





1

Agenda

- Components of a Constituent Conversation **1.** 
- Case Studies **1.1** 
- Timeline of a Constituent Conversation **2.** 
- Why Constituent Conversations Work **2.1** 

2

Components of a Constituent Conversation



- Small, politically-mixed groups.
 - Attendees should sit with people they don't know well.
- Goals & Ground rules!
 - Definition of curious questions in important
- Discussion:
 - Polarization (including local, personal action)
 - Values
 - Concerns
 - Issue(s)
- Conclusion

3

Case Studies



- **Snohomish County**
 - Councilmembers Nate Nehring & Jared Mean
- **Minnesota**
 - Congressman [Dean Phillips](#) (to 34:55)



4

Timeline



- Introduction of Members
- Goals
 - You better understand one another beyond your political differences.
 - You share your thoughts and concerns about local priorities that council members should know about.
 - You have the experience of being listened to by your council members.
- Ground Rules
 - Understand others and share our perspective, not change minds.
 - Everyone represents themselves.
 - Let's stick to the spirit of the activities designed for each stage of the meeting.
 - Curious questions only; avoid stereotypes and assumptions.
 - Be respectful.

5

Timeline Cont...



- Introductions between attendees
 - Name, where you live
 - Political leaning
 - Why did you attend?
- Discussion
- Polarization
 - 'Teams' people into communicating as though it's all of them against an issue instead of them against each other or them against their local officials.
 - Creates a strong social imperative to follow the ground rules of civility by getting people to voice their personal support for civility.
- Values/Concerns Framing
 - Life experiences exercise!
 - Helps small groups recognize common ground.
 - Helps public officials understand citizens' underlying 'why'

6

Wrap-Up



Why?

- Final Questions
 - What are you taking with you from our gathering today? What is one thing you will do as a result of our conversation today?
- Commitment to local, personal action
- Observation of modeling disagreeing better
- Personal experience and participation in good conflict
- Increased positive feelings toward public officials, decreased antipathy toward people who disagree with them

7



8