

Civics for Adults Update, March 21, 2021

Upcoming Workshops [Civic/political info below workshops]

*Need to check a registration info? See www.civictinker.info/schedule

Misinformation, Fake News and Political Propaganda

Are you overwhelmed with messages from politicians, news sources and other media? Distinguish truth from fiction using real-world examples. *"Loved it...well-rounded, wide array of examples!"*

Mon. March 22. 4-5:30. Sponsored by Oregon City Public Library. Registration open to all: <https://orc-city-library.libcal.com/calendar/events/misinformation>

Citizen Activism 101 — Making Change Happen

Learn about types of advocacy and strategies for change. Brief historical perspective; Examples of successful advocacy—local-national; Choosing your battles; Who makes the rules? Getting heard; tools for change; "Tracking" state and federal legislation. "Excellent. Thanks!"

Mon. April 5. 4-5:30. Sponsored by Oregon City Public Library. Register: <https://orc-city-library.libcal.com/calendar/events/citizenactivism>

New Workshop! This special workshop will be available for a limited time.

Voting Rights, Voter Fraud, Voter Suppression and Election 2020

This workshop focuses on voting rights, voter suppression and then traces the events of Election 2020 up to Jan 6. It's a powerful presentation which includes a great deal of data and commentary from bipartisan sources.

Weds. April 7 6:30-8:00 Register: <https://www.ci.oswego.or.us/library/online-voting-rights-voter-fraud-voter-suppression-and-election-2020?date=0>

The Constitution: Fulfilling Democracy's Promise? Democracy, the Constitution and Representation in Congress.

We'll look at the Constitution's creation, trace major changes to its interpretation, and examine its structural limitations. "The workshop was very good. Donna's presentation was flawless, and informative."

Thurs. May 27. 7-8:30. Sponsored by Silver Falls Library.
Registration TBA.

Oregon Library Association!

Donna will be presenting two workshops at the Oregon Library Association virtual conference in April.

April 20: "Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion" – How Libraries Can Support EDI Beyond the Institution"

April 23 "A Natural Alliance Youth Librarians, Schools and Teaching Critical Thinking" [aka dealing with Misinformation].

See the OLA program descriptions for more details. <https://oregonlibconference.org/2021/program/>

Want to see more? Ask your local library or community group to sponsor a workshop! Thanks.

Flyer describing workshops: https://static.s123-cdn.com/uploads/2516289/normal_5fe8c854352d5.pdf

Donna was interviewed on **OPB's Think Out Loud** in October! <https://www.opb.org/article/2020/10/30/civics-educator-aims-to-enhance-knowledge-and-engagement-in-political-process/>

Facebook posts:

The Conspiracy Theory Handbook. Some good info here. From the same folks that brought you The Debunking Handbook!

[ConspiracyTheoryHandbook.pdf \(climatechangecommunication.org\)](https://www.conspiracytheoryhandbook.org/)

This is a short **report from the Intelligence community on the heightened concern with domestic terrorists.** "The IC assesses that racially or ethnically motivated violent extremists (RMVEs) and militia violent extremists (MVEs) present the most lethal DVE threats, with RMVEs most likely to conduct mass-casualty attacks against civilians and MVEs typically targeting law enforcement and government personnel and facilities." and "The IC assesses that US RMVEs who promote the superiority of the white race are the DVE actors with the most persistent and concerning transnational connections because individuals with similar ideological beliefs exist outside of the United States and these RMVEs frequently communicate with and seek to influence each other"

[UnclassSummaryofDVEAssessment-17MAR21.pdf \(dni.gov\)](#)

In a workshop recently, we focused on **what metrics are and aren't working to measure how our country is doing**. Here is Treasury Secretary Yellen in a recent article [NYT 2/23] saying one of the things I pointed out in regard to our unemployment stats:

"Really, though, if you count in addition to the almost 10 million who are registered as unemployed, if you add in the 4 million who have dropped out of the labor force — for health reasons, because they have child care responsibilities — and 2 million people who have reduced hours or pay, we're looking at an unemployment rate that really is close to 10%."

Point is, what we usually hear as the unemployment rate [U-3] is not a very accurate gauge. The U-6 rate, which includes those who are working part-time even though they need full-time work, and those who have dropped out of the workforce for various reasons [many right now who are home caring for kids] is a more accurate measure. But, it is NOT what is typically reported in the news or mentioned by politicians.

This is the **declassified National Intelligence report** that was published 3/15/2021. If you only read the Key takeaways [page 4] you will have learned a lot about how the Russians approached the 2020 election.

<https://www.dni.gov/files/ODNI/documents/assessments/ICA-declass-16MAR21.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3v03Ti-oTulSFgYX9yTUxyonZrm4bq0A31D1Tba6RdWsTiSTGoJyUOOBq>

Ever wondered how to **rate countries on a democracy scale**? Of course you have! Here is **the Democracy Index** report from the Economist Intelligence Unit. Democracy Index 2020. Economist Intelligence Unit.

<https://www.eiu.com/n/campaigns/democracy-index-2020/>

Quibble with specific pieces of the Act, if you will. Overall, this will bring about much needed improvements to our democracy. **Why Congress Must Pass the 'For the People Act** From the Brennan Center for Justice

https://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/2021_01_Case%20for%20HR1_update_V4.pdf

SB 1593 in the Arizona Senate would disallow a ballot postmarked after the Thursday before election day even if the ballot arrived before close of election day. [You read that right!]

"IF THE ELECTOR MAILES THE VOTED BALLOT AND AFFIDAVIT TO THE COUNTY RECORDER OR OTHER OFFICER IN CHARGE OF ELECTIONS, THE BALLOT IS VALID ONLY IF IT IS POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE THE THURSDAY BEFORE ELECTION DAY AND RECEIVED NOT LATER THAN 7:00 P.M. ON ELECTION DAY."

[SB1593 | Arizona 2021 | early voting; time limits; envelope | TrackBill](#)

More at <https://www.facebook.com/Civics-for-Adults-1490728887922036>

Donna