

California Forward
FACILITATOR AGENDA FOR COMMUNITY CONVERSATION (90-minute version)

Room set up and supplies: Small tables or chairs in a circle. Need an easily accessible flat wall without obstructions to place and cluster large sticky notes. If possible, an LCD projector for showing video, or a computer participants can gather around. Either internet access to show video directly from website, or downloaded video on computer. Flip chart paper to record results of Discussion # 3, or can record on laptop or by hand.

At each table or on chairs: 5 documents: 1. Participant Agenda, 2. Landscape of Reforms 3. “Smart Government” Discussion #3 Starter, 4. Participant Form, 5. Discussion #3 Question/Worksheet. 2 or 3 large post-its, large dark colored marker pens for writing on stickies, other materials you download from website that you think useful.

Have extra pens in case people don’t have one to write on worksheets.

AGENDA

I. **Welcome** (10 min)

Facilitator welcomes everyone and sets expectations for purpose, process, outcomes from this meeting.

Purpose: To engage participants in conversation about how to improve California’s future, and get reactions and input to some preliminary thinking about how to reform California’s government. Meeting is sponsored by California Forward, a non-partisan non-profit established by foundations in California (i.e. not special interest groups) to study best practices in other states, listen to thousands of Californians and ultimately develop solutions to California’s problems. Already had success with Redistricting and Top two primary. Moving into new areas of reform.

Process: 90 minutes, have conversations and report out after watching a 12 minute video and looking at some written materials. This is pilot, so also want you to know that based on this meeting, California Forward will develop an agenda and process to be used throughout the State. You will also be sent a brief follow-up survey via email.

Outcomes: Your input will be documented and given to California Forward Leadership Council and staff, who are working on developing a ballot initiative to be put on November 2012 ballot to make California work better. Also may result in legislation or actions taken by the new Governor.

Ask people to go around the room and say their name.

II. **Discussion #1: Vision for California** (20 min)

Ask participants to each think by themselves for a minute about the answer to the question: “What future do you want for California?” Jot down on paper if they want.

Ask participants to break into pairs or groups of three and talk about his/her vision and hopes for a California they want. Ask each pair/groups to write down main themes (e.g., “everyone who goes to high school graduates”) on sticky notes. Ask each group to place their ideas on the wall, and as the sticky notes come up, roughly cluster by topic (e.g., “education”, “environment”, etc.) Keep on wall to refer to and record later. If there is time, ask participants what stands out for them when they look at clusters.

III. **Presentation** from California Forward (15 min)

Introduce video PowerPoint. Let people know how long it is (12 and half minutes) and that they are going to watch it to get a sense of the kinds of issues California is facing, and get an introduction to the kinds of solutions that are being considered. Show video.

IV. **Discussion #2: The Problems Facing California** (10 min)

Ask participants to turn to partner to have a quick discussion to react to what they just heard/saw, talk about what problems are of particular concern. Explain that this is to get them thinking about the issues. Facilitator does not need to record this discussion.

Before they start conversations, point out the “landscape of reform” document, and let them know that California Forward believes that there are no silver bullets – that there are many things that all need to be fixed to realize the vision they just posted on the wall. For now, though, CF is exploring a couple of kinds of reforms and want input on those, as described in the video.

V. **Discussion #3: Reactions to California Forward’s Thoughts about Government Reforms** (30 min)

Ask participants take a few minutes (approx. 5-7?) to read the “Smart Government” discussion #3 starter. State the discussion question on the worksheet and ask participants to take an additional few minutes to collect their thoughts and write them down on worksheet - only for their own use.

Ask participants to discussion the question. Record common themes, areas of agreement, areas of disagreement, other ideas, etc.)

VI. **Closing Remarks and Thanks!** (5 min)

Thank participants and provide summary remarks if appropriate. Let them know if they want to stay involved, can go to www.cafwd.org and get more information. Over the course of the next four months, will be lots of ways to participate, surveys, actions to take, can host their own conversation – more info on website.

Ask participants to fill out their forms and remind them that they will receive a short survey via email.