

Common Cause

Minnesota

Community. Conversations. Action

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Building Stronger Communities Through Meaningful Conversations

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Welcome & Workshop Goals

Today We Will:

- ✓ Practice meaningful civic conversations
- ✓ Learn tools for engaging family, friends, and neighbors
- ✓ Explore Election Protection
- ✓ Identify actions we can take in our communities

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Democracy Depends on
Trust & Participation

Why Conversations Matter

Trust within Relationships &
Participation founded on
belonging



Think of a conversation that helped you feel heard.
What made it meaningful?

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3 key skills:

The Million Conversations Approach

Be Curious > Ask questions.

Listen > Seek understanding.

Share Stories > Connect through lived experience.

Take Action > Help people stay engaged

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3 key skills:

Be Curious

Questions That Open Doors

Ask:

- What matters most to you right now?
- What gives you hope?
- What challenges are you seeing in our community?
- What experiences shaped your views?
- What would help you feel more connected?

Avoid:

- Debates
- Interrupting
- Fact-dumping
- Assumptions

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3 key skills:

Be Curious: The Meaningful Conversations Model

- Step One - LISTEN
- Step Two - LEARN
- Step Three - CONNECT
- Step Four - INVITE ACTION

GOTV Through Relationships

People Participate Because They Care About:

- Family
- Community
- Fairness
- Opportunity
- Belonging

Practice Activity

Scenario Discussion - Partner Up and Choose One:

"My vote doesn't matter."

"I'm too busy to vote."

"Politics feels divisive."

"I don't know enough."

Discuss > What value is underneath this statement?

What question could you ask?

What would help someone feel heard?

Election Protection

Every Eligible Voter Deserves To Be Heard

"Election Protection helps voters:

- ✓ Find accurate information
- ✓ Navigate voting barriers
- ✓ Access language support
- ✓ Protect voting rights

Call 866-Our-Vote

Election Protection

How we help voters

"Election Protection helps voters

We can:

- ✓ Find accurate information
- ✓ Navigate voting barriers
- ✓ Access language support
- ✓ Protect voting rights

We cannot:

- X Pressure people
- X Tell people how to vote
- X Promote candidates
- X Spread misinformation

Call 866-Our-Vote

Election Protection

The Million Conversations Challenge

In the next 30 days:

- ☐ Have one meaningful civic conversation
- ☐ Listen to someone's story
- ☐ Ask three curiosity questions
- ☐ Share why participation matters to you
- ☐ Help someone access trusted information

Election Protection

Closing Reflection

One Word Check-out – How are you leaving today?

“Democracy doesn't only happen on Election Day. Democracy grows whenever people listen, connect, and work together to strengthen their communities.” That means having those difficult conversations and working through feeling uncomfortable.

Fighting for the
democracy
we deserve

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