

OVERVIEW OF THE ARIZONA TOWN HALL PROCESS

Arizona Town Hall is a private nonprofit corporation founded in 1962 for the purpose of creating solutions to critical policy issues facing Arizona. Much of the success of the Arizona Town Halls lies in the fact that the process respects the knowledge, thoughts and ideas of all the participants.

Panel Discussions

The process and guiding principles for the panel discussions are as follows:

- Brief self-introductions.
- The Panel Chair reads one question at a time and discussion follows.
- It is important to stick to the question at hand.
- The panel strives for consensus (votes are taken only if absolutely necessary).
- Consensus is reached when no one wants to add anything, and no one objects strongly to the wording offered.
- The Recorder's role is to capture the consensus of the discussion.
- Viewpoints of all participants are considered equally valuable, regardless of title, age or position.
- Discussions are encouraged to be robust while maintaining a respect for different viewpoints. Participants are allowed to criticize concepts—not people.
- The process is as valuable as the recommendations.

Creation of the Recommendations Report

A draft report of what appears to be the consensus of all participants is created and reviewed by the panel. While the report may be edited later for grammar or clarity, the substance of the report is not changed once the Town Hall is completed.