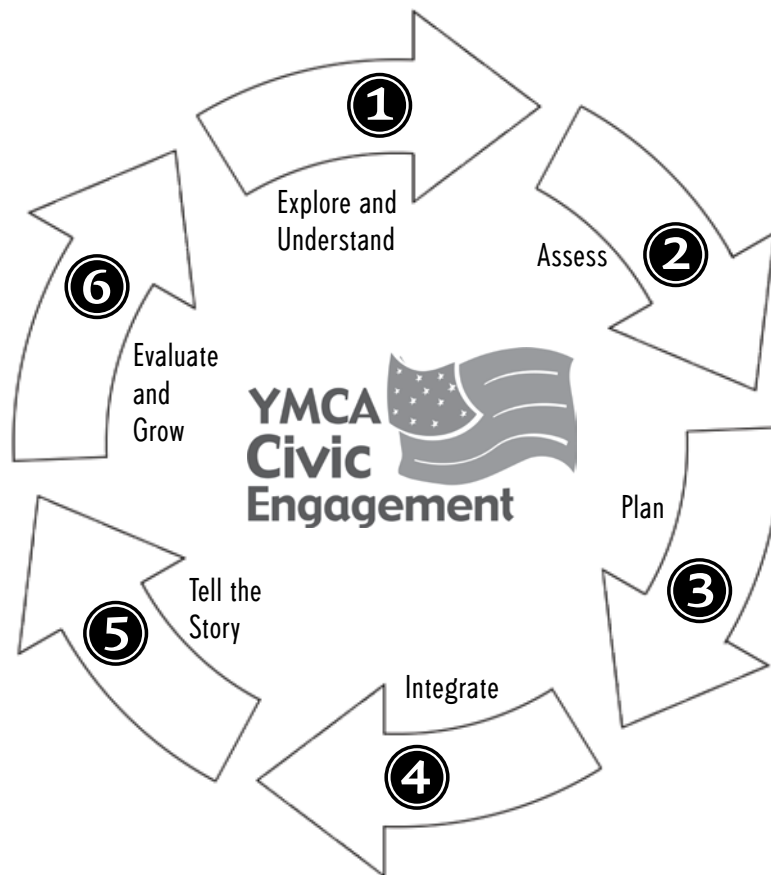


## Six Steps to Promoting Civic Engagement

While principles will ground you in promoting civic engagement, the following six steps provide concrete ways for YMCAs to integrate civic engagement into all aspects of their programs, projects and practices.

### Six Steps to Promoting Civic Engagement through Your YMCA



#### Step One: Explore and Understand

Find out more about civic engagement. Learn as much as you can about the civic mission and history of the YMCA and the benefits of promoting civic engagement. Become a civic engagement champion and expert.

#### Step Two: Assess

Identify what civic engagement looks like in your YMCA and community. Notice how you've been promoting civic engagement but haven't claimed these actions



and activities as civic engagement. Affirm these aspects of your YMCA. Take stock of what you have been doing and how promoting civic engagement fits with that.

**Step Three: Plan**

Create a vision for promoting civic engagement. Develop goals and action plans. Plan how to transform your YMCA into a civic engagement catalyst. Engage young people in your planning process.

**Step Four: Integrate**

Develop civic engagement programs, projects and practices. Encourage individuals, especially young people, to become civically engaged. Provide opportunities for civic engagement.

**Step Five: Tell the Story**

Tell others about the civic engagement work of your YMCA. Share your civic engagement vision and invite others to help you reach your goals. Cultivate more relationships to strengthen your YMCA.

**Step Six: Evaluate and Grow**

Assess and evaluate what you're doing and how you're doing it. Identify ways to improve your efforts and strategies. Evaluate your programming for young people.

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