



Defining Civic-Readiness

Civic-readiness is demonstrated when individuals acquire and demonstrate knowledge, skills, actions, and dispositions that citizens in a republic need to fulfill obligatory civic rights and responsibilities within local communities, states, the nation, and the world. Civic readiness includes:

- Civic Knowledge. Civic knowledge includes a fundamental understanding of the structure and function of government, civic rights, civic responsibilities, and the processes by which laws and policies are made. Civic knowledge includes an understanding of the history that shapes the present, and the geography, demography, and economics that impact the policies of local, state, national and international governments.
- Civic Skills. Civic skills are the skills necessary to participate as informed, thoughtful, and engaged citizens in a republic. These skills encompass thoughtfully speaking, listening, collaborating, community organizing, and public advocacy. Civic skills are necessary for critical thinking, rational thinking, and collective action. Additionally, civic skills require the ability to gather and process information, including opposing viewpoints, in order to demonstrate a substantial understanding of why that view is held.
- Civic Actions. Civic actions include voting, volunteering, participating, collaborating, deliberating, speaking, and other activities designed to assist others and influence opinions. By gathering, analyzing, and communicating information, civic-ready individuals can be advocates while respecting and understanding differing opinions and processes, therefore being able to share information, make persuasive arguments, and impact policy. The duties of citizenship include active participation in the improvement of a citizen's community, state, country, and world and the value and practice of civil discourse between opposing interests.
- Civic Dispositions. Civic dispositions are personal commitments to ideals important in a democracy that include concern for the constitutional rights and freedoms of others; a recognition of the need for public welfare, safety, and fairness; and a respect for the processes and laws that regulate our republic. This is part of a citizen's broader service to society.



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