



Bringing Civics Back to School

David Hiller
President and CEO
Robert R. McCormick Foundation



City Club of Chicago
January 7, 2015

City Club Civic Health

By a show of hands...

- 1. Did you vote in the last election?**
- 2. Do you discuss politics with family and friends?**
- 3. Do you contact public officials?**
- 4. Are you a member of the City Club?**



Illinois Civic Health

Do you vote
(2014)

41%

Do you discuss politics
(2013)

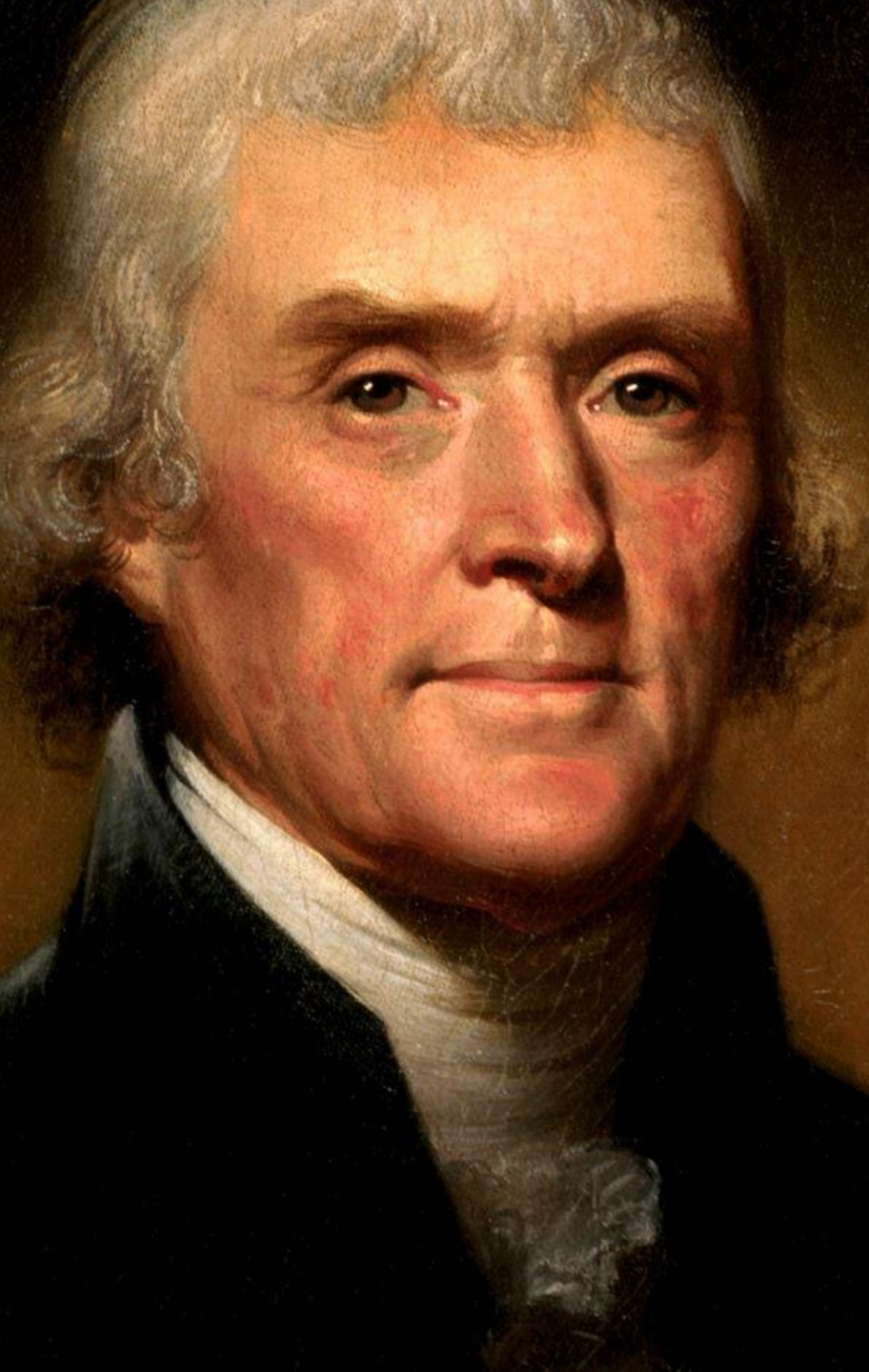
27%

**Do you contact public
officials**
(2013)

11%

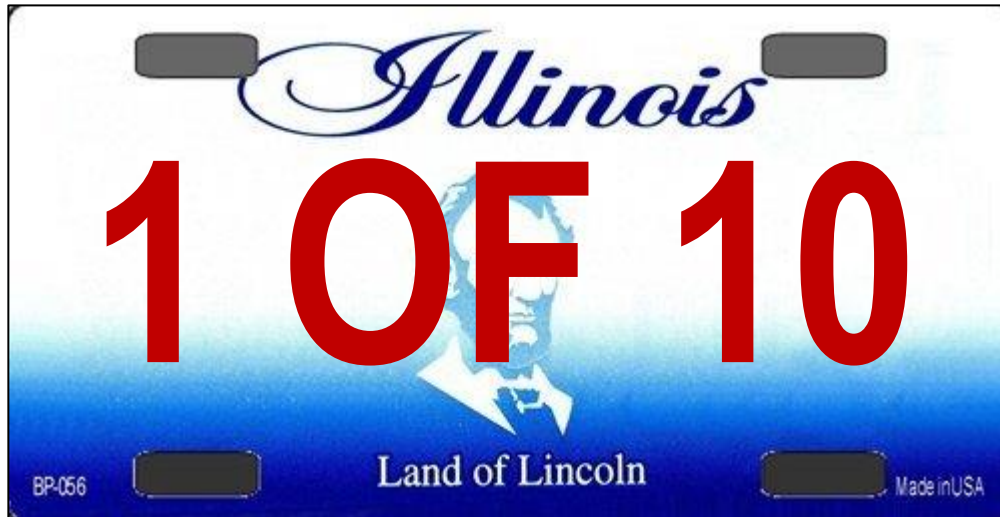
70%





**“ Above all things
I hope the
education of
the common
people will be
attended to. ”**

Thomas Jefferson



States with no civics requirement

CIRCLE, 2014

Students who take no civics course

Healy, 2014



Quality Civic Education Works

Builds 21st Century Skills

- **News literacy**
- **Economic knowledge**
- **Working with others**
- **Support for minorities rights**
- **Willingness to work hard and obey the law**
- **Voting**

SIX Key Ingredients

- 
- 1. Classroom instruction**
 - 2. Discussion of current events and controversial issues**
 - 3. Service-learning**
 - 4. Extracurricular activities**
 - 5. Student participation in school governance**
 - 6. Simulations of democratic processes**

Elected Officials Policy Mak

Educators Administrators N

Students Universities Funde

Elected **Illinois** Officials Pol

Makers **Civic** High Schools

n-profit **Mission** Organizatio

ucators **Coalition** Administra

Students Universities Funde

Elected Officials Policy Mak

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Illinois
Democracy
Schools



GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP INITIATIVE





[Click the image to open the video in a new window](#)



Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago

Strengthening Democracy One Classroom at a Time


Mikva
Challenge



how to know what to believe



FACING
HISTORY
AND
OURSELVES

A group of young men are gathered in a room, possibly a classroom or community center. The man in the foreground is wearing a blue t-shirt with the text "Democracy is a verb." printed on the back. Other men are visible in the background, some wearing caps and jackets. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting an indoor setting with large windows.

Democracy is a verb.

Mikva
Challenge



[Click the image to open the video in a new window](#)

**Illinois
Task
Force
On
Civic
Education**



UPDATE

Illinois Task Force On Civic Education



- 🏫 Require a civics course**
- 🏫 Revise Social Studies standards**
- 🏫 Require a service learning project**
- 🏫 Align teacher certification requirements with best practices**
- 🏫 Provide quality professional development**
- 🏫 Involve students in the election process**

Chicago Tribune

State group pushing to overhaul civic education

By Diane Rado
Chicago Tribune

DECEMBER 1, 2014

With a few adjustments, a political state over taxes, education

The seniors in civics main candidates in the views.

The exercise, built around that Pahl hopes can be re of civics education in Ill make civics a high school service by the end of both

Considered marginalized in math, civics is gaining atte

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Civics Instruction Moves Up in Class

More States Mandate Tests on the Subject Amid a Movement for Use of Citizenship Exam

By CAROLINE PORTER
December 26, 2014

After years on the back burner of the nation's educational agenda, civics is making a comeback, with a number of states mandating new classes or assessments and a burgeoning national push for high-school seniors to pass the exam required of new citizens.

... year, a civics exam in Florida counted toward students' grad... while students in Tennessee Education



How YOU can
make a difference

- ✓ Contact local elected officials
- ✓ Attend school board meetings
- ✓ Volunteer time at schools
- ✓ Discuss current events with your family
- ✓ Encourage others to engage in their community
- ✓ VOTE !



AMEERAH R.

STUDENT

[Click the image to open the video in a new window](#)



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