



Quick Facts: Deschutes Civic Assembly on Youth Homelessness

The Issue: Deschutes County sits at a socio-political crossroads, and in many ways is a microcosm of our country's cultural divides. Bend is also one of the fastest growing cities in the United States with a population that has more than doubled since 2000 - and is forecast to do so again in the next 30 years. Accompanying this is the fourth highest cost of living growth rate in the country, and a level of income inequality in the top 12% among all cities nationally in 2022. Central Oregon ranks in the top five rural places nationwide for its rate of families and unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness. The Assembly will present its recommendations to the Central Oregon Youth Action Board, Deschutes County, and the City of Bend - all of whom will publicly discuss and consider implementation of the Assembly's recommendations.

- **30 Assembly Members**, selected by democratic lottery (sortition), to form a cross-section of the community (based on gender, age, race/ethnicity, and other factors)
- **5 days** of in-depth deliberation in September and October 2024,
- **Robust accessibility measures**, including substantial stipends and expense reimbursements, to make sure *all* Assembly Members can meaningfully participate.
- **In-depth learning**. Members hear from all sides of the issue – via written background materials, stories collected from the broader community, and diverse stakeholder and expert presenters.
- **Broad community connections**. Collaboration with a standing Youth Action Board, made up of young people with lived experience, and integration of a tech platform that will enable hundreds more community members to join the conversation.
- **New model for collaborative decision making**. With meticulous deliberative process design and specifically trained small group moderation, Members are empowered with the tools to unlock collaboration and identify common ground solutions.
- **National media strategy** that proves a *different kind of democracy* is possible amidst a polarized election.

DemocracyNext | COCAP | Your seat at the table.



Oregon State University
Cascades