



STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY by improving **CIVIC DISCOURSE** and advancing **INFORMED, CITIZEN-LED SOLUTIONS** to public policy issues.

At the Jefferson Center we provide tools and processes, with a strong emphasis on the Citizen Jury process, that enable an informed, fair and representative voice of the people to be developed and included in political decision making.

A **Citizens Jury** convenes a demographic microcosm of a community's population which meets for several days in moderated in-depth learning and deliberation activities to develop and express their informed opinion on the policy question before them. The Jefferson Center has conducted over 30 Citizens Juries on issues ranging from Agricultural Effects on Water Quality, to Healthcare Reform, to Election Recounts and Political Candidate Evaluation.



The Jefferson Center offers a wide range of expertise in **fostering critical public dialogue**:

- » Convening a microcosm of the public consisting of randomly selected individuals who rarely have the opportunity to reflect on public policy, creating a context for deliberation that includes diverse perspectives truly representative of the constituent population
- » Enlisting topical experts and coaching them in methods of presentation that empower each participant to grasp complex material quickly, in a form that they can apply and transfer to their neighbors
- » Networking with policy-makers, stakeholders, community partners and media to create a receptive environment for the jury's recommendations
- » Communicating the Jury's recommendations so that the community can benefit from the opinions and solutions generated

The Jefferson Center stands ready to partner with agencies interested in utilizing Citizens Juries to empower the citizens in their communities. We can work with them to conduct a full Citizens Jury or we can offer selected components of our expertise to support efforts congruent with our mission. We continue to pursue innovative opportunities where we can support and empower communities to make positive contributions to challenging issues.