



# CALL FOR PROPOSALS

## CIVIC LEARNING WEEK NATIONAL FORUM

Philadelphia, PA | March 9-10, 2026

### BACKGROUND

[Civic Learning Week](#) (CLW) is a weeklong, high-profile spotlight on the importance of civic learning, engagement, and leadership. The week serves to highlight the importance of civic education in sustaining and strengthening constitutional democracy in the United States by building civic knowledge, skills, and dispositions that provide the foundation for an informed and engaged populace.

The 2026 Civic Learning Week National Forum—themed *Liberty and Learning: Civic Education at 250*—will be held in Philadelphia as we celebrate the nation’s semiquincentennial. This year will also see the expansion of the national forum into a two-day event, ensuring educators are part of the conversation and allowing more time for prominent researchers and civic leaders to join educators and students in exploring key topics related to civic education and the leadership needed to make high-quality civic learning a nationwide priority.

**Key audiences:** Drivers of this movement for civic learning—including thought leaders, influencers, media, funders, educators, researchers, and academics

**Key objectives:**

- EXPAND the reach of Civic Learning Week and the National Forum in order to elevate civic learning as a national priority;
- AMPLIFY the message of Civic Learning Week to generate greater media attention to propel the movement for civic learning as a nationwide priority;
- ACTIVATE stakeholders with clear calls to action, mobilizing a broad coalition of students, parents, educators, community leaders, policymakers, civics practitioners, and funders to advocate for more and better civic learning;
- INSPIRE participants to envision themselves as civic leaders and practitioners; and
- INSPIRE civic educators with stories of success—and lessons from them—told by colleagues around the country who are successfully connecting rising generations to constitutional democracy in the United States.

## SEEKING PRESENTERS

iCivics and the Democratic Knowledge Project (DKP), as co-hosts of the 2026 CLW National Forum, are seeking presenters with civic learning expertise and experience to present sessions, posters, and/or mainstage spotlight talks in the following areas:

- **Liberty and Learning in Practice:** What pluralistic civic learning looks like *in practice* across sectors and communities; best/promising practices
- **Liberty and Learning Impacts:** Evidence of the effectiveness of civic learning
- **Liberty and Learning for the Next 250 Years and Beyond:** Investing in/growing a broader movement and funding for civic learning

For this call for proposals, we are particularly interested in presentations that fit in one of the above areas AND connect in some way to one or more of the [Educating for American Democracy Design Challenges](#):

- Motivating agency, sustaining the Republic
- America's plural yet shared story
- Simultaneously celebrating and critiquing compromise
- Civic honesty, reflective patriotism
- Balancing the concrete and the abstract

As a presenter, you will receive early access to register for this free event (limited capacity), as well as the opportunity to connect with civic leaders and practitioners to expand your network and amplify your work. *Presenters are responsible for their own travel and expenses.*

### Session Types

We are soliciting proposals for presenters in the formats described below. Session times are subject to change; selected presenters will be notified of specific presentation date(s) and time(s).

**NOTE:** *On the proposal form, you may submit proposals for multiple sessions/types and indicate willingness to offer content in a session type other than your first choice.*

- **Poster Session** | March 9–10, Open Exhibit  
A poster that showcases a program, research, or other civic work to display as part of the forum exhibit. Presenters will be invited to engage with attendees during designated time blocks.
- **Spotlight Talk** | March 9, 12:30-2:30 PM and March 10, 9-11 AM  
A 5-minute talk on the main stage during a forum plenary session that shares topline from recent research or program implementation. *(Pairs nicely with poster session and/or breakout session to which attendees can be referred for further information.)*
- **Breakout Session** | March 9, 2:45-3:45 PM and March 10, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM & 2:00-3:00 PM  
A 60-minute interactive session that does a “deep dive” into one of the topics listed above. Sessions may include a moderated conversation with panelists or a brief presentation. In either format, the session should offer participants opportunities to meaningfully engage.

## Intended Audience

The annual Civic Learning Week National Forum has traditionally attracted prominent leaders in the field of civic education. With the forum's expansion in 2026, we are adding programming specifically designed for educators, allowing all audiences to more fully explore key topics related to civic education and the leadership needed to make high-quality civic learning a nationwide priority.

Sessions should be designed with an expansive audience in mind, including K–12 educators, funders/philanthropists, nonprofit leaders, and researchers/academics. Please indicate in your proposal the primary and secondary audience your session will appeal to.

### *Key objectives for educators:*

- **Learning from Success:** Amplify classroom success stories of educators and students overcoming obstacles to high-quality civic learning, and disseminate lessons and tools drawn from those stories to a broader community of educators.
- **Civic Knowledge and Liberty:** Communicate how inquiry-driven instructional approaches can communicate core disciplinary knowledge and make space for the broad range of histories, viewpoints, and contributions that shape constitutional democracy in the United States.
- **Experiential Learning and Liberty:** Communicate how experiential civic learning can scaffold the development of civic skills, dispositions and virtues and make space for the broad range of histories, viewpoints, and contributions that shape U.S. constitutional democracy.

## TIMELINE & LOGISTICS

### Important Dates

- **Deadline to Submit:** Friday, September 26, 2025
- **Presenters Notified:** Friday, November 7, 2025
- **Presenter Acceptance Deadline:** Friday, November 14, 2025
- **Registration Opens:** Tuesday, November 18, 2025
- **Final Session Descriptions, Bios, and Photos Due:** Monday, December 15, 2025

## PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

Please submit your proposal via the [Proposal Submission Form](#). The questions are included below for your planning purposes but only proposals submitted via the form will be considered. (If you need accommodations, please email [clw@icivics.org](mailto:clw@icivics.org).)

By submitting, you agree that, if selected:

- You and your co-presenters are able to self-fund your travel to and from the forum in Philadelphia and be in attendance March 9–10, 2026.
- Your session can be recorded and made available publicly.
- Forum organizers may edit your session title and description in promotional collateral for brevity, clarity, consistency, and alignment with the theme.

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- Full Name of Submitter
  - Organization, Email, and Phone
  - Organization's Website *(if applicable)*
  - Presenter's Biography *(feel free to share LinkedIn profile, as well)*
  - Co-presenter Name(s) and Organization(s)

### Session Information

Write a title and abstract that best encapsulates your proposal and will draw attendees to your session. The title and abstract that are submitted on the proposal are the ones that would be printed in the program should it be selected to be included in the Forum. Organizers may edit your session title and description in promotional collateral for clarity, consistency, and alignment with the theme.

- Session Title
- Session Abstract *(1,500 characters or less/approximately 250 words)*
- Please indicate with which of the following themes your session best aligns
  - Civic Learning in Practice
  - Impact/Effectiveness of Civic Learning
  - Sustaining Civic Learning for the Long-term
- Please indicate any EAD Design Challenge that your session touches upon *(Select all that apply)*
  - Motivating agency, sustaining the Republic
  - America's plural yet shared story
  - Simultaneously celebrating and critiquing compromise
  - Civic honesty, reflective patriotism
  - Balancing the concrete and the abstract
- Intended PRIMARY Audience
  - K–12 Educators
    - *Sub question: In what way(s) do you intend to include educators as part of your presentation?*
  - Funders/Philanthropists
  - Nonprofit Leaders
  - Researchers/Academics
- Intended SECONDARY Audience *(Select all that apply)*

- Session Type
    - Breakout Session →
    - Poster Session
    - Spotlight Talk
- Breakout Session Sub-Questions

  - Describe the format of your session in more detail and how you will engage the audience.
  - What will attendees gain, learn, or be able to do after attending the session?
  - Is there anything else you'd like the selection committee to know about your proposal?
  - Are you open to being matched with someone else interested in presenting on the same topic?
- Explain how this session connects with the Civic Learning Week theme (Liberty and Learning: Civic Education at 250) and/or contributes to the goal of energizing and advancing the movement to make civic learning a nationwide priority  
*(1500 characters or less/approximately 250 words)*
  - Explain what makes this session important and why it should be included in the program  
*(1500 characters or less/approximately 250 words)*
  - Are you open to alternative or additional session types beyond the type submitted?  
*(Select all that apply)*
    - Poster Session
    - Spotlight Talk
    - Breakout Session
    - Virtual
  - If your session features research and the anticipated release date is Spring 2026, are you interested in coordinating release during the forum?
  - Please indicate if you would like to be contacted about future opportunities to present by iCivics and DKP.