

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 supremacist 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.

Time	Lead	Description	Goal
		Pass out ranked-choice ballots for folks to fill out before break: Dream Location for Next Facing Race? Favorite foods?	Allow participants to see and use an RCV ballot
10 min	Heather	<p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presenter introductions • Facilitated discussion and opening question with participant introductions: • Opening question: “What is democracy?” (how do we determine the quality of our democracy?) • When answering, state name, pronoun, org, geography <p>Review Goals and Agenda</p> <p>Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze our current election systems using a race lens • Explore remedies to low POC Representation • Identify potential action steps to bring home 	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

15 Min		<p>Values exercise</p> <p>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!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>Participants are introduced to 2 methods of voting. Cumulative and Bullet voting.</p> <p>Participants think about and analyze what is important to them in an electoral system individually, and collectively within the room.</p>
10 Min		<p>Presentation on voting systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First past the post • Plurality vs Preferential - overview of cumulative, approval, and single transferable vote 	<p>Participants get a basic understanding of the mechanics of each system.</p>
5 Min		<p>Video - or Slide about how STV is counted</p>	
10 Min		<p>Results of RCV ballot and discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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		<p>Stretch/Refresh Break</p>	
10 Min		<p>Voting Systems and Race</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has FPTP been used to lock POC out of participation in democracy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vote splitting ○ Turnout issues 	<p>Introduce historical information and analysis about how our current electoral system upholds white supremacy</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Creating/enforcing political binaries (2 party system) ● Review of gerrymandering and how it's used to reinforce racism/reduce POC power. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Packing, cracking, stacking 	
20 Min		<p>How to increase representation: Good, and Better ways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● History of the voting rights act and districts as a form of remedy <p>Video (7 min): Politics in the Animal Kingdom https://youtu.be/l8XOZJkozfl OR Eastpointe documentary (still in development as of 2/14/2020)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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 	<p>Discuss the advantages and flaws of district-only remedies</p> <p>Participants learn about Proportional Representation as a more effective way to increase POC and (numerical) minority representation</p>
3 min		<p>Bringing it Home</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Present a list of action steps and resources for folks to take away 	<p>Participants leave with ideas about how to take it from the theoretical into reality!</p>
2 min		<p>Review Goals - did we accomplish them? 1 word check out, if possible.</p>	