

TOWN MEETING 7/6



california report

callifornia report

This booklet is a report on the initial 41 Town Meetings held in California and is your invitation to participate in a profound day of visioning and authentic celebration in your own community.

TOWN 76 MEETING

NATIONAL PROGRAM: Town Meeting '76 is a nationwide program of one day local community meetings involving 200 to 400 persons of all ages and backgrounds. In the broadest sense, the program is designed to create a new way of allowing local citizens to effectively participate in the decision making process of their communities. Nearly 600 town meetings involving over 100,000 citizens were held nationwide during 1975 and 1976. Enthusiastic letters from mayors, city councilmen, congressional leaders, corporate executives and other excited citizens indicate that the program strikes at the roots of the nation's felt need. The ICA projects 5,000 Town Meetings will be held across this nation by December, 1977.

CALIFORNIA CAMPAIGN: A state-wide campaign is being conducted in California to hold 200 Town Meetings by June, 1977. Based on the response from an initial 41 meetings held in 1976 and on the support of Bank of America, Chambers of Commerce, numerous service clubs, corporations and educational institutions, over 100 communities are now in the process of setting a town meeting date for 1977. It is expected that 200 additional Town Meetings will be held the second six months of the year as a result of the campaign.

the initial response

A totally unique experience in building community spirit and citizen participation. Town Meeting provides:

- A compelling vision for the community's future that motivates people to action.
- A new spirit of cooperation among diverse groups.
- A deeper sense of responsibility and involvement by citizens in meeting community needs.



From the Town Meeting new and existing community leaders have been well trained in methods of citizen involvement and the techniques of problem solving workshops. I highly commend Town Meeting.

Bob Mendelsohn – San Francisco Supervisor

Too often we give lip service to the ideals of grassroots democracy. Today was a great opportunity to participate in such a process.

Principal of Culver City High School

Through these Town Meetings a new spirit and motivation pours forth from local citizens which is vital to the resurgence of our city's neighborhoods.

Charles Gain – San Francisco Chief of Police

The stout thread running through today is a feeling of citizen apathy. But today is a seed. Who nourishes it doesn't matter. The fruit will be harvested by future generations. We worried that there is no longer a sense of community, but there is here. It has just been latent.

William Hutchison, Chico M.C.

It takes dynamite sometimes to get people involved in something positive. But we saw a lot of positive energy at Town Meeting and I don't think it is going to dissipate.

Participant – Belmont

Town Meeting provided, as we have never before experienced, an exciting format for local people to design strategies and proposals for dealing with the situations that anger and frustrate. We highly recommend a positive response.

George Rodriguez – San Francisco, Mission District

It's been nearly two months since our meeting and almost every community grouping that I encounter is still buzzing about the effectiveness of the Town Meeting. Let me express my deepest appreciation.

Rev. David Zollars – San Francisco, Sunset District

This has taken more work and provided better results than any other community project I've ever done.

Culver City Jaycee

the town meeting event

WELCOMING

Meet your friends and neighbors at 9:00 a.m. over coffee and doughnuts. The Welcoming begins the day's activities with a brief presentation on The New World of America's third century.

CHALLENGES

Join one of the morning workshops and help identify the basic challenges to your community's future. You begin by analyzing the economic, political and cultural issues in your community, using your Town Meeting Workbook.

INTERLUDE

Gather for a festive luncheon interlude featuring local entertainment, group singing and special guests. The afternoon begins with a brief presentation on The New Human, his opportunities and responsibilities.

PROPOSALS

Plunge into an exciting afternoon workshop developing practical proposals for meeting the challenges in your community. Or help a group create a new story, song and symbol of our heritage and destiny.

PLENARY

Come to the Plenary session and hear the workshop reports. Celebrate the day's accomplishments by singing your new song. At 5:00 p.m. take home your copy of the Town Meeting Report, containing your community's challenges, proposals, story, song and symbol. Leave with a renewed sense of the American revolutionary spirit.



Listening to the concerns and problems of the entire community gives citizens a new perspective on their own private concerns and creates a spirit of cooperativeness among diverse groups.



The emphasis placed on understanding the root causes of community problems gives citizens a better grasp of their situation and forms the basis for more effective action.



Involvement in creating proposals to meet the community's challenges gives citizens a new feeling of responsibility for their future.



The sharing of hopes and dreams for the future builds a unifying and motivating vision that sparks new interest in community participation.

town meeting results

8000 California citizens in 41 communities express themselves*



Most often mentioned underlying challenges facing American citizens

- Local citizen responsibility for family and community
- Broadly based and informed citizen participation in government
- Responsive and effective government
- Equal opportunity within a multicultural society
- Job availability
- Growth balanced with improved quality of life
- Unity of purpose for local communities and the nation

*A detailed summary of all 5000 USA Town Meetings will be compiled for U.S. citizens when the project is completed. This is a preliminary summary taken from the 41 documents compiled by each of the 41 California Town Meetings.

Citizens put town meeting ideas to work

Belmont's Town Meeting motivated community groups to take on implementation of proposals: Churches in cooperation with the recreation department created a much needed program for Senior Citizens.

De Anza College introduced Town Meeting 76 to the citizens of Cupertino in January, and the response was so great that the city planned a 1977 Town Meeting.

Downey's Town Meeting brings forth new community leadership as twelve participants assist with district meetings at which forty new people volunteer to work on follow up and plans for the 1977 city wide Town Meeting.

Nob Hill Town Meeting participants responded to Town Meeting proposals and organized a Saturday "Survival Revival" and a community newsletter to increase community awareness of the many services and opportunities available to city residents.

A **Napa** councilman, concerned that Napa continue to expand citizen participation begun at Town Meeting '76 proposed to the City Council the organization of neighborhood advisory groups to study issues and make recommendations to the council.

San Francisco Mission District senior citizens, who played a major role in organizing the Mission's Town Meeting, acted on one of the proposals and formed a food co-op for elders. One hundred residents and law enforcement officials have held a second Town Meeting to work on proposals directly related to crime.

Scotts Valley City Council plans to use the Town Meeting document as background material for formulating the city's general plan.

Citizens in **Chico, Downey, Belmont, Culver City, Scotts Valley**, and others have plans for a second Town Meeting

town meetings in california



1976 – Town Meetings

Oak Park	January 24
DeAnza – Cupertino	January 24
San Francisco Mission District	February 28
West Covina	February 28
San Francisco Nob Hill	March 6
Long Beach – Human Relations	March 18
Downey	March 20
Coronado	April 10
Imperial Valley	April 24
Daly City	April 24
Palo Alto	April 24
Fremont	May 8
Pico Union	June 10
San Francisco Haight Ashbury	June 12
Huntington Park	June 12
Riverside	June 12
Fontana	June 12
*San Jose – Center City	June 12
*San Francisco Mission District	June 12
Marin City	June 26
Napa	June 26
San Jose – Center City	July 17
Chico	July 24
San Francisco Sunset	August 7
San Francisco Tenderloin	August 21
Modesto	September 25
Redlands	October 15
Mountain View	October 23
Belmont	October 30
Hemet	November 13
Culver City	November 13
Scotts Valley	November 20

*Special focus law enforcement

1977 – Town Meetings (Scheduled as of January 1977)

Alameda	February 5
Los Gatos	February 5
West Oakland	February 26
Seniors of Oakland	March 5
San Francisco, Richmond District	March 13
Cupertino	March 12
Redding	March 19
Visalia	March 19
East Oakland	March 26
Lemon Grove	April 16
Oakland-Elmhurst	April 16
Tulare	April 23
Marysville	April 30
Norwalk	April 30

1977 – Town Meetings (Dates to be announced)

Dinuba
Greater Sacramento (30 Meetings)
Eureka
Los Molinos
McCloud
Merced
Newark
Oakland-City Wide
Oakland-Lower Hills
Pollack Pines
Rohnert Park
Rio Dell/Scotia
San Francisco-Excelsior District



TOWN MEETING 76 STATEWIDE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Senior Contributions Officer
Bank of America, San Francisco

Thomas Betts
Jaycees District Governor
Culver City

Congressman John Burton
Member United States Congress
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Marvin Chandler
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Town Meeting State Chairman
California Jaycees, Belmont

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Corporations and institutions are listed for identification purposes only

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THE INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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