

CONVERSATION GUIDE

Civic Engagement

on the table
Your voice matters.



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Community
Foundation

When a person is civically responsible, they recognize themselves as a member of the larger community. Civic Engagement allows elected officials, government agencies, community members, businesses, and nonprofits to work together to promote quality of life for their communities. When these sectors align, our communities can be more livable, equitable and just.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

Set some guidelines.

Ask every participant to commit to creating a brave space for this conversation to take place. Four things to remember:

- Be respectful – in our language and conversation, we should be respectful to others even if we do not agree.
- Listen and learn from one another.
- Try to keep an open mind.
- The conversation itself matters – we don't have to solve challenges right now, today.

GETTING STARTED:

Make introductions. Ask each participant around the table to share their name, their neighborhood and what brought them to the table.

HAVING THE CONVERSATION:

Pose questions to spark discussion. Invite your participants to consider the following and share their responses, experiences and ideas.

1. What is your definition of civic engagement?
2. How have you practiced civic engagement?
If you have not been able to be civically engaged, what kept you from doing so?
3. What would you like to see happen in your community to build a more livable, equitable and just community?
4. What opportunities and/or resources exist in the Midlands to increase civic engagement in our communities? What resources do you believe are needed for Midlands residents to be more civically engaged?
5. Is there any opportunity to engage local and state governments to make decisions that support Midlands residents and build strong communities?
6. What will you commit to do in the next 3-6 months to be more civically engaged in your community or in the Midlands?

AFTER YOUR CONVERSATION:

Wrapping up your event.

Thank your participants for sharing their thoughts and experiences, and for being part of this important conversation. When we listen and learn from one another, powerful things can happen.

Remind them to:

- Complete the brief survey at OnTheTableCola.org being conducted by Central Carolina Community Foundation for a community report that will be shared with local leaders and stakeholders.
- Contribute to the conversation online by posting photos, ideas and experiences on social media using #OnTheTableCola.
- Consider applying for a Beyond the Table mini-grant. Central Carolina Community Foundation is awarding grants up to \$2,000 each for ideas that emerged from conversations.
- Visit www.OnTheTableCola.org to learn more.