Facing Race Insider Agenda

Session Title
Beyond the Binary: How People of Color Can (and Should) Break the Two-Party System

Session Goals

- Analyze our current methods of election and how they have historically been used to uphold white supremecist power structures and exclude people of color from political participation, including the 2-party system.
- Participate in decision-making using a variety of electoral methods and learn the different ways that they can disrupt and transform the current power structure, particularly proportional representation using ranked choice voting.
- Explore how and which reforms could potentially shift power in participants’ communities.

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<td>Pass out ranked-choice ballots for folks to fill out before break: Dream Location for Next Facing Race? Favorite foods?</td>
<td>Allow participants to see and use an RCV ballot</td>
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<td>10 min</td>
<td>Heather</td>
<td><strong>Introduction</strong>&lt;br&gt;  - Presenter introductions  &lt;br&gt;  - Facilitated discussion and opening question with participant introductions:  &lt;br&gt;  - Opening question: “What is democracy?” (how do we determine the quality of our democracy?)&lt;br&gt;  - When answering, state name, pronoun, org, geography</td>
<td>Presenters and participants are introduced to each other in a way that makes it clear that all participants are coming with pre-existing knowledge to contribute to this session</td>
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**Review Goals and Agenda**

**Goals:**
- Analyze our current election systems using a race lens
- Explore remedies to low POC Representation
- Identify potential action steps to bring home
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| 15 Min | **Values exercise**  
When we realize our values and voting methods do not align, we are forced to change one of them. And there's no way we're changing our values!  
- Presenters introduce a set of values that one may desire in an electoral system.  
- On a large piece of paper, participants indicate which values are important to them, using 3 green dots and 1 red dot stickers.  
- 3 green dots have equal value and can be distributed or can be stacked to indicate preference.  
- 1 red dot is used to identify the #1 priority, if participants are forced to only choose 1  
- Discussion and observation about results. |
| 10 Min | **Presentation on voting systems**  
- First past the post  
- Plurality vs Preferential - overview of cumulative, approval, and single transferable vote  
Participants get a basic understanding of the mechanics of each system. |
| 5 Min  | **Video - or Slide about how STV is counted**                                      |
| 10 Min | **Results of RCV ballot and discussion**  
- Was it hard to rank your choices?  
- What did you like about it - what didn’t you like?  
- How many people got their 1st, 2nd, 3rd choices? |
| 5 Min  | **Stretch/Refresh Break**                                                           |
| 10 Min | **Voting Systems and Race**  
- How has FPTP been used to lock POC out of participation in democracy  
  - Vote splitting  
  - Turnout issues  
Introduce historical information and analysis about how our current electoral system upholds white supremacy |
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| 20 Min| **How to increase representation: Good, and Better ways** | - History of the voting rights act and districts as a form of remedy  

Video (7 min): Politics in the Animal Kingdom [https://youtu.be/l8XOZJkozfI](https://youtu.be/l8XOZJkozfI) OR Eastpointe documentary (still in development as of 2/14/2020)  

- Map out how PR addresses fundamental flaws to FPTP  
- Highlight the flaws of segregation-dependent remedies via multi-member districts  
- Map out how STV eliminates the need for primaries, strategic voting  

Discuss the advantages and flaws of district-only remedies  
Participants learn about Proportional Representation as a more effective way to increase POC and (numerical) minority representation |
| 3 min | **Bringing it Home** | - Present a list of action steps and resources for folks to take away  

Participants leave with ideas about how to take it from the theoretical into reality! |
| 2 min | **Review Goals** | - did we accomplish them? 1 word check out, if possible. |