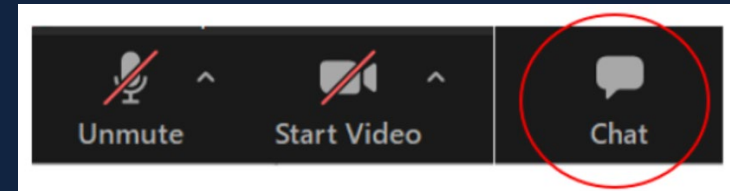


# Virtual Meeting Tips & Best Practices

## Rules of Engagement



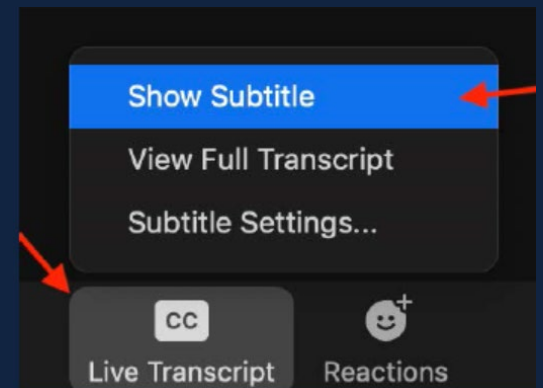
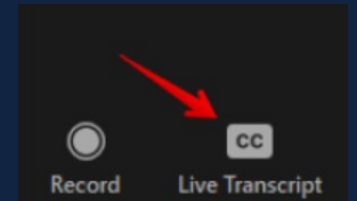
Participant microphones are automatically muted, and cameras disabled upon entry to limit background noise, unintentional feedback, or interference with the Webinar.

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# What is Civic Engagement? Exploring New Paradigms

March 15, 2023

# Welcome & Introductions

Andrea Robles, PhD

Research and Evaluation Manager, AmeriCorps





# To support AmeriCorps' mission, the Office of Research and Evaluation (ORE):



**Identifies  
national service  
and  
volunteering  
trends**



**Conducts  
research and  
builds scholarship  
on civic  
engagement**



**Measures  
national service  
impact**



**Promotes  
evidence-  
based models  
and program  
expansion**

**Knowledge and evidence can be used to improve the service  
experience, and strengthen organizations and communities**

# Identifies national service and volunteering trends

National level  
civic engagement  
and volunteering

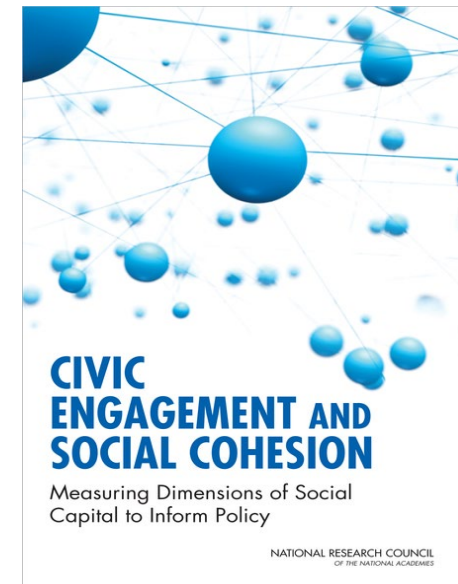
United States®  
**Census**  
Bureau

In 2002,  
AmeriCorps  
sponsors a  
volunteering  
supplement in the  
Current Population  
Survey

Is 26% a magic  
number in the US?

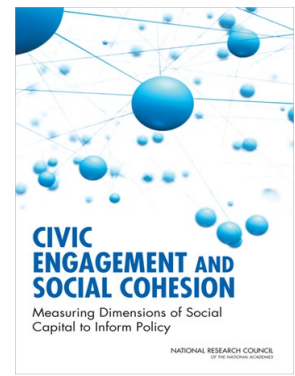


National  
Academies of  
Science (NAS)





# To improve the understanding of civic engagement, social cohesion and social capital



NAS Recommended different measurement approaches:

Tap into more complex relationships among the topics

Conduct more research of these topics at the subnational or local levels

Use experimental, in-depth and longitudinal studies

To address these recommendations, ORE launched:

Research Grant competition with universities

Local level research: with Participatory Research approaches



# Today's speakers:

- **Laura Hanson Schlachter**, PhD, research analyst, AmeriCorps
- **Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg**, PhD, Newhouse director, Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE), Tisch College of Civic Life, Tufts University
- **Penn Loh**, director of the Master of Public Policy Program and Community Practice, Tufts University

Laura Hanson Schlachter, PhD

Research Analyst, AmeriCorps





**What's the first thing that  
comes to mind when  
you think about civic  
engagement?**

# How does the AmeriCorps Office of Research and Evaluation define civic engagement?

***The constellation of activities individuals engage in to make a difference in their communities.***

Civic engagement includes participation within and beyond electoral politics at all geographic levels. Volunteerism is a prominent example of civic engagement, but it also includes activities like attending public meetings, belonging to organizations, and neighbors doing favors for each other.

# Key constructs in the 2021 CPS Civic Engagement and Volunteering Supplement (CEV)

## Organizational engagement

Formal volunteering  
Organizational membership  
Charitable giving

## Local collective action

Attending public meetings  
Taking action with neighbors

## Economic engagement

Pursuing civic goals via the workplace  
Values-based buying or boycotting

## Informal helping and conversation

Exchanging favors with neighbors  
Talking with family, friends, neighbors

## Engaging with issues

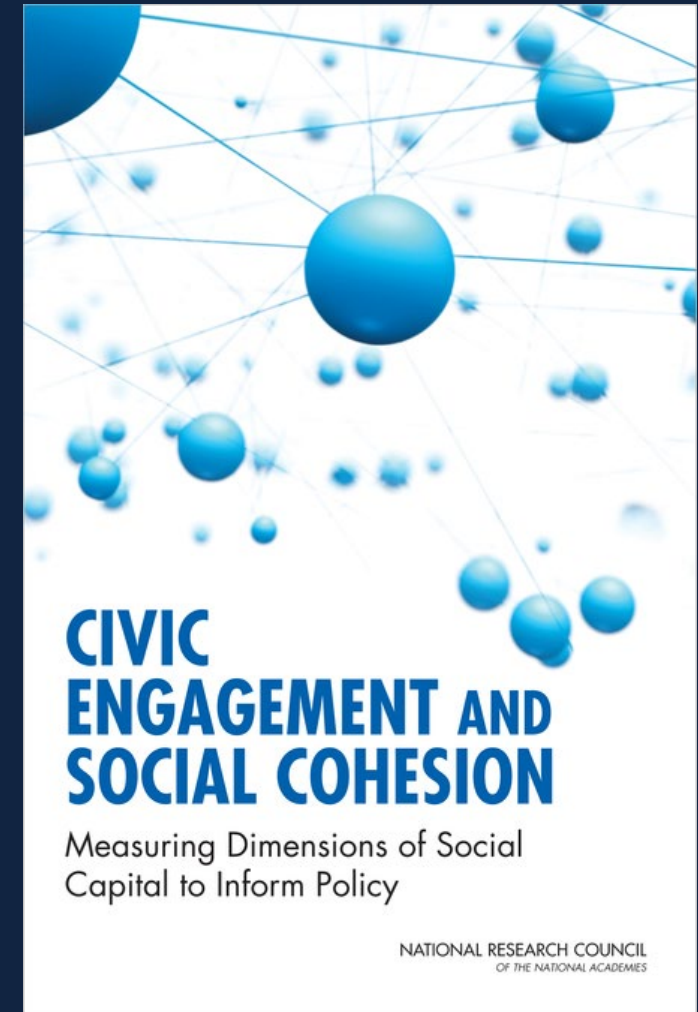
Learning about issues  
Discussing issues with family, friends, neighbors, and online

## Political engagement

Voting in local elections  
Contacting public officials  
Political donations

# The CPS Civic Engagement and Volunteering Supplement

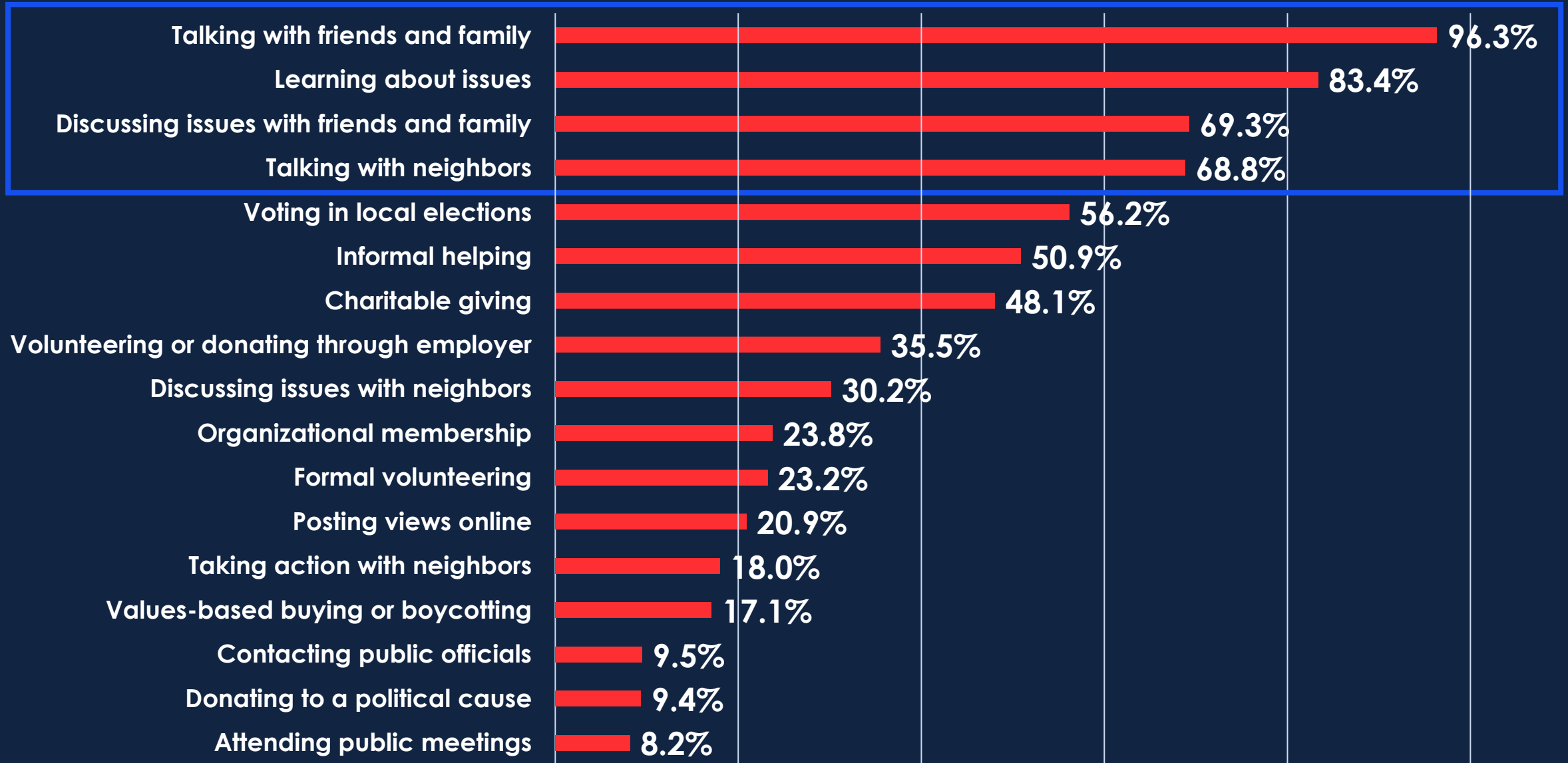
- **2002-2015** CPS Volunteering Supplement fielded annually
- **2008-2013** CPS Civic Engagement Supplement fielded annually\*
- **2014** National Academies of Science report recommends merging these surveys
- **2017** Launch of biennial CPS Civic Engagement and Volunteering (CEV) Supplement



# Insights from the 2021 CEV

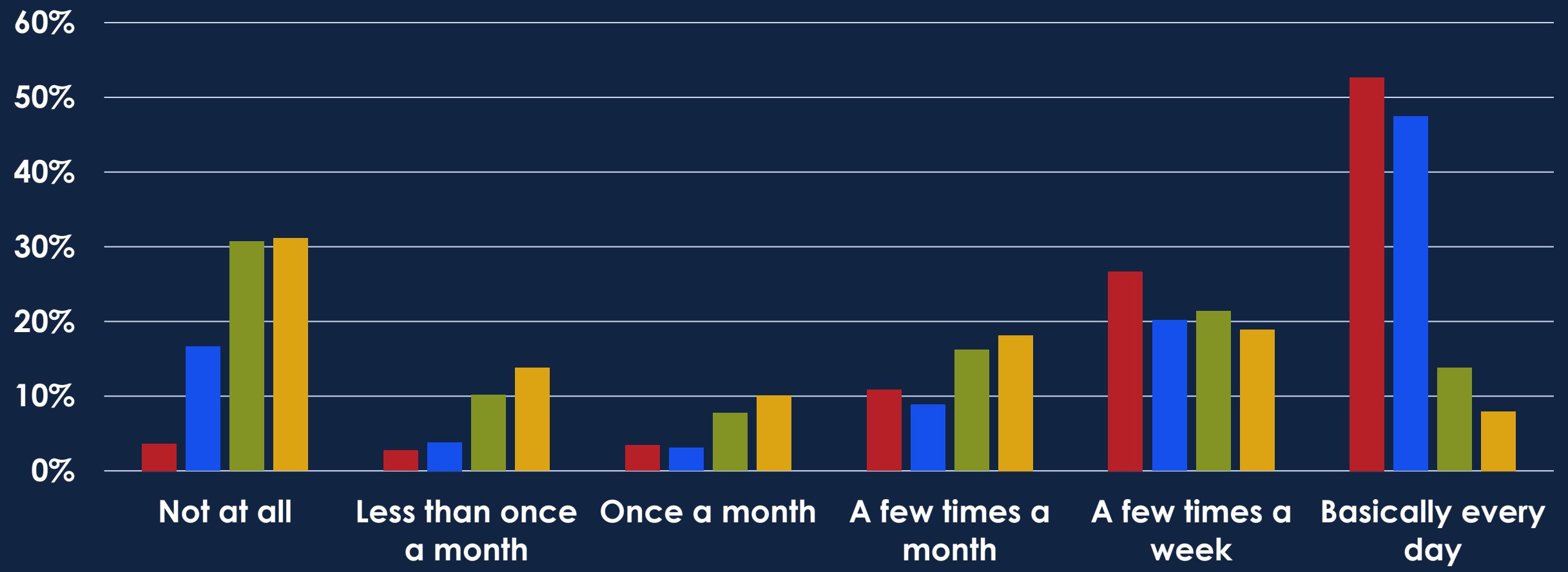
- What types of civic engagement are most prevalent?
- How did civic engagement change during the pandemic?
- How does civic engagement vary depending on where people live and who they are?

# National Rates of Civic Engagement Behaviors, 2021

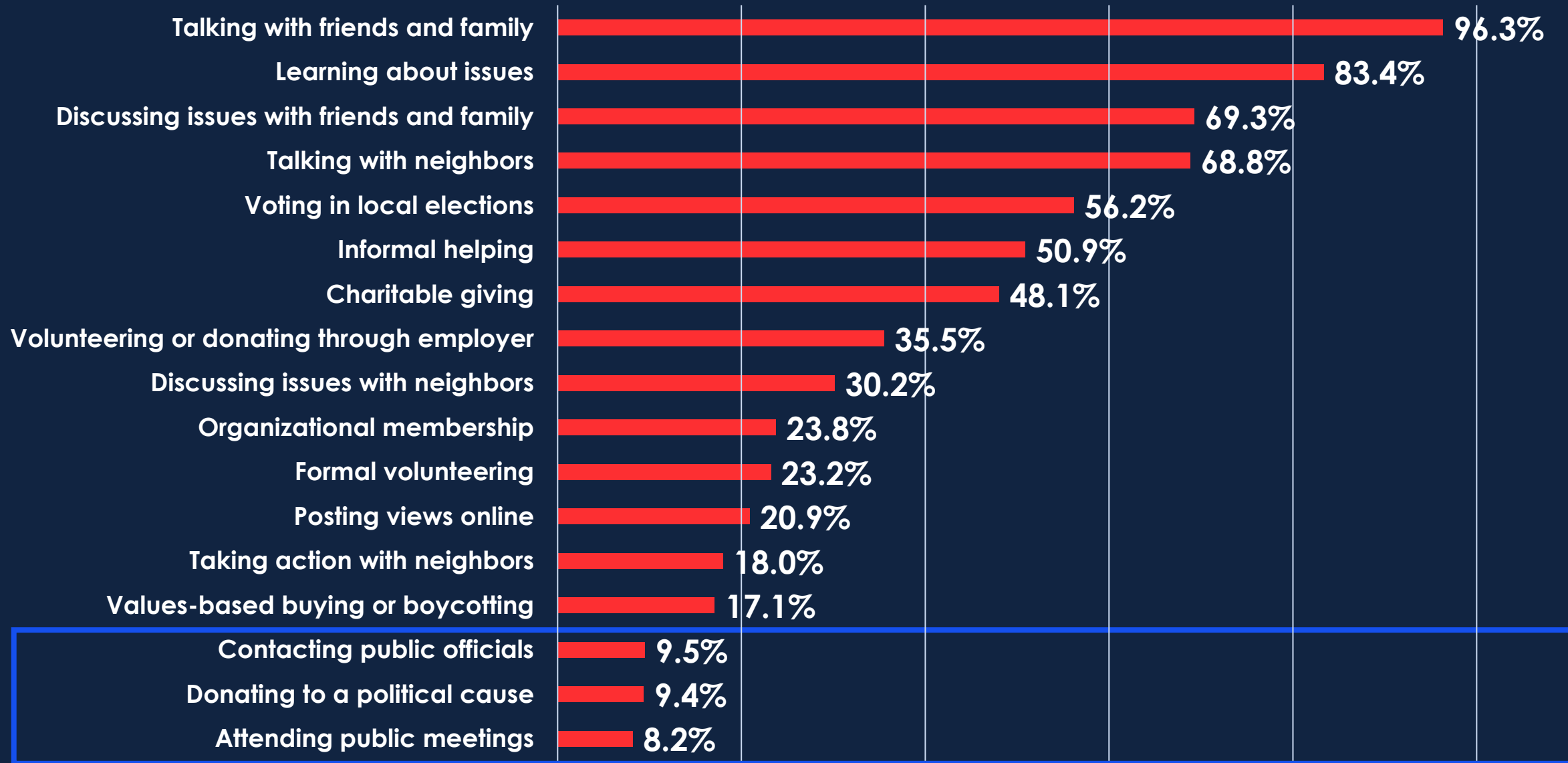


# Frequency of Most Prevalent Civic Behaviors Nationally, 2021

- Talking with friends and family
- Learning about issues
- Discussing issues with friends and family
- Talking with neighbors



# National Rates of Civic Engagement Behaviors, 2021





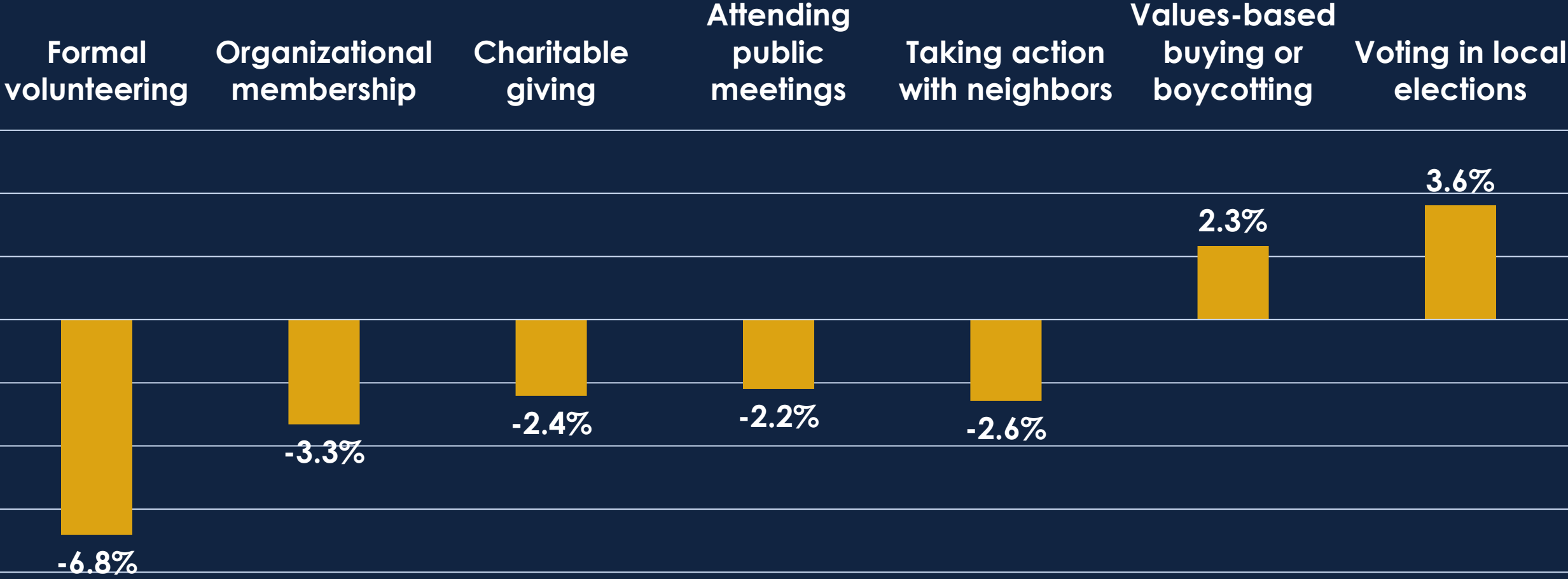
How did civic engagement change during the COVID-19 pandemic?



# Civic engagement behaviors with no substantial national rate change, 2019-2021



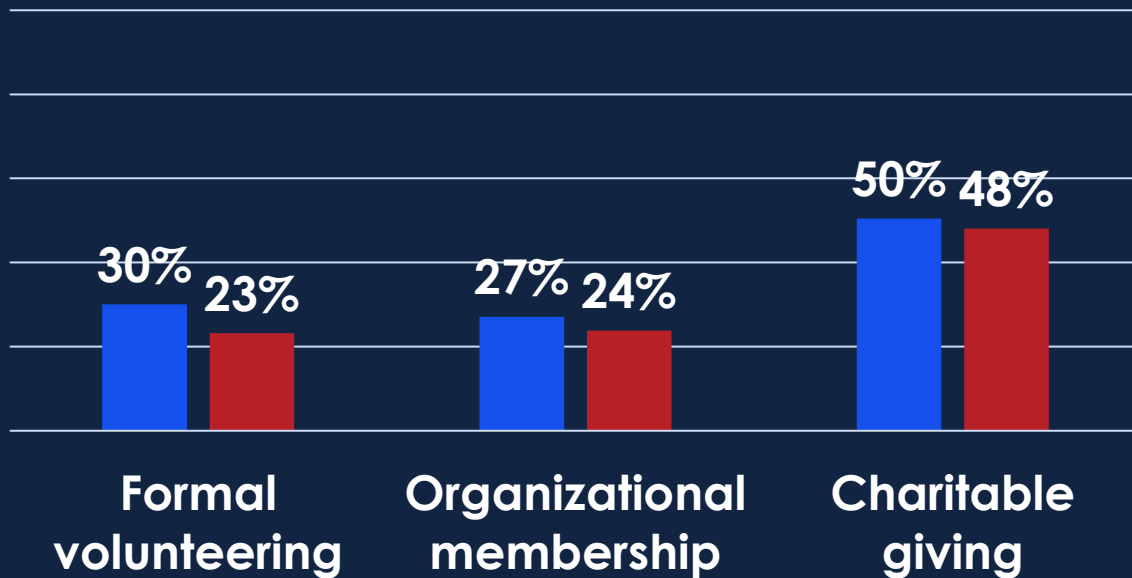
# Civic Engagement Behaviors with Substantial National Rate Change, 2019-2021



# Substantial declines in organizational engagement and local collective action rates during the pandemic

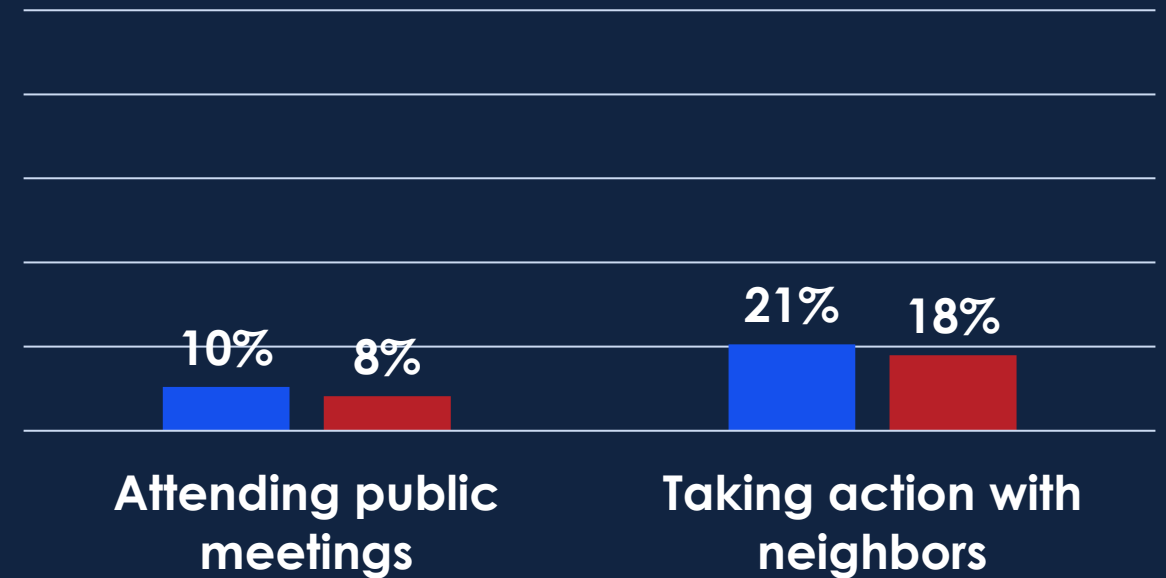
## National Rates of Organizational Engagement

■ 2019 ■ 2021



## National Rates of Local Collective Action

■ 2019 ■ 2021



# Relative stability in other forms of civic engagement



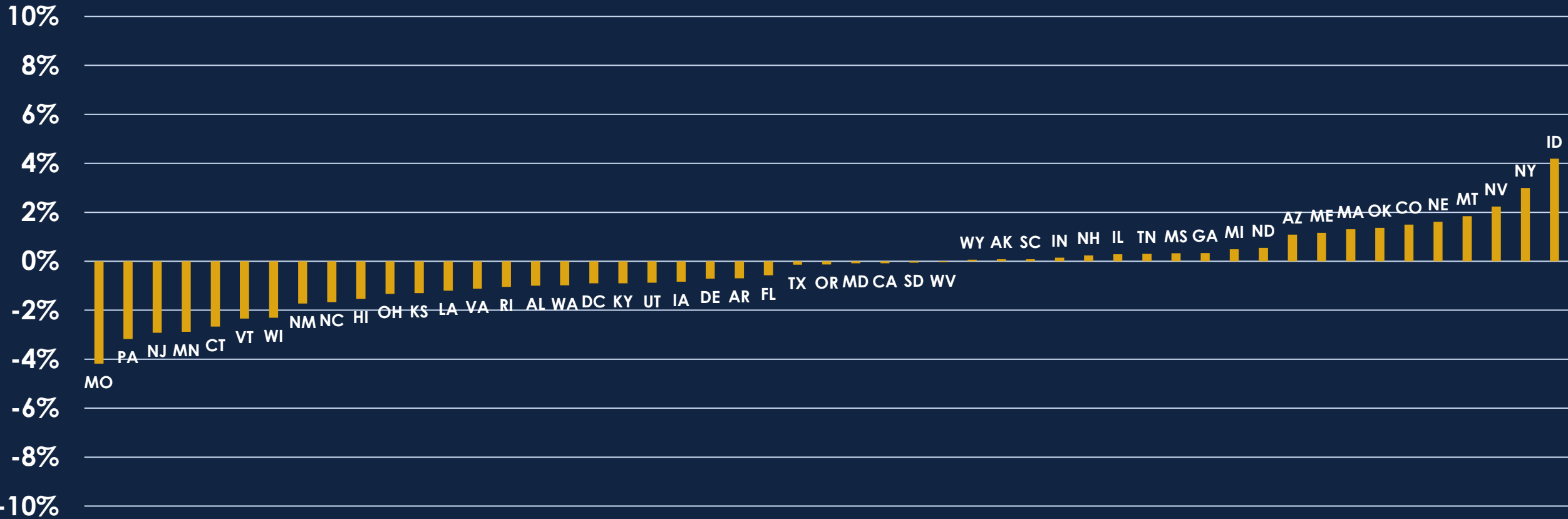


How does civic engagement vary depending on where people live and who they are?



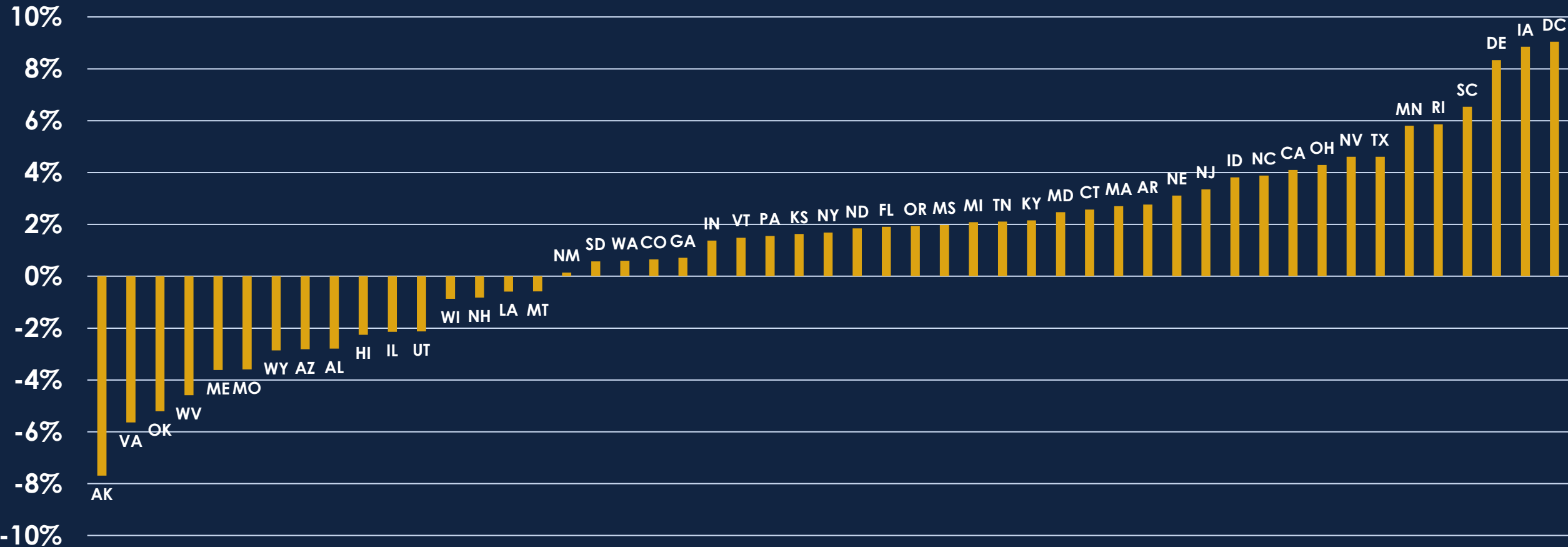
# Relative stability at both national and state level

## Change in State-Level Rate of Contacting Public Officials, 2019-2021



# Substantial state-level change despite national stability

## Change in State-Level Rate of Posting Views Online, 2019-2021



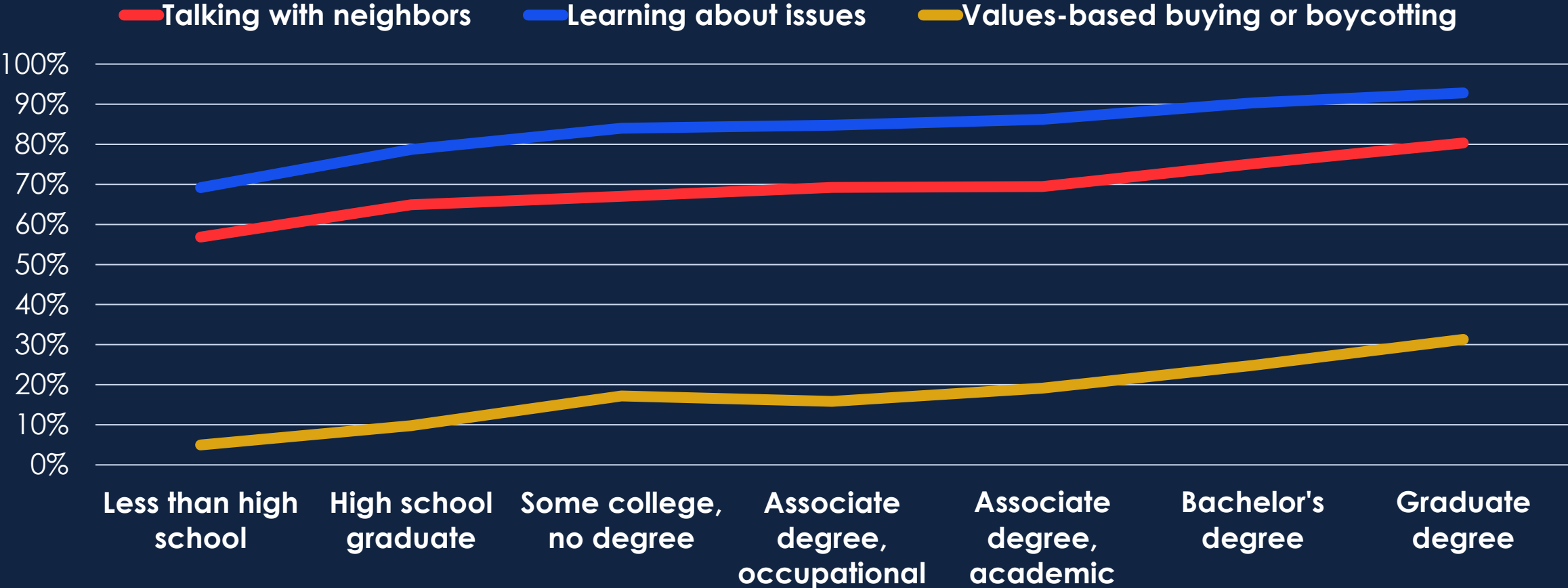


# Educational attainment



# Consistent relationship between education and civic engagement

## Select National 2021 Civic Engagement Rates by Education



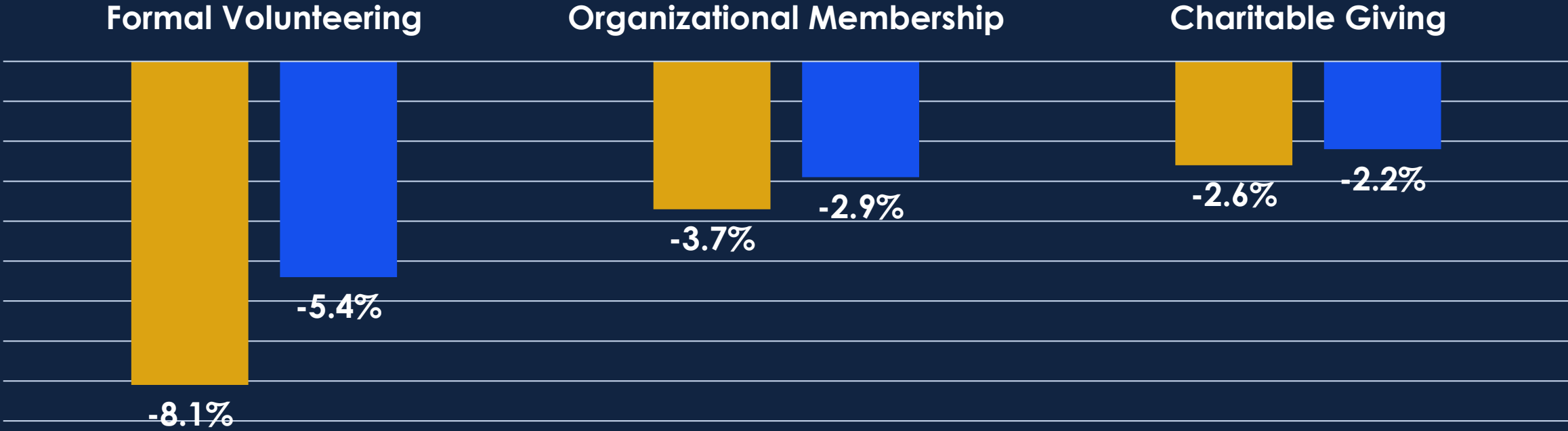
# Gender



# Relatively larger decline in volunteering among women

## Change in Organizational Engagement Rates by Gender, 2019 to 2021

Female Male



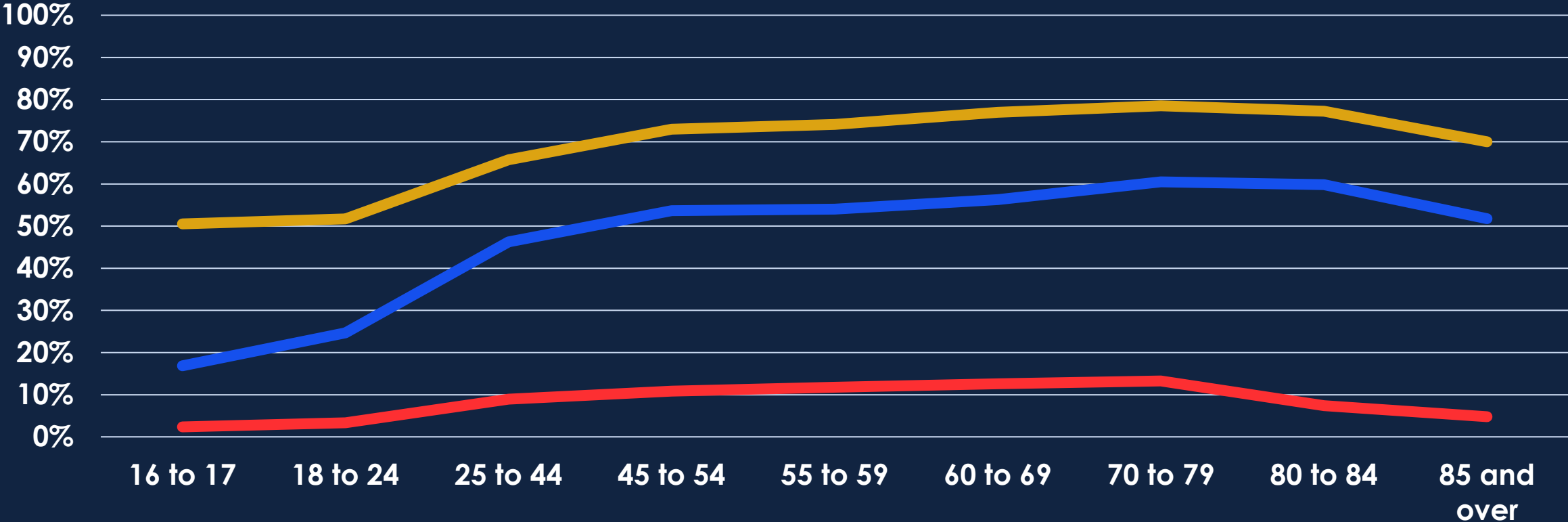
# Age and generation



# Consistent relationship between age and civic engagement

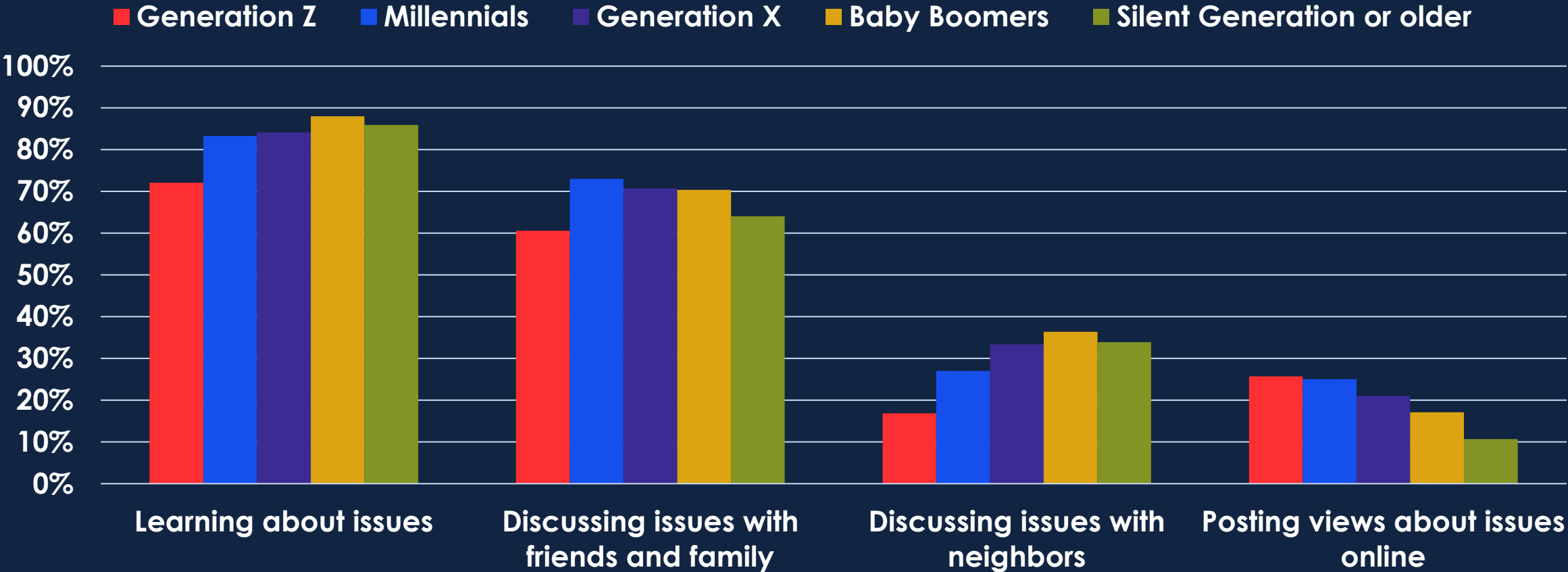
## Select National 2021 Civic Engagement Rates by Age

— Contacting public officials    — Charitable giving    — Talking with neighbors



# One exception to generational trends: posting views online

## National Engaging with Issues Rates by Generation, 2021



**Civic engagement  
takes many forms.**



**THANK YOU**

**For questions about the CEV, please contact  
[AmeriCorpsCEV@cns.gov](mailto:AmeriCorpsCEV@cns.gov)**



# Youth Civic and Political Engagement

Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg, Ph.D.  
Newhouse director of CIRCLE

AmeriCorps webinar  
March 15, 2023



Jonathan M. Tisch  
College of Civic Life

# Sharing + Discussing Online and Broader Engagement

## Key constructs in the 2021 CPS Civic Engagement and Volunteering Supplement (CEV)

### Organizational engagement

Formal volunteering  
Organizational membership  
Charitable giving

### Local collective action

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Talking with family, friends, neighbors

### Engaging with issues

Learning about issues  
Discussing issues with family, friends, neighbors, and online

### Political engagement

Voting in local elections  
Contacting public officials  
Political donations

# Youth Share Views Online in Various Ways

## In 2020, Nearly Half of Teens Were Engaging in At Least One Form of Media Creation/Sharing

The percentage of teens (ages 14-17) who said they had done each of the following in the previous 30 days.

Created an image, GIF, or video to bring awareness to a social or political issue

27%

Submitted writing, photos, or videos they created about politics or social issues to a website, media outlet, or other's social media account

29%

Shared an experience through the media or social media to bring awareness to a social or political issue

34%

At least one of the three

45%

All three

15%

 **CIRCLE** Tufts University Tisch College · CIRCLE

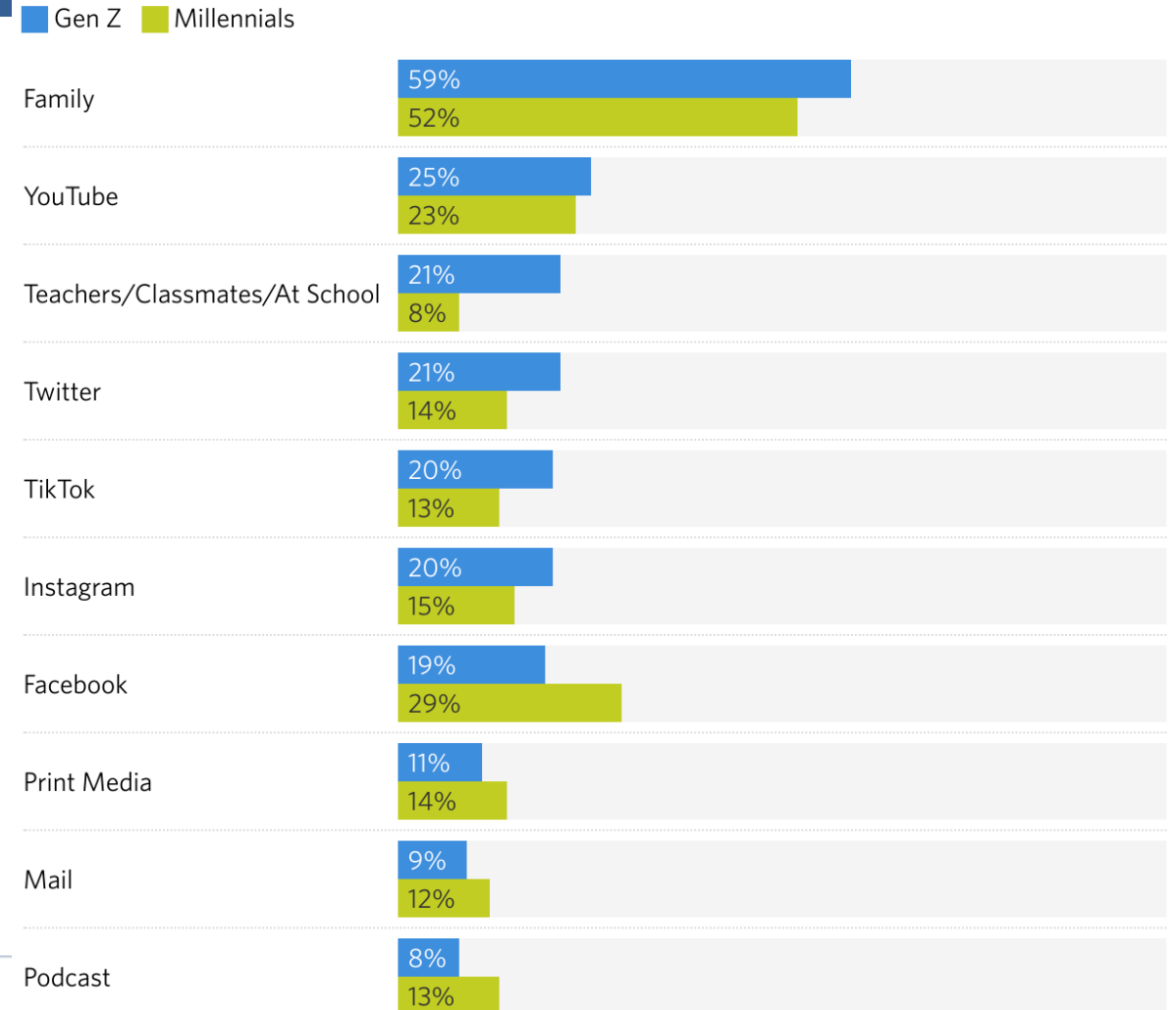
Source: CIRCLE/Tisch College 2020 Teen Survey

# How Youth Stay Informed

- **Overall: younger people use far less “legacy” media**
  - Low levels of trust in media and institutions (Knight Foundation, 2023; CIRCLE, 2023)
- **GenZs (compared to Millennials)**
  - Show heavier reliance on family, friends, and school
  - Information from social media – messenger matters (family, teachers, classmates)
  - Only 11% go directly to print media and 8% to podcasts

## Where Youth Saw Information about Issues and Politics in 2022

The percentage of respondents from each generation who said they saw information about political issues in 2022 from each source.

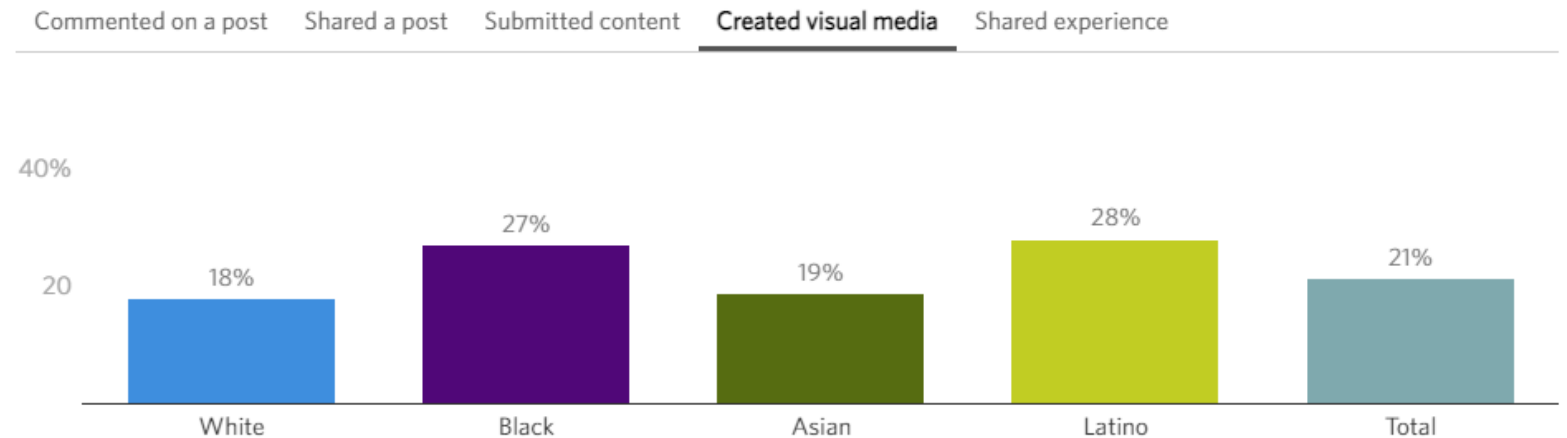


# Social Media Creation and Interaction Drive Action

- Engaged young people play an active role as information mediators, helping peers sort through and talk about complex and often confusing news and information.
- Research shows “talking about issues,” not just getting information, drives youth
- Visual (social) media creation has the potential to narrow racial disparities in engagement

## Black and Latino Youth Created Online Content More than their white and Asian Peers

The percentage of young people in each racial/ethnic group who responded that they had commented on a post or shared a post about political issues or the election in the previous week, and the percentage of youth that had submitted content, created visual media, or shared their experience online often or fairly often in the previous 30 days.



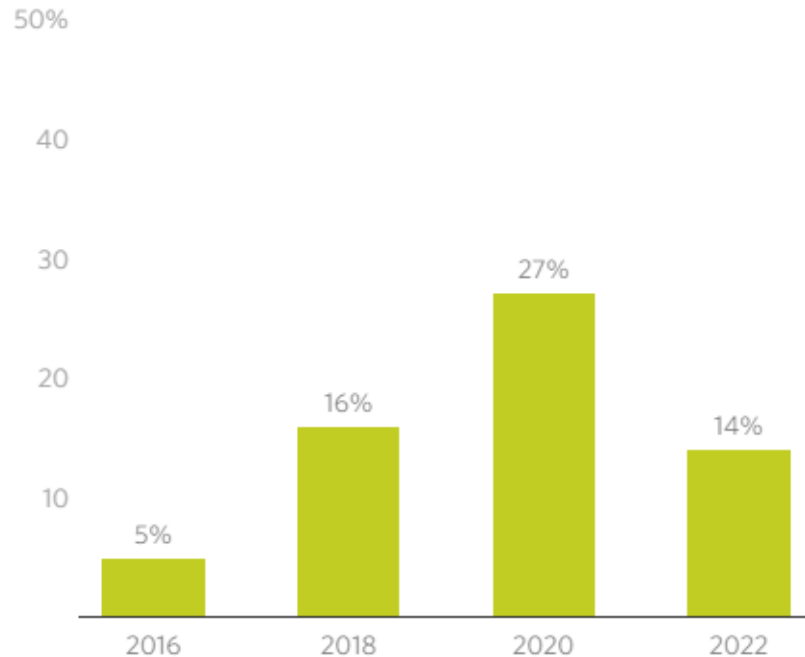
# How Youth Engage Today

Broad and Creative Forms of Expression and Participation

# Youth Movements → Paths to Many Forms of Engagement

## Youth Marching and Protesting Has Been Rising

The percentage of young people, ages 18-24, who said they had attended a march or demonstration



CIRCLE Tufts University Tisch College - CIRCLE

Source: CIRCLE/Tisch College Youth Polls



**YOUTH INVOLVED IN A SOCIAL MOVEMENT WERE...**

+21 points  
More likely to  
say they voted

+22 points  
More likely to try to  
convince friends and  
family to vote



# COVID-19 Pandemic and Helping “Internet Strangers”

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, young people still helped others, even people they didn’t know
- High % also say they’d engage in civic activities if they have the opportunity

## Young People Have Helped their Communities by Taking a Variety of Pandemic-Related Civic Actions

The percentage of young people, ages 18-29, who:

■ Have done the action ■ Would do it if given the opportunity

Maintained physical distance



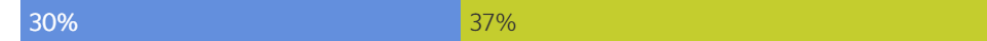
Worn a mask in public areas



Fact-checked information about COVID-19



Made masks to protect others



Bought something or delivered food for family or neighbors



Translated health materials for family or neighbors



Worked as a poll worker

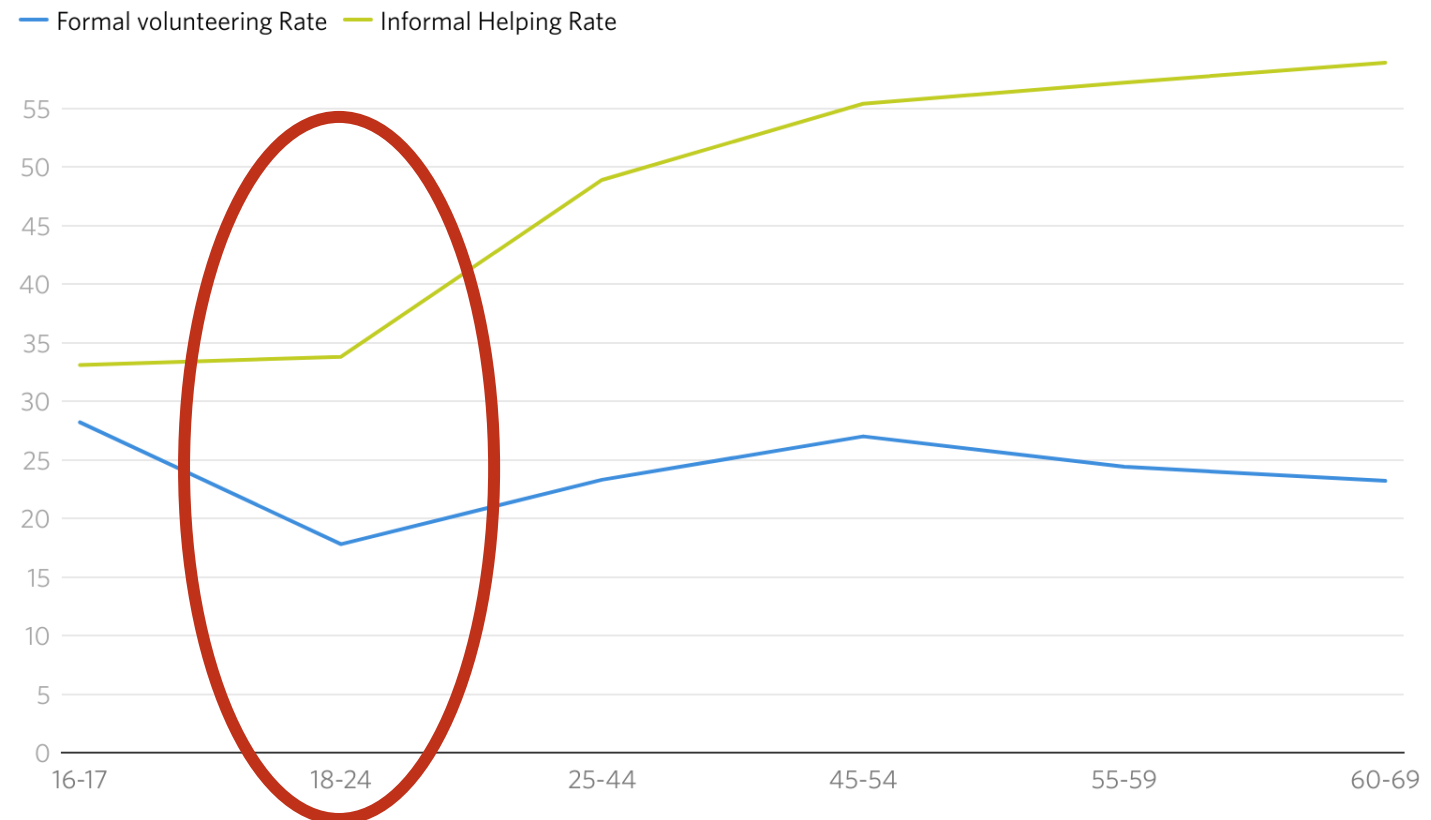


# Young Adults Need More Support to be Invited to Serve

- **Young adult volunteering rates have been consistently low, potentially due to...**
  - lack of institution-supported formal opportunities
  - Lack of awareness about the need and how to engage with organizations
  - Life transitions and mobility
  - Low trust in institutions

## Volunteering and Informal Helping Rate (AmeriCorps, 2023)

Formal and informal volunteering rate in the United States, by age. Based on 2021 Census/AmeriCorps data.



Graph created from AmeriCorps (2023) Volunteering and Civic Life in America Research Summary

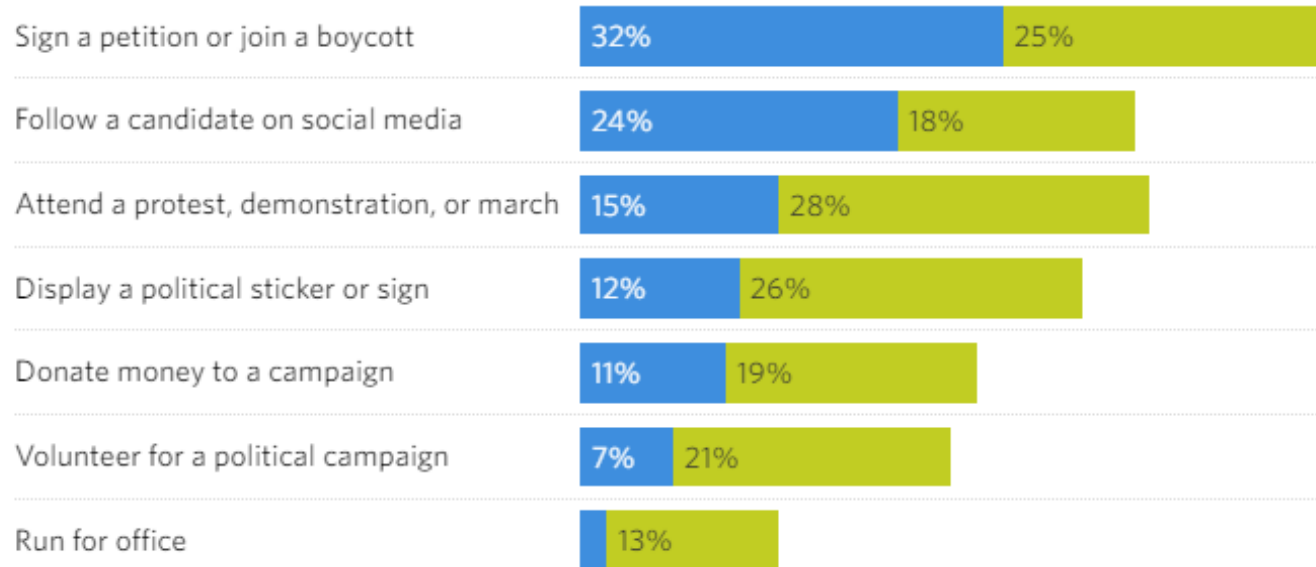
CIRCLE Tufts University Tisch College · CIRCLE

# Youth Are Interested; Need to See Opportunities

## Some Youth Are Taking Political Action; More Would Do So If Given the Opportunity

For each form of political participation, the percentage of young people, ages 18-29, who said they:

■ Have done it ■ Plan to or would do it



**CIRCLE** Tufts University Tisch College · CIRCLE

Source: CIRCLE 2022 Post-Election Survey

# Young people Are Motivated to Participate and Lead

- A vast majority believe in their collective power as a generation
- Political involvement is a major pathway to civic efficacy
- Low-income youth, politically unaffiliated youth and youth with less formal education are more likely to be disengaged across indicators

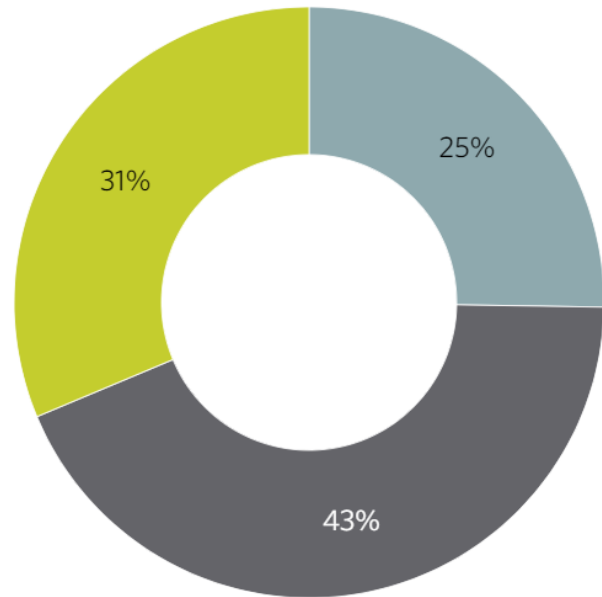
**84%**

of youth (ages 18-29) believe that their generation has the power to change things in the country.

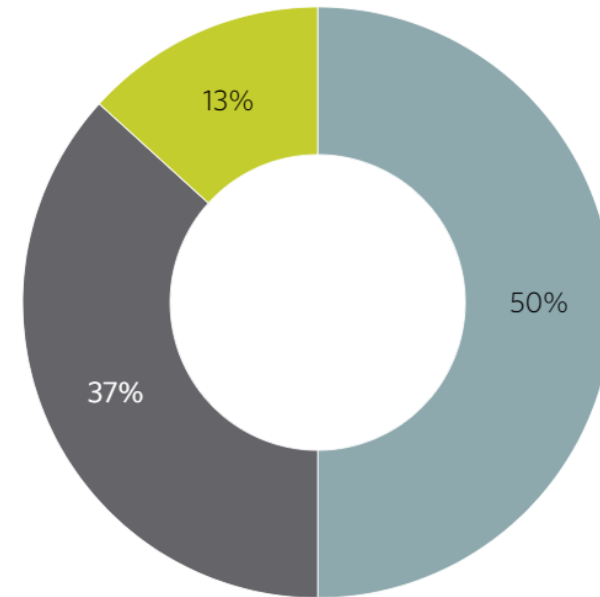
# Young People See Both Challenges and Hopes for Democracy

## Perception vs. Hope: Youth Not Confident about Democracy Now, but Believe in Its Potential

The percentage of youth, ages 18-29, who said they agree, disagree, or neither agree nor disagree with each statement about democracy.



I feel confident about democracy in the U.S.



Democracy is capable of creating change

**CIRCLE** Tufts University Tisch College · CIRCLE

Source: CIRCLE 2022 Post-Election Survey

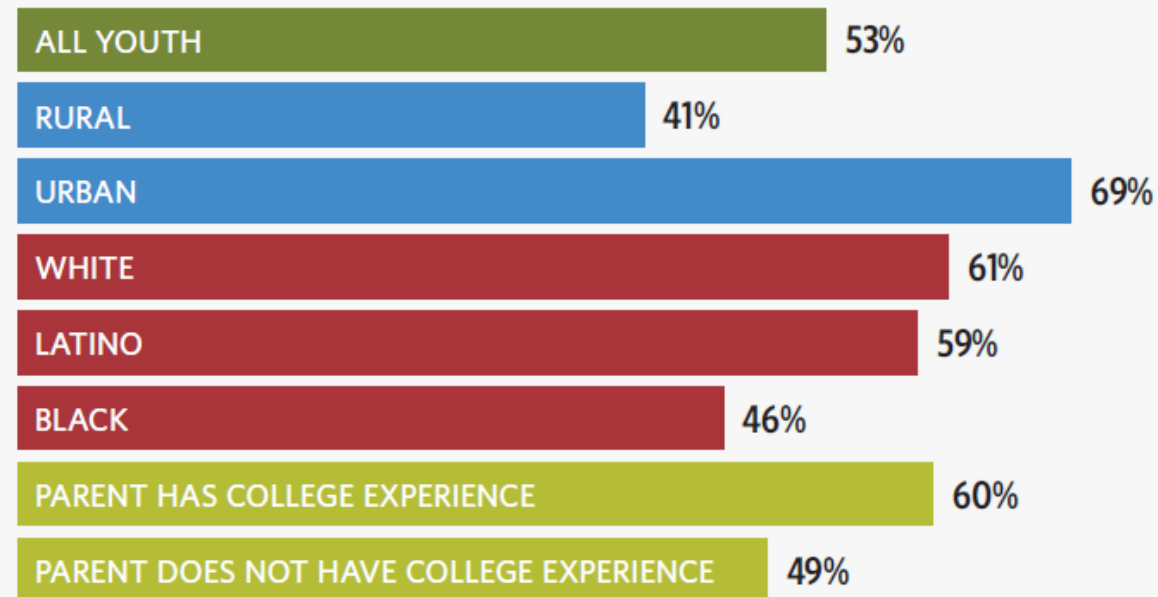
# What Might Help Build Civic Readiness?

Effective, Equitable, and Comprehensive Civic Learning

# Capacity to Consume and Share Information Responsibly

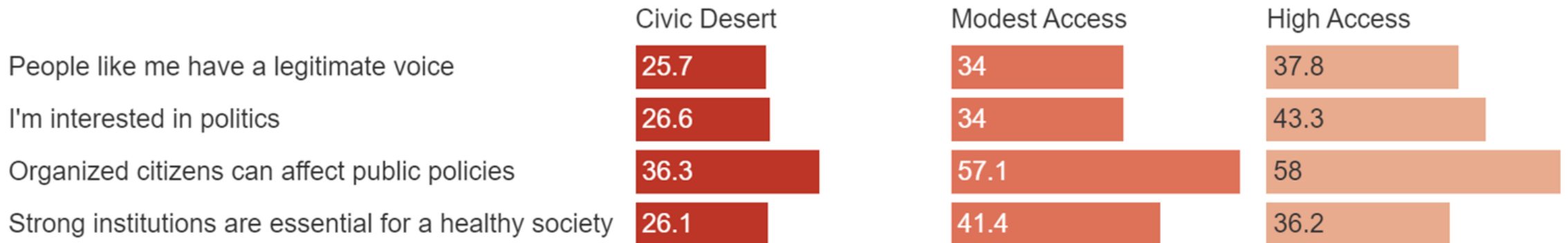
**FIGURE 5: MEDIA LITERACY**

Rural teens, Black teens, and those whose parents haven't had college experience are less likely to learn about media literacy or how to analyze and evaluate news and media



# Lack of Connections to Civic Life = Disaffection

Do you agree with this statement?



*Civic desert = 0 resources, Modest access = 1-3 resources, High access = 4-5 resources*  
*The Conversation, CC-BY-ND*

Source: [Tisch College/CIRCLE Millennial Election Poll](#) [Get the data](#)

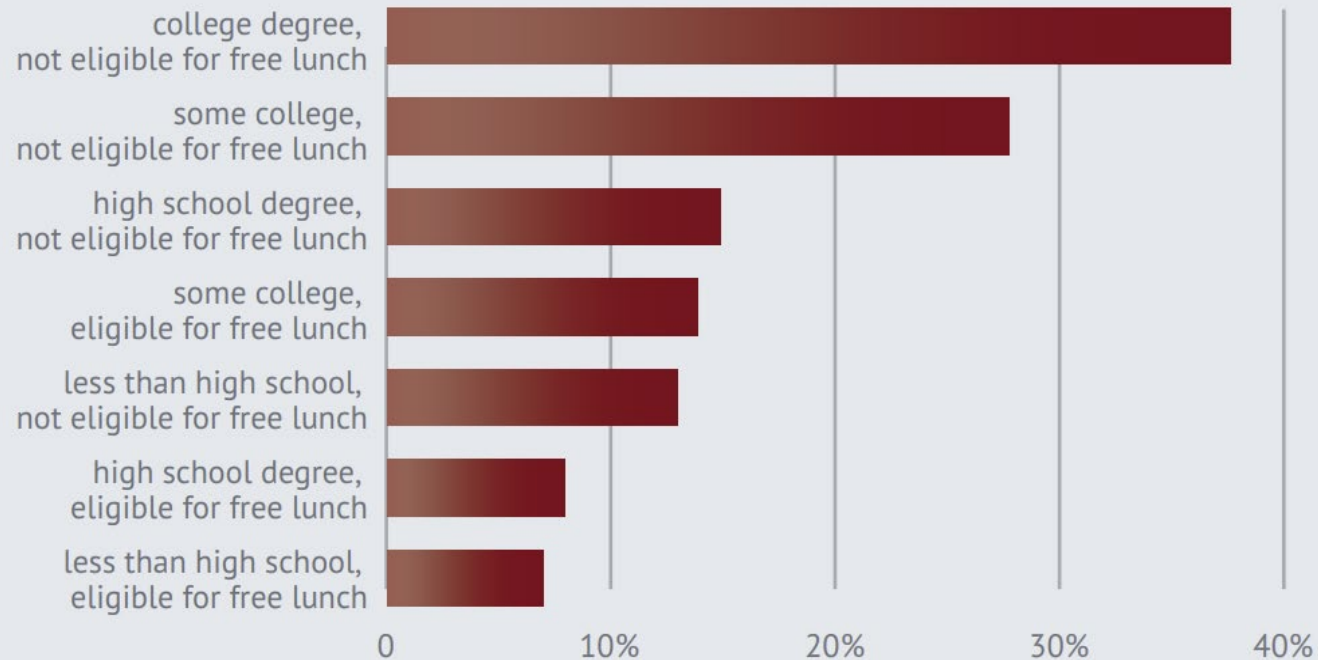


# Fundamental Knowledge about Political and Civic Institutions

## NAEP Civics Performance by Parents' Education and Income

FIGURE 3

Percentage of 8th graders scoring proficient in 2014



Foundational civic knowledge empowers young people to take steps to improve communities by connecting with institutions and stakeholders.  
**Large disparities persist.**

# K-12 Schools Can Help Support Civic Learning and Engagement



## *Opportunities*

- Civic learning in adolescence predicts later civic engagement
- Experiential civic learning across disciplines enhances content learning
- Extracurricular student associations build civic skills and habits
- Increase in federal funding support for civics and field-wide initiatives for better quality

## *Threats and Challenges*

- Legislative actions against experiential learning
- Legislative actions that can reduce opportunities for critical thinking
- Lack of understanding and support among the general public and the “chilling effect” on teaching

# Thank you!



**Kei Kawashima-  
Ginsberg**

Newhouse Director  
CIRCLE at Tufts University

## Contact Me + CIRCLE

**Email:**

[circle@tufts.edu](mailto:circle@tufts.edu)

**Website:**

<https://circle.tufts.edu>

**Social Media:**

[@civicyouth](#)

# Penn Loh

Director of the Master of Public Policy Program and  
Community Practice, Tufts University



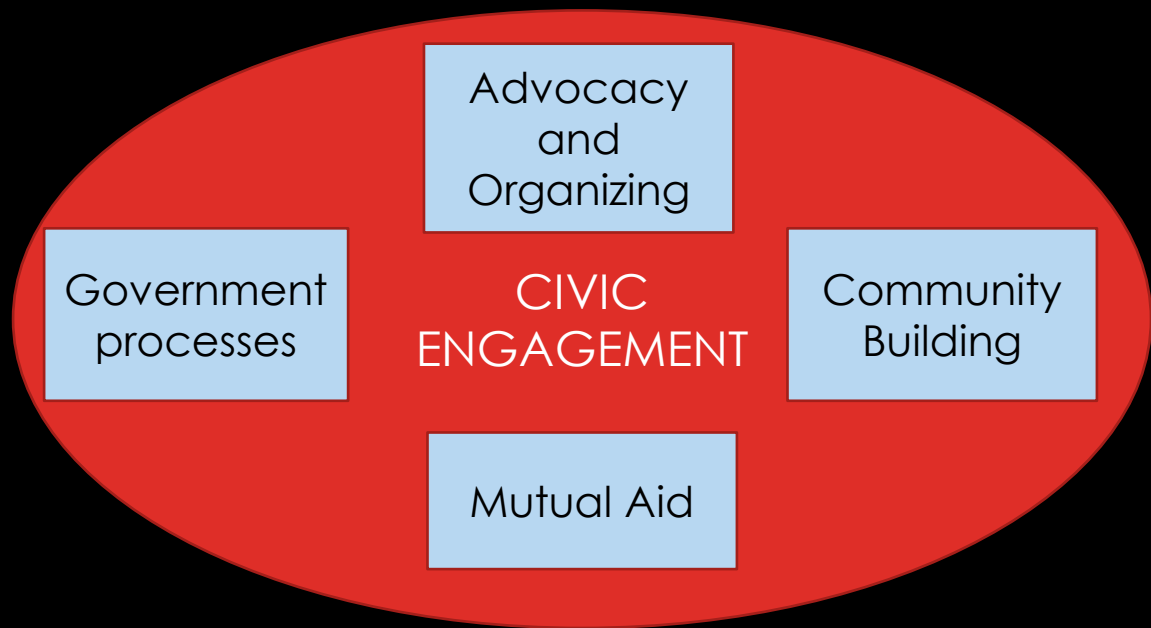
Penn Loh  
Tufts University  
Department of Urban &  
Environmental Policy &  
Planning  
March 15, 2023



# MUTUAL AID AS CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

# CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN COVID PANDEMIC

- Americorps-funded action research with 8 community-based organizations in Boston area
- CBOs pivoted during pandemic to fill critical gaps and reach most vulnerable



Grounded and Interconnected in the Pandemic:  
Community engagement and organizing adaptations from  
COVID response efforts in Metro Boston

Lead Authors: Penn Loh and Katherine (Kat) Shor

October 2022



# PANDEMIC RESPONSE IN CHELSEA, MA

- Population of 40,000
- Mostly immigrant, Latinx
- Frontline low-wage workers
- Overcrowded housing
- Overburdened by pollution
- Hardest hit by COVID at start of pandemic
- Achieved some of the highest rates of vaccination amongst working class immigrant communities in US





# CHELSEA CBOS CATALYZE CIVIC ACTION AND COLLABORATION

- The week before COVID shutdown, GreenRoots convened a call with 15 stakeholders to begin coordinating emergency response amongst community, nonprofit, and governmental partners. That group continued meeting for the next 65 consecutive days and became the Chelsea Pandemic Response Team with 75 people and 10 working groups.
- Greenroots and La Colaborativa sent health ambassadors out into the streets to meet people where they are at and in their own languages. Countered false information on vaccines using social media and person-to-person communication.



# PANDEMIC INNOVATIONS IN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

New England United for Justice:

Wellness to Organizing Model

- When the pandemic prevented going door-to-door, they began to do wellness calls to residents. In the first year, they made calls to 85,000 people, holding more than 5000 conversations.
- “It’s not just about getting the service. If they sign up for rental assistance, they hear about housing justice. If filing for unemployment, they hear about worker’s rights and the struggles. This is a vehicle to continue our organizing.”





# EAST BOSTON MUTUAL AID

- Neighbors United for a Better East Boston set up system of block leaders to check on neighbors. Started a WhatsApp network for mutual aid, with 300 people active.
- Mutual Aid Eastie grew to deliver 5000 meals per week.
  - Tried to ensure reciprocity and overcome a “culture of service-ism”.
  - All participants required to do an orientation and sign up with a WhatsApp mutual aid chat, to match offers and needs.
- “We had to redefine it as reciprocity and being in relationship with each other. It’s saying I have enough. Our folks say I don’t have anything to give, yet our people were saying I made tamales and can sell or give it.”

# MUTUAL AID MAKES SURE THAT NO ONE GETS LEFT BEHIND.

- MUTUAL AID EASTIE NEIGHBORS UNITED for a BETTER EAST BOSTON



Funder FLEXIBILITY helps us get OUR NEIGHBORS WHAT they REALLY NEED

INVEST and TRUST in local GRASSROOTS, COMMUNITY BASED, and EQUITY CENTERED ORGANIZATIONS can...

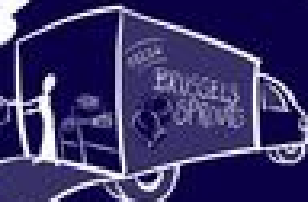
## FOUNDATION for CLIMATE RESILIENCE

INVEST NETWORK

MUTUAL AID and NETWORKS in ACTION

I'LL COME and HELP!

FLEXIBILITY, INVESTMENT and TRUST can SUPPORT PLACE BASED and NON-PLACE BASED NETWORK BUILDING



# LESSONS LEARNED AND FURTHER QUESTIONS

- Mutual aid is not new. It is people taking responsibility to care for one another and provide for material needs.
- Grassroots CBOs are critical part of civic infrastructure and during pandemic were relied on to connect resources to the most vulnerable.
- They found new ways to exercise civic engagement (organizing, community-building, mutual aid) and work with government, nonprofit, and private sector partners.
- How can government and public resources support mutual aid and CBOs while maintaining the spirit of reciprocity?
- How can these mutual aid initiatives that started in crisis continue to grow and sustain themselves as part of the civic infrastructure?

# Reflection

Adrienne Andrews

Deputy Chief of Staff, AmeriCorps





# Q&A Panel Facilitator

Melissa Gouge, PhD  
Research Analyst, AmeriCorps





# Q & A Panel Discussion:

- Adrienne Andrews, Deputy Chief of Staff, AmeriCorps
- Kei Kawashima Ginsberg, Newhouse Director, CIRCLE, Tisch College of Civic Life, Tufts University
- Laura Hanson Schlachter, Research Analyst, AmeriCorps
- Penn Loh, Director of the Master of Public Policy Program and Community Practice, Tufts University
- Andrea Robles, Research and Evaluation Manager, AmeriCorps

# Thank you for attending today's webinar.

The recording and support materials will be provided in the next two weeks. Those items will be located on the AmeriCorps Impact Webinar page at:

<https://www.americorps.gov/webinar/what-civic-engagement-exploring-new-paradigms>

To inquire about the work presented in this webinar, please reach out to [Evaluation@cns.gov](mailto:Evaluation@cns.gov)

"Reigniting Civic Life" Webinar Series

Next webinar: April 26, 2023 from 3:30 to 4:45pm EST.

Registration will be available in the coming weeks on the AmeriCorps Impact and Evidence Webinar Page