



City of Worcester Community Dialogues on Race

Session 2: Monday June 1st, Representative Government, Quinsigamond Community College

Representative government has historically denoted a system in which people elect their lawmakers (representatives), who are then held accountable to them for their activity within government.

Dictionary of American History | 2003

Purpose of tonight's dialogue: Discuss how the **electoral** and **operational** sides of local representative government are/are not effectively advancing the needs of the entire community.

Desired outcome for tonight's dialogue

- 1. A list of ways representative government is and isn't advancing the needs of marginalized groups/ under-represented constituents and communities.
- 2. Shared understanding of how representative government might change to address under-representative constituent's concerns.

Questions to consider:

1. What are my main concerns?
 - What do I know?
 - When do I engage with the local government?
 - In what ways is representative government supporting my concerns or not?
 - What more do I need to know?
2. If representative government truly inclusive what would it look like?
 - How would I know it is working?
3. What is my recommended action?
 - What actions should the city take to address underrepresented concerns?
4. What am I willing to do, as an individual and with others, to make a difference?
 - What organizations/groups could help move these suggestions forward?