FOSTERING PUBLIC DELIBERATION: THE WEST VIRGINIA EXPERIENCE
August 9, 2016
TODAY’S PRESENTERS

❖ David Holwerk, Kettering Foundation

❖ Jean Johnson, National Issues Forums Institute

❖ Senator John Unger (West Virginia)

❖ Betty Knighton, West Virginia Center for Civic Life
KEY ORGANIZATIONS
In your state, are there important policy issues that seem to be “stuck”—issues where there’s no consensus, issues where there’s gridlock, issues where “it's all talk and no action”?

Of these, which is the most pressing for your state?
THE ROLE OF DELIBERTION IN THE PUBLIC’S LEARNING CURVE

OBSTACLES
- Wishful thinking
- Lack of context
- Information overload
- Lack of trust
- Fear of change
- Lack of options to consider
- Few opportunities to deliberate

WAYS TO MOVE FORWARD
- Starting where people start
- Pausing in the solution wars
- Acknowledging trade-offs
- Giving people choices
- Allowing people to exchange views with others in the community
- Giving people a chance to think

TOP-OF-THE-HEAD REACTIONS

CONSCIOUSNESS-RAISING

THE DELIBERATIVE PUBLIC RESOLUTION
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Of these, which is the most pressing for your state?
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Kettering Foundation
www.kettering.org

National Issues Forums
www.nifi.org

West Virginia Center for Civic Life
www.wvciviclife.org