

Civics for Adults Update August 9, 2024.

Workshops

Misinformation and Propaganda - Telling Truth from Fiction.

Sat. **August 17**, 2024. Time 10:00 **PST**; 1:00 **EST**. New Britain Public Library [CT]. Virtual. Register: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4cP0FTR5odk8m5313-4o0LsLmkSSp3S_rNu1wIRFNwhizXw/viewform

Tues. **September 17**, 2024. 6:30 **EST** 3:30 **PST**. Bloomfield Public Library [CT]. Virtual. Registration for non-patrons TBA

Thurs. **October 10**, 2024. Time TBA. Tigard Public Library [OR]. Hybrid [virtual and in-person].

Sat. **October 12**, 2024. 2:00 **PST** Seaside Public Library [OR]. Virtual. Registration for non-patrons TBA.

Citizen Activism 101—Making Change Happen

Sat. **September 28**, 2024. Hillsboro Public [OR] Library. In-person.

Sat. **October 19**, 2024. 2:00 **PST**. Woodburn [OR] Public Library. In-person.

Selected Civics for Adults Facebook posts:

I've written a useful one-pager: **Tips for Making Voting Decisions**. Although it's geared to Portland's new City Council races in November, it is useful for any election. Feel free to share. Find it here: <https://www.civictinker.info/resources>

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I hope all our elections offices are paying attention to advice of the Brennan Center. "potential artificial intelligence threats to elections have grown increasingly dire" Here is helpful advice.

How Election Officials Can Identify, Prepare for, and Respond to AI Threats. Harris et al. Brennan Center. May 8, 2024.

https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/how-election-officials-can-identify-prepare-and-respond-ai-threats?fbclid=IwY2xjawEjYsFleHRuA2FibQixMAABHSroLRBlqa20pisDCjNmUT74u15nBPjQ-dfsukndMHowgbKewsOzEhFlw_aem_ndp-ZPq4XUj_Z8iuJyjcg

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One of the strategies that I have heard for election offices, and that CISA [Cybersecurity Infrastructure Security Agency (fed gov)] advises is: "Communicate Early and Promote Transparency Around the Elections Process". Hopefully, my own warnings in my upcoming Misinformation workshops will help the public be prepared to resist election misinformation

SECURING ELECTION INFRASTRUCTURE AGAINST THE TACTICS OF FOREIGN MALIGN INFLUENCE OPERATIONS. CISA. 4/2024.

https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/2024-04/Securing_Election_Infrastructure_Against_the_Tactics_of_Foreign_Malign_Influence_Operations_2024FINAL_508c.pdf?fbclid=IwY2xjawEjYudleHRuA2FibQixMAABHRdX1zBz7bEdPE6NzPHQ71vqn2e63cjtYXXU756CrvyMPU3A32EyX11XQ_aem_48M9MsgRDES8Fpb6wBmlVg

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I like that this points out a key issue I bring up in the Misinformation workshop - that **our economic measures do not take into account certain important factors, and we always need to use MEDIAN, not MEAN/AVERAGE when discussing income and wealth data**: "stagnation among America's working middle is often hidden by economic reports that describe average worker or household gains with unequal distribution; **the median lags the mean by a wide margin.**"

Can employee ownership improve capitalism? Maureen Conway and Joseph Blasi 4/4/2024. Fast Company.

<https://www.fastcompany.com/91077152/can-employee-ownership-improve-capitalism>

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CBO [nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office] report showing **increasing immigration would reduce the debt** [plus we need more workers to pay in to Social Security!].

Effects of the Immigration Surge on the Federal Budget and the Economy. CBO. July, 2024.

<https://www.cbo.gov/publication/60569>

How much do you know about public opinion polling? We talk about polling language in my Misinformation workshop. Here is a fun little quiz from the Pew Center on polling!

Quiz: Test your polling knowledge. Pew Center. July 1, 2024.

<https://www.pewresearch.org/methods/quiz/how-much-do-you-know-about-public-opinion-polling/>

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Why does the United States incarcerate so many people? [Look up your own state for comparison on this webpage.] **States of Incarceration: The Global Context 2024.** Widra. Prison Policy Initiative. June, 2024.

https://www.prisonpolicy.org/global/2024.html?fbclid=IwY2xjawEjZTVleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHSuxyCfbcslrXCROkvMRxIAOB8S530S9U7awiHukYHGIAwin1KP6kdqFMA_aem_vUwNJUgnWXLKCYj565uAmw

✂ CUT OUT AND TAPE NEAR YOUR COMPUTER OR TV

BREAKING NEWS CONSUMER'S HANDBOOK

1. In the immediate aftermath, news outlets will get it wrong.
2. Don't trust anonymous sources.
3. Don't trust stories that cite another news outlet as the source of the information.
4. There's almost never a second shooter.
5. Pay attention to the language the media uses.
 - *"We are getting reports"...* could mean anything.
 - *"We are seeking confirmation"...* means they don't have it.
 - *"[News outlet] has learned"...* means it has a scoop or is going out on limb.
6. Look for news outlets close to the incident.
7. Compare multiple sources.
8. Big news brings out the fakers. And photoshoppers.
9. Beware reflexive retweeting. Some of this is on you.

ON **[THE MEDIA]**

ONTHEMEDIA.ORG