

Connecticut Citizens' Assembly Selection Process: Ensuring a Fair, Random, and Representative Assembly

The Connecticut Citizens' Assembly on Property Taxes is designed to reflect the people of Connecticut through a transparent, independent, and statistically representative selection process. The Assembly's participant selection method combines demographic representation, random selection, and independent oversight to ensure the final group of residents reflects a broad range of experiences and viewpoints from across the state as closely as possible.

How Residents were Invited to Take Part

The selection process began with an invitation to Connecticut residents to participate in the Citizens' Assembly. Hundreds of thousands of randomly chosen households across the state received a letter in the mail asking residents to volunteer for the Citizens' Assembly. Residents who chose to participate then completed two short enrollment surveys. These surveys confirmed residents' willingness to participate if selected and gathered background information used in the selection process. Everyone who volunteered and completed enrollment became part of the pool of willing participants used in the random selection process described below.

How the Selection Process Works

Independent sortition expert Josh Kalla, a Yale University Professor of Political Science and Statistics & Data Science, generated over 7,000 valid randomizations for the Assembly. Each randomization represents a complete potential Assembly of 110 Con-

necticut residents and is designed to meet predetermined demographic criteria based on statewide population data.

The panel is balanced to reflect Connecticut on the following factors:

- Region of the state
- Whether residents own or rent their home
- Whether there are children in the household
- Gender
- Race and ethnicity
- Household income
- The balance of urban, suburban, and rural communities
- Political affiliation

A randomization can become a valid candidate Assembly only if it closely matches Connecticut on all of these factors at once.

The Final Random Selection

Once the full set of valid Assemblies are generated:

1. Forty (40) Assemblies will be selected at random from the full pool of valid randomizations.
2. Each of those 40 Assemblies will be assigned to a numbered Lottery ball.
3. The Connecticut Lottery will then conduct a public drawing of one ball.
4. The Assembly linked to the selected ball becomes the final Connecticut Citizens' Assembly.

This process preserves complete fairness and randomness. Statistically, drawing 40 Assemblies at random from the full set of potential valid Assemblies and then selecting one of those 40 through a lottery drawing is mathematically identical to drawing one Assembly directly from the entire pool of valid randomizations.

Every valid Assembly therefore has an equal chance of becoming the final Assembly.

Why the Selection Process Matters

The participant selection process is one of the most important components of any Citizens' Assembly. Public trust in the Assembly depends on confidence that participants were selected fairly, independently, and without external influences.

A carefully designed sortition process:

- Prevents political or institutional control over membership
- Ensures a broad range of lived experiences and viewpoints are represented
- Creates legitimacy and public confidence in the Assembly's work
- Helps produce more balanced and thoughtful recommendations
- Reflects the principle that ordinary residents should have a meaningful role in

major public policy discussions

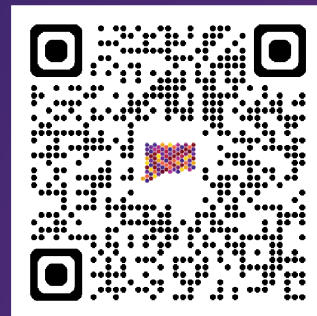
Citizens' Assemblies around the world have relied on similar selection methods because representative random selection creates groups that better reflect the public than self-selected participation alone.

Transparency and Public Confidence

The Connecticut Citizens' Assembly selection process is intentionally designed to be transparent and understandable to the public. The use of independent expertise, demographic quotas, randomization, and a public Lottery drawing ensures that:

- The process is impartial
- The final Assembly reflects the people of Connecticut
- Every valid Assembly has an equal opportunity to be selected
- The public can have confidence in the integrity of the process

The result is a Citizens' Assembly grounded in fairness, representation, and public trust. All essential elements for meaningful public deliberation on the future of property tax reform in Connecticut.



Visit ct-citizens-assembly.org