



# Civic Engagement Quiz

THE CENTER FOR INFORMATION & RESEARCH ON CIVIC LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT | [www.civicyouth.org](http://www.civicyouth.org)

## Civic Engagement Quiz – Full Version

The civic indicators measured in this quiz can be used in two ways to measure civic engagement for a group. First, they can be used to compare the pattern of civic engagement in a group of people to the pattern of civic engagement found nationally. Second, these indicators can be used to measure changes in civic engagement after a group has been exposed to a program or other treatment.

Several cautions should be noted about using the indicators to measure the effectiveness of a youth program, an organization, or a specific curriculum, or just to compare a group to the levels of civic engagement observed nationally:

- Many programs that are valuable to youth may not spark an immediate change in these indicators, particularly if the program is run over a short period of time or is not very intensive. In such a case, giving young people the indicators in the form of a pre-and post-test may not always yield results, and most likely will not capture new changes. The most appropriate measures may be more specific to the content of a project. For example, students in an environmental service-learning program should learn about the particular ecosystem in which they are working. The above indicators will not reflect changes in environmental knowledge. Only if the project is intense or lasts for a considerable period of time would we anticipate changes in the civic indicators listed above.
- All of the indicators measure behavior that can be quantified. Some types of civic values, motives, and behaviors may be better assessed through qualitative measures such as open-ended interviews where young people can describe their activities and intentions. If you are using the indicators to assess civic engagement in an organization or program, adding qualitative methods to your evaluation will give a richer picture of your program and the youth involved.
- The indicators were developed from a national sample, and as a result, reflect civic actions that can be measured on a national scale, but may not always be community specific. For instance, the national sample had a low representation of Native American youth. Consequently, the indicators do not include civic activities that may be common on a reservation or in a tribal community. Similarly, if you are working with extremely engaged youth, their civic behaviors may not be reflected in the indicators. Please adapt the indicators to fit your needs, and add new indicators to the list. Supplement any evaluations with additional measures and other types of data - particularly qualitative data that will give you a better idea of the uniqueness of your program and the young people you work with.

**For a more complete discussion on administering the quiz, see the accompanying guide called "A Guide to the Index of Civic and Political Engagement" (2003).**

**Please mark an "X" in the appropriate box(es). Once completed, use the tables on pages 5 and 6 to compare your responses to those of a nationally representative sample.**

## Civic Indicators

<b>Community Problem Solving</b>			
<b>1.</b> Have you ever worked together with someone or some group to solve a problem in the community where you live?	( ) Yes, <i>Within the last 12 months</i>	( ) Yes, <i>But not within the last 12 months</i>	( ) No, <i>Never</i>
<b>Volunteering</b>			
<b>2.</b> Have you volunteered or done any voluntary community service for no pay?	( ) Yes, <i>Within the last 12 months</i>	( ) Yes, <i>But not within the last 12 months</i>	( ) No, <i>Never</i>

Indicate whether you have volunteered with any of the following types of organizations or groups:			
<b>2A.</b> Religious group	( ) Yes, I have <i>volunteered within the last 12 months</i>	( ) Yes, I volunteer <i>once a month or more</i>	( ) <i>Not within the last 12 months</i>
<b>2B.</b> Environmental organization	( ) Yes, I have <i>volunteered within the last 12 months</i>	( ) Yes, I volunteer <i>once a month or more</i>	( ) <i>Not within the last 12 months</i>
<b>2C.</b> Civic or community organization involved in health or social services	( ) Yes, I have <i>volunteered within the last 12 months</i>	( ) Yes, I volunteer <i>once a month or more</i>	( ) <i>Not within the last 12 months</i>
<b>2D.</b> An organization for youth, children, or education	( ) Yes, I have <i>volunteered within the last 12 months</i>	( ) Yes, I volunteer <i>once a month or more</i>	( ) <i>Not within the last 12 months</i>
<b>2E.</b> Any other group:  _____ <i>(describe the group)</i>	( ) Yes, I have <i>volunteered within the last 12 months</i>	( ) Yes, I volunteer <i>regularly - once a month or more</i>	( ) <i>Not within the last 12 months</i>

<b>Group Membership</b>				
<b>3A.</b> Do you belong to or donate money to any groups or associations, either locally or nationally such as charities, labor unions, professional associations, political or social groups, sports or youth groups, and so forth?			( ) Yes	( ) No
<b>3B.</b> Are you an active member of this group or any of these groups, a member but not active, or have you given money only? Mark all that apply.	( ) <i>Active member of at least one of them</i>	( ) <i>Member, but not active in at least one of them</i>	( ) <i>Given money only</i>	( ) No

<p><b>Participate in run/walk/ride</b>  <b>4.</b> Have you personally walked, ran, or bicycled for a charitable cause – this is separate from sponsoring or giving money to this type of event?</p>	<p>( )                  Yes,  <i>Have done it within last 12 months</i></p>	<p>( )                  Yes,  <i>But not within last 12 months</i></p>	<p>( )                  No,                  Never</p>
<p><b>Donate to a charity</b>  <b>5.</b> Besides donating money, have you ever done anything else to help raise money for a charitable cause?</p>	<p>( )                  Yes,  <i>Have done it within last 12 months</i></p>	<p>( )                  Yes,  <i>But not within last 12 months</i></p>	<p>( )                  No,                  Never</p>

## Electoral Indicators

<p><b><u>Voter Registration</u></b>  <b>6A.</b> Many people are not registered to vote because they are too busy or move around often.                   Are you currently registered in your election district, or not?</p>	<p>( )                   Yes,                  Definitely</p>	<p>( )                   I think so</p>	<p>( )                   No</p>
<p><b><u>Voting</u></b>  <b>6B.</b> We know that most people don't vote in all elections. Do you vote in both national and local elections?</p>	<p>( )                   Yes,                  Always</p>	<p>( )                   Yes,                  Usually</p>	<p>( )                   No</p>
<p><b><u>Volunteer for a Candidate or Political Campaign</u></b>  <b>7.</b> Have you volunteered for a political organization or candidate running for office?</p>	<p>( )                  Yes,                  Within the last 12 months</p>	<p>( )                  Yes,                  But, not within the last 12 months</p>	<p>( )                  No,                  Never</p>
<p><b><u>Persuade Others to vote for a candidate or party</u></b>  <b>8.</b> When there is an election taking place, do you try to convince people to vote for or against one of the parties or candidates, or not?</p>	<p>( )                   Yes,                  Always</p>	<p>( )                   Yes,                  Usually</p>	<p>( )                   No</p>
<p><b><u>Display Campaign Button or Sticker</u></b>  <b>9.</b> Do you wear a campaign button, put a sticker on your car, or place a sign in front of your house?</p>	<p>( )                   Yes,                  Always</p>	<p>( )                   Yes,                  Usually</p>	<p>( )                   No</p>
<p><b><u>Contributing to a Campaign, party or group</u></b>  <b>10.</b> Have you given money to a candidate, political party, or organization that supported candidates?</p>	<p>( )                  Yes,                  Within the last 12 months</p>	<p>( )                  Yes,                  But, not within the last 12 months</p>	<p>( )                  No,                  Never</p>

## Indicators of Political Voice

Have you done any of the following to express your views?			
<p><b>Contacted a Public Official</b></p> <p><b>11.</b> Contacted or visited a public official – at any level of government – to express your opinion?</p>	<p>( ) Yes, Within the last 12 months</p>	<p>( ) Yes, But, not within the last 12 months</p>	<p>( ) No, Never</p>
<p><b>Contacted a Newspaper</b></p> <p><b>12.</b> Contacted a newspaper or magazine to express your opinion on an issue?</p>	<p>( ) Yes, Within the last 12 months</p>	<p>( ) Yes, But, not within the last 12 months</p>	<p>( ) No, Never</p>
<p><b>Contacted a Radio or Television Talk Show</b></p> <p><b>13.</b> Called in to a radio or television talk show to express your opinion on a political issue, even if you did not get on the air?</p>	<p>( ) Yes, Within the last 12 months</p>	<p>( ) Yes, But, not within the last 12 months</p>	<p>( ) No, Never</p>
<p><b>Protested</b></p> <p><b>14.</b> Taken part in a protest, march, or demonstration?</p>	<p>( ) Yes, Within the last 12 months</p>	<p>( ) Yes, But, not within the last 12 months</p>	<p>( ) No, Never</p>
<p><b>Signed an Email Petition</b></p> <p><b>15.</b> Signed an e-mail petition about a social or political issue?</p>	<p>( ) Yes, Within the last 12 months</p>	<p>( ) Yes, But, not within the last 12 months</p>	<p>( ) No, Never</p>
<p><b>Signed a Written Petition</b></p> <p><b>16.</b> Have you ever signed a written petition about a political or social issue?</p>	<p>( ) Yes, Within the last 12 months</p>	<p>( ) Yes, But, not within the last 12 months</p>	<p>( ) No, Never</p>
<p><b>Boycotted</b></p> <p><b>17.</b> Have you ever NOT bought something from a certain company because you disagree with the social or political values of the company that produces it?</p>	<p>( ) Yes, Within the last 12 months</p>	<p>( ) Yes, But, not within the last 12 months</p>	<p>( ) No, Never</p>
<p><b>Buycotted</b></p> <p><b>18.</b> Have you <i>bought</i> something because you like the social or political values of the company that produces or provides it?</p>	<p>( ) Yes, Within the last 12 months</p>	<p>( ) Yes, But, not within the last 12 months</p>	<p>( ) No, Never</p>
<p><b>Canvassed</b></p> <p><b>19.</b> Have you worked as a canvasser – going door to door for a political or social group or candidate?</p>	<p>( ) Yes, Within the last 12 months</p>	<p>( ) Yes, But, not within the last 12 months</p>	<p>( ) No, Never</p>

### Classifying Individuals by Type of Engagement

One of the many innovations of *The Civic and Political Health of the Nation* report is a “typology of engagement.” This typology classifies individuals into four groups based on their participation in a range of civic and electoral activities. The checklist below lists the questions one should use to measure civic activities and electoral activities from the civic engagement quiz, and provides an easy way to add up the number of activities an individual is involved in. Each box in this checklist corresponds to a quiz question with the same number. After administering the quiz, place a check in each box to which a respondent answered “yes, within the last 12 months.” Then count the number of boxes you checked in each column:

### Typology of Engagement Checklist

Civic Activities			Electoral Activities			Political Voice Activities		
Q#	Activity/Question	Yes?	Q#	Activity/Question	Yes?	Q#	Activity/Question	Yes?
1	Worked to solve a community problem		6B	Always vote in elections (regular voting)		11	Contacted/visited a public official	
2A	Volunteered regularly for Religious Group		7	Volunteer for a political campaign or candidate		12	Contacted a newspaper or magazine	
2B	Volunteered regularly for an Environmental Group		8	Persuade others to vote		13	Contacted a radio or television talk show	
2C	Volunteered regularly for a civic or community organization		9	Wear a campaign button or put a sticker on your car		14	Protested	
2D	Volunteered regularly for an organization for youth, children or education		10	Work or contribute money to a candidate, political party, or organization that supported candidates		15	Signed an email petition	
2E	Volunteered regularly for any other group					16	Signed a written petition	
3B	Active member of a group					17	Boycotted a company	
4	Personally walked, ran, or bicycled for a charitable cause.					18	Boycotted or bought something to support the values of a company	
5	Besides donating money, done anything else to help raise money for a charitable cause?					19	Canvassed – going door to door for a social or political group	
	<b>Total Number of Activities (add number of affirmative responses)</b>			<b>Total Number of Activities (add number of affirmative responses)</b>			<b>Total Number of Activities (add number of affirmative responses)</b>	

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 Once survey results have been tabulated for an individual, respondents can be classified in the following way:

- *Disengaged*: 0 or 1 checks in BOTH columns
- *Civic Specialist*: 2 or more checks in the civic column and 0 or 1 in the electoral column
- *Electoral Specialist*: 2 or more checks in the electoral column and 0 or 1 in the civic column
- *Dual Activist*: 2 or more checks in BOTH columns

Nationally, based on the 2006 survey from the *2006 Civic and Political Health of the Nation*, 15 percent of all adults 15 and older are *Dual Activists*; 13 percent are *Civic Specialists*; 24 percent are *Electoral Specialists*; and 48 percent are *Disengaged*.

**Table 1 – National Survey Results for 19 Measures of Civic Engagement from *The Civic and Political Health of the Nation, 2006***

	15+	Civic Indicators	15-18	19-22	23-25	15-25	26+
1	20%	Community problem solving.	23%	16%	18%	19%	20%
2A1 to 2A5	22%	Regularly volunteering for a non-electoral organization.	23%	15%	16%	19%	24%
3B	24%	“Active” member in-group or organization.	22%	20%	18%	20%	26%
4	34%	Participating in fund-raising run/walk/ride.	21%	18%	12%	18%	15%
5	27%	General fund raising for charity.	28%	24%	19%	24%	29%
<b>Electoral Indicators</b>							
6B	50%	Always vote (for age 20 and older).	--	23%	29%	26%	56%
7	2%	Regularly volunteer for a candidate or political organization.	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%
8	39%	Persuading others to vote for a particular candidate or party.	38%	31%	36%	35%	40%
9	26%	Displaying campaign buttons, signs or stickers.	27%	20%	23%	23%	28%
10	11%	Contributing to a campaign, party or group.	8%	3%	9%	7%	14%
<b>Indicators of Political Voice</b>							
11	18%	Contacting officials.	11%	10%	10%	11%	22%
12	10%	Contacting the print media.	8%	5%	6%	7%	11%
13	8%	Contacting the broadcast media.	9%	8%	8%	9%	8%
14	7%	Protesting.	13%	11%	10%	11%	5%
15	19%	Signing e-mail petitions.	15%	18%	15%	16%	21%
16	24%	Signing written petitions.	17%	18%	20%	18%	26%
17	35%	Boycotting.	28%	30%	33%	30%	38%
18	32%	Buycotting.	29%	30%	28%	29%	33%
19	2%	Canvassing.	4%	2%	4%	3%	2%