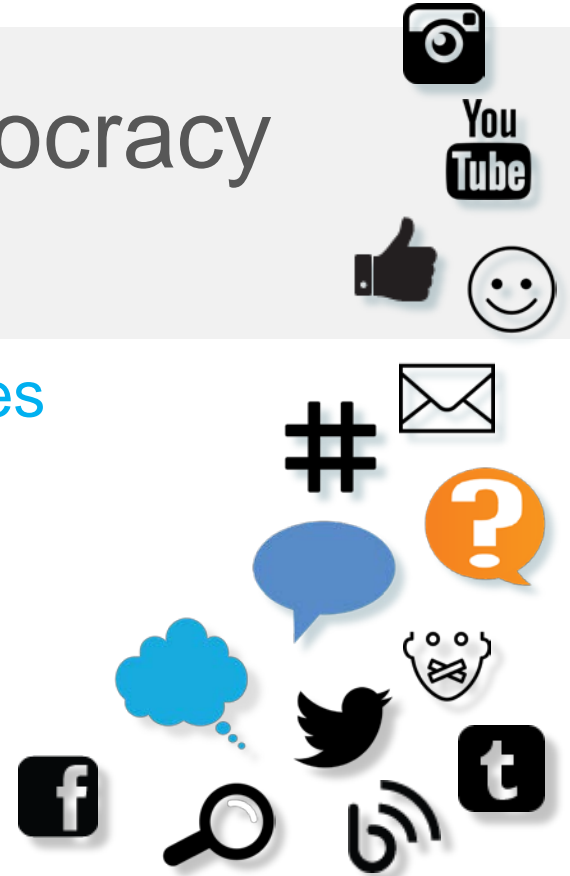


Preparing Youth for Democracy in the Digital Age:

Evidence Based Policies and Practices

Joseph Kahne
University of California, Riverside





Democracy is precarious





The problem is more the trend than the moment

- This didn't start with Trump or Obama
- Being able to judge news and deal productively with partisanship matters, but we must look at educating for democracy more broadly.



Problems did not start with Trump or Obama

- Trust in the Gov't peaked in 1964 at 77%
- For the last 20 years, mostly below 30%



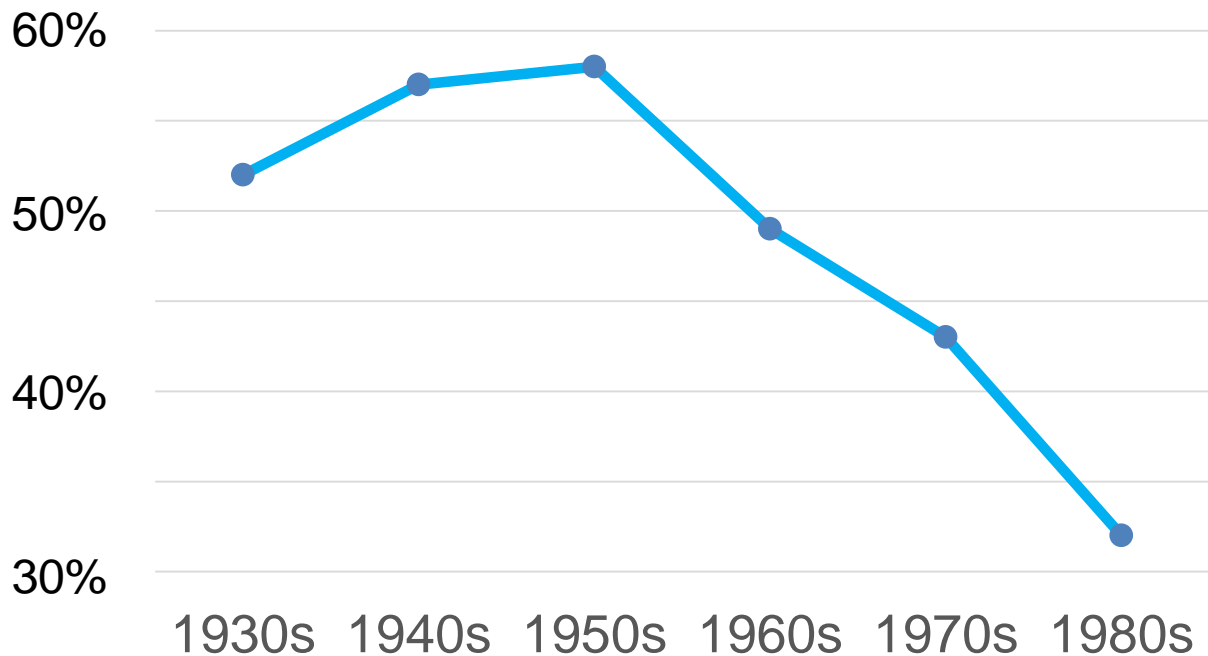
And not just about trust in government – it's about institutions

- Public schools from 62% in 1975 to 31% now
- Medical system from 80% to 37% in the same time period



Essential to live in a country that is governed democratically

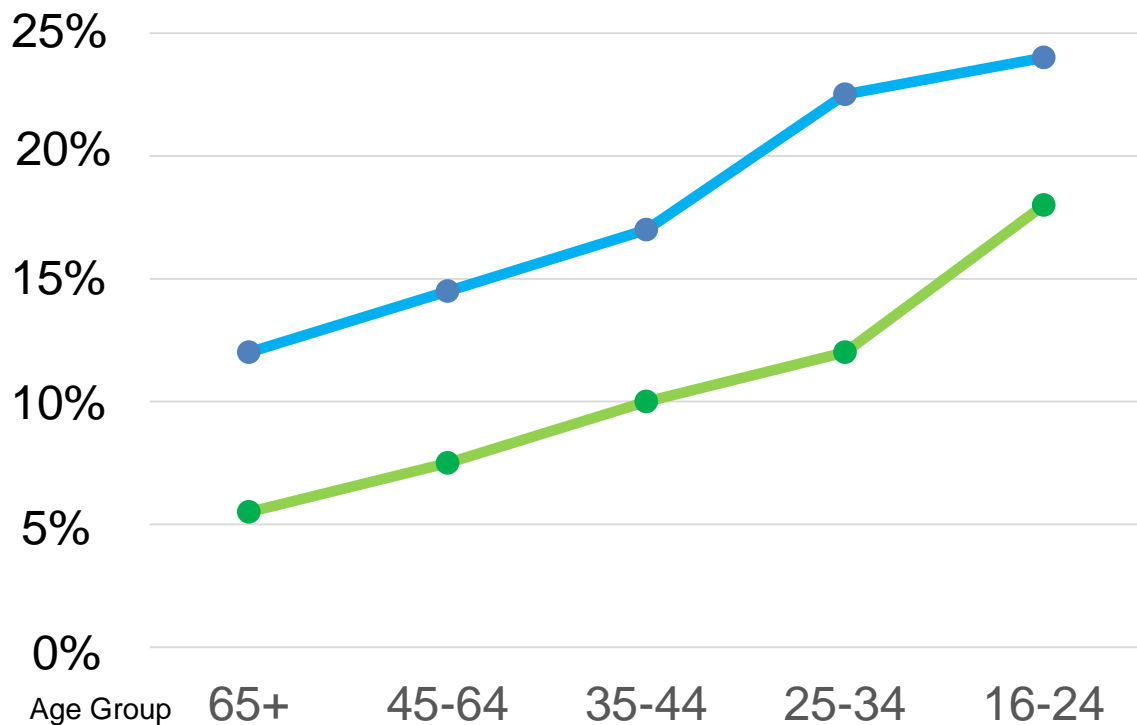
By decade of birth



Percentage of respondents rating it "essential" (a rating of 10 on a 10-point scale) to "live in a country that is governed democratically."



Having a democratic political system is a “bad” or “very bad” way to run this country

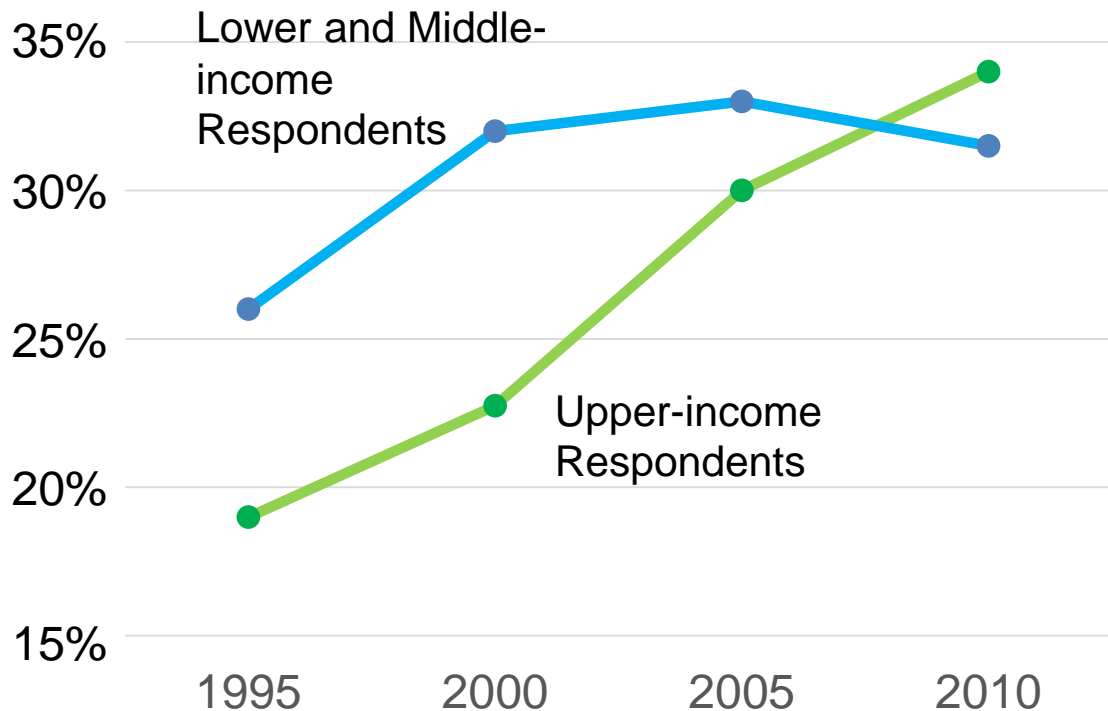


Percent responding that “having a democratic system” is a “bad” or “very bad” way to “run this country” by age group.

● 1995 ● 2011



Support for authoritarianism by income in the U.S.



Percent of respondents replying that it would be “good” or “very good” to have a “strong leader” who doesn’t have to “bother with parliament and elections.”



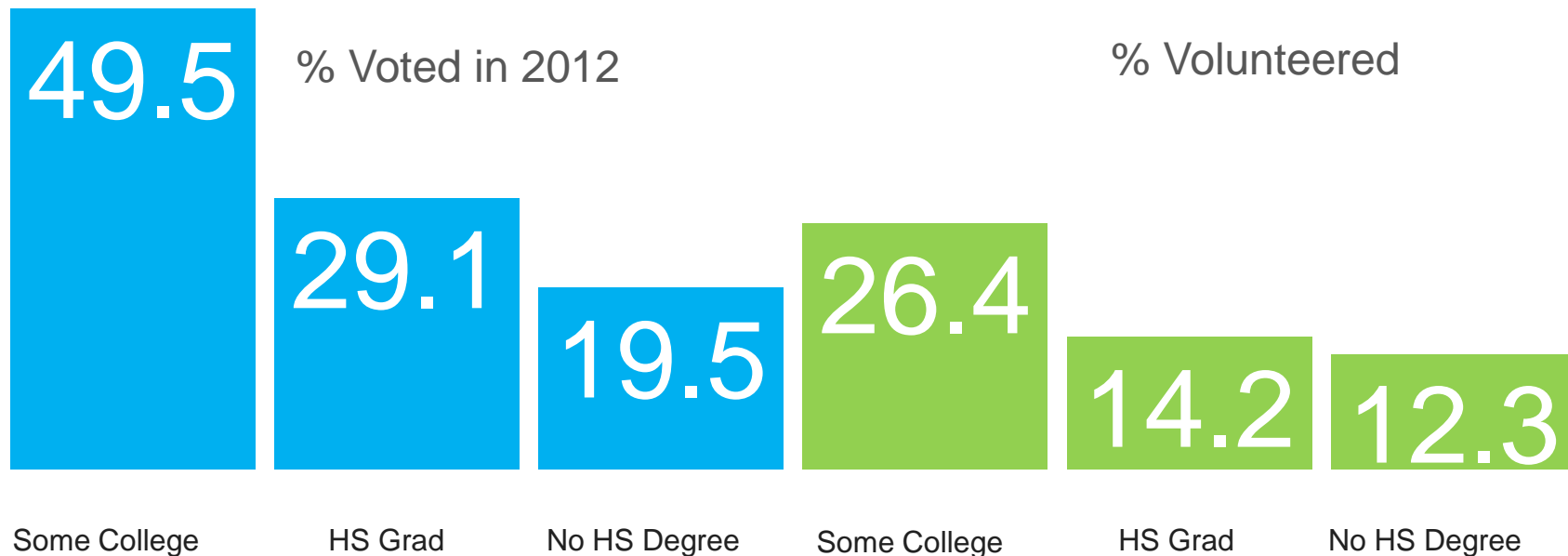
The problem is more the trend than the moment

- Thus, we have to look at fundamentals
- Schools are one of the institutions that can offer a more substantial response



Political and Civic Engagement: Low and Inequitable

18–24 years old



Likely voters are disproportionately white

California Citizens

	Adult Population	Likely Voters	All Unregistered Voters
Whites	43%	61%	20%
Latinos	34%	18%	59%
Asian Americans	15%	12%	17%
African Americans	6%	6%	3%



Politicians are more responsive to those with more money

Voter Influence in the Senate

\$\$\$ Top 3rd

\$\$ Middle 3rd

\$ Bottom 3rd



Race

Of respondents supported white nationalism as a group or movement.

- Thirty-one percent strongly or somewhat agreed that “America must protect and preserve its White European heritage,”
- Thirty-nine percent agreed that “white people are currently under attack in this country.”

Fake news shared more than real news during last three months before the election

Top 4 stories by circulation:

- Pope Francis Shocks world, Endorses Donald Trump for President, Releases Statement (960,000)
- WikiLeaks CONFIRMS Hillary Sold Weapons to ISIS... Then Drops Another BOMBSHELL
- IT'S OVER: Hillary's ISIS Email Just Leaked & It's Worse than Anyone Could Have Imagined (754,000)
- Just Read the Law: Hillary is Disqualified From Holding Any Federal Office (701,000)

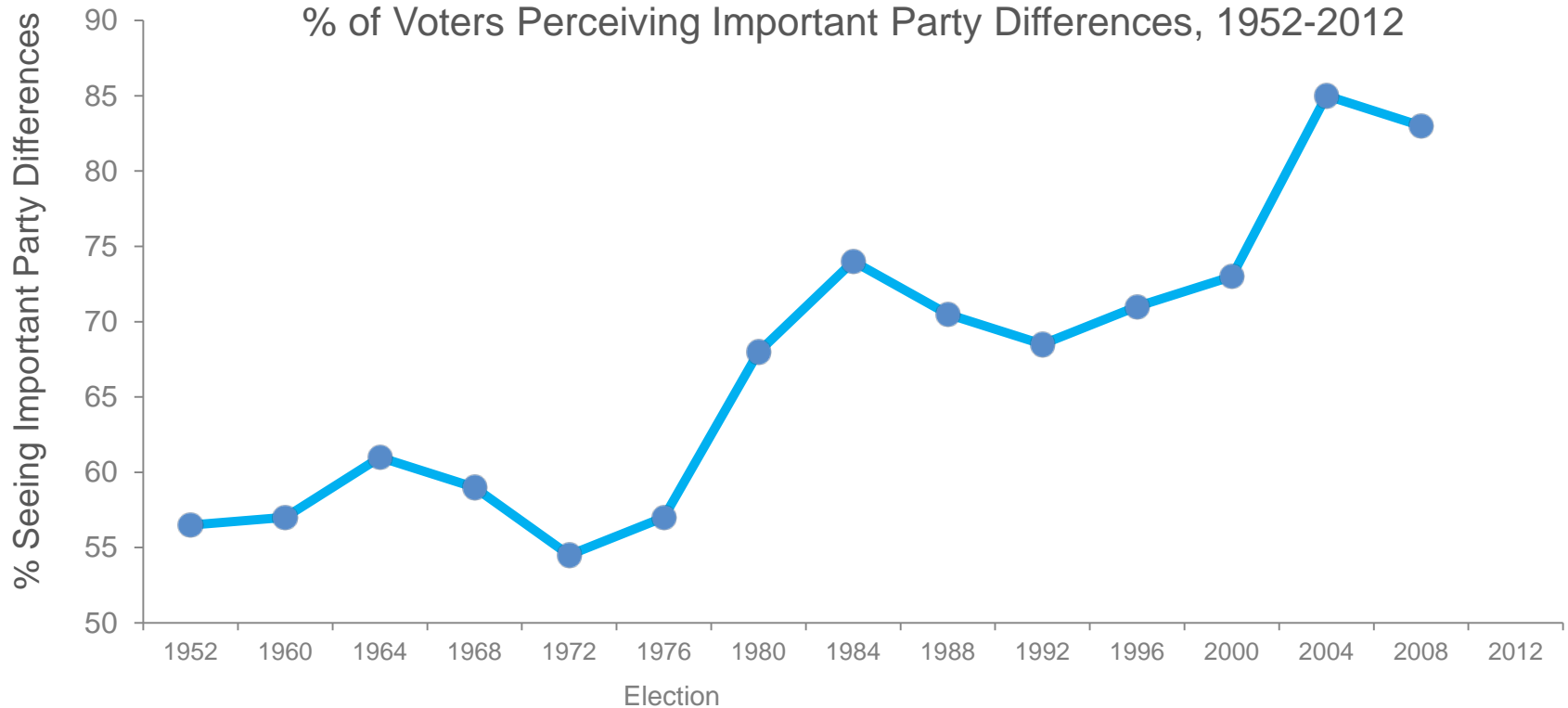
What people do matters

- 23% of adults said they had shared fabricated political stories themselves—sometimes by mistake and sometimes intentionally (Pew 2016)

What people do matters

- Studies find that individuals' Judgments of the accuracy of posts are impacted far more by whether respondents agree with the post than by whether the post is accurate

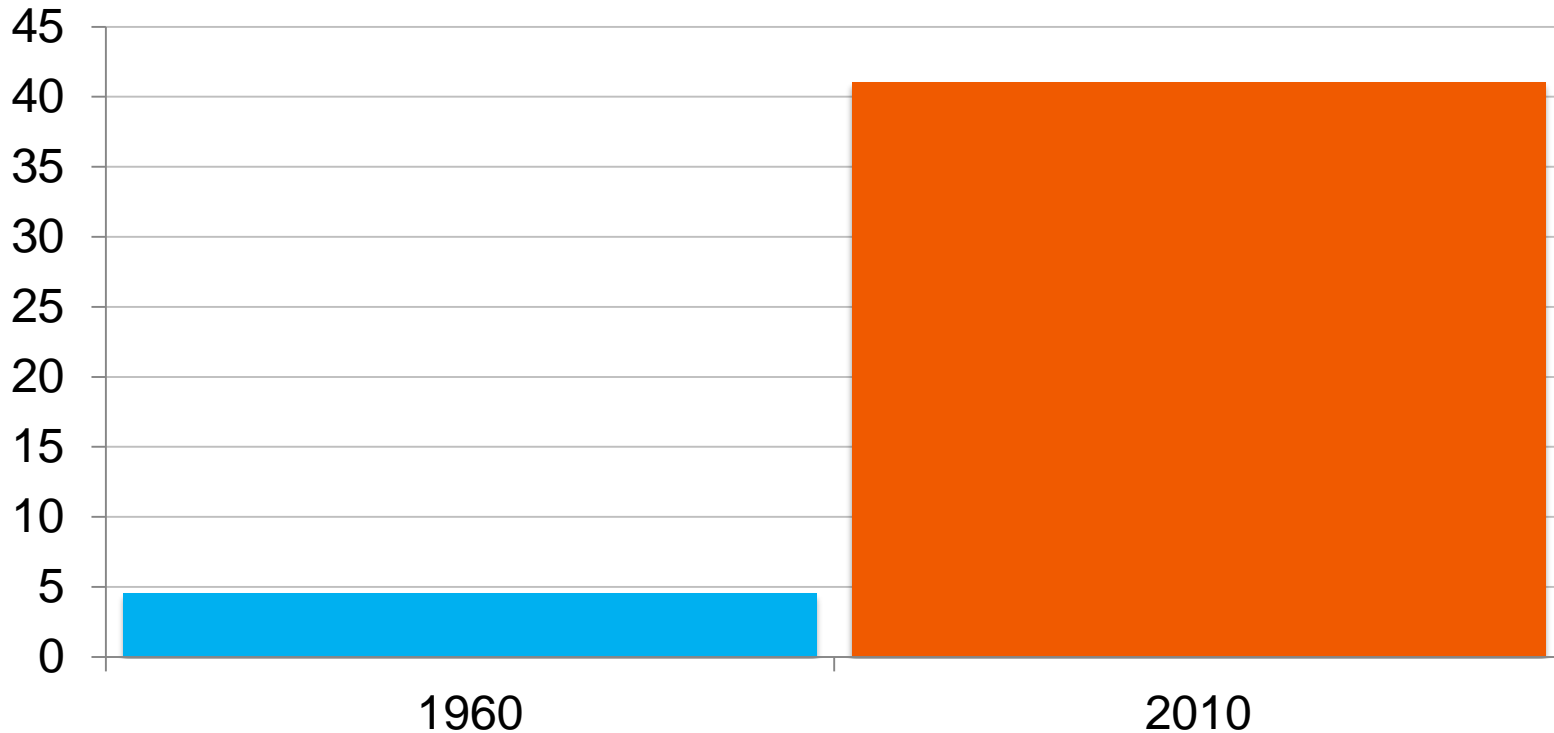
Partisanship on the rise



Source: American National Election Studies Cumulative File



Percent of public unhappy if child marries member of different political party





Strong partisanship can bias reasoning

- Confirmation Bias
- Prior Attitude Effect
- Disconfirmation Bias



Strong partisanship can distort reasoning

Rather than evidence helping to shape judgments of policy positions or partisan beliefs

- One's policy positions and partisan beliefs shape judgments of evidence and arguments
- One result: people don't just disagree about what to do – they come to disagree about basic facts

Costs of partisan disagreements over basic facts, evidence and the logic of arguments

- Rational discourse and debate suffers
- Winning, but not learning becomes the goal
- Respect for others diminishes
- Legitimacy of democracy suffers



Can evidence drive our response?

Sort of...

- We have solid evidence regarding several educational practices



the
good news

evidence that

Civic Learning Opportunities

can help

Chicago Study

- 52 schools
- 4,057 students
- Grade 9 -11
- Assessed how learning opportunities related to civic commitments

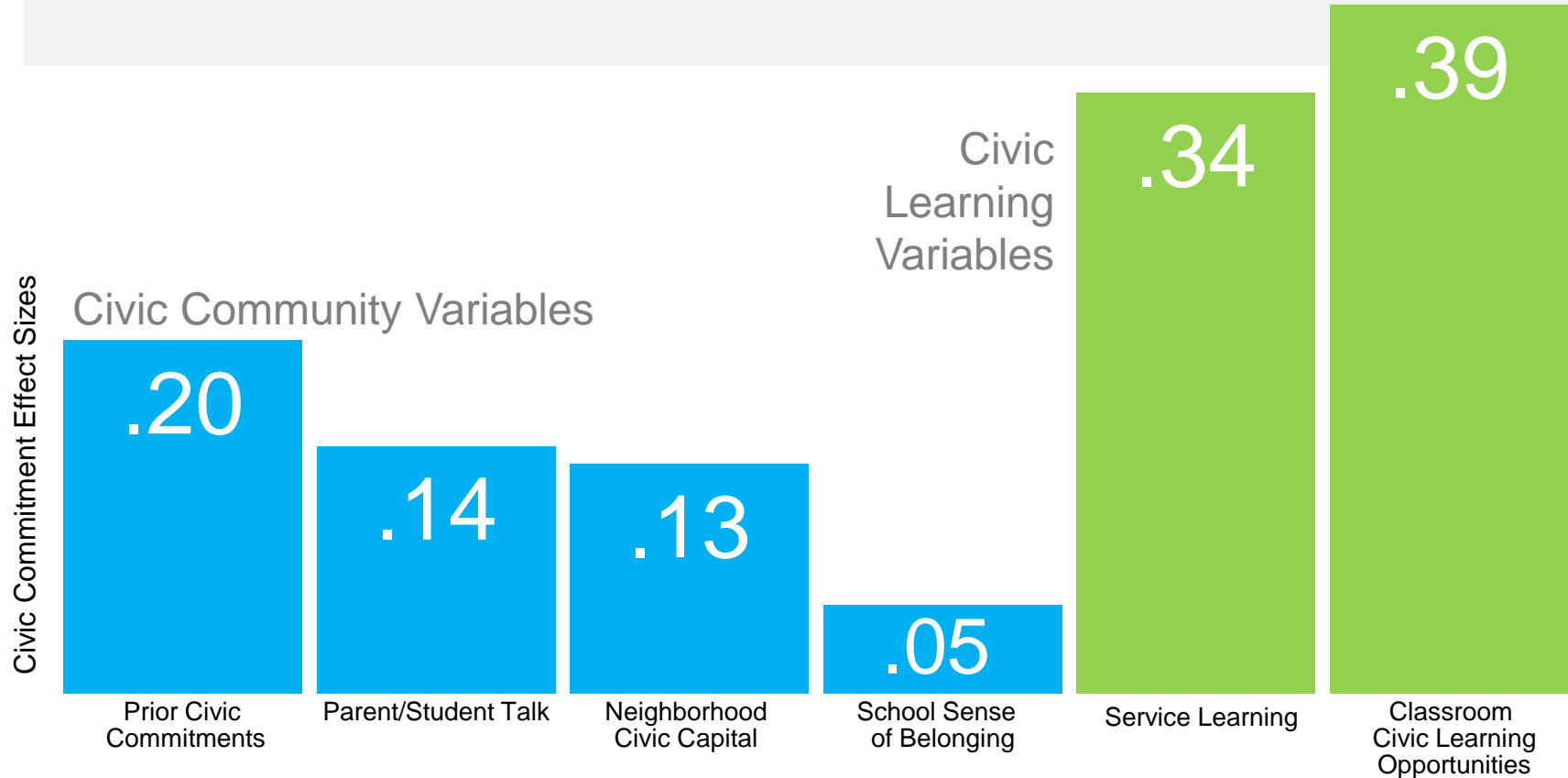


Civic learning opportunities

- Discussion of current events
- Simulations
- Focus on issues students cared about
- Service learning



Classroom-based civic learning opportunities MATTER





Findings from seven districts in CA

	Political Interest	Interest Diverse Views	Political Interest	Commit Participation	Voluntary Activity	Political Action/ Expression	Civic Skills
Info & Discussion Model							
Experience Model							

Media literacy education helps

- Students who reported three classes with media literacy learning opportunities were 26% more likely to correctly distinguish between accurate and inaccurate posts.



the bad news

Survey of 19 districts in California

Insufficient Opportunities

34% never did service learning in high school

36% never participated in a simulation in high school

68% they learned a lot about the structure and function of government



Inequitable access

Compared to Average SES 9th graders,

High SES 9th graders are:

2x more likely
to discuss how
laws are made

1.9x more likely to
report participating in
service activities

1.4x more likely to
take part in a debate
or panel discussion



Redesign and Promote Civic Education

Revitalizing K-12 Civic Learning In California: A Blueprint For Action



A Report By The California Task Force On K-12 Civic Learning
August 2014



Learning opportunities to promote:

Service:

Leads to trust, future engagement, efficacy

Facilitated discussion:

Leads to understanding, and interest.

Media literacy lessons:

Lead to ability to judge credibility of online content

Not obvious how to promote desired practice

- States and districts can't mandate what matters



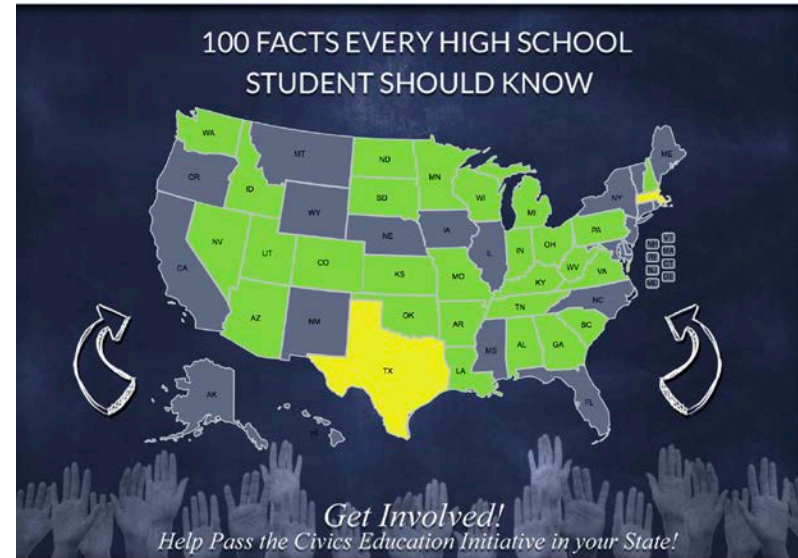
Ultimately, what happens in the classroom matters

Risk of insufficient strategies:

Thin – disconnected mandates

Required Citizenship Test.
(The Joe Foss Institute)

 CIVICS EDUCATION INITIATIVE
100 Facts Every High School Student Should Know





Mandated National Citizenship test

- Where is the Statue of Liberty?
- How many stars does the flag have?
- We elect a president for how many years?
- How many amendments are there to the Constitution?

Multi-pronged approach

- Professional development and professional communities and educational resources
- Structural commitments and supports
- Developed with attention to youth, parents, community, and teachers
- Meaningful ongoing measures of opportunities and outcomes



Structural commitments and supports

- College Career and Community Ready!
- Capstone Project
- Service Learning Project
- Policy Analysis Requirement



Attention to youth, parents, teachers, community

- Teachers Defined Oakland's Community Ready Vision
- Teachers Created the Rubric for the Senior Project



Meaningful ongoing measures of opportunities and outcomes

“You cannot improve at scale what you can’t measure.”

Tony Bryk, President,
Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching

Looking forward to your:



Thoughts



Questions



Comments



for more information:

<http://civicsurvey.org>

“The death of democracy is not likely to be an assassination from ambush.

It will be a slow extinction from apathy, indifference, and undernourishment.”

Robert Maynard Hutchins