COLLECTION I — THE 12 POINTS OF GOOD GOVERNANCE

Equity & Inclusiveness — Citizen's Guide

Why inclusive governance matters and how communities can advocate for equitable representation.

By Daniel P. Devine · Civest Sphere · November 2026



WATCH THE VIDEO

Equity & Inclusiveness in 60 Seconds · 0:53

Watch it on American Civic Power or YouTube.

https://www.americancivicpower.com/goodgovernance#equity-inclusiveness

What it means

Equity and inclusiveness mean every resident has a fair stake in their government: fair access to services, fair representation, and a fair share of attention, regardless of neighborhood, income, language, age or background.

Why it matters

A government that serves some residents well and others poorly isn't serving the public. Inclusive decisions also tend to be better decisions, because they draw on more experience.

Signs it's working

- Services like road repair, parks and code enforcement are spread fairly across neighborhoods.
- Meeting notices and key documents are available in the languages residents speak.

- Buildings, meetings and websites are accessible to people with disabilities.
- Boards and staff reflect the community they serve.

Warning signs

- Some neighborhoods consistently get slower service or fewer resources.
- Important information available only in English, or only online.
- Advisory boards drawn from the same small circle.
- Burdens like noise, traffic or pollution concentrated in the same places.

What you can do

1. Compare: request data on where spending, repairs or enforcement go, by neighborhood.
2. Ask whether meetings offer interpretation and accessibility accommodations.
3. Encourage people who aren't usually heard to come to meetings, and go with them.
4. Support or apply for boards and commissions so they reflect the whole community.

Related points

Participation, Consensus Orientation, Responsiveness.

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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