

[YOUR CITY] CITIZEN GUIDE FOR  
***TELEVISED TOWN MEETINGS***



[YOUR CITY] VOICE IS  
A NONPARTISAN ORGANIZATION  
THAT SEEKS TO GIVE ALL CITIZENS  
A VOICE IN OUR COMMON FUTURE

# **The United States Constitution Is The Foundation for [YOUR CITY] Voice**

**The US Constitution is the foundation of our democracy and the bedrock of this Citizen Voice initiative. The First Amendment states unequivocally:**

***“Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech . . . or the right of people to peaceably assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”***

**Our Constitution and Bill of Rights state clearly three undeniable rights of citizens. We have the right to:**

- 1. FREEDOM OF *SPEECH***
- 2. FREEDOM OF *ASSEMBLY***
- 3. FREEDOM TO *PETITION***

**[YOUR CITY] Voice is a direct expression of these three rights. An electronic town meeting is a place of *assembly* where citizens *speak* freely and *appeal* to the government to make changes *No law can limit these three freedoms and fundamental rights.***

# **STEPS TO ORGANIZE TELEVISED TOWN MEETINGS**

## **1. ESTABLISHING [YOUR CITY] TOWN MEETING ORGANIZATION**

- How to use this handbook
- An organizing template to get underway
- Ownership of the domain name and developing a unique identity
- The ETM organization and its key work/functions
- First Amendment Freedoms – confidence in knowing citizen rights

## **2. GATHERING CITIZEN INPUTS FROM YOUR COMMUNITIES**

- Building relationships with all citizens
- Research the most urgent issues of citizens
- Establishing priority concerns of community

## **3. WORKING WITH TELEVISION STATIONS IN [YOUR CITY]**

- Legal Responsibilities of Television Broadcasters
- Ten important agreements
- The push and pull of reaching agreement (discuss with Duane Elgin)

## **4. WORKING WITH ELECTRONIC POLLING PROVIDERS**

- Providers of feedback services and our needs described
- Recommend initial use of “Megaphone” for professional mobile phone feedback from citizens

## **5. SUGGESTED STRUCTURE AND FLOW OF ETMS**

- Review suggested flow of a “typical” ETM with skilled facilitators
- Skilled expert (and short videos) s to frame issues
- Conducting live polling and feedback (with mobile phones)

## **6. PUTTING THE ETM TOGETHER: A PILOT ETM**

- Before full launch, work the system and know how it works

## **7. BEFORE FULL LAUNCH OF ONGOING TOWN MEETINGS**

- Media publicity to alert people to express their voice
- Building relationships with the press and news media