

Start a Democracy Club!

Worrying and staying glued to political headlines doesn't change anything.

We built a group of friends who care and we make an impact together.



We started a Democracy Club and you can too.

A Democracy Club is a group of friends who gather regularly to help each other stand up for democracy and civil rights in ways that add up. It's a place to talk, figure things out, and take action together. We're at a pivotal time in our nation's history and it's people like your friends and ours who are going to change the course of this democracy story. When we look back, we'll know we didn't just watch -- we helped create change. So let's do it! We'll help you get started.

It's like a book club, but for democracy!

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How to start a Democracy Club: Step-by-step

Identify your group. Call a few of your like-minded friends. Your group can be two people or ten. A Democracy Club can be for everyone regardless of political experience, work status, or educational background.

Set a date. Find a time that works for everyone for a first meeting. You can host or meet at a coffee shop, restaurant, or community meeting space. Make it casual!

Get some snacks. Have tea, coffee, or a pitcher of margaritas. Buy some appetizers or bake some cookies. It doesn't have to be fancy, just something to snack on while you're planning and doing.

Plan your first meeting. Ask people to read this guide and check out the startademocracyclub.org website before they arrive. Print copies of the guide if you'd like. Make a sign-up sheet for contact information (name, phone number, email, street address). Jot down a simple agenda so you have a plan for talking about things.

Sample agenda

6-6:30pm: Greetings/introductions

6:30-6:45: Overview

What is a Democracy Club and how does it work?

6:45-7:30 Brainstorming

What will your Democracy Club do? What is your focus? Read from the Idea List for inspiration. Will you meet every month to write postcards? Invite each other to meetings, rallies, or town halls? Volunteer for a candidate? Read articles and books and discuss them? All of the above? If you have a vision, put it forward!

7:30-8: Logistics

How will you keep in touch between meetings: text thread, email or a social media group? Put phone numbers on everyone's phones. Put the next meeting date on your calendars.

8-8:30: Go over Action Items for next time

Who is going to do what? Does someone need to bring a list of addresses for postcarding next time? Do you need to find a regular place to meet? Is someone emailing everyone an article to read?

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Idea List: Things you could do

- Write postcards or letters to encourage people to vote
- Attend a rally or town hall together
- Discuss books or articles
- Volunteer for a local, state, or national candidate's campaign
- Help register voters
- Volunteer for an organization that supports voters or community members who face discrimination
- Write letters to the editor
- Host a fundraiser for a candidate or cause
- Watch debates together
- Call or text each other when things are hard
- Celebrate victories together!

Resource List

Not sure where to start? Here are the groups we trust that make it easy to get involved.

- Help elect people who will fight for democracy and civil rights by working with [Swing Left](#).
- Receive lists of mailing addresses to write [Postcards to Voters](#) all over the country.
- Send letters to voters in other states to encourage them to vote with [Vote Forward](#).
- Promote fair elections and encourage voter participation with [Fair Fight](#).
- Find a local group and join many different types of actions with [Indivisible](#).
- Speak out for truth, justice, equality, and kindness with [Stand on Every Corner](#).
- Get a weekly list of simple, uplifting actions with [The Americans of Conscience checklist](#).
- Get scripts for important calls to your representatives with [5 Calls](#).

Help us build a community

Follow [@startdemocracyclub](#) on Instagram for updates, action items, and highlights from other Democracy Clubs around the country. Share your pictures with #startdemocracyclub!

You can also sign up for email announcements at our website startdemocracyclub.org.