



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

CIVIC LEARNING WEEK NATIONAL FORUM

Charlotte, NC | March 11–12, 2027

BACKGROUND

[Civic Learning Week](#) 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.

Each year, the Civic Learning Week National Forum serves as an anchor for the week's activities, bringing together drivers of the movement for civic learning—including thought leaders, educators, academics, funders, influencers, and media.

This year's Forum theme is *Civic Education in the Digital Age*, focusing on how the civic education sector is prepared to deliver its lessons on civics in light of rapidly changing media, technology, and information ecosystems. Sessions will explore key topics on the importance of a pluralistic civic education, the implications of new technologies such as AI, and the leadership needed to make high-quality civic education a nationwide priority.

Key objectives:

- EXPAND the reach of Civic Learning Week and the National Forum 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; and
- INSPIRE participants to envision themselves as civic leaders and practitioners.

SEEKING PRESENTERS

iCivics and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, as co-hosts of the 2027 Civic Learning Week National Forum, seek presenters with expertise and experience in civic learning, technology, and/or media and information ecosystems to present sessions and/or posters that explore any of the following themes:

- **Digital Tools in Civic Learning**

- What does **responsible use** of digital tools and emerging technologies look like in civics classrooms and civic-learning organizations?
In what ways can these tools strengthen learning? What are the risks, and how can these be mitigated? How can teachers design assignments that still require evidence, reasoning, and human judgment? How can hesitancy and/or opposition to various technologies within education settings be properly addressed?
- What does **advanced information literacy** look like in the Digital Age?
How are we to make sense—and help students make sense—of AI-generated, manipulated, or misleading content and identify effective ways to evaluate sources, context, and credibility? What habits of verification, reflection, and responsible sharing are essential to high-quality civic learning?
- What do students need to learn about **civic discussion, disagreement, and participation** in the Digital Age?
How do digital spaces shape civic discourse, advocacy, organizing, and public problem-solving? What does it look like to teach democratic norms in the Digital Age? How can we address harassment, self-censorship, and barriers to participation in digital civic life? How do digital systems shape whose voices are heard and whose are sidelined?

- **How Young People Now Learn**

- How are young people encountering civic information through social media, creators, search, and AI tools?
- What implications do evolving information habits hold for civic knowledge, trust, participation, and attention?
- How do information ecosystems vary across communities, ages, and contexts?

- **Trust, Expertise, and Civic Institutions**

- How do mistrust, misinformation, and politicization of expertise affect civic education and institutions?
- What are the roles of schools, libraries, museums, public media, and community organizations as trusted civic information intermediaries?
- How can institutions communicate evidence and expertise effectively in contested information environments?
- What does research suggest about rebuilding trust without oversimplifying disagreement?

- **Field Adoption and Assessment**

- What baseline knowledge do civics educators already have about media, platforms, and AI?
- What professional learning, curricular supports, or partnerships would make adoption realistic?
- How can new competencies related to information ecosystems be assessed without creating new compliance burdens?

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 11–12, Open Exhibit

A poster that showcases a program, research, or other civic work to display as part of the forum exhibit. There will be designated time blocks for presenters to engage with attendees.

- **Breakout Session** | March 11, 3:00–4:00 PM or March 12, 10:00–11:00 AM

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.

NOTE: *In 2026, an elongated schedule to celebrate the semiquincentennial allowed for 15 breakout sessions. In 2027, we will be limited to 10 total breakout sessions.*

Intended Audience

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.

TIMELINE & LOGISTICS

- **Optional Webinar with Q&A:** Friday, August 28, 2026 | 11:00 a.m. Eastern / 8:00 a.m. Pacific ([Register Here](#))
- **Deadline to Submit:** Friday, September 18, 2026
- **Presenters Notified:** Monday, November 23, 2026
- **Presenter Acceptance Deadline:** Monday, December 7, 2026
- **Presenter Registration Deadline:** Friday, December 18, 2026
- **Final Session Descriptions, Bios, and Photos Due:** Monday, January 25, 2027

REVIEW PROCESS

Members of the Civic Learning Week Steering Committee and Education Subcommittee serve as reviewers for proposals. The following “do’s and don’ts” are suggested to strengthen your proposal.

DO		DON'T
• Collaborate with other organizations or subject matter experts to co-design a session • Use technology to engage the audience or demonstrate your session content	• Include educator and/or student voices in your session design • Maintain nonpartisanship and/or a plurality of perspectives in your session design	• Focus on one specific program or organization’s approach • Advertise or sell any products or services

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.)

By submitting, you agree that:

- You and your co-presenters are able to self-fund travel to and from the Forum in Charlotte, NC, and be in attendance March 11–12, 2027.
- 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.
- All information, representations, qualifications, experience, references, and supporting documentation contained in this proposal are true, complete, and accurate to the best of the Proposer's knowledge.

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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 make a case to the reviewers why your proposal should be selected. The title and abstract that are submitted on the proposal are **not** the ones that will be printed in the program. Should your proposal be selected to be included in the Forum, the organizers will collect an updated session title and description to use for promotional collateral.

- Session Title
- Session Abstract (*1,500 characters or less/approximately 250 words*)
- Please indicate with which of the following themes your session best aligns
 - Digital Tools in Civic Learning
 - How Young People Now Learn
 - Trust, Expertise, and Civic Institutions
 - Field Adoption and Assessment

- Intended PRIMARY Audience

- K–12 Educators
- Funders/Philanthropists
- Nonprofit Leaders
- Researchers/Academics

- Intended SECONDARY Audience(s)

- Session Type

- Breakout Session →
- Poster Session

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?
- In what way(s), if any, do you intend to include educators as part of your presentation?
- 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/similar topic?

- Explain how this session connects with the Civic Learning Week theme (Civic Education in the Digital Age) 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
 - Breakout Session
 - Virtual
- Please indicate if you would like to be contacted about future opportunities to present by iCivics and/or Knight Foundation.