

Mission

The Council for Public Deliberation is founded on the belief that an active and engaged public is essential to a healthy community.

The Council for Public Deliberation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.



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Council for Public Deliberation

Committed to increasing
opportunities for public participation
in the civic life of Central Ohio.

Focus

The Council for Public Deliberation seeks to reinvolve the “public” in public policy. By providing a setting for community members to discuss the issues that matter to them, the Council gives all individuals the chance to be heard, to express their point of view, and to hear others’ points of view.

The Council accomplishes its’ mission in three ways:

- By sponsoring deliberative forums
- By providing training for forum moderators and issue framers
- By partnering with local organizations to address issues of concern to that organization.

Sponsoring Deliberative Forums

The Council is affiliated with the National Issues Forums (NIF), an independent network of civic and educational groups, that uses issue books as a basis for deliberative choice work in forums based on the town meeting tradition. Members of the Council work cooperatively with: WOSU-TV, Columbus Public Libraries, and other community groups. Recent issues include, Racial and Ethnic Tensions, America’s Role in the World and Terrorism.



Providing Training

The Council has worked with Ohio State University Extension, Civic Life Institute, The John Glenn Institute, OSU’s Workforce Development and Education Program, and the National Issues Forums Institute to provide workshops on Moderating Skills and Issue Framing.

Partnering with Local Organizations

The Council has partnered with local organizations such as the Columbus Health Department. Project CLEAR was developed to address the concern of ground-level ozone in Central Ohio. An issue book was developed and was used to conduct forums in several Central Ohio Counties.



We look forward to collaborating with individuals and groups who are interested in promoting fuller deliberation about specific issues of public concern. If you are interested in how the council might help you please contact us:

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