Civic Storytelling Project

WASHINGTON SECRETARY OF STATE

There is nothing better than a good story.

We can all remember being enraptured by a story around the kitchen table, campfire, or classroom. Stories are how we make sense of the world and how we connect our pasts, presents, and futures.

Storytelling is also a **powerful tool for civic education and engagement**. As storytellers, we can:

- share our lived experiences related to a particular subject
- reflect on how our experiences have shaped us
- imagine alternative futures

As story listeners, we can:

- increase our understanding of complex social issues through the lens of others' lived experiences
- make connections to others across social, economic, and geographic similarities and differences
- imagine alternative futures

The Office of the Secretary of State's **Civic Storytelling Booth** will launch in January 2025 during the Legislative session and then make its way around the state of Washington to community organizations, colleges, and public libraries.

OSOS staff will help individuals or small groups record a short (2-3 minute) story based on a civic prompt of their choosing.

Participants' recorded story:

- will be sent to them for personal use
- will be archived by the OSOS
- might be selected for inclusion in civic education programming (with consent)

If you are interested in hosting the booth at a community event and/or want to inquire further about the project, please contact: CivicEngagementProgram@sos.wa.gov