Crowdsourced Conversations #4: Civic Engagement

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ICE BREAKER: Group members share their name/neighborhood/identifiers and share a story about either a candidate or an issue that changed or heightened their decision to get more civically engaged by voting, running for office themselves, or volunteering on a campaign/with an organization.

RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS: The Civic Engagement survey respondents had the highest rate of homeowners compared to any of our other surveys (91.8% in this survey versus 85% homeowners in the housing survey and 80.2% in the community safety survey; we did not collect data about homeowners in the sustainability survey). This survey also is the only one we've conducted with majority respondents reporting to be over the age of 60. What might contribute to a survey on Civic Engagement skewing more towards these populations versus our other Crowdsourced Conversation topics? How can we persuade younger populations and renters to get more civically engaged?

VOTER IMPACT: 75% of survey respondents agree that voting has an impact – and over 60% believe that all levels of government matter equally. Do you agree with this? If so, why? And if not, why not?

ACTION: Our survey covered both topics related to voting as well as community/issue-based groups and how respondents interact with or support those organizations. Thinking about either framework, how do you go about supporting a ballot issue, candidate, or organization that you believe in? What is the difference-maker in whether you will choose to do something supportive but perhaps less interactive (ex: posting on social media) versus a more elevated but still less interactive (ex: donating money) versus very actively rolling up your sleeves and either volunteering or running for office yourself? Do you have an example of your own civic engagement in the past few months you can share with the group?