

[Note: lately my email carrier has been doing a poor job. If you are so moved to let me know you received this, it would help me know what's happening. Thanks!]

Civics for Adults Update February 16, 2026

Upcoming workshops!

Representation, Our Federal Government and the Constitution

Saturday, March 7, 2026. 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM. PST. No registration required.

Multnomah County Library - Northwest Branch. 2030 NW Pettygrove Street. Portland, OR.

<https://multcolib.org/events-classes/everybody-reads-representation-government-constitution>

"Donna is a consummate professional. Donna delivered relevant, timely, fact-based information in a non-partisan way. Participants were engaged and left knowing more. Thank you, Donna." ~ Liz Goodrich, Events Supervisor, Deschutes PL

Misinformation and Propaganda - Telling Truth from Fiction.

Sunday, March 15th. 2-3:30 PST. No registration necessary.

Multnomah County Library - Northwest Branch. 2030 NW Pettygrove Street. Portland, OR.

<https://multcolib.org/events-classes/misinformation-and-propaganda-telling-truth-fiction>

Selected Civics for Adults Facebook posts: [Note, most bolding in the following is mine.]

Check out the updated Resource Lists for both the Constitution and the Activism workshops PLUS a new list specifically focused on Our Rights! www.civictinker.info/resources

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I hope folks are watching **Black and Jewish in America**. It's important and timely and provides both historical and current context for both groups. Racism and anti-Semitism continue to be afflictions in our society and it would benefit all of us to learn more. First two [maybe three, by the time you get this] episodes have been broadcast; I would be sure to start with episode one.

https://www.pbs.org/show/black-and-jewish-america-an-interwoven-history/?gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=23480324820&qbraid=0AAAAAooDyp3HD74fRRiLDV3b5qA9wkwnf&qclid=CjwKCAiA-sXMBhAOEiwAGGw6LOTpczk_NKpzZygrJrgnfWnNoUylhPjf6ACaAci6_ARIA3dWnJGn_hoCJIEQAvD_BwE

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For everyone, but, especially, librarians – have you seen the **PBS Independent Lens** documentary, **Banned Books and the Librarians Caught in the Political Battle**, aka, The Librarians?

"When lawmakers seek to review a list of books, librarians find themselves on the frontlines of a national battle. Across the U.S., librarians face the impact of uniting against library collection standards". A must see. A review of what is happening and possibly a harbinger for even worse.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywQOCY-qDzE>

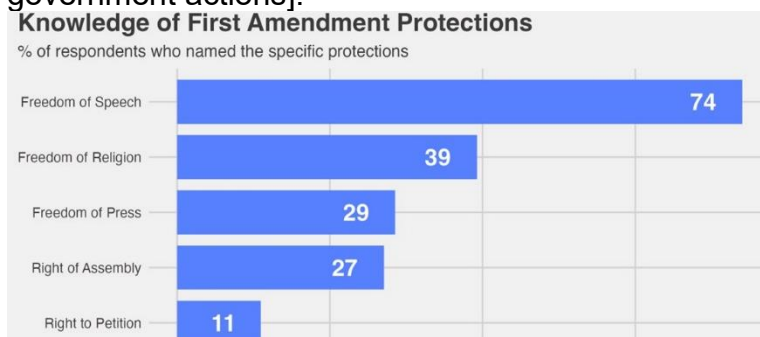
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Have ya'll seen the glossy brochure for the Everybody Reads programs for Multnomah County Library - the selection is Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson's Lovely One! I'm presenting TWO of my workshops for the series!! One was in February and the next one is March 7, listed above!

<https://multcolib.org/everybody-reads>

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Here is a slide from the short "civic literacy" section of my workshop March 7. How sad that of the 5 rights delineated in the 1st Amendment, a majority of the public only know ONE of them!! [and even that, imperfectly, as many think freedom of speech applies in any situation, rather than just government actions].



There is many, many more topics in the workshop, including more on rights, how the Constitution was created, and, significantly, **how representative – or not – the structure of our federal government is** in the workshop!

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We all need to be paying attention to what is going on with immigration activities. I know it's not easy. I spend a vast amount of time trying to stay up-to-date. Please take advantage of my curation. Take a look at what I provide, here and on my Facebook page [link at bottom].

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If you're a glutton for information, as I am, you may want to watch the recent **oversight hearings about the Department of Homeland Security**. Both the House [Feb 10 <https://homeland.house.gov/hearing/oversight-of-the-department-of-homeland-security-ice-cbp-and-uscis/>] and the Senate [Feb 12 <https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/hearings/oversight-hearing/>] conducted them. The combined time for both was about 8 ½ hours [of which I watched about 7 ½]. My overall takeaway, unfortunately, is that ICE and CBP are unwilling to acknowledge any instances of bad behavior and infringements of peoples' rights. Senate Committee Chair Rand Paul, a Libertarian, used video of the killing of Alex Pretti to showcase actions by federal agents which "escalated" the situation, rather than "de-escalated" as policy requires. He said that in order to earn back the trust of the American public the agencies will have to change their approach. We shall see.

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An Insider's View of the Immigration System

"A former senior immigration policy official offers insight into how the system works and highlights urgent problems that must be addressed." O'Herron and Sanchez. Brennan Center for Justice. 11/12/25.

https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/insiders-view-immigration-system?fbclid=IwY2xjawP96oNleHRuA2FlbQlXMAbicmlkETJ1NjBzSUJXY044cHlDQzlh3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODlwMDg5MgABHrRnZ4023lieYuZYL-yO3uHja_leldwvlJp4MqCOVFjfJB4ueyo8VzNg3iC_aem_Nlkmft0dVVC2iJ7GUN2V7A

Excerpts:

"...We have already seen the administration try to undermine due process. As I mentioned earlier, ICE attorneys are diverting many immigrants to expedited removal, which makes it harder for people to defend themselves from deportation. The administration is also denying immigrants bond proceedings and has illegally invoked a wartime law to deport immigrants without a hearing.

These issues may get worse. For many years, funding for immigration enforcement has exceeded funding for immigration courts and the processing of lawful applications. The new funding bill that Congress passed in July supercharges that trend, **giving ICE a 300 percent budget increase but limiting the increase in immigration judges to 14 percent.**

So even though there will be a huge surge in enforcement and in the number of people detained for deportation, the government is not hiring anywhere near enough judges to process their cases. That means that...people may stay behind bars for longer while immigration judges work through the backlog of cases, or people may not receive hearings at all.

Despite the Trump administration's rhetoric about targeting the "worst of the worst" criminals, reports have found that its enforcement policies target many immigrants who have not committed crimes."

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Timothy Snyder

@timothysnyder.bsky.social

If you accept that non-citizens have no right to due process, you are accepting that citizens have no right to due process. All the government has to do is claim that you are not a citizen; without due process you have no chance to prove the contrary.

Due Process is one of the most important rights we have. Why? ...

Due process is so important it is in both the 5th and the 14th Amendments to the Constitution. Without it, we are not a democracy!

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From perhaps the most prominent Libertarian magazine in the country...

As American as Due Process. Billy Binion. Reason Magazine. July 2025.

<https://reason.com/2025/06/08/as-american-as-due-process/>

"Those accused of wrongdoing have the right to challenge the evidence against them before the government takes away their liberty."

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From the respected nonpartisan, nonprofit, investigative publication, ProPublica, in collaboration with the nonpartisan, nonprofit, publication, Texas Tribune. Rebala et al. 2/10 20206.

Immigrants Who Say Their Detention Is Illegal Have Filed More Than 18,000 Cases. It's a Historic High.

https://www.propublica.org/article/habeas-petitions-immigrant-detentions-trump?fbclid=IwY2xjawP-9i9IeHRuA2FibQlXMAbicmlkETJ1NjBzSUJXY044cHIDQzlh3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHjIE8uvW_jy7N9gYKhZzuVd7s4cSmuV7GETIKaxRu2JmCGY8xNFfnUluJJX8_aem_8T_XxQ_-JdZ7EJliDDPow

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The Minnesota Star Tribune has also been doing some great reporting on immigration and rights.

Judge Rules Whipple Detainees Must Have Access to Attorneys, Private Calls.

https://www.startribune.com/judge-rules-whipple-detainees-must-have-access-to-attorneys-private-calls/601581387?fbclid=IwY2xjawP-9uxIeHRuA2FibQlXMAbicmlkETJ1NjBzSUJXY044cHIDQzlh3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHjIA Sj_wniBk48hvxS2ViKvjIJuX4e7394iMbvz_YIGwjiwyMbapr9mfGff_aem_GeKmoNRtX0gGbfRZ5mgyCg

Excerpt: "A federal judge on Feb. 12 ordered the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to improve access to phones and lawyers for detainees at the Whipple Federal Building, while also barring the federal government from transferring detainees out of state during the first 72 hours of detention. Thursday's ruling, although temporary, is a major victory for human rights advocates, attorneys and elected officials who had been raising concerns about detainees' access to basic legal services. U.S. District Judge Nancy Brasel, who was appointed to the federal bench by President Donald Trump in 2018, ripped the federal government for its lack of consideration for the constitutional rights of detainees brought in by immigration agents.

"It appears that in planning for Operation Metro Surge, the government failed to plan for the constitutional rights of its civil detainees," Brasel wrote. "The government suggests — with minimal explanation and even less evidence — that doing so would result in 'chaos.' **The Constitution does not permit the government to arrest thousands of individuals and then disregard their constitutional rights because it would be too challenging to honor those rights.**"

[You might want to look at a current Oregon bill - HB 4117 – "Relates to universal representation. Money from the General fund would be appropriated to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services for purposes of deposit in the Universal Representation Fund providing due process for low-income immigrants & refugees."]

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From **opinion, 2/9/2026, Judge Goodwin, Southern District for West Virginia**: Here is a flavor of what a ruling against the type of detention the government is doing sounds like...

"The husband and wife before this court are charged with civil violations of our country's immigration laws. Civil. Not criminal. That distinction is not a technicality or a formality. It is the line the law draws between regulation and punishment. Yet these two working parents appear in unmistakable prison garb. They wear orange jumpsuits, are shackled, and are restrained in heavy chains. They have been kept away from their children, forced to languish in detention hundreds of miles away from where they live and work. They have been confined for days alongside persons accused of or convicted of crimes. They are held without any custody determination or bond hearing. This is not what civil enforcement looks like in a humane system of government under law.

The Constitution does not permit such cruelty as a condition of civil enforcement. It does not permit the government to strip people of dignity simply because they lack lawful status. **It has long been**

settled that noncitizens, “even [those] whose presence in this country is unlawful, have long been recognized as ‘persons’ guaranteed due process of law.” The authority the political branches possess over immigration does not include the power to seize liberty first and justify confinement later. Due process is not a courtesy extended at the government’s convenience. Due process is the condition that makes custody lawful in the first place.

Congress itself has recognized this principle by requiring that civil immigration detention be tethered to a lawful custody determination—one that determines whether continued detention is warranted or whether release on bond is appropriate. **When liberty is restrained without a meaningful opportunity to be heard, the Constitution’s promise is not delayed. It is denied.”**

https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.wvscd.242913/gov.uscourts.wvscd.242913.32.0.pdf?fbclid=IwY2xjawP-LtleHRuA2FibQlXMAbIcmIkETJ1NjBzSUJXY044cHIDQzlh3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODlwMDg5MgABHrRnZ4023lieYuZYL-yO3uHja_leldwvlJp4MqCOVFjJBY4ueyo8VzNg3iC_aem_Nlkmft0dVVC2iJ7GUN2V7A

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The **CATO Institute is a Libertarian “think tank”** that does some excellent analysis around issues of civil rights and also immigration. Here are some examples:

The Government Unconstitutionally Labels ICE Observers as Domestic Terrorists

David Bier. CATO. 12/15/2025.

https://www.cato.org/blog/dhs-policy-threatening-arresting-ice-observers-violates-their-rights?utm_source=hootsuite&utm_medium=facebook&utm_term&utm_content&utm_campaign&fbclid=IwY2xjawP95-FleHRuA2FibQlXMAbIcmIkETJ1NjBzSUJXY044cHIDQzlh3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODlwMDg5MgABHin57V7eBC5_dOenKa4CiG19gACaH9MjUgYcc-E7KfItQXPFGKOhGTxN5jB-aem_RzNsZb-3ZOn7ShBNOhKwNA

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Another Constitutional issue we are dealing with is our **4th Amendment right to be secure in our homes**. The 4th Amendment applies to all persons, not just citizens. We have always required a **judicial warrant**, based on probable cause, in order for law enforcement to enter one’s home without permission [with very limited exceptions].

Brief explainer:

Judicial warrant – one signed by a judge, based on probable cause.

Administrative warrant – one signed only by someone working for the same agency as that which will carry out the warrant.

Steve Vladeck, Law Professor, Georgetown University, talks about this in a short video. 1/25/26.

https://georgetown.app.box.com/v/Vladeck-ICE-4A?fbclid=IwY2xjawP97vFleHRuA2FibQlXMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZBAyMjlyMDM5MTc4ODlwMDg5MgABHin57V7eBC5_dOenKa4CiG19gACaH9MjUgYcc-E7KfItQXPFGKOhGTxN5jB-aem_RzNsZb-3ZOn7ShBNOhKwNA

His **One First** Substack at <https://www.stevevladeck.com/>

Article from One First that continues this discussion <https://www.stevevladeck.com/p/206-administrative-warrants-and-the>

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Wrenching and vital interview.

Exclusive: 'Pink coat lady' who recorded fatal encounter between federal officers and Alex Pretti speaks to Anderson Cooper. CNN. 1/27/26

https://www.cnn.com/2026/01/27/us/video/ac360stellacarlson?fbclid=IwY2xjawP-AZFleHRuA2FibQlXMAbIcmIkETJ1NjBzSUJXY044cHIDQzlh3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODlwMDg5MgABHin57V7eBC5_dOenKa4CiG19gACaH9MjUgYcc-E7KfItQXPFGKOhGTxN5jB-aem_RzNsZb-3ZOn7ShBNOhKwNA

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More 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_68015c18b94c1.pdf