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RACIAL JUSTICE
& MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE

purpose

to explore the deep systemic inequities related to how communities have been built, connected, resourced, and governed while exploring opportunities to meaningfully address these racial disparities through community-engaged policymaking.

not

to convince you that what works in other communities will work in yours

RACIAL JUSTICE
IN GOVERNANCE & FINANCE

objectives

to consider policies that will help us better understand the problems of our underrepresented residents and to explore how we can put our municipal budgets to work to solve those problems.

introductions

your affiliation

a question about this topic

introductions

Brookline Select Board Vice Chair

How can we use municipal funds to support racial equity?

introductions

GOVERNANCE

research

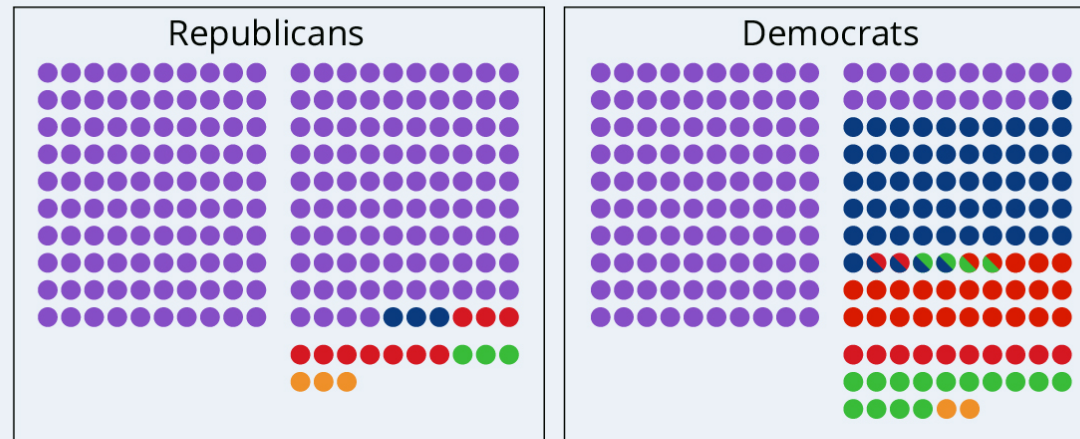
representation

How Diverse is Congress?

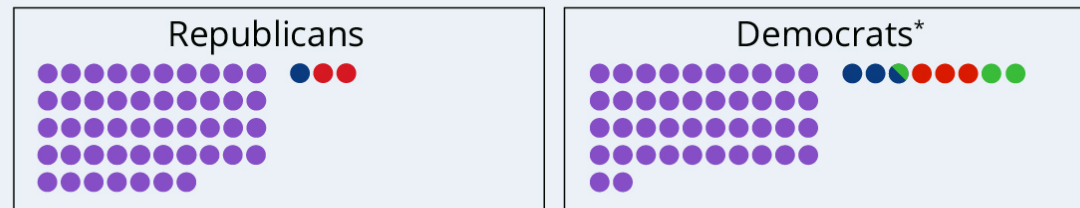
Members of the 117th U.S. Congress by race/ethnicity

● African-American ● Hispanic ● White
● Asian/Pacific Islander ● American Indian

House 439



Senate 100



* and Independents

Excludes two vacant House seats as of Jan 20, 2021.

Includes delegates and commissioner of Puerto Rico

As of January 7, 2021

Sources: House.gov, Senate.gov, CBS



Does Property Ownership Lead to Participation in Local Politics? Evidence from Property Records and Meeting Minutes

JESSE YODER *Stanford University*

Homeowners and renters have participated in politics at different rates throughout American history, but does becoming a property owner motivate an individual to participate in local politics? I combine deed-level property records in California and Texas with an original dataset on individual comments in local city council meetings to study the role of property ownership in shaping costly forms of political behavior, and I document large inequalities in who participates at city council meetings. I also link property records to individual-level contribution records and administrative voter files and find that becoming a property owner increases an individual's political activity. Over and above voting in local elections, property ownership motivates individuals to participate in local city council meetings and donate to candidates. These findings illustrate how the experience of homeownership leads property owners to become much more active in local politics.

Who Participates in Local Government? Evidence from Meeting Minutes*

Katherine Levine Einstein[†]

Maxwell Palmer[‡]

David Glick[§]

June 29, 2018

Forthcoming, *Perspectives on Politics*

Abstract

Scholars and policymakers have highlighted institutions that enable community participation as a potential buffer against existing political inequalities. Yet, these venues may be biasing policy discussions in favor of an unrepresentative group of individuals. To explore who participates, we compile a novel data set by coding thousands of instances of citizens speaking at planning and zoning board meetings concerning housing development. We match individuals to a voter file to investigate local political participation in housing and development policy. We find that individuals who are older, male, longtime residents, voters in local elections, and homeowners are significantly more likely to participate in these meetings. These individuals overwhelmingly (and to a much greater degree than the general public) oppose new housing construction. These participatory inequalities have important policy implications and may be contributing to rising housing costs.



community engagement

breakout

what are the underrepresented populations in your community? what steps have you taken to incorporate their voices in your policymaking?

your experiences

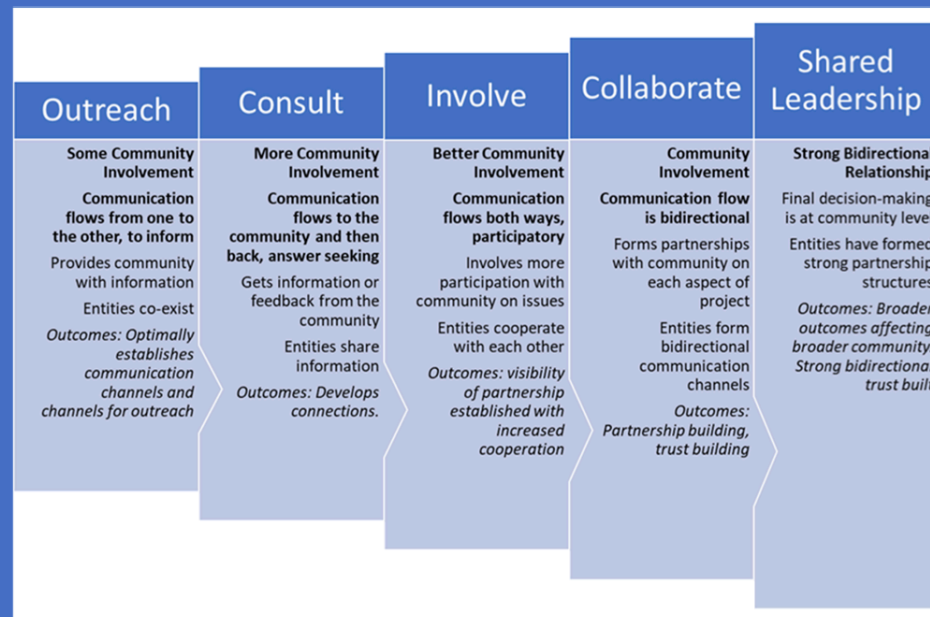
community engagement

community engagement plan

outlines a set of specific outreach and public participation strategies with assigned roles and a timeline for new or reoccurring projects that will impact the community either at the neighborhood or citywide level.



TOWN OF BROOKLINE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN



October 2020

Parks & Open Space Division

SMART COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OUTCOME GOALS SPECIFIC TO COMMUNITY PARK & PLAYGROUND RENOVATION PROJECTS.

I. SMART Outcome: By December 1, 2021 the Park and Open Space Division will increase the number of diverse voices, interests and needs in Community Design Review processes for park and playground renovations by 100% using the last 4 Design Review Processes with in-person public meetings as the baseline.

- SMART Objective 1: By November 1, 2020 Division staff will have identified and engaged all vulnerable populations in the neighborhood-in the Design Review Process.
- SMART Objective 2: By January 1, 2021 the Division will develop a Design Review Equity and Engagement Toolkit** with at least 8 tools of engagement used, as appropriate, for the particular site and neighborhood. (The variety of engagement tools are intended to increase connection points between the community and the park, project and Town.) The Division will assess and revise the tool kit draft with vulnerable populations identified in Smart Objective 1 by December 1, 2020.
- SMART Objective 3: By June 30, 2021, all Design Review participants will have chosen the Toolkit formats most comfortable and accessible to them. The Tools of Engagement *Kit* may include:
 1. In-Person Town Hall Style Public Meetings
 2. Video/Computer/Phone Accessible Public Meetings
 3. In-Park Weekend Meetings & Charette
 4. Vulnerable or Target Population Focus Groups (Aging Populations, Housing Authority, Immigrants, Schools etc.)
 5. Surveys – Can be done on paper, computer or phone w/QR code
 6. Press Releases
 7. Communication, flyers, postings in neighborhood appropriate languages
 8. Neighborhood Postings
 9. Web/Project Pages with Updates
 10. Direct Mail/Letters to Abutters & Town Meeting Members
 11. Communication and connection with existing friends groups or neighborhood associations

5. Approach

Now that the purpose of engagement (to inform, to solicit feedback, etc.,) and the scale (limited, moderate, broad) of engagement has been chosen, and a list of specific stakeholders and messages has been identified, it is time to think through diverse approaches to reach stakeholders.

Consider these questions when deciding how to reach out to the target list of stakeholders:

- How are stakeholders to be contacted?
- Where are stakeholders and where do they congregate?
- How to engage stakeholders in an ongoing manner?

Examples of tactics may include:

To inform

- Fact Sheets
- Project Brochure
- Website
- Flyer
- PowerPoint presentations
- Email/Listserv
- Social Media

To engage

- Call directly, informal conversation
- Meet in person, schedule a meeting (lunch or coffee)
- Focus Groups
- Surveys/Polling
- Walkshops/Tours
- Community mapping
- Visioning workshops
- Open Houses

To empower

- Resident advisory committees
- Advocacy trainings
- Participatory decision-making

outreach vs. engagement

participatory governance

processes that empower citizens to participate in public decision-making. it has been gaining increasing acceptance as an effective means to tackle 'democracy deficits' and improve public accountability.



OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS
PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

language access

providing Limited English Proficient (LEP) people with reasonable access to the same services as English-speaking individuals.

language access plan

anyone receiving federal funding, even indirectly, is required to provide language access. all parts of a recipient's operations are covered, regardless of whether the recipient is only partially federally funded.

representation

governance

board diversity

expanding the franchise

16 & 17 year-old voting

non-citizen voting

FINANCE

budgets as value statements

participatory budgeting

a democratic process in which community members directly decide how to spend part of a public budget.

PUBLIC MONEY



participatory budgeting

ARPA



Brookline
Community
Foundation

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A Community Engagement Process for American Rescue Plan Act Funding

The Town of Brookline is hosting a community engagement process beginning in October 2021 to inform funding priorities and spending decisions for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding Brookline will receive.

The Brookline Community Foundation (BCF) is supporting this effort to help collect community input, ideas, and priorities from community members.

Click on the links below to:

- [**Learn**](#) more about ARPA and Brookline's community engagement process
- [**Review**](#) materials from previous listening sessions
- [**Spread**](#) the word so more community members can participate
- [**Take the survey**](#) to share your ideas. This survey will soon be available in additional languages.

Questions or comments? Reach out to us at contact@brooklinecommunity.org or call (617) 566-4442

ARPA

CDBG

community development block grants

funding for infrastructure, economic development projects, public facilities installation, community centers, housing rehabilitation, public services, small business assistance, homeowner assistance, etc.

safety net fund

Please give to Brookline's Safety Net Fund, providing emergency funding for rent, utilities, food and other needs to anyone who lives, works, or goes to school in Brookline. That includes Brookline's METCO families, small business owners, and employees – all regardless of immigration or documentation status. Assistance is available in multiple languages. Call 617-277-8107 for support.

racial equity grant

aims to provide grants to local nonprofit organizations, other entities, and community efforts that are working to address racial equity gaps that affect the quality of life for people of color in the areas of economic advancement, education, health and wellness, housing, and more.

community preservation act

a smart growth tool that helps communities preserve open space and historic sites, create affordable housing, and develop outdoor recreational facilities.

disparity study

determines whether a government entity, either in the past or currently, engages in exclusionary practices in the solicitation and award of contracts to minority, and women-owned, and disadvantaged business enterprises (MWDBEs).

Despite commitments by local governments to end discrimination, longstanding disparities persist, and black communities continue to be adversely impacted



discussion

Which of these solutions has your community enacted? How has that worked out?

Of those that haven't been enacted, which could work in your community?

thanks.