The U.S. faces significant internal threats from political polarization and misinformation, but our electorate is poorly trained to meet the challenges of self-governing in a constitutional democracy. We currently spend roughly 5 cents per student per year on civic education, a mere 1% of what we spend per year on STEM. This is dangerously little support, especially recognizing that excellence in K–12 history and civics is foundational to our shared civic strength.

A healthy constitutional democracy requires a rising generation that desires to live in a democracy, and has the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors needed for effective participation.

Success in renewing history and civic education will require clear guidance on what should be learned coupled with local adaptation, state-level accountability strategies for continuous improvement, and public and private investment in developing a corps of history and civics educators.

The Educating for American Democracy initiative

- **was first proposed in July 2019**, gathering an ideologically and demographically diverse national network of scholars, educators, and practitioners to synthesize expert judgment from the fields of history, political science, law, and education about the content and instructional strategies needed for excellent history and civics for all learners;

- **draws on student input** about civic learning experiences;
A majority of Americans across the political spectrum believe that civic education is the best prescription to what ails our democracy. Educating for American Democracy is the civic education guidance our country needs to attain that goal.

The Educating for American Democracy project is a cross-ideological effort, grounded in scholarship, that empowers local educational agencies to implement successful history and civic learning for all learners, and that helps rebuild America’s foundations for a healthy constitutional democracy.

1 US DOE. Fiscal Year 2019 Budget: Summary and Background Information; GAO-18-290 (on STEM Education); NCES Fast Facts.
2 Student input from a representative 600+ student survey and a listening session with the iCivics Youth As Civic Experts Fellows.
3 Frank Luntz, Data from a representative sample of 1,000 likely voters in a nationwide survey of policy priorities, conducted June 2020.