



**Kem C. Gardner**  
**POLICY INSTITUTE**  
INFORMED DECISIONS™

# Deliberative Community Engagement

Informed Discussions | Informed Decisions

Dear Friends,

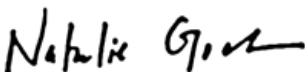
I am delighted you are considering using deliberative community engagement to tackle a challenging issue. Much of today's public discourse is polarized and ineffectual, with different points of view pitted against each other as if they are adversaries in a zero-sum game. In contrast, deliberative community engagement brings people with a wide variety of perspectives together, provides them with the foundation of high quality background information, and allows all participants to share their perspectives and work collaboratively to find productive ways forward.

The Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute seeks to be a gathering place for all parts of our community and to serve the people of Utah through meaningful engagement. Deliberation services offer a way for decision makers to consider the concerns, perceptions and values of a variety of people in order to make informed decisions.

Whether you are interested in having the Gardner Policy Institute develop a discussion guide that outlines key approaches to an issue, facilitate group deliberation of a complex problem, or host an expert panel followed by community deliberation, we offer a variety of services that can be tailored and scaled to meet your needs.

We look forward to helping you understand the values and preferences of diverse groups of people, as well as the common ground they can identify together, once they have had an opportunity to learn about and discuss a problem with others.

Sincerely,



Natalie Gochnour  
Director, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute

Deliberative community engagement brings people together to learn about an issue, share perspectives, understand the perspectives of others, and work collaboratively to find common ground.

### Who can use deliberative community engagement?

- City and county governments
- School districts
- Non-profit organizations
- Anyone interested in inclusive, thoughtful, informed public input

### How will you benefit?

You will better understand the values and priorities of a diverse group of people and groups once they have background information and the opportunity to deliberate with others. Participants will better understand the values and trade-offs associated with different possibilities.

### What deliberative community engagement options do we offer?

- **Issue Guide** – A written document that frames different approaches to a problem, describes potential trade-offs and outcomes related to each approach, and provides possible action steps for each approach.
- **Deliberation** – We bring together a large diverse group (or multiple groups) to learn about an issue, and then facilitate smaller group work to discuss individual points of view, determine shared values, deliberate the trade-offs associated with different approaches, and identify possible next steps. Includes discussion of different approaches. An issue guide can be provided to assist with the discussion. The deliberation session is documented in a summary report.
- **Expert presentation followed by deliberation** – We bring a diverse group of people together to hear from a balanced set of experts on a complex issue before engaging in deliberation.

Learn more at [gardner.utah.edu](https://gardner.utah.edu)

## **OUR TEAM**

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