OLDER CITIZENS AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF FLORIDA’S CIVIC CULTURE

February 10, 2014 Session IV-5B
OLDER CITIZENS AND
THE TRANSFORMATION OF FLORIDA’S
CIVIC CULTURE

Conference on Positive Aging, February 10, 2014 Session IV-5B

Robert Jones, Director FCRC Consensus Center
Jeff Johnston, AARP Florida State Director
Dr. Stuart Langton, Senior Fellow
FCRC Consensus Center
FCRC CONSENSUS CENTER

“The FCRC Consensus Center based at Florida State University serves as an independent public resource facilitating consensus solutions and supporting collaborative action.”

Created in 1988 by the Florida Legislature
Based at its independent home at Florida State University
COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP AND FLORIDA’S CIVIC FUTURE- WHERE ARE WE NOW?

• “Florida’s civic health is among the worst in the nation,” concluded a 2008 study.
• Among 50 states, Florida was 32\textsuperscript{nd} in voter turnout, 40\textsuperscript{th} in citizens helping neighbors, 44\textsuperscript{th} in philanthropy, and 47\textsuperscript{th} in volunteering and attending public meetings.
• A 2009 rating of civic health in America’s 50 largest cities ranked Miami last, and Orlando 48\textsuperscript{th} Jacksonville and Tampa tied at 47\textsuperscript{th}.
FLORIDA’S CURRENT CONTEXT

Florida’s Poor Civic Health Challenges: Growth & Diversity—The Legacy of Rapid Growth

- No state has grown faster. Between 1950 and 2000, Florida’s population increased by 470% compared to a national growth rate of 87%. By comparison, California, the second fastest growing state, increased its population by 220%.

- Florida’s hyper-growth during the past five decades has many civic consequences, not the least of which is insufficient and underdeveloped civic and government institutions. Rapid growth generates a backlog of unresolved or poorly addressed public policy issues at all levels of government in Florida.
FLORIDA’S CURRENT CONTEXT

Between July 2011 and July 2012:

- 200,797 people migrated to Florida, of which 49% were from another country and 51% from another state whereas the net gain of births and deaths was 34,126.

- Only Miami Dade, Hardee, Gasden, Okaloosa and Escambia Counties had higher natural increase than net migration.
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OUR VISION FOR FLORIDA’S CIVIC FUTURE

• We view Florida as a statewide laboratory for improving civic practices by sharing information and learning together.
• We propose making Florida among the best rather than the worst in civic health.
• We want to make Florida the nation’s leader in civic innovation, creating practical models for collaborative action and leadership.
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- LEARN WHAT IS WORKING
- SHARE KNOWLEDGE
- RECOGNIZE EXCELLENCE IN PROJECTS AND LEADERSHIP
- DEMONSTRATE INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES
- ENCOURAGE INNOVATIVE COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS
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CONSULTATIONS WITH POTENTIAL PARTNERS
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AREAS FOR EXPLORATION AND LEARNING

• 1. Collaborative leadership and economic development.
• 2. Civic benchmarking and metrics
• 3. Promoting civility and public dialogue
• 4. Civic entrepreneurship
• 5. Collaborative models of community problem-solving
• 6. Strategies for accelerated community capacity-building
• 7. Technology, social media, and civic engagement
• 8. Public engagement in budgeting
• 9. Creating collaborative cultures in government agencies
• 10. Civic inclusion models for new residents- “Making Florida Home”
• 11. Civic Engagement for 55 plus residents
• 12. Maximizing community and university collaboration
There are some generational differences in community involvement

### Top 5 Community Involvement Activities, by Generation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Gen X (age 31-47)</th>
<th>Boomer (age 48-66)</th>
<th>Silent (age 67-83)</th>
<th>Greatest (age 84+)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attend Relig-Spons Comm Activity</td>
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<td>Attend Relig-Spons Comm Activity (43%)</td>
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<td>Worked to Fix Neighborhood/Comm Problems</td>
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<td>Contributed Money to Pol. Candidate/Party (33%)</td>
<td>Worked to Fix Neighborhood/Comm Problems (30%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attend Local Gov’t/School Board Meeting</td>
<td>(34%)</td>
<td>Contacted Public Official (31%)</td>
<td>Worked to Fix Neighborhood/Comm Problems (33%)</td>
<td>Attend Neighborhood/HOA Meeting (23%)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>(30%)</td>
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<td>Attend Neighborhood/HOA Meeting (31%)</td>
<td>Contributed Money to Pol. Candidate/Party (21%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attend Neighborhood/HOA Meeting</td>
<td>(26%)</td>
<td>Attend Local Gov’t/School Board Meeting (22%)</td>
<td>Contacted Public Official (29%)</td>
<td>Contacted Public Official (20%)</td>
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Voting frequency is highest among the Silent Generation; and lowest among Generation X

Voting Frequency, by Generation

- GenX (age 31-47): 62% presidential, 33% local
- Boomers (age 48-66): 73% presidential, 52% local
- Silent (age 67-83): 83% presidential, 65% local
- Greatest (age 84+): 80% presidential, 61% local
Generational differences are evident in choice of organizations for volunteering

<table>
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<th>Top 5 Organizational Choices for Volunteering, by Generation</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Gen X</strong> (age 31-47)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children's Ed., Sports, or Recreational Group (30%)</td>
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<td>Religious Org. (28%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social &amp; Comm. Service (12%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Educational Group (5%)</td>
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<td>Health Research/Education (4%)</td>
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BUILDING ON EXISTING INITIATIVES

• “Communities for a Lifetime” - 119 Florida Communities participating.
• To make communities more resident-friendly and easier to live and remain in, CFAL initiatives focus on improvements in a variety of areas based on community needs. These include the areas of housing; transportation and mobility; employment; health, wellness, and injury prevention; partnerships and collaborations; intergenerational living; and lifelong learning opportunities.
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BUILDING ON EXISTING INITIATIVES

• n4a is the managing partner in a national collaborative initiative to increase the number of older volunteers engaged in the Aging Network to meet the increasing need for aging and disability services.
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BUILDING ON EXISTING INITIATIVES

• The Gerontological Society of America (GSA) received a five-year grant from the Atlantic Philanthropies in 2004 to advance research that addresses civic engagement and aging. The primary purpose of the “Civic Engagement in an Older America” project is to produce and promote research that will contribute to the development of more effective social institutions, programs, and policies that will increase older adults’ civic participation.
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WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES AND APPROACHES FOR MEANINGFUL INVOLVEMENT IN TRANSFORMING FLORIDA’S CIVIC CULTURE?

• BUILD UPON AND COORDINATE WITH EXISTING EFFORTS BY AARP AND OTHER AGING ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES.

• OTHERS?