

## **Civics for Adults Update April 28, 2025**

Thank you Lake County Library District for inviting me to Lakeview for workshops on June 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> – Misinformation and Propaganda – Telling Truth from Fiction, and, Representation, our Federal Government and the Constitution! On the way back, I'll head to Bend for a workshop on June 20<sup>th</sup>! I'd love to do my Representation, our Federal Government and the Constitution workshop in the Portland Metro area, too!

### **Upcoming workshops!**

#### **Misinformation and Propaganda—Telling Truth from Fiction**

Are you overwhelmed with messages from politicians, news sources and other media? Distinguish truth from fiction using real-world examples

**June 17, 2025. 6-7:30.** In-person. Lake County Library District, 26 S G St., Lakeview, OR.

#### **Representation, Our Federal Government and the Constitution**

We'll look at the Constitution's creation, trace major changes and examine current limitations. In so doing, we will shatter some myths! Current status of democracy— The Constitution—Current issues of representation— Are changes needed?

**June 18, 2025. 6-7:30.** In-person. Lake County Library District. 26 S G Street, Lakeview, OR.

**June 20, 2025. 10-11:30.** In-person. Deschutes County Public Library, 601 NW Wall St., Bend, OR.

#### **Citizen Activism 101—Making Change Happen**

Want to improve life for yourself and your neighbors? Strategies for change. Examples of successful advocacy. "Tracking" legislation and providing "testimony".

**Tuesday, July 8. 6-7:30 PM** In-person. Multnomah County Library - Midland Branch, 805 SE 122nd Ave., PDX, OR

**Tuesday, August 5. 6-7:30 PM** In-person. Multnomah County Library - Albina Branch, 216 NE Knott Street, Portland, OR

#### **Selected Civics for Adults Facebook posts:**

If you know of any federal employees who have been fired, here is a resource that might be helpful.

**Civil Service Strong** <https://www.civilservicestrong.org/>

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This week [for later broadcast] **I'm going to be interviewed** by phone by a law professor from Kentucky, Joshua A. Douglas, who does a podcast series called **Democracy Optimist** - cool name!

I like what he says is his criteria for who he interviews: "Do they believe in democracy? Are they working to ensure the voices of ALL voters are paramount?" He has interviewed some powerful people. I'm honored that he has asked me to join him. Check out the short Intro linked near the bottom of the list at this page:

<https://esweku.org/democracy-optimist>

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CISA has been a big help to election offices throughout the country. It is very unfortunate that the federal administration is kneecapping the agency. **CISA Budget Cuts Weaken US Election Security, Officials Warn**

<https://www.govinfosecurity.com/cisa-budget-cuts-weaken-us-election-security-officials-warn-a-27858>

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#### **Many Don't Know Key Facts About U.S. Constitution, Annenberg Civics Study Finds**

Annenberg Civic Knowledge Survey. Annenberg Public Policy Center. September 14, 2023

[https://www.annenbergpublicpolicycenter.org/many-dont-know-key-facts-about-u-s-constitution-annenberg-civics-study-finds/?fbclid=IwY2xjawJ94mJleHRuA2FlbQlxMABicmlkETFnYVpwNWx4QnVvMnFoWVdhAR4dk3ZMcjGHHu0fgDiJO\\_ci7Qefn8n2TNhVLrd9O0tcde3SYZKIWJ4F-cdo6A\\_aem\\_CjSU-Wk2GJNpJAoQeumBdw](https://www.annenbergpublicpolicycenter.org/many-dont-know-key-facts-about-u-s-constitution-annenberg-civics-study-finds/?fbclid=IwY2xjawJ94mJleHRuA2FlbQlxMABicmlkETFnYVpwNWx4QnVvMnFoWVdhAR4dk3ZMcjGHHu0fgDiJO_ci7Qefn8n2TNhVLrd9O0tcde3SYZKIWJ4F-cdo6A_aem_CjSU-Wk2GJNpJAoQeumBdw)

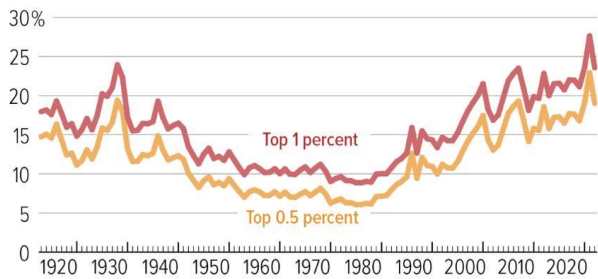
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We are, indeed, **living in a new Gilded Age.**

[https://www.cbpp.org/research/poverty-and-inequality/a-guide-to-statistics-on-historical-trends-in-income-inequality?fbclid=IwY2xjawJ96ABleHRuA2FlbQlxMABicmlkETFnYVpwNWx4QnVvMnFoWVdhAR6hmW6AX\\_zEEw05d-F02NlgJQslGzmEdCmV\\_n-s19jF8Ymtm67A9EBH8\\_0UIA\\_aem\\_NRa8xW\\_8J\\_oJpwbq5fZ4NA](https://www.cbpp.org/research/poverty-and-inequality/a-guide-to-statistics-on-historical-trends-in-income-inequality?fbclid=IwY2xjawJ96ABleHRuA2FlbQlxMABicmlkETFnYVpwNWx4QnVvMnFoWVdhAR6hmW6AX_zEEw05d-F02NlgJQslGzmEdCmV_n-s19jF8Ymtm67A9EBH8_0UIA_aem_NRa8xW_8J_oJpwbq5fZ4NA)

## Income Concentration at the Top Has Risen Sharply Since the 1970s

Share of total before-tax income flowing to the highest income households (including capital gains), 1913-2022



Source: Emmanuel Saez, based on IRS data

CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES | CBPP.ORG

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I know some things look rather discouraging right now but it's important we have a sense of what we'd like to see change, to guide us ahead. And, there are so many issues that we could tackle, once we, as a country, decide to do so. This is something my Representation, our Federal Government and the Constitution workshop seeks to do.

One thing I'm reading is a report from 2020, a result of an intensive 2-yr study and public input process from a wide variety of people....**Reinventing American Democracy for the 21st Century**. Our Common Purpose. American Academy of Arts and Sciences. 2020.

<https://www.amacad.org/sites/default/files/publication/downloads/2020->

[Democratic-Citizenship Our-Common-Purpose.pdf](#)

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Do you know a senior or person with disabilities that is low-income and might qualify for various assistance programs? If so, they can use this website to access information, and possibly determine their eligibility, for a variety of programs. <https://benefitscheckup.org/> From the National Council on Aging.

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Here is an interesting short video about **how crazy gerrymandering can get**. We need independent redistricting commissions in every state, imo.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFRAQGzU-9A>

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**This is NOT a legit email from the Social Security Administration.** Check the From: email address



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We "hear" our federal government is bloated. In fact, the size of the federal workforce has been amazingly stable - even over 60 years, while the population has grown considerably. **Executive Branch Civilian Employment Since 1940**. Office of Personnel Management [of the federal government]. Accessed 4/29/25. <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/data-analysis-documentation/federal-employment-reports/historical-tables/executive-branch-civilian-employment-since-1940/>

**How does the U.S. federal workforce compare with those in other countries?** Chappell. NPR. March 6, 2025

[https://www.npr.org/2025/03/06/nx-s1-5310542/federal-workforce-other-countries-compared?fbclid=IwY2xjawJ94-1leHRuA2FibQlXMAbicmlkETFnYVpwNWx4QnVvMnFoWVdhAR5LzTXEf0cuw7zT-0sDF3Lp35hK\\_PBcMpQ2y-qmi9JDsRYUEoZJkui0RMmpNg\\_aem\\_avRI9Lwd6PaADMd2rdYu0A](https://www.npr.org/2025/03/06/nx-s1-5310542/federal-workforce-other-countries-compared?fbclid=IwY2xjawJ94-1leHRuA2FibQlXMAbicmlkETFnYVpwNWx4QnVvMnFoWVdhAR5LzTXEf0cuw7zT-0sDF3Lp35hK_PBcMpQ2y-qmi9JDsRYUEoZJkui0RMmpNg_aem_avRI9Lwd6PaADMd2rdYu0A)

**How many people work for the federal government?** USA Facts. Dec, 2024.

[https://usafacts.org/articles/how-many-people-work-for-the-federal-government/?fbclid=IwY2xjawJ95BJleHRuA2FibQlXMAbicmlkETFnYVpwNWx4QnVvMnFoWVdhAR4jWGJk-4lerVEH627yZ8KCTm5BUdUJ\\_h1244Kz0o\\_R9XIStvBvNCMoedneFQ\\_aem\\_6zZXujRXsEvVbsAlo8L0nQ](https://usafacts.org/articles/how-many-people-work-for-the-federal-government/?fbclid=IwY2xjawJ95BJleHRuA2FibQlXMAbicmlkETFnYVpwNWx4QnVvMnFoWVdhAR4jWGJk-4lerVEH627yZ8KCTm5BUdUJ_h1244Kz0o_R9XIStvBvNCMoedneFQ_aem_6zZXujRXsEvVbsAlo8L0nQ)

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The ratio of average worker compensation to CEO compensation in the 50s/60s was about 1:30 [CEOs made about 30 times what the average worker made]. The ratio now is about 1:300 - **the average CEO makes about 300 times what the average worker makes.**

[https://www.epi.org/publication/ceo-pay-in-2023/?fbclid=IwY2xjawJ95f5leHRuA2FibQlXMAbicmlkETFnYVpwNWx4QnVvMnFoWVdhAR4snrVau-uVZuyOtky0id6vAx1BSw9meU9GutBj6HbA3gGKrObcPYYc6lbRqA\\_aem\\_Nai6sVeoJXDWT2ISJh\\_iRw#:~:text=Over%20the%202009%E2%80%932021%20period,was%2029%2Dto%2D1](https://www.epi.org/publication/ceo-pay-in-2023/?fbclid=IwY2xjawJ95f5leHRuA2FibQlXMAbicmlkETFnYVpwNWx4QnVvMnFoWVdhAR4snrVau-uVZuyOtky0id6vAx1BSw9meU9GutBj6HbA3gGKrObcPYYc6lbRqA_aem_Nai6sVeoJXDWT2ISJh_iRw#:~:text=Over%20the%202009%E2%80%932021%20period,was%2029%2Dto%2D1)

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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://files.cdn-files-a.com/uploads/2516289/normal\\_68015bff67a68.pdf](https://files.cdn-files-a.com/uploads/2516289/normal_68015bff67a68.pdf)