



DAY OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

SEPTEMBER 17, 2026



September 17, 2026 (Constitution Day) has been designated as a statewide Day of Civic Engagement for America's 250th to promote civic participation across communities within the state.

What does "civic engagement" mean?

Civic engagement is any activity by individuals or groups that tackles public issues. It involves showing up, sharing your voice, and adding your ideas to make the places where we live, work, and learn better. Whether in small towns or big cities, you can help make your community stronger, fairer, and more responsive.

Why September 17?

September 17 is Constitution Day, an annual observance that honors the adoption of the U.S. Constitution in 1787 when delegates to the Constitutional Convention signed the document in Philadelphia.

I don't want to be political. Can I still participate?

Yes! Civic engagement isn't just about party politics — it's about caring for your community. Whether you're advocating for safer streets, better schools, or cleaner parks, your voice can help make a positive difference.

An America's 250th Civics Project for Elementary Students

The [Civic Learning Council](#), in collaboration with the [Washington State Council for the Social Studies](#), has developed a project to support elementary school teachers and students in learning about the founding of the country.

This classroom project focuses on iconic symbols of our democracy both nationally and locally.

[Grants](#) are available to support the purchase of materials, the cost of a field trip to a museum, bringing a representative to your school from a cultural center, or other activities.

The CLC is a non-partisan organization created to promote and support the people of Washington in becoming more knowledgeable and engaged lifelong participants in democracy.

america250wa.org/clc-project



For more information and ideas, visit our Resources Page at
www.America250WA.org

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IDEAS

- ✓ Register to vote
- ✓ Host a voter registration drive
- ✓ Attend a local town hall or other public meeting
- ✓ Attend a candidates' forum and ask questions
- ✓ Have high school students manage your city for the day or host a public meeting
- ✓ Host a civics-themed trivia night
- ✓ Host or support a citizenship ceremony
- ✓ Take part in public surveys and comment periods
- ✓ Run for city council, school board or other local government position.
- ✓ Find out who your local elected officials are and share your views with them

Engaging Young People



[Youth250](#) is a dynamic, nonpartisan initiative created by the organization [Made By Us](#) to help capture young people's imaginations, ideas, and input around America's 250th.

The 250th anniversary isn't just about 1776 but is also about the journey that shaped America into what it is today and how we prepare for its future.

Youth250 has a number of FREE resources available to any organization including:

- Youth250 Toolkit
- Gen Z Engagement Assessment
- Youth250 Bureau of Advisors

historymadebyus.org/youth250



The [Seattle League of Women Voters](#) has a FREE program for middle and high school students called [Civics and You! Energizing Young Voters](#), an interactive civics experience to inform and engage youth in our democracy.

america250wa.org/civics-and-you

The *Declaration* was just the **BEGINNING.**

The [National Constitution Center](#) has a number of FREE resources available to have a national conversation around the core principles in our founding documents and to explore their relevance to the country today. Their [America at 250 Toolkit](#) is an essential guide for all ages to engage with the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and America's founding principles. Elements include an interactive Declaration of Independence, essays for leading scholars and historians, and professionally produced animated videos.

<https://constitutioncenter.org/america-at-250>

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