

""Twitter handle (and profile name): NIForums (National Issues Forums)

**Twitter description:** Nationwide network promoting deliberative public forums and the practice of #deliberativedemocracy ðŸŒŸ issue guides + forum materials available @ <https://t.co/FLPM3uDSNp>

**Description of the organization from a third party source:** "Based in Dayton, Ohio, the National Issues Forums Institute (NIFI), is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that serves to promote public deliberation about difficult public issues. Its activities include publishing the issue guides and other materials used by local forum groups, encouraging collaboration among forum sponsors, and sharing information about current activities in the network."

**Scraped text from their home page of their website:** Titles: NIFI | Home

**Headings:** New to the NIF; For Educators; For Moderators; ISSUE GUIDES; ; Elections; How Should We Encourage and Safeguard Voting?; ; A House Divided; What Would We Have to Give Up to Get the Political System We Want?; ; A Nation in Debt 2022; How Can We Pay the Bills?; NIFI & NETWORK NEWS; News; Watch | A NIFI Update w/Verdis LeVar Robinson; Register for an Important Update from the National Issues Forums Institute; A Thank You to Betty Knighton; Awards & Recognition for NIFI Board Chairman Dr. David Mathews; ABOUT THE NIF; DELIBERATIVE DECISION MAKING: WHERE CHANGE BEGINS

**Paragraphs:** RECEIVE NEWS ABOUT THE LATEST NIF MATERIALS,\_x000D\_

PRACTICES, RESOURCES, AND INITIATIVES.; SIGN UP; new guide; Many Americans are concerned about the US election system although we don't always agree on the main problem or how best to fix it. Is it too hard to vote? Is the system too easy to manipulate? Do we have rules that make voting fair and accessible to all? Are we doing enough to ensure accuracy and credibility?; new guide; Every American is affected by the divisions and outrage that prevent us from making progress on urgent problems. This issue guide is designed to help people deliberate together about how we should approach the issue.; new guide; Our nation's debt has never been larger, and it has the potential to affect not only each of us, but future generations. This issue guide is designed to support people deliberating together about how we should approach the issue.; View All; Please join us on Wednesday, October 4th at 4pm Eastern for an update on the National Issues Forums Institute from our new acting president Verdis LeVar Robinson.; NIFI Board Chairman Dr. David Mathews was recently recognized for his lifetime of service to American democracy with the Freedom of Spirit Lifetime Achievement Award. The award "transcends political, economic, and religious views to honor exemplary individuals and institutions embodying that inner freedom that is the energizing source of human courage, creativity, and love in the world."; National Issues Forums (NIF) is a network of civic,

educational, and other organizations, and individuals, whose common interest is to promote public deliberation in America. It includes civic clubs, religious organizations, libraries, schools, and many other groups that meet to discuss critical public issues. Forum participants range from teenagers to retirees, prison inmates to community leaders, and literacy students to university students.; NIF does not advocate specific solutions or points of view but provides citizens the opportunity to consider a broad range of choices, weigh the pros and cons of those choices, and meet with each other in a public dialogue to identify the concerns they hold in common.; There is a way to tackle problems more directly. Deliberative decision making. Find out how to leverage the power of personal experience, different viewpoints, and the kind of intelligent exchange that leads to a shared purpose and acceptable solutions.; There's a space between agree/disagree waiting to be discovered.; When it comes to society's most challenging problems, our elected officials are often stuck between a two-party rock and a hard place. That's because they aren't getting honest input from the people they serve.; You can change that, by reviving a lost democratic practice: deliberative decision making.; (C) 2023 National Issues Forums Institute

**Scraped text from their about page of their website:** Titles: Welcome To | NIFI

**Headings:** The National Issues Forums Institute; First rule of the NIF Institute. We're not in control. You are.; The NIF Network.; Where you make everything happen.; The NIF Institute.; We make it possible for the network to "network."; The Kettering Foundation.; A vital research partner; Organize; Participate; Helping People Solve Tough Issues Together; NIFI Directors; NIFI AMBASSADORS

**Paragraphs:** Elements of the NIF Institute; The NIF network is open to everyone interested in the practice of group deliberation. Here you'll find conveners (those who organize forums), trained moderators, and participants from all walks of life. With the support of the institute, they self-organize into short-term groups, such as independent discussion groups and study circles, or ongoing larger groups like Network Partners created by existing community-based organizations.; The institute's central activity is to publish and distribute an ongoing series of Issue Guides and videos that prepare you for thoughtful discussion of many of today's thorniest problems-healthcare, immigration, Social Security, and racial strife.; Moderators and conveners find our resources indispensable in organizing, leading and advertising their forums for public deliberation. We also provide guidelines for those who wish to frame their own issues.; To keep the network and policymakers current, we publish reports about forum outcomes. The NIF newsletters also help individuals and groups learn about what is happening in the network.; Rooted in the American tradition of cooperative research, Kettering's primary question is: what does it take to make democracy work as it should? Its research focuses on what people can do collectively to address problems affecting their lives, their communities, and their nation. That research goes into the NIF's Issue Guides; it's also shared with the network as practical information.; ; The "Forum" part of the National Issues Forums is the place where democracy comes alive. It's where the practice of public deliberation is learned by doing. It's an event inspired by the

concerns and viewpoints of citizens, which are not just respected-they're put to work.; ; Forums are neutrally moderated in a way that encourages positive interaction between people who are not expected to agree, but are encouraged to find a shared direction.; A Forum typically begins with a "starter" video related to the issue you'll be wrestling with. The unbiased facts and research in your Issue Book give you the knowledge you need for a deeper understanding of the problem.; For the next two or three hours, you'll be led by a neutral moderator who encourages face to face discussion within the group. You'll investigate several possible solutions to the issue at hand. You'll never be forced to "pick sides."; Solutions are examined through the lens of what's important to the group as a whole-its shared values. Because today's issues are so challenging, every solution comes with a set of costs and consequences that must be thoroughly measured.; Only then do you know which costs your group is willing to bear. This is the outcome that's so valuable-the individual, the group, the community and to our leaders and policymakers.; The Outcomes; The "Framework" was designed for neutrality. It's a method of discussion that removes the kind of bias we find in political parties, special interest groups and the press. It doesn't allow one-sided lecture, polarizing positions or citizen passivity. It begins and ends with you and your deepest concerns.; In other words, the Framework puts you in charge of the problem and asks you to help solve it. After all, who knows more about the effects of both the issue and the possible solutions better than those of us who are living with it, experiencing it, in touch with it?; Questions that frame the discussion:What is valuable to us?\_x000D\_

**What are the costs and consequences of each possible solution?\_x000D\_**

**What are the tensions and conflicts in this issue that we need to work through?\_x000D\_**

**Can we detect any shared sense of purpose or ways our interdependence is grounds for action?; The Framework demonstrates the most powerful effects of deliberation. It alters our reactions to differing viewpoints, and creates new possibilities for acting together.; If you are interested in organizing Forums in your community;;** If you or your group would like to take part in a Forum.; The NIF began to take shape in 1981 amid concern about the low level of civic literacy among Americans. Not only did the average person lack an understanding of the issues that our elected leaders were struggling with, we had little opportunity to express our informed opinions to those in influence.; A group called the National Consortium for Public Policy Education (NCPPE) decided to change all that. Their plan was to create a Domestic Policy Association (DPA) that would develop a process for national dialogue on domestic policy issues, and a way to bring the results of such discussions to the attention of America's decision makers.; The first step was to assemble leaders from national and local organizations interested in public policy education. They decided the new association should exist as a grassroots non-advocacy group that gathered around a common agenda of the issues of greatest concern.; The NCPPE's next step was to consult leaders from community-based institutions who were experienced in developing issue education programs. This group contributed the

approaches that had worked in similar programs, and suggested resources to create the necessary network to support the new program.; The program needed be framed around sound educational materials and invite diverse groups of Americans to discover through deliberation the values we hold in common.; Lastly, the DPA's new Steering Committee developed the deliberation issues for the association's inaugural year-retirement and social security, inflation, and jobs and productivity.; The new program was a success, and in 1989 became the National Issues Forums Institute.; Contact the people in the NIF network who regularly hold forums for deliberation. Ask how you can be involved as a volunteer or participant.; When you decide to join a forum, this is your study guide. The material in our Issue Books is not handed down from on high, but springs from the concerns of citizens. A problem is set forth with unbiased facts, useful research, and a list of various solutions. That's where we begin.; Based in Dayton, Ohio, the National Issues Forums Institute (NIFI), is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that serves to promote public deliberation about difficult public issues. Its activities include publishing the issue guides and other materials used by local forum groups, encouraging collaboration among forum sponsors, and sharing information about current activities in the network.; The institute has a distinguished group of 16 directors and officers drawn from such diverse fields like government, journalism, and secondary and higher education. Many NIFI directors also have extensive experience in neighborhood and civic organizations, libraries, and religious organizations.; For a complete list of NIFI officers and directors, follow the link below.; Learn more; ; The NIFI Ambassadors Club is comprised of individuals who have served on the NIFI Board of Directors for at least three years and are committed to staying involved by moderating forums and representing NIFI at national or regional meetings.; Qualifications;; For a complete list of NIFI ambassadors, follow the link below.; Learn more; (C) 2023 National Issues Forums Institute

**Scraped text from their mission page of their website:** Titles: NA

**Headings:** NA

**Paragraphs:** NA

**Scraped text from their history page of their website:** Titles: NA

**Headings:** NA

**Paragraphs:** NA

**Summaries of Links:** Based solely on the provided information, it can be inferred that this organization is focused on promoting deliberation and facilitating discussions on various issues. The presence of sections like "deliberation," "post-forum questionnaires," and "cga-online-forums" suggests that the organization aims to engage individuals in thoughtful conversations and gather their perspectives. Additionally, the inclusion of sections such as "nifi-materials," "educators-center," and "moderators" indicates that the organization provides resources and support for educators and moderators involved in facilitating these discussions. The mention of "issue guides" and "national-initiative-voting" further suggests

that the organization is involved in addressing important societal issues and encouraging civic engagement. Overall, the organization appears to be dedicated to fostering dialogue and promoting informed decision-making on various matters."""