Civic Index Quick Quiz

Based on more than 25 years of testing and refinement, the National Civic League’s Civic Index is an effective way to examine the infrastructure and elements that make for strong, resilient, innovative communities. This quick quiz – based on the more detailed Civic Index – is a powerful tool for uncovering community strengths and areas in need of improvement. Use this with staff, partners, clients and diverse residents to develop a clearer picture of how they see the community. Take what you learn to identify areas for focused, strategic action to reinforce strengths and address key challenges.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Rate how well developed each of the civic infrastructure elements are within your community. Remember to consider the entire community. | We don't have this | We talk about it but haven’t taken action to build it | We’re working on it – we’ve taken steps to build this | We have a number of good examples | We have many great examples across the community |
| **Community Leadership** | | | | | |
| 1. Our community has a wealth of respected and trusted leaders, across different sectors, whom we can trust to put the community first. |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. We have clear opportunities for residents of all ages, backgrounds, beliefs, and abilities to take on leadership roles. |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Our leadership programs develop and encourage emerging leaders who reflect the full diversity of our community including age, ethnicity, gender, religion, income and sexual orientation. |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Public Participation and Civic Engagement** | | | | | |
| 1. A culture of engagement where diverse residents attend and actively participate in public planning, decision-making and problem-solving efforts. |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. A community expectation that nonprofits and government will use resident engagement to shape and inform key actions. |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Numerous opportunities for residents to engage leaders and one another in face-to-face conversations about their interests, concerns, and aspirations. |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. A community culture where community members and leaders can passionately disagree without turning to personal attacks or derailing public discussion. |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Diversity and Inclusiveness** | | | | | |
| 1. A culture of inclusion that celebrates and actively includes its full diversity (age, race, gender, religion, income, abilities, sexual orientation & more) in civic life. |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Leaders and organizations that go beyond just making opportunities available but instead actively and creatively seek to include diverse residents and unheard voices in shaping decisions. |  |  |  |  |  |

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| **Decision-Making and Consensus-Building** | | | | | |
| 1. An expectation among leaders and residents that the community addresses challenges directly instead of deferring or postponing difficult decisions and consider the short and long-term circumstances and resources |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. An expectation among leaders and residents that the community resolve controversial issues fairly, with practical compromises and solutions. |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Partnerships and Collaboration** | | | | | |
| 1. Local governments in the region regularly and effectively work together to address local and communitywide challenges. |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Local governments actively and effectively partner with nonprofit groups and private sector leaders. |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. A wealth of groups that productively connect and convene people/groups across traditional dividing lines (race, income, geography, etc.) to address pressing conflicts and challenges. |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Nonprofit groups collaborate effectively to address community problems not just seek resources. |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Community Vision and Pride** | | | | | |
| 1. A shared vision of the community and a strong sense about what people want it to be moving forward. |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. A strong sense of attachment among residents to the community and their neighborhood along with a clear sense of what makes the community unique. |  |  |  |  |  |

**Discussion and Reflection**

As you look back over your answers, take a few minutes to reflect, either on your own or with others in your group or organization. What stands out? What, if anything, surprised you?

**Ask yourself, or those in your group, the following questions:**

1. Where does our community really shine? What are our strongest civic assets?
2. What areas can you and others target to help build a stronger civic infrastructure?
3. How would others from different parts of the community, or with different life experiences answer these same questions?
4. How you can you leverage your strengths to help build capacity in areas that are less developed?
5. Who else should we use this quiz with in order to better understand the community?