A banner with a dark background and a photograph of people in the background. The text 'Day Four - Advocacy' is written in white on the left side.

Day Four - Advocacy

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

- Margaret Mead

Where protest stands up to shout “this is what democracy looks like,” advocacy is the more quiet cousin, pulling legislators and elected officials into long term conversations and getting them to commit to overarching strategies. And with your involvement and the engagement of your neighbors, those strategies can benefit the whole citizenry. Today we take a look at the small steps that come together to create big changes.

Choose One of Today's Challenges

#1: Advocacy starts with small, simple actions. A great way to start is to know who represents you.

- [Use this link to find out who your elected representatives are](#) and pick one to send a letter or email to. You can challenge them to support a cause you care about or thank them for their leadership on issues that matter most to you.

#2: Encourage young people in your life to get involved. They can be powerful advocates.

- [Check out this video \(4 min\) made by Shaker Heights students](#) to advocate for what they believe.
- [Explore this website](#) focused on engaging kids in advocating for those living with hunger, for great ideas about ways to get kids involved in advocacy.

#3: How did one yard sign start a movement? On November 9, 2016 a librarian in Wisconsin wanted to do something to declare her personal values so she created her own yard sign.

- [Read her story](#) to find out what happened next.

#4: One of the most effective advocacy groups around is the American Legislative Exchange Council.

- Read a [short piece](#) or a [long piece](#) on how they create influence in state legislatures.
- [Use this website](#) to track the progress of legislation that matters most to you.

Want to do more?

- Nonpartisan organizations like the League of Women Voters help individuals get involved in a range of advocacy efforts. [Check out their website](#) to see a few ways you can take action today.
- Want to start an advocacy effort yourself? [Here is a resource](#) to help you get tips on everything from preparing for a meeting with your senator to writing an effective press release.
- Learn more about how democracy really works and what people of all ages can do about it with author Elizabeth Rusch who spoke at the [Cleveland Public Library's Teen Townhall](#).

Recommended Reading

Here are few books you might like. For more, check out our 5 Days for Democracy [collection](#).



Related City Club Forums

Below you'll find a curated list of past City Club forums that touch on today's theme. For more, check out a more [extensive selection from our archives](#).

[Nadine Burke Harris](#): California's Surgeon General, on Toxic Stress

[Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha](#): on Science as Social Change

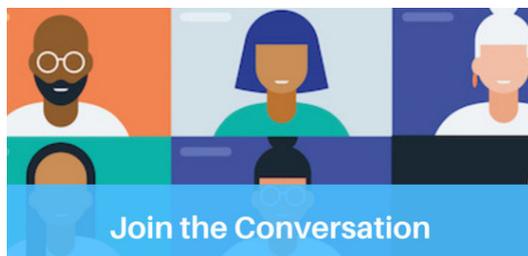
[Salena Zito](#): on Trump Voters and the Future of Populism in America

[Marian Wright Edelman](#): Founder of the Children's Defense Fund, on Ending Child Poverty

[Angela Patton](#): CEO of Girls for Change, on Family Resilience

We Want to Hear From You

Share your reflections about today's challenges on social media using **#5days4democracy**. Send ideas about what you would like to challenge people to learn about today's topic to fivedays@cityclub.org. **Join the 5 Days for Democracy Common Ground conversation** on Saturday, October 3 to connect with participants and continue the discussion.



Five Days for Democracy is a collaboration between The City Club of

Cleveland, [Cleveland Public Library](#), [Cuyahoga County Public Library](#), [East Cleveland Public Library](#), [Euclid Public Library](#), [Heights Libraries](#), [Lakewood Public Library](#), [Rocky River Public Library](#), [Shaker Heights Public Library](#) and [Westlake Porter Public Library](#).

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