

## Module 7: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

### Topic 3 Content: Participation in Civic Life

#### Introduction



**Glover Mint:** Welcome. During this episode of WUSG News, we will join Julio Czar for his segment, *Origins*. He will be discussing different aspects of civic life.

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#### *Origins*



**Julio Czar:** Welcome to a special edition of *Origins*. The concept of citizenship has changed throughout history. In ancient Athens and Rome, citizenship was restricted to a limited number of people. The right to citizenship was generally reserved for members of the upper class and was viewed as a civic duty to society. This has changed in modern times, as citizenship is generally available to most people. Citizens are not expected to be directly involved in the administration of the government, as they were in ancient times, but there are still certain expectations of all citizens. Here are a few ways citizens are expected to participate in civic life.

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#### Participation in Civic Life



**Julio Czar:** A citizen has certain responsibilities, such as obeying the law, paying taxes, and serving on a jury. Another important part of civic life is participation in the political process. By voting in local, state, and national elections, citizens help change the society they live and work in. To make their vote count, citizens should keep informed about current issues, while respecting others' rights to differing opinions.

Citizens are expected to display characteristics like trustworthiness, responsibility, and honesty. These characteristics may take the form of performing a public service or doing volunteer work. Citizens also demonstrate these characteristics when they practice personal and financial responsibility. In some cases, it may be as simple as conducting themselves in a respectful way in public or when using digital media. Let's not forget to mention that practicing patriotism is yet another way for a citizen to get involved in civic life.

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#### American Civic Values

# American Civic Values



- A representative government
- A limited government
- The sovereignty of the people
- Equal justice under the law
- Equality of all people
- Patriotism
- The liberty of the individual

Next

**Julio Czar:** Many nations have their own set of civic values and political beliefs. These are core values that are shared by many of the citizens of that nation. America also has its own set of political and civic beliefs, which includes ideas such as:

- a representative government;
- a limited government;
- the sovereignty of the people;
- equal justice under the law;
- equality of all people;
- patriotism; and
- the liberty of the individual.

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#### *Origins* Conclusion



**Julio Czar:** Participating in civic life helps people address challenges they face in society. By sharing opinions publically, voting in elections, and running for office, citizens change the world around them. When citizens actively participate in civic life, they develop attachments to their community. This creates a level of pride that can be used to bond with others, at the local, state, or national level. That is the end of this edition of *Origins*. Thank you for having me, Glover and Demi.

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**Ending of Episode**



**Glover Mint:** Thank you, Julio. We appreciate you coming by to join us in the studio today. We also appreciate all of our viewers for tuning in. See you next time.