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and CIVIC LEADERSHIP

Six Principles for Deliberation

1. **Winning is Not the Goal:** The goal of debate is to win. The goal of deliberation is to improve our understanding of the issue and each other.
2. **Involve all Stakeholders and Embrace Diversity:** Enrich the conversation by including a diverse range of voices. Demonstrate that the whole community is welcome and needed.
3. **Critique Your Own Position:** Enter dialogue with an openness to being wrong and a willingness to change your mind. Try to suspend your beliefs, temporarily, so that you can actively listen and consider the arguments of others.
4. **Find Common Ground:** Dialogue is a collaborative process with two or more sides working together toward common understanding. Search for basic points of agreement among all sides.
5. **Listen to Understand:** Do not listen for the flaws in other arguments. Instead, listen to find meaning and agreement in the perspectives of others.
6. **Accept Disagreement:** Deliberation does not necessitate a tidy conclusion. View differences in opinion as enrichment, rather than as problems to be solved. Deliberation is an open-ended mode of communication that strengthens community ties, and opens possibilities for enriched action; it does not require total agreement by stakeholders.

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