

# Community Conversation Guide



A Resource for Community Leadership Programs from the KLC Journal

## Are local elections becoming nonpartisan in name only?

**TOPIC:**  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**PRINCIPLE/COMPETENCY:**  
DIAGNOSE SITUATION

### SUMMARY

For 114 years, Wichita voters and others around the state have cast ballots in local elections that don't identify candidates by political party. But beneath that nonpartisan veneer, partisanship increasingly colors the politics of local government. When asked, local experts and officials offer contrasting views on whether it makes sense to stick to the nonpartisan path.

### DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. *What do you think has changed over the years to make local elections more partisan?*
2. *In what ways might this be a good change? In what ways might it be a bad one?*
3. *What kind of leadership might be required to respond to changing political dynamics in your community?*

### ACCESS THE ONLINE STORY:

<https://klcjournal.com/local-nonpartisan-elections-2021/>

### PRINT THE PDF VERSION:

<https://kansasleadershipcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Local-Elections-Partisanship-Printable-PDF.pdf>

### FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS GUIDE OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

**Maren Berblinger** | CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ASSOCIATE | [mberblinger@kansasleadershipcenter.org](mailto:mberblinger@kansasleadershipcenter.org)

**Racquel Thiesen** | DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS | [rthiesen@kansasleadershipcenter.org](mailto:rthiesen@kansasleadershipcenter.org)

**Chris Green** | MANAGING EDITOR OF THE JOURNAL | [cgreen@kansasleadershipcenter.org](mailto:cgreen@kansasleadershipcenter.org)

*Find more Journal stories at [klcjournal.com](https://klcjournal.com).*

Print editions can be purchased at [https://kansasleadershipcenter.org/product-category/the\\_journal/](https://kansasleadershipcenter.org/product-category/the_journal/)