



Dialogues in Democracy: Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness

October 2007

NATIONAL SELF ADMINISTERED POST EVENT QUESTIONNAIRE

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(Respondent Name & Group Number)*

By the People will continue its non-partisan efforts to engage citizens in a local and national conversation about the challenges facing America. We would like you to consider continuing your involvement in By the People, both locally and nationally, as we move to internet-based activities, as well as other public meetings.

With your permission, we will contact you through the U.S. mail as well as e-mails so we can keep you informed about local and national events organized by By the People and its partners. Your name will not be shared with other organizations and will not be used for any purpose other than informing you of additional opportunities to participate in the civic life of your community, or in a national dialogue

Would you like us to contact you about continued participation in By the People and related events?

_____ Yes, my email address is: _____ @ _____

_____ No, I do not wish to be contacted again.

PLEASE NOTE:

THIS PAGE WILL BE DETACHED FROM THE REMAINDER OF THE SURVEY IN ORDER TO PROTECT YOUR CONFIDENTIALITY. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO DETACH IT YOURSELF AND GIVE IT TO YOUR SMALL GROUP MODERATOR WHEN YOU HAND IN YOUR SURVEY. THANK YOU.



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The following questions are about your experience in the Citizen Deliberation. The questions use a five point scale, with one being a waste of time and five being very valuable. For each question, please circle a number on the scale that best represents your answer. If you are not sure, please circle six (6).

1. On a scale of one (1) to five (5), with one (1) being generally a waste of time and five (5) being very valuable, please rate your overall experience in the Citizen Deliberation.

Waste of time	Neither a waste of time nor valuable	Very valuable	Don't know		
1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5.....	6

2. How valuable was the briefing document in helping you clarify your positions?

Waste of time	Neither a waste of time nor valuable	Very valuable	Don't know		
1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5.....	6

3. How valuable were the group discussions in helping you clarify your positions?

Waste of time	Neither a waste of time nor valuable	Very valuable	Don't know		
1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5.....	6

4. How valuable was the panel in helping you clarify your positions?

Waste of time	Neither a waste of time nor valuable	Very valuable	Don't know		
1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5.....	6

Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statement.

5. My small group moderator provided the opportunity for everyone to express his or her opinion.

Strongly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Strongly agree	Don't know		
1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5.....	6

The following are questions about the government. For each question, please circle the number on the scale that best represents your answer. If you are not sure, circle 8.

6. If a one (1) represents the view that the federal government should see to it that every person has a job and a good standard of living and a seven (7) represents the view that the government should just let each person get ahead on their own, where would you place yourself on this scale?

Government involvement	People get ahead on own	Don't know					
1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5.....	6.....	7.....	8

7. If a one (1) represents the view that the government in Washington ought to reduce income differences between the rich and the poor and a seven (7) represents the view that the government should not concern itself with reducing income differences between the rich and the poor, where would you place yourself on this scale?

Government involvement	Government <u>not</u> involved	Don't know					
1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5.....	6.....	7.....	8

8. If a one (1) represents the view that the government should provide fewer services, even in areas such as health and education, in order to reduce spending and a seven (7) represents the view that the government should provide many more services, even if it means an increase in spending, where would you place yourself on this scale?

Reduced spending	More services	Don't know					
1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5.....	6.....	7.....	8

9. If a one (1) represents the view that the government is trying to do too many things that should be left to individuals and businesses and a seven (7) represents the view that the government is not doing enough to solve our country's problems, where would you place yourself on this scale?

Government doing too much		Government not doing enough	Don't know
1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....
5.....	6.....	7.....	8.....

10. Some people think the government should promote traditional values in our society. Others think the government should not favor any particular set of values. Which comes closer to your own view? (Please circle one)

- A. Government should promote traditional values
- B. Government should not favor any set of values
- C. No opinion

On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 is completely unimportant, 10 is extremely important, and 5 is exactly in between, how important do you think each of the following is to being a good citizen? If you have no opinion, please circle 11.

11. Voting in elections

Completely unimportant		Exactly in between		Extremely important	Don't know
0.....	1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5.....
6.....	7.....	8.....	9.....	10.....	11.....

12. Discussing politics with others

Completely unimportant		Exactly in between		Extremely important	Don't know
0.....	1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5.....
6.....	7.....	8.....	9.....	10.....	11.....

13. Being informed about politics and political issues

Completely unimportant		Exactly in between		Extremely important	Don't know
0.....	1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5.....
6.....	7.....	8.....	9.....	10.....	11.....

14. Serving one's country through military or other public service

Completely unimportant	Exactly in between	Extremely important	Don't know								
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

15. Actively participating as a member of a civic, political or community organization

Completely unimportant	Exactly in between	Extremely important	Don't know								
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

16. How much influence do you think someone like you can have over local government decisions?
(Please circle one)

- A. A lot
- B. Some
- C. Very little
- D. None at all

17. In general, do you think of yourself as...? (Please circle one)

- A. Very liberal
- B. Liberal
- C. Somewhat liberal
- D. Moderate, middle of the road
- E. Somewhat conservative
- F. Conservative
- G. Very conservative
- H. Haven't thought much about it

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Please circle one answer for each of the following questions.

1. Which of the following statements most closely reflects your beliefs:
 - A. Our schools are greatly under funded.
 - B. Our schools have the money they need but need to spend it more effectively.
 - C. Schools are treated unequally. Some are well funded, some are not.

2. The primary goal for Colorado's educational system should be:
 - A. Preparing each child for, and providing them with, a quality college education.
 - B. Enabling each child to acquire skills for the 21st century workplace, whether or not this involves a 4 year college degree.
 - C. Preparing each child to be an effective, responsible citizen.

3. To improve the graduation rate, which of the following tactics should Colorado Legislators and School Administrators focus on?
 - A. Diversify the focus and relevance of education
 - B. Develop and support high-quality teaching
 - C. Promote a community schools model
 - D. Close the achievement gap

4. Who should have primary responsibility for providing American children with quality education?
 - A. Each of us as individuals
 - B. Federal government
 - C. State government
 - D. Local government
 - E. Schools
 - F. Employers

5. Funding for education should primarily be provided by:
 - A. State Government
 - B. Federal Government
 - C. Parents
 - D. Local community (through property or other taxes, etc)

6. The primary cause for students dropping out of school is:
 - A. Related to racial background.
 - B. Related to economic differences.
 - C. Lack of a strong social or family support system.
 - D. The result of inadequate schools.
 - E. The lack of a statewide educational policy.

7. With respect to community and parent engagement in schools I believe:
 - A. That it is realistic to expect a high level of participation.
 - B. That while extremely important, it is unrealistic to expect much direct participation in the schools.
 - C. That community and parent engagement is not necessary for students to receive a high quality education.

8. My children were educated in: (check all that apply)
 - A. Public School
 - B. Parochial School
 - C. Private School
 - D. Home School
 - E. Did/Do not have children
 - F. Other

9. On average, how often do you participate in a conversation about public affairs?

- A. Almost every day
- B. Several times a week
- C. At least once a week
- D. At least once a month
- E. Practically never

Please circle a number to indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements. One (1) represents strongly disagree; 6 represents strongly agree. If you don't know, please circle 7.

10. All high school students should be expected to go on to some kind of post-secondary educational experience such as community college, trade school, or university degree.

Strongly Disagree						Strongly Agree		Don't Know
1	2	3	4	5	6		7	

11. Race is a key indicator of graduation rates.

Strongly Disagree						Strongly Agree		Don't Know
1	2	3	4	5	6		7	

12. Mandatory standardized testing is currently an effectively used tool in Colorado.

Strongly Disagree						Strongly Agree		Don't Know
1	2	3	4	5	6		7	

13. Would you be willing to pay more in taxes to help schools improve? Please circle the amount you would be willing to pay, in addition to your current taxes. If you would be unwilling to pay any more, please circle E.

- A. \$250 to \$500 more per year
- B. \$100 to \$250 more per year
- C. Up to \$100 more per year
- D. Up to \$50 more per year
- E. No additional taxes
- F. Not sure

Again, please circle a number to indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements. One (1) represents strongly disagree; 6 represents strongly agree. If you don't know, please circle 7.

14. Deliberation in my group produced idea(s) that were new to me/that I had not previously considered.

Strongly Disagree						Strongly Agree		Don't Know
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		

15. Even if at the end of today I disagree with the majority of the people here about what is the best policy on education, I will still support the policy recommendations that emerge from the survey we fill out at the end of today's deliberations.

Strongly Disagree						Strongly Agree		Don't Know
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		

16. I believe the deliberations today to be fair and balanced.

Strongly Disagree						Strongly Agree		Don't Know
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		

17. Citizen Deliberation is an effective tool for the formation of public policy.

Strongly Disagree						Strongly Agree		Don't Know
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		

18. I believe the drop out rate in Colorado represents a significant problem that must be addressed.

Strongly Disagree						Strongly Agree		Don't Know
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		

19. I believe schools should pursue and expand partnerships with local businesses.

Strongly Disagree						Strongly Agree		Don't Know
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		

20. I believe improving the quality of teaching is the most important factor to educational success.

Strongly
Disagree

Strongly
Agree

Don't
Know

1 2 3 4 5 6 7