Build Trust and Participation in Democratic Processes
Decision-Making Framework

The Democracy and Civic Initiatives program uses the following criteria to assess a project’s alignment with this strategy.

Alignment with Objective

**ABSENT**
- Project activities and goals are unrelated to the defined objective.

**EMERGENT**
- Project activities and goals may advance the defined objective, but connection is vague.

**DEVELOPING**
- Project will make a clear but indirect contribution to advancing the defined objective.

**STRONG**
- Project will make a clear and direct contribution to advancing the defined objective.

Equity and Inclusion

**ABSENT**
- No plan to prioritize underrepresented communities. No apparent community engagement.

**EMERGENT**
- Limited efforts to prioritize underrepresented communities. Sporadic or cursory engagement of relevant community members.

**DEVELOPING**
- Project prioritizes access and creates opportunities for underrepresented communities. Meaningful engagement of relevant community members in project planning, goal-setting, and implementation.

**STRONG**
- Underrepresented communities are leaders in project planning, goal-setting, and implementation.

Organizational Capacity

**ABSENT**
- No evidence of plan, timeline, resources, staffing, or partnerships necessary to achieve project’s goals; no prior relevant experience with proposed work.

**EMERGENT**
- Some elements of project plan and resources are in place, but plan to fill gaps is vague or nonexistent.

**DEVELOPING**
- Project has a realistic plan and timeline; some resources, staffing, and partnerships are in place, with a clear plan to fill remaining gaps.

**STRONG**
- Evidence of credible, realistic plan, timeline, resources, and staffing to achieve the project’s goals; history of successful implementation of similar work.

Collaboration and Partnerships

**ABSENT**
- No identified partners or plans for collaboration.

**EMERGENT**
- Intended partners are identified but there are no clear commitments to collaborate that would strengthen the work.

**DEVELOPING**
- Some committed partners and a clear plan to build new partnerships that will address gaps in perspective and expertise.

**STRONG**
- Evidence of commitment to collaborate from partners who will strengthen the work through diverse perspectives and expertise.