

The most powerful force in American democracy is the connection among citizens.

(2010 NCoC Civic Health Assessment)

Goal 7: *Actions that Influence Government*

- 1. Vote**
- 2. Express Political Views**
- 3. Stay Informed**
- 4. Discuss Politics Frequently**

Goal 8: *Actions that Build Community*

- 1. Connect with Family, Friends and Neighbors**
- 2. Participate in Groups and Organizations**
- 3. Volunteer**
- 4. Give to Charity**

Five Overarching Results

1. Arizonans are not as well informed as people in other states.

*Of 13 participating states, Arizonans have the **lowest rate** of news consumption.*

2. Voter turnout continues to decline.

*Arizona **declined** 4 % points from 2004 presidential election to 2008 election.*

3. Arizonans are not as strongly connected to one another as people in other states.

*The state ranks **45th** in the nation for eating dinner with family and **48th** for “exchanging favors with neighbors.”*

4. There is an educational divide in citizen participation.

***Education** beyond high school is a key predictor of voter turnout and citizen engagement.*

5. Arizonans feel a growing disconnect with leaders they elect to represent them.

*The 2009 Gallup Arizona Poll found that only **10%** of Arizonans believe that elected officials represent their interests.*

Goal 7 Scorecard:

Empower citizens and increase civic involvement.

KEY INDICATORS:

1. **Vote**

Voter registration, Voter turnout

2. **Express Political Views**

Participate in non-voting political activities:

- Contact an elected official.
- Attend public meetings.
- Buy or boycott products.
- Take part in political demonstrations.
- Give time or money to candidate, party.

3. **Stay Informed**

4. **Discuss Politics Frequently**

Goal 8 Scorecard: Foster citizen well-being and sense of connection to one another.

KEY INDICATORS:

- 1. Connecting with Family, Friends and Neighbors**
 - Eat dinner with family/household almost daily.
 - Take with family and friends via email, Internet
 - Exchange favors with neighbors weekly.
- 2. Participating in Groups and Organizations**
 - Belong to one or more groups that meet monthly.
 - Serve as officer or committee member.
- 3. Community Service**
 - Volunteered within last 12 months.
 - Attended meeting about community issue.
 - Worked with neighbors to fix something.
- 3. Giving to Charity**
 - Made contribution of \$25 or more.

Overall Goal for Arizona's Civic Health:

**Move into the Nation's Top 10
on all Key Indicators.**

NATIONAL RANKINGS: What would it take to move Arizona into the Top 10?

Goal 7: Key Indicators

	Arizona	Current Rank	Top 10 Goal
Voter Registration	68.9%	40 th	+ 7.4%
Voter Turnout	59.8%	43 rd	+ 8.6%
Voter Turnout (18 – 29-year olds)	47.0%	39 th	+ 10.0%
Discuss Politics Frequently	39.1%	32 nd	+ 4.2%
Non-voting Political Activism	24.8%	36 th	+ 11.1%

NATIONAL RANKINGS: What would it take to move Arizona into the Top 10?

Goal 8: Key Indicators

	Arizona	Current Rank	Top 10 Goal
Eat dinner with family almost daily.	86.9%	45 th	+ 4.3%
Exchange favors with neighbors	13.5%	48 th	+ 5.7%
Belong to one or more groups	34.3%	33 rd	+ 7.8%
Volunteered within last year	24.8%	36 th	+ 8.4%
Attended community meeting	8.9%	41 st	+ 7.3%
Made contribution of \$25 or more	48.2%	38 th	+12.0%

The Call to Action

Strategy 1: Community-based Solutions

Identify five communities through a statewide RFP process that encourages citizens and leaders to jointly identify specific civic health issues, set measurable goals, and implement a plan that achieves a successful result.

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Strategy 2: Employee-based Citizenship

Identify a select number of Arizona employers to develop custom approaches to making citizenship a measurable part of the workforce culture.

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Strategy 3: Civic Leadership

Identify a statewide partner and actively support their efforts to recruit, train and support effective leaders who are committed to helping Arizonans succeed in the 21st century.

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Strategy 4: Civic Education

Identify a statewide partner and actively support their efforts to reinstate civic education into the public policies, culture and civic tradition of Arizona.