

PITTSBURGH CIVIC HEALTH INDEX



University of Pittsburgh

*Graduate School of Public and International Affairs
Center for Metropolitan Studies*

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Democracy



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The Center for Metropolitan Studies at the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs undertakes its research and community engagement on the emerging need for effective, participatory, and democratic decision making at the metropolitan level. It is currently focused on creating a sense of urban core by integrating and connecting the central city and its surrounding municipalities.

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The Program for Deliberative Democracy strives to improve local and regional decision-making through informed citizen deliberations. Founded in 2003, it is an independent, non-partisan organization housed at Carnegie Mellon University under the Center for Ethics and Policy. It has utilized Deliberative Polling® and other forms of community conversations to cover such

topics as same-sex marriage, climate change, good governance, and the challenges of the Marcellus Shale. It has also facilitated deliberation at the campus and neighborhood level.

This project was made possible by the generous support of The Pittsburgh Foundation.

THE PITTSBURGH FOUNDATION

Established in 1945, The Pittsburgh Foundation is one of the nation's oldest community foundations and is the 14th largest of more than 750 community foundations across the United States.

As a community foundation, our resources comprise endowment funds established by individuals, businesses and organizations with a passion for charitable giving and a deep commitment to the Pittsburgh community. The Foundation currently has more than 1,800 individual donor funds and, together with its supporting organizations, assets of approximately \$900 million. Grantmaking benefits a broad spectrum of community life within Pittsburgh and beyond.

The Foundation has strengthened its focus on community and the positive impact it strives to achieve through its grantmaking, the engagement of its donors in critical regional issues and its activities around convening and leadership, in collaboration with funding and civic partners.



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Civic Health Index

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Conference on Citizenship (NCoC) began *America's Civic Health Index* in 2006 to measure the level of civic engagement and health of our democracy. In 2009, NCoC was incorporated into the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act and directed to expand this civic health assessment in partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) and the U.S. Census Bureau. NCoC now works with partners in more than 30 communities nationwide and uses civic data to lead and inspire a public dialogue about the future of citizenship in America and to drive sustainable civic strategies.

Civic health reflects the degree to which residents talk to neighbors, spend time with friends or family, participate in community groups, vote, talk about politics, and act to further a civic interest. Civic health also relates to the overall well-being of neighborhoods, communities, states, and the nation.



Citizens in the Pittsburgh region are much more likely to be civically engaged in groups than either the United States as a whole or the rest of Pennsylvania – and usually by wide margins.

Photo: The Pittsburgh Foundation

Strong civic health is vital to a democracy. Active citizen engagement builds consensus for policy that reflects the needs of the community and “promotes effective governance by fostering transparency and accountability of public institutions.”¹ Moreover, strong social cohesion – defined as talking to neighbors, doing favors for neighbors, trusting neighbors, and seeing and hearing from family and friends – and civic health have been linked to better public health outcomes, including improved child development and adolescent well-being, improved mental health, lower violent crime rates and youth delinquency, and reduced mortality.²

Pittsburgh’s civic health is strong. Citizens in the Pittsburgh region are much more likely to be civically engaged in groups than either the United States as a whole or the rest of Pennsylvania – and usually by wide margins. They also interact more with their neighbors

The Pittsburgh region also exceeds both Pennsylvania and the United States in levels of political involvement. The region’s citizens were 36.8% more likely to have contacted a public official than were citizens of the United States and 37.4% more likely than citizens of the rest of Pennsylvania. They were also more likely to have attended public meetings and to have used economic leverage to voice their concerns. But given the number of available elected officials (there are over 1,000 local elected officials just in Allegheny County alone), it is reasonable to assume more opportunities exist for that interaction.

Key findings

Based on the various surveys and analysis undertaken recently, the following findings constitute our assessment of the Pittsburgh region:

- The Pittsburgh metropolitan region is home to 2,574,959 residents who are much older, more likely to live in the same and older housing, and far less diverse than residents of either Pennsylvania or, to an even greater extent, the United States.
- The Pittsburgh metropolitan region, particularly in its urban areas, is constituted by neighborhoods that are seen as important civic and cultural institutions. Multiple neighborhoods exist within the larger municipalities (there are 90 just in the city of Pittsburgh), while others are co-terminus with the municipality.
- The Pittsburgh metropolitan region is divided into over 1,000 local governments that are the building blocks of civic and cultural connections. This multitude of governments (and neighborhoods) can serve to open civic access and engagement, but can also create serious challenges to bringing those communities together.

- Residents are generally satisfied with the complex system of local governments. They have a fair level of trust in their institutions building from the bottom-up with their local governments and neighborhoods; think those institutions are doing reasonably well in the services they offer; and have a degree of optimism about the future of those services.
- Residents see new, aggressive intergovernmental approaches as the next generation of policy options for the county's public and private sectors (with active citizen engagement) to pursue. Their top priority is for their public officials to pursue working across those municipal boundaries.
- The Pittsburgh region generally interacts more with neighbors than both the nation or Pennsylvania as a whole. This is most manifest in the level of trust Pittsburgh region citizens have with their neighbors. They are 37.3% more likely to trust all (as opposed to some of) their neighbors than the rest of the United States and 11.9% more likely than citizens of the rest of Pennsylvania.
- Residents in the Pittsburgh region are much more likely to be civically engaged in groups than either the United States as a whole or the rest of Pennsylvania – and usually by wide margins. They are also much more likely to engage in political activities such as contacting elected officials and attending public meetings.

Key Recommendations

Despite the rich civic assets of the Pittsburgh region, there is still room for growth. Three specific areas could benefit from targeted support and specific action over the next few years. The first relates to strategies to strengthen our overall civic health, the second relates to strengthening neighborhood capacity to engage in civil discourse, and the third relates to strengthening the connections between municipalities within the region.

I. CREATE MORE DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRATIC PRACTICES

Recent work in “Citizenship Theory” has made clear that “the health and stability of a modern democracy depends, not only on the justice of its basic institutions, but also on the qualities and attitudes of its citizens.”³ These qualities and attitudes are often highlighted by proponents of Deliberative Democracy and emphasize the role of the citizen in becoming a truly informed and engaged individual.

In one form or another, ‘deliberative practices’ have already been going on in Pittsburgh. Well-structured community meetings and citizen dialogues like those partnered by The Design Group in the Hill District and by Coro in the Southside are prime examples.⁴ We now need to find ways to integrate these practices and to institutionalize variations of these community conversations.

The following represent ways to scale and institutionalize deliberative forums and other forms of well-structured public dialogue:

- Train organizations and nonprofits in the practices of dialogue and deliberation;
- Make citizen deliberation a part of the regulatory requirements for Public Comment; and
- Integrate deliberative forums into new initiatives like participatory budget planning.

II. STRENGTHEN NEIGHBORHOOD DECISION-MAKING CAPACITY

Since the days of Mayor David Lawrence (1946-1959), Pittsburgh's approach to city planning and neighborhood development has been top-down. For the 21st Century, we need a shift in the structure of power that better mirrors today's ability for people to become their own producers of ideas and to participate more dynamically in city and neighborhood planning. Under a more decentralized paradigm, ideas will no longer be dictated from the top-down; they will be grown from the bottom-up.

The Pittsburgh metropolitan region is divided into over 1,000 local governments that are the building blocks of civic and cultural connections. This multitude of governments (and neighborhoods) can serve to open civic access and engagement, but can also create serious challenges to bringing those communities together.



One recent example of this approach is the participatory budgeting process. Here citizens participate directly in discussions focused on discretionary funding allocation for neighborhood projects. By engaging in this deliberative process, city councils and citizen groups are able to identify and modify the distribution of resources and do so in a transparent and transformative way. Successful implementations of this process are already found in New York City, San Francisco, and Chicago. We believe that Pittsburgh is well positioned to adopt this kind of synergetic community-based citizen relationship to local government.

Information technology and community based social software provide the tools for transforming our ideas of civic duty and how citizens communicate with local government. We need to use such technologies to further the goal of bottom up community engagement.

Specifically, we recommend the following actions:

- Work to have community voices heard by city and county government by providing communities with forums and tools necessary to increase public engagement;
- Develop a stronger voice for the importance of design and planning in community dialogue; and
- Leverage groups like Code for America, tools like Next Door, smartphone apps like Public Stuff, and other innovative technologies to make civic participation as easy and accessible as paying bills online or any other aspect of everyday life.



Information technology and community based social software provide the tools for transforming our ideas of civic duty and how citizens communicate with local government.

III. FACILITATING CROSS-BOUNDARY ACTIVITIES BETWEEN MUNICIPALITIES

The highly fragmented local government system in the region appears to enjoy currency with the region's residents. As such, making it better rather than replacing it with a less fragmented system should be the aim of public policies. From a civic health perspective, it appears that the highly fragmented system does allow citizen access to civic life. It also appears that the residents of the region have availed themselves of that civic opportunity.

Create a sense of an Urban Core (CONNECT) that integrates the city with the region.

The City of Pittsburgh shares a border with 35 municipalities that share many of the same issues as the city. The Congress of Neighboring Communities (CONNECT) was launched in 2008 to bring together the city and those municipalities. It has grown into an institution that has created a sense of an urban core made up of 680,000 people in 36 municipalities. Efforts should be made to nurture this initiative.

Expand ways for the suburbs to work with each other (CoGs).

Virtually all of the municipalities outside of the city of Pittsburgh belong to an association of local governments known locally as Councils of Governments (CoGs). There are eight such organizations just in Allegheny County. CoGs have been around since the mid 1970s but have been traditionally understaffed, underfunded, and underutilized. Efforts should be made to expand the scope, funding, and capacity of these institutions.

Integrate the Urban Core and the Suburbs (CONNECT and CoGs).

The city/suburb divide, long considered a wall 5 feet wide and 100 feet tall, is common to most metropolitan areas in the United States. The Pittsburgh region has been no exception. However, there are municipalities (those that share a common border with the city) that belong to both CONNECT and to a CoG. These municipalities, representing 380,000 residents, are the common element or glue that holds the region together. Who better to translate urban issues to the suburbs and communicate suburban issues to the city? They perceive many urban issues (public transit, infrastructure investment, abandoned/blighted properties, emergency medical services) as more in tune with the city's perspective than with the more distant suburbs. When these municipalities voice urban/city interests as their interests to the suburbs, suburbs are more willing to listen than had that same message come directly from the City. Conversely, because they have deep suburban roots, they are able to voice suburban interests to the city in a way the city is more apt to listen and adapt. Efforts should be undertaken to develop a strong working relationship between CONNECT and the region's CoGs.

Integrate Citizens into the Cross-Boundary Strategies by:

- Developing policy issues through working groups comprising any interested representatives with civic and governmental partners; and
- Creating Citizen Advisory Councils to help identify issues of concern to the urban core as seen by citizens being affected.

BACKGROUND: THE PITTSBURGH METROPOLITAN REGION

Pittsburgh sits where the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers merge to form the Ohio River. These three rivers were the centerpiece around which a thriving 19th and 20th century manufacturing economy, concentrated on steel production, fueled America's building boom and military might. Like many such economies in the latter half of the 20th century, Pittsburgh's economy first frayed in the 50s and then collapsed in the 80s. From those ashes emerged both a reinvented region and a central city with significant parts that have yet to recover. Its economy now rests on the strength of its universities and its healthcare institutions, on its technology centers, and its new businesses and corporate headquarters.

In recent years the Pittsburgh region has hosted a G-20 Summit and the 2012 One Young World Summit. Pittsburgh's reputation as one of America's most livable cities was recently reconfirmed when *The Economist* ranked Pittsburgh as a top "Most Livable City in the World."⁵ It is one of 20 cities with the "Happiest Young Professionals" (*Forbes*),⁶ one of the "10 Best Cities to Raise a Family" (*The Street*),⁷ a "Best City for Successful Aging" (The Milken Institute)⁸ and the number one City for Veterans (*The USAA*).⁹

Amid those accolades, Pittsburgh still has the oldest average population of any metro area outside the retirement states of Florida and Arizona. Racial disparity is a significant issue to the region. The gap between the richest and poorest of the region's municipalities is wide and growing wider. Foreign-born immigration is the lowest of the vast majority of U.S. metropolitan regions.

The geo-political fragmentation of the region can help explain the existence of both good indicators of rebirth and negative indicators of continued social issues. The 2.3 million inhabitants of the Pittsburgh metropolitan region live in over 1,000 different local governments and over a hundred different school systems, each with their own taxing authority. Add to those numbers another 500 or so special districts that provide water and sewer systems, economic development services, and a myriad of other services. Further, the City of Pittsburgh has a population of slightly less than 310,000 (down from a 1950 population of close to 700,000). This density of governments puts Pittsburgh slightly behind Chicago as the most diffuse (fragmented) region in the United States.¹⁰

The origin of the system of many governments is rooted in geography and economics. Rivers and ravines divide the region, which has both in bountiful supply. In the 19th century, isolated communities found it necessary and easier to be self-sufficient. Pennsylvania, like other states in New England, was originally divided into relatively large townships. However, unlike those states, Pennsylvania law allowed urbanized pockets within a township to seek self-rule as a borough. Boroughs can be viewed as small cities. They had the power and authority generally granted to cities, but with land area rarely exceeding a square mile or so. As a result, the 19th century saw Allegheny County grow from under 10 local governments at the beginning to over 100 at the end.

Economics came into play when manufacturing facilities, usually along the rivers, could isolate themselves from a broader public responsibility. This was accomplished by incorporating the land along the river (the industrial complex), the buffer on the other side of the complex as the commercial hub, and the land on the other side of the commercial hub as residential property for the workers. These pockets were highly successful as company towns, but collapsed when the company went out of business. Many of these mill-town municipalities have yet to recover.

The geo-political fragmentation of the region can help explain the existence of both good indicators of rebirth and negative indicators of continued social issues.



Photo: VisitPittsburgh

Political scientists may think this number of governments is too high for the efficient and effective delivery of public services. Perhaps it is, but significantly changing those numbers is unlikely to occur. On the other hand, particularly as it relates to civic health and engagement, does such an extraordinarily accessible and close government help to create a sense of community?

To address this question, after a brief demographic introduction to the region, we turn to an overview of several recently undertaken studies. The issue of civic health has long been considered an important topic of public policy within the region. To that end, there have been a number of local projects that have sought insight into what citizens think about the public domain and their role in shaping it. There are three such efforts that have particular salience to our report and they are summarized below. The first is a survey by Pittsburgh Today conducted in 2011 and published in the Fall of 2012. The second is a survey conducted by Temple University in 2010 on attitudes about government. The latter poll was used to inform a deliberative democracy process involving 183 citizens of Allegheny County, some results of which will also be discussed.

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF THE REGION

The Pittsburgh metropolitan region is home to 2,574,959 residents and constitutes the southwest portion of Pennsylvania. It borders, on its west, the panhandle of West Virginia and small portions of Ohio. Its southern border is shared with Maryland.

Table 1 paints a profile of a region that is: much older, more likely to live in the same and older housing, and far less diverse than either Pennsylvania or, to an even greater extent, the United States. The average age of the region's population is 42.5 years compared to 40.1 for Pennsylvania and 37.1 for the United States.



Table 1: Pittsburgh Region, Pennsylvania, and US Selected Demographic Characteristics

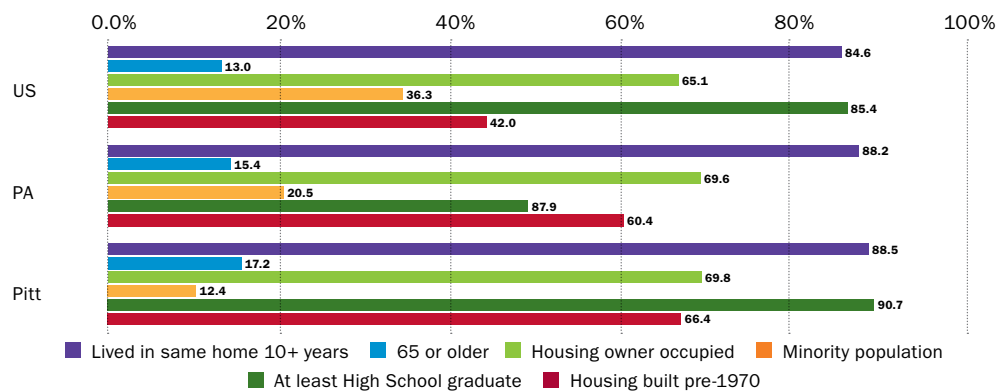
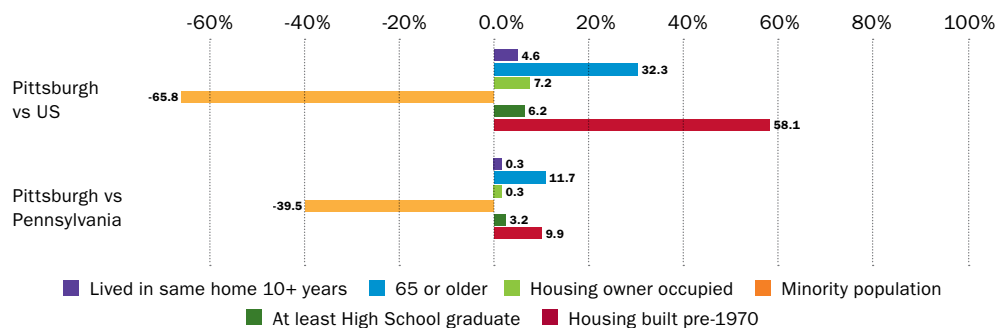


Table 1a: Comparison of Pittsburgh Region to Pennsylvania and US Selected Demographic Characteristics



* Above data comes from the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, available at <http://www.spcregion.org/pdf/Census%202010/special/PittsburghMSA.pdf>

REGIONAL ATTITUDES ABOUT THE PUBLIC SPACE OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY

Several studies have been conducted recently that either directly or indirectly address the issue of civic health. Given different methodological approaches and different geographic study areas, it is important to understand that slightly different results will exist and should be interpreted accordingly. These studies help provide a more robust picture of how Pittsburgh residents feel about their communities and government. The subsequent section will focus on how these attitudes translate into civic actions and behaviors. Three surveys are used in this analysis:

- The Pittsburgh Regional Quality of Life Survey was a 2011 undertaking of the University of Pittsburgh's Urban Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR). The 120-question survey focused on 10 major areas: arts & culture, economy, education, environment, government, health, housing & neighborhood, public safety, transportation, and overall quality of life. The Pittsburgh Regional Quality of Life Survey is based on telephone interviews with more than 1,800 residents of a region that comprises 32 counties in four states.
- The Temple Poll was a 2010 undertaking of Temple University to garner understanding of policy issues as part of the 2010 Pennsylvania Gubernatorial race. It was a telephone survey of 1400 Pennsylvania residents. Subsequent analysis of Allegheny County respondents was then undertaken by the University of Pittsburgh's Center for Metropolitan Studies (CMS). The CMS focused on respondents from the City of Pittsburgh, respondents in municipalities that share a common border with the city, and respondents in the balance of municipalities in Allegheny County.
- The Allegheny County Deliberative Democracy Poll Program was undertaken by the Center for Deliberative Democracy at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU). The process, known formally as a Deliberative Poll®, involved 406 county residents participating in a survey about local government. Recruitment for this Deliberative Poll® used random digit dialing and systematic sampling of telephone lists. This was followed by 183 residents engaging in an all-day deliberation on how best to improve the quality of services delivered by local governments. Police services were used as a representation of the broad array of local government activities.

PITTSBURGH REGIONAL QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY

Since 2004, an organization now known as Pittsburgh Today has been conducting surveys of citizen attitudes and benchmarking the region against a number of similar regions across the United States. The latest survey was conducted in 2011 and the results for the entire metropolitan region are summarized below.

Overall Quality of Life

When asked, "Thinking about the overall quality of life in the region, how would you rate the region as a place to live?," 83% of the region's inhabitants responded positively either as "excellent" (15%), "very good" (43%), or "good" (27%). Demographically, young people (18-44) were more apt to see the region's quality of life as improving, while those 45 to 64 were more apt to see it as declining. That said, those 65 and older rated their quality of life as highest among all the groups.

The greatest gap was based on race. Whereas 54% of all other races rated their quality of life as excellent or very good, only 26% of African-American respondents defined their quality of life as excellent or very good.

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Photo: The Program for Deliberative Democracy

Housing and Neighborhood

When asked, “How would you describe, in general, the physical condition of surrounding houses and buildings in your neighborhood?,” 91% of the respondents rated it as “good” (25%), “very good” (44%), or “excellent” (22%). Whereas only 8% of non-African American respondents rated conditions as “fair,” 26% of African-Americans did.

Within these neighborhoods, social interaction is generally quite robust. Around 74% of respondents spoke to their neighbors at least several times a month and close to 40% do so on a daily basis. That said, these neighborhoods are generally not diverse. Only 13% of respondents live in neighborhoods they consider “very diverse” while 40% live in neighborhoods that are “not at all diverse.”¹¹

2010 TEMPLE POLL

In 2010, Temple University conducted a survey of Pennsylvania residents in order to provide information about citizen attitudes as part of the 2010 gubernatorial election. The poll focused on the quality of local public services and citizen attitudes toward their local governments. Although data is not available for the metro region, data is available for the citizens of Allegheny County (which houses the majority of the region’s residents). For purposes of this more localized analysis, respondents were grouped by those who live in the City of Pittsburgh (306,000 population), those who live in the 35 municipalities that share a common border with the City (called the “also-Urb,” 380,000 population), and those who live in the 84 municipalities outside the urban core (suburb, 580,000 population).



Issues of Trust and Importance

When asked which level of government they trust to make the “best tax and spending decisions,” 54% of respondents identified their city, town or borough as most trusted. County government was identified by 27% of the respondents and State government by 19%. City residents were more apt to identify with the state and county governments than were also-Urb and suburb respondents. Specifically, local government was identified by 38% of city residents compared to 49% of also-Urb respondents and 57% of suburb respondents.

Respondents were also asked to identify whether their “most important sense of community” was: their neighborhood; their city, town, or borough; their region; or the State of Pennsylvania. The neighborhood (38%) was the most frequently mentioned answer. It was followed by their city, town or borough (24%). Combined, the neighborhood or the local government was identified as most important by 62% of the respondents. The State (23%), county (8%) and the region (7%) rounded out the list.

City respondents (48%) were most apt to mention their neighborhood. Also-Urb respondents and suburb respondents did not necessarily view their city, town or borough as important. Only 20% of also-Urb respondents and 29% of the suburb respondents identify their local government as their most important sense of community. Even though their local government is most trusted, it is not necessarily the most important to them.

Taxes and Service Levels

Overall, 54% of respondents thought the taxes they pay to support the public services (garbage collection, police protection, fire protection, and public works) they receive were “about right,” while 42% thought they were “high” or “very high.” Only 4% saw those taxes as “low” or “very low.” City and also-Urb respondents were less apt to see taxes as “high” or “very high” than suburban respondents.

To further explore citizen attitudes on taxes, respondents were asked to choose between “better services even if it meant taxes had to increase,” “lower taxes even if that meant public services would have to decrease” or “maintaining the current level of taxes and services.” Overall, 71% of respondents chose maintaining current service levels and tax efforts. This was consistent across the three groups of city, also-Urb, and suburb respondents. The groups differed significantly on the other two strategies. City respondents were much more likely to select “better services” (18%) to “lower taxes” (5%). Whereas suburb respondents were more apt to select “lower taxes” (21%) to “better services” (11%). Like city respondents, also-Urb respondents were more apt to select “better services” (20%) than “lower taxes” (9%).

Attitudes on Service Sharing

When asked how much of a priority it should be for “local public agencies such as police, fire, emergency medical services, and public works” to combine resources to provide services, 66% of respondents said it should be a “top priority.” Only 8% said it “should not be done.” City residents (80%) were much more apt to see such service combining as a top priority. That said, 62% of also-Urb respondents and 54% of suburban respondents identified service sharing as a top priority.

When asked the primary reason for such service sharing, the two most frequently mentioned goals were “improving the quality of services to taxpayers” (46%) and “reducing the costs of services to the taxpayers” (38%). Suburban respondents were split between cost reduction (39%) over improved services (41%) as the primary reason. City respondents (46%) and also-Urb respondents (49%) were more interested in improved service over cost reduction (33%; 33%).

More Specifics on Police

On a scale of 1-10 where 10 represents “very satisfied” and 1 “very dissatisfied,” respondents were asked to rate the “police protection” they currently are receiving. Overall, 63% of all respondents rated that service an 8 or above with 36% rating their service as a 10. Satisfaction was highest in the suburbs where 88% of respondents and 67% of also-Urb respondents rated their police service an 8 or above compared to 39% of city respondents.

On the question of how “safe you feel being alone in your neighborhood at night,” 55% of respondents felt “very safe” while 6% felt “very unsafe.” Suburb respondents (69%) and also-Urb respondents (56%) were much more likely to feel “very safe” compared to 27% of city respondents.

Current and Future Expectations

Respondents were asked, over the past several years, whether core services (police, fire, emergency management services (EMS) and public works) had “gotten better,” “gotten worse” or stayed the same. The most frequently mentioned opinion was “stayed the same” (71%), whereas 19% thought things had gotten better compared to 10% who thought things had gotten worse. Approximately 30% of city residents thought things had gotten better. When asked the same question about the next several years, most respondents expect things to stay the same (57%). That said, 24% (32% of city residents) expect things to get better compared to 19% of the respondents who think things will get worse.



Where Allegheny County Respondents Differ From the Other Parts of the State

The following areas represent the most significant places where Allegheny County respondents differ from respondents in other parts of the state:

- Allegheny County respondents are more likely to think current tax levels are about right (54%);
- They are less likely to favor a stronger role for county government in land use planning and zoning decisions;
- They are much more likely to be served by a local police department; and
- They are less likely to trust state government and more likely to trust local government.



Allegheny County respondents are less likely to trust state government and more likely to trust local government than residents of other parts of the state.

Differences in Allegheny County Respondents Based on Demographics

- Age: Under 35 respondents are more likely to trust county and state government than local government.
- On the question of most important community, non-white respondents are much more apt to identify state government (35%) or local government (31%), whereas white respondents identified most with neighborhood (43%).
- Non-white respondents are much more likely to trust state government;
- Non-white respondents are also much more apt to think public services have gotten better (25%) in the last several years and are optimistic those services will get better (42%) in the next several years.
- Female respondents are more likely to consider current taxes too high and much more likely to place a “top” priority on combining services than male respondents. They are more likely to see “improving the quality of services” as the goal of service combining. Male respondents are more apt to see the primary goal of service combining as “reducing the costs of services.”
- Female respondents are twice as likely as male respondents to feel that crime has increased in their neighborhood over the last several years, but are more optimistic that things will be better in the next several years.

Discussion

McLaughlin (2010) notes in his assessment of the statewide poll that “elected officials seem to be ahead of the public in understanding the current and looming costs of Pennsylvania’s current complex system of municipal governance.”¹² In that regard, Allegheny County residents are representative of that observation. They are satisfied generally with the current structure and do not see or sense a crisis. They have a fair level of trust in their institutions building from the bottom-up with their local governments and neighborhoods; think those institutions are doing reasonably well in the services they offer; have a degree of optimism about the future of those services; and grumble about taxes being higher than they would like.

That said, the respondents left open a general willingness to pursue sharing services, even to the point of expecting their public officials to give such strategies a “top priority.” City and also-Urb respondents as well as female respondents are particularly open to service sharing as a strategy. Importantly, service sharing is seen both as a strategy for improving services and for reducing costs. To the degree that the cost of financing Pennsylvania’s “complex system of municipal governance” becomes more than the resources of the state can bear, new service sharing arrangements have the potential of resonating with citizens.

2010 ALLEGHENY COUNTY DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY POLL

In 2009, a long and contentious process by local public and private sector leaders to explore the merging of the City of Pittsburgh government with that of the Allegheny County government – a city-county consolidation – unofficially ended. There was a broad consensus that such a merger was both impractical and unlikely. This unofficial “death” of city-county consolidation, long considered a desirable outcome by many in the civic sector, left a huge hole in strategies to improve the governance of the city and the municipalities that make up Allegheny County.

As a means to jump-start public discussions on new ways to improve governance post city-county consolidation, the Pittsburgh Foundation engaged the Program for Deliberative Democracy at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) to undertake a Deliberative Poll®. As part of that process, 406 county residents took a survey about local government. This was followed up with 183 residents engaging in an all-day deliberation on how best to improve the quality of services delivered by local governments. Police services were used as a representation of the broad array of local government activities. At the end of the day-long event, respondents were polled again.

Key findings From the Process Were:

- Citizens’ opinions can change when they are provided information and have a chance to work together;
- When citizens become more aware of the complexity of governmental structure, their first inclination is to become less optimistic about the future. That feeling is quickly followed by a heightened sense of the importance of citizen engagement as part of the solution;
- As citizens struggled with the complexity of so many local governments in the county they saw a role of state government to help “remove obstacles” that often hinder the ability of local governments to address important issues;
- Through the day, it was observed that citizens moved from broad policy generalizations to practical solutions; and
- Citizens saw new and aggressive intergovernmental approaches as the next generation of policy options for the county’s public and private sectors (with active citizen engagement) to pursue. The end goal, as was the case with the Temple Poll, differed significantly. Citizens are split on whether such a goal should be cost reduction or increased service.¹³

CIVIC HEALTH INDEX FINDINGS: COMPARING THE PITTSBURGH REGION TO NATIONAL AND STATE AVERAGES

The surveys on attitudes of Pittsburgh residents about their communities and government help provide important context for understanding the civic health of the region. Furthermore, it provides a rich foundation from which to explore how residents throughout the region connect how they feel about their communities and government with the actions they take to improve their neighborhoods, local communities and governance. This section will look at how the Pittsburgh metropolitan region compares to both the State of Pennsylvania and the United States as a whole. In this section, percentage point estimates of several important civic indicators and a relative ranking for Pennsylvania, with more detailed Pittsburgh, PA metro level analysis are presented. While each indicator represents an important aspect of civic health in Pennsylvania, no one indicator should be treated as the sole representation of the state’s civic health. The data reflects CIRCLE analysis of Census Current Population Survey (CPS) September and November supplements. Pooled data from 2009-2011 is used to generate a sample size large enough to improve confidence levels for the metro level data.

When citizens become more aware of the complexity of governmental structure, their first inclination is to become less optimistic about the future. That feeling is quickly followed by a heightened sense of the importance of citizen engagement as part of the solution.



Volunteering and Giving

Pennsylvania ranked 31st in volunteering in 2011, with a volunteering rate of 26.6%. The national volunteering rate in 2011 was 26.8%. An estimated 2,671,185 residents volunteered in PA in 2011. In 2010, approximately 26.9% of Pennsylvania residents volunteered their time. In charitable giving, Pennsylvania ranked 30th with 54.0% of PA residents giving \$25 or more in charitable donations. Nationally 51.8% of Americans gave \$25 or more in charitable donations. In 2010, 51.6% of PA residents gave \$25 or more in charitable donations.

A summary and more detailed analysis of the Pittsburgh region are presented in Table 2. The chart provides direct comparison of participation rates, as well as the percentage increase or decrease in relative engagement of Pittsburgh residents to the state and nation. *This should not be confused with pure differences in percentage points between participation rates.* This calculation is meant to give a sense of where there are meaningful differences in participation in the metro area relative to state and national trends.

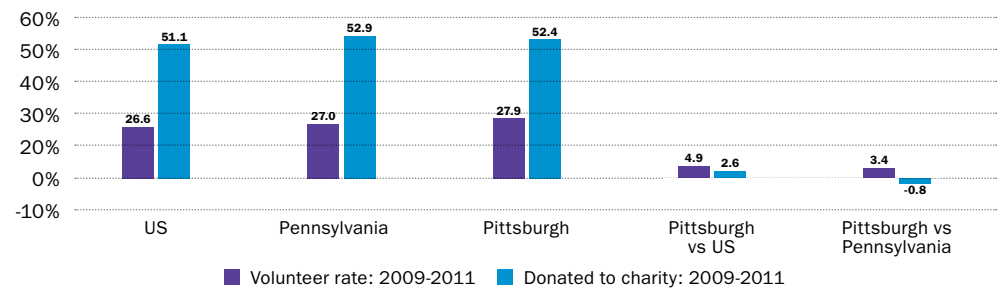


4.9%

Pittsburgh region residents were 4.9% more likely to have volunteered than US citizens as a whole over the 2009 – 2011 period and 2.6% more likely to have made a charitable donation.

The region demonstrates participation rates consistent with rates for the US and Pennsylvania residents. Pittsburgh region residents were 4.9% more likely to have volunteered than US citizens as a whole over the 2009–2011 period and 2.6% more likely to have made a charitable donation. Compared to Pennsylvania as a whole, Pittsburgh region citizens were slightly more apt (3.4%) to volunteer and slightly less apt (0.8%) to make a charitable contribution.

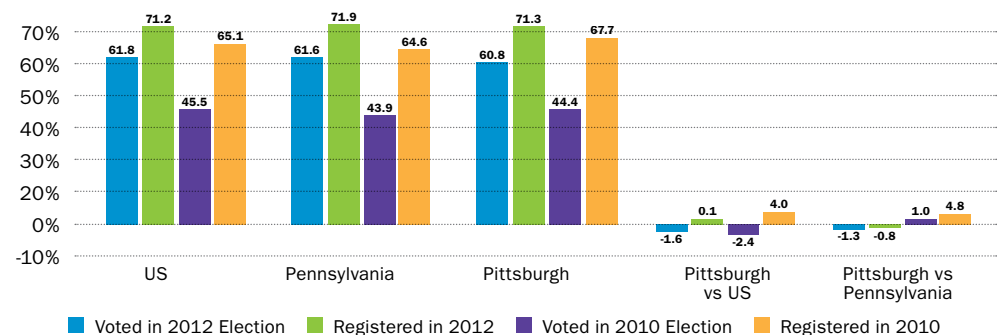
Table 2: Pittsburgh Region Compared to US and Pennsylvania for Rates of Volunteering and Donations to Charity 2009-2011



Voting and Registration

As demonstrated in Table 3, voter registration and voting frequency in the Pittsburgh metro region is quite similar to both Pennsylvania and United States averages. The region was 1.6% less likely than the rest of the US to have voted in the 2012 elections but 0.1% more likely to be registered. Compared to Pennsylvania as a whole, they were 0.8% less likely to be registered and 1.3% less likely to have voted in 2012.

Table 3: Pittsburgh Region Compared to US and Pennsylvania for Voting and Voter Registration 2010 & 2012

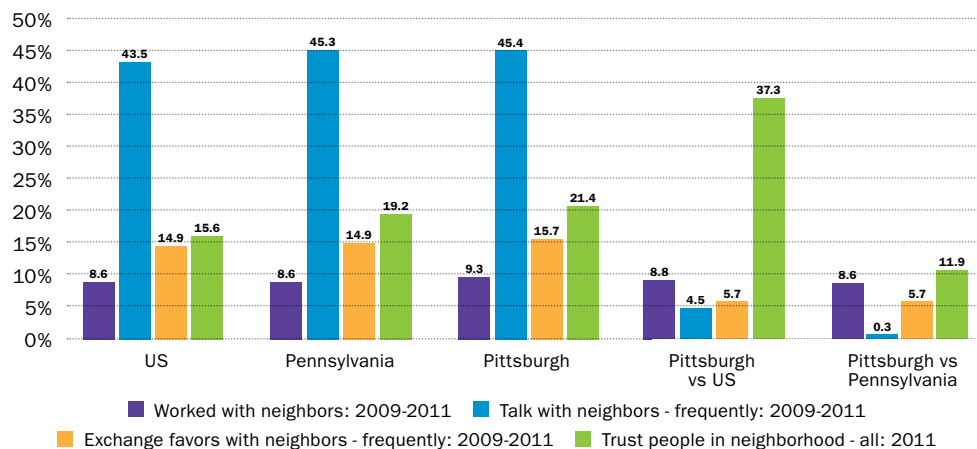


Interactions with Neighbors

Pennsylvania ranked 17th in the rate of people who exchanged favors with their neighbors a few times a week or more (i.e., “frequently”), with the rate of 15.3%. Nationwide, 14.1% of Americans in 2011 said they frequently exchange favors with their neighbors. In 2010, the Pennsylvania estimate for this indicator was 14.4%. Nationally the rate was 15.2%, which represents an interesting reversal over the past year. Pennsylvania ranked 27th in the percent of people who reported trusting all or most of their neighbors with 60.8% reporting that they trusted all or most of the people in their neighborhood. Nationwide, 56.7% of Americans say they trusted their neighbors. This is the first year that this question was included in the survey.

The Pittsburgh region, as demonstrated in Table 4, generally interacts more with neighbors than either the US or Pennsylvania as a whole. They are more likely than state and national peers to work with neighbors, exchange favors with neighbors, and talk with neighbors. This strength is most manifest in the level of trust Pittsburgh region citizens have with their neighbors. They are 37.3% more likely to trust all (as opposed to some) of their neighbors than the rest of the United States and 11.9% more likely than citizens of the rest of Pennsylvania. Given the fragmentation of the region into small local governments and numerous neighborhoods (there are 88 identifiable neighborhoods just in the city of Pittsburgh), it is reasonable to suggest that the ingredients for greater levels of trust may be present. These relative strengths in neighborhood engagement are interesting assets worth exploring further.

Table 4: Pittsburgh Region Compared to US and Pennsylvania on Relations with Neighbors



37.3%

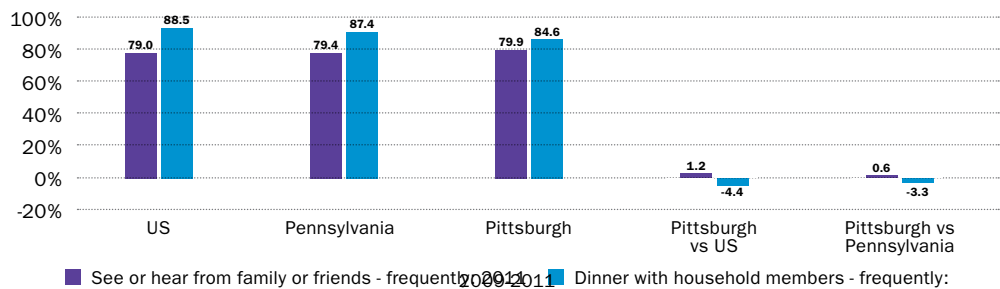
Pittsburgh region residents are 37.3% more likely to trust all (as opposed to some) of their neighbors than the rest of the United States and 11.9% more likely than citizens of the rest of Pennsylvania.

Communications with Friends and Family

Pennsylvania ranked 30th nationally in the percentage of people who communicated with friends and family, with 79.4% communicating with friends and family at least a few times a week. On the national level, 79.0% of Americans said they communicated at least a few times a week with family or friends. This question, worded as such, was included in the survey for the first time in 2011. Pennsylvania ranked 39th nationally in the rate of people who said that they eat dinner with their family a few times a week or more, with the rate of 88.2%. The national estimate for this indicator was 89.5% in 2011. In 2010, the national rate for this indicator was 88.1%, and in PA, it was 86.6%.

As demonstrated in Table 5, the Pittsburgh region looks very similar to the United States as a whole and the rest of Pennsylvania as it relates to interactions with family and friends. Close to 80% of the region's citizens frequently hear from friends and families and almost 85% frequently have dinner with household members. It is interesting to note that Pittsburgh residents are more engaged with neighbors relative to state and national trends, but on par with or slightly below state and national averages on engagement with family and friends.

Table 5: Pittsburgh Region Compared to US and Pennsylvania on Relations to Family and Friends 2009-2011



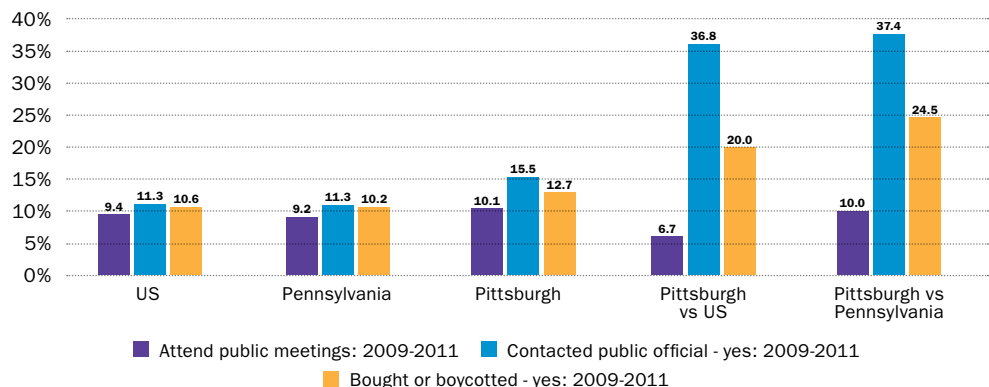
It is interesting to note that Pittsburgh residents are more engaged with neighbors relative to state and national trends, but on par with or slightly below state and national averages on engagement with family and friends.

Political Involvement

In 2011, 9.4% of the US population and 9.2% of the Pennsylvania population attended public meetings. Pennsylvania ranked 28th nationally in the percentage of residents who reported contacting or visiting a public official at any level of government. Between 2009 and 2011, 11.3% of Pennsylvania residents contacted or visited public officials compared to 11.3% nationally. Pennsylvania ranked 28th nationally in the percentage of people who bought or boycotted a product or service based on personal values. Between 2009 and 2011, in Pennsylvania, 10.2% of individuals engaged in this behavior compared to 10.6% nationally.

The Pittsburgh region exceeds both Pennsylvania and the United States in levels of political involvement. Table 6 shows that Pittsburgh region citizens were 36.8% more likely to have contacted a public official than were citizens of the United States and 37.4% more likely than citizens of the rest of Pennsylvania. They were also more likely to have attended public meetings and to have used economic leverage to voice their concerns. Certainly, given the number of available elected officials (there are over 1,000 local elected officials just in Allegheny County alone), it is reasonable to assume more opportunities exist for that interaction. This is a considerable strength in the civic health of the Pittsburgh region, and the reasons and implications for these relatively high levels of engagement are worth exploring further.

Table 6: Pittsburgh Region Compared to US and Pennsylvania for Political Engagement 2009-2011

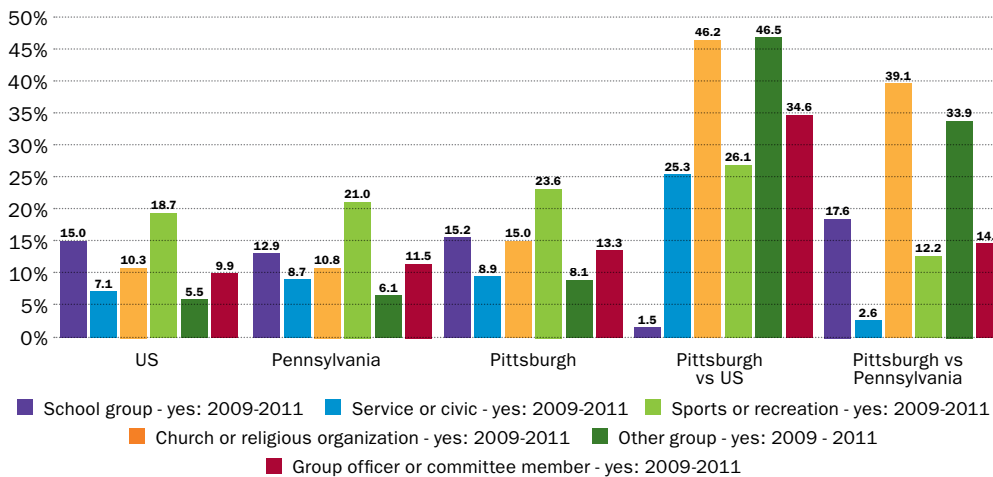


Group Membership

In 2011, 11.5% of Pennsylvania residents served in a leadership role in an organization by serving as an officer or serving on a committee, compared to 10.6% nationally. Between 2009 and 2011, 11.5% of Pennsylvania residents served as officers or on committees and 9.9% nationally took on a leadership role. Between 2009 and 2011, 37.7% of Pennsylvania residents belonged to a group or organization, which ranked them 25th nationally. The national rate for group membership between 2009 and 2011 was 37.7%.

Residents in the Pittsburgh region are much more likely to be civically engaged in groups than either the United States as a whole or the rest of Pennsylvania – and usually by wide margins. Table 7 compares participation rates and it dramatically articulates the high levels of participation across all types of groups.

Table 7: Pittsburgh Region Compared to US and Pennsylvania for Participation in Groups



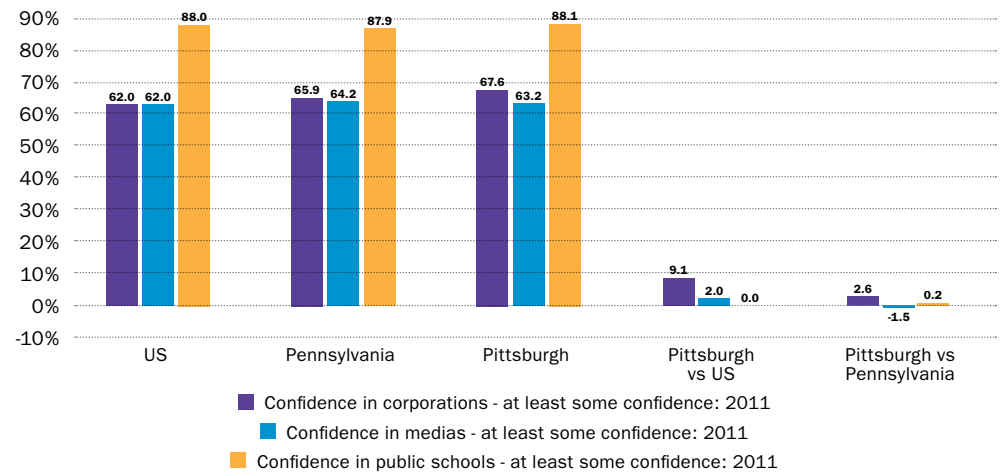
36.8%

Pittsburgh region citizens were 36.8% more likely to have contacted a public official than were citizens of the United States and 37.4% more likely than citizens of the rest of Pennsylvania.

Confidence in Public Institutions

In 2011, new measures were introduced to the US Census Current Population Survey Civic Engagement Supplement to assess residents' confidence in public institutions. Pennsylvania ranked 16th in residents' confidence in corporations. In Pennsylvania, 65.9% of people reported that they were very or somewhat confident in corporations compared to 62.0% nationally. Additionally, Pennsylvania ranked 16th in confidence in the media. In Pennsylvania, 64.2% of people reported that they were very or somewhat confident in the media compared to 62.0% nationwide. Pennsylvania ranked 32nd in confidence in the public school system. In Pennsylvania, 87.9% of people reported that they were very or somewhat confident in the public school system compared to 88.0% of U.S. residents as a whole.

Table 8: Pittsburgh Region Compared to US and Pennsylvania for Levels of Confidence in Important Institutions 2011



In general, Pittsburgh, PA metro area is generally on par with the state and national averages (see Table 8). A notable exception is that residents of the Pittsburgh region are 9.1% more likely to have some or a great deal of confidence in corporations than the national average. Such a divergence could have its roots in the rich history of large corporations in the region and the continuing role those corporations play in the civic and philanthropic life of the region (such as Home Depot's support for the "Love Your Block" program).



Photo: VisitPittsburgh

FINDINGS

Based on the various surveys and analysis undertaken recently, the following key findings regarding the civic health of the Pittsburgh region emerge:

- The Pittsburgh metropolitan region is home to 2,574,959 residents who are much older, more likely to live in the same and older housing, and are far less diverse than residents of either Pennsylvania or, to an even greater extent, the United States.
- The Pittsburgh metropolitan region, particularly in its urban areas, is constituted by neighborhoods that are seen as important civic and cultural institutions. Multiple neighborhoods exist within the larger municipalities (there are 90 just in the city of Pittsburgh), while others are co-terminus with the municipality.
- The Pittsburgh metropolitan region is divided into over 1,000 local governments that are the building blocks of civic and cultural connections. This multitude of governments (and neighborhoods) can serve to open civic access and engagement, but can also create serious challenges to bringing those communities together.
- Residents are generally satisfied with the complex system of local governments. They have a fair level of trust in their institutions building from the bottom-up with their local governments and neighborhoods; think those institutions are doing reasonably well in the services they offer; and have a degree of optimism about the future of those services.
- Residents see new and aggressive intergovernmental approaches as the next generation of policy options for the county's public and private sectors (with active citizen engagement) to pursue. Their top priority is for their public officials to pursue working across those municipal boundaries.
- The Pittsburgh region generally interacts more with neighbors than both the nation or Pennsylvania as a whole. This is most manifest in the level of trust Pittsburgh region citizens have with their neighbors. They are 37.3% more likely to trust all (as opposed to some of) their neighbors than the rest of the United States and 11.9% more likely than citizens of the rest of Pennsylvania.
- Residents in the Pittsburgh region are much more likely to be civically engaged in groups than either the United States as a whole or the rest of Pennsylvania – and usually by wide margins. They are also much more likely to engage in political activities such as contacting elected officials and attending public meetings.

Residents are generally satisfied with the complex system of local governments. They have a fair level of trust in their institutions building from the bottom-up with their local governments and neighborhoods; think those institutions are doing reasonably well in the services they offer; and, have a degree of optimism about the future of those services.



Photo: VisitPittsburgh

CONCLUSION

Pittsburgh is home to many organizations that foster community growth and civic engagement. This civic infrastructure, in addition to the governance and neighborhood structure of the region, likely play large roles in cultivating strengths in Pittsburgh's civic health such as neighbor engagement, group participation and political involvement.

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In March 2011, the City of Pittsburgh launched “servePGH.” The program encourages citizens and policy-makers of Pittsburgh to work together to create solutions to revitalize city blocks, restore the homes of vulnerable residents, and help middle-school youth.¹⁴ Additionally, “Pittsburgh Cares” works on maximizing the impact of regional nonprofit partners by mobilizing volunteers and engaging the community.¹⁵ Over and above the thousands of volunteers that care about and serve the city, there are more than 1,600 AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers.

Furthermore, foundations such as Sprout exist, which seeks to enrich the Pittsburgh region's vitality by engaging citizens and communities through public art initiatives.¹⁶ Others, such as the Heinz Endowment's “Breathe” project, offer ways for individuals to participate in actions that have a real impact on our environment and the region's health.¹⁷ Still others include the Coro Center for Civic Leadership, which supplies many different organizations with diverse, well-connected, highly adaptive leaders.¹⁸

Further examples of civic involvement include ways in which “10,000 Friends” engaged first ring suburban communities using the New Metropolis documentary series and roundtable discussions at WQED.¹⁹ Other organizations such as the Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group,²⁰ Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development²¹ and The Design Center²² facilitate civic engagement in neighborhood planning.



Throughout the city's colleges and universities, many students work with nonprofit, civic and other agencies in the community through courses and projects that integrate academic content and community service. Over time, this has led to hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours and, within just the K-12 community, tens of thousands of students benefiting from the time and energy of service learning efforts. Initiatives like A+ Schools²³ and the Pittsburgh Promise²⁴ encourage high standards for our public schools and high achievement for our public school students.

Our museums, libraries, concert halls, performance spaces and all that makes Pittsburgh one of the most vibrant cultural centers in the country is further augmented by its world class stadiums and sports teams. Together, these institutions and the events they host bring in considerable wealth and enhance our civic life throughout the year.

Despite these rich assets, there is still room for growth. Three specific areas could benefit from targeted support and specific action over the next few years. The first relates to strategies to strengthen our overall civic health, the second relates to strengthening neighborhood capacity to engage in civil discourse and the third relates to strengthening the connections between municipalities within the region.

I. CREATE MORE DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRATIC PRACTICES

Recent work in "Citizenship Theory" has made clear that "the health and stability of a modern democracy depends, not only on the justice of its basic institutions, but also on the qualities and attitudes of its citizens."²⁵ These qualities and attitudes are often highlighted by proponents of Deliberative Democracy and emphasize the role of the citizen in becoming a truly informed and engaged individual.

In one form or another, ‘deliberative practices’ have already been going on in Pittsburgh. Through well-structured community meetings and citizen dialogues like those partnered by The Design Group in the Hill District and by Coro in the Southside.²⁶ We now need to find ways to integrate these practices and to institutionalize variations of these kinds of community conversations.

The following represent ways to scale and institutionalize deliberative forums and other forms of well-structured public dialogue:

- Train organizations and non-profits in the practices of dialogue and deliberation;
- Make citizen deliberation a part of the regulatory requirements for Public Comment; and
- Integrate deliberative forums into new initiatives like participatory budget planning.

II. STRENGTHEN NEIGHBORHOOD DECISION-MAKING CAPACITY

Since the days of Mayor David Lawrence (1946- 1959), Pittsburgh’s approach to city planning and neighborhood development has been top-down. For the 21st Century, we need a shift in the structure of power that better mirrors today’s ability for people to become their own producers of ideas and to participate more dynamically in city and neighborhood planning. Under a more decentralized paradigm ideas will no longer dictated from the top-down; they will be grown from the bottom-up.

One recent example of this approach is the participatory budgeting process (<http://www.participatorybudgeting.org>). Here citizens participate directly in discussions for allocating discretionary funding for neighborhood projects. By engaging in this deliberative process, city councils and citizen groups are able to identify and modify the distribution of resources and do so in a transparent and transformative way. Successful implementations of this process are already found in New York City, San Francisco, and Chicago. Pittsburgh is well positioned to adopt this kind of synergetic community-based citizen relation to local government.

Information technology and community based social software provide the tools for transforming our ideas of civic duty and how citizens communicate with local government. We need to use such technologies to further the goal of bottom up community engagement (<http://www.govtech.com/e-government/Introducing-the-21st-Century-City-Hall.html>).

Specifically, we recommend the following actions:

- Work to have community voices heard by city and county government by providing those communities with forums and the tools necessary to increase public engagement;
- Develop a stronger voice for the importance of design and planning in community dialogue; and
- Leverage groups like Code for America, tools like Nextdoor, smartphone apps like PublicStuff, and other innovative technologies to make civic participation as accessible as paying bills online or any other aspect of everyday life.

III. FACILITATE CROSS-BOUNDARY ACTIVITIES BETWEEN MUNICIPALITIES

The highly fragmented local government system in the region is a given that appears to enjoy currency with the region’s residents. As such, making it better rather than replacing it with a less fragmented system should be the aim of public policies. From a civic health perspective, it appears that the highly fragmented system could be encouraging engagement in civic life in unique ways to the Pittsburgh region. That said, there is still opportunity to create more cohesion across the system.

Create a sense of an Urban Core (CONNECT) that integrates the city with the region.

The City of Pittsburgh shares a border with 35 municipalities that share many of the same issues of the city. The Congress of Neighboring Communities (CONNECT) was launched in 2008 to bring the city and those municipalities. It has grown into an institution that has created a sense of an urban core made up of 680,000 people in 36 municipalities. Efforts should be made to nurture this initiative.



Information technology and community based social software provide the tools for transforming our ideas of civic duty and how citizens communicate with local government.



Photo: VisitPittsburgh

Expand ways for the suburbs to work with each other (CoGs).

Virtually all of the municipalities outside of the city of Pittsburgh belong to an association of local governments known locally as Councils of Governments (CoGs). There are eight such organizations just in Allegheny County. CoGs have been around since the mid 1970s but have been traditionally understaffed, underfunded, and underutilized. Efforts should be made to expand the scope, funding, and capacity of these institutions.

Integrate the Urban Core and the Suburbs (CONNECT and CoGs).

The city/suburb divide, long considered a wall 5 feet wide and 100 feet tall, is common to most metropolitan areas in the United States and the Pittsburgh region has been no exception. However, there are municipalities (those that share a common border with the city) that belong to both CONNECT and to a CoG. These municipalities (representing 380,000 residents) are the common element or glue that holds the region together. Who better to translate urban issues to the suburbs and communicate suburban issues to the city? They perceive many urban issues (public transit, infrastructure investment, abandoned/blighted properties, emergency medical services) as more in tune with the city's perspective than with the more distant suburbs. When these municipalities voice urban/city interests as their interests to the suburbs, suburbs are more willing to listen than had that same message come directly from the City. Conversely, because they have deep suburban roots, they are able to voice suburban interests to the city in a way the city is more apt to listen and adapt. Efforts should be undertaken to develop a strong working relationship between CONNECT and the region's CoGs.

Integrate Citizens into the Cross-Boundary Strategies by:

- Developing policy issues through working groups comprising any interested representatives with civic and governmental partners; and
- Creating Citizen Advisory Council's to help identify issues of concerns to the urban core as seen by citizens being affected.



Photo: VisitPittsburgh

TECHNICAL NOTES

Findings presented above are based on CIRCLE's analysis of the Census Current Population Survey (CPS) data. Any and all errors are our own. Volunteering estimates are from CPS September Volunteering Supplement, 2002 - 2011, Voting and registration data come from the CPS November Voting/Registration Supplement, 1972-2012, and all other civic engagement indicators, such as discussion of political information and connection to neighbors, come from the 2011 CPS November Civic Engagement Supplement.

Estimates for the volunteering indicators (e.g., volunteering, working with neighbors, making donations) are based on U.S. residents ages 16 and older. Estimates for civic engagement and social connection indicators (e.g., exchanging favor with neighbor, discussing politics) are based on U.S. residents ages 18 and older. Voting and registration statistics are based on U.S. citizens who are 18 and older (eligible voters). Any time

we examined the relationship between educational attainment and engagement, estimates are only based on adults ages 25 and older, based on the assumption that younger people may still be completing their education.

Because we draw from multiple sources of data with varying sample sizes, we are not able to compute one margin of error for the state across all indicators. In Pennsylvania, the margins of error for major indicators varied from +/- 1.1% to 2.7%, depending on the sample size and other parameters associated with a specific indicator. Any analysis that breaks down the sample into smaller groups (e.g., gender, education) will have smaller samples and therefore the margin of error will increase. It is also important to emphasize that our margin of error estimates are approximate, as CPS sampling is highly complex and accurate estimation of error rates involves many parameters that are not publicly available.



A WORD ABOUT RECOMMENDATIONS

NCoC encourages our partners to offer specific recommendations and calls to action in our joint reports. The opinions and recommendations expressed by our partners, however, may not necessarily reflect those of NCoC.

ENDNOTES

- ¹ The World Bank, "Enabling Environment for Civic Engagement" (<http://go.worldbank.org/Q3YOAXDH10>).
- ² Simon Szreter and Michael Woolcock, "Health by Association? Social Capital, Social Theory, and the Political Economy of Public Health." *International Journal of Epidemiology* (2003): 33:1-18.
- ³ Will Kymlicka, *Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002), 285.
- ⁴ See Chapter 2 in Mindy Fullilove's *Urban Alchemy* (New Village Press, 2013) and Greg Crowley "Building Trust Through Inclusion" in Cavalier, R. *Approaching Deliberative Democracy: Theory and Practice* (Carnegie Mellon University Press, 2011).
- ⁵ Staff (2011). Vancouver still world's most liveable city: survey. Reuters Life!. Retrieved from <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/02/21/us-cities-liveable-idUSTRE-71KONS20110221>
- ⁶ Smith, J. (2012). The Cities With The Happiest Young Professionals. *Forbes*. Retrieved from <http://www.forbes.com/pictures/efkk45kekd/16-pittsburgh-pa-2/>
- ⁷ Notte, J. (2012, September 17). 10 best cities for bringing up baby. *The Street*. Retrieved from <http://www.thestreet.com/story/11703995/2/10-best-cities-for-bringing-up-baby.html>
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- ⁹ Zak, K. (2012, November 23). Pittsburgh ranked best city for veterans. WESA. Retrieved from <http://wesa.fm/post/pittsburgh-ranked-best-city-veterans>.
- ¹⁰ Miller, David Y. *The Regional Governing of Metropolitan America*. Westview Press: 2002.
- ¹¹ Pittsburgh Regional Quality of Life Survey: <http://www.ucsur.pitt.edu/qol.php>
- ¹² The Temple Municipal Governance Survey: How Pennsylvanians View Their Local Governments: A Preliminary Report; September 24, 2010; Temple University Institute for Public Affairs; Joseph P. McLaughlin, Jr., PhD, Director.
- ¹³ Local Government at the Crossroads: Deliberative Poll Report. Allegheny Forum. 2010.
- ¹⁴ <http://pittsburghpa.gov/servepgh/>
- ¹⁵ <http://www.pittsburghcares.org>
- ¹⁶ <http://www.sproutfund.org>
- ¹⁷ <http://www.heinz.org/secondary.aspx?SectionID=323>
- ¹⁸ <http://www.coropittsburgh.org>
- ¹⁹ <http://10000friends.org>
- ²⁰ <http://www.pcrp.org>
- ²¹ <http://ppnd.org>
- ²² <http://designcenterpgh.org>
- ²³ <http://www.aplsschools.org>
- ²⁴ <http://pittsburghpromise.org>
- ²⁵ Will Kymlicka, *Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002), 285.
- ²⁶ See Chapter 2 in Mindy Fullilove's *Urban Alchemy* (New Village Press, 2013) and Greg Crowley "Building Trust Through Inclusion" in Cavalier, R. *Approaching Deliberative Democracy: Theory and Practice* (Carnegie Mellon University Press, 2011).

CIVIC HEALTH INDEX

State and Local Partnerships

NCoC began America's Civic Health Index in 2006 to measure the level of civic engagement and health of our democracy. In 2009, NCoC was incorporated into the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act and directed to expand this civic health assessment in partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service and the U.S. Census Bureau.

NCoC now works with partners in more than 30 communities nationwide to use civic data to lead and inspire a public dialogue about the future of citizenship in America and to drive sustainable civic strategies.

STATES

Alabama

University of Alabama
David Mathews Center
Auburn University

Arizona

Center for the Future of Arizona

California

California Forward
Center for Civic Education
Center for Individual and
Institutional Renewal
Davenport Institute

Connecticut

Everyday Democracy
Secretary of the State of Connecticut

Florida

Florida Joint Center for Citizenship
Bob Graham Center for Public Service
Lou Frey Institute of Politics
and Government
John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

Georgia

GeorgiaForward
Carl Vinson Institute of Government,
The University of Georgia
Georgia Family Connection Partnership

Illinois

Citizen Advocacy Center
McCormick Foundation

Indiana

Center on Congress at Indiana University
Hoosier State Press
Association Foundation
Indiana Bar Foundation
Indiana Supreme Court
Indiana University Northwest

Kentucky

Commonwealth of Kentucky,
Secretary of State's Office
Institute for Citizenship
& Social Responsibility,
Western Kentucky University
Kentucky Advocates for Civic Education
McConnell Center, University of Louisville

Maryland

Mannakee Circle Group
Center for Civic Education
Common Cause-Maryland
Maryland Civic Literacy Commission

Massachusetts

Harvard Institute of Politics

Michigan

Michigan Nonprofit Association
Michigan Campus Compact
Michigan Community Service Commission
Volunteer Centers of Michigan
Council of Michigan Foundations
The LEAGUE Michigan

Minnesota

Center for Democracy and Citizenship

Missouri

Missouri State University

New Hampshire

Carsey Institute

New York

Siena College Research Institute
New York State Commission on National
and Community Service

North Carolina

North Carolina Civic
Education Consortium
Center for Civic Education
NC Center for Voter Education
Democracy NC
NC Campus Compact
Western Carolina University Department
of Public Policy

Ohio

Miami University Hamilton Center for
Civic Engagement

Oklahoma

University of Central Oklahoma
Oklahoma Campus Compact

Pennsylvania

Center for Democratic Deliberation
National Constitution Center

Texas

University of Texas at San Antonio
The Annette Strauss Institute for Civic
Life, University of Texas at Austin

Virginia

Center for the Constitution at James
Madison's Montpelier
Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

CITIES

Chicago

McCormick Foundation

Miami

Florida Joint Center for Citizenship
John S. and James L. Knight Foundation
Miami Foundation

Pittsburgh

Center for Metropolitan Studies,
University of Pittsburgh
Program for Deliberative Democracy,
Carnegie Mellon University

Seattle

Seattle City Club
Boeing Company
Seattle Foundation

Twin Cities

Center for Democracy and Citizenship
Citizens League
John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

MILLENNIALS CIVIC HEALTH INDEX

Millennials Civic Health Index

Mobilize.org
Harvard Institute of Politics
CIRCLE

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National Conference on Citizenship

Jeff Coates

Director of National Service,
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David Eisner

Former President and CEO,
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