

# Civic Assemblies

Across topics, across roles,  
across the policy cycle

Linn Davis, Program Director



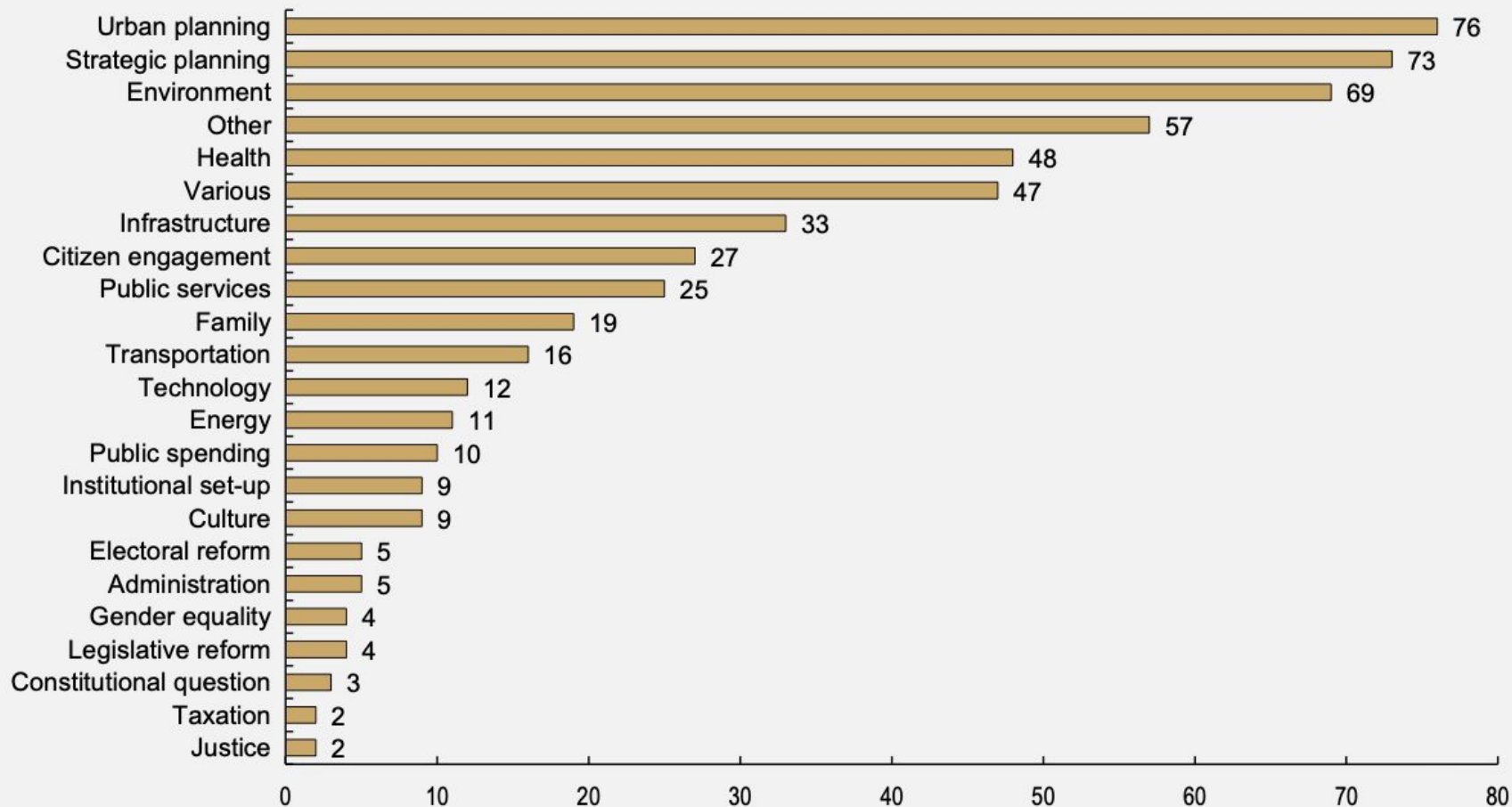
HEALTHY  
DEMOCRACY





**Across Topics**

# Assemblies can address almost any policy question.



# Definite questions, like:

How might we use the City's fairgrounds property to create the experiences, activities, resources, and places that our community needs and desires now and for the foreseeable future?



**Indefinite questions, like:**  
What should our priorities be for  
building community solutions to  
prevent and end youth homelessness?









# **Across Roles & the Policy Cycle**

# Roles for an Assembly

1. Fact-Finding
2. Agenda-Setting
3. Principles (Values) Identification
4. Policymaking / Policy Advising
5. Alternatives Analysis
6. Ongoing Governance / Regulation
7. Complete System





Referendum



Legislature  
Refers to  
Voters



Citizens'  
Initiative  
Review

Initiative



Advocates  
Write  
Initiative



Advocates  
Collect  
Signatures



State Mails  
Voters'  
Guide

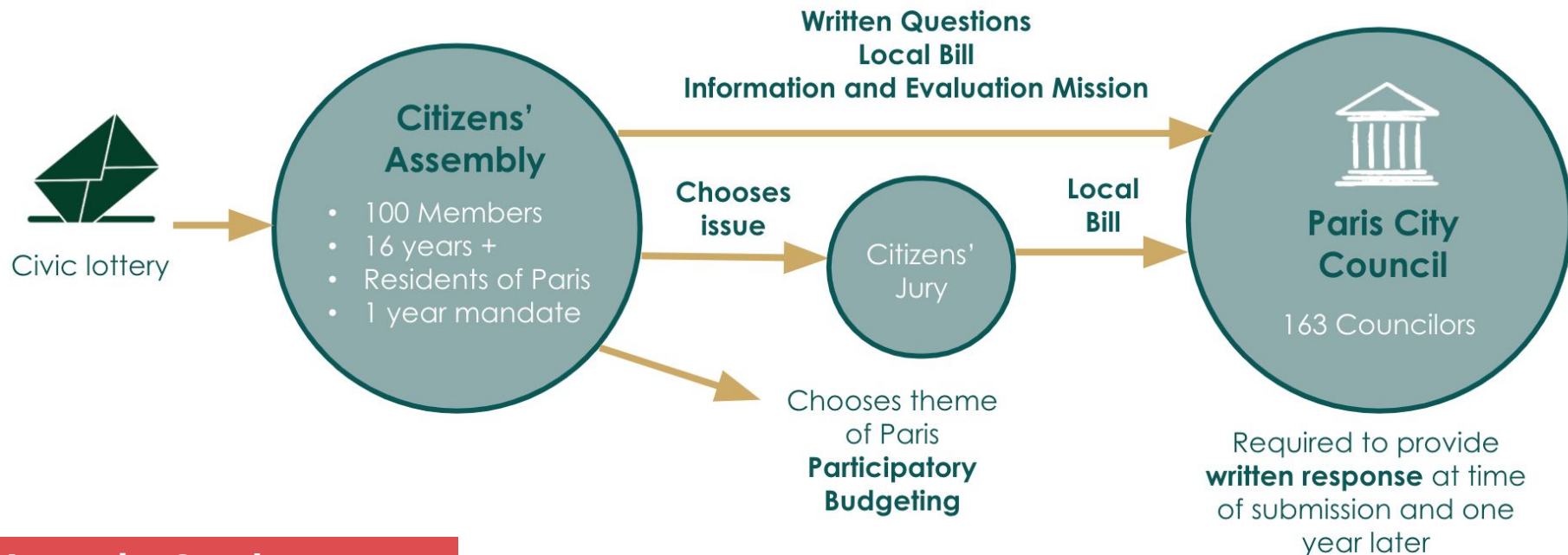


General  
Election

Ballot measure process with CIR

# Paris, France

## Permanent Citizens' Assembly



# Eugene, OR (2020-21)

**Topic:** Implementation of housing code changes required by a new state law

**Context:** Probably the most contentious issue in the city at the time; many had opposed the state law

**Panelists:** 29 (residents aged 16+); 7 demo. factors

**Work:** ~15 online sessions (mostly evenings)

**Result:** 4 reports, influencing zoning code revisions:

- *Principles* – values, criteria, and rationales
- *Review of Code Concepts* – high-level feedback
- *Review of Code Language* – low-level feedback
- *General Public Engagement Recommendations*



More info:  
[healthydemocracy.org/eugene](https://healthydemocracy.org/eugene)

# Petaluma, CA (2022)

**Topic:** Future of a 55-acre fairgrounds property

**Context:** Probably the most contentious issue in the city; seemingly everyone in the city is a stakeholder

**Panelists:** 36 (residents aged 16+); 7 demo. factors

**Work:** ~12 total days of in-person work, over 2 months

**Result:** 3 reports presented to Council & Fair Board:

- *Principles* – values, criteria, and rationales
- *Pathways* – specific site use options
- *Final Report* – preferred Fairgrounds land use(s) and rationales, and dissenting opinions



More info:  
[healthydemocracy.org/petaluma](https://healthydemocracy.org/petaluma)

# Vancouver, BC (2019)



**Topic:** Alternatives for a new over- or under-pass across a rail line

**Context:** Followed two years of contentious traditional public engagement

**Panelists:** 37

**Work:** 8 deliberative sessions, including public workshops & a site tour

**Result:** City Council voted to approve the Panel's second-choice alternative, as well as several other considerations important to the Panel

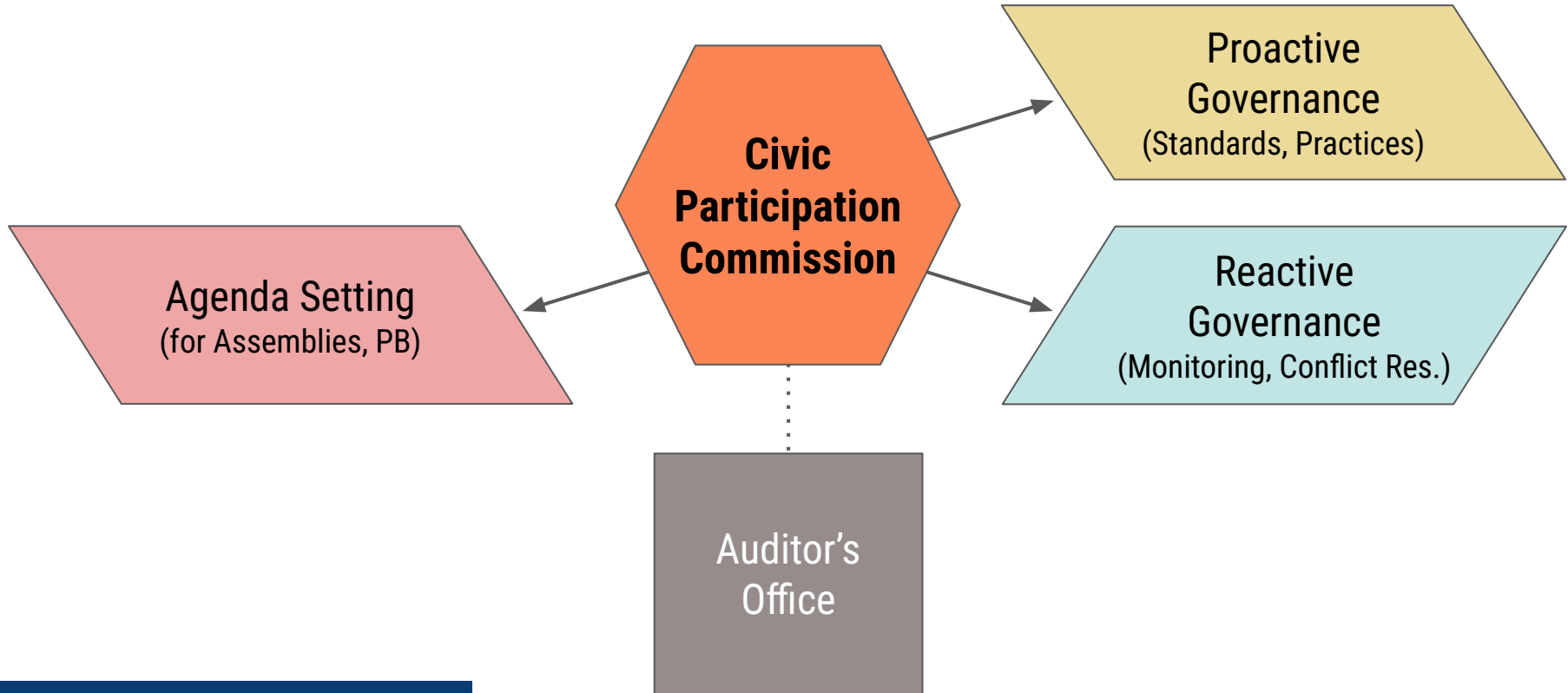


Center for New  
Democratic Processes

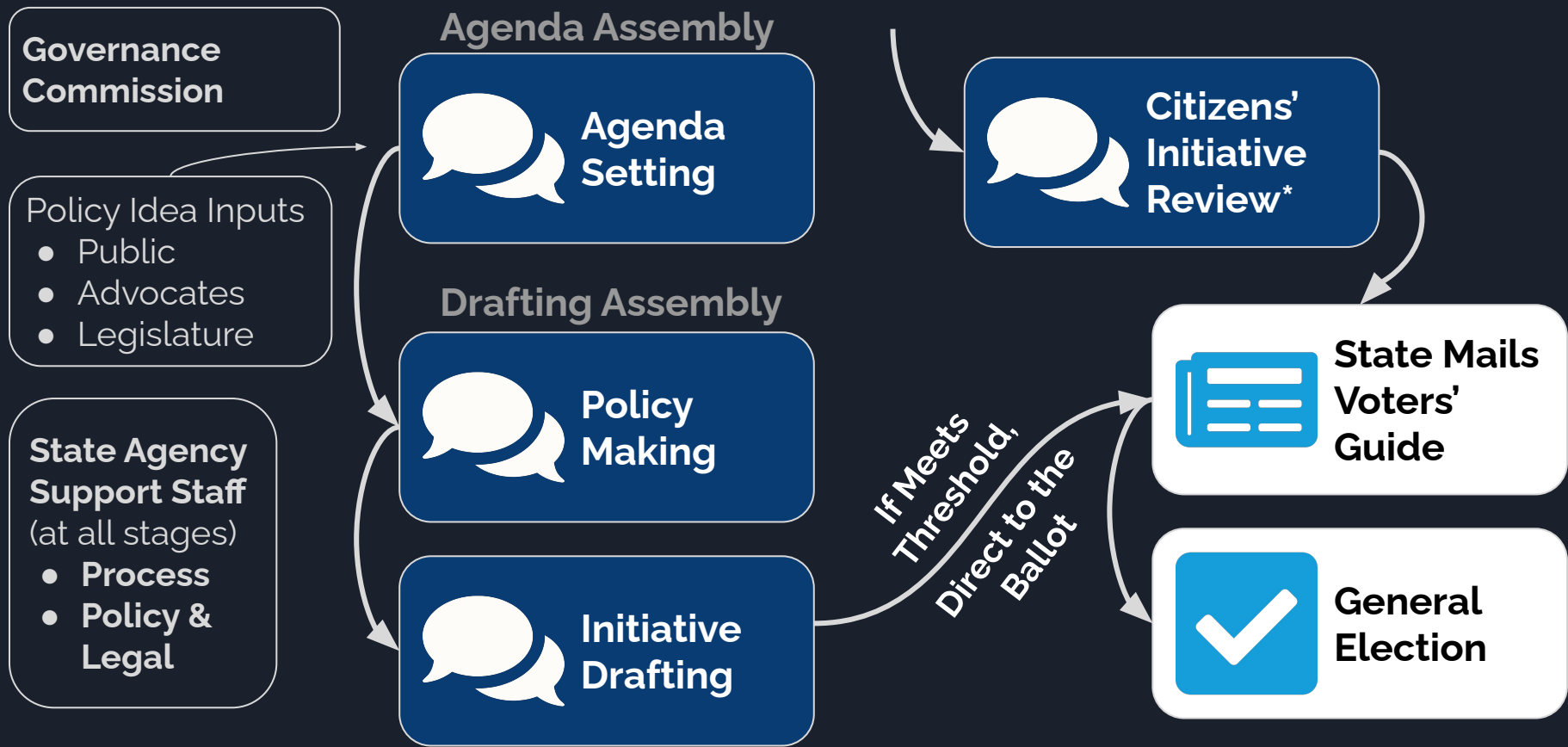
More info:

[jefferson-center.org/  
flats-arterial-community-panel](https://jefferson-center.org/flats-arterial-community-panel)

# Civic Participation Commission Model







Long-Term Initiative Convention System Model



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