

Public Media Promotes Civic Learning

Civic learning is necessary for a healthy democracy. And it is a unifying force for our country, particularly during times of deep division. CPB has a long history of supporting civic education to teach children and lifelong learners about American citizenship, our democracy, and the fundamentals of our government. As we look forward to 2026 and the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding, CPB and public media are examining how best to inform public discourse. Public media advances civic education and strengthens our nation's democratic foundation through trusted news and information, high-quality programming and educational resources, and community engagement.

Public media provides numerous programs and projects that build civic knowledge and encourage understanding and engagement, key components in a civil society. Some examples include:

Educational Resources

- **U.S. History Collection:** GBH has created an award-winning, comprehensive compilation of 400 media-rich digital learning resources for teaching U.S. history to students in grades 6-12 in [PBS LearningMedia](#), a free library of more than 30,000 resources designed to supplement classroom instruction, aligned to state and national curriculum standards.
- GBH will launch its **Civics Collection** on PBS LearningMedia in August 2024. It will help teach middle and high school students about the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, the founding principles of our constitution, and explore issues of government policy and decision-making with a robust set of interactive educational resources.
- Ideastream Public Media (Cleveland) offers [NewsDepth](#), which breaks down the biggest news stories of the week into teachable lessons for 4th to 6th graders. It is used in classrooms across Ohio and available for free online.
- A [Media Literacy Certification](#) created by KQED (San Francisco) in partnership with PBS, to provide K-12 educators nationwide with an earned certification in teaching media literacy skills to students in multiple subjects. It demonstrates public media's commitment to addressing evolving civic education needs.



Engagement

- **Civic Content and Engagement Initiative:** Anticipating the country's 250th anniversary celebration, CPB is funding a short-form digital content and engagement initiative that will ask Americans from all walks of life the question: "What's your Civic Spark?" Americans will share the defining moment or experience that awakened the realization that they could make a difference through public service and community engagement. Local public radio and television stations will create, capture, and amplify local "civic sparks."
- **One Small Step:** StoryCorps' One Small Step initiative, launched six years ago with CPB support, pairs strangers from opposite sides of the political spectrum for civil conversations under the premise that it's hard to hate up close. StoryCorps has spent years testing the premise that we can build political civility by connecting people of differing political viewpoints to share common ground.
- Minnesota Public Radio News has partnered with Braver Angels to create [Talking Sense](#), an online and in-person platform initiative to help Minnesotans navigate challenging political conversations in a way that's aimed at preserving relationships.

Programming

- **[Civics 101 podcast](#)**: Civics 101, from New Hampshire Public Radio, is a podcast about how our democracy works. It explores topical issues related to civics, such as what is the difference between the House and the Senate? How do landmark Supreme Court decisions affect our lives?
- **[A Citizen's Guide to Preserving Democracy](#)**: This one-hour PBS program, hosted by Hari Sreenivasan and based on a book by Richard Haass, explores the habits of good citizens. It is streaming on demand for free through 2026.
- **[Latino Vote 2024](#)**: Through a one-hour documentary and six short digital videos, producer Bernardo Ruiz delves into the 2024 presidential election, examining the priorities of Latino voters in key battleground states.



- **[City Island](#)**: City Island is an animated, short-form PBS KIDS video series set in a living city where objects—mailboxes, lamp posts, cars, and more—are characters who show how people in a community work together to make decisions and solve problems. The series, on PBSKIDS.org and on broadcast, looks at citizenship, civic participation, geography, culture, and family in age-appropriate ways.
- **[Rosie's Rules](#)**: Rosie's Rules provides children from ages 3 to 6 with social studies lessons about how a community works, helping them develop awareness of themselves as individuals and as part of a broader society.
- **[Together We Can](#)** is a new music series from Sesame Workshop for children ages 4 to 8 consisting of 20 live-action music videos that cover civics topics such as the importance of rules and rights, voting, symbols of democracy and our Constitution. One of the videos is called 50 States in Our Country, which teaches the foundations of government in a modern doowop style. It will premiere in July 2024.

News and Information

- **[America Amplified Election 2024](#)**: WFYI in Indianapolis leads this initiative, aimed at helping public media stations across the country ensure that their audiences and communities get the information they need to participate in local, state, and federal elections. More than 50 stations reaching audiences in all 50 states are using America Amplified tools and strategies to respond to public questions and inform voters about the 2024 voting process.
- **[PBS NewsHour/NPR/Washington Week With the Atlantic Election Coverage](#)**: PBS NewsHour and NPR offer comprehensive and balanced coverage of the American political process, including the 2024 Republican and Democratic Presidential primaries, conventions, and general election, and Congressional and gubernatorial races across the country, with reporting and analysis from Washington and in the field. Washington Week With The Atlantic provides insightful primetime news and analysis each week.
- **[Judy Woodruff Presents: America at a Crossroads](#)**: PBS NewsHour Senior Correspondent Judy Woodruff explores the forces driving Americans apart and asks people from across the country and all political persuasions what might be done to reverse these trends. This series airs as part of the CPB-supported PBS NewsHour and as stand-alone specials.

