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# Voices of American Women

## Voices of American Women: National Listening Sessions Initiative

The National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) is launching a listening project across the United States and invites your Commission for Women/Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) to join us as the venue for the voices of women in your community. Our hope is that CSWs around the country will hold public forums inviting the women of their communities to talk to you, and thereby "talk to us" about the issues they confront as women in their everyday lives.

The listening tour in your city, county or state can take several forms. It can be conducted as public town-hall styled forums, as a survey, or as a focused discussion among your own commissioners. However you choose, we hope you will ensure that the voices of women in your jurisdiction are included in the Voices of American Women project. Join us!

### About the Project

The goal of the Voices of American Women project is to provide a venue for women's voices, across the nation. The outcome will be a report delivered to the President, Congress and the nation outlining what the women of our country have told us are their concerns as women.

Each CSW that participates can also develop its own report to its own appointing authorities outlining what the women of that community have said. A secondary outcome of the project can be a guiding agenda for your own Commission – with documentation that this is what the women of your community say they want and need.

### Project Timeline

We ask that Commissions who wish to participate commit to conducting their community-level projects between now and the end of 2019. You then should submit your final report and data to NACW by December 20, 2019. Then, NACW will collate all reports and data into a national report and publish it during 2020 in time for the 100th Anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment.

### Add us to the list!

Our commission wants to participate in the Voices of American Women project!

## How your Commission can participate:

In order for the data gathered to be consistent, the projects carried out by individual commissions should follow a similar structure. Participating commissions may choose one of all of three types of forums:

- **Public forums/town-hall styled meetings:** Women in the community are invited to "talk to us" about their needs and concerns as women. The Project will provide you an agenda you can use to solicit their input and structure a 2-hour open forum that includes time for "testimony," prioritizing the issues presented and briefly discussing possible remedies for the top five issues identified. You can choose to hold one forum or a series of forums around your state, county or city. Depending on your resources, skills and preferences, these forums may be held in person or online. We will even provide a template for the report of the forum(s) and a template for combining the information, if you conduct more than one. You can literally just fill in the blanks, and edit as you choose.
- **Conduct a survey:** Whether on-line or in paper format, we can provide you a questionnaire you can use to invite the women of your community to tell you about the issues they find most important. You can use Survey Monkey or similar online survey application to collect and analyze the data so that you can develop the report from your city, county or state.
- **Structured Conversations with Commissioners:** One of the most valuable resources each commission has is their own commissioners. Scheduling a structured conversation with them requires far less planning and fewer resources than traveling around your jurisdiction conducting a listening tour. Yet, because your commissioners were appointed to represent the women in their community, they have significant and valuable input to contribute to this project. NACW can provide a format for such a structured conversation and a template for the report out.

*\* Indicates required field*

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## Programming Resources

Coming Soon