



Who We Are What We Do & How We Operate

The National Issues Forums Institute (NIFI) believes public problems cannot be solved without public participation. For over forty years, NIFI has engaged Americans in deliberation on public issues facing communities and our nation. We equip, empower, and mobilize people to use deliberation to take action for the public good. NIFI produces nonpartisan discussion guides, hosts workshops and trainings, and supports the growth and development of the deliberative democracy field.

OUR VISION

The future we hope to see.

We envision a participatory democracy where public problems are resolved through deliberation.

OUR MISSION

How we work toward that hopeful future.

We equip, empower, and mobilize people to use deliberation to take action for the public good.

OUR PROGRAMMATIC PRIORITIES

What we do to meet our mission and live out our values.



To **equip** community leaders, scholars, and everyday citizens with **tools and resources** to use deliberation to take action for the public good.



To **empower** citizens of all ages with **skills and efficacy** to use deliberation to take action for the public good.



To strengthen and **mobilize** the deliberative democracy field by **connecting and convening** scholars and practitioners to learn and collaborate more effectively.

OUR OPERATING PRINCIPLES

The foundational values that inform how we work and what we prioritize.

We believe solving public problems requires public participation. We believe that those closest to the problems our communities and nation face must be involved in addressing those problems. Community members should play a role in defining the issues that impact their lives. And in being part of the solutions to those problems.

We believe individuals and communities are not problems to be solved. We take an asset-based approach to working with citizens and communities. Each person possesses expertise and skills, and every community has its own unique assets.

We are strictly nonpartisan. The National Issues Forums Institute (NIFI) is a nonprofit, 501(c) (3) organization dedicated to nonpartisanship. NIFI does not support or oppose any candidate or party. And no actions of other entities or individuals in our network shall be attributable to NIFI.

We build upward and outward. We believe in working with communities, networks, and coalitions by supporting what's already working, amplifying local and regional leadership, and walking alongside with support and resources. We are committed to resisting the tendency to expand our work through top-down approaches by listening and learning from our partners and network.

We cannot do this work alone. We need each other to improve civic health and strengthen democracy. We work in partnership with others who share our commitment to improving civic health. We also connect community and campus leaders, scholars, and practitioners, as well as longtime public servants and young leaders, to learn and collaborate.

We believe talking isn't enough. Deliberation offers citizens the opportunity to make informed decisions that lead to real action in their communities. Although we do not advocate for particular solutions to issues, we help people build skills for moving from talk to action and solving problems in their communities and on their campuses.

OUR AUDIENCE

Who we work with.

Practitioners, scholars, community leaders, and citizens of all ages. If you're committed to strengthening civic life and addressing public issues, we'd like to collaborate with you!

LEARN MORE

www.nifi.org