



Call for Submissions

Participatory Approaches to Strengthening Democratic Institutions

Guest Editors:

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Much has been made of the erosion of democratic norms and institutions in recent years. As Levitsky and Ziblatt (2018) note, the norms of temperance and forbearance that have upheld democratic institutions in the United States since the post-Civil War Reconstruction period have been eroding since the passage of the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act in the 1960s. The erosion of the norms and folkways that have historically guided America's institutions has potentially had devastating effects on people's perceptions of democracy as an ideal form of government.

Civic engagement practitioner-scholar Nadinne Cruz has argued that only a very small portion of the knowledge and experience necessary to address most issues facing local communities will be found within universities, or received from *expert* scholars. In order to realize the power of community-driven processes for addressing local social issues, present and future generations of scholars as well as local residents and community leaders must have opportunities to practice participatory approaches to lifting up community knowledge and leveraging academic research to advance systemic change. Often, the scholarship about community-driven decision making and developing young civic leaders is separated into distinct academic fields of study. This special issue of the *eJournal of Public Affairs* aims to bring contributions from distinct fields of study into one scholarly conversation integrating what is known in the academic literature into lessons learned from community-based practice.

Submission topics: For this special issue of the *eJournal of Public Affairs*, the editors invite submissions from scholars and practitioners exploring participatory approaches to strengthening democracy, including but not limited to:

- community based participatory research (CBPR),
- student civic education/engagement initiatives
- youth leadership development and civic engagement
- deliberative dialogue and action,
- participatory budgeting,
- deliberative polling,
- participatory approaches to policy advocacy,
- deliberative forums,
- coalition-building and movement-building.

Submissions that focus on equity- and trauma-informed approaches are especially encouraged. Pieces examining student civic education/engagement initiatives sponsored by K-16 education institutions, as well as youth civic leadership development initiatives, have a place in this special issue as well. Manuscripts including community partners and/or students and youth as co-authors will also be welcome.

In addition to articles, the editors will also consider for publication reports, descriptive essays, videos, interviews, photo essays, multimedia, that showcase innovative or exemplary projects that speak to the theme of the special issue.

Submission Information:

Deadline to submit: February 1, 2021(earlier submissions appreciated). The target publication date for this issue of the *eJournal* is July 2021.

All submissions must follow the format outlined on the *eJournal* website:
<http://www.ejournalofpublicaffairs.org/submityourmaterial/>.

For more information, visit eJournal.missouristate.edu or e-mail: eJournalPA@MissouriState.edu.