

# Spectrum of Engagement



## Everyday Democracy's Spectrum of Engagement

The Spectrum of Engagement allows a community to identify at what phase they may find themselves in their overall community engagement efforts. The **left side of the Spectrum** indicates actions that are more decision-maker driven and has less community involvement. This is more **'informing' or 'sharing' information** with the community and allows little or no input into the process. Examples are town hall meetings or public hearings.

The **middle of the Spectrum** indicates actions by decision-makers that allow a narrow opportunity for the community to be engaged. These are usually specific activities for seeking information or targeted input to help them **make decisions 'for' the community**. This includes; polling, surveys, or focus groups.

The **right side of the Spectrum** is the direction we encourage communities to work towards. This level of community engagement is less decision-maker driven and includes deeper community involvement. This is authentic collaborative problem-solving with members of the community and the usual decision-makers; **identifying solutions and making decisions together**. Examples include: dialogue circles, community visioning, or participatory budgeting activities.

While all of the above examples provide some level of engagement with the community; we believe that engaging all kinds of people together to talk, think, work, and build relationships - will create long-term positive community change and outcomes.