COLLECTION II — CIVIC PARTICIPATION & VOTING

Civic Participation Checklist

A practical checklist of civic actions every citizen can take, from voting to volunteering to organizing.

By Daniel P. Devine · Civest Sphere · November 2026

Know who represents you

☐ Look up all of my representatives, from Congress to my school board

☐ Save their office phone numbers and email addresses

☐ Follow my town and county on their official websites or newsletters

Vote in every election

☐ Confirm my voter registration and party enrollment

☐ Put primary, general and school budget election dates on my calendar

☐ Read a sample ballot before I vote

☐ Help one other person register or make a plan to vote

Show up locally

☐ Attend one town board, county legislature or school board meeting

☐ Speak during public comment, or submit a written comment

☐ Read my town or school district's budget summary

Stay informed

☐ Follow one bill that affects me, at the state or federal level

☐ Read local news, including a local paper or news site

☐ Learn the 12 Points of Good Governance

Ask for the records

☐ File one FOIL request about something I care about

☐ Check my town's posted contracts and audits

Get involved

☐ Volunteer with a civic, community or neighborhood group

☐ Join or apply for a local advisory board or committee

☐ Contact my representatives about an issue at least once this year

☐ Consider running for local office

Bring others along

☐ Share one civic resource with a friend or neighbor

☐ Bring someone with me to a public meeting

Last reviewed November 2026. This guide is general information, not legal advice. Laws, deadlines and procedures change, so confirm details with the official source before you act.

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