

Welcome to 2025!

I am taking a short [couple of months] “sabbatical” as I review the tons of materials I’ve gathered over 9+ years, think about what we [the public] need now, and contemplate some refinements to the workshops.

I am open to suggestions for format additions. Currently, it is an hour presentation followed by a half-hour discussion. In particular I wonder if some participants might like an opportunity for more time to examine their own ideas, in a format that has less content but more directed discussion time.

For example, many of various political stripes do not feel represented by our government – especially on the federal level. There are good reasons for this, which I cover briefly in the Constitution workshop. However, perhaps a workshop that focused only on issues of representation – and solutions that have been proposed – would be a workshop that folks would like? Feel free to email me your thoughts!



The owner of the company just showed up.

Selected Civics for Adults Facebook posts:

Filing a FOIA request

From Facebook group: **Alt National Park Service**

Something important for the American people to know is how to file a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. It's a simple process to access public records and hold government agencies accountable:

1. Find the Agency: Identify the federal agency likely to have the information you need.
2. Submit Your Request: Write a clear FOIA request, including details about the information you're seeking. Submit it via email, mail, or the agency's FOIA portal.
3. Wait for a Response: Agencies have 20 business days to respond, though complex requests may take longer. [But, they have to let you know if it will take longer.]
4. Pay Fees (If Necessary): Basic requests are often free, but larger ones may have costs for searching, copying, or processing.
5. Appeal if Needed: If your request is denied, you can appeal or take further action.

The FOIA is a powerful tool for transparency—use it to stay informed.

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From The Brennan Center @BrennanCenter

"The Supreme Court's Citizens United decision is 15 years old...Billionaires haven't had this much influence over U.S. politics since the 19th century."

Money's Control Over Politics Has Never Been Greater. Waldman. Brennan Center. 1/14/25.

<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/moneys-control-over-politics-has-never-been-greater>

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Billionaire Clans Spend Nearly \$2 BILLION On 2024 Elections

https://americansfortaxfairness.org/billionaire-clans-spend-nearly-2-billion-2024-elections/?fbclid=IwY2xjawHnmv9leHRuA2FibQIxMAABHXPuFrZTYcvhiVWxxoAhP-noAnxHEikTWFxD4xRtpL-LixmrcHFwXsdRWg_aem_XsT6EFdekVzGC28cc1H-nw

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Oregon has published a **sanctuary toolkit** on the state website.

<https://www.doj.state.or.us/oregon-department-of-justice/civil-rights/sanctuary-promise/community-toolkit/>

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Here is the final **REPORT** from **Special Counsel Jack Smith**. 1/7/2025

<https://www.justice.gov/storage/Report-of-Special-Counsel-Smith-Volume-1-January-2025.pdf>

Here is the final **COURT FILING** from **Special Counsel Jack Smith**. 10/2/2024.

https://d3i6fh83elv35t.cloudfront.net/static/2024/10/gov.uscourts.dcd..258148.252.0.pdf?fbclid=IwY2xjawIEtfdleHRuA2FibQIxMAABHsKIRREF2U_SQ1Q5MTA8ys-8CGIW8d4CJsXy8ecPfHE4Dih4MUpkBJWThA_aem_J9jR6CRQsVKjV4slFmARJw

These lay out the evidence regarding J6 in light of the Supreme Court's immunity ruling last summer. If you have not read either of the Smith court filings, nor his report, I do encourage you to read any of them. I'm a firm believer that it's best to look at primary source materials to form one's opinions, not to just rely on our numerous "talking heads" that appear, well, everywhere, now, seeking to interpret reality for us.

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In that same vein, there is nothing like watching Congressional hearings – such as for the recent Cabinet post nominations...

Examples. Find more on the websites of the relevant Committees.

1/14/25 Peter Hegseth. For Secretary of Defense. Senate Armed Services Committee.

<https://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/to-conduct-a-confirmation-hearing-on-the-expected-nomination-of-mr-peter-b-hegseth-to-be-secretary-of-defense>

1/16/2025 Eric Turner. For Secretary of HUD. Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee.

<https://www.banking.senate.gov/hearings/01/09/2025/nomination-hearing>

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Congratulations to **Portland** for embarking on its new government! I watched the first session of City Council where, among other things, they spent quite a while choosing the Council President. It was a long process – but, democracy in action!

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Lots more good stuff on my Civics for Adults Facebook page!

More at <https://www.facebook.com/Civics-for-Adults-1490728887922036>

Ask your local library or community group to sponsor a workshop! Thanks.

Flyer describing workshops: https://static.s123-cdn.com/uploads/2516289/normal_5fe8c854352d5.pdf