

About EnCiv

EnCiv exists to fuel an urgent transformation in the way Americans practice democracy. We challenge sensationalism and polarization in civic discourse by offering social technologies that power widespread, cross-partisan discussion and better decision making.

We imagine a world where people of all backgrounds and every political conviction are inspired to work together and get things done. Our tools are designed to bring this world within reach.

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EnCiv (ENCIV)

Description:

EnCiv is a 501(c)(3) organization, supported entirely by foundations and individual contributors, and not affiliated with any political entity.

Stakeholder(s):

Interactivity Foundation :

The Interactivity Foundation believes in the importance and power of civic discussion. More specifically, we believe that the capacity of our country's citizens to engage collaboratively in meaningful civil conversations about public matters is a necessary and vital component of our democracy. The Interactivity Foundation's mission is to strengthen our democracy through the use of a small-group discussion process to explore diverse perspectives and generate an expanding set of divergent possibilities. We often abbreviate the name of the Foundation as "IF" to convey our focus on possibilities and that we are always exploring "what if ...?"

Ballotpedia :

A Ballotpedia partner ~ Our technology is the engine behind Ballotpedia's Candidate Conversations, giving voters on-demand access to no-frills, substantive video statements directly from candidates. Launched in late 2019, Candidate Conversations on Ballotpedia is positioned to reach a potential 25.3 million voters in elections nationwide.

EnCiv Team :

The EnCiv team is purposefully made up of people from different political perspectives, and welcomes all input.

David Fridley :

CEO, Chairperson of the Board, CTO ~ Social Entrepreneur, Founder of Synaccord, LLC, product manager, full stack developer, and 30+ years experience in voice and video over the internet.

Liz Ellis :

Communications Advisor ~ Communications consultant with two decades of experience in messaging, brand strategy and creative expression for national brands and nonprofits.

Sorin Matei :

Board Member of EnCiv ~ Communications Professor, Purdue University. Matei studies the relationship between information technology and social structures. His teaching portfolio includes social media analytics, online interaction and facilitation, and global social media research. Ph.D. in communication.

Sean Van Tyne :

User Experience Advisor ~ User Experience (UX) and Product Management Expert consultant, author of Easy to Use 2.0: User Experience in Agile Development.

Vision

A world where people of all backgrounds and every political conviction are inspired to work together and get things done

Mission

To fuel a transformation in the way Americans practice democracy

Values

Nonpartisanship:

EnCiv is nonpartisan and cross-partisan. We never endorse specific candidates or policy positions.

Cross-Partisanship

Dialogue:

Built on proven principles of dialogue and deliberation ~ EnCiv draws on decades of research into the principles of human interaction, civic discourse and constructive decision-making.

Deliberation

Respect:

This research teaches us that successful collaboration — in any context — hinges on two specific and complementary forms of respect: respect for all participants and respect for the shared work.

Connection:

While it's easy to assume that online connection is inferior to live interactions in fostering respect and constructive collaboration, we believe the opposite.

Neutrality:

When supported by systems designed with neutrality in mind, online discourse has the potential to establish a higher bar for universally respectful, broadly inclusive conversation — ultimately driving positive social change.

Inclusion

Conversation

Social Change

Democracy

Connections

Foster person-to-person connections to drive better decision making

Undebates: Tech For Better Democracy ~ We create online tools that enable constructive cross-partisan democratic processes at scale. As cultural polarization and sensationalism continue to threaten civic discourse, we see a technological opportunity. Our tools provide an alternative or complement to traditional and social media, fostering person-to-person connection in a way that we believe can ultimately drive better decision making.

1. Undebates

Help voters hear directly from candidates in their own words, in a neutral context

Our first offering, Undebates, was designed to help voters hear directly from candidates in their own words, in a neutral context. Undebates allows simple, scaled, asynchronous online recording and viewing, giving candidates a direct voice to voters, and voters easy, on-demand access to candidate perspectives.

Stakeholder(s):

Voters

Candidates for Elective Office

UCLA :

Undebates was used in a pilot program at UCLA, and is currently in use at Ballotpedia.com under the brand "Candidate Conversations."

Ballotpedia :

As a Ballotpedia feature, our technology is positioned to reach a potential 25.3 million voters nationwide in support of efficient, effective democratic engagement.

2. Content

Allow candidates to self-record and upload their content

Scalable and simple to use ~ Undebates web-based technology allows candidates to self-record and upload their content simply by clicking a link and following on-screen instructions. Voters, in turn, can watch on demand on Ballotpedia or other hosting platforms, easily navigating directly to their topics of greatest interest.

While other technologies for creating and sharing video recordings exist, Undebates is unique in its seamless, one-link process for recording and automated upload. This is our key to scale, as it allows hosting platforms to efficiently engage an unlimited number of candidates and voters.

Stakeholder(s):

Candidates for Elective Office

3. Civic Innovation

Provide products supporting civic innovation

Poised for large-scale civic innovation ~ Undebates technology informs several additional products in the works, including tools to help citizens share their voices with government representatives, and scalable systems for constructive citizen-to-citizen dialogue. We anticipate expansion beyond government processes into academic and community activity in the future.

3.1. Voices

Help citizens share their voices with government representatives

Stakeholder(s):

Citizens

Government Representatives

3.2. Dialogue

Facilitate constructive citizen-to-citizen dialogue

Stakeholder(s):

Citizens

Administrative Information

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