



Civics @ Work

by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation

The Problem

There is a profound civics crisis in America. Despite high confidence in civic understanding, many Americans lack basic knowledge:

- Over 70% fail a basic civic literacy test
- More than 1 in 3 Americans don't know we have three branches of government.
- Just 35% know the Constitution has 27 amendments.

At the same time, polarization is at an all time high. 86% of Americans feel the country is divided, with almost half only socializing with others who share their political views. People with differing beliefs coming together to solve problems seems like an idea from a bygone era.

Yet, 86% believe the country would be stronger with better civic education and businesses are uniquely positioned to fill this gap—84% of Americans trust them as key contributors to democracy. By prioritizing civic literacy and engagement, employers can foster greater civility, reduced polarization, and deeper connection to the American way of life.

Our Solution

Civics@Work, a nonpartisan initiative of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, strengthens our communities and workplaces through simple, yet meaningful, steps to bolster our civic infrastructure. Our current program offerings include:

Civic Time Off encourages employers to provide paid time-off to employees serving as nonpartisan poll workers. In 2025, CTO is expanding to support broader civic volunteerism. *(Ongoing - National reach).*

Civics Academy is an online course that builds civic and workplace skills through modules on government, citizenship, and engagement. Employees can earn credentials and participate in Civic Day of Action, where they volunteer in their community. *(National Launch - Fall 2025)*

Juror Education is a simulation-based program that prepares employees for jury duty and emphasizes the importance of juries in a healthy democracy. *(Pilot - Summer 2025)*

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation is seeking corporate partners and philanthropic contributions to invest in prioritizing civics at the national level.

For information about corporate partnerships or making a donation, email Howard Byck (hbyck@uschamber.com).

To learn more about Civics@Work programming, email Pamela Sharma (psharma@uschamber.com).