

Calling All Citizens!

“Carolyn Lukensmeyer has written a hopeful book about the state of our democracy and how citizens can revitalize it. She brilliantly argues that government is not ‘other,’ it is ‘us’. She shows how essential government is to our democracy and to our daily lives, and how, for the vast majority of professional government employees, work is public service — a calling, not just a job. Every American should read this book and then act on its wise counsel.”

— Bill Bradley, former U.S. Senator

“When citizens are given an authentic opportunity to engage in decision making—when public will is connected to political will—the power of special interests can be substantially reduced, decisions have greater staying power, and the public’s trust in our governing institutions increases.”—From the *Introduction*

Bringing Citizen Voices to the Table challenges public managers, civic leaders, and elected officials to ramp-up their efforts to engage citizens so they can be full participants in critical decisions about the future of their cities, their states, and their nation. Written by Carolyn J. Lukensmeyer (the founder of *AmericaSpeaks*), this groundbreaking book outlines field-tested approaches that can maximize citizen involvement. Step-by-step, Lukensmeyer reviews specific actions that will help ensure that democracy flourishes, and offers detailed information on each of Seven Core Strategies for Citizen Engagement:

- Know the Context
- Link to Decision Makers
- Achieve Diverse Participation
- Create Safe Public Spaces
- Inform Participants
- Discover Shared Priorities
- Sustain Citizens’ Engagement

Bringing Citizen Voices to the Table is filled with real-life case studies that clearly demonstrate the effectiveness of these seven core strategies. The case studies take the reader from New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, to New York City following 9/11. They also include successful citizen engagement efforts by public managers in federal agencies such as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Federal Highway Administration, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the EPA, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and others.


Bringing Citizen Voices to the Table is a call to action. At a time when the trust between citizens and government is profoundly broken, this book will inspire and support those who are willing to rise to the challenges of righting our democratic ship.

The Author

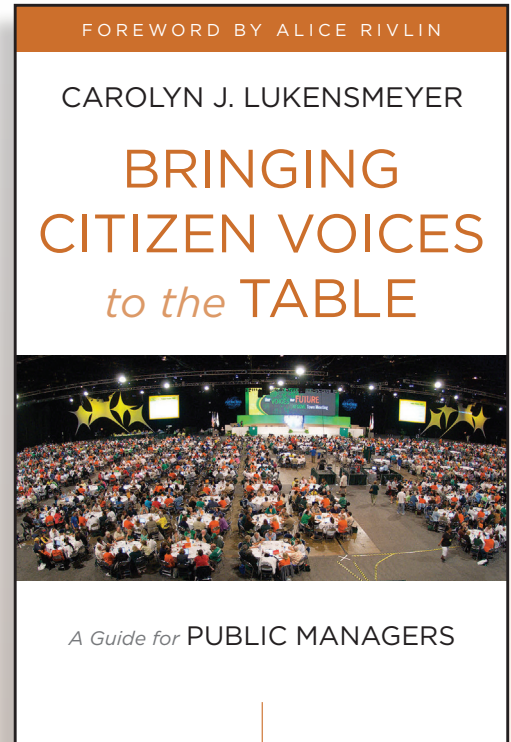
Carolyn J. Lukensmeyer, PhD is the first executive director of the National Institute for Civil Discourse (NICD) at the University of Arizona. She was the founder and president of *AmericaSpeaks* and has been a pioneer in the field of deliberative democracy for nearly two decades. Prior to founding *AmericaSpeaks*, Lukensmeyer served as consultant to the White House Chief of Staff under President Clinton and Deputy Project Director for Management of Vice President Al Gore’s reinventing government task force. She also served as Chief of Staff to the Governor of Ohio, the first woman to serve in this capacity.

AmericaSpeaks: *AmericaSpeaks* is a global, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization whose field-leading citizen engagement model has successfully brought hundreds of thousands of people together on the public issues that most impact their lives.



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