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.
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’.

To find out more contact info@sortitionfoundation.org

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