteeringinamerica.gov. Voting and registration data come from the CPS November Voting/Registration Supplement, 2004 and 2008, and all other civic engagement indicators, such as access to information and connection to others, come from the 2008 and 2009 CPS Civic Engagement Supplement. For these indicators, the 2008 and 2009 data were combined whenever possible to achieve the largest possible sample size and to minimize error. Estimates for the volunteering indicators (e.g., volunteering, working with neighbors, making donations) are based on U.S. residents ages 16 and older. Estimates for civic engagement and social connection indicators (e.g., exchanging favors with neighbor, keeping up with news, using the Internet to communicate) are based on U.S. residents ages 18 and older. Voting and registration statistics are based on U.S. citizens who are 18 and older (eligible voters). Any time we examined the relationship between educational attainment and engagement, estimates are only based on adults ages 25 and older, based on the assumption that younger people may still be completing their education.

Because we draw from multiple sources of data with varying sample sizes, we are not able to compute one margin of error for the state across all indicators. In Seattle, the sample size for major indicators varied from +/- 1.5% to 3.5%, depending on the sample size and other parameters associated with a specific indicator. Any analysis that breaks down the sample into smaller groups (gender, education) will have smaller samples and therefore the margin of error will increase. It is also important to emphasize that our margin of error estimates are approximate, as CPS sampling is highly complex and accurate estimation of error rates involves many parameters that are not publicly available.

³ We are grateful to all the agencies and individuals who provided data and references. Specific sources are referenced directly in corresponding notes throughout the report.

⁴ NCoC defines "civic engagement" as a broad composite that includes voting, volunteering, working with neighbors to fix problems, political expression, and philanthropy. It also includes measurements of social capital such as participation in groups, private sociability (e.g. relationships with family, friends, and neighbors), and access to information.

⁵ Our report includes Pierce, King, and Snohomish Counties, although the census data provided only represents the three cities of Seattle, Tacoma, and Bellevue. To address the full service area responsibly, we solicited supplementary local data and Steering Committee analysis.

⁶ For more information and opportunities to get involved in *The Next Fifty* anniversary celebration of the Seattle World's Fair, see <http://seattlecenter.org/the-next-fifty/>

⁷ Populations statistics are taken from the Puget Sound Regional Council data. <http://www.psrc.org/data/>

⁸ *American Community Survey Fact Finder*, pooled data, 2006-2008 http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?_lang=en

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¹ <http://www.fastcompany.com/cities/2009>

² National Conference on Citizenship. (2010). *Civic Health Assessment: Executive Summary*. Available online: <http://www.ncoc.net/index.php?tray=content&tid=top5&cid=103k117>

³ Brewster, David. (2010, August 27,) Building a Springboard to the Next Seattle. *Crosscut*. Available online: <http://crosscut.com/2010/08/27/econ-finance/20109/Building-a-springboard-to-the-next-Seattle>

⁴ The Seattle Foundation. (2009). *A Healthy Community: Strategies for Effective Giving*. Available online: http://issuu.com/seattlefoundation/docs/tsf_healthcom_web?mode=a_p

⁵ Shaw, Linda. (2010, February 4). School funding gets an F; Judge calls for action. *The Seattle Times*. Available online: http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2010987058_schoollawsuit05m.html

⁶ Philanthropy for Active Civic Engagement (PACE). (2010). *Civic pathways out of poverty and into opportunity*. (Draft report) Available online: http://www.pacefunders.org/archived_e.html

VOLUNTEERING

- ¹ 2007-2009 ranking from Volunteering in America. <http://www.volunteeringinamerica.gov>
- ² See <http://www.handsonnetwork.org/actioncenters/map/WA>
- ³ Elizabeth Warman, telephone conversation with Diane Douglas. September 2010.

NEIGHBORLISS

- ¹ Putnam, Robert. (2006). *E Pluribus Unum: Diversity and Community in the Twenty-first Century*. The 2006 Johan Skytte Prize Lecture.
- ² OneAmerica. (2009). *Building Washington's Future: Immigrant Contributions to Our State's Economy*. Available online:<http://oneamericanews.files.wordpress.com/2009/03/oneamerica-report-april-09-low.pdf>
- ³ *American Community Survey*, pooled data, 2006-2008 <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>
- ⁴ Brewster, David. (2010, August 27). *Building a springboard to the next Seattle*. Crosscut. Available online: <http://crosscut.com/2010/08/27/econ-finance/20109/Building-a-springboard-to-the-next-Seattle>
- ⁵ Ibid
- ⁶ http://www.seattleparksfoundation.org/project_BandsOfGreen.html

BELONGING TO GROUPS

- ¹ Provided by staff at the Washington Commission for National and Community Service <http://www.ofm.wa.gov/servewa/>
- ² The Center for information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement. *Civic Skills and Federal Policy*. Available online: www.civicyouth.org
- ³ House Bill 2579, Washington State Legislature
- ⁴ CIRCLE (The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement). (April 2010). *Civic Skills and Federal Policy*. Available online: <http://www.civicyouth.org/federal-policy-and-civic-skills/>
- ⁵ Ibid

PHILANTHROPY

- ¹ Philanthropy Northwest. (2010). *Trends in Northwest Giving*. Available online: http://www.philanthropynw.org/s_pnw/sec.asp?CID=8175&DID=18608

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- ² *American Community Survey*, pooled data, 2006-2008 Available online: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

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CONCLUSION

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Since 2006, NCoC has produced *America's Civic Health Index*, the nation's leading measure of citizen actions and attitudes. In April 2009, NCoC was included in the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act. To help our communities harness the power of their citizens, the Corporation for National and Community Service and the U.S. Census Bureau were directed to work with NCoC to expand the reach and impact of these metrics through an annual Civic Health Assessment.

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