



Civics 101: How Does Policy Change Happen, and What Can You Do About It?

2020 Governor's Conference on Volunteerism

Wednesday, June 24, 2020

Volunteer NH hosts the annual **Governor's Conference on Volunteerism** in partnership with the Governor's Office.

The purpose of the conference is to educate, enhance skills, and provide professional development that will support and strengthen New Hampshire's volunteer programs and organizations.

Learn more by visiting VolunteerNH.org

Session Chat

[Attendees introduce themselves and share where they are logging in from]

15:41:04 From Larissa Striga : Hi! Glad you're here! Please introduce yourself in the chat box and let us know where you're logging in from today!

15:41:17 From Dawn Brown : Dawn Brown, Allenstown NH

15:41:20 From Justin Purvis : Hi, Justin Purvis Portland Maine

15:41:26 From Martha Dickey : Martha, Boscawen NH

15:41:41 From Ginger Elliott : Ginger Elliott, Springfield, MA. RSVP of the Pioneer Valley

15:41:45 From Jess Casterline : Jess Casterline, Plymouth NH

15:41:50 From Riché Colcombe : Riché from Hillsborough

15:41:57 From Moses Shafer : Hi, Moses Shafer in Holderness, NH.

15:42:03 From Andrea Johnston : Andrea Johnston Volunteer NH

15:42:08 From Larissa Striga : Hi! Glad you're here! Please introduce yourself in the chat box and let us know where you're logging in from today!

15:42:23 From Molly April : Molly with the International Institute of New England - logging in from Somerville MA

15:42:25 From Martha Dickey : With Granite United Way

15:42:31 From priscilla matos : Priscilla Matos Nashua Nh AmeriCorps member HH Recovery Corps

15:42:31 From Kate Bruchacova : Kate, Laconia

15:42:33 From Kimberly Cartier : Kimberly Cartier, VISTA serving with Campus Compact for NH at Great Bay Community College

15:42:42 From Leslie Griffin : Leslie Griffin from FIT VISTA program

15:43:16 From Robert Jones : Bob Jones - OLLI at Granite State College

15:43:29 From Larissa Striga : Hi! Glad you're here! Please introduce yourself in the chat box and let us know where you're logging in from today!

15:43:30 From johnathan Lemitelamy : Jon From Goodwill AmeriCorps rochester nh

15:43:33 From Peggy Verney : Hi there, Peg Verney here, AmeriCorps HH Recovery Corps

15:43:33 From richard nadeau : Rich Nadeau Goffstown CERT Goffstown NH

15:43:44 From Amanda Powell : Hi all - Amanda from Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains in Bedford, NH!

15:44:03 From Hilary Stark : Hilary , AmeriCorps Recovery Corps

15:44:10 From Mallory Brunet : Mallory from SCP Bangor ME

15:44:19 From Megan Brabec : Hi all - Megan Brabec, Coordinator of Civic & Community Engagement at UNH, calling in from Newmarket, NH!

15:44:38 From Patricia Paola : AmeriCorps, serving at Good Samaritan Haven homeless shelter, Barre, VT

15:44:38 From Kim White Feather-Altomare : Kim White Feather-Altomare CRSW Recovery Coach and Suicide preventionist Center Ossipee, NH

15:44:52 From Kim White Feather-Altomare : AmeriCorps Alumni

15:44:54 From Sarah Tremblay : Hello! Sarah from United Way of the Greater Seacoast tuning in from Dover, NH

15:45:06 From Larissa Striga : Ask your questions here!

15:45:18 From Eliza Zarka : Hi everyone! Eliza, joining from the State House

15:45:54 From Lauren Rex : Lauren, AmeriCorps member, Colby College ME

15:45:59 From Ellen Green : Ellen Green, West Rutland, VT

[Attendees answer the question, "What current issue is most important to you right now?" on the shared whiteboard or in the chat]

15:48:19 From Patricia Paola : my computer has issues...homelessness

15:48:23 From Larissa Striga : Time to write on the white board! What is the issue you care most about?

15:48:57 From Larissa Striga : Hi Iris! Feel free to add your issue here in the chat.

15:48:58 From Patricia Helbig : Humanity. Human rights

15:49:05 From Hilary Stark : recovery , homeless

15:49:42 From Johnathan Lemitelamy : clean energy

15:50:09 From Therese Thompson : Save all species on our Earth

15:50:42 From Patricia Helbig : Recovery through support

15:50:42 From Jas Moorjani : Resources for Senior Citizens in NH

15:51:15 From Larissa Striga : Feel free to tell us your issue in the chat.

[Attendees answer the question, "Is the issue you identified a local, state, or national issue"]

15:51:26 From Patricia Paola : National

15:51:34 From Patricia Helbig : Global

15:51:48 From Patricia Paola : and Global

15:51:57 From Kim White Feather-Altomare : housing in the poorest communities

15:52:04 From Hilary Stark : state

15:52:11 From Mikayla Collins : N=National S=State L=Local

15:52:12 From Molly Plummer : Molly Plummer Americorps member

15:52:22 From Patricia Helbig : What about Global?

15:52:35 From Margaret Taylor : Maggie AmeriCorps member

15:53:08 From Justin Purvis : Racial Equality is National

15:53:11 From Patricia Helbig : That is all see and world related. Human rights require all levels of support- local, national, world

15:53:25 From Shawn Sutton : Family Promise-Homeless Families

[General comments and questions]

15:58:24 From Therese Thompson : what about 2019

16:07:15 From Leslie Griffin : So how do we effectively shake our tiny fists against the mountain and make change?

16:09:28 From Kim White Feather-Altomare : while getting the results you want may be difficult, you can be an advocate for change, because we are all advocates for something.

16:09:50 From Larissa Striga : <https://www.govtrack.us>

16:09:58 From Shawn Sutton : Have heard in past that your \$contributions to representatives impacts your degree of clout? True or False?

16:10:07 From Larissa Striga : <http://ballotpedia.org>

16:10:33 From Justin Purvis : US Congress App in Play Store

16:11:04 From Larissa Striga : <https://gencourt.state.nh.us>

16:12:36 From Riché Colcombe : Riché Colcombe - Candidate for Hillsborough District 38 😊

16:13:44 From Justin Purvis : Subscribe to your local city council channels and email list. I get weekly city council agendas every week. Good way to stay informed.

16:14:16 From Leslie Griffin : write via email or letter?

16:14:22 From Leslie Griffin : OK thanks

16:15:36 From Patricia Helbig : What about doing both? Does the squeaky wheel get the grease? Or, would this be overkill?

16:15:37 From Emily Planchet : As a friendly reminder, AmeriCorps members are not allowed to lobby for a bill and/or engage in any partisan politics while accruing hours (but you are more than welcome to do so on your own free time). If you have specific questions, definitely reach out to your Program contact.

16:15:37 From Kim White Feather-Altomare : Building a strong diverse and engaged partnership base will amplify your impact and you know that you be an effective advocate

on your own, but your chances of success will multiply by building on your ideas with members of a network or coalition which can sound a unified voice

16:17:07 From Kim White Feather-Altomare : you will be able to bring in partners to the table to reinforce the messages you use to influence the policymaking process

16:18:31 From Justin Purvis : District Attorneys are powerful and deserve to be checked, show up AND VOTE if you believe in RACIAL JUSTICE.

16:19:21 From Larissa Striga : Hi everyone! Let us know your questions for Stephen. What are you curious about?

16:20:01 From Kim White Feather-Altomare : you are considered a contributor if you contribute a \$1.00 or \$100,000

16:20:47 From Shawn Sutton : How do you find out about protests on various issues?

16:21:53 From Kim White Feather-Altomare : Social media, Newspapers, google, radio, friends,

16:21:58 From Kim White Feather-Altomare : neighbors friends

16:22:07 From Grace Callahan : I find out about protests through social media- follow grassroots organizations focused on issues you care about, nonprofits, get on email lists

16:22:22 From Larissa Striga : <https://ctb.ku.edu/en>

16:24:27 From Larissa Striga : We continue to take your questions. What do you want to know more about?

16:25:30 From Leslie Griffin : Thank you This was amazing.

16:25:50 From Patricia Helbig : Are petitions effective? If so, is there a specific template which is the most useful?

16:26:43 From Justin Purvis : What committees (locally or nationally) might influence term limit decision making?

16:27:51 From Kim White Feather-Altomare : Define issues, or current policy in neutral terms, and generate possible policy related solutions and list who or what is being affected by this. Outline the facts and values associated with the issue.

16:28:20 From Molly April : How can you communicate and show relevance if you are not a constituent (ex: I live in Somerville, MA but I care about the budget for the city of Boston). When calling the city of Boston legislators, should I omit or include my residence?

16:30:25 From Bob Jones (OLLI @ GSC) : The New Yorker has stories of great depth on major issues, and is very reliable.

16:30:58 From Leslie Griffin : WBZ news producer told me once that if I really want unbiased US news, go to BBC

16:31:47 From Shawn Sutton : What about access to the information our representatives are using to make decisions and the considered bills, where can we get this?

16:31:52 From Kim White Feather-Altomare : Petitions can be effective, you have to be concise, keeping it short and to the point and focus on the solution, and communicate the urgency for the change

16:32:59 From Leslie Griffin : Question- I've heard about data driven politics- is this just a buzz term or is there some organizational push for this?

16:34:13 From Kim White Feather-Altomare : NH general court bill status
https://gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status/

16:38:47 From Justin Purvis : Question- If I wanted to work in politics what is a better degree option Leadership & Organizational Studies with focus on Civic Leadership or 2) Public Administration

16:41:50 From Shawn Sutton : Are petitions sometimes needed to get items on ballots?

16:41:52 From Grace Callahan : Do you have advice for someone who is interested in gaining policy/advocacy experience but who moves around a lot? I'm a recent grad who

takes shorter term positions in different locations so I don't have a strong "home base" from which I can really attack certain local issues

16:43:33 From Justin Purvis : Run for office would be the ultimate.

16:46:17 From Sara Martin : A degree in Social Work, with an emphasis in macro social work, is a good place to learn about policy, particularly policy about vulnerable populations.

16:47:39 From Kim White Feather-Altomare : Grace, you might want to consider working for a senator in a senator's office, As a field representative, staff assistant, legislative aide, Spring Internship, Fall internship, or some kind of intern

16:49:03 From Mikayla Collins : Thanks, everyone! Here is the link to let us know what you thought of the session:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfSZfh4TlIrtdaCgsdAU2t39d13CJ-9t6gCd7iJ47Q_BMScjnw/viewform?usp=sf_link