

10 Reasons to Run a Citizens' Assembly



CITIZENS' ASSEMBLIES ARE AN INNOVATIVE WAY TO ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY — BE IT LOCAL, NATIONAL, OR SOMETHING IN BETWEEN.

Sortition (random selection) brings together a representative sample of your community

Decisions are made in a deliberative, informed, fair, and respectful environment



**SORTITION
FOUNDATION**

Citizens' Assemblies are

Fair

Randomly selecting participants gives every person an **equal chance** of being selected, regardless of age, gender, location or any other characteristic.

Inclusive

They **increase the diversity** of voices in the decision-making process, allowing very different people to find **common ground** by focusing on wider community needs.

Transparent

Using stratified random selection and a clear, open process **reduces the influence of vested interests** – you will not be engaging with the 'usual suspects'.

Effective

Hundreds of examples from around the world have shown that citizens' assemblies **work**. Research shows that diverse groups of people are **better decision-makers** than homogenous groups.

Informed

People develop an **informed, critical understanding** of complex policy decisions, hearing from and questioning a variety of experts and stakeholders.

Deliberative

Assembly members work together to identify the pros, cons and trade-offs of policy options, giving you **high-quality public judgements** backed by considered, easily understood reasons.

Powerful

They open up the space for change when tackling 'wicked problems' where interest or community groups are blocking progress. They give decision-makers increased confidence that they have **broad public support** for a proposal, which can gain an **immeasurable boost** if a Citizens' Assembly gives it near unanimous support.

Innovative

You will be at the forefront of democratic innovation and citizen empowerment and engagement.

Legitimate

They increase the legitimacy of public policy-making by enabling a representative cross-section of people to inform the decision.

Trusted

People trust the outcomes as decisions are made by 'people like me'.



Citizens' Assemblies are fair, transparent, inclusive, and effective. They give a profound increase in the legitimacy of decisions by providing solid evidence of the considered endorsement by an informed, representative sample of your community.

To find out more contact info@sortitionfoundation.org

This document was developed by members of the DemocracyR&D network.