

Start a Democracy Club!

Worrying about the state of our country
doesn't change anything.

We're a group of friends who care and make an impact together.
We started a Democracy Club and you can, too.



Start a Democracy Club

A Democracy Club is a group of friends who gather regularly to help each other stand up for democracy and civil rights in ways that add up. It's a place to talk, figure things out, and take action together. **It's like a book club, but for democracy!**

We're at a pivotal time in our nation's history and it's people like your friends and ours who are going to change the course of this democracy story. When we look back, we'll know we didn't just watch -- we helped defend democracy.

We want you to feel that same sense of pride and empowerment, so we wrote this guide to help you start your own Democracy Club.

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How to start a Democracy Club: Step-by-step

Identify your group. Gather your like-minded friends, ideally, who live nearby (for when it's safe to meet in-person again). A Democracy Club can be for anyone regardless of political experience, work status, or educational background.

Set a date and start/end time for your first meeting. You can don face masks and host a socially-distanced meeting outdoors or you can set up a video conference via [Zoom](#).

Plan your agenda. Ask your invitees to download and read this guide before the meeting (point them to startademocracyclub.org). Jot down some notes to help you stay organized.

Sample agenda

- 1. Greetings/introductions**
Sample ice breaker: say your name, how you know each other, and your #1 priority for defending and strengthening our democracy.
- 2. Overview**
Describe what a Democracy Club is. Explain why it's important to you, and what you hope to accomplish together. Listen to each others' hopes and ideas for what you might do as a group.
- 3. Brainstorming**
What will your Democracy Club do? Refer to the Idea and Resource List below. Does one activity jump out as something you're excited to do together?
- 4. Logistics**
How will you keep in touch between meetings: group text, email or a social media group? Exchange phone numbers and email addresses. Schedule the next meeting.
- 5. Go over action items for next time**
Agree on who will do what before the next meeting. If there are meeting notes, decide how you'd like to share them, or if each person will keep their own notes. Finally, give people friendly permission to opt out if they decide Democracy Club is not for them.

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Idea List: Things your Democracy Club could do

- Write postcards or letters to encourage people to vote
- Discuss books or articles
- Volunteer for a local, state, or national candidate's campaign
- Help register voters
- Volunteer for an organization that supports voters or community members who face discrimination
- Write letters to the editor of your local newspaper
- Host a fundraiser for a candidate or cause
- Remind each other to call your elected representatives
- Show friends and neighbors how to vote by mail
- Call or text each other when things are hard
- Celebrate victories together!

Resources We Trust and Use Ourselves

Not sure where to start? These groups make it easy to get involved.

- Voting isn't enough -- go further and take action! Visit [ACE the Election](#) for a list of immediate-impact activities.
- Protect our vote! [Every Last Vote](#) shows you how to make sure every vote counts.
- Help elect Democratic majorities in the US House and Senate by adopting a swing state supported by [Swing Left](#).
- Receive lists of mailing addresses to write personal [Postcards to Voters](#) encouraging them to vote.
- Send letters to voters in swing states to urge them to vote with [Vote Forward](#).
- Promote fair elections and encourage voter participation with [Fair Fight](#).
- Find a local group and lobby your own Congress members with [Indivisible](#).
- Speak out for truth, justice, equality, and kindness with [Stand on Every Corner](#).
- Join Michelle Obama and friends and encourage every American to exercise their right to vote at [When We All Vote](#).

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