What Does Civic Engagement Look Like?

**Systems**

- **Political Reform:** Initiatives that improve the rules of the game, such as campaign finance, re-districting, modernizing election processes.
- **Civic Infrastructure:** Efforts that build tools for engagement, such as building nonprofit or philanthropic capacity for problem solving, open data/transparency, information/journalism.
- **Voting and Local Elections:** Programs that help more people vote, such as nonpartisan voter registration and increasing engagement in electoral processes.
- **Political Participation:** Efforts that involve more people in political processes, such as public meeting engagement and participatory budgeting.

**National**

- **Place-Making & Community Development:** Initiatives that build stronger connection to place, including urban planning, economic development, asset-based funding.
- **Social Capital/Cohesion:** Actions that nurture interpersonal engagement and trust, such as interactions between neighbors or informal community-building activities.
- **Deliberative Democracy:** Programs that convene effective deliberations, such as sustained dialogue, citizen decision-making, consensus building.
- **Community Organizing:** Efforts that empower individuals to take action and effectively mobilize the people around them, such as marches, rallies, and demonstrations.

**Local**

- **Advocacy & Public Policy:** Actions that inform legislation or policy, such as nonpartisan awareness building issue and/or 501c4 support.
- **Service:** Programs that create paths for people to serve their communities, such as service years, volunteering, and neighboring.
- **Charitable Giving:** Efforts that encourage more donations, including individual, small-dollar philanthropy and/or greater institutional giving.
- **Leadership Development:** Programs that create leaders who will contribute to the public good, such as fellowships, trainings, and leadership education.

This is a component of PACE’s Civic Engagement Primer. You can access the full resource at PACEFunders.org/Primer.